

Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: <https://dailyfinancialtime.com>

Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 300 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Friday July 10 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

Iran strikes Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar after deadly US attacks



ANI

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday criticised the US for failing to abide by a memorandum, describing Washington's stance as "a continuation of its war-mongering policies". According to Iranian media, in a statement, Iran's foreign ministry said Araghchi criticised "the rhetoric of US officials and their acknowledgement that they were not abiding by the memorandum," without elaborating.

Speaking at a NATO summit in Turkey on Wednesday, Trump referred to Iran's leadership in negotiations as "scum" and "sick people". He also said the memorandum of understanding, or interim deal,

between Washington and Tehran was "over".

The US military said on Wednesday that its latest strikes were aimed at keeping the Strait of Hormuz open after Iranian forces allegedly struck three tankers in the area. Araghchi further warned against any adventurism by the US military and stressed Iran's firm resolve to defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Thursday it launched a missile strike targeting the US command-and-control centre in West Asia and the Al-Azraq Air Base in Jordan.

In a statement carried by Fars News Agency, the IRGC said its

Aerospace Force fired 10 ballistic missiles targeting the two sites, claiming the attack "destroyed" the two facilities.

"If the aggression of the US terrorist army is repeated, other US bases in the region will not be spared from our heavy fire," it warned.

Jordan earlier said that its air defences intercepted and downed eight missiles launched from Iran toward the kingdom.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Thursday condemned the US attacks on several areas in the southern coastal provinces and two bridges in the eastern provinces along the railway route to Mashhad, and, as per IRNA, described them

as flagrant war crimes and a violation of the UN Charter and the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the US attacks against Iran "criminal" and stated that they were "carried out under the false pretext of responding to alleged incidents involving a few vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday", as per IRNA.

According to IRNA, the Ministry stated that the attacks constituted a clear violation of Article 2, Paragraph 4 of the UN Charter, and also represented a breach of Paragraphs 1 and 5 of the MoU on the Cessation of Hostilities.

PM vows to eliminate terrorism, use state's all resources to restore peace



ANI

QUETTA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed the government's unwavering resolve to eradicate terrorism, amid declaring that the state would continue its operations until the last terrorist was eliminated and all available resources would be mobilised to restore lasting peace and stability in the country.

Chairing the provincial Apex Committee meeting here, the prime minister said the recent wave of terrorist attacks in Balochistan, which claimed the lives of security personnel and civilians, would not weaken the state's determination.

He paid tribute to the martyrs and praised the sacrifices rendered by the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and innocent citizens in the fight against terrorism.

The prime minister said security forces had neutralised 54 terrorists during recent operations, adding that the campaign against terrorists would continue until the complete elimination of "Fitna al-Khawarij."

He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, and expressed confidence that their sacrifices would soon lead to the complete defeat of terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz underlined that hostile elements, particularly Pakistan's eastern neighbour, were providing financial and military support to

terrorist groups, while militants were also launching attacks from Afghan territory. He said there were other external actors involved but refrained from elaborating further.

He stressed that the country's political and military leadership was united in its commitment to defeat terrorism, saying no effort would be spared in eliminating the menace. He said enemies of Pakistan wanted to undermine the country's growing international stature, diplomatic achievements and recent strategic successes, but their designs would be defeated. Announcing the outcome of the meeting, the prime minister said that, in consultation with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the Government of Balochistan, it had been decided to intensify efforts against terrorist groups and employ every available resource to restore peace across the province and the country. He offered prayers for the martyrs' highest ranks in Jannah and patience and fortitude for their families, while expressing confidence that their sacrifices would pave the way for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Governor

Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, heads of law enforcement agencies, Federal Ministers Ahad Khan Cheema and Attaullah Tarar, and Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaulah.

Pakistan, Croatia agree to expand political, economic and trade cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday called on India to immediately restore the Indus Waters Treaty, saying the use of water as a weapon violates international law. He also reaffirmed that the Kashmir dispute remains on the United Nations agenda and stressed the need for its peaceful resolution.

Dar made the remarks during a joint press conference with Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Grlic Radman, who is on an official visit to Pakistan. Welcoming the Croatian foreign minister and his delegation, Dar described the visit as a significant milestone in bilateral relations, noting that it marks the first high-level visit from Croatia to Pakistan in many years. He said both countries enjoy strong relations based on goodwill and mutual trust and agreed to expand cooperation in politics, trade, investment, education, culture and



defence.

The two sides also agreed to advance negotiations on an agreement to avoid double taxation. Trade, Investment and Visa Cooperation

Dar said Pakistan welcomed the growing presence and business interest of Croatian companies and encouraged Croatia to benefit from Pakistan's investor-friendly policies.

He said both countries would strengthen institutional cooperation in agriculture and research, while discussions were also held on enhancing connectivity, sustainable development and economic integration. The deputy prime minister added that efforts are underway to establish Croatian visa processing facilities in Islamabad, enabling Pakistani applicants to avoid travelling to a third country for visa services.

Ports, GSP+ and Labour Mobility

Dar said Karachi Port has significant potential to promote regional trade and connectivity, adding that both countries discussed cooperation between their ports and agreed to finalise several bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding at the earliest.

Three Convicted in Bahria Town Funds Transfer Case

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Thursday convicted three men, including a retired officer and a senior Bahria Town official, in a case regarding the illegal transfer of funds abroad for Bahria Town projects.

The court handed down sentences of one year's imprisonment and a fine of Rs500,000 to each of the three convicts. Additional District and Sessions Judge Nasaruminallah Baloch announced the verdict after hearing the final arguments from both sides. The three men convicted were Bahria Town Vice Chief Executive Colonel (ret'd) Khalilur Rehman, hawala operator Imran Kaka, and property dealer Mushtaq Ahmed. The court found them guilty under the Foreign

Exchange Regulation Act of illegally sending money abroad for various Bahria Town projects. According to the prosecution, the accused violated provisions of the Act by transferring funds through illegal channels instead of authorised banking channels. The latest conviction comes months after the same judge convicted Rehman in a separate high-profile money laundering case under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010. In that case, investigated by the Federal Investigation Agency's Anti-Money Laundering Circle, he was found guilty of laundering approximately Rs1.6 billion. The same court sentenced Rehman to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a Rs25m fine, also ordering the forfeiture of assets and properties acquired through the laundered funds.

Rs 2.7 mln penalty imposed in harassment case

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment has imposed penalties of Rs 2.7 million in a workplace harassment case involving five employees, directing that Rs 2.16 million be paid to the complainant and Rs 540,000 be deposited in the national treasury. The ruling also orders the institution to complete key administrative actions within 15 and 30 days, said a press release issued here on Thursday. The case was filed by a former female employee who accused several senior and supervisory staff members of harassment and retaliation during her employment.

The accused rejected all allegations and described the complaint as false. During proceedings, they attempted to challenge the complainant's credibility by referring to her personal life, appearance, and conduct. After examining documentary evidence, witness statements, and the responses submitted by the accused, the Federal Ombudsperson concluded that harassment and retaliation had been established.

Navy, PMSA rescue all 20 crew members from sinking cargo dhow off Ormara

ANI

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy, in coordination with the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), has successfully rescued all 20 Pakistani crew members from a sinking cargo dhow operating east of Ormara after the vessel suffered severe flooding. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the rescue operation was launched immediately after the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre received a distress call from the vessel. The emergency response involved close coordination between naval and maritime security authorities to ensure the safety



of those on board. PNS Hunain and the required aerial assets were immediately diverted to the area to carry out the rescue mission. The operation was conducted swiftly despite the emergency situation at sea. All 20 crew members were safely recovered from the distressed

cargo dhow. ISPR said the rescue was made possible through the professionalism and timely response of the personnel involved in the operation. The rescued crew members are being provided with the necessary medical attention following their recovery.

Pakistan rises 30pc in global maritime rankings: Iftikhar



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Maritime Task Force Iftikhar Ahmad Rao said on Thursday that Pakistan's improved performance has lifted its position in the global maritime sector. Speaking at a press conference alongside the Secretary of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and a member of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Rao said around 80% of global trade is conducted by sea and Pakistan is located at a strategically important point in the Gulf region.

He said Pakistan serves as an important gateway to Central Asia. The Maritime Task Force was established in August 2024 and held meetings with officials of relevant institutions to identify issues facing the sector before presenting its recommendations to the prime minister in December 2024.

Rao said an implementation committee had also been formed to oversee the task force's recommendations and that it was holding meetings on a regular basis. He said customs authorities had deployed additional personnel to speed up maritime operations, contributing to improved sectoral performance. As a result, Pakistan's maritime ranking improved by 30%, placing the country 69th in the global rankings. The Maritime Task Force chairman also said Port Qasim is now among the world's five best-performing ports, while the shipping sector has also recorded significant improvement.



Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is welcomed by Governor Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail upon his arrival in Quetta.

Acting President Gilani Invites Croatian President to Visit Pakistan, Calls for Stronger Economic Partnership



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD-- Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani met Croatian Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Dr. Gordan Grlic Radman at Aiwan-e-Sadr and invited Croatian President Zoran Milanovic to undertake an official visit to Pakistan.

Welcoming the first-ever visit of a Croatian Foreign Minister to Pakistan, Mr. Gilani termed it a historic milestone in bilateral relations

and stressed the need to strengthen political, parliamentary, trade, and investment ties. He also called for the establishment of Pakistan-Croatia Parliamentary Friendship Groups to enhance parliamentary cooperation.

The Acting President highlighted Pakistan's investment potential in information technology, renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, and other sectors, encouraging Croatian businesses to explore opportunities through the Special Investment Facilitation Council

(SIFC). He also emphasized expanding bilateral trade, enhancing port connectivity, and facilitating the mobility of skilled Pakistani professionals.

Dr. Gordan Grlic Radman thanked the Acting President for the warm welcome and reaffirmed Croatia's commitment to deepening political dialogue, parliamentary exchanges, and economic cooperation. Both sides agreed to maintain regular high-level engagement to further strengthen Pakistan-Croatia relations.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Pays Tribute to Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on Her 59th Death Anniversary

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD---- Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid rich tribute to Madar-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on her 59th death anniversary, acknowledging her remarkable contributions to the Pakistan Movement, democracy, and the protection of people's rights. He said Mohtarma Fatima

Jinnah played a historic role alongside Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during the struggle for Pakistan and remained a symbol of democratic values, national unity, and public service. He added that her efforts to promote women's education, self-confidence, and social welfare continue to inspire future generations.

The Speaker stated that a strong,

united, and democratic Pakistan is the true reflection of Madar-e-Millat's vision. He expressed hope that the nation would continue to draw inspiration from her spirit of selfless service and contribute to the country's progress and prosperity.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also prayed to Almighty Allah to grant Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah the highest ranks in Jannah.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja returned home after treatment. Warm welcome for Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, party expresses honour of homecoming



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Pakistan Awami Quwat Party Chief and Chairman of Rawal General and Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation Khaqan Waheed Khawaja returned home after completing his treatment. He was given a grand welcome at his office, congratulating the people of various houses of the Pakistan Force Party on their welcome and presenting bouquets to the schools of

thought on their recovery. He said that the Chairman Awami quwat Party welcomed him on the occasion of his recovery and thanked him today and said that all the friends are concerned. I sincerely request that I, God willing, will return to my party's manifesto door to door with courage and enthusiasm and we will welcome you and my team again with enthusiasm and enthusiasm and we will present bouquets and congratulations to you on your

recovery. The work of congratulating you on your recovery included UC 60 Tarlai Clan Chairman Sohail Kamran Asghar Raja Waheed Abbas Zafar Mahmood Khan Mansoor Iftikhar Ahmed Al-Jabbar. Salman Minhas Party General Malik Ijaz Hussain Raja Writer Sardar Riaz Adil Raja Dr. Muhammad Naem Dr. Ehtesham Dr. Saira State Women's Syed Firdous Siddiqui Khawaja Malik Natasha and Fakhrazna Riaz and others.

Acting Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasar Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Balochistan, Pays Tribute to Security Forces

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Acting Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasar strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, expressing profound grief over the martyrdom of security personnel and innocent civilians. He prayed for the eternal peace of the martyrs and extended

heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families. He paid rich tribute to Pakistan's security forces for their courage, professionalism and swift response against the terrorists, saying the entire nation stands united with its armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

Syed Khan Nasar stated that terrorist elements would never succeed

in their malicious designs to undermine Pakistan's peace and stability. He reaffirmed the country's unwavering commitment to eliminating terrorism and ensuring lasting peace.

He also urged the public to remain calm, exercise patience, and continue supporting the security forces and state institutions in defeating the menace of terrorism.

Senate Committee Refers Women's Post-Divorce Financial Protection Bill to Council of Islamic Ideology, Reviews Hajj 2026 Arrangements



BY: Naseem Hassan:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs, chaired by Senator Atta-ur-Rehman, reviewed a private bill proposing financial protection for women after divorce and discussed Hajj 2026 arrangements during a meeting at Parliament House.

Senator Syed Ali Zafar proposed that women who have spent decades in marriage should be entitled to a

share in their husband's property after divorce to ensure financial security. Following detailed deliberations, the committee decided to refer the proposed bill to the Council of Islamic Ideology or seek its opinion in a future meeting before proceeding further.

The committee also received a comprehensive briefing from the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Hajj 2026. Officials informed members that complaints related to banking

services, accommodation, transport, food and other facilities had been addressed. However, committee members expressed concerns over accommodation, transport, contract awards and overall management of Hajj operations. The committee decided to summon the relevant officials, including DG Abdul Wahab Soomro, at its next meeting for a detailed review of Hajj arrangements. The next meeting of the committee will be held on July 29, 2026.

DC Chagai Reviews Monsoon Preparedness, Directs Departments to Stay on High Alert

BY: ANI Correspondent:

CHAGAI--- Deputy Commissioner Chagai, Jehanzeb Noor Shahwani, chaired a review meeting to assess preparations for the upcoming monsoon season and potential flood emergencies, with officials from government departments, PDMA, Pakistan Railways, and NGOs in attendance.



Officials briefed the meeting on contingency plans, available machinery, manpower, and emergency response measures. Deputy Commissioner Shahwani directed all departments to remain on high alert, maintain close coordination, and

keep all resources fully operational to ensure a swift response to any emergency. He stressed that protecting the lives and property of citizens would remain the district administration's

top priority and warned that negligence in relief and rescue operations would not be tolerated. NGOs also assured the administration of their full cooperation during any emergency.

Uneven Enforcement on Murree Mall Road Sparks Concerns Among Tourists and Residents

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE--- Tourists and local residents have expressed concern over what they describe as uneven enforcement on Murree's Mall Road, where action is being taken in some areas while handcarts and temporary food stalls continue to occupy pedestrian walkways in others.

According to reports, vendors sell-

ing chaat, paan, beverages, and other food items have set up handcarts at several locations, causing congestion, obstructing pedestrians, and affecting the appearance of the popular tourist destination. Visitors also complained about increased litter and disorder due to the unregulated roadside stalls. Local residents questioned why the ongoing operation is not being implemented uniformly across

the entire Mall Road, saying selective enforcement raises concerns about fairness and consistency. Tourists and residents have urged the authorities to launch a comprehensive and impartial operation to clear public walkways, improve pedestrian movement, preserve the beauty of Mall Road, and implement a permanent solution to the issue of handcarts and temporary stalls.

Auction Committee Meets at Federal Government Employees Housing Authority to Review Auction Arrangements for Commercial Plots in Sectors G-13 and G-14

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD---- The Auction Committee of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) convened an important meeting today, Thursday, July 09, 2026, under the chairmanship of Mr. Fayyaz-ul-Haq, Joint Secretary (Estate), Ministry of Housing & Works.



The meeting was attended by Mr. Faiz Umar Sial, Director Staff; Mr. Tanveer Haider, Director Administration; Mr. Asghar Ali, Director Finance; and Mr. Kazim Abbas, Director Revenue, along with other concerned officers.

The Committee held detailed deliberations regarding the upcoming auction of commercial plots located in the Class-III Shopping Centres of Sectors G-13 and G-14/4, as well as the commercial plots in Markaz G-14. The participants reviewed the current status, suitability, and inclusion of these properties

in the forthcoming auction. The meeting also focused on finalizing key arrangements for the auction, including the preparation of the auction brochure, advertising and publicity campaign, auction schedule, and other administrative and operational matters to ensure the successful conduct of the event.

The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to conducting the auction process in a transparent, fair, and competitive manner, ensuring equal opportunities for all investors while

providing a conducive and investor-friendly environment. The Auction Management Committee expressed its resolve to complete all necessary arrangements well in time to make the upcoming auction of commercial plots successful, transparent, and attractive for investors. The auction date, brochure, and other relevant details will be announced shortly through the official channels of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA).

Deputy Commissioner Adeel Haider Baryar Inaugurates Modern IT Labs in Mandi Bahauddin Girls' Schools

BY: ANI Correspondent:

Mandi Bahauddin--Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Baryar inaugurated state-of-the-art IT laboratories at Government Girls High School and Government Girls Municipal Model High School in Mandi Bahauddin to promote digital and technology-based education.



The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chief Executive Officer Education Nuzhat Kulsoom Shahzadi Janjua, headmistresses, teachers, and a large number of female students. CEO Education briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the Matric Tech Project, under which students will receive practical training in computers, artificial intelligence (AI), 3D robotics, programming, electronics, digital design, and other emerging technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Adeel Haider Baryar said equipping students with modern technological skills is essential to

meet the demands of the digital age. He added that the Punjab government's Matric Tech Project will strengthen digital literacy, promote quality education, and provide equal opportunities for female students to excel in science and technology.

The Deputy Commissioner and CEO Education said the initiative reflects the Punjab government's commitment to preparing the younger generation for a technology-driven future through modern and innovative learning facilities

DHO Dr. Muhammad Iftikhar Congratulated on Performing Hajj in Mandi Bahauddin

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN--- District Health Officer Mandi Bahauddin, Haji Dr. Muhammad Iftikhar, was felicitated on the successful completion of Hajj by CEO World Visa Muhammad Saeed Shakir, Muhammad Naveed Shakir, and Muhammad Ayub Mujahid.



In a joint message, they described the opportunity to perform Hajj as a special blessing from Almighty Allah and prayed for the acceptance of Dr. Iftikhar's Hajj, good health, safety, and continued success in serving humanity.

On the occasion, Haji Dr. Muhammad Iftikhar presented Zamzam water, dates, prayer caps, rosaries, and prayer mats to the guests and thanked them for their

warm wishes. The participants said Hajj teaches patience, piety, spiritual discipline, and brotherhood, and

prayed that Almighty Allah grants all Muslims the opportunity to perform Hajj again and again

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq

Executive Editor: Naseem Hassan Awan, Joint Editor: Hurish Shah

Disclaimer: All articles, columns, and opinions published in Financial Times are solely the views of their respective authors. The publication does not necessarily endorse or agree with the opinions, views, or positions expressed therein.

Opinion

3

Women in Leadership: Driving Pakistan Towards Progress



Written By:
Sumblina Hassan
Former Secretary to Shaheed Morthrama Benazir Bhutto
In charge of office 10 UK, RCC Bilawal Bhutto

Published By: ANI News Agency

The progress of any nation depends on its ability to empower all segments of society, particularly women. Across the world, countries that have invested in women's education, leadership, and economic participation have witnessed stronger institutions, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. Pakistan, with its talented and resilient women, possesses immense potential to achieve similar success by ensuring equal opportunities in leadership and decision-making.

The late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto remains an enduring symbol of courage, democracy, and women's empowerment. As the first woman to lead a democratic government in the Muslim world, she proved that leadership is defined by vision, determination, and commitment rather than gender. Through her visionary leadership, she worked tirelessly to advance reforms that empowered women and expanded their role in Pakistan's political, social, and economic development. Her governments laid the foundation for greater inclusion, equal opportunity, and meaningful participation of women in national life. Her legacy continues to inspire millions of women to pursue careers in public service, business, education, healthcare, media, and entrepreneurship.

Today, Pakistani women are making remarkable contributions in every field. They are leading businesses, serving in Parliament, representing the country in diplomacy, excelling in science and technology, and contributing to national development through innovation and public service. Their achievements demonstrate that when women are given equal opportunities, they become powerful drivers of economic growth and social progress.

However, significant challenges remain. Many women still face barriers to education, employment, financial independence, and leadership opportunities. Addressing these challenges requires collective efforts from government institutions, the private sector, civil society, and communities. Policies that promote equal access to education, workplace inclusion, leadership devel-

opment, and entrepreneurship are essential for building a stronger and more prosperous Pakistan.

Above all, women's empowerment begins at home. Every woman deserves love, respect, encouragement, and equal opportunities from those closest to her parents, husband, children, and family members. A supportive home environment builds confidence and enables women to pursue education, careers, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Women are daughters, mothers, wives, and professionals. Their responsibilities are immense, and their contribution to society extends far beyond the household. Men must recognise and appreciate the extraordinary potential of women, encouraging them to achieve their aspirations while standing beside them as equal partners in progress.

Governments also have a fundamental responsibility to create an environment in which women can thrive. This means ensuring access to quality healthcare through free or affordable public hospitals, strengthening maternal healthcare services, expanding mental health support, and providing specialised assistance for women living with disabilities. A compassionate and inclusive social protection system is essential to ensuring that no woman is left behind because of financial hardship or health-related challenges.

Education remains the most powerful instrument of empowerment. Governments should expand scholarships, grants, and affordable educational loans to enable more women to pursue higher education. At the same time, industries, businesses, and professional institutions should introduce free training programmes, apprenticeships, and skill-development opportunities across a broad range of disciplines. Whether in science, technology, business, public administration, media, healthcare, or entrepreneurship, women should have equal access to the knowledge and practical experience needed to succeed.

Our educational institutions, workplaces, and public policies must work together to remove unnecessary barriers and create opportunities based on merit. Institutions should make it easier—not harder—for women to achieve their goals by promoting equal opportunities, flexible working environments, mentorship, and professional growth. Only when a woman's family, society, educational institutions, employers, and government work together to support her can she fully realise her potential.

Young women, in particular, must be encouraged to participate

in politics, governance, and community leadership. Their ideas, energy, and innovation are vital for shaping policies that respond to the aspirations of future generations. Investing in women is not merely a social responsibility—it is a strategic investment in Pakistan's future.

The overseas Pakistani community also has an important role to play by supporting educational initiatives, mentoring young professionals, encouraging investment, and strengthening Pakistan's global image. Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, overseas Pakistanis can contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

As Pakistan continues its journey toward economic stability and democratic consolidation, women must remain at the centre of national progress. A society that values equality, inclusion, and merit creates stronger institutions and greater opportunities for all citizens.

The vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto reminds us that empowering women is not simply about representation—it is about unlocking the full potential of the nation. By supporting women in leadership today, we are building a more democratic, prosperous, and inclusive Pakistan for generations to come.

As women, we should also remember that Allah Ta'ala has bestowed upon us dignity, honour, and equal rights. It is our responsibility to make full and positive use of these rights—not only for our own personal growth but also for the betterment of our families, our communities, and future generations. When women are educated, empowered, and given equal opportunities, they become the strongest foundation of a progressive society.

Finally, we must never forget the ultimate sacrifice of our beloved leader, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who laid down her life in the pursuit of democracy, justice, peace, and a brighter future for Pakistan. The greatest tribute we can pay to her legacy is to continue her mission by empowering women, defending democratic values, and working tirelessly to build a nation where every woman has the opportunity to learn, lead, serve, and succeed.

True empowerment is achieved when a woman is supported at home, encouraged by society, equipped through education, protected by effective public policies, and given equal opportunities to lead. Only when her environment enables her success can she truly achieve her aspirations and contribute fully to the progress of Pakistan.

Pakistan Army Team Spirit Competition 2026



BY:Abdul Basit Alvi: Published by ANI

The 9th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATIS) Competition concluded successfully at the military training grounds of Kharian in an atmosphere of professional pride, multinational camaraderie, and commitment to excellence in modern soldiering, reaffirming the Pakistan Army's emphasis on realistic training, full-spectrum operational preparedness, and the development of leadership, resilience, and tactical innovation. Having evolved from a national event into a globally respected platform, the competition brought together elite small-unit teams from nineteen countries—Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkiye, United States, Uzbekistan, and Indonesia—while Myanmar and Thailand attended as observers, alongside sixteen teams from Pakistan Army regiments and Pakistan Navy special operations forces, with Pakistan Air Force observers underscoring the joint-services dimension of modern warfare. At its core was a grueling 60-hour continuous patrolling exercise simulating the stress, uncertainty, and fatigue of real-world combat and counter-insurgency operations, testing land navigation, reconnaissance, tactical movement under threat, rapid decision-making, communication, coordination, adaptability, and responses to injects from an opposing force and control group, all while operating with minimal rest, managing limited resources, sustaining morale, and executing linked missions under sleep deprivation. By recreating the “fog of war,” the exercise aimed to sharpen practical military skills and promote collective learning through after-action reviews and peer exchanges, prioritizing growth, self-assessment, and doctrinal refinement over mere ranking.

The closing ceremony featured an address by Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defense Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, who praised all participants for professionalism, endurance, competence, morale, and esprit de corps, and emphasized that excellence in soldiering transcends national and cultural boundaries and is strengthened through shared challenge. He stressed the strategic importance of multinational engagements in a security environment shaped by disruptive technologies, unconventional and transnational threats, and complex geopolitics, arguing that no military can operate in doctrinal isolation and that such exercises enhance interoperability, refine procedures, and build practical cooperation for peacekeeping, counterterrorism, and coalition crisis responses, while underscoring the need for continuous learning, unlearning, and innovation.

Reaffirming the Pakistan Army's core values of character, courage, and competence—demonstrated historically and in ongoing counterterrorism operations—he highlighted the moral foundations of military power, linking technical skill to integrity, duty, and honor, a message resonating with both domestic and international troops. He personally presented awards recognizing excellence, dedication, and teamwork, balancing individual achievement with the broader goal of collective growth and mutual respect. Additionally, he visited the National Counter Terrorism Centre in Pabbi, inspected the newly established state-of-the-art Tactical Simulator, and commended the troops and technical teams for advancing technologically sophisticated, simulator-based training that complements field exercises through immersive, high-fidelity scenario rehearsal, detailed performance analysis, and enhanced preparation for the complex, high-stakes demands of modern combat and extended security operations.

This pronounced emphasis on integrating advanced technological training methods reflects the Pakistan Army's broader, sustained commitment to a comprehensive program of force modernization and continuous professional development. By seeking to optimally integrate cutting-edge simulation technology with the timeless, hands-on mastery of traditional soldiering skills—marksmanship, fieldcraft, small-unit tactics—the Army demonstrates a holistic understanding of contemporary requirements: it seeks to ensure that its personnel are not only physically tough and technically adept but are also cognitively agile, technologically literate, and fully prepared to operate with high effectiveness in the information-rich, digitally mediated, and rapidly changing environments that define the modern battlespace. The Tactical Simulator at NCTC Pabbi stands, therefore, as a concrete, prominent example of how deliberate innovation in pedagogy and training support can dramatically enhance learning outcomes and support the systematic development of adaptable, capable, and confident soldiers and junior leaders who can think several steps ahead of the adversary.

Beyond the immediate, tangible outcomes of determining competition rankings and distributing awards, the successful conclusion of the 9th International PATIS Competition holds profound, broader significance for Pakistan's international image and professional standing within the global community of military professionals. The event, in its entirety, served as a powerful showcase of the Pakistan Army's formidable organizational capability, its meticulous planning acumen, its unwavering commitment to internationally benchmarked high training standards, and its genuine openness to constructive, substantive professional engagement with foreign militaries on a basis of equality and mutual respect. For the participating countries, the competition provided a valuable, firsthand exposure to Pakistan's rigorous training ethos, its operational environment, and the professional character of its soldiers,

thereby fostering deeper mutual understanding, dispelling outdated stereotypes, and building reserves of professional trust that can facilitate future cooperation. Such sustained, positive interactions at the troop and officer level constitute a potent form of confidence-building measure in international relations; they help to humanize partner militaries, highlight shared professional values and common security concerns, and create informal networks of contact that can prove invaluable during real-world crises or coalition operations.

The demonstrated professionalism, hospitality, and operational competence of the Pakistan Army, as witnessed and attested to by the international participants during the competition, is a source of immense pride and is widely appreciated by the citizenry of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan take justifiable pride in a national institution that has consistently striven, often at great sacrifice, to uphold national security, contribute meaningfully to regional stability, and represent the country with dignity and capability on the global stage. Events of the scale and professional quality of the Team Spirit Competition powerfully reinforce this deeply felt national sentiment by visibly, undeniably demonstrating the Army's collective competence, its iron discipline, and its institutional commitment to continuous improvement and excellence. They also serve as a poignant reminder to the public of the immense sacrifices routinely made by soldiers in the line of duty and underscore, for policymakers and citizens alike, the critical importance of sustained national investment in realistic training, modern equipment, and leader development to credibly meet both present and unforeseen future security challenges.

The 9th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit Competition was far more than a simple, if grueling, test of physical endurance and tactical skill; it was, in its essence, a comprehensive, multi-layered exercise in profound professional development, in meaningful international security cooperation, and in the powerful reaffirmation of timeless core military values. Through its meticulously designed, demanding scenarios, through the shared hardships and triumphs experienced in the field, and through the open, collegial exchange of ideas and techniques in the debrief tents, the competition measurably strengthened professional and personal bonds among the participating forces and contributed significantly to a collective, nuanced understanding of the gritty realities of modern military operations at the small-unit level. Its successful conclusion on the training grounds of Kharian stands, therefore, as a clear testament to the Pakistan Army's deep-seated dedication to excellence in training and its consistently constructive, proactive role in promoting serious, substantive professional military engagement at the international level, all while simultaneously reinforcing the well-founded confidence and justifiable pride of the Pakistani people in their armed forces as a capable, disciplined, and respected institution serving the nation and engaging positively with the world.

Saudi Arabia's diplomacy blends negotiation and deterrence

HASSAN AL-MUSTAFA

The ongoing political activity of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, including his visits within just a few days to Ankara, London, Madrid and Athens, point to the way Riyadh is managing the Middle East crisis. This is being done by preventing the American-Iranian confrontation from sliding into an open regional war, safeguarding navigation through the Strait of Hormuz — since the return of safe maritime passage is an international interest, not merely a Gulf concern — and transforming influential capitals into an effective network of political pressure that supports de-escalation efforts and the negotiations being mediated by Pakistan. At this stage, with the conflict characterized by political and security deadlock and stagnation, Saudi Arabia is operating according to an extremely delicate equation that blends dialogue and deterrence in a way that neither negates the other; rather, they complement one another. It is strengthening its defensive military capabilities and openly condemning any hostile Iranian behavior, while at the same time the Saudi foreign minister remains in contact with his Iranian counterpart. Meanwhile, Riyadh is coordinating with Islamabad to establish a clear and practical path for dialogue that prevents the resumption of military operations. From this perspective, Saudi diplomacy appears less like traditional mediation, or mere moral and political support for Pakistan's efforts, and more like meticulous risk management. Riyadh does not present itself as a neutral mediator between two equal threats; it is a state directly targeted by the repercussions of war, having been subjected to multiple attacks involving Iranian drones and ballistic missiles. It is also a central pillar of global energy security and a key party concerned with preventing

Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and stopping the Strait of Hormuz from becoming a tool of blackmail in Tehran's hands. Based on all this, the Kingdom's political discourse has been both measured and clear at the same time, while its security stance has remained firm in confronting any risks threatening Saudi territory.

This strict balance has been evident in developments on the ground. To illustrate this, one can point to Saudi Arabia's announcement that it intercepted three drones that entered its airspace from Iraqi territory on May 17, along with the Ministry of Defense's confirmation that it had taken the necessary operational measures to protect sovereignty and security. This stance demonstrates that de-escalation efforts do not mean a lack of military readiness or leniency toward violations of Saudi sovereignty.

Riyadh has exercised “strategic patience” regarding the attacks carried out against it by Iran and its affiliated militias in Iraq. While it has militarily protected Saudi airspace and territory, it has also practiced restraint from a position of strength with the aim of reaching sustainable and workable solutions. In this context, one can understand why the Kingdom urged US President Donald Trump not to launch military strikes against Iran — something Trump himself referred to after a phone call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. The Kingdom does not want war to return without there being a political horizon or achievable objectives. Military operations alone will not lead to security in the Arabian Gulf. There must be a clear political vision and a coordinated program of economic, diplomatic and legal pressure on Iran that compels it to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and abandon its hostile

behavior toward neighboring states. This requires building a broad and effective network involving international and European efforts. Within this context, Saudi-Spanish relations and the announcement of a strategic partnership between the two countries can be understood, especially since this relationship has a political, cultural and economic history that has accumulated through issues related to peace, energy, infrastructure, defense and transport. Spain's name is also linked to the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, which established the framework for Arab-Israeli negotiations after the Gulf War on the basis of “land for peace.” Saudi Arabia later advanced the Arab Peace Initiative in 2002, which has remained one of the most important Arab frameworks for a two-state solution. Thus, it becomes clear to observers that Saudi Arabia is not managing the crisis through a single narrow channel but rather through multiple tracks. It communicates with Iran, coordinates with Washington, supports Islamabad's mediation, opens European channels in London, Madrid and Athens, and maintains regional coordination with Ankara and Gulf capitals. It is seeking to build a political environment that reduces the likelihood of war returning and gives the negotiated solution regional and international backing, so that diplomacy is reinforced by strength.” Riyadh has long been aware of the Iranian regime's malicious intentions and has actively deterred its threats since 1979. This is why it would have welcomed any logical approach to neutralize these threats, while at the same recognizing that Iran will always be a neighbor, and the dangers of a miscalculated move would have dire consequences,” wrote Arab News Editor-in-Chief Faisal Abbas in his article titled “How to read the Saudi position.” This is why the Beijing Agreement was signed in 2023.

— Arab News

Heartiest

CONGRATULATIONS

ON THE

13th

ANNIVERSARY

OF

DAILY

FINANCIAL TIMES

FAIR, FACTUAL & FEARLESS

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire **Daily Financial Times** family on the successful completion of its **13th Anniversary**.

For thirteen years, Daily Financial Times has remained a credible voice of responsible journalism, promoting truth, transparency, and informed public discourse. Your unwavering commitment to professional reporting and national development is truly commendable.

I commend the dedication of the management, editorial team, journalists, and staff whose tireless efforts have made this remarkable journey possible. May **Daily Financial Times** continue to inform, inspire, and lead with integrity for many more years.

With Best Wishes,

KHALID NAWAZ SADHRAICH

Central Secretary Information

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers Wing

A philanthropist and businessman, he focuses on education, healthcare, and community development while leading **KHM Consulting** and the **Sadhraich Foundation** for social welfare initiatives.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION
Building a better tomorrow

PROMOTING HEALTHCARE
Care, support & better health

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES
Stronger communities, stronger Pakistan

EMPOWERING FARMERS
For a prosperous future

Best Wishes for Continued Success and Many More Years of Excellence!

4

Special Edition

Government should increase health budget, APAHMO

The organization aims to provide better facilities to the people, President Malik Sajjad, Health and education are the main pillars of the development of any nation, Nawaz Khattak



The organization has been serving the public for the past several years through free medical camps, rehabilitation programs, health awareness campaigns, Abdul Waheed Babi

Report by ANI

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Financial Times, a major seminar titled "Economic Challenges Facing Health and Medical Institutions" was organized by the All Pakistan Association of Health and Medical Organizations (APAHMO), in which a large number of prominent doctors, medical experts, hospital

**Officers of the organization address a seminar jointly organized by APAHMO and Financial Times*

administrators, laboratory owners, representatives of rehabilitation centers, personalities associated with the paramedical sector, business leaders, social figures and media representatives from across the coun-

try participated. The event was attended by Malik Sajjad (President, APAHMO), Tahir Nawaz (Senior Vice President), Dr. Zahid Ahmed (Vice

The Financial Times will continue to provide a rich platform in the future to convey the opinions, suggestions and research work of medical institutions, doctors, researchers and health professionals to the public and policymakers, Editor Javed Siddiq address at a seminar organized by APAHMO

President), Nabila Sadaf (President, Women Wing), Abdul Waheed Babi (Secretary General, APAHMO), Dr. Sidra Jahangir, Arshad Khan (Secretary, All Pakistan Paramedics Association), Nawaz Khattak and Dr. Qaiser (Saeed International Hospital), Masood Qureshi (Chief Executive Officer, Universal Lab), Qamar Razzaq (Chief Executive Officer, Shaheen Lab),

Senior journalists Executive Editor Naseem Hassan Awan, Nawabzada, Nawabzada shah ali , Nadeem Tanoli, Naveed Satti, Nayyar Naveed, Ikramullah Joiya and representatives from various government and private hospitals, laboratories, medical institutions, rehabilitation centers and the corporate sector. The seminar aimed to have a detailed discussion on the impact of the federal budget on the health sector, financial difficulties faced by medical institutions, provision of quality medical facilities to the public, health insurance, the role of the private sector and promotion of effective cooperation between the media and the health sector. Addressing the event, Hurish Shah, News

A seminar organized by APAHMO on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Financial Times, full participation of doctors, medical experts and representatives of the health sector

lishing news only but is also a strong medium of communication between experts from different fields, policy makers and relevant institutions. SHe said that the Financial Times will always continue to provide such positive platforms where there is a serious dialogue on national issues and actionable suggestions come out. In his address, Javed Siddique, Editor of Financial Times, said that the health sector is of fundamental importance for national development and Financial Times will continue to provide a rich platform for medical institutions, doctors, researchers and health professionals to convey their opinions, suggestions and research work to the public and policy makers in the future. He said that the newspaper and its sister organization ANI News Agency are committed to highlighting positive initiatives, research activities and reform proposals related to the health sector at the national and international levels. President APAHMO Malik Sajjad said that the main objective of the organization is to provide better medical facilities to the public and raise a common voice for solving the problems faced by the institutions related to

the health sector. He said that this partnership with Financial Times will play an important role in highlighting the problems of the health sector at the national level. Secretary General Abdul Waheed Babi said that APAHMO has been rendering public service for the past several years across the country through free medical camps, eye



camp, rehabilitation programs, health awareness campaigns and other welfare activities. He said that with the support of the media, the scope of these activities will be further expanded and quality medical facilities will be provided to as many deserving people as possible.



APAHMO Marks Financial Times Islamabad's 13th Anniversary

BY: ANI CORRESPONDENT- ISLAMABAD-- APAHMO hosted a special ceremony to celebrate the 13th anniversary of Financial Times Islamabad, bringing together the organisation's office bearers and members of the newspaper's editorial team. The event featured a cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the newspaper's successful journey of 13 years in journalism. Participants congratulated the management and editorial staff for their dedication and acknowledged the newspaper's significant contribution to Pakistan's media landscape. Speaking on the occasion, the office bearers praised Financial Times Islamabad for consistently representing the interests of traders, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and the business community across the country. They noted that for the past thirteen years, the newspaper has played a vital role in highlighting the challenges faced by the business sector and effectively bringing these issues to the attention of policymakers and relevant authorities. The speakers paid tribute to the newspaper's outstanding performance and extended their heartfelt congratulations on its 13th anniversary. They expressed confidence that Financial Times Islamabad would continue its tradition of responsible and professional journalism by giving prominent coverage to the concerns of the business community and contributing to informed policymaking in the years ahead.

Saeed International Hospital CEO Nawaz Khattak and Dr. Qaiser said in their address that health and education are the basic pillars of any nation's development, but in Pakistan both sectors are suffering from lack of financial resources. They said that hospitals are facing serious problems like rising inflation, modern medical equipment, medicines, electricity and gas costs, taxes and shortage of trained staff, due to which the provision of quality medical services is becoming difficult day by day. They demanded from the government that more resources should be allocated for the health sector in the national budget, facilitate the import of modern medical machinery and provide special relief in taxes and utility bills to private medical institutions so that the public can get quality and affordable medical facilities. On this occasion, Saeed International Hospital also expressed its commitment to organize free medical camps and public awareness programs in collaboration with Financial Times and APAHMO in the future. Arshad Khan, Secretary, All Pakistan Paramedics Association, said that health is a fundamental human right and medical personnel play a frontline role in serving the country. He said that providing better facilities, professional training and financial security to paramedics, nurses and other health workers is the need of the hour. Dr. Zahid Ahmed said that the burden of diseases can be significantly reduced through preventive measures, timely diagnosis and public awareness, while Tahir Nawaz highlighted the role of mental health, drug rehabilitation and rehabilitation centers and stressed the need for special government patronage for this sector. Nabila Sadaf, President, Women's Wing, APAHMO, highlighted the role of women in women's health, rehabilitation centers and social services and said that projects related to women's and children's health should be included in the national priorities. Dr. Sidra Jahangir said that provision of quality medical services is not possible without

modern research, professional training, digital health systems and promotion of public awareness in the health sector. She stressed on coordinated cooperation among all stakeholders in the health sector. On this occasion, Masood Qureshi (Chief Executive Officer, Universal Lab) and Qamar Razaq (Chief Executive Officer, Shaheen Lab) and other speakers also presented their suggestions regarding quality diagnostic facilities, modern laboratory systems, research, medical transparency and provision of better services to patients. The speakers agreed that to address the economic and administrative challenges facing Pakistan's health system, there is an urgent need for a substantial increase in the health budget, expansion of the scope of health insurance, encouragement of the private sector, modern medical infrastructure, trained workforce, transparent policy-making and an effective role of the media. The participants said that the media not only plays a key role in identifying problems but also in raising awareness among the public, promoting positive public health initiatives and conveying the voice of the public and the medical sector to policymakers. He expressed his determination that this partnership established between the Financial Times and APAHMO will continue in the future in the form of joint seminars, free medical camps, awareness campaigns, research activities and reform projects for health, education and public welfare. At the end of the event, the participants congratulated the Financial Times on its successful 13-year journalistic journey and said that maintaining quality and responsible journalism in the current digital era is a big challenge, however, the Financial Times is playing the role of a responsible national institution by continuously highlighting important issues related to the national, economic, social, diplomatic and health sectors. He expressed the hope that the institution will continue its services in the public interest with the same passion, integrity and professional standards in the future.



FT Team, Guest of Honor Alan Receive Shields and Souvenirs

BY STAFF REPORTER- ISLAMABAD: In recognition of outstanding professional performance and valuable contributions to journalism and community service, the organizing body honored the Financial Times team and Guest of Honor Alan with shields and commemorative souvenirs during a prestigious ceremony. The award recipients included Dr. Waheed M. Khan (Chief Editor), Javed Siddiq (Editor), Naseem Hassan Awan (Executive Editor), Ms. Hurish Shah (Director News & Coordinator), Nawabzada Shah Ali, Nadeem Tanoli, Naveed Satti, Ikram Ullah Joiya, Naveed Nayyar, and Alan, all of whom were recognized for their dedication, professionalism, and valuable contributions in their respective fields. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers praised the Financial Times team for its commitment to responsible journalism, highlighting important national, social, educational, diplomatic, and public-interest issues. They noted that the newspaper has consistently upheld high professional standards while serving the public with credible and timely reporting. The recipients expressed their gratitude for the recognition and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their efforts in promoting quality journalism and serving society with professionalism and integrity.