



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Punjab approves recruitment of military personnel to monitor educational institutions

The Punjab government has approved the recruitment of military personnel as Monitoring and Evaluation Officers (MEOs) to oversee educational institutions in 22 districts of the province, with the recruitment process already under way.



## Pakistan envoy says India distorting Indus Waters Treaty

Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, has accused India of attempting to distort the structure and history of the Indus Waters Treaty, insisting that the agreement remains in force. In an article published in an American journal, Sheikh said compliance with the treaty was mandatory for both Pakistan and India and that the agreement contained no provision allowing either side to suspend it unilaterally.

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## Visit

WAH: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir inspects weaponry during a visit to Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) — Pakistan's largest defence industrial complex in Wah.



Photo: ISPR

## Field Marshal Asim Munir visits Pakistan Ordnance Factory in Wah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir visited Pakistan's largest defence industrial complex, Pakistan Ordnance Factory (POF), in Wah.

The visit focused on reviewing POF's production capabilities, export potential and contribution to the country's defence industrial base, says an ISPR statement.

During the visit, the CDF was briefed on various aspects of POF's operations and its role in strengthening national defence through the indigenous development and production of a diverse range of military equipment, the statement added.

He also witnessed tests

and trials of locally designed and manufactured arms and ammunition, highlighting POF's commitment to innovation, self-reliance and strengthening Pakistan's defence production capabilities.

The CDF was also briefed on progress in the corporatisation process following the enactment of the DIPRA Ordinance.

The Field Marshal was also apprised about the ongoing indigenisation and upgradation efforts, including the installation of two new industrial plants that are expected to begin production by the end of the year.

The visit underscored the military's commitment to advancing self-reliance, indigenous production and technological innovation in Pakistan's defence sector.

## Bilal Azhar Kayani Launches Simplified Asaan Tax App for Traders in Karachi



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani visited the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to brief trade representatives from Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur on the newly operationalized "Asaan Tax Scheme" and its mobile app. He said the scheme was launched on traders' own demand to simplify taxation and broaden the tax net, with FBR and trade focal persons designated nationwide for smooth implementation.

The scheme offers a simplified Urdu-language online registration process, under which shopkeepers pay a flat

one-percent tax on declared annual turnover, with utility-bill tax deductions fully adjustable. Registered retailers get a green FBR plate, exempting them from routine FBR visits, audits, mandatory POS machines, and withholding-agent duties.

Kayani also announced that, on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive, senior FBR officials will spend one week monthly in Karachi—starting this August—to resolve business grievances on the spot. Trade representatives and KCCI officials praised Kayani's engagement and the government's efforts to ease challenges facing the business community.

## PM orders suspension, criminal proceedings against eight officials over PIMS fire

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has approved the immediate suspension and initiation of criminal proceedings against eight officials held responsible by an inquiry committee for the fire incident at the neonatal nursery of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Chairing a high-level meeting, the prime minister directed that those responsible should face both departmental and criminal proceedings under relevant laws without discrimination. The officials include PIMS Executive Director Professor Dr Imran Sikandar, Joint Execu-

tive Directors Dr Mutahir Shah and Dr Owais Ali Shah, Neonatal Department Head Professor Dr Saadia Riaz, Senior Registrar Dr Naghma, Dr Nousheela Amjad, PIMS Security Assistant Director Muhammad Usman and CDA Emergency Services Director General Dr Abdul Rehman. Action was also approved against the security company deployed at PIMS.

The prime minister ordered that the preliminary inquiry report be made public and directed further investigation into the incident. He appointed NIH CEO Dr. Muhammad Salman as Acting Executive Director of PIMS and ordered immediate appointments to



vacant positions.

Shehbaz Sharif approved the award of Sitara-e-Khidmat and Rs10 million to nurse Razia

Noreen for saving a child's life during the fire. He also directed that the nurse and a female security guard present in the ward be

made Officers on Special Duty (OSDs).

The inquiry found serious safety and administrative failures. PIMS lacked detailed fire-emergency SOPs and staff training, while supervisory personnel were absent when the fire broke out. The ward had neither a fire alarm nor sprinkler system and reportedly failed to meet relevant WHO requirements. The fire engulfed the ward within two minutes, while an emergency call was made six minutes after the outbreak and the first response arrived 15 minutes later.

The prime minister said those responsible for criminal negligence would face exemplary punishment.

## Security Forces Foil BLA Plan to Use Two Underage Girls in Suicide Attack

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Security forces have apprehended two underage girls allegedly being prepared by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) for a suicide attack during an intelligence-based operation in southern Balochistan, according to officials. The girls, identified as 16-year-old Zainab and her 12-year-old cousin Fatima, were taken into safe custody while being transferred between undisclosed locations.

Balochistan Interior Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau, addressing a press conference in Quetta, said the operation had foiled the alleged militant plan to exploit vulnerable children. He highlighted the role of intelligence and law-enforcement agencies in preventing attacks and disrupting militant activities.

According to officials, the girls were allegedly influenced through personal tragedies and misleading narratives. They reportedly spent

around 40 days at a covert location, where officials said they faced coercion and mistreatment by militants. Authorities said the girls were subsequently being moved when security forces intervened.

Officials accused the BLA of exploiting vulnerable families and recruiting minors for militant activities, describing the alleged use of children as a serious violation of Islamic principles and Baloch cultural values.

Given the girls' young age and the circumstances in which they were allegedly recruited, authorities decided against strict legal action and instead facilitated their reunion with their families. Officials said the girls would be given an opportunity to return to normal life and help raise awareness about militant recruitment tactics.

During the briefing, both girls expressed gratitude to security forces for rescuing them and appealed for forgiveness from the government and the public.

## Pakistan's Virtual Assets Regulatory Regime Draws International Attention

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's rapid establishment of a comprehensive virtual assets regulatory regime in less than six months has attracted international attention after its details were presented at Bitcoin Asia in Hong Kong. Minister of State and Chairman of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) Bilal Bin Saqib said on August 28 that the initiative was completed using less than eight percent of the approved budget, with about 92 percent returned to the national exchequer.

He said Pakistan moved from primary legislation to notified regulations and a live licensing system within six months, creating a formal



framework for digital asset businesses. The regime covers exchanges, custody, brokerage, asset management, lending and settlement, while incorporating requirements for governance, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, cybersecurity, customer asset protection and market conduct.

Saqib described the achieve-

ment as an example of technology-driven, delivery-focused governance, emphasising that governments should measure success by outcomes rather than expenditure. He said smaller teams and technology-based workflows helped accelerate implementation without compromising accountability and consumer protection.

## Drone attack on police station thwarted in Peshawar

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: An attempt by militants to carry out a drone attack on the Matani Police Station was foiled, with Peshawar Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mian Saeed saying footage had also been obtained showing explosives being dropped from the drone.

According to CCPO Mian Saeed, the attack attempt was thwarted due to enhanced security measures at the police station.

A protective barrier installed around the premises prevented the explosives from falling

inside the station's compound. The CCPO said no casualties were reported in the incident.

He added that steps were being taken to strengthen the security of police stations in



surrounding areas by installing specialised protective barriers to guard against similar drone attacks.

Security measures have been further tightened at vulnerable police facilities following the incident, the official said.



# “AJK PM vows Kashmir focus, development, good governance; internet, routes to reopen soon”

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: PM Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sardar Iftikhar Ali Gilani visited the Central Press Club in Muzaffarabad, marking his first outing since taking office, and outlined his government's core priorities: highlighting the Kashmir cause, driving development, addressing public grievances, and ensuring good governance.

Speaking to journalists, he promised tangible improvements soon, saying internet services at educational institutions would be restored within one to two days, and that restrictions on routes linking AJK with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab would be lifted within two days. He was welcomed by Central Press Club President Sohail Mughal, Secretary General Shahzad Lulabi, former President Tariq



Naqash, Imtiaz Awan, and other press members.

Gilani described a close bond with the press club and emphasized the media's role as a bridge between government and citizens. He acknowledged the new government faces significant challenges and appealed to journalists to promote a constructive,

positive narrative rather than chasing ratings, stressing that state progress should come first.

He pledged priority attention to journalists' legitimate concerns, noting past efforts to support the press community would continue. On political representation, he expressed concern that seven constituencies in Rawalakot

and Sudhnoti remain unrepresented in the Legislative Assembly, saying the body is incomplete without their elected members.

Highlighting federal-AJK development ties, he credited former PM Nawaz Sharif with doubling AJK's budget allocation and noted Danish Schools—previously divisional-level in Punjab—are now being set up at the district level in AJK, calling this proof of PML-N's commitment to the region.

Addressing unrest in Rawalakot, Gilani vowed efforts to restore normalcy, formulate policy to address disrupted education, and compensate businesses for losses from recent disturbances. He praised PML-N's young Assembly team as capable of delivering results, reaffirming commitment to Kashmir, governance, development, and institutional strengthening.

## AJK PM Inspects Green Electric Bus Terminal in Muzaffarabad



 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sardar Iftikhar Ali Gilani visited the Green Electric Bus Terminal established for the people of AJK under an initiative of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

During the visit, officials briefed the prime minister on arrangements for launching the Green Electric Bus Service, including proposed routes and operational plans. He inspected the electric buses and facilities at the terminal and directed authorities to ensure the service was launched efficiently and remained citizen-friendly.

The visit was attended by MLA Abdul Rehman Arain, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Badr Munir, Mayor Municipal Corporation Sikandar Nisar Gilani, Deputy Commissioner Munir Ahmed Qureshi and other officials.

Gilani thanked PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for fulfilling their commitment to provide electric buses to the people of AJK. He said the initiative reflected the government's focus on development, public welfare and easing difficulties faced by citizens.

The prime minister assured the people that the AJK government would take practical measures to address public grievances, reduce hardships and overcome the sense of deprivation by improving public services and quality of life.

## PM Azad Kashmir calls on PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir

 Abdul Majeed Tahir.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Iftikhar Ali Gilani, called on President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Shah Ghulam Qadir, at his residence in Islamabad on Friday.

Shah Ghulam Qadir congratulated the Prime Minister on assuming office and conveyed his best wishes for his successful tenure.

The Prime Minister acknowledged Shah Ghulam Qadir's significant contribution to the electoral success of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and appreciated his political leadership and role in strengthening the party.

Barrister Iftikhar Ali Gilani expressed the hope that Shah Ghulam Qadir would continue to extend his valuable guidance and advice for promoting good governance and effective public service in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in line with the vision of Quaid-e-Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Both leaders also exchanged views on matters relating to the political and developmental priorities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



## Overlooking Senior Leaders in AJK Formation May Cause Uncertainty: Irshad Khan

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Parliamentary Board of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Muhammad Irshad Khan has warned that ignoring senior political leadership during government formation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir could create political uncertainty and unrest. In a statement, he expressed concern over the developments surrounding the nomination of Shah Ghulam Qadir as prime minister and subsequent consideration of another nominee. He said political leaders should prioritize the broader interests and stability of the State.

Irshad Khan regretted the division of the Muslim Conference, saying it had weakened the political leadership of AJK. He stressed that there was still an opportunity to revive and strengthen the party, which he described as having a historic role in the Kashmir freedom movement.

He invited Shah Ghulam Qadir and former AJK prime minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan to rejoin the Muslim Conference, saying the party was historically associated with their forefathers.

Irshad Khan said strengthening the organization was important for protecting AJK's political identity, integrity and long-term interests. He urged political leaders to set aside personal and partisan considerations and work for political stability and the welfare of the State.



## Protest

LAHORE: Residents of Wahdat road in jurisdiction of Samanabad Police Station protesting for recovery of their daughter outside Lahore Press Club, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# PM Azad Kashmir Pays Respects at Shrines of Prominent Sufi Saints and National Figure

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sardar Iftikhar Ali Gilani, visited the shrine of Hazrat Sain Sakhi Sarkar in Muzaffarabad, where he laid a chadar and offered rose petals as a mark of respect. He also offered Fateha at the shrine.

The Prime Minister subsequently visited the shrines of Pir Gulshan Alauddin (RA) and Shah Inayat (RA) in Muzaffarabad, where he offered



Fateha and prayed for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people.

He also visited the mausoleum of Raja Muhammad Haider Khan and offered Fateha.

Member of the Legislative Assembly Abdul Rehman Arain, Mayor Municipal Corporation Sikandar Nisar Gilani, and a large number of citizens accompanied the Prime Minister during the visits.

The Prime Minister prayed for peace, unity, prosperity and the continued progress of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

# Muslim Conference: A Political Legacy Under Strain

 Muhammad Nawaz Raza.

The recent electoral defeat of former prime minister and president of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has triggered renewed debate over the future of the historic political party and the ideological legacy it represents.

A senior political observer, while commenting on Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan's defeat, said the development should not be viewed merely as the setback of an individual politician but also in the broader context of the weakening electoral position of a political tradition associated with the slogan “Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan.”

The observer, who has maintained a political association with the late Sardar Muhammad Qayyum Khan spanning more than five decades, recalled the role of the veteran leader in shaping the political narrative of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He said that although resolutions favouring accession to Pakistan had earlier been adopted during the political careers of Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas and Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan transformed the concept of accession into a popular political ideology.

According to the observer, the Muslim Conference historically remained the main-



stream political force in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and played a central role in articulating the political aspirations of the people. However, the party's electoral dominance gradually weakened with the emergence of competing political forces and internal divisions.

The establishment and expansion of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in Azad Kashmir created significant political competition, while the subsequent emergence of the Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf further transformed the electoral landscape. These parties, the observer said, developed stronger organisational structures, wider political outreach and greater influence among voters.

The Muslim Conference, once a major political force across the territory, eventually became electorally concentrated in a limited number of areas. Despite these challenges, Sardar Attique

Ahmed Khan continued to maintain a political presence and win elections. His defeat in the 2026 elections has therefore been described by the observer as particularly significant.

The observer alleged that several political forces appeared to converge against Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan during the election. He also claimed that elements associated with the now-banned Action Committee, despite its electoral boycott, encouraged supporters to vote against him.

He maintained that Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan's political position on the Kashmir dispute and his emphasis on accession to Pakistan had contributed to making him a target of competing political forces. However, he argued that the electoral defeat of a candidate should not necessarily be interpreted as the rejection of the ideology associated with the Muslim Conference.

The observer described Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan as a politician associated with political perseverance and ideological consistency. He said Khan had maintained that Jammu and Kashmir remained a disputed territory whose final status should be determined according to the aspirations of its people and relevant United Nations resolutions, while stressing the preference for accession to Pakistan expressed by the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



He also cited Khan's advocacy for the right to self-determination, concern over Kashmiri political prisoners and humanitarian issues, and his support for Pakistan's national security interests.

The observer further highlighted Khan's preference for resolving political and public issues through elections, legislatures and constitutional institutions rather than street politics. He said Khan's political conduct demonstrated that he had, on several occasions, placed principles and institutional considerations above political office.

Future of Muslim Conference

The observer said the Muslim Conference, established in 1932, remained an important chapter in the political history of Jammu and Kashmir. Its historical legacy was strengthened by leaders including Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas,

Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan.

However, internal divisions, leadership disputes, changing public priorities and the rise of rival political parties contributed to its decline. The electorate's growing focus on issues such as employment, education, electricity, roads and development also created challenges for a party whose political identity was strongly linked to the Kashmir dispute.

The observer said the party's future would depend on its ability to reunite its factions, reconnect with younger generations and combine its ideological identity with a practical programme addressing everyday public concerns.

He stressed that the Muslim Conference needed to return to the principles of ideology, public service and unity, while providing greater opportunities to young political workers and engaging universities and the younger generation.

He concluded that political parties could rise and fall electorally, but political ideas rooted in history did not disappear simply because their representation declined. The future of the Muslim Conference, he said, would ultimately depend on its ability to preserve its ideological identity while adapting to the changing social, political and economic realities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.





Islamabad  
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr .....4:12 am  
Zohr .....12:09 pm  
Asr .....4:47 pm  
Maghrib .....6:38 pm  
Isha .....8:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

*‘Jamshoro Principal Alleges Threats, Harassment Amid School Dispute; Seeks Government Security’*

News Desk

JAMSHORO: School principal Benazir Rajar has alleged she was harassed and threatened by influential individuals outside the court during the third hearing of her ongoing case. She claimed armed men had earlier attacked the school, making off with solar equipment, fans and other valuables.

Rajar said both she and students' parents continue to face persistent threats, creating an atmosphere of fear that is keeping children away from school and disrupting educational activities.

She appealed to the government, along with MNA Malik Asad Sikandar and MPA Dr. Sikandar Shoro, to provide immediate security at the school and help restore normal academic operations for the affected students.

# CM Maryam Nawaz proposes Business & Investment Conference for Technology Transfer, Local Manufacturing During China Visit

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met He Zhongyou, Party Secretary of Guiyang, and a Chinese delegation on the sidelines of the International Big Data Expo in Guizhou, proposing a Business and Investment Conference to promote technology transfer and local manufacturing between Punjab and China.

She offered to form a joint working group on digital cooperation, artificial intelligence, and smart agriculture, and suggested collaboration in AI-based medical diagnosis. She invited the Guizhou delegation to visit Lahore. Maryam Nawaz praised Guizhou's digital transformation and said Punjab wants to learn from China's success in industrialization, digitalization, rural development, and poverty alleviation.

She emphasized that Pakistan-China friendship should be turned into tangible projects, investment, and jobs, and that

ties should expand from national to provincial and people-to-people levels. She lauded President Xi Jinping's vision of shared prosperity and called the friendship "in her blood," noting her father Nawaz Sharif and uncle PM Shehbaz Sharif's long commitment to China ties.

Highlighting Punjab's scale, she noted the province has 130 million people, 65% under age 30, and contributes 70% of Pakistan's agricultural produce. She outlined Punjab's recent progress: 50,000 roads built or repaired, electric buses reducing smog, and efforts to increase forest cover. She said Punjab is already using AI and is the only province with an Artificial Intelligence Office, headed by Adviser Ali Mustafa Dar.

Maryam proposed the working group deliver a full project within 12 months. She stressed Punjab's young workforce and market potential complement Guizhou's strengths in technology and industry, and assured the safety and facilitation of Chinese citizens in Punjab is a top priority.



## Respect of National Anthems

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi along with Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev and other stand in respect on national anthems during cultural concert "Uzbekistan-Pakistan" Melodies of Friendship and Brotherhood" as part of Uzbekistan Tourism Day in Pakistan at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## Pakistan, Korea Join Forces to Boost Technical Textile R&D Capacity

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Ten doctoral scholars from Pakistan's National Textile University (NTU) are undergoing intensive training in the Republic of Korea from August 17-30, 2026, under the KOICA-funded project "Strengthening of PAK-KOREA Technical Textile Center." The two-week program, supported by the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH), includes theoretical and hands-on training in nonwoven manufacturing, filter performance testing, and chemical analysis of textiles at KITECH's state-of-the-art



facilities. The scholars also visited the Preview in Seoul (PIS) 2026 textile exhibition on August 21. This is the final

invitational training under the 3-year KOICA ODA project. Previous phases trained Pakistani policymakers in 2024 and

NTU faculty in 2025. Earlier this year, a Pakistan Technical Textiles Policy Proposal was also developed to guide the sector. The training concludes with a completion ceremony on August 28, followed by a cultural program on August 29. The PAK-KOREA Technical Textile Center at NTU is scheduled for completion in 2027. NTU Rector Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood said the initiative will build Pakistan's R&D capacity. Moving forward, NTU and KITECH plan joint research, industry training programs in Pakistan, and technical seminars to strengthen the Pakistan-Korea partnership in technical textiles.

## Hamdard Hospital clarifies woman was not pregnant

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Naimat Begum Hamdard University Hospital has clarified that a woman examined at the hospital on August 27 was not pregnant, according to medical examination and diagnosis conducted at the facility.

The hospital said its medical records also confirmed that no pregnancy was detected and that no child was born at the hospital.

The matter is currently under investigation by the relevant authorities. Hamdard University Hospital said it was fully cooperating with the investigation and had provided officials with all relevant medical records and necessary information.

The hospital urged the media and public to avoid speculation until the authorities complete their inquiry, saying all facts would become clear after the investigation concludes.



## District Vigilance Committee Meeting Held in Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

A meeting of the District Vigilance Committee was held in Toba Tek Singh under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (Enforcement) Mujahid Abbas, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Maham Asif Malik.

The meeting was part of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision to protect workers' rights and resolve their issues on priority. Officials reported that no bonded labour complaints were received in the district. However, five cases of child labour violations were registered last month.

This year, 24 child labour cases have been registered, with challans submitted in 13 cases and the rest under process. The committee reviewed the issuance of social security cards and directed that cards for all eligible workers, including brick kiln labourers, be issued on priority. A proposal to deploy a NADRA mobile van for ID cards of brick kiln workers was also discussed. Updates were given on the Workers Welfare School, Kamalia Labour Colony, and Social Security Hospital projects.

The ADC reaffirmed the government's commitment to minimum wages, social security, and better facilities for workers.

## Rotary Club of Lyallpur pledges support for Jhigi Education Project



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Rotary Club of Lyallpur held its second Board of Directors meeting for the 2026 term and reaffirmed its commitment to public service, education, health and community welfare.

President Rotarian Junaid Mahmood Baig said the club had always played an important role in serving humanity. General Secretary Syed Muhammad Sharjeel presented a report on recent activities, while Finance Secretary Habib-ur-Rehman Gul briefed members on membership fees and available funds. The president also reviewed ongoing and proposed projects.

A key highlight was the participation of Mubashir Hussain Chand, founder of the Jhigi Education Project, and Prof. Dr. Muzammil Hussain of National Textile University. Chand briefed the board about the Jhigi education system and ongoing initiatives through a documentary presentation.

The Board of Directors assured full support and cooperation for the project. Members also discussed various community service initiatives and shared suggestions for future activities.

The meeting concluded with a prayer, reaffirming the Rotary Club's commitment to humanitarian service and community development.

## Fire Safety Operation Launched Across Multan Division Hospitals on CM Maryam's Directive

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan conducted surprise visits to Multan Institute of Cardiology Hospital and Nishtar Hospital Multan to review fire safety and emergency preparedness arrangements, following special directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif issued in the wake of the fire incident at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad.

During the visits, the Commissioner inspected fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, smoke detectors, hydrant points, emergency exits and evacuation routes. He also reviewed arrangements for the safe evacuation



of patients, particularly those in emergency, intensive care and other critical wards.

Aamir Karim Khan directed hospital administrations to keep all emergency exits and evacuation routes clear and accessible at all times, and to ensure that firefighting equipment and alarm

systems remain fully functional. He also ordered safety checks of electrical wiring, generators, air-conditioning systems and electro-medical equipment to identify potential fire hazards.

The Commissioner directed that regular fire and emergency mock drills be conducted to train hospital staff in timely response and safe evacuation. He also ordered the prominent display of emergency exit maps and safety instructions, along with strict implementation of fire safety SOPs across hospital premises.

He said the protection of patients, attendants and healthcare workers was a top priority, and that no negligence in fire safety arrangements would be tolerated. He directed concerned officers to immediately rectify any identified deficiencies and ensure strict compliance with the Punjab government's safety directives.

The inspection drive follows the tragic fire incident at PIMS Islamabad, after which the Punjab government ordered comprehensive fire safety audits of government hospitals across the province, including inspection of firefighting systems, emergency exits, hydrants, electrical and air-conditioning systems, and regular emergency preparedness drills.



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## Strengthening Basic Health Units Vital to Reducing Maternal Deaths in Balochistan

Strengthening Basic Health Units (BHUs), particularly in remote areas, is essential to reducing Balochistan's high maternal mortality rate, where geographical distances, shortages of female healthcare workers and weak primary healthcare services continue to put pregnant women at risk.

The tragic death of a 34-year-old woman during her fourth pregnancy in 2022 highlights the consequences of gaps in rural healthcare. Her family first took her to the BHU Malikyar, just three kilometres from home, but no doctor was available. While being taken to another facility about 14 kilometres away, she died on the way.

Balochistan has Pakistan's highest maternal mortality ratio, with 298 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey 2019. The provincial government aims to reduce the ratio to 200 while addressing preventable deaths during pregnancy and childbirth.

The challenge is particularly severe because more than 10 million of the province's approximately 14.9 million people live in rural areas spread across nearly 347,000 square kilometres. Difficult terrain and long distances make timely access to hospitals especially difficult for women in labour.

Data from the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) shows that its 903 functional BHUs have only 396 Lady Health Visitors, 351 midwives or traditional birth attendants and 63 female medical officers. Despite these shortages, PPHI reported 24,589 normal deliveries at its BHUs during 2025.

The experience of BHU Dub Khanzai demonstrates how adequate staffing can make a significant difference. The facility has two LHV's, including one providing round-the-clock services, as well as an ambulance for emergencies and referrals. It handles around 70 normal deliveries every month.

Health experts stress that community-based services are indispensable in a province where hospital-based healthcare cannot reach every population. Senior gynecologist Dr Najma Ghaffar has advocated mobile health units and training local female healthcare workers, particularly in areas affected by floods and difficult terrain.

The provincial government has also introduced a two-year midwifery training and employment programme through PPHI. Women from BHU catchment areas are being trained and will subsequently serve their own communities. The initiative seeks to improve retention by developing healthcare workers who already belong to the areas they will serve.

Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has acknowledged resource constraints and inadequate monitoring within the existing primary healthcare system. He has stressed the need to improve BHU procedures, transparency and public awareness to restore confidence in rural healthcare.

The province has allocated Rs96 billion for health in the 2026-27 fiscal year, including Rs8.8 billion for PPHI. The increased funding provides an opportunity to address staffing, infrastructure, transport and emergency referral gaps.

For Balochistan's rural women, however, improved budgets must translate into functioning services at the village level. A nearby health centre can save lives only when it has trained staff, essential medicines, maternity services and reliable referral arrangements.

Strengthening BHUs is therefore not merely a healthcare reform; it is a lifeline for mothers and newborns living far from major hospitals. Ensuring that no woman has to undertake a desperate journey during labour should remain a central priority of Balochistan's health policy.

## Trump Contemplate Using Nukes Against Iran

The United States and Israel presented the war against Iran as an urgent campaign to prevent nuclear proliferation. Six months later, that justification has collided with an extraordinary move by the Pentagon: American officials are seriously discussing using nuclear weapons against Iranian targets.

Former Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene has claimed that nuclear use was discussed in strategy meetings, while Tucker Carlson, America's most influential and resourceful journalist and podcaster having millions of followers across the globe has disclosed that nuclear options against Kharg Island and Pickaxe Mountain appeared in Pentagon slide presentations.

The contradiction at the center of the war is difficult to ignore. Washington and Israel argued that Iran could not be trusted with nuclear weapons because their possible use would be intolerable. If the same governments are now contemplating a nuclear attack to force Iran's submission, they risk destroying the moral and strategic distinction on which their original case for war rested.

The United States and Israel began their campaign against Iran on February 28. Trump initially suggested it would take approximately four or five weeks. By August 28, however, it had reached the six-month mark, with no permanent settlement and no clear definition of victory.

Hostilities connected to Lebanon continued, negotiations stalled and Washington shifted the center of its strategy toward blockades, sanctions and threats against countries doing business with Tehran. Trump, who once forecast a quick conclusion, now says he has no

timetable for ending the conflict.

The costs are substantial. The Pentagon has acknowledged more than 750 wounded American service members, while reporting cited by lawmakers puts the number of American deaths at 18. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told a Senate hearing that the war had cost approximately \$37.5 billion by July, he demanded another 78 Billion as supplementary grant whereas the defence budget has been increased from \$ 900 billion in 2025 to \$1.5 Trillion in 2026. These figures do not include every indirect economic cost, replenishment expense or loss sustained by regional partners.

Yet the United States and Israel have also failed to achieve any of their declared objectives. Iran's government remains in power. Tehran has not surrendered, accepted permanent disarmament or abandoned its regional influence. Preventing an opponent from achieving its central objectives can itself constitute strategic success. By that measure, Iran's survival and continued resistance expose the limits of overwhelming military superiority.

The tactical-nuclear controversy did not arise in a vacuum. The Pentagon has acknowledged that it is reviewing American nuclear strategy and seeking a broader range of options for regional conflicts. Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby has spoken of providing more credible or "rational" nuclear choices. Admiral Richard Correll, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, has discussed an escalation spectrum

that includes the possibility of a limited nuclear exchange.

After conventional military operations failed to compel Tehran's submission and depleted important American weapons stockpiles, the search for broader nuclear options strongly suggests that Iran is a principal—perhaps the immediate—scenario driving the discussion. The troubling implication is that nuclear weapons are being reconsidered because conventional force failed to accomplish Washington's objectives.

Pickaxe Mountain must be understood in the context of Iran's struggle to preserve its military and technological capabilities against vastly more powerful adversaries. The deeply buried complex near Natanz is commonly portrayed as evidence of sinister intentions, though no public evidence proves that Iran has stored a nuclear weapon there—or that it possesses a nuclear weapon at all.

Iran's decision to place sensitive infrastructure underground is not, by itself, proof of a weapons program. After years of sabotage, assassinations and threatened or actual airstrikes, dispersing and hardening military and nuclear facilities is also an unsurprising survival strategy. Had Iran left every important asset exposed, American and Israeli air power could have destroyed much of its defensive capacity and potentially opened the way to regime change.

This discrepancy strikes at the foundation of the war's stated rationale. The American intelligence had not established that Tehran possessed a nuclear

weapon or had made a final decision to build one. Uranium enrichment, including Iran's claimed right to peaceful enrichment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, is not identical to manufacturing a bomb.

The danger is that Washington may now be considering nuclear means to accomplish objectives that its conventional campaign failed to achieve. The term "tactical nuclear weapon" should not disguise that reality. "Tactical" describes an intended military role; it does not make the explosion humane, limited or reliably controllable. Such a weapon can still cause mass death, radiation exposure, environmental contamination and escalation beyond the region. Iran's underground construction would then appear not as proof that war was necessary, but as evidence of why a weaker country believed concealment and hardening were essential to its survival.

The first wartime nuclear detonation since Nagasaki would transform international security. It could erode the already fragile norm against nuclear use and encourage other nuclear-armed states to describe their weapons as practical instruments of conventional warfare.

India and Pakistan have repeatedly confronted one another while possessing nuclear arsenals. North Korea has developed weapons capable of threatening South Korea, Japan and potentially the United States. Russia has issued nuclear threats during its confrontation with Ukraine and NATO. If Washington normalized limited nuclear employment against a nonnuclear adversary, every one of these governments would gain a precedent with which to justify its own conduct.



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

## FM Munir's Tehran visit highlights Pakistan's geostrategic role

Some diplomatic visits are more than routine engagements between governments. They become markers of a changing international order. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's recent visit to Iran belongs to that category.

The visit came at a particularly sensitive moment. The Middle East remains caught in a complex web of geopolitical tensions, relations between Washington and Tehran continue to carry the risk of escalation, and the security of the Strait of Hormuz has assumed renewed importance for global energy supplies, trade and economic stability. Against this backdrop, the international community is once again confronted with the urgent question of how confrontation can be contained and diplomacy restored.

It is in this wider context that Pakistan's role deserves attention. Islamabad is increasingly seen not merely as a neighbouring state with legitimate security concerns, but as a country capable of maintaining channels with competing powers and, where necessary, helping keep those channels open. That is the real significance of Pakistan's growing geostrategic relevance.

During his stay in Tehran, Field Marshal Munir held meetings with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, and Mohsen Rezaei, representative of Iran's Supreme

Leader on the Supreme National Security Council. The discussions reportedly centred on preventing further regional escalation, easing the US-Iran standoff, restoring normal conditions around the Strait of Hormuz, and resolving disputes through dialogue rather than confrontation.

This should not be viewed as an isolated initiative. Pakistan has for some time maintained parallel communication with both Washington and Tehran, positioning Islamabad as a potential bridge between parties that often find it difficult to speak directly to one another.

Pakistan's geostrategic weight is not a new phenomenon. Its geography places it at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean, bordering China, Afghanistan and Iran, facing India to the east, and holding direct access to the Arabian Sea. But geography alone does not translate into national power. It becomes an asset only when matched by political vision, diplomatic capacity, economic strength and strategic coherence — precisely the test now before Islamabad.

### From Geography to Geopolitical Influence

The international system is becoming increasingly multipolar. The United States remains pre-eminent, China has emerged as a formidable economic and strategic force, Russia continues to exert influence, and regional powers such as Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Qatar are asserting themselves more forcefully across the Middle East.

Pakistan occupies a potentially valuable position in this evolving order, sustaining a long-standing strategic partnership with China, historic ties with Saudi Arabia, close relations with Türkiye, significant interests with the United States, and the unavoidable reality of neighbouring Iran. The challenge — and the opportunity — is to prevent these relationships from becoming mutually exclusive. Pakistan's diplomatic strength lies in engaging multiple centres of power simultaneously, provided that engagement stays anchored in its own national interest.

### Why Iran Matters

Pakistan's relationship with Iran carries weight beyond conventional diplomacy. The two countries share a long border, deep cultural ties and common interests in frontier stability. Instability along that border has direct implications for Pakistan's own security, and any major US-Iran confrontation could generate economic and humanitarian fallout for Islamabad as well. Encouraging dialogue between Washington and Tehran is therefore not simply an act of international diplomacy — it is tied directly to Pakistan's own security and economic interests.

### The Strait of Hormuz and the Global Economy

The Strait of Hormuz sits at the centre of this equation. As one of the world's most vital energy corridors, any prolonged disruption there would ripple through oil prices, shipping and global trade well beyond the Gulf. Pakistan's diplomatic engagement on this front reflects an understanding that its own interests are tied to a stable, secure regional energy environment.

This is also why Field Marshal Munir's role has drawn particular attention.

## The Beauty and Noble Character of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

The blessed personality of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is presented in the source as the greatest blessing of Allah Almighty for humanity and an eternal model of guidance, mercy, love and noble character. The Qur'an describes him ﷺ as a "mercy to the worlds" and presents his life as an ideal example for believers. His beauty was not limited to physical appearance but encompassed spiritual purity, wisdom, compassion, humility, justice and profound love for humanity.

The Companions greatly admired the Prophet's ﷺ physical appearance, describing his radiant face, dignified presence and beautiful smile. The source recalls the narration of Hazrat Jabir ibn Samurah (RA), who compared the Prophet's ﷺ face with the moon and found his blessed face more beautiful. However, the central message is that lasting beauty lies in character rather than outward appearance.

The Qur'an highlights the Prophet's ﷺ outstanding morals. His kindness extended to enemies, the weak, orphans, poor people, servants, women and animals. He showed extraordinary compassion toward children and even shortened prayers when he heard a child crying so that the mother would not face difficulty. His mercy reached beyond any particular nation, tribe or social group. Even after victory over opponents, he often chose forgiveness rather than revenge.

His speech was another reflection of his noble character. He spoke clearly, gently and meaningfully, avoided vulgarity and gave people his full attention. Through his conduct, he taught the importance of truthfulness, patience, honesty, good manners and responsible use of speech.

Humility was equally central to his personality. Despite being the Messenger and final Prophet of Allah, he lived simply, helped his family, performed

household tasks and sat among his Companions without royal distinction. His conduct demonstrated that genuine greatness produces humility rather than arrogance.

The source particularly emphasizes his patience during hardship. In Makkah, he endured opposition and persecution without abandoning his principles. At Ta'if, despite severe mistreatment, he did not respond with a curse but hoped that his opponents or their descendants would eventually accept the truth. His response demonstrated exceptional compassion and forgiveness.

Justice was another defining quality. The Prophet ﷺ rejected discrimination based on race, family, tribe, wealth or social position and emphasized righteousness and character as measures of human dignity. In Madinah, he established a society recognizing the rights and responsibilities of different religious and social communities.

His spiritual beauty was reflected in his deep relationship with Allah Almighty. Through prayer, gratitude, supplication and complete trust in Allah, he demonstrated the importance of combining spirituality with social responsibility. His example covered every sphere of life, including worship, family, community affairs and social reform.

The source concludes that in a world increasingly focused on appearance, wealth, fame and status, the Prophet's ﷺ life teaches the true meaning of beauty. Genuine beauty lies in mercy, justice, generosity, patience, humility and noble conduct. Love for the Prophet ﷺ should therefore extend beyond words and emotions and become visible through one's behavior, relationships and adherence to his Sunnah.

Ultimately, studying the Seerah and adopting the Prophet's ﷺ noble qualities is presented as the finest expression of genuine love and attachment to Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ.

Analysis



Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi

Analysis



Muhammad Asif



# Sightsavers, NEF and PIRS Join Hands for Integrated School Health Programme

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Sightsavers, the National Education Foundation (NEF) and the Pakistan Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences (PIRS) have entered into a five-year partnership to implement a School Health Integrated Programme for children enrolled in non-formal schools managed by NEF. The programme aims to address health- and disability-related barriers that can affect children's participation, learning and retention in school. It will bring essential screening and support services closer to children in underserved communities, with a focus on early identification and timely assistance. Wajiha Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, graced the occasion as chief guest. Addressing the gathering, she said: "Education is not limited to classrooms; it also requires ensuring that children are healthy, supported and able to participate fully in the learning process. This partnership is an important step towards making education more inclusive and equitable." Under the initiative, more than

7,000 children will be screened for vision, hearing and physical health conditions. Children identified with vision impairment will receive spectacles free of cost, while those requiring hearing or disability-related support will be provided appropriate assistive devices, including hearing aids and low-vision devices. The programme will also include teacher training, awareness sessions, referrals and follow-up support, while promoting inclusion, gender parity and child safeguarding across all activities. Syeda Munazza Gillani, Director Pakistan and Middle East, Sightsavers, said every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance. By extending health and disability screening and support to children in non-formal education schools, she said, the programme would help identify barriers that can affect participation and learning outcomes. "Our partnership with NEF and PIRS is an important step towards making education more inclusive and ensuring that children who are often underserved are not left behind,"

she said, adding that Sightsavers would further scale up the eye health screening component in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), in collaboration with the health and education departments and Aga Khan Foundation-supported schools. Tahira M. Sharif, Managing Director, NEF, said the collaboration would strengthen support for children in underserved communities and help address barriers affecting their learning and retention. She said the initiative would further reinforce NEF's efforts to provide children with a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Maj Gen (R) Dr Farrukh Seir, Executive Director, PIRS, said PIRS would lead the screening and community-level implementation, ensuring timely referrals and rehabilitation support for children requiring further assistance. He said early identification and appropriate rehabilitation services could play an important role in enabling children to participate more effectively in education and daily life. The partnership brings together the expertise of Sightsavers in eye



health and disability inclusion, NEF's network of non-formal education schools, and PIRS's rehabilitation and health expertise to provide an integrated approach to children's well-being and educational participation.



## SDPI, QAU Sign MoU to Strengthen Research and Policy Collaboration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in research, policy development, capacity building and knowledge exchange. The agreement was signed by SDPI Deputy Executive Director (Policy) Dr Shafqat Munir and QAU School of Economics Head Dr Javed Iqbal. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Munir described the partnership as an important step in strengthening longstanding ties between the two institutions. He highlighted QAU's contributions to

economics, political science and international affairs and said the collaboration could help bridge the gap between academic research and practical policymaking. SDPI officials briefed the QAU delegation on the institute's work in research, advocacy and capacity building, covering areas including climate change, environmental sustainability, economic development, resilience and clean energy transition. They also highlighted SDPI's policy advisory initiatives, data programmes, international partnerships and flagship events, including the Sustainable Development Conference. Dr Javed Iqbal called the MoU a

combination of the strengths of two leading institutions and urged both sides to make it a practical, result-oriented partnership rather than a conventional agreement. He proposed regular meetings to ensure effective implementation and meaningful outcomes. Dr Salma Malik congratulated both institutions and said the collaboration could provide QAU graduates and researchers with greater exposure to practical and market-oriented environments. Both sides expressed optimism that the partnership would generate tangible research, enhance policy engagement and create expanded opportunities for students and researchers.

## MoU Signed Between PNHWRP and College of Nursing, Nishtar Medical University

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr Mahnaz Khakwani said important progress has been made for the promotion of nursing education, faculty development and capacity building of the nursing workforce. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Punjab Nursing & Health Workforce Reform Program (PNHWRP) and the College of Nursing, Nishtar Medical University, Multan. The objective of the MoU is to further improve the quality of nursing education, promote the professional skills of faculty members and nursing students, increase training opportunities, and support the preparation of a talented, trained and effective nursing



workforce. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Mahnaz Khakwani said nursing plays a vital role in the medical field. Nurses undergo specialized education and continue to build expertise throughout their careers, providing essential support in patient treatment alongside doctors. In emer-

gencies across the country, nurses work together with doctors and paramedical staff to deliver comprehensive medical care. She noted that around 70,000 nurses are currently serving in more than 500 government hospitals across Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor further said that the nursing field continues to advance, with nurses now also being trained as modern therapists alongside doctors. She added that Pakistani nurses are also serving in hospitals abroad. She congratulated the College of Nursing on this significant achievement and appreciated its efforts, stressing that aligning nursing education and training with modern requirements is the need of the hour. She said such collaborations will create better opportunities for both students and faculty.

## Rights Advocates Demand Immediate Protection, Recovery of Minor Girl

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Lawyers and human rights defenders have expressed serious concern over the handling of the case of 13-year-old Christian girl Amber Nadeem, who was allegedly abducted, forcibly converted and coerced into marriage. At a press conference at Faisalabad Press Club, they urged the government, police and judiciary to ensure her immediate protection, recovery and placement in appropriate parental or protective custody. According to the speakers, Amber was allegedly abducted by Mohsin Liaquat on June 12, 2026, following which an FIR was registered and police recovered her. They said Amber later told a judicial magistrate that the accused's family had pressured her to claim she was an adult. Questions were also raised over documents allegedly showing her birth year as 2008, despite contradictory family records. The speakers criticized the Sessions Court's July 25 decision granting custody to the accused or purported husband and bail, despite unresolved concerns about Amber's age, alleged



coercion and disputed documents. Amber's mother, Nadia Nadeem, said the family had sought registration of a case over allegedly forged B-Form documents and cancellation of the accused's bail. The family has also challenged the marriage certificate in court. Voice for Justice Chairman Joseph Janssen said the case highlighted the vulnerability of minority girls facing allegations of abduction, forced conver-

sion and child marriage. Advocate Akmal Bhatti stressed that child protection laws must prioritize the safety and best interests of minors, while Sadaf Adnan called for legislation specifically criminalizing coerced religious conversion. The advocates urged authorities to investigate all allegations impartially, protect Amber from further harm and ensure justice without discrimination.

## If Iran Joins the Makkah Pact, Pakistan's Balancing Act Gets Harder

Barely weeks after Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement at Al-Safa Palace on August 7, the pact's most consequential test may already be forming. Tehran, according to Iranian parliamentary sources, has received an invitation to join what regional commentators are already calling an "Islamic NATO." Iran says the matter is "under review." For Pakistan, one of only three founding signatories and the only nuclear power among them, that review deserves far more attention in Islamabad than it has so far received. The Makkah Pact was never meant to stay a trilateral arrangement. Its founders built it around a mutual-defence clause modelled on NATO's Article 5 — an attack on one is an attack on all — but they also insisted, publicly and repeatedly, that the coalition would not be an "exclusive club." Turkey has floated Egyptian membership. Bangla-

desh has already signalled interest. An invitation to Iran, however, is a different order of decision. It does not simply widen the pact; it inverts the logic that produced it. That logic was born of the six-month US-Iran war and the anxieties it stirred across the Gulf. Saudi Arabia signed a mutual-defence pact with a nuclear-armed Pakistan in September 2025 in part because Riyadh wanted a credible deterrent against exactly the kind of regional escalation Tehran had just demonstrated it could unleash. The Makkah Pact, a year later, extended that logic to Turkey. Inviting Iran into the same architecture would ask three states that built a shield partly with Tehran in mind to now stand shoulder to shoulder with it. Riyadh's calculus may be shifting — a pact that neutralize Iran as a threat by absorbing it is not without precedent in statecraft — but the contradiction is real, and it will not go unnoticed in Gulf capitals still nursing memories of the Houthis war.

For Pakistan, the stakes cut differently than they do for Saudi Arabia or Turkey. Islamabad has spent the past two years trying to walk a narrower and narrower line: sustaining its economic and security relationship with Riyadh, preserving cordial if wary ties with Tehran along a long and porous shared border, and avoiding open alignment in the broader US-Iran and Saudi-Iran rivalries. An Iranian seat at the Makkah table would, in one sense, ease that balance act — Pakistan would no longer have to choose between its two western neighbours in the same stark terms. But it would also draw Islamabad into a far more complex set of obligations. A mutual-defence commitment that once bound Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and Turkey would, with Iran inside the tent, potentially bind

Pakistan to Iran's conflicts as well — including any renewed confrontation with Israel or the United States that Pakistan has so far taken great pains to stay out of. There is also the India question, which Pakistani commentary too often treats as secondary to the Gulf dynamics. New Delhi has watched the Makkah Pact's formation with open unease, and Bangladesh's interest in joining has already been read in Islamabad as a useful complication for India's eastern flank. An Iran-inclusive pact would sharpen that unease considerably: India's own relationship with Tehran, built carefully around Chabahar port and energy ties, would face new pressure if Iran formalised a defence commitment alongside Pakistan. Islamabad should not assume this

cuts only in its favour. A larger, more assertive Islamic security bloc invites a larger, more assertive response — from India, and potentially from Washington, which has so far praised the Makkah Pact as a stabilising step precisely because it did not include Tehran. None of this means Pakistan should resist Iran's entry outright. An inclusive regional security architecture that reduces Sunni-Shia bloc politics, gives Tehran a stake in stability rather than disruption, and creates channels for de-escalation is, in principle, exactly the kind of "regional security umbrella" that Pakistani officials have described as their long-term goal. Iranian officials themselves have framed the invitation in similar terms — as a chance to build an arrangement that identifies threats "correctly" and reduces the space for outside powers to exploit sectarian and national divisions. That framing should not be dismissed simply because it originates in Tehran.

What Pakistan cannot afford is drift — treating Iran's possible membership as a Saudi-Turkish decision to be ratified rather than a structural change to a treaty Pakistan itself signed. Islamabad's own mutual-defence obligations, its border security with Iran, its relationship with the Gulf's Sunni monarchies and its need to avoid entanglement in an Iran-Israel-US confrontation all argue for a clear, articulated Pakistani position before Tehran's answer arrives, not after. The Makkah Pact was sold to the Pakistani public as a defensive shield, not a trigger. Whether it remains one may depend less on what Riyadh or Ankara decide than on whether Islamabad insists, now, on defining the terms under which the shield expands. The writer is a BS International Relations student at the National Defence University, Islamabad, with an interest in South and West Asian security affairs and Pakistan's regional foreign policy.



Analysis

Abuzar Ali



 **Bull & Bears**

**PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation**

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Current                       | Prev. Close          |
| 177,696.50                    | 177,322.77           |
| Day's High                    | Day's Low            |
| 178,042.78                    | 177,165.27           |
| Index Value                   | Change               |
| 20,218,512,810                | +373.73              |
| Percentage                    | Time                 |
| +0.21%                        | 28 Aug, 2026 4:30 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Index Value            | Change                |
| 10,824.26              | +31.72                |
| Percentage             | Time                  |
| +0.29%                 | 28 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Index Value                       | Change                |
| 53,534.95                         | −34.49                |
| Percentage                        | Time                  |
| −0.064%                           | 28 Aug, 2:15 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Index Value                         | Change                |
| 66,405.56                           | +273.59               |
| Percentage                          | Time                  |
| +0.41%                              | 28 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates |        |         |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency                | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar       | 198.29 | 202.35  |
| Bahrain Dinar           | 734.45 | 745.65  |
| Canadian Dollar         | 198.71 | 206.73  |
| China Yuan              | 38.20  | 38.95   |
| Danish Krone            | 42.80  | 43.40   |
| Euro                    | 323.15 | 327.20  |
| Hong Kong Dollar        | 34.97  | 35.97   |
| Indian Rupee            | 2.65   | 3.25    |
| Japanese Yen            | 1.7339 | 1.8337  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar           | 886.00 | 896.45  |
| Malaysian Ringgit       | 68.05  | 68.90   |
| NewZealand \$           | 163.93 | 166.78  |
| Norwegians Krone        | 28.15  | 28.50   |
| Omani Riyal             | 719.24 | 729.35  |
| Qatari Riyal            | 74.92  | 75.80   |
| Saudi Riyal             | 73.95  | 74.65   |
| Singapore Dollar        | 217.29 | 223.04  |
| Swedish Korona          | 28.40  | 28.90   |
| Swiss Franc             | 343.16 | 347.93  |
| Thai Bhat               | 8.25   | 8.85    |
| U.A.E Dirham            | 75.65  | 76.50   |
| UK Pound Sterling       | 376.80 | 381.75  |
| US Dollar               | 277.60 | 278.55  |

Bill Gates

urges limits

on AI to

prevent job

losses, human

harm



Commerce Desk

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has warned that artificial intelligence could become one of the greatest threats to jobs and human life unless governments and technology companies urgently take steps to control its risks.

In a nearly 6,000-word essay, Gates said the rapid development of AI could produce enormous benefits in areas such as medicine and agriculture but could also trigger widespread unemployment, undermine children's education and social development, and give criminals, hostile actors or AI systems themselves greater ability to cause harm.

"AI will either be the greatest equaliser ever invented, or the worst source of injustice," Gates wrote in the essay, titled The turbulent AI era is here. The choices we make now are critical.

He said the world was entering a period that could be among the most disruptive in human history and criticised governments, technology leaders and communities for failing to adequately prepare for the transition.

"Even under the best circumstances, the transition to this new AI era will be one of the most turbulent times in human history," Gates said, adding that he saw no clear plan to ease the transition.

Government

taking steps

to revive sick

industry, facilitate

businesses:

Haroon Akhtar

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan has said the government is taking measures to promote industrialisation, revive sick industrial units, reduce the cost of doing business and provide

easier access to financing for the private sector.

Addressing the business community at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), he said a new Industrial Policy had been prepared with the prime minister's approval. The policy would facilitate the revival of closed industries, protect legiti-

Meeting

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum held a meeting with the management of PSO.



Photo: PID

Indonesian Consul General invites

Pakistani industrialists to participate

in Trade Expo Indonesia 2026



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Mudzakir M. A. invited industrialists from the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) to participate in Trade Expo Indonesia 2026, scheduled to be held in Jakarta from October 14. He said progress on preferential trade arrangements between Pakistan and Indonesia was essential, while a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was particularly important.

He expressed these views while addressing industrialists during his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade

and Industry (KATI). KATI President Muhammad Ikram Rajput, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya, Honorary Consul General of Ethiopia Ibrahim Tawab, Iqbal Baig, Dr. Ahmed Sufyan of the Indonesian Consulate, and a number of KATI members and industrialists attended the event.

Consul General Mudzakir assured that the Indonesian Consulate would provide special assistance to KATI's industrialists in visa-related and other diplomatic matters.

He said the trade expo in October would showcase products from a wide range of sectors, including halal products,

spices, construction materials, automobiles, chemicals, furniture, fashion and textiles, handicrafts and other industries. More than 1,600 exhibitors from 130 countries are expected to participate in the expo.

The Consul General said Pakistani industrialists could benefit from Indonesia as a base for re-exporting products to international markets. He stressed that increasing business-to-business (B2B) linkages between Pakistani and Indonesian industrialists and traders should be given priority, adding that the Indonesian Consulate was ready to provide all possible assistance in this regard.

Pakistan-Uganda trade must move

beyond diplomatic ties: ICCI President

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Uganda has invited Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in its agriculture, minerals, energy and tourism sectors, offering tax incentives for greenfield investments.

Addressing a business meeting at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI), Uganda's Chargé d'Affaires Matata Twaha said Uganda is ready to facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs and proposed a dedicated Pakistan-Uganda business forum and a farm-visit delegation in October covering tea, coffee, cocoa and cotton.

He suggested a chamber-to-chamber mechanism between ICCI and Uganda's chamber,

and the first Pakistan-Uganda trade exhibition in Islamabad or Kampala.

Uganda is offering a 10-year tax holiday, extendable to 25 years for greenfield projects, under its Economic and Commercial Diplomacy Strategy 2025. ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood said Pakistan-Africa ties must evolve into trade and invest-



ment businesses from unnecessary harassment, improve access to finance and establish commercial courts for speedy resolution of disputes.

He said new policies were being developed for electric vehicles, battery storage systems, solar panels, mobile phone manufacturing, automobiles, fertiliser, agricultural machinery and gems and jewellery to promote local production and reduce import dependence. A new Auto Policy was also nearing completion, with incentives planned for electric vehicles.

Haroon Akhtar said Super Tax had been abolished for export businesses, while the rate for non-export businesses earning over

Rs500 million had been reduced from 10 to 8 percent. He said macroeconomic stability had lowered inflation and brought the policy rate down from 22 percent to around 11.5 percent.

He highlighted initiatives for SMEs, women entrepreneurs and microfinance, as well as a 30-year lease model for 6,400 acres of Pakistan Steel Mills land to attract investors.

LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol welcomed the proposed Industrial Policy but stressed that expensive electricity, borrowing costs and taxes remained major challenges. He urged policy continuity and measures to prevent de-industrialisation and restore business competitiveness.

Govt repay Rs1.2

trillion to the SBP,

ahead of its scheduled

maturity: Khurram

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has taken another major step in proactive public debt management, with the Ministry of Finance early-repaying Rs1,200 billion (Rs1.2 trillion) to the State Bank of Pakistan, well ahead of its scheduled maturity.

This is the single largest early-repayment tranche undertaken so far, surpassing the previous high of Rs1.133 billion — and takes cumulative domestic debt retired ahead of maturity to over Rs5.92 trillion, Adviser to Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad posted on X here Saturday.

To date, Rs5.92 trillion retired before maturity, he said adding that the 1.8 tril-



lion fiscal year 2025, 2.9 trillion fiscal year 2026 62% 1.2 trillion 2027.

This reflects a fundamental shift towards active sovereign liability management using improved fiscal space to retire obligations early, reduce refinancing and rollover risks, lower future debt-servicing pressures and strengthen the public debt profile, he added. He said that Pakistan is increasingly moving from simply managing debt maturities to actively strengthening its sovereign balance sheet.

OpenAI to Cut

Off AI Models

for Cursor After

SpaceX Acquisition

Commerce Desk

SAN FRANCISCO: OpenAI says it will stop providing its AI models to Cursor, the coding tool now owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, in the latest escalation of the feud between CEO Sam Altman and Musk.

OpenAI said Friday it "cannot be confident that SpaceX will use our technology within our terms of service," citing past contract issues with Musk's companies. It proposed a shutoff date of November 12, 2026, using a "change of control" clause after SpaceX completed a \$60 billion all-stock deal to buy Anysphere, Cursor's parent, earlier this month.

Musk replied on X: "I couldn't care less," calling Altman and OpenAI Pres-

ident Greg Brockman "untrustworthy" and repeating claims that they "stole an open source nonprofit." The two have clashed for years, including over Musk's dismissed \$150 billion lawsuit against OpenAI.

Cursor co-founder Michael Truell, now a



SpaceX executive, said the company is talking with OpenAI to resolve it.

Rival Anthropic moved quickly, saying it will increase compute to support Claude models in Cursor, according to co-founder Tom Brown.

OpenAI also alleged that X, now part of SpaceX, breached its contract terms after Musk's acquisition.





# Obedience and Submission — In the Light of the Qur'an and Sunnah

 **Dr. Syed Rashid Hussaini**

Islam is not merely a collection of acts of worship; rather, it is a complete code of life. Islam teaches human beings loyalty to Allah Almighty, obedience to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, adherence to truth and justice, discipline, and a sense of collective responsibility. Among these fundamental Islamic principles is the important concept of “Sam’ wa Ta’at” (listening and obedience), which means listening attentively, understanding, and obeying a command that is lawful and righteous.

The highest and most fundamental level of obedience is obedience to Allah Almighty. The Holy Qur’an says:

“O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and do not invalidate your deeds.”

(Surah Muhammad: 33)

This verse makes it clear that the fundamental purpose of a believer’s life is to worship Allah Almighty and follow His commandments. Obedience to Allah is, in fact, the practical requirement of faith. A person who accepts Allah Almighty as his Lord must give His commands priority in all matters

of life.

Obedience to the Messenger ﷺ to the Holy Prophet ﷺ with obedience to Himself in the Qur’an, he says:

“Whoever obeys the Messenger has indeed obeyed Allah.”(Surah An-Nisa: 80)

Obedience to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ means making his Sunnah, teachings, character, and commands a guiding principle in one’s life. The Holy Qur’an further states:

“Whatever the Messenger gives you, take it; and whatever he forbids you, abstain from it.” (Surah Al-Hashr: 7)

Therefore, the true concept of Sam’ wa Ta’at is not merely limited to hearing a command. Rather, it means listening to the truth, understanding it, and adopting it in practical life.

Submitting to the Decision of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ

A true believer is distinguished by the

fact that when Allah and His Messenger ﷺ have decided a matter, he does not give preference to his personal desire or opinion over their decision.

The Holy Qur’an says:

“It is not for a believing man or a believing woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decided a matter, to have any choice in their affair.”(Surah Al-Ahzab: 36)

This verse teaches us that the requirement of faith is not merely a verbal declaration. Rather, it also requires a believer to practically submit before the commands and decisions of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.

Obedience to Those in Authority

Islam has also taught obedience, in lawful and legitimate matters, to responsible persons and those entrusted with authority in order to maintain discipline and order in collective life. Allah Almighty says:

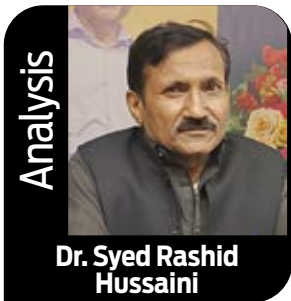
“O you who believe! Obey Allah, obey

the Messenger, and those in authority among you.”(Surah An-Nisa: 59)

In this verse, alongside obedience to Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ, obedience to those in authority has also been mentioned. This demonstrates the importance Islam gives to discipline, unity, and orderly collective life.

However, obedience to those in authority is subject to the limits of Islamic law. No human being is to be obeyed in disobedience to Allah Almighty. The principle is that obedience is required in matters that are lawful and righteous, while no obedience is permissible in anything that involves disobedience to Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.

Thus, Sam’ wa Ta’at is an essential principle for a disciplined, united, and responsible Muslim society. It develops within individuals a spirit of responsibility, humility, discipline, and commitment to truth. When Muslims listen to what is right, understand it sincerely, and act upon it within the limits prescribed by Allah and His Messenger ﷺ, they can build a society based on faith, justice, unity, and mutual respect.



Analysis

**Dr. Syed Rashid Hussaini**

## Regional Cricket Association Karachi Welcome to organize One Day Cricket Tournament in RCAFK Zone-I: Azam Khan

 **Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Regional Cricket Association Karachi welcome to Zone-I to Organize one day cricket tournament without any entry fee and hoped that like Zone-I other Zones will also organize Cricket Tournaments with out any entry fee to provide maximum opportunities to players.

These views expressed by Coordinator of Regional Cricket Association Karachi Azam Khan while addressing as Chief Guest at opening ceremony of Muhammed Zameer Khan Memorial Zone-I One Day Cricket Tournament. He appreciated the efforts being made by President of Zone-I Muhammad Khurram Ashraf for promotion of cricket and providing opportunities to players.

Presiding the ceremony Chairman Tournament Committee of Regional Cricket Association Karachi Khalid Nafees said that under the leadership of Nadeem Umar, club cricket has formally started in entire Karachi. He said that those people who were running their shops in name of club cricket, they should see that now club cricket is being held regularly in entire Karachi and full opportunities to players to play cricket.

Joint Secretary of Regional Cricket Association Karachi Muhammad



Touseef Siddiqui said our Talent Hunt programme also in progress and club cricket also played through out the years in Karachi compared to other cities of country.

Muhammad Khurram Ashraf President Zone-I and Muhammad Nizam Member Media Committee Regional Cricket Association Karachi also addressed the ceremony.

On this occasion Saim Ahmad President Zone-VI, Umar Touseef Secretary Zone-I, Muhammad Ahmad

Naqvi, Rehan Siddiqui, Zafar Ahmad Assistant Secretaries, Coach Tahir Mahmood, Nusratullah Chairman Ground Committee, Majid Khan Member Media Committee RCAFK, Arif Waheed Khan former Secretary Zone-I, M Tariq Hafeez Joint Secretary Zone-I, S. A. Faheem, Javed Iqbal, M. Imran, Shahabuddin and other dignitaries also present.

In the opening match Al-Imran Cricket Club defeated Munawwar Sports by 10 wickets. Munawwar Sports

batting first and all out 129 runs in 27.3 overs. Yousuf made 50 with the help of 7 fours and Jazzim 32, left arm spinner Arslan Asad bowled well capturing 7 fir 4 while Waqar Younis gave 23 and Umair Ahmad gave 27 runs and got 2 each.

In reply Al-Imran Cricket Club made required 130 runs without any loss. Umair Ahmad batting brilliantly made 66 with the help of 8 fours and Mir Marsh made 54 runs with help of 8 fours and both remained not out.

## Generational Differences in the Workplace

Modern workplaces often include employees from several generations working together. Each generation has been shaped by different historical events, technologies, and cultural changes. These influences affect their attitudes toward work, communication styles, motivations, and worldviews. Understanding these generational differences helps organizations improve teamwork, productivity, and workplace harmony. The following overview explains the major workforce generations and their key characteristics.

### 1. Traditionalists (Born: 1925–1945):

Traditionalists are often described as dependable, straightforward, tactful, and loyal employees. Their work values were shaped by major historical events such as The Great Depression, World War II, radio, and movies.

Shaped By: Traditionalists grew up during difficult economic and global conflict periods. These experiences taught them discipline, sacrifice, and respect for authority.

Motivated By: They are motivated by respect, recognition, and providing long-term value to the company. Loyalty to the organization is extremely important to them.

Communication Style: Traditionalists prefer a personal touch, often favoring handwritten notes instead of email. They value direct and respectful communication.

Worldview: Their worldview emphasizes obedience over individualism, age equals seniority, and the belief that career success comes from advancing through the hierarchy.

### 2. Baby Boomers (Born: 1946–1964):

Baby Boomers are commonly known for being optimistic, competitive, workaholic, and team-oriented. Their perspec-

tives were shaped by major political and social events.

Shaped By: This generation experienced events such as the Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement, and Watergate.

Motivated By: Baby Boomers are motivated by company loyalty, teamwork, and duty. They often define themselves by their professional achievements.

Communication Style: They prefer whatever communication method is most efficient, including phone calls and face-to-face conversations.

Worldview: Baby Boomers believe that achievement comes after paying one’s dues and that sacrifice leads to success.

### Workforce Statistics:

-49% of Baby Boomers who expect to or already work past age 70 do not plan to retire.

-10,000 Baby Boomers reach retirement age every day.

### 3. Generation X (Born: 1965–1980):

Generation X employees are typically described as flexible, informal, skeptical, and independent. They tend to value autonomy and work-life balance.

Shaped By: Important influences include the AIDS epidemic, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the dot-com boom.

Motivated By: Generation X workers are motivated by diversity, work-life balance, and opportunities for personal and professional development rather than just the company’s interests.

Communication Style: Like Baby Boomers, they prefer whatever is most efficient, including phone calls and face-to-face communication.

Worldview: Their worldview supports favoring diversity, quickly moving on if employers fail to meet their needs, and

being resistant to change when it negatively affects their personal lives.

### Workforce Statistics:

-55% of startup founders are Generation X, the highest percentage.

-By 2028, Generation X will outnumber Baby Boomers.

### 4. Millennials (Born: 1981–2000):

Millennials are often characterized as competitive, civic- and open-minded, and achievement-oriented. They grew up during a time of rapid technological expansion and global change.

Shaped By: Their outlook has been shaped by events such as Columbine, 9/11, and the rise of the internet.

Motivated By: Millennials are motivated by responsibility, the quality of their manager, and unique work experiences.

Communication Style: They commonly use instant messaging (IMs), texts, and email for workplace communication.

Worldview: Millennials are seeking challenge, growth, and development. They also want a fun work life and strong work-life balance, and they may leave an organization if they do not like change or opportunities.

### Workforce Statistics:

-75% of the global workforce is projected to be made up of Millennials by 2025. Among Millennials aged 25–34 living at home with their parents: 18% are men and 12% are women.

### 5. Generation Z (Born: 2001–2020):

Generation Z is the newest group entering the workforce. They are often described as global, entrepreneurial, progressive, and sometimes less focused compared with previous generations.

Shaped By: This generation has been

shaped by life after 9/11, the Great Recession, and access to technology from a very young age.

Motivated By: Generation Z employees value diversity, personalization, individuality, and creativity.

Communication Style: They rely heavily on social media, text messaging, and instant messaging.

Worldview: Their worldview includes: Often being labeled digital device addicts, valuing independence and individuality, preferring to work with millennial managers, and embracing innovative coworkers and new technologies.

### Workforce Statistics:

-67% of Gen Z workers want to work at companies where they can learn skills to advance their careers.

-80% of Gen Z believe government and employers should subsidize, pay full tuition, or reduce student debt for students.

The modern workplace is a mixture of multiple generations, each with unique experiences, motivations, and expectations. Traditionalists emphasize loyalty and hierarchy, Baby Boomers value dedication and teamwork, Generation X seeks independence and balance, Millennials focus on growth and meaningful work, and Generation Z prioritizes technology, creativity, and flexibility. For organizations, understanding these generational differences is essential. Effective management strategies should recognize varying communication styles, motivations, and values. By appreciating the strengths of each generation, workplaces can create a more collaborative environment that benefits both employees and organizations.

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

## Caretaker Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad pays tribute to Naveed Nazir



 **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: A delegation of the Professional Photographers Association, led by Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, visited Iqbal Stadium. During this visit, President of the Professional Photographers Association Muhammad Ahmed, General Secretary Sheikh Qasoor Munir Goreja, Chief Patron Muhammad Asif, Vice President Muhammad Afzal, Joint Secretary Muhammad Ramzan, Finance Secretary Khurram, Media Secretary Photojournalist Abdul Majid, Muhammad Ashraf, Muhammad Shafiq Sadiq (Friends Digital Color Lab) and others paid tribute to the caretaker Naveed Nazir and presented a bouquet of flowers. On this occasion, Naveed Nazir thanked all the participants and said that the passion for cricket among the people of Faisalabad is to the point of madness. The citizens of Faisalabad definitely watch cricket matches by buying the most expensive tickets. The district government also provides full support in this regard.

## Pakistan Whites secures first victory at Nations Cup 2026, beat Belarus U21 4-1

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s national hockey team “Pakistan Whites” delivered an impressive performance in the ongoing Nations Cup 2026 hockey tournament in Kazan, securing their first victory with a 4-1 win over Belarus U-21 in their second match.

According to details, Pakistan Whites played an aggressive game against Belarus U-21 at the Kazan Field Hockey Centre. Abuzar, Yasir Khan, Saad, and Taimoor scored one goal each to play a key role in the team’s win.

In the tournament’s opening match, Pakistan Whites faced the Belarus senior team in a thrilling contest that ended in a 4-4 draw. Abuzar, Usman Ashraf, Saad, and Yasir Khan were on target for Pakistan in that match as well.

As per the tournament schedule, the national hockey team, under the supervision of Head Coach Olympian Kamran Ashraf, will face Belarus on August 30, Samarkand City on August 31, and the Russia national team on September 1.



## FM Munir’s Tehran visit highlights Pakistan’s geostrategic role

 **Continued from Page 4**

His engagement cannot be read solely through the traditional lens of a military chief’s visit; in Pakistan’s current statecraft, the security establishment remains closely woven into strategic diplomacy. Reports of contact between Pakistan’s military leadership and US President Donald Trump around the time of the Tehran visit further underline the value Washington appears to place on Islamabad’s channel to Iran.

### A Coordinated State Policy

The roles of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Munir should be understood not as separate initiatives but as parts of a single, coordinated state effort — political leadership setting

direction, the Foreign Ministry sustaining engagement, and military leadership contributing strategic perspective.

### Turning Relevance into Strength

No country sustains influence on geography alone. Long-term relevance comes from converting geography into trade, investment, energy cooperation and connectivity — through CPEC, Gwadar, Central Asian access, and deeper economic ties with Iran, the Gulf and Türkiye. That, in turn, depends on domestic stability, institutional credibility and a predictable investment climate.

Pakistan’s present diplomatic opening should be seen not as a destination but as the beginning of a longer journey — one where geography becomes diplomacy, and diplomacy becomes durable national strength.

## Trump Contemplate Using Nukes Against Iran

 **Continued from Page 4**

A nuclear strike might also produce precisely the proliferation pressure the war was supposed to prevent. Governments could conclude that only a deliverable nuclear arsenal protects them from coercion or regime change. The lesson would not be that nuclear weapons are too dangerous to possess; it would be that countries without them remain vulnerable to countries that have them.

Harvard professor Stephen Walt told Carlson that the postwar world could be “substantially more dangerous.” He pointed not only to great-power competition among the United States, China and Russia, but also to the deterioration of restraints governing force, assassination and escalation. Once powerful states treat exceptional measures as ordinary, weaker states inevitably adapt.

Ending the war would require acknowledging that military power cannot guarantee every political objective. That may be uncomfortable for a president whose public identity depends on winning. But accepting an imperfect settlement is less humiliating than turning a strategic

disappointment into a nuclear catastrophe.

Regional governments also have agency. States hosting American forces would face retaliation and possible contamination if their territory supported a nuclear attack. They should demand binding assurances that their bases will not be used to initiate nuclear hostilities. Their interests are not identical to those of Israel, Iran or Washington.

The broader international community should insist on renewed negotiations, independent nuclear inspections, protection for civilian infrastructure and compliance with international law by every participant. Diplomatic pressure must apply consistently, whether the alleged violator is Iran, Israel or the United States.

A war launched in the name of preventing nuclear danger must not become the event that makes nuclear warfare normal again.

*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*



Inauguration

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, inaugurating the Saifee Hospital Cardiac Wing at Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah University Auditorium, Karachi, on Saturday.



Photo: PID

# Aurangzeb Inaugurates Saifee Hospital Cardiac Wing, Calls Healthcare Investment in Human Capital

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, inaugurated the Cardiac Wing of Saifee Hospital at the Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah University Auditorium in North Nazimabad.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the finance minister described the facility

as an important addition to Karachi's healthcare infrastructure, saying its state-of-the-art catheterization laboratories and advanced diagnostic and interventional services would help provide timely and quality cardiac treatment closer to patients' homes.

Aurangzeb said the real value of a hospital was not limited to its infrastructure, but depended on the expertise, dedication and compas-

sion of doctors, nurses and support staff. He appreciated the contributions of the community and other stakeholders who helped establish the new cardiac facility.

The minister highlighted the important role of private healthcare institutions in expanding access to medical services and reducing pressure on the public health system. He said partnerships combining community initiatives with profes-

sional medical expertise could provide an effective model for improving healthcare services across Pakistan.

Aurangzeb also praised the Bohra community's longstanding tradition of social welfare and its contributions to healthcare and public service in the country.

He stressed that expenditure on healthcare should be viewed as an investment in Pakistan's human capital rather than merely a social

cost. A healthier population, he said, contributes to higher productivity, stronger human capital and greater economic resilience.

The minister commended the hospital management, medical professionals and community members for their efforts, expressing hope that the Cardiac Wing would become a centre of excellence in Karachi and inspire similar healthcare initiatives across Pakistan.

# Ahsan Iqbal stresses character building, language promotion in education reforms

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has stressed the need to improve Pakistan's education system by focusing on modern knowledge, character building, ethical training and national values.

During a meeting, he said curricula should connect students with modern knowl-



edge while also strengthening their understanding of Paki-

stan's history, culture, values and intellectual heritage. He noted that Islamic Studies alone was not enough, and that responsibility, ethics and positive national values should be integrated into education.

Ahsan Iqbal said the intellectual and moral development of young people was closely linked to Pakistan's future. He also emphasized language reforms, saying

working-level English was necessary, while national and regional languages should be promoted to encourage creativity and intellectual growth.

The meeting also reviewed a proposal to establish a financial fund for Jamia Rashidia. Iqbal said education, curriculum and civil service reforms were part of a broader vision to build a knowledge-based, creative and values-driven Pakistan.

## Privatisation Commission extends IESCO bid deadline to Sept 21

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Privatization Commission has extended the deadline for submitting expressions of interest (EOIs) for the privatization of the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) until September 21, 2026.

According to a spokesperson for the Privatization Commission, the deadline has been extended to facilitate greater participation from both local and international investors and to make the privatization process more competitive and transparent.

The revised deadline for the submission of EOIs is September 21, 2026, at 4pm and all other terms and conditions of the EOI process would remain unchanged.

Interested investors can obtain further information and relevant documents regarding the expression of interest process from the official website of the Privatization Commission.

# 25 Pakistani nationals repatriated from India via Wagah-Attari border

News Desk

NEW DELHI: Twenty-five Pakistani nationals were repatriated to Pakistan through the Wagah-Attari border on Saturday, the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi said on Saturday.

Officials from the Pakistani High Commission were present at the border to facilitate the repatriation process and assist the returning nationals.

In a post on X, the Pakistan High Commission said, "25 Pakistani nationals were repatriated via Wagah-Attari border today. Officials of @PakinIndia were present at the border to facilitate the process."

The mission said the Government of Pakistan would continue its efforts for the release and repatriation of all Pakistani nationals currently lodged in Indian jails.

The latest repatriation comes as Pakistan and India continue to facilitate the return of citizens held in each other's



custody through established mechanisms. The Pakistani High Commission has previously played a role in facilitating the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners and citizens following the completion of legal and administrative procedures in India.

The Wagah-Attari border is one of the main crossing points between Pakistan and India and is regularly used for the movement and repatriation of citizens of both countries.

The government said its efforts would continue to secure the release and return of Pakistani nationals in Indian prisons.

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# Dar Terms Transformation of Pakistan's Image, Economy and Diplomacy 'Miraculous'



City Desk'

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar called Pakistan's improved international image, economic stability and diplomatic achievements "miraculous," crediting the government's sincere and sustained efforts.

Speaking to the Pakistani diaspora in London, Dar said Pakistan played a historic role in the Gulf conflict by bringing warring parties to talks, leading to the Islamabad MoU. He said Pakistan continues working with key countries for regional solutions, and praised PM Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir for lead-

ership during the crisis, noting Pakistan is now seen as a "peacemaker."

He clarified the Makkah Agreement with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye is defensive and aimed at regional stability, not targeting any country. An inaugural meeting to set its structure will be held soon, with other countries interested in joining.

Dar urged overseas Pakistanis to use Pakistani banks to support the economy, noting stability has been achieved and more steps are underway to boost growth and living standards. He also termed his UK meetings encouraging, with agreement to expand cooperation in trade, investment and IT.

# Equal Access to Health, Education Vital for Social Justice: Musadik Malik



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Masood Malik has stressed that equal access to quality healthcare and education is essential for achieving social justice and ensuring a dignified life for citizens.

Addressing the Health and Education Summit Pakistan 2026 at Expo Centre Lahore, he said basic education was the right of every child and the government was responsible for providing quality health and education services without discrimination. He acknowledged that while basic facilities existed in public schools and hospitals, their quality and service

delivery required further improvement.

The minister emphasized accountability for negligence in public institutions, saying lapses affecting patients or students must be investigated and those responsible held accountable. Referring to the PIMS incident, he stressed that negligence in healthcare could not be tolerated.

Dr. Malik also highlighted rapid advances in nanotechnology, biotechnology, cognitive sciences and information technology, saying their integration was transforming healthcare. He stressed that health, education and environmental protection were closely linked, as pollution and environmental degradation could undermine public health.

# RLNG supply disruption affects 3,600MW power generation: Power Division

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Electricity consumers faced temporary load management during peak night hours across the country after power generation was hit by the unavailability of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) and delays in the arrival of fuel cargo.

On Saturday a spokesperson for the Power Division said, around 3,600 megawatts of electricity generation was affected by the RLNG shortage. A further reduction of 195 megawatts in generation from Mangla added to the shortfall.

The situation forced authorities to carry out temporary load management for between one-and-a-half and three hours during peak nighttime hours. Furnace oil-based power plants were also brought into operation to help meet the rising elec-

tricity demand.

The spokesperson said the temporary load management would be reduced once the delayed RLNG cargo reached the country and power generation returned to normal levels.

Consumers were urged to avoid excessive electricity consumption during peak hours to help ease pressure on the national grid.

He also clarified that no load management was being carried out during daytime hours across the country. It added that electricity supply to high-loss areas was also continuing according to the existing schedule.

The spokesperson apologized to consumers for the inconvenience caused by the temporary power shortfall and said efforts were underway to improve the situation as soon as the RLNG cargo arrived.