



Daily The Spokesman

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ابن عباس رضی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے کہ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم گزرتے تو تعبیر
کا ایک شخص اس طرح طواف کر رہا تھا کہ
دوسرا شخص اس کی ناک میں ری ہانده کر
اس کے آگے سے اس کی رہنمائی کر رہا تھا۔
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے وہ ری اپنا ہاتھ
سے کاٹ دی، پھر محمد دیکھا ہاتھ سے اس کی
رہنمائی کرے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6703)
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France permanently closes Karachi Consulate
France has permanently closed its consulate in Karachi, with the French Consulate formally announcing the closure. In a farewell message to the city, the consulate said, "Goodbye Karachi." The French and European Union flags have also been removed from the consulate building.



Motorway Police launch 'Be Our Eyes' campaign
The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) have launched a public-participation initiative titled "Be Our Eyes", allowing citizens to report traffic violations they witness while travelling on highways and motorways. The campaign is designed to involve commuters directly in efforts to improve road safety, strengthen enforcement of traffic regulations and reduce practices that put passengers and other road users at risk.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Sunset

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of sunset at Rawal Dam, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Field Marshal Asim Munir lands in Turkiye ahead of first meeting under Makkah defence pact



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has reached Turkiye on an official visit, where he is expected to participate in the first high-level meeting under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia.

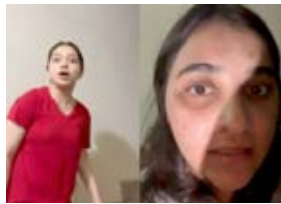
The visit comes at a significant time for regional security, with the three countries moving to strengthen defence coordination under the agreement signed earlier this month. According to Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Field Marshal Asim Munir's visit is aimed at further strengthening defence and strategic cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye. During his stay, he is expected to hold important meetings with Turkish political and military leadership to discuss matters of mutual interest, regional security and bilateral defence cooperation.

Karachi Police Chief Orders Inquiry into DHA Scuffle, Alleged Misconduct

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Karachi police chief AIG Azad Khan has ordered a three-day, fact-based inquiry into a violent altercation between neighbours in DHA Phase 6 following the emergence of CCTV footage that appears to raise questions about the initial police account and the conduct of some personnel. The police chief directed South DIG Asad Raza to submit a complete and impartial report covering all aspects of the incident, including alleged misconduct by police officials and identification of everyone involved. The order came after CCTV footage of the Aug. 21 incident went viral on social media.

According to the footage, a woman is seen descending stairs carrying a dumbbell and allegedly striking another woman with it. Two people apparently wearing police uniforms appear to restrain the woman being attacked. A man subsequently arrives and argues with the woman holding the dumbbell. The victims retreat into their apartment, while the woman



and another man allegedly bang on the door and use abusive language. The footage also shows a man in shalwar kameez using a weapon, reportedly provided by a uniformed person, to damage the CCTV camera. The FIR registered at Darakhshan police station gives a different account. It alleged that a man, his sister and mother confronted a woman over a parking dispute, abused and assaulted her and threatened her. The complainant also alleged that gold jewellery was taken from her. Several Pakistan Penal Code sections were initially included in the FIR, including provisions concerning assault, intimidation and hurt. However, DIG Raza said the theft-related Section 382 was removed after the incident appeared to primarily involve assault.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia target \$3 billion in food, agricultural exports

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to increase Pakistan's agricultural and food exports to the Kingdom to US\$3 billion within the next two years, with a focus on strengthening cooperation in food security, agriculture, trade and investment.

The agreement followed a visit by a high-level Saudi delegation led by Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Eng. Abdulrahman A. Alfadley to Islamabad from August 26 to 28. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also met the delegation and discussed opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation.

According to a joint statement, rice, red meat, fruits and fruit concentrates, green fodder and water-efficient agricultural technologies were identified



as priority sectors. Pakistan exported around 169,000 tonnes of rice worth US\$163 million to Saudi Arabia in 2025, while the Kingdom expressed interest in increasing imports. Pakistan also exports approximately 30,000 tonnes of red meat annually, valued at around US\$167 million, with Saudi Arabia seeking to gradually double

these imports.

Both sides agreed to promote business-to-business linkages, facilitate investment and work towards mutual recognition of quality certifications in the fruit sector. Green fodder was identified as another promising area for long-term supply partnerships.

The two countries welcomed the completion of the first phase of a water-efficient irrigation project in Bhakkar and discussed a second phase benefiting small farmers. Saudi Arabia also invited Pakistan to join the International Dates Council.

The sides reviewed investment proposals in livestock, agri-food processing and rice value chains and agreed to maintain coordination. Pakistan was also invited to participate in the 43rd Saudi Agriculture Exhibition in Riyadh from October 19-22, 2026.

DPM Ishaq Dar Arrives in Istanbul for Official Engagements



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar arrived in Istanbul on Sunday for official engagements, where he was received by senior Turkish officials, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid and other dignitaries.

Soon after his arrival, Dar visited the shrine of Hazrat Abu Ayyub Ansari (R. A.) and offered prayers for the peace and prosperity of Pakistan and its people, as well as unity among the Muslim Ummah. Meanwhile, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir also reached Turkiye on an official visit. He is expected to participate in the first high-level meeting under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement involving Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia.



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PML-N leadership meets AJK Prime Minister, Speaker in Lahore

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani and AJK Legislative Assembly Speaker Tariq Farooq in Lahore.

The AJK leaders thanked the senior PML-N leadership for reposing confidence in them and appreciated its support for the newly formed AJK government. Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz congratulated the AJK prime minister and speaker, extending their best wishes for successful performance of their responsibilities. The PML-N leadership stressed the urgent need to address issues confronting the people of AJK



and ensure visible improvements in their daily lives. Nawaz Sharif shared a 100-day reform and development plan focusing on healthcare, education, sanitation, infrastructure and other key

sectors.

He directed the AJK prime minister to pursue a comprehensive development agenda emphasizing modernization, better public service delivery

and sustainable development. He also encouraged the AJK government to follow Punjab's development initiatives and improve governance and public welfare.

AJK Acting President Offers Condolences on Passing of Malik Khalid Hussain



 **Bureau Report**

CHIRIYAWALA: Acting President Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Speaker AJK Legislative Assembly Ch. Tariq Farooq visited the ancestral residence of former Coordinator to the AJK Prime Minister Abid Malik at Chiriyawala to offer Fateha and express condolences over the death of his elder brother, Malik Khalid Hussain.

Speaking to the bereaved family, Ch. Tariq Farooq expressed deep sorrow over the demise, saying his death was a great loss to the family, relatives and friends. He said he shared the family's grief during the difficult time and noted that although death is an inevitable reality, the loss of a loved one leaves an irreplaceable void.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the deceased the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, eternal peace and forgiveness, and to illuminate his grave with divine light. He also prayed for patience and strength for the bereaved family.

Former MPA Liaquat Bhadar, PML-N Bhimber leaders, Central Working Committee office-bearers, political and social figures, local elders, relatives and other notables attended the gathering and offered Fateha.

Safe City “Mera Pyara” Traces Parents of Girl Missing for 12 Years

 **Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority's “Mera Pyara” Virtual Center for Child Safety has traced the parents of Sana Ashraf, who went missing from Faisalabad in 2014 at age six and spent nearly 12 years at Lahore's Child Protection Bureau.

The “Mera Pyara” team conducted detailed interviews with Sana, piecing together clues from names she recalled — “Ato Ana” and “Jang Pur” — to launch a search across various areas. Persistent investigation led the team to a village called “Yang Pur” in Okara, where further inquiries revealed her parents had since relocated to Chung Manowal, Lahore. The team subsequently traced and located them there, paving the way for the family's reunion after 12 years.

A PSCA spokesperson said Sana will be formally handed over to her parents through the Child Protection Court once legal formalities are completed. The team remains committed to tracing missing and unclaimed children.

Citizens were urged to report missing children cases via Emergency Helpline 15, option 3.

MEPCO Stresses Discipline, Accountability and Harassment-Free Workplace

 **Asim Tanveer**



MULTAN: Additional Director General (Admin) MEPCO Waqas Masood Amjad Chughtai has emphasized that discipline, accountability, transparency and professional responsibility are fundamental to the effective functioning of the company. He urged all officers and employees to follow institutional rules, the code of conduct and perform their duties honestly and responsibly.

Addressing a lecture at MEPCO Bahawalnagar Circle on the Efficiency and Discipline (E&D) Rules 1978 and the Protection of Women from Harassment at Workplace Act 2010, he said violations of rules would be dealt with through prescribed legal and departmental procedures to safeguard merit and discipline.

Chughtai said MEPCO was pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against workplace harassment and taking measures to protect the dignity, safety and equal professional opportunities of women employees. He explained departmental disciplinary procedures, emphasizing transparency, merit and adherence to legal requirements.

He also highlighted the importance of ethical conduct, mutual respect, equality and professional responsibility in building a strong organization. Superintending Engineer Khalid Hussain Sial said implementation of disciplinary rules was essential for accountability and professional performance, while ensuring a safe and respectful workplace for women was an important institutional responsibility.

Female staff and officers from various MEPCO departments participated in the session.

Dino Valley

ISLAMABAD: Visitors enjoy the day at Dino Valley, a popular dinosaur-themed family amusement park located in the scenic Margalla Hills in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PPP Stresses Grassroots Power Transfer to Strengthen Democracy

 **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) South Punjab leaders have stressed that transferring powers to the grassroots level is essential for strengthening democracy and resolving people's problems. At a meeting chaired by South Punjab Chief Coordinator Abdul Qadir Shaheen and Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam, participants reviewed party organization, the local government budget and the country's political and economic situation.

The leaders said the PPP would



contest upcoming local government elections with full preparation in line with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's directives. They decided to complete the

party's organizational structure up to the Union Council level in Multan city and district and fill vacant positions with ideological workers.

The speakers said the PPP's alliance with the government did not mean remaining silent over public hardships. They criticized repeated increases in petroleum prices, saying they were contributing to higher transportation costs and prices of essential commodities, worsening inflation for poor and middle-class families. They demanded serious measures to control inflation and unemployment and provide relief.

The meeting also pledged to raise the Saraiki region's issues at every forum and reiterated support for the long-standing demand for a separate Saraiki province.

Punjab's China Opportunity

 **Qudrat Ullah**

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's four-day visit to China was more than routine diplomacy. It was development diplomacy with a clear provincial goal: bringing home the technology, investment and institutional practices needed to make Punjab more productive, competitive and livable.

The visit fits a governance pattern Maryam Nawaz has pursued since taking office — one where development must be visible, in better transport, healthcare, agriculture, cleaner cities, digital services and economic security for families.

Punjab, as Pakistan's largest economic and agricultural powerhouse, is well positioned to lead the country's next phase of technology-driven growth. Its expanding economic base, vast agricultural potential, industrial capacity and large human-resource pool provide a strong platform for modernisation. China, Pakistan's largest trading partner

and a major source of technology and investment, offers a valuable strategic partnership in this transformation. With Pakistani exports to China gaining momentum, Punjab has an important opportunity to further accelerate this trajectory by developing higher-value products, embracing advanced technologies and strengthening its integration into regional and global value chains. The opportunity is not simply to attract more investment, but to build greater productive capacity, innovation and competitiveness in Punjab.

That means moving beyond low-value commodities and traditional manufacturing toward precision agriculture, efficient water management, modern industry, digital technology and higher-value exports. The chief minister's stops in Xinjiang and Guizhou were built around this logic.

Xinjiang's relevance to Punjab is direct. Cooperation on mechanisation, water-efficient irrigation, digital crop monitoring, land levelling, modern seed varieties and corporate farming targets the province's most persistent

constraints. For a water-stressed agricultural economy, the goal isn't simply higher yields — it's higher yields per unit of increasingly scarce water. This reflects a broader trait in Maryam Nawaz's governing style: pragmatism over rhetoric — identifying specific problems, importing workable solutions, and translating them into public benefit.

The same philosophy runs through the livestock and dairy agenda. Punjab has one of Pakistan's largest livestock economies, but much of its value stays locked in fragmented, informal production. The chief minister's visit to a modern dairy facility in Xinjiang and her interest in building comparable milk-processing capacity at home signals an ambition to build full value chains — better breeding, animal health, cold-chain logistics, processing and packaging — rather than just raising raw output. Done well, this

raises farmer incomes while creating new industries and jobs.

Punjab's interest in China's big-data and AI ecosystem points to a further ambition: making technology part of the machinery of government itself. The emerging Punjab Data Lake, which aims to integrate information across departments, is a step toward data-driven governance — helping the state anticipate problems in smog, traffic, urban growth, agriculture and land management rather than merely react to them.

This matters because Maryam Nawaz has repeatedly emphasized reducing the friction citizens face when dealing with the government. Digital platforms and integrated services can cut transaction costs and administrative delays. In this framing, technology isn't just an economic sector to be developed — it's a tool for reforming how government functions.

Analysis



Qudrat Ullah

The same thinking shapes Punjab's pursuit of Chinese capital: not investors who simply extract or sell, but ones who establish production locally, train workers, develop Pakistani suppliers and connect Punjab to global markets. The aim is for Punjab to become a producer capable of absorbing and eventually generating its own technological capability — not a permanent importer of finished technology.

Punjab brings real assets to this exchange: a large domestic market, an extensive agricultural base, an established industrial sector and a young, increasingly digitally literate workforce. Paired with Chinese capital and expertise, these could form a genuine platform for industrialisation and export growth.

Seen this way, the China visit is less a foreign-policy event than an instrument of provincial development strategy — using international partnerships to accelerate domestic reform. That ambition, and the energy behind pursuing it, deserves credit; reform at this scale requires sustained engagement across

governments, investors and citizens, not office-bound policymaking.

The real test now is implementation — and every sign points to a province ready to deliver. Agreements from Xinjiang and Guizhou are already taking shape as concrete projects, promising lasting local capacity and new jobs across agriculture, dairy and industry. With modern techniques and fresh investment, Punjab's farms and exporters are set for real, measurable growth. Backed by the same drive the chief minister brought to this visit, Punjab is charting a confident path toward becoming more productive, technologically advanced and responsive to the people it serves.

That is the real measure of Punjab's China opportunity — and of Maryam Nawaz's broader reform agenda: a province that is more productive, technologically capable, internationally competitive and responsive to the people it serves.

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

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:13 am
Zohr12:09 pm
Asr4:46 pm
Maghrib6:36 pm
Isha8:03 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

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-89266316
Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

*Master Oil
Inter Club
Cricket
Tournament
Final will
be played on
Monday*



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two Prominent Teams of the City Pakistan Cricket Club and Alamgir Gymkhana will meet in the Final of the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament on Monday 31st August at KCCA Stadium.

On this occasion Mr. Tabish Javed, Vice President Regional Cricket Association Karachi will be the Chief Guest and Distribute the Prizes among the players after the end of the Match. While Mr. Ali Hussain, Secretary Regional Cricket Association Karachi Preside over the Ceremony.

Punjab Leads in Digital Economy, Offers Young Skilled Workforce: CM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said the province has the fourth-largest young and skilled workforce in the country and is emerging as a leader in the digital economy through rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI).

During her visit to China, she met a high-level delegation of Alibaba Cloud, which expressed keen interest in Punjab's information technology sector and appreciated its AI-based governance initiatives. Discussions focused on using AI in agriculture, healthcare, socio-economic programmes, climate forecasting and public services, with the possibility of establishing a strategic partnership.

Maryam Nawaz said Punjab was integrating AI into its governance system and pursuing technology-driven solutions without delay. She highlighted that Punjab had become the first province to introduce an AI policy and was working

to provide AI education to children in government schools. She welcomed greater Chinese cooperation in AI and other advanced technologies.

The chief minister said AI training had also been provided to provincial cabinet members, government officers and officials. She also highlighted Punjab's plan to build the world's largest public-sector cancer hospital.

Alibaba Cloud Senior Vice President Li Jiaping briefed the chief minister about the company's operations and said AI was increasingly being used in media campaigns and medical training. He noted that AI could contribute significantly to cancer diagnosis and treatment and said discussions were underway to establish a data centre in Pakistan.

Provincial AI Adviser Ali Mustafa Dar said AI education had been made mandatory from Grade 1 in Punjab. He added that AI was already being used in the Safe Cities Authority, agriculture, healthcare, education and infrastructure sectors.



After the rain

ISLAMABAD: A rainbow appears in the sky after the rain, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Education Essential for National Development: RPO Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera has said that quality education is essential for building a strong, prosperous and developed Pakistan, stressing that educating the younger generation is a shared national responsibility.

He was speaking at an Independence Day ceremony held at the Dr Abdul Qadeer Campus of Ghaus Jhagi Education Foundation on Jhang Road, which was attended by members of the Rotary Club of Lyallpur, educationists, business leaders and students.

Mubashir Hussain Chand said education could transform the destiny of individuals



as well as nations, adding that students should develop strong character, moral values and a sense of national responsibility alongside academic abilities.

Rotary Club of Lyallpur President Junaid Mahmood Baig said the club would play its role in the Jhagi Education Project. He stressed that

empowering youth through education, character-building and patriotism represented the true spirit of Independence Day.

Development Works at Data Darbar, Bibi Pak Daman Shrines Progressing Rapidly: Ehsan Bhutta

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr Ehsan Bhutta has said that construction, restoration and development works at Data Darbar and Bibi Pak Daman shrines are progressing swiftly and will be completed within stipulated timelines.

During a detailed inspection of ongoing projects, he reviewed reconstruction, marble cladding, plastering, fabrication of jalis, retrofitting and other works at Data Darbar. He directed officials to expedite debris removal from the central hall so foundation and column construction could begin without delay. He also inspected the Sama Hall, basement, courtyard, Piazza, parking area, pedestrian underpass and washrooms, instructing officials to complete remaining works on an urgent basis.

Officials briefed him that concreting at Zildar Road would be completed within two weeks, while dismantling work was also progressing. The permanent escalator for the pedestrian under-



pass is being imported and will require additional time.

At Bibi Pak Daman, Bhutta reviewed

construction of male and female musafirhanas. He directed that concreting of the male facility be completed within

two days and related works, including the female facility, accelerated for completion within a month.

Cultural Colors Fashion Show Season 5 Celebrates Pakistan's Heritage and Global Cultures

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: NIFTYSPHERE Institute of Arts & Design successfully hosted Cultural Colors Fashion Show Season 5, celebrating fashion, culture, and creativity with students, diplomats, and guests.



The highlight was a tribute to Balochistan's heritage, where Certificate Course students presented original collections inspired by the province's colors, crafts, and traditions. A vibrant Balochi cultural dance added authenticity to the segment.

Another key showcase featured designs inspired by the national animals and birds of different countries. Students creatively transformed their symbolism into contemporary runway collections, demonstrating fashion as a medium for cross-cultural expression.

The evening also included live Classical Sitar and Violin performances, blending music with visual arts.

Chief Guest Senator Sana Jamali praised the students' creativity and NIFTYSPHERE's platform for young talent. Awards were presented by CEO Syed Usman Tahir and Executive Director Rasheed Ilyas to recognize contributions.

Organized under Head of Department Sidratul Muntah, the event reaffirmed NIFTYSPHERE's commitment to promoting Pakistan's heritage and international cultural exchange through fashion.

Nurses Backbone of Healthcare System, Continuous Training Essential: AMC Principal



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Principal Amiruddin Medical College (AMC) Prof. Dr. Farooq Afzal has emphasized the importance of nurses in providing quality healthcare, saying continuous training is essential to enhance their professional skills and meet modern medical requirements.

During a meeting with DMS Nursing Dr. Sundus Tahir and Acting Deputy Chief Nursing Superintendent Lahore General Hospital (LGH) Saima Fateh, the principal said effective healthcare depends on quality patient treatment and compassionate care. He noted that nurses form the backbone of the healthcare system and stressed that regular training workshops should be organized to strengthen their expertise.

Dr. Sundus Tahir briefed the principal on the operations and performance of the hospital's Day Care Centre, while Saima Fateh discussed nursing staff duties, rosters and administrative issues. Prof. Farooq Afzal assured the nursing administration that their official and administrative problems would be addressed on a priority basis to provide a stress-free working environment.

PPP-W Demands Strict Accountability Over PIMS Nursery Fire Tragedy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Workers (PPP-W) President Dr Safdar Ali Abbasi and Political Assistant to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Naheed Khan have demanded strict and impartial accountability for the deaths of 14 newborn babies in the PIMS nursery fire.



In a joint statement, they described the incident as a serious failure of the system responsible for protecting vulnerable patients. They welcomed the prime minister's decision to suspend the PIMS Executive Director and other officials but said administrative action alone could not satisfy the grieving families.

The PPP-W leaders demanded a thorough investigation into the absence of basic fire-safety arrangements, inadequate emergency procedures and supervisory failures. They also called for disclosure of how the private security agency was selected and monitored, stressing that responsibility should be traced across the entire chain of command.

They cautioned against using selective suspensions as scapegoating and demanded criminal liability wherever negligence was established, regardless of rank.

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Pakistan Urges India to Respect Indus Waters Treaty

Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has rejected India’s portrayal of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) as an unfair agreement and called on New Delhi to respect its binding obligations under the 1960 accord.

In an opinion article published in Newsweek, Sheikh responded to an article by India’s Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra, accusing him of distorting the treaty’s history, structure and purpose to justify India’s April 2025 decision to place the agreement “in abeyance.” Sheikh argued that the IWT was a carefully negotiated international settlement facilitated by the World Bank and was neither a unilateral concession by India nor an inherently unequal arrangement.

Under the treaty, India received unrestricted use of the Eastern Rivers—Ravi, Beas and Sutlej—while Pakistan’s rights over the Western Rivers—Indus, Jhelum and Chenab—were protected through detailed legal provisions. Pakistan also undertook major replacement works after relinquishing its historic dependence on the Eastern Rivers.

The ambassador rejected claims that Pakistan obstructs India’s hydropower projects, pointing out that the treaty explicitly permits India to develop run-of-river hydroelectric plants on the Western Rivers, provided they comply with prescribed technical and operational conditions. He said Pakistan’s use of the treaty’s dispute-resolution mechanisms was a legitimate exercise of its rights rather than an attempt to block Indian development.

Sheikh noted that the Court of Arbitration has reaffirmed the treaty’s continuing validity, while its May 2026 Supplemental Award reinforced compliance with treaty safeguards. He stressed that political or security disputes cannot provide grounds for unilaterally suspending a binding international agreement.

According to Sheikh, Article XII provides that the treaty can only be terminated through a duly ratified agreement between both governments. Therefore, India’s unilateral announcement cannot change its legal status.

He warned that undermining the IWT could threaten regional stability and create uncertainty over transboundary water management. Pakistan, he said, remains committed to implementing the treaty and urges India to withdraw its unilateral measures and return to established mechanisms.

For Pakistan, Sheikh emphasized, the issue concerns water security, agriculture, food security and the livelihoods of millions of people, making preservation of the treaty essential to long-term peace and stability in South Asia.

Reversing Age: Humanity’s Oldest Dream Nears Reality

Human beings have always resisted the idea that aging and death are unavoidable. Civilizations created stories about fountains of youth, elixirs of life, resurrection and immortality. Egyptian pharaohs were mummified and buried with possessions needed for the afterlife, although this reflected religious beliefs about spiritual continuity rather than a scientific plan to regenerate their bodies. Modern science fiction transformed the same ancient longing into suspended animation, imagining astronauts sleeping for centuries before awakening unchanged at distant destinations.

Until recently, however, restoring youth to an old body belonged almost entirely to mythology. Medicine could treat individual diseases, exercise could preserve strength and nutrition could reduce health risks, but nothing could instruct an aged cell to become biologically younger. Research into cellular reprogramming has made that possibility scientifically conceivable—although it remains far from proven in human beings.

The sequencing of the human genome and advances in molecular biology allowed scientists to study how genes behave as organisms grow older. Contrary to some popular explanations, aging is not controlled by one gene containing a predetermined expiration date. DNA itself can accumulate muta-

tions and other damage, while mitochondria malfunction, proteins lose their proper form, stem cells become exhausted and senescent cells accumulate.

Another important process is epigenetic change. Epigenetic markers act like instructions telling cells which genes to activate or silence. The underlying DNA sequence may remain substantially the same, but cells can become less effective at reading and executing their instructions. Patterns of DNA methylation change predictably enough with age that researchers use them to construct “epigenetic clocks.”

Scientists have also observed a remarkable rejuvenation process during reproduction. Although an egg and sperm come from adults, a resulting embryo does not begin life at the biological age of its parents. During early development, many age-associated epigenetic markers are reset. The crucial question is whether part of that resetting process can be activated later in life without erasing a cell’s identity or causing cancer.

In 2006, Shinya Yamanaka discovered that four genes—Oct4, Sox2, Klf4 and c-Myc—could return mature cells to a state resembling embryonic stem cells. These became known as the Yamanaka

factors. The discovery earned him the 2012 Nobel Prize, but applying all four factors inside a living organism can be dangerous. Excessive reprogramming may cause cells to lose their identities or form tumors.

Researchers subsequently explored “partial reprogramming”: turning back some biological markers of age while allowing cells to remain, for example, functioning skin, muscle or nerve cells.

In a landmark 2020 Nature study, researchers associated with David Sinclair’s Harvard laboratory used three factors—Oct4, Sox2 and Klf4, collectively called OSK—on retinal ganglion cells in mice. The treatment restored more youthful patterns of gene expression, promoted nerve regeneration and improved vision in aged mice and mouse models of glaucoma. The experiment supported the extraordinary possibility that old mammalian cells retain recoverable information about their younger state.

Other researchers have reported encouraging results involving muscle, skin and organs in animals. Yet rejuvenating cells in a mouse, or even improving a particular tissue in a primate, is not equivalent to reversing the age of an entire human being. Animal findings frequently fail when trans-

ferred to people, and the dangers of gene therapy and uncontrolled cell growth remain serious.

The field crossed an important threshold in 2026. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration cleared Life Biosciences to begin a Phase 1 trial of ER-100, an experimental epigenetic-reprogramming therapy for optic neuropathies, including open-angle glaucoma and non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy.

This should be described precisely. It is not yet a trial proving that human aging can be reversed, nor is it intended to make participants generally younger. It is an early trial designed primarily to evaluate safety and tolerability in a small number of patients, while also observing whether visual function improves.

The eye is a logical starting point because treatment can be delivered locally and monitored closely. A harmful reaction may be easier to contain than it would be after attempting to reprogram the liver, brain or entire body. Even if the therapy restores some vision, years of larger trials would be needed before scientists could establish its effectiveness and understand its long-term cancer risk.

Still, successful rejuvenation of a human tissue would represent a historic medical advance. It could open a route toward treating diseases once considered irreversible rather than immediately producing ageless human beings.

Continued on Page 7



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

Sarhad University Incident: Allegations, Confrontation and Calls for Accountability

The incident at Sarhad University has generated significant controversy following allegations of academic misconduct, harassment, student violence and the subsequent involvement of a Pakistan Army officer. The account presented describes a dispute that reportedly developed over several months within the university’s Allied Health Sciences Department and eventually escalated into a confrontation involving students, a senior university official and her husband, a commissioned Army officer. However, several of the claims remain allegations and should be established through independent investigation and due process.

According to the account, the controversy initially centred on the Head of the Allied Health Sciences Department, who was allegedly involved in favouritism and unfair treatment of students. Some students reportedly accused the department head of protecting a particular group that had allegedly cheated in examinations, copied assignments and violated university rules without facing disciplinary action. The situation was described as creating a culture in which academic misconduct and preferential treatment became normalized. The university administration was also alleged to have been aware of these complaints but failed to take effective action.

In distress, the Head of Student Affairs contacted her husband, a commissioned Pakistan Army officer. According to the account, he travelled alone to the university after learning about the alleged confrontation involving his wife. Rather than bringing soldiers or a group of personnel, he reportedly

arrived by himself. His wife allegedly identified a student whom she believed had threatened or physically confronted her. The officer then confronted the student and reportedly reprimanded him for his behaviour. The account says that he struck the student lightly with a stick, describing the act as disciplinary rather than an attempt to cause serious injury.

The physical confrontation reportedly escalated rapidly after students surrounded the officer. The account alleges that students shouted at, pushed and confronted him despite his attempts to explain the situation.

According to the account, the officer subsequently drew his service pistol and used it to push the crowd back. He then reportedly fired warning shots into the air, allegedly intending to disperse the crowd and create an opportunity for himself and his wife to leave safely. The narrative characterizes the shooting as a defensive response to what the officer perceived as an immediate threat from an uncontrolled mob. Nevertheless, the use of a firearm during a confrontation involving students is an extremely serious matter, and the circumstances, legality and proportionality of the officer’s actions require careful investigation rather than conclusions based solely on competing accounts.

The incident has also generated debate over whether the officer’s initial decision to confront a student with a stick was appropriate and whether alternative measures, including contacting local law-enforcement authorities or university security, could have prevented further escalation. Supporters of the officer argue that he responded to an emergency involving his wife and that

his decision to travel alone demonstrated that he did not initially intend to launch a broader attack on the students. Critics, however, may argue that any physical confrontation by an armed individual can intensify an already dangerous situation.

The incident has consequently raised broader questions about academic governance, student discipline, campus security, protection of university employees and respect for the rule of law. Allegations of examination cheating, favouritism and harassment require transparent institutional procedures, while allegations of physical assault, threats and the use of firearms require equally serious legal scrutiny.

The Pakistan Army has reportedly ordered an inquiry into the incident and taken the officer into custody. This development is significant because an independent and transparent investigation can help determine what happened before, during and after the confrontation and whether any individual violated applicable laws or institutional regulations.

Ultimately, the Sarhad University episode should be assessed on the basis of verified evidence rather than emotionally charged narratives. The alleged misconduct by university officials and students, the reported treatment of the Head of Student Affairs, the officer’s physical confrontation with students and the subsequent firing of warning shots are separate issues that all require examination. A credible inquiry should establish responsibility for each stage of the incident, protect the rights of all parties and ensure that accountability is applied consistently. The case underscores the importance of maintaining discipline and lawful procedures in educational institutions while ensuring that grievances are addressed before disputes escalate into potentially dangerous confrontations.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Dr. T. M. Malik

Analysis of Social Media Impact on Working Women in Our Society

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, transforming the way people communicate, work, learn and participate in society. For working women in Pakistan, platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, WhatsApp and X offer new opportunities for professional networking, entrepreneurship, learning and self-expression. At the same time, excessive use, social pressure, online harassment and the struggle to maintain a healthy work-life balance have created challenges. The impact of social media on working women is therefore complex, with both empowering and troubling dimensions.

One of the most significant benefits of social media is its contribution to professional development. Working women can access online courses, webinars, professional communities and industry-related information without leaving their homes or workplaces. LinkedIn and other professional networks allow women to establish professional identities, connect with employers and colleagues, explore career opportunities and showcase their skills. This is particularly valuable for women who may face restrictions on mobility or limited access to traditional professional networks.

Social media has also opened doors to women’s entrepreneurship. Many Pakistani women are now operating home-based businesses through Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. They sell clothing, handicrafts, food products, jewellery, cosmetics and other goods directly to customers. Social media reduces advertising costs and enables small businesses

to reach markets beyond their immediate communities. For women who cannot work outside the home because of family responsibilities, these platforms can provide an alternative source of income and financial independence.

Another important contribution is access to information and awareness. Working women can follow experts, educational institutions, government departments, professional organisations and international forums. They can learn about workplace rights, career development, scholarships, training opportunities and changing trends in their professions. Social media has also given women a platform to discuss issues that were previously ignored or rarely discussed publicly, including workplace discrimination, harassment, unequal opportunities and gender stereotypes.

However, the benefits of social media are accompanied by serious concerns. Online harassment and cyberbullying remain major problems. Women who express opinions, share professional achievements or participate in public discussions may face abusive comments, trolling, character attacks and unwanted messages. Such experiences can discourage women from speaking openly and participating in digital spaces. Stronger awareness of cyber laws, better reporting mechanisms and responsible online behaviour are essential to creating safer digital environments.

Social media can also intensify the pressure to maintain a perfect professional and personal image. Constant exposure to carefully presented lifestyles and career achievements can create

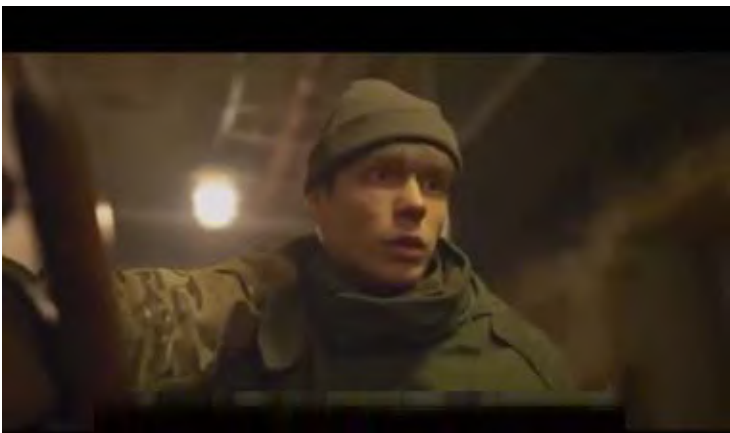
Continued on Page 7

‘Baby’ (Малыш): A Deeply Human War Drama That Earns Its Emotion

 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Russian Embassy in Islamabad recently hosted a free screening of Baby (Малыш) at Centaurus Cineplex, Islamabad, with English subtitles. The screening provided Pakistani audiences with an opportunity to experience a Russian war drama and gain a different perspective on the conflict involving Ukraine. The film was warmly received by the audience, particularly for its emotional storytelling and intimate portrayal of its central character.

Directed by Andrei Simonov and released in February 2026, Baby tells the story of Pavel Chertok, a young commander from Donetsk who became involved in the conflict at a remarkably young age. Rather than relying entirely on large-scale battle sequences or conventional war-film spectacle, the movie focuses on the human consequences of conflict and the psychological burden placed on a young person confronted with extraordinary circumstances.



One of the film’s notable strengths is its character-driven approach. Chertok is presented not simply as a military figure or political symbol, but as a young individual dealing with fear, responsibility, loss and difficult choices. The restrained performance and quiet moments allow the emotional dimension of the story to emerge naturally. The cinematography further strengthens this atmosphere. Muted

colours, wintry landscapes and naturalistic lighting give the film a sombre, almost documentary-like quality. Scenes set in Donetsk and Makeyevka feel grounded rather than excessively stylised. The sound design is equally effective, particularly in its subtle use of distant explosions and battlefield sounds to create tension without overwhelming the narrative. For Pakistani viewers, the screening

was also an opportunity to engage with a perspective on the Russia-Ukraine conflict that is less commonly encountered in mainstream Pakistani cinema. At the same time, viewers may benefit from remembering that the film presents a particular Russian perspective on a highly contested conflict rather than serving as a neutral historical account.

Ultimately, Baby works best as a human drama. Its strongest moments are not necessarily those involving warfare, but those that explore the emotional cost of conflict and the pressures placed on young people by circumstances beyond their control. The Islamabad screening demonstrated the value of cultural exchanges such as cinema in encouraging audiences to explore different perspectives on complex international events.

As a war drama, Baby leaves its strongest impression through emotion, atmosphere and character rather than spectacle, making it a thought-provoking film for audiences interested in both cinema and contemporary history.



Ethiopia Opens First Coffee Cafe in Twin Cities, Strengthening Bilateral Ties with Pakistan



 Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: H. E. Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, inaugurated the first-ever Ethiopian coffee cafe in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Sunday.

The inauguration was preceded by a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony which held in the presence of the Ethiopian community, Embassy staff, and representatives of the media.

Following the ceremony, the Ambassador held an interactive session with the media, highlighting the growing bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

He said the opening marks Ethiopian coffee’s debut in Pakistan through the first-ever dedicated Ethiopian cafe in the twin cities. “From the birthplace of humankind to the home of Arabica coffee, Ethiopia is called the Land of Origins for all the right reasons,” he remarked.

The Ambassador noted that the cafe’s ownership by an Ethiopian-Pakistani



couple adds further significance to the initiative, reflecting the growing fraternity between the two nations.

He said the cafe is named “Habasha,” the historic name for Ethiopia, which resonates widely among Pakistanis owing to their deep reverence for Hazrat Bilal Habashi (R. A.) and the King

Nejashi who gave shelter to the earliest Muslim migrants during the First Hijra.

Reaffirming his commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation, the Ambassador underscored the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries through increased cultural exchange.

Mr. Naeem Hashmi, the owner of the cafe, said through Habesha, we want to create a space that brings Pakistan and Ethiopia closer together; a platform where both nations can share and discover each other’s art, culture, music and tourism.

 Photos by Sultan Bashir

Health Experts Urge Government to Fast-Track Warning Labels on Processed Foods

 Bureau Report

MURRE: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), along with public health experts and media professionals, has urged the government to urgently introduce mandatory Front-of-Pack Warning Labels (FOPWLs) on ultra-processed food and beverage products to help consumers make healthier choices and reduce unhealthy food consumption.

The participants called for black octagonal warning labels in Urdu on products exceeding WHO-re-

commended limits for sugar, sodium and saturated fats, as well as those containing non-sugar sweeteners. They said simple and prominent labels were particularly important in Pakistan’s low-literacy settings, enabling consumers to identify products containing excessive amounts of nutrients and ingredients of public health concern.

Food and Nutrition Policy Expert Munawar Hussain said Pakistan’s food environment was changing rapidly as consumers were increasingly exposed to processed and ultra-processed

products. He stressed that effective, evidence-based policies were needed instead of placing the entire responsibility for healthy choices on individuals.

PANA General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghuman said there was no time to lose in implementing mandatory warning labels, particularly as children and young people were increasingly exposed to unhealthy food and beverages. He linked excessive consumption of such products with the country’s growing burden of diet-related diseases and urged immediate government action.

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has already submitted an evidence-based proposal to the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) through the Ministry of Science and Technology, following recommendations from the National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Health. However, the proposal has remained under discussion by PSQCA technical committees for two years.

Workshop participants urged the relevant ministries and PSQCA



to expedite the process in line with WHO nutrient-profile recommendations. PANA and media professionals

also pledged to continue public awareness efforts supporting healthier food environments.

Why Only Punjab? Other Provinces Deserve Development Too

Pakistan’s concept of development cannot be completed through the development of only one province. Pakistan is a federal country based on different provinces, nations, languages, cultures, and regions, comprising Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, each of which has its own distinct historical importance. If major development projects, industrial centers, employment opportunities, educational institutions, hospitals, roads, motorways, and other basic facilities are continuously constructed in only one province, Punjab, while other provinces are kept behind, then raising questions about it is a natural process: Why are the benefits of national development not reaching everyone equally? This question is not against the people of Punjab, because the people of Punjab are also equal citizens of Pakistan and have all the rights to development; the real question is about national policy, the distribution of resources, and the balance of development. If the rapid development of one province continues alongside the deprivation of other provinces,

instead of strengthening the federation, it will weaken it.

Sindh is the backbone of Pakistan’s economy. Karachi is the country’s major economic and commercial center, and a large share of national trade takes place through Sindh’s ports. At the same time, Sindh’s agriculture, oil, gas, coal, and other resources also make an important contribution to the country’s economy. Despite this, many districts of Sindh are still deprived of quality education, healthcare, clean water, better roads, industrial facilities, and adequate employment opportunities. Balochistan, despite being Pakistan’s largest province by area and being rich in natural resources, faces poverty, unemployment, and a lack of basic facilities in almost every region. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also rich in natural resources, tourism, horticulture, and human potential, but it continues to suffer from insecurity and law-and-order problems and has been deprived of development. If the resources and potential of these provinces are provided with proper opportunities, they can not only develop themselves but can also

make the economy of the entire Pakistan stronger.

We often measure development through big cities, large buildings, motorways, flyovers, and mega projects. Certainly, these can also be considered a form of national infrastructure development, which should exist in every province. But we know that real development means bringing positive change to people’s lives. Development will truly be felt when a child from a poor family can study in a quality school, a patient can receive proper treatment in their own district, a young person can find employment in their own region, a farmer can receive fair compensation for his crops, and ordinary people are not deprived of electricity, water, gas, roads, and other basic facilities. Provincial balance should be given fundamental importance in federal and national development projects. Planning should be carried out while considering the population,

underdeveloped areas, economic needs, resources, and level of development of each province. If a particular area requires greater investment to bring it forward, that investment should certainly be made, but the basic needs of other provinces should also not be ignored.

Investment in education and human capital is the fundamental solution to this problem. Quality schools, technical institutions, universities, and vocational training centers should be established in underdeveloped districts of the provinces so that young people do not have to wait only for government jobs. They can build their future in industry, business, agriculture, technology, and the modern online economy. At the same time, adequate employment opportunities for local people, the establishment of industries, and business facilities should be ensured in every province. Development also means that young people should be able to

obtain respectable employment in their own region and should not be forced to leave their homes and provinces in search of employment. If the government develops education, healthcare, industry, agriculture, and technical training according to the needs of each province, the country’s economic strength will not remain limited to a few cities but will grow on a broader foundation.

We must begin a journey of shared national development instead of treating development merely as provincial competition. If Punjab develops, Sindh, Balochistan, or Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should have no objection to it, but at the same time, the right of these provinces to development must also be equally recognized. The prosperity of one province should not become the cause of deprivation of another province. The very meaning of a federation is that all parts of the country move forward together. If the economic strength of Karachi, along with Sindh’s agricultural and energy resources, Balochistan’s mineral and maritime potential, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s tourism and hydropower

potential are utilized through a unified national strategy, Pakistan can move far beyond its economic potential. What is needed is only justice, transparency, and balanced planning.

Pakistan is not merely the name of Punjab; Pakistan is the shared homeland of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and all the regions and citizens of the country. Therefore, the standard of national development should not be which province is ahead of the others, but rather the extent to which every citizen of the country is receiving equal opportunities for development. When the farmer of Sindh becomes prosperous, the young person of Balochistan gets employment, the student of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa receives quality education, and the worker of Punjab enjoys a better life, only then can we say that Pakistan is truly progressing. If development remains limited to only one province, it is not complete national development; real development is that which reaches every province, every district, and every citizen of Pakistan.

The writer is Teacher, Educational Researcher & Columnist



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

20pc penalty imposed on incorrect input tax credit claims

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Taxpayers making incorrect or mismatched input tax credit claims will face a 20 per cent penalty in addition to repayment of the tax amount and default surcharge under the Finance Act 2026-27.

The new provision also imposes a 20pc penalty if tax credit claimed against fake invoices is not repaid within 60 days.

According to the Finance Act, the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) computerised system will identify cases where input tax credit claimed by a registered taxpayer for a particular tax period does not correspond with the output tax declared by the relevant supplier during the same or a nearby tax period.

If the discrepancy remains unresolved after the taxpayer is served a notice, given an opportunity to explain the matter and provided a hearing, the taxpayer will be required to reverse the inadmissible input tax credit.

‘PAEI, Chinese Firm Hainan CISAS Sign MoU to Boost Pakistan-China Trade, Plan Joint Exhibitions’

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI) and Chinese firm Hainan CISAS Human Resources Co., Ltd.

signed an MoU in Islamabad to boost trade, economic cooperation, business relations and investment between Pakistan and China.

A Chinese delegation—including Dr. Rizwan Ali (CEO, Hainan Sias Human Resources),



Shodong Hai (CEO, Zhongtai Special Cable Technology), Director Wang Fang, and Chaudhry Javed Sabir—met PAEI Founder Chairman Khurshid Barlas at PAEI's office, with Executive Member Tauseef Zaman also present. Discussions centered on strengthening B2B contacts and expanding bilateral trade despite global economic and political shifts.

Under the MoU, both sides will organize

joint B2B delegations, exchange information, explore new cooperation areas, and facilitate participation in international conferences and exhibitions. Xu Dong Hai said the agreement aims to connect business communities through exhibitions and B2B events, while Dr. Rizwan Ali added that joint exhibitions would help firms introduce products and build partnerships.

Repairing

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work of Margalla Underpass at park road, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Synergy Group Wins Big With Seven Accolades At The Dragons Of Pakistan 2026 Awards



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Synergy Group, Pakistan's largest integrated marketing communications conglomerate, won seven accolades at the Dragons of Pakistan 2026 Awards, which evaluate Pakistani entries through international judging panels based abroad for impartial, merit-based assessment.

The wins came through subsidiaries Synergy Advertising and Synite Digital, working for Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and

KFC Pakistan respectively, securing three Gold, two Silver and two Bronze Dragons combined. Synergy Advertising earned five honours for PSO, including Gold for "Safety Starts Young," Gold and Bronze for "Made in Pakistan," and Silver and Bronze for "Blaze Xtreme." Synite Digital won two Dragons for KFC Pakistan, with Gold for "Champions Deal" and Silver for "HotShot Shakers."

Synergy Group Chairman and CEO Ahmed Kapadia called the wins an affirma-

tion of the company's creative philosophy, emphasizing that ideas rooted in Pakistani cultural truth can set global benchmarks. He praised his teams and thanked clients for enabling bold work, saying the achievement reflects Synergy's mission to elevate Pakistani creativity standards.

Since 1999, Synergy Group has maintained a consistent record of industry recognition, reinforcing its position as one of Pakistan's leading marketing communications networks.

FBR seizes illegal cigarette factory, Rs1.2bn annual tax loss averted

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Regional Tax Office-II (RTO-II), Karachi conducted a major raid against an illegal cigarette manufacturing facility in Malir on the directions of the Prime Minister, Chairman FBR and DG Intelligence & Investigation.

The Inland Revenue Enforcement Squad / IREN team sealed the factory and confiscated plant and machinery, raw and finished stock worth approximately Rs. 200 million. Seized items included cigarette-making, packing, filter and token machines, heavy-duty generators and 700 kg of raw tobacco.

Authorities said the plant had a capacity of 700,000 cigarette sticks per day, or about 200 million sticks annually, causing an estimated Rs. 1.2 billion annual revenue loss to the national exchequer.

An FIR was registered before the Special Judge (Customs & Taxation). The machinery and stock were shifted to RTO-II premises.

The operation was led by DCIR Baqir Ali, coordinated by Commissioner Dr. Aslam Marri, and supervised by Chief Commissioner Zafar Rafique. RTO-II reaffirmed its commitment to strict action against illicit tobacco trade and tax evasion.

Peshawar Business Alliance Scores Key Gain Ahead of SCCI Elections

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Business Alliance has dealt a major setback to the Businessmen Forum ahead of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) elections, with Haji Naseer Khan, a key Executive Member, announcing his joining along with colleagues.

The announcement was made at a key meeting chaired by Syed Zahir Ali Shah, where SCCI election candidates were finalized. Addressing the gathering, candidates including Shah Rukh Khan, Muhammad Akram and Ghulam Hussain praised alliance leadership of Haji Ghulam Ali, Syed

Zahir Ali Shah, Sharafat Ali Mubarak and Malik Mehr Ullah for serving Peshawar's business community. Speakers criticized the current Chamber leadership for remaining in control and failing to deliver, urging traders to vote on merit, not personal ties, to ensure the Chamber's independence.

They pledged to address challenges like inflation, taxes and utility costs through transparency and consultation. Appealing for support, they said: "Give the Peshawar Business Alliance a chance to show what true service means." Haji Naseer Khan said Chamber independence is "the need of the hour."

PIBF Backs Sept 3 Strike Call Against Petroleum Levy, Demands Immediate Withdrawal

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pak International Business Forum (PIBF) has announced support for the September 3 strike called by Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan against the petroleum levy, with businessmen, traders, industrialists, students and other segments of society backing the protest.

In a joint statement, PIBF Central President Dr. Mushtaq Mangat, along with Lahore President Abdul Wadood Alvi and Hafiz Mehmood, expressed solidarity with the strike, saying persistent petroleum taxes and volatile fuel prices were burdening both businesses and the common man. Dr. Mangat urged the government to review its petroleum

taxation policy, arguing that excessive levies were driving up business costs and ultimately hurting consumers.

Alvi noted that frequent fuel price fluctuations were making it difficult for businesses to calculate production costs, set prices, and plan finances reliably, as transportation and logistics expenses kept shifting. Hafiz Mehmood added that rising fuel costs were affecting the entire economic chain, from manufacturers to consumers, and called for the government to consult stakeholders on a sustainable policy. The PIBF leadership demanded immediate withdrawal of the petroleum levy, stressing that lower energy costs were vital for industrial growth, investment, exports, and job creation.

Prof. Dr Ahmed Said Ould Bah Appointed OIC Secretary-General’s Cabinet DG

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr Ahmed Said Ould Bah, Senior Advisor at OIC-COMSTech, has been appointed Director General at the Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The appointment was made by newly appointed OIC Secretary-General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech Prof. Dr Muhammad Iqbal

Choudhary congratulated Dr Ould Bah and expressed his best wishes for success in his new responsibilities. He said the appointment recognised Dr Ould Bah's extensive experience, professional competence and longstanding services to the OIC community.

Prof. Dr Ahmed Said Ould Bah is a prominent Mauritanian academic, educationist and international development professional. He has served the Islamic



World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) for nearly three decades in various senior positions, most recently as an adviser to its Director-General. He also served as President of Chinguetti Modern University in Mauritania.

With extensive expertise in education, science, culture, diplomacy and international cooperation, Dr Ould Bah has contributed to strengthening institutional and

academic collaboration across OIC member states.

Prof. Dr Iqbal Choudhary expressed confidence that Dr Ould Bah would use his experience and expertise to strengthen the OIC and promote closer cooperation among member states. His appointment is expected to enhance coordination within the OIC system and support collaboration particularly in education, science, technology, culture and development.

Ravians Gather at GCU Lahore

A 150-Year Legacy of Scholarship, Service, and Leadership



Analysis

There are universities that educate generations, and there are institutions that become woven into a nation's collective memory. Government College University Lahore belongs unmistakably to the latter category. For more than a century and a half, its historic corridors, classrooms, laboratories, lawns and literary circles have nurtured generations of men and women who went on to shape Pakistan's intellectual, scientific, cultural, administrative, political and public life.

On 3 September 2026 at 4:00 p.m., the spirit of this extraordinary institution will once again gather under one roof when Ravians assemble for their Ravian Alumni Meet at the Bukhari Auditorium, Government College University Lahore. The occasion is far more than an alumni gathering. It is a celebration of memory, friendship and achievement, encapsulated in GCU's celebrated motto: "Courage to Know."



A Bridge Between Generations: Athar Ismaeel

At the heart of this reunion stands Athar Ismaeel Amjad, President of the Old Ravians Union and presently serving as Regional Police Officer, Sheikhupura. His association with GCU represents precisely the kind of journey the Ravian tradition celebrates: academic formation followed by professional excellence, public responsibility and an enduring commitment to the alma mater.

Athar Ismaeel is, in many ways, a symbol of the contemporary Ravian — rooted in tradition yet engaged with the realities of modern Pakistan. His career in the police service has placed him in a demanding sphere where leadership, discipline, courage, communication and public trust are indispensable. Yet his identity as a Ravian has remained equally central. As President of the Old Ravians Union, he provides a bridge between generations, bringing together former students whose professional journeys have taken them into policing, administration, academia, literature, business, media, law, science, politics and the arts.

His present responsibility as RPO Sheikhupura adds another dimension to the Ravian success story. The police officer who commands a major regional formation is also a graduate of

a university whose educational tradition has always emphasised character, intellectual independence and service to society. His command of Punjabi, Urdu and English literature, paired with his professional commitment as a police officer, illustrates the breadth of the Ravian personality: competence in the profession accompanied by sensitivity to language, culture and society.

"Education is not merely a pathway to personal success; it is a responsibility to society." The forthcoming gathering therefore offers an opportunity not merely to remember student days but to ask a larger question: what makes a Ravian? The answer lies in the remarkable, globally resonant diversity of GCU's alumni.

A Legacy That Reaches the World

From its historic foundations in 1864, Government College Lahore evolved into Government College University in 2002. Across that long journey, its alumni have left their mark on almost every important field of national and international life. GCU itself identifies the Ravian spirit with a passionate quest for knowledge, inquiry and independent thought.

Perhaps no name represents the intellectual and philosophical dimension of that legacy more powerfully than Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan's national poet, philosopher and one of the most influential thinkers of the modern Muslim world, whose vision of selfhood and revival reached readers far beyond South Asia. Iqbal's association with Government College helped shape the intellectual foundations of a personality whose poetry and philosophy continue to inspire generations across the globe.

Then came scientists whose achievements placed the Ravian name on the world map. Dr Abdus Salam, Pakistan's first Nobel Laureate, was a distinguished Ravian whose scientific genius earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979. Dr Har Gobind Khorana, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, also belonged to the remarkable scientific tradition associated with Government College. GCU itself recalls how Salam's formative habits of scientific inquiry and intellectual discipline were shaped during his years



at the institution.

The Ravian story is equally a story of statesmanship. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, three-time Prime Minister of Pakistan, is among the institution's most prominent alumni in public life — a reminder that GCU's classrooms have shaped not only poets and scientists but also the nation's political leadership. Alongside such names stand generations of civil servants who carried the Ravian ethic of quiet, disciplined service into Pakistan's federal and provincial bureau-



cracy — among them officers of the audit and accounts service such as Rana Abdul Ghafoor, whose long career in public-sector audit reflects the same tradition of integrity and institutional stewardship that GCU has long instilled in its graduates.

The list extends further still. Ravians have emerged as judges and lawyers, diplomats and bureaucrats, politicians and military officers, economists and educationists, journalists and writers, actors and musicians, entrepreneurs and administrators. Among the distinguished names associated with the Ravian tradition are Justice M. R. Kayani and Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed, alongside numerous eminent scholars, administrators and public figures. Their collective achievements demonstrate that GCU's influence cannot be measured merely by degrees awarded. Its true contribution is visible in the people it has prepared to serve society — in Pakistan and, through their ideas and example,



well beyond it.

The Literary Inheritance

The university's literary tradition is equally extraordinary. The English Department of GCU Lahore is among the institution's oldest and most prestigious academic traditions. Today it continues to emphasise literature, critical thinking, analytical reading, communication and intellectual inquiry, preparing students for academia, education, media, research and professional life.

Historically, the department and the wider literary culture of Government College produced a remarkable constellation of writers, critics, teachers and public intellectuals. Ahmad Shah "Patras" Bukhari remains one of the most celebrated names in the institution's literary history, his association with English literature, Urdu prose, humour, drama and public communication exemplifying the extraordinary intellectual versatility that GCU encouraged. The literary universe surrounding GCU also includes towering figures such as Sufi Ghulam Mustafa Tabassum, Professor Gilani Kamran, Faiz Ahmad Faiz



and Nasir Kazmi, whose intellectual and artistic contributions transcended the boundaries of the classroom.

Among the teachers associated with this tradition, Professor Siddique Avan deserves special mention. His long association with GCU's academic and student life reflects the importance of teachers who do more than teach prescribed texts. The English Department's engagement with Pakistani English literature, literary criticism, drama, debating and cultural discourse has helped successive generations of Ravians develop intellectual confidence and a sophisticated understanding of language and society. Historical reporting on the department records Siddique Avan's role in promoting Pakistani English literature alongside Western literature.

That literary and scholarly inheritance continues to renew itself in the present generation. Among the rising intellectual lights of the Ravian community are Dr. Abdul Qadir Mushtaq, a promising historian and Professor and Chairman of Pakistan Studies at Government College University Faisalabad, whose scholarship explores Pakistan's political, constitutional, social and intellectual history; and Dr. Asim Aqeel of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, an emerging literary scholar and Associate Professor of English whose work spans English literature, postcolonial studies, modern and postmodern literature, comparative literature and South Asian literature in English. Their intellectual journeys represent the continuing evolution of the Ravian tradition from classical scholarship to contemporary research and literary thought.

The Ravian legacy is equally enriched by its eminent women. Sonnu Rahman, the distinguished historian, educationist and founding president of the Debating Society of Pakistan, remains an inspiring symbol of intellectual independence,

women's education and public service. The wider GCU intellectual tradition has also been represented by accomplished women scholars and scientists including Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza, Prof. Dr. Shazia Bashir and Dr. Rizwana Mustafa. Together, these women



demonstrate that the Ravian spirit has never been confined to one gender — it is a tradition of scholarship, courage, service and leadership.

The significance of such teachers is often underestimated. A great university is not created only by buildings, laboratories or rankings. It is created by teachers who ignite curiosity in young minds — an influence that can remain with a student for an entire lifetime, and which explains why an alumni reunion carries such emotional power. A Ravian returning to GCU does not simply return to a campus. He or she returns to formative years: friendships, teachers, debates, examinations, literary societies, sporting grounds, hostel memories, historic architecture, and those first moments when ambitions began to take shape.

Leading GCU Into a New Era: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Omer Chaudhry

The presence of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Omer Chaudhry adds another important dimension to the present chapter of GCU's journey. He currently leads the university at a time when higher education is undergoing profound transfor-

mation through technology, artificial intelligence, interdisciplinary research and globalisation. Dr. Umer Chaudhry is the Vice Chancellor of GCU Lahore.

His leadership comes at a moment when the university must preserve its historic identity while preparing students for a rapidly changing world. That balance — between heritage and innovation — is central to the future of GCU, and it is a responsibility he shares, in spirit, with every Ravian who has carried the institution's name into new fields and new eras.

Recent alumni activities demonstrate that the Ravian spirit remains vibrant under his stewardship. In January 2026, the university hosted a traditional cricket match between Old Ravians XI and Vice Chancellor XI. Former Pakistan cricketers including Saleem Malik, Mohammad Hafeez and Aamir Sohail, international umpire Aleem Dar, actor Khalid Abbas Dar and other distinguished alumni participated. Athar Ismaeel led the Old Ravians XI, while Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Omer Chaudhry captained the Vice Chancellor XI.

Such events reveal another beautiful feature of the Ravian tradition: achievement does not erase friendship. A distinguished police officer, a former international cricketer, an academic, an artist, a journalist, a statesman or a civil servant can stand together again as simply "Ravians." That is the magic of an alma mater.

Old Ravians to Host an Evening of Poetry at Bukhari Auditorium

Beyond the alumni meet itself, the Old Ravians Association, under the leadership of President Athar Ismaeel and his Executive Committee, is organising a prestigious evening of poetry and literature at Bukhari Auditorium, GCU Lahore.

The literary sitting will be presided over by renowned Pakistani poet Ifkhar Arif and will bring together some of the country's distinguished poets, including Yasmeen Hameed, Abbas Tabish, Khalid Sharif, Rakhshanda Naveed, Simab Zafer and Fariya Naqvi.

The historic Bukhari Auditorium will be specially adorned for the occasion, creating a memorable evening celebrating poetry, literature and the glorious traditions of Government College University Lahore — a fitting complement to the alumni meet and a further reminder that the Ravian spirit lives as much in verse as in public service.

An Institution, Not a Nostalgic Ceremony

The 3 September Ravian Alumni Meet should therefore be viewed as a celebration of a living institution rather than a nostalgic ceremony. It is an occasion to recognise those who have carried the Ravian spirit into their professions and communities, and to inspire younger generations to understand that education is ultimately measured by the quality of contribution one makes to society — at home and, as Iqbal, Salam and Khorana showed, on the world stage.

Athar Ismaeel's leadership of the Old Ravians Union is especially meaningful in this context. As RPO Sheikhupura, he represents public service; as a Ravian, he represents intellectual heritage; and as President of the alumni union, he represents continuity between generations. His journey, and that of Vice Chancellor Omer Chaudhry guiding the institution today, together capture the essence of the event.

The old Ravians who assemble in Bukhari Auditorium on 3 September will bring with them different stories, professions and achievements. But beneath those differences will lie a common identity — one shaped by the same historic institution and by the same conviction that knowledge must be accompanied by courage, character and service.

The world may remember GCU through its Nobel laureates, poets, philosophers, statesmen, scientists, administrators, artists and public figures. Pakistan may remember its Ravians through their individual achievements. But perhaps the most enduring success story is the institution's ability to produce generations who continue to believe that education is not merely a pathway to personal success; it is a responsibility to society.

The Ravian Alumni Meet will thus be a celebration of yesterday's memories, today's achievements and tomorrow's possibilities. When the doors of Bukhari Auditorium open at 4 p.m. on 3 September, generations of Ravians will once again meet. Some will be carrying medals, titles and distin-



guished careers. Others will carry nothing more than memories of youthful dreams. Yet for a few precious hours, professional designations will become secondary.

They will simply be Ravians. And in that moment, the historic walls of Government College University Lahore will once again tell the story of an institution whose greatest achievement is not its age, architecture or reputation — but the people it continues to send into the world.

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Analysis of Social Media Impact on Working Women in Our Society

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unrealistic expectations. Working women may feel compelled to demonstrate success in their careers, appearance, family life and social activities simultaneously. This pressure can contribute to frustration and dissatisfaction, particularly when online images are compared with everyday realities.

Another challenge is the blurring of boundaries between professional and personal life. WhatsApp messages,

emails and social media notifications can follow employees beyond office hours. For working women who already manage household responsibilities, this continuous connectivity can make it difficult to disconnect from work. Instead of providing flexibility, social media can sometimes extend the working day and increase mental pressure.

The impact is also influenced by Pakistan's social and cultural environment. Women do not experience social media in the same way. Urban and educated

women may have greater access to digital technology, while women in rural and economically disadvantaged communities often face limited internet access, digital literacy gaps and restrictions on technology use. Therefore, promoting digital inclusion is as important as promoting women's participation in the workforce.

Families, workplaces and educational institutions all have a role to play. Women should be encouraged to use social media strategically for learning,

networking, entrepreneurship and professional growth. Employers should develop clear policies against online harassment and respect employees' right to disconnect outside working hours. Educational institutions should provide digital literacy and cyber-safety training so that women can use online platforms confidently and responsibly.

Ultimately, social media is neither entirely beneficial nor harmful. Its impact depends largely on how it is used, the environment in which it is

used and the support available to users. For Pakistani working women, it can be a powerful instrument of economic empowerment, professional advancement and social participation. Yet, without digital awareness, privacy protection and supportive social institutions, the same technology can create new forms of pressure and vulnerability.

Pakistan needs to move beyond simply increasing women's access to social media. The objective should be to ensure

that women can use digital platforms safely, productively and independently. When technology is combined with education, digital literacy, workplace equality and social support, social media can become more than a communication tool. It can become an important force for empowering working women and contributing to a more inclusive and progressive Pakistani society.

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Reversing Age: Humanity's Oldest Dream Nears Reality

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The economic implications could be immense because aging contributes simultaneously to cancer, cardiovascular disease, dementia, diabetes, frailty and many other conditions. A therapy that delayed several diseases together could generate more value than treating each one separately after it appeared.

A 2021 study co-written by economists Andrew Scott and Martin Ellison and geneticist David Sinclair estimated that slowing aging sufficiently to add one year to American life expectancy would be worth approximately \$38 trillion; a 10-year gain was valued at \$367 trillion. These figures represent

an estimated aggregate social willingness to pay—including the value assigned to healthier and longer lives.

A later international study estimated that a one-year improvement in healthy longevity could produce an annual welfare benefit equivalent to roughly 4 to 5 percent of GDP. The benefit would come through healthier workers, longer productive careers, reduced disability, lower demand for expensive late-life care and the intrinsic value people place on living well for longer.

Pakistan offers a different but equally important case. Its population reached approximately 255 million in 2025, life expectancy was about 68

years and nominal GDP was approximately \$407 billion. Only 3.55 percent of the population was 65 or older in the 2023 census, while nearly 56 percent was of working age.

Applying the international estimate mechanically, a one-year improvement in healthy longevity might carry an annual welfare value equivalent to approximately \$16 billion to \$20 billion—4 to 5 percent of Pakistan's present GDP.

The potential is enormous for the least developed and developing countries. These countries could retain experienced doctors, teachers, engineers, farmers and entrepreneurs for longer. Families might spend less on chronic

illness, while healthier older adults could remain independent instead of requiring full-time care. Reduced disability could also increase household savings and national productivity.

Longer lives would also affect employment, pensions, inheritance, housing and population growth. If retirement ages remained unchanged, the fiscal burden could rise. If careers became longer without creating new jobs, younger workers could face blocked advancement. Women might experience new social pressures concerning fertility and caregiving. Religious scholars, ethicists, physicians and legislators would need to consider whether rejuvenation is simply medical

treatment or something requiring a new ethical framework.

However, where developed countries are already in this crucial race, the third world countries and developing countries should not wait for the technology to arrive. It should strengthen biotechnology research, establish gene-therapy regulations, train geneticists and bioethicists, and negotiate policies ensuring that successful treatments are not restricted permanently to the wealthy. Public investment must continue prioritizing vaccines, sanitation, nutrition and primary care even while preparing for advanced medicine.

Humanity is not yet approaching

immortality. It may, however, be approaching the ability to repair particular tissues by restoring some of their youthful biological instructions. If that achievement expands safely from eyes to other organs, it could transform medicine and economics. The greatest challenge will not only be making a longer, healthier life possible—but ensuring that its benefits belong to humanity rather than to a privileged minority.

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Khuli Kachehari

SOHAWA: Minister of State for Finance & Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani is listening to the grievances of public in Khuli Kachehari at Sohawa, Jhelum on Sunday.



Photo: PID

President, PM extend warm greetings to Turkish leadership, people on Victory Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, extended warm greetings to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the brotherly people of Turkiye on the occasion of Victory Day.

In a post on X handle, the president said Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy a unique and enduring relationship, rooted in deep bonds of history, faith and mutual support.

He recalled that the Great Victory of 30 August



1922 remains an important chapter in Turkiye's history and expressed confidence that the close ties between

the two countries would continue to grow.

The president wished President Erdogan and the people

of Turkiye continued peace, prosperity and success.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on his X handle, extended warmest felicitations to the dear brother, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Government, and the brotherly people of the Republic of Turkiye on the joyous occasion of Victory Day.

He said the 30th of August commemorated the historic victory secured under the leadership of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, which laid the foundations of the modern Turkish Republic.

Pakistan joined its Turkish brothers and sisters in honouring this proud legacy of courage and national resolve, he added.

The prime minister further said Pakistan remains unflinching in its commitment to further deepening its strategic partnership with Turkiye across all domains for the shared prosperity and security of our two nations.

He also prayed that the abiding friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Turkiye continue to flourish for generations to come.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz approves AI-powered multi-disease scanner for province

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given in-principle approval to introduce an AI-powered multi-disease scanner in Punjab after a briefing by senior executives of Chinese company Alibaba.

The Non-Contrast CT based Multi-Disease Screening Solution can detect up to 10 diseases in two minutes. It will support screening, diagnosis, treatment and management, and enable early detection of 5 deadly cancers including pancreatic,



liver, gastric, esophageal and colorectal cancers.

The system will also screen for Acute Aortic Syndrome, assess cardiovascular disease risks, evaluate fat and muscle health, diagnose osteoporosis, and detect fatty liver.

Maryam Nawaz called it a major step toward faster, more effective diagnostics and said it will work alongside conventional methods. She directed health authorities to prepare a pilot project for implementation in Punjab. The CM met Alibaba officials in Lahore to review the technology's capabilities.

PPP spokesman denies reports of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari marriage

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Reports about an engagement or wedding involving Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have been rejected by his spokesman, Murtaza Wahab, who described the claims as false and unfounded.

According to the details, Murtaza Wahab, in a post on social media X, said there was no truth in reports about Bilawal Bhutto's engagement or wedding.

"The news story regarding Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's engagement or wedding is incorrect and unfounded," he said.

He further made clear that the reports had no basis and said there was no truth in the claims about an engagement or marriage involving the PPP chairman.

The statement came after reports (not from the 24NewsHD TV channel) about Bilawal's possible engagement or wedding began circulating.

PPP spokesperson Murtaza Wahab's comments were aimed at putting the record straight and rejecting the reports.



Security forces foil terrorists' attack on government installations in Mashkel

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Security forces foiled an attempt by terrorists to damage government installations in Mashkel through a timely and effective operation, forcing the attackers to flee.

According to the Assistant Commissioner of Mashkel, armed individuals attempted to target police facilities, a Customs warehouse and other government installations in the area.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, Frontier Corps Balochistan launched an immediate and effective response against the attackers.

The Assistant Commissioner said the armed individuals were unable to continue their



resistance following the timely response by security forces and fled the area.

During the operation, weapons, vehicles and motorcycles belonging to the terrorists were seized.

According to the Assistant Commissioner, the armed individuals also left their vehicles and a large quantity of ammunition at the scene while fleeing after the security forces' effective action.

Gujranwala Police Book PML-N MPA, Farah Gogi in Housing Society Case

Bureau Report

GUJRANWALA: Police have registered a forgery case against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) MPA Qaiser Iqbal Sindhu, Farhat Shahzadi, commonly known as Farah Gogi, her husband Ahsan Jameel and other suspects in connection with alleged irregularities involving a housing society.

According to the report, the case was registered by Sadar police on a complaint filed by enforcement inspector Tayyabur Rehman. Police said legal proceedings have begun and the allegations will be investigated according to law.

The complaint alleges that Magnolia Housing Society was involved in illegally collecting building plan fees and altering government records. It further claims that these activities were allegedly carried out with the backing of MPA Qaiser Sindhu. Police have named Sindhu,



Farhat Shahzadi, Ahsan Jameel and other individuals as suspects.

The case follows an earlier controversy involving Farah Gogi and industrial plots in Faisalabad. In July last year, two five-acre plots reportedly owned by her through Al-Moezz Dairies were cancelled by the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company over alleged violations of construction requirements. The company said no construction had taken place on the plots.

Police said the latest Gujranwala case remains under investigation and further action will depend on its findings.

Khawaja Asif orders more search counters at Lahore airport



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif visited Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore and reviewed passenger facilities, ongoing development projects and measures aimed at improving the travel experience.

According to the Pakistan Airports Authority, the defence minister directed the establishment of additional search counters to ensure faster clearance for female passengers and reduce their waiting time.

Khawaja Asif inspected the newly constructed immigration area and ongoing development works at the airport. He also reviewed passenger facilitation arrangements at the

international and domestic departure areas.

The defence minister stressed the need to maintain high standards of passenger services at Lahore airport and reviewed various upgradation and renovation projects being carried out to improve facilities for travellers.

According to the Pakistan Airports Authority, Khawaja Asif directed that the expansion of the departure drop-off lane be completed on a priority basis to help reduce traffic congestion.

While reviewing progress on the ongoing construction in the domestic departure area, the minister stressed the need for timely completion of the project and ensuring maximum convenience for passengers.

Abdul Aleem Khan Backs 'New Provinces, New System' Campaign, Condemns PIMS Tragedy

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party President Abdul Aleem Khan met delegations of prominent political figures from South Punjab in Lahore, who lauded his consistent support for the creation of new provinces and invited him to visit Multan. Speaking at the meeting, Aleem Khan said the campaign for new provinces will be intensified with meetings in Bahawalpur, Multan and Hazara. He announced the establishment of a central IPP office in Multan for South Punjab to expand party activities. He stated that consensus and public opinion on new provinces has already emerged, and that "New Provinces, New System" must now become reality. He criticized past leaders for using the South Punjab



slogan only during elections without taking practical steps, adding that opponents resist reform to protect political dominance. Referring to the PIMS tragedy, Aleem Khan said it highlights the need for fundamental systemic reforms and smaller administrative units to resolve public problems. IPP Secretary General Mian Khalid Mahmood and Punjab President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan also attended. Delegations further congratulated him on IPP's government formation in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Eight killed, three injured in Dadu land dispute firing

Bureau Report

DADU: Eight people were killed and three others injured in an exchange of fire between two groups in the riverine area of Dadu following a dispute over land and the construction of a passage.

According to police, the two communities were involved in a land dispute and an argument broke out

over creating a passage, after which both sides opened fire.

Police said eight people were killed in the firing while three others sustained injuries. The injured were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah took notice of the firing incident in Goth Dano Chandio and expressed grief over the loss of precious human lives.