



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ابوہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے مروی ہے کہ  
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا جس  
نے میری اطاعت کی اس نے اللہ کی اطاعت  
کی اور جس نے میری نافرمانی کی اس نے اللہ  
کی نافرمانی کی اور جس نے میرے (محرکے  
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اطاعت کی اور جس نے میرے امیر کی نافرمانی  
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## Macron warns Iran conflict risks 'possible conflagration'

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that a widening war between the United States, Israel, and Iran risks spilling over to Europe's borders, as he unveiled a new strategy for France's nuclear deterrence, AFP reports. The conflict, which began on Saturday, "brings and will continue to bring instability and a possible conflagration to our borders, with Iran's nuclear and ballistic capabilities still intact", he said.



## Trump to decide how long to wage Iran war, Hegseth says

U. S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth declined to give a timeline for the U. S. -Israeli assault on Iran, saying it was up to Trump to decide the length of the military campaign. "As far as time frame, I would never hang a time frame," he said during a press conference at the Pentagon. "This is not Iraq. This is not endless," he added.

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## Address to joint session

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addresses the joint session of Parliament at Parliament House on Monday.



Photo: PID

# President Zardari expresses gratitude to Armed Forces for defending country's border

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Joint session of the Parliament began at the Parliament House in Islamabad on Monday with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the chair. The session marks the beginning of the new parliamentary year.

President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the joint sitting of the parliament amid opposition's ruckus.

President Zardari calling the war a last resort, urged India to shift from war theatres to meaningful negotiations—or face another humiliating defeat—and warned that Paki-

stan had already shown both India and Afghanistan only a fraction of its capabilities.

"Make no mistake. We are ready for you. My message to them is to move away from war theatres to meaningful negotiating tables because that is the only path for regional security... India must listen to us attentively: Pakistan will continue to give its fullest diplomatic and moral support to the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the president said in his annual address to the joint sitting of parliament here. Co-chaired by Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and National Assembly

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the session was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and members of the National Assembly and Senate, while in the galleries were First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, provincial governors and chief ministers, and diplomats.

Continued on Page 7

## PM, Sultan of Oman discuss prevailing regional situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held a telephone conversation with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan of Oman, and discussed the prevailing regional situation that had aggravated following Israel's attack on Iran as well as subsequent hostilities that endangered peace and security of entire region.

The prime minister said that the escalation had taken place at a time when diplomatic efforts were underway to reduce U. S.-Iran tensions, facilitated by Oman.

The attacks had not only derailed the delicate diplomatic process, but had also undermined efforts to promote dialogue and de-escalation in

the region.

He stressed upon the urgent need to prevent further escalation and to create space for resumption of diplomatic initiatives.

While conveying his deep appreciation for Oman's mediatory role, the prime minister commended Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for Muscat's constructive efforts in facilitating dialogue and building trust among regional and international stakeholders.

He acknowledged that Oman's balanced and forward-looking diplomacy was a stabilizing force in the region.

Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact and to continue supporting diplomatic initiatives aimed at restoring calm and ensuring lasting regional stability.

## Telephone Conversation between the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of the Syrian Arab Republic

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from H. E. Mr. Ahmed al-Sharaa, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, this evening.

During the telephone conversation, the two leaders discussed the dangerous regional escalation following Israel's attack on Iran and the subsequent attacks in the Gulf region. They emphasized the urgent need for restraint, de-escalation, and dialogue to preserve regional peace and stability.

The Prime Minister briefed the Syrian leader on Pakistan's diplomatic outreach in the wake of the current crisis and reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to play a constructive role

in promoting the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Apart from the Middle East situation, recent developments in Afghanistan also came under discussion.

On the bilateral front, both leaders expressed satisfaction on the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Syria and agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest while maintaining close coordination on regional developments.

## DPM, EU High Representative discuss regional developments

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday spoke with EU High Representative/Vice President Kaja Kallas.

They expressed deep concern on the recent regional developments in Iran and the wider Middle East.

DPM/FM underscored the need for dialogue, diplomacy, and de-escalation.

DPM/FM also briefed the High Representative on Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions and appreciated the EU's constructive engagement.

## DPM, Chinese ambassador exchange views on regional situation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday met Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong.

Discussions were held on the evolving regional situation and broader developments.

DPM/FM emphasized the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and continued consultations. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in the region and beyond.



## Israeli bombing kills 31 civilians in southern Lebanon

Wafa

BEIRUT: Thirty-one Palestinians were martyred and others wounded in Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut early Monday morning.

The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health's Public Health Emergency Operations Center reported that "Israeli enemy raids on the southern suburbs and the south resulted in, in a preliminary and not final count, the martyrdom of 31 citizens and the wounding of 149 others."

Israeli warplanes bombed the southern suburbs of Beirut, killing 20 citizens and wounding 91 others. They also bombed several villages and areas in southern Lebanon, resulting in the martyrdom of 11 citizens and the wounding of 58 others.

## US embassy and consulates suspend routine services in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The US Embassy in Islamabad and consulates in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar have temporarily suspended routine services, including visa appointments and consular assistance for US citizens, due to ongoing security concerns.

A spokesperson for the US Embassy confirmed that all appointments for visa and citizen services scheduled for March 2, 2026, have been put on hold.

New dates regarding the resumption of services will be provided later.

The spokesperson emphasized that the suspension is intended to ensure the safety of diplomatic staff and individuals accessing consular services.

Limited services may still be available for emergency cases. The move comes amid heightened security concerns amid US-Israeli strikes in Iran.

## US jets mistakenly shot down by Kuwaiti air defences: US military

Reuters

All six aircrew ejected safely, have been recovered, and are in stable condition, it added. The cause of the incident was under investigation.

Several U. S. military aircraft crashed in Kuwait early on Monday, but all crew members survived and were in stable condition, Kuwait's Ministry of Defence said.

In a separate incident, smoke was seen rising near the U. S. Embassy compound in Kuwait City, with fire trucks and ambulances on the scene, according to Reuters.

There were no immediate



responses to requests for comment from the U. S. Embassy in Kuwait or the U. S. State Department.

Kuwait intercepted hostile drones earlier on Monday, marking the third consecutive day of Iranian retaliatory strikes on neighbouring Gulf states in response to U. S. and Israeli attacks on Iran.

The Kuwait Defence Ministry statement, carried by the state news agency, said crew from the crashed aircraft were evacuated to a hospital and were in stable condition. It added that the response was carried out in coordination with U. S. forces.

Iran's state media cited the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as saying Iranian armed forces hit a U. S. plane that crashed in Kuwait.

Online video verified by Reuters, taken in the Al Jahra area of Kuwait, showed a military aircraft falling from the sky and a person parachuting. The Kuwaiti statement did not specify how many aircraft were involved.

## 435 Afghan combatants killed, 188 posts destroyed in operation Ghazab lil-Haq: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar said Monday that Pakistani security forces killed 435 Afghan Taliban combatants and destroyed 188 posts during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq (Righteous Fury), launched in response to "unprovoked action" from across the border.

Sharing a summary of the Afghan Taliban regime's losses at 3:00 pm, Attallah Tarar said that more than 630 Afghan operatives were injured during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq (Righteous

Fury).

The minister stated that 188 tanks and armored vehicles were destroyed during the operation, 31 Afghan posts were captured, and 51 locations across Afghanistan

were successfully targeted in air strikes.

Tarar described the operation as a decisive response to aggression, underscoring the scale of losses inflicted on the Afghan Taliban regime.



# AJK Prime Minister hails Zardari's Parliament speech as democratic milestone

**Spokesman Report.**

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has praised the president of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari for his landmark speech to the joint session of Parliament, terming it a milestone towards strengthening democracy.

In his statement, the AJK premier said that the President's address reflected national unity, constitu-

tional supremacy, and the promotion of democratic values.

"Under the current situation there is a dire need of political stability, mutual consultation, and national consensus", the pm said, adding that the President Zardari effectively highlighted these points in his speech.

He said that political harmony and cooperation between the federation and all its units was a key to address public issues and achieve national development goals.



Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore reaffirmed that the AJK Government would continue to play its role in ensuring democratic stability and safeguarding national interests.

He further stated that addressing a joint session of Parliament is a constitutional tradition and a symbol of democratic continuity.

He described the opposition's undemocratic behavior during the address as regrettable.

## Earning livelihood

RAWALPINDI: A vendor is selling prayer mats (janamaz) on at a local market along I.J.P road in the city.



Photo: Online

# Three Months of Outstanding Performance by the Young Parliamentarian Under the Leadership of Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore

In the parliamentary history of Azad Kashmir, 16 politicians have so far held the office of Prime Minister. Among them, the late Sardar Sikandar Hayat, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, and Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan were each blessed with the opportunity to serve twice as Prime Minister. The shortest tenure belonged to the "Son of Kashmir," Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, who governed for nine months, and even today his people-friendly governance during that brief period is widely remembered.

Although the first tenure of the late Sardar Sikandar Hayat is often cited as an example of strong administrative control, the five-year rule of Barrister

pressure. His firm decision, along with the then Chief Election Commissioner Justice (R) Abdul Rashid Sulehria, remains evident and undeniable.

Subsequently, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq was elected Leader of the House in a late-night session with votes from members of PPP Azad Kashmir, PML-N Azad Kashmir, and PTI Azad Kashmir. Undoubtedly, he was considered an intellectual politician with a keen understanding of political dynamics. However, after assuming office, he kept his cabinet and parliamentary party engaged merely to secure votes, rarely consulting them or taking party leadership into confidence. Notably, senior PPP leader Chaudhry Riaz, who played a key role in elevating him to the premiership, was sidelined. His solo governance style and closure of public access became major reasons for the failure of his non-political approach to rule.

When public voices grew louder and ideological bonds weakened, political leadership and policy-makers revisited their decisions and chose a party that possessed numerical majority, long political struggle, and ideological foundations. The PPP leadership — President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Political Affairs Chairperson Faryal Talpur, and senior leader Chaudhry Riaz — after consultation and consensus-building with allies, nominated the young parliamentarian Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore for the office of Prime Minister. He was elected with a heavy majority in the Legislative Assembly, and Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq was removed through a vote of no confidence.

Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has now completed 100 days in office. During this period, he promoted tolerance, decency, patience, and the policy of "live and let live." He effectively coun-



tered narratives targeting Pakistan's armed forces, national security institutions, and the ideology of Pakistan, and successfully promoted the national flag across government institutions, public squares, and highways.

In education, health, and merit-based employment, he initiated reforms beyond political considerations. Despite ideological differences with the federal government, he maintained excellent working relations, securing approval for three Danish Schools and one university campus. Through local resources, he announced a 7-billion-rupee educational package, moved to schedule the Bank of Kashmir, lifted the ban on student unions, appointed an Overseas Commissioner and established a related court, ensured equitable road distribution, implemented third-party audit decisions, regularized and promoted lower-grade employees, increased salaries of non-technical staff, compensated families of martyrs from the Joint Awami Action Committee movement, extended the upper age limit by one year, organized an Overseas Kashmiris Convention, honored media organizations and bar associations, and opened access to the Prime Minister's Secretariat and ministers' offices without restrictions.

Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore is not only a young parliamentarian but also a patient and wise politician, free from vindictiveness, who treats allies and rivals with courtesy. His warmth, humility, and accessibility have earned

him public affection — qualities inherited from his parents, Raja Mumtaz Rathore and Farhat Mumtaz Rathore, and nurtured within a party that prioritizes humanity.

He works over 16 hours daily for the state and its people, facing numerous challenges and political risks. Yet, with sincerity of intention and commitment to public service, divine support strengthens such leadership. He enjoys confidence from party leadership, senior parliamentarians including Acting President Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Parliamentary Leader Haji Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, and former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas.

Under his leadership, the government is expected to meet public expectations and achieve strong results in future elections. His inclusive governance, support for elected local representatives, rejection of vindictive politics, and focus on education, technology, and fiber-optic connectivity aim to transform the region into an educational state and connect youth to the modern world.

When a state fulfills its responsibilities in education, health, and employment, history does not forget such rulers. The honor Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has earned within three months reflects his 100-day performance and signals his emergence as a promising, people-friendly leader whose name will endure in political history.

## DFP extends condolences to Iran on the martyrdom of Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei and others

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has extended its heartfelt condolences to the people of Iran on the martyrdom of Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei, terming his assassination as a huge loss for Iran and the entire Muslim world.

In a condolence message the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said, "With his martyrdom the people of Kashmir have lost a great friend, a steadfast supporter and a strong proponent of their national cause".

Khamenei, he said, was a brave voice of the oppressed and a true friend of Kashmir and Palestine. "At this time of immense grief the people of Kashmir stand in solidarity with the people of Iran and express our deep sympathies with the Iranian nation", the spokesman said.

"May Allah Almighty grant patience and strength to the Iranian people to bear this irreparable loss", the message said.

The spokesman also expressed deep concern over the tragic loss of human lives during the missile attacks and the martyrdom of senior military officials.

## Kashmiri Leader condemns Israel's assassination of muslim leader as attack on sovereignty

**Spokesman Report**



RAWALPINDI: President of the All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, strongly condemned Israel for targeting and assassinating the supreme leader of the Muslim Ummah and his companions through acts of terrorism, calling it an attack on sovereignty and martyrdom.

He said that the series of actions initiated by Israel must be collectively stopped by the entire Muslim Ummah. He described it as an extremely dangerous war game that had been planned for a long time. Although there are 56 Islamic countries in the world, he said Pakistan has always remained at the top of the list in the eyes of anti-Islam forces, followed by Iran, Iraq, and Turkey. According to him, these four countries have long been a source of concern for enemies of Islam, and conspiracies and terrorism have repeatedly been used in attempts to weaken them.

He remarked that the treatment meted out to Iraq is before the world, and similar preparations were made to destabilize Turkey, though Turkey attempted to protect itself through systemic changes. He described Iran as a powerful country and said that Ayatollah Khamenei was regarded as a leader of the Muslim Ummah. He termed the current situation a moment of grief and strongly condemned Israel's actions.

Referring to analysts' views, he said that Pakistan, which has always been on the radar of hostile forces, could be the next target. However, he added that Pakistan is a recognized nuclear power, and any attempt to carry out such aggression against it would be a serious consideration even for major Zionist powers. God forbid, if such aggression were attempted, Pakistan's response could become a source of humiliation for those powers.

## Sujawal Village in Grip of Hepatitis, Residents Suffer in Silence



**Kamran Khamis Khowaja**

SUJAWAL: Poverty, ailment, low literacy rate, and lack of facilities have left residents of village Ali Muhammad Malah, near Amirji water channel in Taluka Jati of Sujawal district, with nothing.

The villagers claim that over the past couple of years, as many as 15 villagers have shown symptoms of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, known as Sahi and Kari Sahi in common parlance, while a 17-year-old girl, Yasmeen, reportedly died after these symptoms worsened. The ongoing state of affairs has shrouded the village in fear and uncertainty, leaving the poor villagers helpless.

When asked, Muhammad Achar Malah alleged that government hospitals in Sujawal district were not sufficiently equipped and lacked the capacity to treat hepatitis patients. "The fear of this disease is more threatening to the villagers than the disease itself," said Walhar Malah, a villager, while wiping away tears.

Dr. Farooq Chandio, District Health Officer Sujawal, claimed that hospitals had all the facilities to deal with any medical emergency.

The villagers urged the Chief Minister of Sindh and the Health Minister of the province to take measures for proper diagnosis and treatment of villagers to save their lives.

## Rawalpindi hospitals on high alert as Punjab declares emergency

RAWALPINDI: Major allied hospitals in Rawalpindi have been placed on full alert following the emergency declared across Punjab, with contingency plans activated to ensure swift medical response in case of any untoward situation.

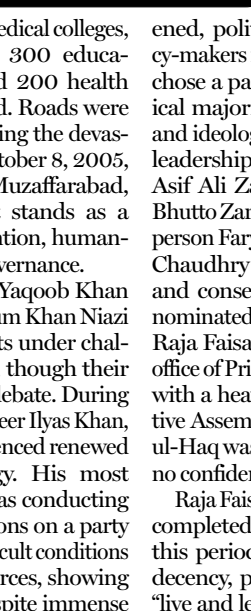
According to Dr Ikramullah Niazi, Medical Superintendent of District Headquarters Hospital, comprehensive emergency arrangements have been put in place in line with directives from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and the provincial health department.

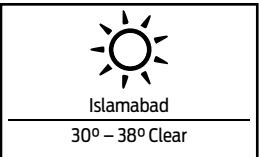
Talking to APP here on Monday, he said a dedicated backup trauma team had been constituted in addition to the already operational trauma unit. "One trauma team is already present at the hospital, while an additional team has been formed to ensure response within 30 minutes," he added. Dr Ikramullah said 40 beds in the emergency department had been kept vacant to cater to any emergency. Adequate stocks of essential medicines were already available, while further supplies had been ensured to avoid any shortage in a crisis.

He said the hospital's on-call system had been fully activated, along with backup and security mechanisms, including generator systems to ensure uninterrupted power supply. All departments were in close liaison to guarantee a coordinated response within 30 minutes in case of any emergency. Meanwhile, Dr Sharjeel Sheikh, Medical Superintendent of Benazir Bhutto Hospital, told APP that a 50-bed contingency plan had been finalized, while the medical emergency department was already functioning with 24 beds.

Analysis

**Shaukat Javed Mir**





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:13 am  
Zohr ..... 12:20 pm  
Asr ..... 4:25 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:05 pm  
Isha ..... 7:28 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316

**Public Alert:**  
*PSCA warns citizens against fake e-challan SMS messages*

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has received multiple complaints from citizens regarding fraudulent SMS messages claiming to be E-Challan notices. According to PSCA's spokesperson the Authority has clarified that Safe City officials never request cash payments, bank account details, or debit/credit card information via SMS. The spokesperson further emphasized that official E-Challan SMS notifications are sent exclusively from the Government of Punjab's designated number 9915. The spokesperson also clarified that an authentic E-Challan SMS always includes complete details of the violation, including its time, location and nature of the traffic offense. The Punjab Safe Cities Authority has reiterated that strict legal action will be taken against individuals involved in fraud or misuse of PSCA's name. The public is encouraged to remain cautious and verify all official communications to avoid falling victim to scams or fraudulent practices.

# Marooof to establish new facility in DHA Rawalpindi, expanding access to quality healthcare

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Marooof International Hospital hosted its Annual Iftar Dinner at the elegant Serena Hotel Islamabad, bringing together consultants, managers, staff, and their families for an evening of reflection, gratitude, and connection. The gathering provided a rare opportunity for colleagues and their families to engage beyond the workplace, strengthening bonds, sharing experiences, and celebrating the growing "Marooof Family."

Chairman CH Naseer Ahmad delivered an inspiring keynote "Marooof is not built by bricks and walls alone — it is built by hearts that serve, hands that heal, and families that stand together. Every year, our family grows stronger, and with it, our resolve to serve humanity with compassion and excellence."

A defining moment of the evening was the announcement of a new Marooof

International Hospital in DHA Phase II, Rawalpindi. Ch. Naseer Choudhry highlighted that the new facility will provide high-quality medical services to the people of Rawalpindi and its surrounding areas, extending the hospital's commitment to accessible, compassionate healthcare beyond the federal capital.

CEO Haroon Naseer reaffirmed the hospital's values of compassion, unity, and social responsibility: "We are mindful of the recent challenges faced by communities and extend our support and thoughts to those affected. As a healthcare institution, we remain committed to the well-being and care of all."

The Iftar Dinner concluded with a shared sense of pride, gratitude, and optimism. The event reinforced that Marooof International Hospital is more than a healthcare provider — it is a growing family dedicated to service, community, and regional harmony.



**Talking**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari prior to the President's address to the joint session of Parliament at Parliament House on Monday.



Photo: PID



## Strict Action should be taken against profiteers during Ramadan, says Asma Butt

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Ms. Asma Butt, Chief Executive of Dolphin Communication, expressed serious concern over the inflated prices of essential commodities during Ramadan and urged authorities to take immediate action against profiteers while ensuring special relief for deserving segments of society.

She stated that although Ramadan is a month of blessings, some elements exploit the situation by raising food prices, which is condemnable. Highlighting the burden

of inflation on poor and lower middle-class families, she called on the government to announce special relief packages and subsidies.

She also demanded daily monitoring of markets by price control magistrates to ensure items are sold at official rates, stressing that strict supervision and prompt fines are necessary to curb profiteering. Ms. Butt added that providing public relief during Ramadan is the government's foremost responsibility so citizens can observe the holy month with peace and dignity.

## Qamar Abbas Warraich appointed as Assistant Director Labour Welfare TT Singh

**Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: An important administrative change has taken place in the Labour Welfare Department Toba Tek Singh. Assistant Director Labour Welfare Muhammad Shahbaz has been transferred and Qamar Abbas Warraich has been appointed as the new Assistant Director.

According to details, under a notification issued by the Labour Welfare Department, Muhammad Shahbaz has been relieved of his duties and assigned new responsibilities. His services have been appreciated within the department and during his tenure he performed his duties efficiently and handled various official matters in a commendable manner. Meanwhile, Qamar Abbas Warraich has formally assumed charge as Assistant Director Labour Welfare Department Toba Tek Singh and has started performing his official responsibilities. Sources said that he is committed to improving departmental affairs, ensuring the welfare of workers and implementing ongoing projects effectively. Citizens and members of civil society have expressed hope that the new Assistant Director will utilize his professional abilities to further enhance the department's performance and take practical steps to address the issues faced by the labor community.

## FIA Balochistan Zone Prioritizes Personnel Health with Mass Blood Screening



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Balochistan Zone, in line with the directions of Director General Dr Usman Anwar, and under the supervision of Director Balochistan Zone Muhammad Behram Khan, has successfully conducted a comprehensive blood screening campaign for all officers and personnel.

This initiative aims to ensure timely health assessment of officers and staff, facilitate early diagnosis of potential medical conditions, and promote the overall welfare and operational readiness of the force. The screening process was carried out under the supervision of a qualified medical team, ensuring adherence to professional healthcare standards.

The FIA Balochistan Zone reaffirmed its commitment to continuously enhancing the health and professional capacity of its officers and personnel, enabling them to perform their public service duties effectively and efficiently.

## DC visits Ramazan Nigehban Bazaar

**Zafar Chishti**



TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, strict monitoring of Ramazan Nigehban Bazaars is underway across the district to provide maximum relief to citizens during the holy month of Ramadan. Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela visited a Ramazan Nigehban Bazaar and reviewed the overall arrangements. He inspected various stalls, checked the availability and quality of essential commodities and ensured that items were being sold at officially notified rates. Officials briefed the deputy commissioner that high-quality essential items were being made available at prices lower than the open market to ease the burden on the public amid rising inflation. DC Mela also interacted with citizens and obtained feedback regarding the facilities being provided at the bazaar. He directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, prominent display of price lists and strict compliance with government rates. Emphasising effective management, he called for improved cleanliness, proper parking arrangements and better crowd control measures.

## Jamaat-e-Islami Faisalabad, offered the funeral prayers of martyred Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in absentia



FAISALABAD: District Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Professor Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt has said that he expresses deep sorrow and regret over the martyrdom of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

. Speaking to the media in Faisalabad, he said that the loss of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's martyrdom is not only for Iran but for the entire Muslim Ummah. He further said that talking about regime change in Iran

is tantamount to flouting international laws and targeting the leadership of a country is the worst form of state terrorism. Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt said that America's history is full of violations of international laws,

America and Israel have once again proven themselves to be terrorist states. He said that America's history is full of violations of international laws, America and Israel have once again proven themselves to be terrorist states.

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# Probability of Victory in an Iran-U. S.-Israel War

**A**s tensions escalate between Iran and the joint forces of the United States and Israel, the most pressing question dominating strategic circles is deceptively simple: Who would win? Yet modern warfare—especially among technologically advanced and regionally entrenched powers—is no longer a matter of tanks crossing borders or flags planted on captured capitals. Victory today is layered, conditional, and defined by political objectives rather than territorial conquest alone. To assess the probability of winning, one must first define what “winning” actually means.

If victory is defined as regime survival and preservation of fighting capability, Iran’s probability of success appears stronger than many assume. Historically, external air campaigns have struggled to topple deeply entrenched governments without significant ground intervention. Iran’s geography alone presents a formidable challenge. Its mountainous terrain, expansive landmass, and dispersed military infrastructure complicate any attempt at rapid decisive victory. Much of its missile arsenal is believed to be stored in underground facilities designed precisely to withstand aerial bombardment. Even sustained precision strikes may degrade capabilities, but eliminating them entirely is another matter.

Moreover, Iran’s doctrine is built around resilience and asymmetric endurance. Rather than matching Western air superiority aircraft for aircraft, Tehran relies on ballistic missiles, drones, cyber operations, and proxy networks across the region. This model does not aim to dominate the skies; it aims to outlast and impose cost. If the objective of Washington and Tel Aviv were to collapse the

Iranian state or compel unconditional surrender, the probability of achieving that quickly would remain relatively low without a major ground campaign—an option that carries enormous political and military risk. In that scenario, Iran’s likelihood of “winning” through survival could reasonably be considered moderate to high.

However, if victory is defined differently—say, as the ability to significantly degrade Iran’s military capacity and limit its ability to launch sustained retaliation—the balance shifts. The United States maintains overwhelming air superiority, advanced stealth platforms, satellite surveillance, cyber dominance, and long-range precision strike capabilities. Israel brings decades of experience in targeted operations, missile defense innovation, and real-time battlefield intelligence integration. Together, they possess unmatched technological coordination.

In the early phases of a high-intensity conflict, joint U. S.-Israeli forces would likely dominate the airspace, suppress air defenses, and strike high-value targets including command centers, missile storage sites, naval facilities, and communications infrastructure. Iran’s conventional air force is comparatively limited, and its air defense systems, while upgraded over the years, would struggle against advanced stealth bombers and electronic warfare. Under this definition of victory—crippling Iran’s infrastructure and reducing its capacity for sustained attacks—the coalition’s probability of success would be moderate to high.

Yet degrading capability is not synonymous with eliminating threat. Missile forces are mobile. Drones are inexpensive and produced in significant quantities. Even if command structures suffer damage, decentralized networks can continue operations. Thus, while U. S.-Israel forces could inflict substantial destruction, the probability of completely

stopping Iranian retaliation remains uncertain. The difference between “damaging” and “neutralizing” is strategically profound.

Another potential definition of victory is economic and psychological leverage. Iran’s geographic position near the Strait of Hormuz gives it influence over one of the world’s most critical energy corridors. Even partial disruption of maritime traffic would elevate global oil prices, strain supply chains, and create political pressure in energy-importing nations. While Iran itself would suffer economically from prolonged instability, it could still leverage regional disruption as a strategic equalizer. If the objective becomes forcing negotiations by generating economic shock, Iran’s probability of achieving leverage increases.

On the other hand, prolonged conflict risks devastating Iran’s own infrastructure. Energy facilities, ports, and industrial assets could become targets, further weakening its economy. The United States, with a diversified economy and global alliances, is better positioned to absorb long-term financial strain. Israel, though geographically smaller, maintains advanced civil defense systems and missile interception layers that mitigate,

though do not eliminate, the impact of incoming threats. Thus, in a war of economic attrition, neither side emerges unscathed, but the coalition likely retains greater structural resilience.

Regime change remains the most ambitious—and least probable—outcome. History offers cautionary examples of external interventions that underestimated the complexity of internal political dynamics. Airpower alone rarely achieves political transformation. Ground occupation in a country the size of Iran would require vast troop deployments and sustained logistical commitment, with unpredictable consequences. Under this scenario, the probability of rapid decisive regime collapse appears low. Iran’s political system, though internally contested, has demonstrated endurance under decades of sanctions and pressure.

Therefore, when evaluating probability, the answer depends on which strategic objective is prioritized. If the goal is to survive and maintain core sovereignty, Iran’s odds are comparatively stronger. If the goal is to inflict extensive military degradation and assert technological superiority, the U. S.-Israel coalition holds the advantage. If the goal is total capitulation or permanent elimination of threat, probabilities on both sides decline sharply, as modern warfare between capable states rarely produces absolute outcomes.

There is also the factor of escalation management. A broader regional spread involving additional actors could alter calculations dramatically. The longer a conflict persists, the more unpredictable it becomes. Domestic political pressures in all three countries would shape decision-making. Public tolerance for casualties, economic hardship, and prolonged

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Beijing Spring Festival 2026

**C**hina’s Spring Festival proved an irresistible draw for international travelers this year, as large numbers of foreign visitors arrived to ring in the Year of the Horse the Chinese way.

During the 2026 Spring Festival holiday, which ran from Feb. 15 to 23, bookings for domestic flights made on non-Chinese passports rose nearly 20 percent year on year.

Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou emerged as the top destinations for overseas visitors. In Beijing alone, figures from Alibaba’s travel branch Fliggy showed that ticket orders jumped 136 percent, hotel reservations rose over 60 percent, and tour package bookings climbed 42 percent year on year during the Spring Festival holiday.

The city’s rich intangible cultural heritage and time-honored Spring Festival traditions proved a powerful magnet for international visitors, who ventured deep into ancient hutongs, explored intangible cultural heritage sites, and flocked to well-known scenic areas, immersing themselves in the distinctive charm of the Chinese New Year.

With deep cultural roots, varied tourism offerings and attentive visitor services, Beijing cemented its status as a popular destination for foreign visitors to experience China’s Spring Festival, while injecting fresh momentum into the country’s inbound tourism market.

Travelers from Spain, Peru, Brazil and beyond were among those drawn to the capital. In addition to the iconic Great Wall and Palace Museum, many ventured into cultural heritage venues to soak up the lively atmosphere and experience the richness of Chinese civilization.

On Feb. 13, the Beijing Intangible Cultural Heritage Center in Dongcheng district buzzed with excitement. The venue, set within a courtyard dating to the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), came alive with cultural activities. Visitors from various countries posed for photos in front of a wall featuring the iconic Lord Rabbit, known as Tu’er Ye in Chinese, a traditional festive clay toy for children. They also tried their hand at making dumplings, writing the character “Fu” (good fortune), blowing sugar figurines and playing the guqin, a seven-string traditional Chinese musical instrument.

The year 2026 marks a critical juncture in Beijing’s push to establish itself as a world-class tourism destination and a premier stop for global travelers in China. The city will continue to promote the development of inbound tourism by focusing on three priorities: upgrading the quality of its tourism products, raising the international standard of its services, and diversifying its promotional outreach.



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

## Principles of Character Building in the Light of the Qur’an and Sunnah

**T**he development and progress of any society fundamentally depend upon the character of its individuals. When individuals possess strong, balanced, and morally refined character, society becomes a cradle of peace, justice, and mutual respect. Conversely, when character weakens and selfishness and moral decline prevail, collective life becomes vulnerable to chaos and disorder. For this reason, Islam places extraordinary emphasis not only on beliefs and acts of worship but also on ethics and character. The Qur’an and the Sunnah provide comprehensive principles for character formation that offer guidance for humanity in every age. In the context of today’s complex social challenges, these principles are even more significant, as the modern world despite its technological advancements and abundance of information faces intellectual confusion, moral crises, and social instability.

The Qur’an begins the process of character building with faith (Iman) and God-consciousness (Taqwa). Taqwa refers to an inner awareness that a person is accountable before Allah at all times. This consciousness refines human actions and restrains individuals from wrongdoing. The Qur’an repeatedly describes Taqwa as the path to success. When love and fear of Allah are firmly rooted in the heart, a person maintains consistency in behavior, both in private and in public. Thus, character is built upon sincerity, integrity, and responsibility. In the contemporary era, where material gain is often regarded as the ultimate objective of life, the concept of Taqwa redirects human focus from materialism toward moral accountability.

The Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him) presents a practical model of character building. The Qur’an declares him to be an excellent example (Uswah Hasanah). His life embodied truthfulness, trustworthiness, patience, forgiveness, and justice. Even his opponents in Makkah recognized him as Al-Sadiq (the truthful) and Al-Amin (the trustworthy). This demonstrates that the foundation of character lies in honesty and integrity. In today’s world, where deceit, corruption, and dishonesty have become widespread social problems, adherence to the principles of the Prophet’s character can restore trust and strengthen the social fabric.

Justice is another essential pillar of character formation in the Qur’an and Sunnah. The Qur’an commands believers to uphold justice, even if it is against themselves. This teaching encourages individuals to rise above personal interests, prejudices, and group biases in support of truth. In the modern world, societies are divided by racial, ethnic, and sectarian discrimination. Prioritizing justice over personal gain can foster harmony and tolerance. Islamic teachings extend justice beyond courtrooms to encompass family, economic, and social spheres of life.

Modesty and chastity are also central components of Islamic character. The Qur’an instructs both men and women to lower their gaze and guard their modesty. In the age of mass media and social media, indecency and moral laxity have become common, affecting family systems and social stability. The Islamic concept of modesty nurtures inner purity and protects individuals from immoral conduct. If young people are educated in the values of modesty and self-restraint in the light of the Qur’an and Sunnah, many forms of social corruption can

be significantly reduced.

Patience and forbearance occupy a prominent place in Islamic teachings. The Qur’an gives glad tidings to those who are patient, and the Sunnah provides numerous examples of steadfastness in the face of hardship. Today, intolerance, impulsiveness, and anger are escalating social conflicts. Minor disagreements, especially on social media, often escalate into major disputes. Cultivating patience and self-control is essential for character building, as these qualities enable individuals to respond with wisdom and reflection rather than emotional reaction.

Trustworthiness and honesty are fundamental Islamic principles. The Qur’an commands believers to return trusts to their rightful owners. Integrity is not limited to financial dealings; it encompasses every responsibility, whether related to leadership, knowledge, or social position. In the present era, corruption poses a significant obstacle to national and social development. Promoting honesty and accountability as collective values can restore institutional trust and strengthen economic justice.

Good conduct in social relations is another key aspect of character formation. The Qur’an emphasizes kindness toward parents, care for orphans, and respect for neighbors. The Prophet (peace be upon him) declared that the perfection of faith is closely linked to good character. In contemporary society, family structures are weakening, and many elderly individuals face isolation. Islamic teachings promote respect, cooperation, and compassion, which are essential for social cohesion.

One of the major social challenges of our time is intellectual confusion and religious extremism. The Qur’an advocates moderation and describes the Muslim community

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Analysis



Muhammad Asif

## Empowering and Revolutionising Higher Education in Punjab

**W**hen U. S. and U. K. colleges emphasize metrics, digital fluency, cross-field teamwork, and responsibility, Punjab starts mirroring such change. A clear sign emerged during a top-tier virtual gathering on 23 February 2026, public university leaders convened under Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan’s guidance. Head of the Punjab Higher Education Commission, he led the session with focused intent. Shifts once distant now take shape locally. Structure evolves without fanfare. Attention turns inward, yet eyes remain open globally. Momentum builds quietly through coordinated effort.

Unexpectedly, the gathering shaped key decisions rather than just checking procedural boxes. Instead of mere oversight, it steered major shifts, reframing how leadership would evolve, how study programs might adapt, where AI fits into daily teaching, while tying discovery work to regional and country-level goals. Direction emerged through discussion, not decree.

Agenda Item 1: KPIs and Performance-Based University Ranking

PHCE emphasized the purpose behind introducing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) alongside institutional rankings lies elsewhere—competition isn’t the goal. Instead, solid starting points for assessing leadership effectiveness and organizational strength are what matter. With federal HEC allocations unchanged since 2018, reliable reference markers become essential tools. Provincial funding choices benefit when grounded in verifiable data rather than

assumptions.

Leaders voiced significant worries about daily functioning. Unequal availability of Clarivate’s Web of Science emerged as a key barrier—backing grew for using Scopus/Scimago rankings instead, seen as fairer. Mismatched timing between January–December reports and the July–June cycle came under scrutiny due to systemic inefficiency. Debate arose over counting guest professors in teacher-to-student figures, weighed against actual classroom duties versus research output measures.

Notably, every Vice Chancellor voiced frustration over last year’s inconsistent Grant-in-Aid decisions. This shared concern pointed clearly toward a system grounded in openness, measurable results, where funding follows clear evidence instead of discretion—aided increasingly by data verification tools and machine learning methods to ensure fairness.

Agenda Item 2: Monitoring and Evaluation of Agriculture Programs — A Chief Minister’s Priority

A key moment came when it emerged that Punjab’s government—acting on direction from the Chief Minister—formed a special group. Oversight of farming initiatives at provincial universities now falls to this body. Leading the effort is Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, named as head. Tracking progress and reviewing outcomes make up its core tasks.

A fresh look at farming began by pulling together many fields: plant studies, animal care, soil and irrigation, biology, farm machinery,

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Analysis



Professor Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif to Introduce Pre-Emptive Security Model in Punjab

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired an important meeting, in which important decisions were taken to maintain foolproof law & order situation in the province. She noted that Punjab Government holds an iron grip on terrorist networks from borders to cyberspace, as network of digital terrorists is now also under its control, which is perfectly in line with her mission to curb cybercrimes. She added that state's vigilance will now be even deeper in every nook and corner of the province. For this purpose, she sought from the relevant authorities an 'Iron Fortress' of Micro-Security Within 7 Days.

Chief Minister Punjab approved a proposal to e-tag vehicles, and directed the authorities responsible to install e-tags on bikes and all vehicles to ensure permanent security in the province in current situation. She also directed them to establish

Punjab Cyber Crime Investigation Unit, and highlighted that a special cell will be established for women and girls victimized by cybercrimes. She approved the appointment of head of Cyber Crime Investigation Unit.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that district online crime centers will be established in all districts, as there will be no 'Safe Route' for criminal groups in Punjab. She directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures to ensure a ban on movement through unofficial provincial entry points. She also directed them to install searchlights and carry out drone surveillance of the provincial entry routes, besides ensuring rooftop security monitoring at check posts.

Chief Minister Punjab directed the relevant authorities to take immediate measures to purchase advanced drone defense systems, and directed them to ensure a ban on flying drones in the province. She also directed to continue combing operations to iden-

tify criminals and terrorists, besides providing training and modern security equipment to RMP (Riot Management Police), Anti-Riot Force established to control violent crowd in the province. She agreed to a proposal to formulate security SOPs in consultation with the religious scholars for Youm-e-Hazrat Ali (AS). She appreciated provincial minister Khawaja Salman Rafique and Lahore Police for timely handling law and order situation in Lahore and Punjab due to protests after martyrdom of Iranian Supreme leader. Ayat Ullah Ali Khanenai. She thanked and paid tribute to active religious scholars for restoring law and order in the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif underscored that everyone will have to be united and proactive to end terrorism. She said that entry of a suicide bomber in Punjab via a check post is worrying. She added that everyone must remain alert, because sitting back cannot be afforded any



more. She noted that methods of warfare have changed, so they must prepare themselves accordingly. She urged upon religious scholars to continue cooperation to maintain law and order in the province.

# Government Facilitates Overseas Employment of 400+ Skilled Pakistani Youth under Prime Minister's Vision

**City Desk**

Under the visionary leadership and special direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, a landmark ceremony was held to mark the successful overseas placement of more than 400 skilled Pakistani youth to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia following completion of technical training, skill verification, and award of visa. The ceremony was held on March 02, 2026 at the NAVTTC Center of Excellence, Sector H-9/4, Islamabad. The ceremony signified a major milestone in advancing Pakistan's skilled workforce export and strengthening structured overseas employment pathways aligned with global labor market requirements.

The event was graced by Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, as the Chief Guest. Distinguished participants included Ms. Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson NAVTTC; Mr. Muhammad Amir Jan, Executive Director NAVTTC; Mr. Anjum Aqeel, MNA; Ms. Rabia Naseem Farooqi, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training; and training partners including Managing Director, Hazza Institute of Technology, along with senior government officials and representatives from partner institutions.

Addressing the ceremony, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan emphasized the critical importance of structured skill development initiatives under the Prime Minister's Youth vision. He appreciated partner institutions for equipping Pakistani youth with internationally competitive skills and commended NAVTTC for strengthening Pakistan's national skills ecosystem by creating transparent



and merit-based overseas employment opportunities. He highlighted that the selected trainees would serve as ambassadors of Pakistan, representing the nation with professionalism and dedication on the global stage.

In her keynote address, Ms. Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson NAVTTC, reiterated NAVTTC's commitment to transforming Pakistan's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) landscape through quality assurance, international accreditation, and strong industry linkages. She

noted that the Prime Minister's Overseas Employment Program represents a strategic transition toward market-driven, globally aligned skill development directly linked with employment outcomes.

Mr. Muhammad Amir Jan, Executive Director NAVTTC, highlighted the robust operational framework adopted for the initiative, including transparent merit-based selection, high-quality training delivery, standardized skill assessment, and efficient visa facilitation mechanisms. He stated that

NAVTTC has institutionalized strict monitoring and compliance systems to ensure trainees meet international competency standards prior to deployment.

The ceremony concluded with a renewed national commitment to empowering Pakistani youth through quality technical training, structured overseas employment opportunities, and strengthened institutional collaboration under the Government's forward-looking leadership.

Photo by Sultan Bashir

## Women University Multan Signs MoU with Karvaan Crafts Foundation



Iram Asim

MULTAN: The Women University Multan organized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony with Karvaan Crafts Foundation (KCF), marking a significant step towards promoting women's economic empowerment through digitalization.

The ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Paracha, along with senior university officials including Registrar Dr. Deeba Shahwar, Director ORIC Dr. Saima Nasreen, Manager Research Management Dr. Sadia Iqbal, Assistant Director ORIC Dr. Humaira Yasmeen, Assistant Treasurer Ms. Zara Rafiq, and Deputy Director IT Mr. Atif Raza.

The KCF delegation was led by CEO Danish Jabbar Khan, accompanied by Amina Ali (Project Director), Shehrooz Ali Khan (Strategic Communications & Learning Sharing Manager), Fouzia Irfan (Project Coordinator, Bahawalpur), Muhammad Zameer (Project Coordinator, Multan), and Nawazish Ali (Head of Programs).

This MoU represents a key milestone in the implementation of the UN Women-supported project, "Digitalization for Women Economic Empowerment (D4WEE)." The collaboration aims to strengthen academia-industry linkages, promote entrepreneurship, enhance digital skills, and foster innovation, creating meaningful opportunities for students and graduates.

Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Paracha stated that this partnership will open new avenues of practical learning, digital capacity building, and employment opportunities for students. She emphasized that empowering women through digital skills is essential for sustainable socio-economic development and that the university remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote innovation and inclusivity.

The Women University Multan expressed its commitment to building a sustainable and impactful collaboration with Karvaan Crafts Foundation, contributing to regional industrial growth and women's empowerment.

## Inauguration of the Fourth Mobile Urgent Care Unit for Remote Areas of Rural Sindh

**News Desk**

KARACHI: The fourth Mobile Urgent Care (MUC) unit has been inaugurated to provide basic healthcare services to disaster-affected and underprivileged communities in rural Sindh.



The state-of-the-art 20-foot clinic-on-wheels has been developed with the support of AKD Group and Shine Humanity. The inauguration ceremony was held at the residence of Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, Chairman of AKD Group.

Shine Humanity's Mobile Urgent Care Units have served as a cornerstone of the organization's emergency response and rural healthcare strategy since the devastating floods of 2022. Designed to reach hard-to-access areas and deliver immediate medical assistance, these mobile clinics represent a practical commitment to serving communities that are often deprived of basic facilities.

The mobile units are staffed with certified doctors, trained medical personnel, essential medicines, and diagnostic equipment, enabling them to provide prompt and effective healthcare services directly at the community's doorstep.

The newly launched unit will travel across the districts of Badin District, Sujawal District, and Tharparkar District, delivering urgent medical care to communities where healthcare facilities are extremely limited or nonexistent.

Over the past year, Shine's existing Mobile Urgent Care Units have provided basic medical services to more than 23,000 individuals in rural Sindh, including the areas of Gharo, Sujawal, Thatta, Mirpur Sakro, and Makli.

On this occasion, Faheem Khan, CEO of Shine Humanity, stated that through this new Mobile Urgent Care Unit, they are extending healthcare services beyond cities and paved roads, directly reaching the communities that need them the most.

Aqeel Karim Dhedhi expressed hope and prayers for the initiative's success and continued growth, adding that they seek guidance from Allah at every step so that this effort proves beneficial for the community.

# US-Israel War on Iran

After silence for years by the American slave & cowardly Muslim rulers over the genocide of the Palestinians, the US & Israel have realized that the Greater Israel can be created over the graves of the impotent Muslims. So, they destroyed Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Syria & Palestine one after the other. Now Iran is their last barrier in the Middle East which has been suffering from sanctions for 46 years for a regime change but has been fighting alone for the whole Ummah for decades.

To change regime in Iran, the US & Israel attacked Iran in June 2025 and manipulated to devalue the Iranian currency to trigger revolt that failed. Shamefully, they tried to do it again in Feb 2026 through their Agents while inciting the public through Starlink internet in Iran but it failed too. Now the US & Israel has jointly been launching military operations against Iran since 28th Feb. This took the life of the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 40 commanders and advisors along with 160 girls killed in a school. Their operations are just inhuman like in Gaza where civilians, schools, mosques and hospitals are bombed as well.

In response, as promised, Iran attacked the American bases in Saudia, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait. Also rained missiles over various cities in Israel causing heavy casualties. Furthermore, to cause economic loss to the supports of the US & Israel, Iran closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz, where 30% of the world oil passes through.

Historically, the US just plays the diplomatic drama through Muslim rulers to gain time to strengthen themselves then attack by surprise. Like, the mediating Omani Foreign Minister had confirmed that Iran had agreed for NO Nuclear Weapon & 0% Uranium enrichment. But even then Iran was attacked as by deception they were just ensuring the

necessary military, ships & weapons to be deployed in the region. The US will continue to support Israel for the Greater Isarel by following their century-old plan. They are expanding over the graves of Muslims for which they already ruined Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen & Libya with the silent support of American slave Muslim rulers around the world.

Make no mistake, after Iran, next are Pakistan & Afghanistan to be sorted out. For which Trump has engaged Pakistan to impose war on their Afghan brothers to change regime of the Taliban and to get him the Bagram Airbase to monitor China, Russia, India, Iran and the central Asia. Once the Taliban are replaced by the Northern Alliance, India & Israel will jointly launch their PENDING operations against Pakistan to denuclearize and disintegrate into small independent states. Our American slave Generals have forgot that by betraying China for the US, they wouldn't get support Chinese support against India again. This will be last nail in the coffin of the Ummah for a unipolar world order.

Sponsored Muslim rulers are the curse for the Ummah where they are partner in war crimes with the Yahood o Nasara to kill the Muslims to keep their illegal dictatorial rule. All such TRAITORS & FEROS will soon be swept into the Arabian sea for their betrayal to their Muslim brothers, Insha Allah Unless or until, all the Muslim rulers unite for Palestine and fight their common enemy, no one



can survive the Muslims. It's Allah's promise, those who don't follow His commands will be overrun by their enemies.

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Analysis

Shakil Ahmad

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
151,972.99	168,062.16	
Day's High	Day's Low	
159,328.59	151,747.96	
Index Value	Change	
44,078,837,956	-16089.17	
Percentage	Time	
-9.57%	2 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,771.15	-139.40	
Percentage	Time	
-1.28%	2 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
48,680.65	-297.27	
Percentage	Time	
-0.61%	2 Mar, 11:33 am GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
58,057.24	-793.03	
Percentage	Time	
-1.35%	2 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193.72	198.25
Bahrain Dinar	733.12	744.70
Canadian Dollar	201.12	205
China Yuan	38	39.05
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	327.75	332.28
Hong Kong Dollar	35.35	36.25
Indian Rupee	2.5	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7822	1.8818
Kuwaiti Dinar	890.25	902.80
Malaysian Ringgit	64.50	68.55
New Zealand \$	166.20	169
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	718.85	729.60
Qatari Riyal	74.75	77.69
Saudi Riyal	73.50	74.50
Singapore Dollar	220.05	223.30
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	360.07	363.85
Thai Bhat	6.5	7.25
U.A.E Dirham	75.05	77.50
UK Pound Sterling	369.49	378.98
US Dollar	279.00	280.50

# Finance Minister meets IMF Review mission

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, today met the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, led by Ms. Iva Petrova, at the kick-off meeting for the third review of Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement and the second review of the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

In his remarks, the Finance Minister underscored that since the successful completion of the previous review, Pakistan has continued to consolidate the hard-earned gains in macro-economic stability achieved under the EFF supported program and RSF program. He emphasized the Government's firm resolve to maintain fiscal discipline and safeguard macroeconomic stability, terming these achievements as the result of sustained and difficult reforms.

The Minister highlighted that structural reforms, particularly in taxation and the energy sector, remain central to the Government's reform agenda. He noted that comprehensive transformation efforts in tax administration, encompassing improvements in people, processes and technology, are underway with strong leadership at the highest level. He further shared that steps have been taken to fully operationalize the Tax Policy Office to



ensure that future taxation policy is guided by economic principles aimed at supporting sustainable growth.

Ms. Iva Petrova thanked the Minister for the comprehensive briefing and shared insights,

including from the mission's discussions with authorities in Karachi on the ongoing reviews under the EFF and RSF. Both sides agreed to continue further discussions virtually in the coming days.

The meeting was attended by Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Secretary Finance, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and senior officials of the Finance Division.

## Cashless Bazaar

RAWALPINDI: A view of newly installed cashless Bazaar at Sadar area, in the city.



Photo: Online

## CCP Calls for Long-Term Auto Policy, Financing Reforms to Promote Competition

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has released a comprehensive report, "The Road to Fair Competition - A Study of Pakistan's Automobile Industry," highlighting structural and regulatory challenges in the sector and recommending wide-ranging reforms, including a long-term policy roadmap, improved vehicle financing, and removal of regulatory distortions to foster competition and efficiency.

The automobile industry remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, contributing around 2.8 percent to GDP and employing more than 215,000 people directly. As a key segment of Large-Scale Manufacturing, it plays an important role in industrial growth, technology transfer, and domestic value addition, particularly in the passenger car segment, including emerging electric vehicles.

The CCP study finds that despite successive policy interventions, the passenger car market remains concentrated in several engine categories due to high entry barriers,



capital-intensive requirements, and regulatory complexities. While past protectionist policies helped establish domestic manufacturing, prolonged tariff protections and localization measures have not consistently translated into competitive outcomes or export-led growth.

The report also highlights fragmentation in the regulatory framework, with overlapping institutional mandates and policy inconsistencies affecting investment and industry development. Although previous auto policies aimed to increase localization, attract new entrants, and promote exports; structural rigidities, policy reversals, and weak implementation limited their effectiveness.

To address affordability constraints and

stimulate demand, the CCP has recommended expanding access to auto financing by reviewing restrictive financing limits and introducing targeted, subsidized schemes for first-time buyers in coordination with financial regulators.

The study emphasizes the need for a predictable and coordinated transition toward electric vehicles, noting that inadequate charging infrastructure, limited domestic production capacity, and reliance on fossil fuel-based electricity remain key barriers. It stresses that sustained policy consistency and infrastructure investment will be critical to attract long-term private investment in the EV ecosystem.

The report observes the absence of a comprehensive vehicle scrappage and phase-out policy and recommends the introduction of a structured disposal scheme to address environmental concerns, improve road safety, and stimulate demand through the gradual removal of obsolete and high-emission vehicles.

The Study has been uploaded on the CCP's website for public comments and suggestions.

## OPPO Partners with Peshawar Zalmi as Official Partner for HBL PSL 11

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, a global leader in smartphone innovation, has officially announced its partnership with Peshawar Zalmi as the Official Technology Partner for HBL PSL 11. Through this partnership, OPPO aims to support Pakistani cricket and connect directly with the youth and passionate cricket community through the power of technology and sports.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lin Zhan, Chief Marketing Officer at OPPO Pakistan,

said "Cricket unites millions across Pakistan, and partnering with Peshawar Zalmi provides us with a powerful platform to engage with passionate fans nationwide. Through this collaboration, we aim to celebrate performance, creativity & innovation, values that define both OPPO and Peshawar Zalmi."

Mr. Javed Afridi, Chairman Peshawar Zalmi, also shared his thoughts on the partnership "We are pleased to welcome OPPO to the Zalmi family. Zalmi takes pride in partnering with a global brand that stands for innovation and



excellence. This partnership reflects our shared ambition to inspire and connect communities

both locally and globally through the combined power of sport & technology."

## Major Shipping Lines Issue New Advisory; Fears of Severe Disruption to Global Trade

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a worrying development for the national economy and international commerce, several major global shipping lines have issued fresh advisories, raising concerns of serious disruption to global trade.

In view of the evolving situation in the Middle East, the Red Sea, and the Eastern Mediterranean, fears are mounting that international trade could be significantly affected. Along with issuing the advisory, various shipping lines have also suspended cargo bookings.

Former Chairman of the Pakistan Shipping Agents Association, Tariq Haleem,



stated that the current situation in the Middle East is indeed alarming. He said that an end to tensions between Iran, the United States, and Israel would be beneficial for the global economy, as the ongoing conflict poses serious risks to worldwide trade.

## Important announcement for social security-registered workers

Commerce Desk

ATTOCK: Under the Ramzan Nigehban Package of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, more than 1.2 million protected workers registered with Punjab Social Security are being provided with Rs. 10,000 during the month of Ramadan. Registered workers in Hasan Abdal are also receiving Rs. 10,000.

For those workers in Hasan Abdal who have not yet received the Maryam Nawaz ration card, the Bank of Punjab has devised a mechanism for the disbursement of Rs. 10,000.

Workers who do not possess the ration card have been sent a six-digit PIN code on their mobile numbers by the Bank of Punjab. Such workers should visit their nearest authorized agent of HBL Connect, UBL Omni, or Alfa Pay along with their original CNIC and the PIN code.

After providing the PIN code and CNIC and completing biometric verification, they can immediately receive Rs. 10,000.

It is clarified that no deduction will be made from this amount; therefore, workers should collect the full payment from the agent.

## Review of Electronic Bus Routes Bus Stand

Commerce Desk

ATTOCK: An important meeting of the District Regional Transport Authority Attock was held at the DC Office Attock under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Attock, Anil Saeed. The meeting was attended by Secretary RTA Sardar Zaheer Ahmed Khan, Chief Officer Municipal Committee Attock Sardar Aftab Khan, and officers from Traffic Police, Mines Department, Punjab Highway Patrol, Motorway Police, Rescue 1122, and other relevant departments.

The main agenda of the meeting was to review arrangements regarding the expected arrival of electric buses in district Attock. Detailed discussions were held on the proposed routes of the electric buses, establishment of terminals, identification of bus stops, and facilities to be provided to passengers. Comprehensive planning was also considered for roadside beautification and improving traffic flow.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Attock directed that all administrative, legal, and safety requirements be completed before the launch of the electric bus service, and that timely implementation of the decisions taken in the meeting be ensured.

## Gold, silver price surge in global, local markets

LAHORE: In Pakistan and the global bullion markets a sharp increase in the prices of gold and silver was observed.



In Pakistan, the price of gold per tola increased by Rs 13,300 to Rs 563,862, while the price of 10 grams of gold increased by Rs 11,402 to Rs 483,420.

The price of gold per ounce in the global market increased by \$ 133 to \$ 5,411.

Similarly, the price of silver per tola in Pakistan increased by Rs 188 to Rs 10,050.

# PHF unveils revolutionary strategic reform agenda to revive national game

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on Sunday announced a comprehensive and ambitious "Strategic Reform Agenda" aimed at reviving the national game, following the first meeting of its ad hoc committee.

The meeting, chaired by PHF President Mohyuddin Wani, marked what officials described as a "defining moment" for Pakistan hockey, with a shift from short-term fixes to a long-term institutional roadmap designed to rebuild the sport from grassroots to elite level.

The reform agenda rests on three foundational pillars: institutional transparency, data-driven talent identification, and professional management of the federation.

Among those present at the meeting were Ad Hoc Committee Chairman Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui, Olympian Hassan Sardar, Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Dr Faisal, Prime Minister's Coordi-

nator Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Higher Education Commission Chairman Dr Niaz, Inter Board Committee Chairman Ghulam Abbas Mallah, Chief Collector Customs Maqsood Abbasi, Federal Board Chairman Dr Akram, PTCL Chief Marketing Officer Saif, Jazz Chief Operating Officer Syed Ali Nasir, and Shifa International Coordinator Muhammad Mubeen.

"Today is an important day for Pakistan hockey. We are implementing a sustainable, long-term strategy to build a system that is autonomous, transparent and capable of competing at the global level," the PHF president said. The participants also discussed enhancing international exposure tours to align with modern hockey standards.

A key component of the agenda is restoring democratic governance within the federation. The committee approved a 90-day roadmap under which hockey clubs across the country will undergo strict scrutiny.

A panel comprising legal experts, chartered accountants and sports governance special-

ists will evaluate clubs' financial transparency and operational activities. Following the process, a verified list of voters will be publicly released to ensure fair and impartial elections within six to nine months under neutral supervision.

To build a new generation of players, the PHF will launch a nationwide talent hunt programme in partnership with educational institutions.

Under-14 and Under-16 trials will be conducted at the school level in collaboration with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) and the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). Players' performances will be assessed through digital profiling systems.

At the university level, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) will sponsor a premier inter-university championship for Under-21 players, aimed at feeding talent into the junior national team pipeline.

Corporate Partnerships and Financial Sustainability

In a major boost to financial

stability, the PHF has secured a three-year "Corporate Revival Partnership" with Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), under which the "PTCL National Hockey League" will be launched.

Jazz will collaborate to modernise fan engagement and strengthen digital platforms to promote the sport nationwide.

Through efforts by Pakistan's High Commission in the UK, used astro-turf facilities will be procured from the Netherlands and Australia for installation in underdeveloped districts to improve infrastructure at the grassroots level.

Pakistan Customs will form new departmental teams in Karachi and Lahore to revive departmental hockey, while Shifa International Hospital will provide medical support to players to ensure professional sports healthcare standards.

The federation will be reorganised into six professional departments: Human Resources, Finance, Marketing, Sports Medicine, High Performance,



and International Liaison.

Team management oversight will be carried out by hockey legends Islahuddin Siddiqui, Hassan Sardar and Samiullah. The federation has set an ambitious target of returning Pakistan

to the top 10 in world rankings within 24 months, securing an Asian Games medal and ensuring Olympic qualification.

For immediate implementation, the PHF has launched a 120-day emergency action plan

that includes, initiation of club scrutiny and financial audits implementation of agreements with HEC and FBISE, shortlisting for the appointment of an international coach, and verification of the electoral college.

## Usman Wazeer knocks out India's Baljit Singh

### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's unbeaten boxing sensation, Usman Wazeer, delivered yet another commanding performance on the international stage, knocking out India's Baljit Singh in the very first round of their much-anticipated bout.

The explosive finish not only electrified fans but also reaffirmed Usman Wazeer's growing dominance in high-profile cross-border contests. The victory marks his third consecutive triumph against an Indian opponent, further strengthening his reputation as a composed and clinical finisher in pressure matchups, said a press release.

From the opening bell, the Pakistani boxer displayed sharp footwork, calculated aggression, and tactical precision. A swift combination early in the round unsettled Baljit Singh, and moments later, a perfectly timed power punch sent the Indian boxer to the canvas, prompting the referee to call off the contest. The decisive stop-

page underlined Wazeer's superior conditioning and ring intelligence.

With this win, Wazeer extended his flawless professional record to 18-0, maintaining an unblemished streak that continues to attract attention beyond regional circuits. His consistency, discipline, and evolving technical prowess signal the rise of a boxer who is steadily positioning himself among Pakistan's most promising sporting exports. In a poignant post-fight statement, the proud Pakistani boxer dedicated his victory to the martyrs of the Pakistan Armed Forces who lost their lives in the Afghan conflict, paying tribute to their sacrifice and courage. The boxing star also expressed heartfelt gratitude to his long-time sponsor, ACTIVITY, and its CEO, Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, for their great backing.

Wazeer emphasised that structured sponsorship plays a pivotal role in a boxer's professional journey, particularly in a sport where independent financial stability often determines long-term success.

## Pakistan beat Malaysia 5-3 to reach World Cup qualifier semifinals

### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured a place in the semifinals of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup Qualifier after defeating Malaysia 5-3 in their second match of the tournament in Ismailia, Egypt on Monday.

Pakistan beat Malaysia 5-3 to reach World Cup qualifier semifinals.

According to a press release issued by the Pakistan Hockey Federation, the national team delivered an impressive performance, combining attacking intent with disciplined play to outclass a competitive Malaysian side.

Rana Waheed Ashraf, Zakariya Hayat, Ahmed Nadeem, Muhammad Sufyan Khan and Muhammad Ammar each found the net once for Pakistan, ensuring a comfortable edge in a high-scoring encounter. For Malaysia, Abdul Rauf, Ahkamullah and Fitri Saari scored one goal apiece, but their efforts were not enough to prevent Pakistan from clinching victory.

The match witnessed swift exchanges and attacking hockey from both sides, with Pakistan maintaining better control in crucial moments to seal the five-goal tally and confirm their berth in the last four.

President PHF Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, along with Chairmen of the Ad-hoc Governance



and Management Committee Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui and Olympian Hassan Sardar, and Chief Selector Samiullah Khan, congratulated the national team on their commendable performance and qualification for the semi-finals.

Pakistan will now face Austria in their third group match on Wednesday as they continue their campaign in the qualifier round.

## President Zardari expresses gratitude to Armed Forces for defending country's border

### Continued from Page 1

The president, who addressed the parliament for the ninth time at the beginning of the new parliamentary year, deliberated on all national, regional, and international matters, including the Kashmir and Palestine issues, ongoing tension in the Gulf region, Maarka-e-Haq and Ghazab Lil Haq operations, Indian violation of the Indus Waters Treaty, economy, provincial autonomy, and poverty.

The president said that nobody in South Asia would be free and safe until Kashmiris win their freedom from Indian occupation.

The president condemned the war waged on Iran and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, besides condoling the martyrdom of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei.

He also condemned the subsequent attacks launched on the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, calling for negotiated solutions to choose peace and restraint and save the region from a deepening crisis.

"The sooner stability returns to the region, the sooner the world can

go back to the business of rebuilding lives and fractured trust. I urge the need to exercise maximum restraint, to uphold international law, and to respect the territorial integrity of all brotherly nations," the president said.

Coming to Maarka-e-Haq, he said that Pakistan initially showed restraint amid Indian violation of Pakistan's sovereignty, but later its armed forces acted with outstanding professionalism and discipline, turning India's attack into a landmark strategic victory.

Similarly, responding to the attacks by the Afghan Taliban regime on the night of February 26, the armed forces acted decisively.

"The political leadership stood united. The people stood resolute," he said, and expressed gratitude to the security forces, including army, air force, navy, Rangers, Frontier Corps, police services and intelligence agencies for both the successful military encounters.

He said that while visiting the families of the martyred soldiers, he felt the same pain as he did at the time of the martyrdom of his wife Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

## Probability of Victory in an Iran-U. S.-Israel War

### Continued from Page 4

instability could either harden resolve or accelerate diplomatic engagement.

Ultimately, the most realistic outcome in such a confrontation may not be traditional victory at all, but a negotiated pause after significant destruction. In modern high-intensity conflicts, wars often end not because one side is annihilated, but because costs outweigh objectives. The probability that both sides declare partial success—while privately recognizing the limits of military solutions—may be higher than outright triumph for

either camp.

In strategic terms, Iran is more likely to "win" by surviving, absorbing damage, and continuing to function as a sovereign actor. The United States and Israel are more likely to "win" by demonstrating overwhelming tactical superiority and degrading Iran's operational capabilities. Neither outcome represents total dominance. Both involve trade-offs.

War among technologically advanced powers with asymmetric tools is less about decisive victory and more about shaping post-conflict narratives. Survival can be framed as

victory. Deterrence can be framed as success. Destruction of infrastructure can be presented as strategic achievement. Yet beneath these narratives lies a sobering truth: in such conflicts, the probability of absolute victory for any side remains limited.

The real question, then, may not be who would win—but at what cost, and for how long.

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## Principles of Character Building in the Light of the Qur'an and Sunnah

### Continued from Page 4

as a "middle nation" (Ummah Wasat). The Sunnah also warns against extremism in religion. Proper understanding and presentation of the balanced teachings of Islam can help counter radical tendencies. Character building, therefore, is not limited to personal piety but extends to fostering collective balance, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence.

Education also plays a crucial role in character formation. Islamic teachings describe knowledge as light, but knowledge becomes truly beneficial only when combined with moral

training. Modern educational systems often emphasize technical skills while neglecting ethical development. An educational framework inspired by the Qur'an and Sunnah can integrate intellectual growth with moral refinement, ensuring that students achieve not only professional success but also ethical strength.

In conclusion, the Qur'an and Sunnah offer comprehensive, balanced, and universal principles for character building. Qualities such as faith, God-consciousness, justice, honesty, trustworthiness, patience, modesty, and good conduct serve as foundations for both individual and societal

reform. Contemporary social challenges whether moral decline, intellectual instability, or economic corruption can find sustainable solutions within Islamic teachings. What is required is not merely theoretical discussion but practical implementation of these principles in personal and collective life. When the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah are sincerely adopted, the formation of a balanced, peaceful, and morally upright society becomes possible, reflecting the true message of Islam and the path to human well-being.

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## Empowering and Revolutionising Higher Education in Punjab

### Continued from Page 4

alongside human aspects like economics and society. Because Punjab relies so heavily on crops and livestock, attention turned sharply toward shaping degree programs tied to agriculture—making them consistent, supervised, grounded in real metrics that mix numbers with deeper insights unique to each subject. When finished, what emerges will feed directly into an official document meant for the desk of the Chief Minister.

Agenda Item 3: Mandatory 3-Credit Hour Course on Artificial Intelligence

Unexpectedly, the gathering assessed how practical it would be to require every undergrad to take a three-credit AI class, following pressure from the HEC. Not one vice chancellor supported forming entire departments just for that purpose—budget limits

and staffing shortages made the idea unworkable. Though interest in AI education remains strong, launching standalone units appeared unrealistic under current conditions.

A shift toward certification-driven distribution gained support. Offered at no cost, these digital credentials span artificial intelligence applications, ethical considerations, system safety, alongside mindful deployment. Recognition extends worldwide, aligning with trends seen across top American and British institutions. There, modular learning badges now run parallel to conventional degrees, adding depth without raising overhead. Such frameworks grow more common, fitting within existing systems while keeping expenses stable.

Agenda Item 4: Recognition of Certifications as Credit Hours

PHEC gave approval for ten R&D clusters to begin in ODP during fiscal year 2025-26, every one receiving ten million rupees. Though built without physical infrastructure, their purpose is clear: linking top scholars across universities. Connections between fields tend to stay weak—this setup tries to change that. Instead of

isolated specialties, collaboration becomes possible. Matching research goals with urgent regional and country-level challenges shapes their direction. While buildings aren't rising, networks are.

Once experts weighed in and the Commission's Review Committee gave its go-ahead, decisions emerged on themes and host institutions. Selected topics now align with specific universities chosen to guide them forward. Each area reflects a match between subject focus and institutional strength. Final picks came after careful comparison across proposals. Authority rested with the committee to confirm every pairing. Outcomes show where priorities landed following thorough review

1. Artificial Intelligence Led by Information Technology University

2. Climate Change at Bahauddin Zakariya University

3. Lead in Water at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture

4. Food and Nutrition Research at University of Agriculture Faisalabad

5. One Health Public Health Led by University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

6. Minerals and Rare Metals - Lead at University of the Punjab

7. Renewable Energy Led by University of Engineering and Technology-Taxila

8. Migration and Labour Affairs led by University of Agriculture Faisalabad

9. Public Policy and Economic Development at Beaconhouse National University

10. education reforms at multan university of science and technology

Around these groupings, a

clear turn emerges—one focused on purpose-led inquiry shaped by real-world challenges, working through shared effort, aligned with leading international approaches.

Agenda Item 6: Grant-in-Aid and ADP Funding — Toward Financial Clarity

Now comes the requirement for universities to report how earlier grants were spent. Funding talks around ADP and Grant-in-Aid have taken a clearer turn lately.

Agreement emerged around tying future Grant-in-Aid allocations directly to measurable outcomes—using KPIs, student intake trends, research results, along with clear evidence of fiscal strain—thereby phasing out subjective allocation methods. When it comes to ADP funds, newer universities, founded from 2014 onward, take precedence; those existing earlier must instead show strong justification, prac-

tical feasibility, and growth potential prior to submission for review by the Planning & Development Board.

### Conclusion

A shift took shape on 23 February 2026, reshaping Punjab's higher education landscape. Instead of old models, outcomes now steer decisions—data guides policy, while artificial intelligence supports performance reviews. Credentials reflect verified skills rather than seat time. Research grows through linked hubs across institutions. Funding flows under clear rules, visible to all. Together, these moves build a system fit for today's world—one answerable to standards beyond borders.

The writer is Former Professor & Chairman, Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. He can be reached at Principles of Character

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing a meeting of the committee constituted by the Prime Minister to monitor petrol prices and supply dynamics amid regional tensions, at the Finance Division Monday.



Photo: PID

## Trump doesn't rule out sending US troops into Iran

AFP

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Monday said he is not ruling out sending US troops into Iran, while threatening a new, "big wave" of attacks.

The 79-year-old Republican has long campaigned against decades of US military entanglements in the Middle East, but ordered a large-scale war against Iran starting Saturday.

While so far the assault has focused entirely on aerial attacks by missiles and bombs, Trump refused to rule out

sending ground troops — something generally considered to be far riskier in terms of possible casualties.

"I don't have the yips with respect to boots on the ground — like every president says, 'There will be no boots on the ground. I don't say it,'" Trump told the New York Post in one of numerous brief interviews he has given since launching the Iran operation.

"I say 'probably don't need them,' [or] 'if they were necessary,'" he said.

Trump also spoke to CNN on Monday, flagging what he said would be an escalation in



the assault on Iran.

"We haven't even started hitting them hard. The big wave hasn't even happened,"

he told CNN, without elaborating. "The big one is coming soon." The US and Israeli forces

have so far struck hundreds of targets across Iran, including the Islamic Republic's missiles, navy and command-and-control sites.

Four US military members have been announced killed, and three fighter jets have been shot down — officially in friendly fire.

Iran has fired missiles at Israel, at US bases around the region and also at targets in regional Arab countries — Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — something that Trump called "the biggest surprise."

## Pakistan urges conflicting parties to adopt diplomacy: DPM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar Monday said Pakistan wanted that all sides in the ongoing regional conflict should give priority to negotiations and diplomacy.

Speaking to members of diplomatic corps based in Islamabad, he said Pakistan was making all diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the situation.

"We are passing through difficult times in terms of diplomacy," he added.

He said, "All our efforts are focused on reducing tensions and bringing the parties back to the negotiations."

"Negotiations and diplomacy was the only way forward," he remarked.

The DPM said Pakistan was closely monitoring the



situation in Iran.

He said Pakistan had always supported the upholding of international law.

The DPM said, "Pakistan supports the efforts

for peaceful settlement of disputes through diplomacy." Talking about Palestine, he said, "Pakistan has been a contributor to resolving the situation of Gaza."

He recalled that a group of

Arab Islamic countries had meaningful interaction with the US President Donald Trump to bring peace back to Gaza and ensure supply of humanitarian aid.

He said Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif attended the Board of Peace meeting chaired by US President Donald Trump.

Referring to the ongoing conflict, he said in an attack on United Arab Emirates, one Pakistani citizen was killed.

He said Pakistan desired good friendly relations with all its neighbours.

He said, "We took into confidence friendly and brotherly countries on the situation in Afghanistan."

He recalled that he undertook visits to Afghanistan and had extensive discussions with the Taliban leadership on issues of trade and economy.

He said Pakistan only asked Afghanistan to not let its soil used for terrorism.

"We have solid evidence that the soil of Afghanistan was used for terrorism," he stressed.

## Several US military jets crash; crews safe: Kuwait's Ministry of Defence

AFP

Kuwait's Ministry of Defence spokesperson announced that several US military aircraft crashed earlier this morning. Authorities confirmed that all crew members are safe.

According to the Ministry spokesperson, authorities immediately launched search-and-rescue operations. The crews were evacuated and transferred to hospitals for medical examinations and care. Their condition was stable.

The spokesperson added that direct coordination was conducted with US forces regarding the circumstances of the incidents and that joint technical procedures were implemented.

He stated that authorities are continuing investigations to determine the causes of the incidents, urging the public and media to rely only on information from official



sources. An AFP correspondent saw black

smoke rising from the US embassy in Kuwait on Monday, with the diplo-

matic mission telling people not to come to the premises as Iran pressed on with a third day of Gulf attacks.

Sirens earlier sounded over the city following the latest volley of Iranian attacks in retaliation for US and Israeli strikes that killed the supreme leader and other top officials.

The embassy did not announce it had been hit, but issued a security alert urging people to stay away.

"There is a continuing threat of missile and UAV attacks over Kuwait. Do not come to the embassy," the statement said. "US Embassy personnel are sheltering in place," it added.

Kuwait's interior ministry said it intercepted an unspecified number of drones targeting the small, oil-rich country at dawn.

The Iranian attacks have so far killed five people in the Gulf, according to authorities, including one person in Kuwait.

## Govt steps up fuel market monitoring amid fears of global oil price spike

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level committee set up on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held its first meeting under Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to assess the situation.

Officials said the cabinet committee decided to conduct daily reviews of petroleum stocks and prices to ensure uninterrupted supply and effective market oversight.

The finance ministry said Pakistan currently holds adequate reserves of petroleum products and that the country's energy supply chain remains stable despite global uncertainty.

However, officials described the

situation in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab as a major risk to global energy flows. They warned that prolonged tensions could disrupt supplies.

The committee will meet daily to monitor stock levels and price movements in real time. LNG and LPG shipments and terminal operations were also reviewed.

The government assured the public that energy supplies are secure and urged people not to panic.

Meanwhile, gas prices have also surged in international markets amid escalating Middle East tensions.

After QatarEnergy reportedly suspended gas supplies, European markets saw prices rise by nearly 50%, reflecting mounting pressure on global energy availability.

## Army called in; three-day curfew imposed in Gilgit, Skardu



Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: The Gilgit Baltistan government has imposed a three-day curfew in Gilgit and Skardu and sought the deployment of Pakistan Army troops in aid of civil authorities amid a deteriorating law and order situation following large-scale protests.

According to a notification issued by the Home and Prisons Department, the decision was taken in view of the "precarious" security situation in the region in the aftermath of protests triggered by the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli air strikes.

The notification, addressed to the Force Commander, Force Command

Northern Areas (FCNA), stated that there were fears the situation could further deteriorate, particularly in District Gilgit and Skardu.

It requested deployment of Pakistan Army troops in the two districts and imposition of curfew for an initial period of three days, March 2, 3 and 4, to prevent any untoward incident and safeguard human life and property.

According to the notification, a schedule for curfew and relaxation has also been issued.

Officials said security arrangements were being tightened across sensitive areas, while residents have been advised to remain indoors and cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

## Iran says targeted 500 US, Israeli sites



AFP

Iran's retaliatory strikes have so far targeted 500 sites linked to the United States and Israel in the Middle East, the Revolutionary Guards say on the third day of fighting, AFP reports.

"Since the start of the conflict, the brave soldiers of the Iranian armed forces have attacked 60 strategic targets and 500 American military targets and targets of the Zionist regime (Israel)," a statement from the Guards reads, adding that they had launched more than 700 drones and hundreds of missiles.

It will take time to achieve US military objectives in Iran and additional US casualties are expected, US General Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said, AFP reports.

"This is not a single overnight operation. The military objectives that Centcom and the Joint Force have been tasked with will take some time to achieve, and in some cases will be difficult and gritty work," Caine told reporters.

He added that the US continued to send additional troops to the Middle East, even after a massive military buildup. Caine's comments come a day after US President Donald Trump suggested that strikes against Iran could go on for the next four weeks.

