



Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

A Leading National Daily



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Riyadh to host key counter-terrorism meeting

Riyadh is set to host the second international meeting of Counter-terrorism Centers of Excellence on April 29–30, bringing together representatives from the United Nations, international and regional centers, and the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC) to discuss the impact of emerging technologies on terrorist financing.



SBP notes further improvements in economic conditions in H1FY25

Pakistan's macroeconomic conditions improved further in the first half of fiscal year 2024-25 (H1-FY25) reflected by steep disinflation, surplus current account, and contained fiscal deficit, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) pointed out in the State of Pakistan's Economy, Half Year Report on Monday.

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Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif awarding shield to Mr. Mobashir Hasan, Principal Information Officer, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for his outstanding performance in the success of Prime Minister's Ramazan Relief Package.



Photo: PID

China urges Pakistan, India to 'exercise restraint' over Kashmir

AFP

China on Monday urged India and Pakistan to "exercise restraint" after New Delhi's army said soldiers from the two countries exchanged gunfire in disputed Kashmir for a fourth night in a row.

"China hopes that the two sides will exercise restraint, meet each other halfway, properly handle relevant differences through dialogue and consultation and jointly maintain regional peace and stability," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said.

China has consistently supported Pakistan's firm stance on counterterrorism efforts, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang

Yi said in a phone call with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday.

During the call, Dar provided an update on the tense relations between Pakistan and India due to recent terrorist attacks in the Kashmir region. The Pakistani foreign minister emphasized that Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to combating terrorism and opposes actions that could escalate the situation further, CGTN reported.

Dar also said that Pakistan is focused on managing the situation in a mature manner and intends to maintain communication with China and the international community throughout



the process.

In response, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China, expressed China's close attention to the evolving situation.

Wang said that combating terrorism is a shared responsibility for all nations, and China has consistently supported Pakistan's firm stance on counterterrorism efforts.

Noting the iron-clad friendship and all-weather strategic partnership between China and Pakistan, Wang said China fully understands Pakistan's legitimate security concerns and supports its efforts to safeguard its sovereignty and security interests.

Wang also voiced China's support for a fair and timely investigation into the attacks. He said that conflicts between Pakistan and India do not serve the fundamental interests of each side and also pose a threat to regional peace and stability.

Wang urged both Pakistan and India to exercise restraint, engage in dialogue, and work together to de-escalate tensions and promote stability in the region.

PM Shehbaz addresses a ceremony to acknowledge the success of PM Ramzan Relief Package

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the scope of digital wallets would be expanded across the country and the provinces would be integrated into the digital payment system through a

coordinated framework.

The prime minister, addressing a ceremony to acknowledge individuals showing outstanding performance in the success of the Prime Minister's Ramazan Relief Package, said that modern payment methods enabled smooth transfer of funds and

these payments were made transparently while maintaining the dignity of deserving individuals. The prime minister said that funds were transferred efficiently and transparently through digital wallets, adding that 79% of the funds were disbursed digitally under the programme.

He observed that the old payment system had many flaws which were rectified through the modern system, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister further opined that positive results emerged from the steps taken to modernize the system and hinted

that the scope of digital wallets would be expanded nationwide as provinces would also be included in the digital payment system through an integrated framework.

Next year, he said, 100% utilization of funds through digital methods would be ensured.

Seven killed, several injured in deadly South Waziristan blast

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A deadly explosion rocked the Wana area of South Waziristan Monday, killing at least seven people and injuring 16 others near the office of a local peace (aman) committee, authorities confirmed.

According to Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan, the blast completely destroyed the peace committee's office.

The injured were rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital in Wana for urgent medical treatment. Meanwhile, police officials have launched a full-scale investigation into the incident, though no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The brutal explosion, targeting a symbol of local reconciliation, drew swift condemnation from political leaders across the spectrum.



Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi strongly denounced the blast, expressing deep sorrow and grief over the loss of innocent lives.

"Elements playing with the lives of innocent people do not deserve any concession," Naqvi said, warning that such cowardly acts would not dent the nation's resolve.

17 more terrorists killed in clearance operation on Pak-Afghan border



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan security forces have killed 17 more terrorists during a follow-up operation on the Pak-Afghan border.

According to an ISPR statement released on Monday, the total number of Khwarij terrorists killed in security operations during the past three days has now risen to 71.

The sanitization operation, conducted in the Hasan Khel area and surrounding regions near the Afghan border, resulted in the elimination of the militants and the recovery of a significant cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives.

The security forces managed to neutralize the militants, further diminishing the terrorist network's presence in the region, the ISPR

added.

The ISPR confirmed that a major blow was struck to the Khwarij terrorists on the previous day as well, when 54 terrorists were neutralized near the Pak-Afghan border.

This latest follow-up action is part of a sustained military effort to secure the border and combat the rising threat of terrorism in the area. "The security forces remain fully committed to dismantling all terrorist groups and thwarting any attempts to undermine the peace, stability, and development of Pakistan," the ISPR stated, adding "We will not allow any forces to disrupt the nation's progress."

The ISPR also highlighted the scale of the recovery, with large quantities of weapons and explosives seized from the slain militants.

President, PM commend security forces



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tribute to the security forces for killing 17 Khawarij terrorists during an operation in Hassan Khel area of North Waziristan.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister lauded the bravery of the security forces for eliminating 17 terrorists of Fitna-al-Khawarij.

President Asif Ali Zardari reaffirmed to continuing security operations until the complete eradication of terrorism.

"The successful operations by our security forces against terrorists are commendable," the President said, vowing

to uphold the unwavering commitment to the defense of the country and the elimination of terrorism.

PM Shehbaz Sharif pointed out "the killing of 17 Khawarij terrorists during the security operations in North Waziristan over the past three days clearly shows that our law enforcement agencies are fully determined and vigilant in their mission to eliminate terrorism."

"We will continue to thwart the nefarious designs of these terrorists (enemies of humanity), in the same resolute manner," he added.

The prime minister expressed the determination to continue war against terrorism until the complete eradication of this menace from the country.

PM calls urgent CCI meeting today to resolve canals issue

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On Sindh's request, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has called an urgent meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) today, which was initially scheduled for May 2.

PM Shehbaz will chair a crucial meeting of the CCI today at 7 PM at the Prime



Minister's House, with 25 key participants specially invited, including the chief ministers of all four provinces and federal ministers.

AJK leaders demand resolution of Kashmir conflict amid escalating tensions

 **Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, and former President Ambassador Masood Khan, during a one-on-one meeting held here on Monday, called for the international community's urgent attention to the highly volatile situation in the region following the Pahalgam incident, which has brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

Expressing deep concern over the escalating tensions, both leaders emphasized that the key to lasting peace in South Asia lies in the resolution of the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

Describing the unresolved Kashmir conflict as the root cause of instability in the region, they stressed that sustainable peace can only be achieved through a just and equitable settlement of the issue. Condemning the killing of tourists by unidentified assailants, the leaders lamented that this human tragedy was being exploited to spread chaos and confusion.

They also voiced serious concern over the intensifying human rights violations, including the demolition of residential homes, by Indian occupation forces in Jammu and Kashmir. "India is persecuting Kashmiris under the guise of a false flag operation," they said.



Barrister Chaudhry further stated that India aims to undermine the Kashmir freedom movement by orchestrating such operations. However, he affirmed that these tactics cannot suppress the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people.

Denouncing India's military occupation of Kashmir as illegal and immoral, the leaders urged the international community to intervene and help de-escalate tensions to avert the risk of nuclear confrontation in the region.

They also agreed to continue raising their voices at global forums to advocate for the resolution of the Kashmir issue and to highlight the ongoing human rights violations under the Modi government in occupied Kashmir.

Protest

LAHORE: A large number of the protesters of Grand Health Alliance moving towards CM House during protest in the favor of their demands in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PM AJK warns India of stronger response

 **Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Kashmiris have been scripting a new history of resistance against India's illegal occupation by sacrificing their lives.

In an interview to a private news channel, the PM said that Kashmiris have drenched their homeland with their red-hot blood. The martyrs' sacred blood, he said, would never go in vain. Kashmiris' struggle, he said, is a portrait of pain, perseverance and resilience. After August 5, 2019, the PM noted, India deployed additional troops in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and turning the region virtually into a torture chamber.



The entire region, he said, was under a military siege and the Kashmir Valley was turned into an information black-hole for the rest of the world. "All the development projects India had launched in Kashmir were primarily designed to secure strategic and military gains", the PM said.

India also attempted to host international conferences in Srinagar but the major countries refused to participate, citing the disputed status of the region.

The PM said that the Phalgam false flag operation was orchestrated to create a pretext for water aggression. "It has now become a bone in India's throat, which it can neither swallow or spit it out", he remarked. The PM praised the current army chief for adopting a bold stance on the issue of Kashmir.

He said India's traditional intransigence has always been a stumbling block in the way of peace. The AJK premier said that Pakistan, as a sovereign state, has every right to respond to Indian hostility in whatever manner it deems necessary.

Kashmir Dispute: Information Minister AJK issues blunt warning to India

 **Bureau Report**

JHELUM VALLEY: Information Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, while addressing the grand Khatm-e-Nabuwat Conference in Jhelum Valley, said that if India shuts off water, God willing, we will not only shut off its air but also its breath.

The status of war is the same as the status of a doctor during surgery, when he performs surgery to remove ulcers from the body.

When we wage war, we do it to remove the ulcers of oppression and ignorance from this universe so that peace can be established in the world and the flag of knowledge, justice and fairness can be raised high.

We do not want to wage war.

If war is imposed on us, we will show you the bravery of Badr and Uhud, God willing. He said that India is sometimes shutting off water, sometimes opening it.

He said that we, the Kashmiri nation, have been facing India's oppression for 77 years and are tolerating its deception and deception.

Insha Allah, India will not be allowed to hide behind anything, the cloak of secular

democracy that India had covered has been exposed.

He said that I salute the brave Muslim brothers, friends and elders of Jhelum Valley who organized the grand Khatm-e-Nabuwat Conference.

Alhamdulillah, today the slogans of Khatm-e-Nabuwat of my beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are being raised from east to west, from north to south. He said that



the command of Jihad given to us by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is to fight against oppression and to establish peace in the world. We have to fulfill the duty given to us to support the oppressed. He said that if a war is imposed, you will start it, we will finish it.

AJK Opposition Leader demands immediate reinstatement of 237 MNCH employees

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader and opposition leader in AJK Legislative Assembly Khawaja Farooq Ahmed has been protesting for several weeks against the non-reinstatement of (MNCH) employees, including female employees, despite the government's announcement. Today, he condemned the police lathicharge on them and the torture and beating of journalists who were covering the lathicharge, saying that oppression and coercion do not solve any problem. If around 242 employees of (MNCH) have been reinstated, what is stopping the reinstatement of the remaining 237 employees? Khawaja Farooq Ahmed said that a notice has also been submitted in the assembly regarding the strike of these 237 employees. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf condemns the police violence against journalists and (MNCH) employees. And demands that the government immediately reinstate these 237 employees he urged

Hurriyat Conference slams Indian State terrorism in Occupied Kashmir

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Kashmir and Pakistan branch was held under the leadership of Convener Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi. The entire leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference attended the meeting and paid great tribute to the successful diplomacy of the Government of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China for thwarting the Indian false narrative at the United Nations in the context of the recent Pahalgam incident.

On this occasion, the convener, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, said in his address that Pakistan's principled and unwavering support at this critical time is an encouraging message for the Kashmiri people. He said that the way India is heating up the market of cruelty and barbarity in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the houses of Kashmiris are being demolished, thousands of youth are being arrested on baseless charges and more than one million Indian troops have turned the valley into an open prison, this situation is extremely worrying.

Senior Hurriyat leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Muhammad Hussain Khatib, Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Madam Shamim Shawl, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Raja Khadim, Syed Ijaz Rahmani, Sheikh Yaqoob, Javed Jahangir, Zahid Ashraf, Muhammad Shafi Dar, Nazir Ahmed Karnahi, Imtiaz Wani, Syed Gulshan, Adeel Mushtaq, Manzoor Ahmed Dar, and others attended the meeting.

Kashmir leader condemns Pahalgam massacre

 **Spokesman Report**



NEW YORK: Kashmir Global Council (KGC) President Farooq Siddiqi has stated that the massacre of 26 innocent people in Pahalgam was a horrific act of brutality, which he strongly condemns.

He paid tribute to the brave son of Kashmir, Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who sacrificed his life while trying to save unarmed tourists by snatching a weapon from the militants. Furthermore, Farooq Siddiqi said that Syed Adil Shah's selfless service and sacrifice for humanity will always be remembered. He honored Syed Adil Shah for setting an extraordinary example of humanity and compassion. He added that Kashmiris are a hospitable people, and their traditions never allow targeting unarmed civilians. Such incidents, he emphasized, are deliberate attempts to sabotage the peaceful struggle for freedom. Moreover, in his statement, the Chairman said that some hidden forces are trying to portray Kashmiris as terrorists or extremists. However, the bravery of Syed Adil Hussain Shah is undeniable proof that Kashmiris put humanity above everything else.

CDA Chairman vows to accelerate development in Islamabad's Sector I-12



ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, has reaffirmed the authority's commitment to the development, beautification, and resolution of civic issues in Islamabad, with Sector I-12 being a top priority.

During a surprise visit to Sector I-12 on Monday, Randhawa emphasized the need to expedite ongoing projects, remove illegal encroachments, and ensure timely completion of infrastructure work.

He was accompanied by senior CDA officials, including members of administration, finance, planning, and environment, as well as enforcement and works directors.

"Sector I-12 is a crucial gateway between Islamabad and Rawalpindi, and its development is essential for the city's progress," Randhawa stated.

He directed officials to clear all obstacles hindering construction, including illegal structures and waste, to meet project deadlines.

The chairman reiterated CDA's broader vision to transform Islamabad into a modern, digitized, and tourist-friendly capital while addressing residents' needs.

"We are utilizing all available resources to improve infrastructure, beautification, and public facilities," he said.

Officials briefed Randhawa on ongoing development activities in the sector, with the chairman urging swift action to resolve public concerns.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:51 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	4:52 pm
Maghrib	6:49 pm
Isha	8:20 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Dr. Mian Arif Saleem elected Member of the Advisory Board of Kamalia University



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Prominent educationist, former Principal Government PST College, former CEO Education District Toba Tek Singh, former Director Regional Services Allama Iqbal Open University Dr. Mian Arif Saleem Arif was elected as a member of the Advisory Board of Kamalia University. Academic and literary figures of the area congratulated him on his elected and they said that Dr. Arif Saleem Arif's educational services are not hidden from anyone. His election as a member in the advisory board is auspicious for the area. Dr. Adeel Arif, Son of Dr. Mian Arif Saleem Arif, is currently performing the duties of MS at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Kamalia. This family has always prioritized public services and is still working on it today.

BISP Chairperson visits Chakwal, emphasizes respect for women

City Desk

CHAKWAL: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the BISP District Office in Chakwal and the Tehsil Office in Talagang today. During her visit, Senator Rubina Khalid directly interacted with deserving women who had come for survey and stipend payments, listened to their concerns, and reviewed the facilities avail-

able at the offices. She instructed the BISP staff to treat women with respect.

Addressing the deserving women, Senator Rubina Khalid stated that there is no fee for the BISP survey—it is completely free. She advised them not to visit repeatedly for the survey and to register a mobile number that they actively use during enrollment. She emphasized counting the full amount received, obtaining a receipt, and immediately reporting any deduc-



tions. Strict action will be taken against those involved in deductions.

During the visit, BISP Zonal Director Iftikhar Ahmad briefed Chairperson Rubina Khalid on the number of beneficiaries in all tehsils of Chakwal District and other administrative matters. Senator Rubina Khalid proposed mobile payment camps and opening bank accounts for

beneficiaries from remote areas.

Earlier, while speaking to public representatives at the residence of PPP Chakwal General Secretary Raja Mazhar Hussain, Chairperson Rubina Khalid said that BISP is the vision of the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and is a sacred institution. Following the directives of the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, and Party

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, no compromise will be made on complaints of mistreatment or deductions. The program is benefiting 10 million families. Under the Benazir Hunarmand Program, efforts are being made to improve the lives of deserving women and their families through skill training, as skilled labor is in demand worldwide.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the chief ministers of the four provinces of Pakistan, before the commencement of 52nd meeting of the Council of Common Interests, in Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: Online

Multan Press Culb solidarity rally in support of the Pakistan Army against Indian aggression

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A solidarity rally was organized by the Multan Press Club in support of the Pakistan Army against Indian aggression. The rally, led by the Shakeel Anjum President of the Multan Press Club, witnessed the participation of a large number of journalists. Journalists stood at the forefront in the defense of the homeland.

The rally, expressing solidarity with the Pakistan Army, was led by Shakeel Anjum, President of Multan Press Club.

Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry, Vice President Sharif Joiya, Mazhar Javed Siyal, President of Multan Union of Journalists Anjum Khan Pitafi, Jamshed Rizwani, Tariq Chaudhry, Shakeel Chaudhry, Ameer Zaman Bhatti, Muhammad Bilal Niazi, Mehboob Malik, Rafiq Qureshi, G. R. Gormani, Tariq



Anjum, Chaudhry Shehbaz, Hameed-ul-Hasan, as well as Sidra Farooq, Fizza Hussain, Zarnaz Gul, and many other journalists participated in the rally.

Journalists raised strong slogans in favor of the Pakistan Army and against

India. Participants stated that they stand firmly with the Pakistan Army for the defense of the homeland and will not take even a single step back. They chanted slogans like "Pak Army, march forward, we are with you."

A. Aleem Condemns Acts of Sabotage in South Waziristan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has strongly condemned the acts of sabotage by terrorists in South Waziristan. In his statement, Abdul Aleem Khan has asserted that such cowardly acts by anti state elements will never allow them to achieve their nefarious designs. He commended the unwavering commitment and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces and Security Agencies stating that terrorists are being eliminated due to these relentless efforts of our "Jawans" Highlighting recent operations, Abdul Aleem Khan said that the successful neutralization of over 70 militants within three days is a major achievement of the Pakistan Army and a testament to the strength and resolve of the nation's security apparatus.

Pakistan's Social Elite Gather for Jaggo's Daughter's Wedding to Barrister Shahzeb



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The daughter of prominent political and social figure and businessman Imran Jahangir Jaggo got married to Barrister Shahzeb Ishrat. A grand ceremony was held on this occasion, in which prominent figures from every school of thought participated. The grand ceremony was hosted by Haji Malik Ishtiaq Awan, a prominent political and social figure of Rawalpindi, son of the late Malik Ishrat Mahmood and cousin of Malik Muhammad Yaqoob. The daughter of prominent political and social figure and businessman Imran Jahangir Jaggo got married to Barrister Shahzeb Ishrat. On this occasion, Malik Haji Azhar Awan and Malik Ghazanfar's nephew Barrister Shahzeb Ishrat were congratulated on the beginning of a new journey in life. Barrister Shahzeb married the daughter of Rawalpindi's prominent political and social figure and businessman Imran Jahangir Jaggo.



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected members PIMS Retired Employees Welfare Association pose for a group photo during a ceremony at a local hotel,

Devcom-Pakistan conducts multi-stakeholder 'The Earth Care Pledge'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Experts from diverse sectors, educationists and students pledge to uphold the principles of environmental justice, equity, and sustainability in our daily lives and corporate operations, and promise to support and engage in efforts that promote climate resilience, nature conservation, responsible consumption, and environmental education. Their commitment includes to comply with national and international environmental laws, and support actions that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The pledge also included recognition of indigenous knowledge and local communities' role in environmental stewardship and pledge to support their participation and leadership in Earth care initiatives. The participants also committed to adopting the Zero

Waste philosophy — to redesign our resource life cycles so that all products are reused, and no trash is sent to landfills, incinerators, or the ocean, and to refuse what they don't need, and reduce what they do need, reuse or recycle what is consumed.

The Earth Care Pledge for a Zero Waste Pakistan was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) to mark the World Earth Day on Tuesday at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) with the support of Health Safety Environment and Quality Department of Oil & Gas Development Company and Capital Smart City.

Speaking at the national launch of the Zero Waste Pakistan campaign under the Earth Care Pledge to commemorate Earth Day, Syeda Amna Batool, the Focal Person for the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, empha-

sized the critical role of youth in driving sustainable development and environmental stewardship. She lauded the initiative as a timely and much-needed step towards promoting waste reduction, responsible consumption, and environmental awareness at the grassroots level. Highlighting the Zero Waste Pakistan campaign as a national call to action, she urged young people to take ownership of climate and environmental challenges and become champions of a cleaner, greener Pakistan.

Devcom-Pakistan founder and Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed said "With over 140 million young people in the country, we have the largest human capital in our history. If engaged meaningfully, youth can transform Pakistan's waste crisis into a circular economy opportunity. The Earth Care Pledge is a call for action — not just to reduce waste, but

to rethink our consumption patterns altogether."

He said Devcom-Pakistan's annual World Earth Day event focused on the launch of the Zero Waste Pakistan initiative. A Zero Waste Pakistan is not just a vision—it's a necessity. Through collective action, innovation, and policy reforms, we can break free from plastic pollution and safeguard our environment for future generations. Empowering youth with the concepts of waste segregation, reuse and recycling at the source of the waste generation such as homes and institutions will lead the society to a zero waste Pakistan."

The guest speakers included President Alpine Club of Pakistan Abu Zafar Sadiq, Capital Smart City General Manager Sustainability Muhammad Ali Naseer, OGDCL In-charge HSEQ Ashfaq Ali Khan, Technical Team Leader, Climate Resourcing Coordi-



nation Centre Sohail Maqbool Malik, Environmentalist Aliya Agha, FJWU assistant professor Dr. Abida Sharif, Research Fellow Institute of Regional

Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan Talha Tufail Bhatti, and World Bank Public Sector Development Expert Kiran Afzal.

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China can build over 40 nuclear units at once

China is capable of building more than 40 nuclear power units simultaneously, according to a report on the country's nuclear energy development released by the China Nuclear Energy Association (CNEA).

With the Hualong One nuclear reactors entering the stage of mass construction both in China and abroad, the country's capacity for building nuclear power plants has grown steadily, according to the China Nuclear Energy Development Report 2025.

In 2024, China's nuclear power construction investment reached a record high of 146.9 billion yuan (about \$20.16 billion), 52 billion yuan more than the previous year.

This growth is a direct result of the nation's strengthened efforts in independent research, technological innovation, and the development of cutting-edge nuclear construction techniques.

As China transitions from single-unit to multi-unit construction, key technological advances have been made in integrated nuclear power plant construction and dome hoisting technology.

With these advancements, China's nuclear power construction scale, safety and quality have reached internationally competitive standards.

"China has gradually developed full lifecycle construction and operating capabilities in nuclear power engineering, from design and construction to commissioning and commercial operation. Its construction and management capabilities for multi-unit nuclear power projects are at the forefront internationally. The country is also capable of simultaneously building 40 nuclear power units and more," said Cao Shudong, executive vice chairman of the China Nuclear Energy Association.

China is also pushing the envelope in the comprehensive utilization of nuclear energy. Breakthroughs have been made in urban heating and industrial applications, while nuclear technology continues to advance rapidly in medicine and international collaboration.

In the 2024-2025 heating season, Haiyang, Qinshan and Hongyanhe nuclear power plants collectively supplied heating for over 14 million square meters, delivering significant economic and social benefits.

China's isotope production has also seen impressive progress.

In 2024, China used commercial nuclear reactors for the first time to mass-produce carbon-14 isotopes, achieving full domestic production of carbon-14 isotopes.

Additionally, the domestic production of nuclear medical equipment has accelerated, and international cooperation has made fresh progress.

"In 2024, China opened 12 nuclear research facilities and experiment platforms to the world, including the China Advanced Research Reactor. We also launched collaborative projects with Thailand, Bangladesh, Hungary, Poland and Nigeria in areas like nuclear medicine, nuclear agriculture and industrial irradiation," said Cao.

Pahalgam Attack- Another Indian False Flag Drama

A recent reported attack on tourists in Pahalgam, a town located in IIOJK, has once again sparked serious questions about New Delhi's narrative and the ongoing baseless allegations directed towards Pakistan. Indian media, particularly social media accounts believed to be affiliated with the intelligence agency RAW, were quick to blame Pakistan for the incident—well before any credible investigation had taken place.

What stands out in this case is the deliberate targeting of non-Muslim tourists, seemingly aimed at giving the incident a sectarian spin. This aligns with a known pattern in which India uses such attacks to shift global attention away from its deteriorating security situation in IIOJK. Notably, this alleged incident occurred during the visit of the U. S. Vice President to India—a timing that raises further suspicion.

India has a history of orchestrating false flag operations during major diplomatic events to tarnish Pakistan's image and obscure its internal failures. Under the Modi government, there have been repeated accusations of staging such events for political gain and to divert attention from its mishandling of Kashmir.

India has frequently blamed Pakistan for acts of terrorism within its territory—accusations that Pakistan firmly rejects as baseless and politically driven. Since its establishment in 1947, Pakistan has consistently advocated for peace, diplomacy, and mutual respect in its foreign policy. While regional conflicts and geopolitical complexities have occasionally drawn the country into military confrontations, Pakistan has always projected itself as a proponent of stability and peaceful resolution.

The recent incident in Pahalgam appears to have been orchestrated to unfairly blame Pakistan and the Kashmiri freedom movement, attempting to label them as terrorists. India, by taking drastic actions such as canceling water treaties, closing borders, engaging in a smear campaign through the media, and expelling Pakistanis from India, seeks to portray itself as a victim and divert attention away from the dire poverty and human rights issues within its own borders. The world is well aware of who stands to benefit from staging such events. The international community recognizes India's actions as those of a failed state that has resorted to terrorism. Recent instances of India's involvement in violent incidents across the U. S., Canada, and Pakistan are clear examples of its troubling behavior.

The timing of the recent Pahalgam incident, which coincided with the visit of the U. S. Vice President to India, suggests that India intended to manipulate the situation to portray Pakistan and the Kashmir Freedom Movement as terrorist entities. Simultaneously, Prime Minister Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia aimed to convince the Kingdom not to support Pakistan or the Kashmir cause by labeling them as terrorist-linked. Kashmir has a history where, until now, no tourists have been harmed during the freedom movement, making this latest incident particularly suspicious and indicative of India using such tactics for the first time.

Moreover, this act appears designed to stoke further divisions, particularly between Hindus and Muslims within India and specifically in IIOJK. It is also notable that the incident took place approximately 400 kilometers away from the Line of Control (LoC), raising the question of how Pakistan could conduct an attack so far from the LoC in an area heavily monitored by Indian

forces. The answer seems clear: India staged this attack to falsely blame Pakistan and the Kashmir Freedom Movement.

This event serves as a wake-up call for nationalist and anti-Pakistan elements to understand the stark contrast between the approaches of India and Pakistan. On one side, India and its military continue to stage such operations in an effort to malign the Kashmir movement and crush it. On the other hand, Pakistan and its military not only defend Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) but also continue to morally and diplomatically support the Kashmir cause on international platforms.

Following the Pahalgam attack, Indian forces on the LoC killed two civilians from Kashmir, claiming they were terrorists. However, the Indian government later rejected this assertion. Locals identified the two victims as locals, both around 60 years old, who had lived in the area for generations. Their families are well known in the region, and their only occupation was grazing cattle. Meanwhile, after the Pahalgam attack, the people of Kashmir took to the streets in protest against India's false claims. They rejected the narrative put forward by Indian media, with many questioning the role of Indian intelligence agencies during the attack, suspecting they may have been involved in orchestrating it.

Incidents like the Pulwama and Pahalgam attacks serve as a reminder that such "dramas" are often India's own manipulations. Whenever it comes to the welfare of its people, India consistently overlooks their needs and instead engages in harmful and divisive actions. Kashmir is calling for freedom from India and the Kashmiri people are peacefully fighting against India's illegal occupation. The Pahalgam attack is yet another fabricated story that reveals India's true intentions. Pakistan remains a peaceful nation, but India must remember that Pakistan has the right to defend every inch of its territory and to respond to any act of aggression.

To Improve Society, Start by Fixing Your Own Home

We Always Talk About Change

We always talk about changing society and sometimes even try to play our part in it. But many of us forget that real change starts from home. If everyone improves their own home and behavior, then society as a whole will improve too. Just like if every house keeps its streets clean, the whole country will look clean. But sadly, we want society to improve even if we don't improve our own surroundings. That's not possible. It's just like chasing a dream that can never come true.

Where Does Real Training Begin?

People have different opinions about where real social training begins. Some say it's in schools and colleges, others say it's the society itself, and many believe it's the home. Hazrat Aisha (R. A.) narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The best person is the one who is best to his family." This shows that the home is the real training center for any society. Families make up society. If families are good, society will be good. If they are not, then society can never improve.

Two Types of Education

There are two kinds of education: formal and informal. Formal education prepares a child for a job. Informal education helps in becoming a better person for society. Most of the life lessons—what is right or wrong—are learned at home. Elders in the house must teach how to forgive small problems instead of reacting harshly. Forgiveness is

the key to peace in the home. If you like something someone did, praise it openly.

Real-Life Example

In European countries, people always say "You're welcome", "Thank you", and "Sorry." This is all home training. When such people go outside, they create the same peaceful and respectful environment.

Once, a neighbor said harsh words to another. The second neighbor ignored it. Later, his son found out and got very angry. He said he would take revenge. But the father calmly explained that he had already forgiven the neighbor and his son should do the same. This peaceful mindset stopped a big conflict. Later, the neighbor even apologized. This is what real parenting looks like.

Parents' Role

Parents should teach their kids that if they make a mistake, they will face the consequences. They should also teach them not to waste time complaining about others. Teach them to be strong, to forgive, and to think positively. Stay away from bad habits like you would run away from a snake. Also, encourage them to work and not become lazy.

Conclusion

Home is the most powerful source to improve society. Other institutions are secondary. We all must focus on creating a healthy, respectful, and positive home environment. If we all do this, a great change will come. Men and women both must play their part. This is the best way to build a society we can be proud of.

Lahore selected as ECO Tourism Capital for 2027 at Ministerial Meeting in Erzurum, Türkiye

Spokesman Report

ERZURUM, TÜRKIYE: In a landmark achievement for Pakistan, the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, held in Erzurum — the ECO Tourism Capital for 2025 — officially selected Lahore as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2027. The meeting brought together tourism ministers and senior officials from nine ECO member states, as well as representatives from the ECO Secretariat, ECO Observers, the Organization of Turkic States, and the Turkish Cypriot State.

The session opened with remarks by Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, ECO Secretary General, who emphasized the vital role of tourism in fostering regional integration. H. E. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, outlined Türkiye's strategies for strengthening its tourism sector.

Heading Pakistan's delegation,

MNA Ali Zahid Khan highlighted the immense tourism potential within the ECO region, noting that all member states are rich in natural, cultural, and historical assets. "By leveraging these resources, we can drive socio-economic development, enhance people-to-people contacts, and promote peace and prosperity across the region," he said.

He further informed the gathering that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is implementing a comprehensive tourism promotion strategy, aligned with ECO Vision 2025. These initiatives aim to position tourism as a major driver of economic growth and sustainable development.

During the proceedings, Pakistan's delegation delivered a highly acclaimed multimedia presentation on Lahore's vibrant cultural and historical landscape, leading to the unanimous selection of Lahore as

the ECO Tourism Capital for 2027.

The meeting also reviewed progress in regional tourism cooperation under the ECO framework and discussed the tourism-related components of ECO's forthcoming strategic vision for the next decade. A key highlight was the launch of the 1st Edition of the ECO Tourism Investment Guide, designed to attract investment and enhance tourism opportunities across the region.

The event concluded with the adoption of the "Erzurum Declaration," reaffirming member states' commitment to advancing regional tourism cooperation and outlining future strategies.

Pakistan's delegation, led by MNA Ali Zahid Khan, included Mr. Syed Ashiq Kirmani, Minister of Agriculture Punjab; Mr. Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director PTDC; Mr. Farid Tarar, Secretary Tourism Punjab; and Dr. Nasir Mehmood,



Managing Director TDCP. H. E. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy expressed his pleasure in hosting the delegates, reaffirming Türkiye's commitment to strengthening ties within the ECO tourism network.



India's anti-Pakistan narrative collapses internationally

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that India's narrative on terrorism has collapsed on the international stage.

He said that despite intense diplomatic lobbying, India has been unable to rally support from any country or international organization against Pakistan.

Speaking to the business commu-

nity, the veteran leader stated that Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif's offer of an independent and impartial investigation has shifted international opinion, further discrediting India's claims.

Mian Zahid Hussain emphasized that India's media machinery has failed to generate meaningful traction, leading to disappointment within the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"The global media has largely ignored India's accusations, while the flawed, contradictory, and baseless allegations have triggered scepticism even within India's own journalistic, military, and intellectual circles," he added.

He pointed to the growing doubts surrounding the Pahalagam incident, noting that Indian citizens are now questioning the official narrative. "Narendra Modi and his extremist associates are resorting to negative tactics to cover up their incompetence and crumbling reputations," he said.

India needs to acknowledge that the Pakistani nation stands united with its armed forces, a testament to our strength and resilience.

Mian Zahid Hussain criticized India's regional ambitions, stating that its dream of establishing dominance clashed with ground realities. "The world has rejected India's propaganda, and Pakistan's stance in favour of regional peace is gaining significant

international recognition," he noted, underlining the global support for Pakistan's stance.

Addressing India's threats regarding the Indus Waters Treaty, he asserted that India cannot divert or halt river flows unilaterally without serious consequences.

Pakistan's decision to close its airspace to Indian aircraft, resulting in estimated losses of \$400 million daily and causing significant delays, was cited as an effective countermeasure.

"Tourism in India is suffering due to growing insecurity, and foreign direct investment is under threat. The poorly conceived and executed Pahalagam drama has backfired spectacularly," he said.

Lahore Leads University organizes 2nd International Conference on Social Sciences

City Desk

LAHORE: The second two-day International Conference on Social Sciences (ICISS 2025), organized by Lahore Leads University, concluded in Lahore today. The conference was attended by eminent academicians, researchers, policymakers and professionals from all over the world and discussed the important role of social sciences in a rapidly changing world.

The top leadership of the university, Chairman Mian

Zahoor Ahmed Wattoo, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nadeem Bhatti, Executive Director Hamza Zahoor Wattoo, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Rafiqat Ali Akbar, Registrar Dr. Saeed Ahmed Wattoo, Dr. Hilal Fatima, all department chairpersons, faculty members and students attended the conference.

Additionally, research papers were also presented on entrepreneurship and the impact of social media and artificial intelligence on research.

Prominent speakers of

the first day of the conference included Prof. Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Director, Institute of Education and Research, Dr. Sajida Shahnaz Asma, (IVF Queen), Prof. Dr. Ijaz, Professor, Department of Education, Lahore Leads University, Prof. Dr. Waheed-ur- Rehman, Director, Urdu Department, University of Education and Dr. Baseera Amreen, Director, Institute of Urdu Language and Literature. On the last day of the conference, Dr. Aafra Iftikhar, Head of the Department of Journalism, Garrison

University, Dr. Arif Toor, Professor of Business Education, Yorkville University, Canada, Barrister Professor Dr. Satvinder School of Law, UK, Professor Dr. Riazul Haq Tariq, Member, Higher Education Commission, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Allama Iqbal Open University, Dr. Ijaz and Professor Dr. Iqbal of the Department of Islamia, Leeds University, Dr. Kashif Javed, Head of the Department of Law, Dr. Mahmood Azhar, Department of English, Dr. Attaullah and others were present.

Business Community unites behind government and Armed Forces

Tahir Amin Malik

The Acting President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, along with former Federal Minister for Commerce and FPCCI Group Leader Dr. Gohar Ejaz, FPCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President Zain Iftikhar Chaudhry, and Patron-in-Chief of the United Business Group (UBG) S. M. Tanveer, while addressing a press conference at the FPCCI

Regional Office in Lahore, affirmed that the business community stands resolutely alongside the Government and Armed Forces of Pakistan.

They pledged their readiness to sacrifice their businesses, lives, and wealth for the nation. They declared that the entire nation and business community are united under one resounding slogan: "Long Live Pakistan, Long Live Pakistan." The 240 million people of Pakistan stand together under one flag, their hearts beating

in unison with the spirit of the country. They cautioned that India should harbor no misconceptions, assuring that any aggression would be met with a fitting and decisive response.

The speakers expressed immense pride in the Pakistani Armed Forces, emphasizing that Pakistan's military ranks among the top five in the world. They vowed to fully support any decisions made by the state in matters related to trade and commerce. Reaffirming

their commitment, they stated that today's foremost agenda is: "Long Live Pakistan, Long Live Pakistan," and stressed that all their resources are dedicated to the service of the nation. They further highlighted that Pakistan's greatest asset is its armed forces. The FPCCI leadership reiterated their ongoing efforts across multiple fronts to bolster the national economy, setting an ambitious target of elevating Pakistan's exports to 100 billion dollars.

ISSI engages with delegation from Europe on global issues

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a three-member delegation led by Dr. Franz Baumann, President of the Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS), for an engaging and insightful discussion on major global challenges, including climate change, migration, and evolving security dynamics. Other members of the delegation included Dr. Afsar Rathor, Former UN Director across several UN agencies and currently President of the Austria-based LIOS-SOIL Organization; and Mr. Michael Zinkanell, Director of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES).

In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the growing need to build bridges between academia and the policy community. He stressed that as the world faces unprecedented transnational challenges, think-tanks must act as vital platforms to advance collective understanding and promote evidence-based policymaking. Ambassador Sohail also highlighted Pakistan's commitment to comprehensive security, where climate change,



human security, and migration now feature prominently alongside traditional security issues. He

also shared Pakistan's perspective on myriad dimensions of climate change and global response,

multiple aspects of migration issue, and importance of effective pathways for legal migration.

Dr. Franz Baumann by sharing his reflections on climate change as the gravest threat facing humanity.

He underlined that the global climate crisis is not evenly distributed but affects all nations, and urgently requires a shift away from fossil fuels. Dr. Baumann explained that the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" remains central, and that greater attention must be paid to historical emissions and per capita energy consumption disparities. He further noted the importance of involving academia, policymakers, and diplomats in a unified effort, mentioning that the Academic Council on the UN System aims to bring its prestigious annual conference to Lahore in 2027—a potential landmark event for the region.

Mr. Michael Zinkanell highlighted the strategic shifts in European security policy subsequent to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, noting the growing importance of the 'Indo-Pacific' for geopolitics, security, and economic development. He emphasized the complex link between climate change, displacement, and political instability, stressing the need for stronger regional cooperation and proactive governance. Dr. Afsar Rathor addressed climate and migration challenges, sharing his work on promoting regenerative agricul-

ture in Africa and warning about the rising threats of desertification and food insecurity. He cautioned about the scale of illegal migration, particularly among skilled Pakistanis, and underscored the need for greater awareness and institutional support to help youth access safe and legal migration pathways to Europe. The ISSI team, comprising senior researchers and experts, engaged actively with the delegation. They presented Pakistan's efforts toward climate adaptation, its leadership role in climate negotiations, and national initiatives like the National Security Policy's recognition of non-traditional security threats.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, underscored the value of continued dialogue and collaboration between ISSI and the visiting institutions — the ACUNS, the LIOS-SOIL Organization, and the AIES. Both sides expressed strong interest in formalizing institutional partnerships to promote joint research projects, academic exchanges, and policy dialogues, particularly on shared priorities such as climate governance, migration management, and evolving global security dynamics.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
114,063.90	115,019.81
Day's High	Day's Low
116,658.94	113,867.80
Index Value	Change
20,545,623,892	−1405.44
Percentage	Time
−1.22%	28 Apr, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,417.34	+2.09
Percentage	Time
+0.025%	28 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,228.03	+114.53
Percentage	Time
+0.29%	28 Apr, 3:22 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
35,839.99	+134.25
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	28 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.75	183.00
Bahrain Dinar	743.25	751.25
Canadian Dollar	203.60	206.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.71	43.11
Euro	318.90	321.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.83	36.18
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.97	2.03
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.05	915.55
Malaysian Ringgit	63.32	63.92
NewZealand \$	166.2	168.20
Norwegians Krone	26.44	26.74
Omani Riyal	727.40	735.90
Qatari Riyal	76.41	77.11
Saudi Riyal	75.10	75.65
Singapore Dollar	214.5	216.50
Swedish Korona	29.24	29.54
Swiss Franc	314.86	317.66
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.40
U.A.E Dirham	76.60	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	372.40	375.9
US Dollar	281.30	282.80

‘Concern Over
Highways Closures
in Sindh’, Asif Iqbal
Paracha

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Chairman Pakistan Soap Manufacturers Association (PSMA) Asif Iqbal Paracha has expressed concern over the closure of major Highways in Sindh, which is causing the worst financial crisis, with which the entire Economy of the Country in the grip. If such situation prevails further, there will be an acute shortage of the basic raw materials of Soap & allied commodities very soon in the entire country.

The Chairman PSMA has warned that due to ongoing protests and continuous road blockages in Sindh, export consignments worth hundreds of millions have been stranded for the past 12 days.

He cautioned that if the government fails to swiftly clear the blockades, the national exchequer could suffer losses amounting to billions of dollars. Delays and cancellations in the delivery of export orders have already jeopardized Pakistan's reputation in international markets.

Gold dip by
Rs.1,600 to
Rs.347,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed decrease of Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs. 347,100 on Monday against its sale at Rs. 348,700 on the last trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. Pakistani travel guides

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs.1,368 to Rs.297,582 from Rs. 298,950 whereas that of 10 gram 22 Karat went down to Rs.272,784 from Rs.274,047.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,497 and Rs.2,998 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$.16 \$3,289 from \$3,305 whereas silver rates were recorded at \$32.97, the Association reported.

Two-Day FDI digital forum begins
tomorrow

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A two-day Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Digital Forum will begin on Tuesday, with participants from 45 countries attending the event.

Briefing the media, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, said that more than 40 companies and startups would exhibit their products, while over 35 ministers and government delegations from various countries would also participate.

The event will feature more than 30 international speakers and over 50 CEOs from leading international IT companies.

The DFDI Forum 2025, organized by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication in collaboration with the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), aims to make Pakistan a key hub for digital investment, driving growth and innovation in the digital economy.

More than just a conference, the forum serves as a strategic platform to reshape digital investment trends, empower emerging economies, and promote technological advancements.

Through discussions and collaborations, the forum will create a favorable environment for



foreign investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's digital sector.

Key discussions will focus on developing supportive regulatory frameworks, enhancing digital connectivity, and promoting investment-friendly policies.

Organized jointly by the Government of Pakistan and the DCO, the DFDI Forum 2025

is designed to encourage cross-border digital investments, foster innovation, and accelerate economic growth.

She outlined four main objectives of the forum. The first, she said, is to create a platform where global policymakers can share best practices, strategies, and actions related to digital investment. "Bringing international stake-

holders together allows us to exchange valuable insights and experiences," she said.

The second objective is to bridge the gap between the global demand for skills in emerging technologies and the supply of trained human resources.

"We aim to provide training that meets both local and international market needs, helping Pakistani youth—both men and women—find remote and international employment opportunities," she added.

The third objective is to engage with global alliances and partnerships by involving local tech companies. "Through this forum, Pakistan can become a part of major global alliances, promoting digital cooperation at bilateral, multilateral, and organizational levels," the minister said.

The fourth objective is to ensure that Pakistan remains ready for future investment opportunities driven by technological advancement.

"Technology is transforming sectors like manufacturing, health, education, and agriculture. Pakistan must modernize its industries to remain competitive," she added.

Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan would assume the presidency of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) in 2026.

Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif awarding shield to Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer of Mobilink Bank, for his outstanding performance in the success of Prime Minister's Ramazan Relief Package.



Photo: Online

CCP brings together judiciary and
regulators for dialogue on competition law

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) hosted a high-level session titled "Leadership, Professionalism in Quasi-Judicial Role and Competition Law Jurisprudence", bringing together prominent judges and legal experts to share insights and discuss key challenges in the enforcement of competition law in Pakistan.

The keynote address was delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court, one of Pakistan's leading jurists in constitutional and competition law. Justice Hassan presented his views on "Maintainability of Writ Petitions – Doctrine of Ripeness," referring to his landmark judgments which have significantly influenced the interpretation of competition law.

The event featured distinguished speakers from both Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Deputy District Judge Ghazan Mahmood, a senior member of the Judiciary of England and Wales with over 25 years of experience, delivered a presentation on "Evidence in Civil Cases." Drawing from the UK legal framework, he offered comparative perspectives on how evidentiary standards influence fair adjudication in civil matters.

Following this, District Judge Sufyan



Rana, also from the UK judiciary and a specialist in mediation and judicial training, spoke on "Leadership and Professionalism in Quasi-Judicial Roles." He highlighted the importance of ethics, transparency, and continued judicial education, sharing best practices from his work across the UK and Europe.

Adding an academic perspective to the discussion, Dr. Ahmad Ghouri, Associate Professor at the University of Sussex and a renowned scholar in commercial and international law, addressed the complexities of cross-border regulatory frameworks and their impact on competition law. His talk

emphasized the need for harmonization and policy coherence in a globalized market.

Earlier, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Chairman CCP, in his welcome address emphasized the Commission's ongoing commitment to fostering a competitive and transparent economic environment. He underscored the importance of principled decision-making and strengthening the CCP's quasi-judicial role to ensure a level playing field in the marketplace.

Participants praised the initiative for creating a space for meaningful dialogue and promoting synergy between judicial and regulatory institutions.

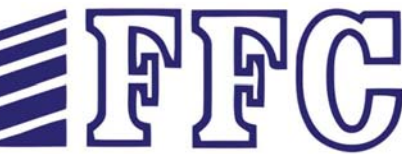
FFC announces results of First Quarter
for the Year 2025

Commerce Desk

Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has announced its financial result for the first quarter of 2025 ended March 31, 2025 in its Board of Directors meeting held on April 28, 2025.

FFC undertook scheduled maintenance of the manufacturing facilities at Goth Machhi and Port Qasim during the period, while no shut down was carried out last year. Aggregate Urea production stood

at 629 thousand tonnes while DAP output was recorded at 168 thousand tonnes. The fertilizer market remained oversupplied in first quarter, driven by weak farm economics and drought, resulting in lower fertilizer sales. FFC recorded Urea offtake of 538 thousand tonnes, down 26% year on year, compared to the industry's decline of 40%. The Company held only 16% of the sector's closing Urea inventory of ~825 thousand tonnes, reflecting



strong marketing efforts, consequently Urea market share improved to 49% from 45% of last year. In the DAP segment, sales of manufactured and imported products stood at 88 thousand tonnes, dominating the DAP market leadership with a share

of 63%.

Profitability of the merged entity stood at PKR 13.3 billion, compared to PKR 10.5 billion last year, reflecting a 27% increase. The Company also earned other income of PKR 7.4 billion which includes dividend of PKR 2.8 billion received from Askari Bank Limited. Earnings per share (EPS) of PKR 9.3 was recorded, up from PKR 8.3 per share from last year.

On a consolidated basis, FFC

recorded a PAT of Rs. 17.6 billion, reflecting a 39% increase over the same period last year, primarily driven by strong performance from FFC's standalone operations, supplemented by contributions from subsidiaries and associated companies.

Earnings per share (EPS) of PKR 9.3 was recorded, up from PKR 8.3 per share from last year. Board of Directors is pleased to announce the first interim dividend of 70% (Rs 7.00 per share) for the period.

Lucky Investments
Limited Awarded
AM2 Asset Manager
Rating by PACRA

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Investments Limited (Lucky Investments) has been awarded an initial Asset Manager Rating of "AM2" with a Positive Outlook by The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited (PACRA). This significant milestone marks a strong start for the newly established Islamic asset management company, which aims to become the preferred choice for Shariah-compliant investment solutions in Pakistan—driven by a vision of sustainable growth, integrity, and innovation.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, CEO of Lucky Investments, stated, "We are grateful to Allah (SWT) for a rewarding start to our journey. This rating is a testament to our strong sponsor support, robust governance, and professional management. We remain committed to continuously raising our standards and deeply appreciate the trust and confidence our stakeholders and investors have placed in us."

The AM2 rating reflects the solid foundation laid by the Company's sponsors, underpinned by a substantial capital injection and a sound governance framework. The direct involvement of sponsors on the Board and key Committees reinforces stakeholder confidence and supports strategic oversight.

PACRA's rating also acknowledges the depth and expertise of Lucky Investments' management team, which is widely recognized in the market for its proven track record. The Company's leadership is focused on building a resilient institutional framework that will underpin long-term performance and value creation.

The Positive Outlook assigned to the rating highlights the forward-looking initiatives already underway, with further upside potential as these efforts bear fruit. The management's

approach reflects a strong commitment to professionalism, adherence to industry best practices, and a drive for innovation within the Islamic finance space.

Lucky Investments Limited is a subsidiary of YB Pakistan Limited, signifying the YB Group's strategic entry into the Islamic capital markets. As a full-fledged Islamic Asset Management Company, Lucky Investments marks the Group's first foray into the financial services sector.

This development comes at a pivotal time, as Pakistan transitions toward a Shariah-compliant financial system in accordance with the Federal Shariah Court's directive to eliminate interest-based finance by December 2027.

The YB Group is one of Pakistan's most diversified and respected business conglomerates, with a strong presence across key industries including cement, textiles, automobiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, education, power generation, real estate, commodities trading, and smartphones.

Capitalizing on the rising demand for Islamic investment solutions, Lucky Investments made history by executing Pakistan's largest-ever mutual fund IPO—raising PKR 50 billion and breaking all previous subscription records.

The Company is led by co-founder and CEO, Mohammad Shoaib, CFA—a veteran of Pakistan's Islamic asset management industry with over three decades of experience. He is widely regarded for his pioneering role in developing Pakistan's capital markets and advancing Islamic finance.

Built on strong Islamic principles, Lucky Investments is committed to offering authentic Shariah-compliant investment and advisory services. Its mission is to be the premier choice for investors seeking ethical, innovative, and sustainable financial solutions.

Dutch hockey legend Bovelanders leads youth clinic in Islamabad

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dutch field hockey star Floris Jan Bovelanders led a training clinic for young players in Islamabad on Monday, describing the experience as an opportunity to "share knowledge and strengthen connections through sport."

The event, organised by the Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy (KJHA) with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands and Pakistan Sports Board was held at the Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium as part of Dutch King's Day celebrations. Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan Henny Fokel de Vries, Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mohyuddin Wani, Director Sports HEC Javed Memon, and Olympian Khawaja Junaid were also present on this occasion.

Bovelanders, worked with players from KJHA and clubs in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The clinic focused on modern penalty



corner techniques, game awareness and attacking strategies.

The Dutch hockey legend stressed that Pakistan needs to focus on nurturing top athletes and talent. He said that compared to the past, hockey has become a modern sport where mastering new techniques is crucial. He expressed confidence that Pakistan can perform better in inter-

national hockey and added that he was very happy to visit Pakistan.

He also highlighted the importance of coaching alongside player development, noting that skills must be polished in addition to talent. He said he was unaware of the current situation of hockey in Pakistan but emphasized that the shortcomings that led to a decline in standards must be addressed.



Speaking to the media, Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination Mohyuddin Wani stated that they aim to combine education and sports, believing that better results will be achieved when both sectors collaborate. He

said that steps are being taken at the grassroots level to improve sports, including initiatives for the betterment and development of hockey.

Olympian Khawaja Junaid, the Prime Minister's Youth Program

Focal Person for Sports, said that efforts are underway for the development of hockey in Pakistan. He appreciated the strong support from the Prime Minister's Youth Program and the Dutch Embassy, emphasizing that sports diplo-

macy is being promoted. He added that Bovelanders' visit to Pakistan would have a positive impact on the improvement of hockey.

Photos: Online by Sultan Bashir

Multan Sultans and Karachi Kings Match Scheduled for May 1

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: PSL X Multan Sultans one match shifted to Lahore, a blow to Multan Sultans. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has changed the schedule of two HBL matches today.

The afternoon match between Multan Sultans and Karachi Kings was scheduled for May 1 at the Multan Cricket Stadium, now it will be held at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, with the first ball being bowled at 3 pm.

This also means that Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium will now host a double header on May 1, which is also a public holiday (Labor Day). In the

evening, Gaddafi Stadium will host the match between Lahore Qalandars and Quetta Gladiators as per the original schedule, which will start at 8 pm.

Furthermore, the last match of the Multan League, scheduled for May 10 in the afternoon between Multan Sultans and Quetta Gladiators, will now be held on the evening of May 11, with the first ball being bowled at 8 pm at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

This decision has been taken after several discussions with all stakeholders and keeping in mind the operational ease and recent heat waves in some parts of

the country.

Ticket Update

Tickets purchased online for the previously scheduled May 1st match in Multan will be automatically refunded to the accounts used at the time of booking.

Tickets purchased from Express Centres will have to be physically returned by the fans from TCS outlets. We regret the inconvenience caused to the fans in this regard. Fans can now enjoy the double header in Lahore with the same ticket purchased earlier for the evening match. Additionally, fans who have already purchased tickets for the May 10th match can use them for the next day (May 11th).

Int'l basketball camp concludes after boosting players' skills

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A special basketball training camp for young players was wrapped up successfully in Islamabad on Monday, giving athletes a chance to learn from top international coaches.

According to a press release, the Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) organized the event with help from American coaches Luke Elie and Jacob Kim who taught modern techniques to improve fitness, teamwork and game strategies. The camp was held at Bahria University which provided high-quality facilities.

FBBA General Secretary Ouj E Zahoor thanked the coaches for sharing their expertise and praised the players for their hard work. "This camp has helped our young athletes and local coaches learn



advanced skills," he said.

On the final day, friendly matches were played, and all participants received certificates.

The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) called the camp an important step in raising the sport's standards. "Such partnerships help our players grow and improve coaching methods nationwide," a spokesperson said.

The event marks progress in Pakistan's efforts to develop basketball talent through international collaboration.

Squash legend Jahangir Khan urges India to keep politics out of sports

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Squash legend Jahangir Khan has urged India government to separate politics from sports.

In a candid message to India, the former world champion emphasized that sportsmen serve as ambassadors of peace and goodwill between nations.

Jahangir expressed disappointment over reports that Indian authorities had repeatedly denied visas to Pakistani players.

He added, "It is wrong for



India to bring politics into sports. He stressed that in today's world, battles should be fought

on playing fields, not through wars.

Commenting on the growing

tensions, he said, "I often hear that India refuses visas to Pakistani athletes.

This is not a healthy sign. Every player, including me, has fans across the border in India. Sports can build bridges, not barriers."

The squash legend reaffirmed his willingness to travel to India if invited to play or attend events, expressing hope that such gestures could open a pathway toward improving bilateral relations.

"Whenever I am invited to India for a sporting event, I will

surely go. Who knows, perhaps my visit might help foster better understanding between the two countries," he remarked optimistically.

"Every player is a representative of their country. Our job is to promote peace and mutual respect through sportsmanship."

Jahangir Khan, who enjoys immense respect and a dedicated fan base in India, lamented the recent trend of politicizing sporting ties, warning that denying visas to athletes hampers not only sports but also people-to-people relations.

Sohail Adnan Wins Morgan Reach Junior Squash Championship 2025 Title

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's rising squash star, Sohail Adnan, has added another prestigious title to his growing list of achievements by winning the Morgan Reach Junior Squash Championship 2025.

In a display of exceptional skill and determination, Sohail triumphed in the Boys U-15 final by defeating Muhammad Bin Aatif in straight sets, with a commanding score of 11-4, 11-5, 11-5.

This victory adds to Sohail's impressive streak of international successes, including his titles at the British Junior Open 2025, the Scottish Junior Open 2024, and the Asian Junior U13 Championship 2024. His consistent performance across major tournaments continues to highlight his talent, discipline, and passion for the sport.

The BARD Foundation, which proudly supports Sohail's journey, expressed great pride in his latest accomplishment.

Mahreen Dawood shared her pride: "Sohail Adnan's remarkable victory at the Morgan Reach Junior Squash Championship once again demonstrates the power of hard work and perseverance. We are incredibly proud to be part of his journey and look forward to seeing him continue to make Pakistan proud."

Abdul Razak Dawood also applauded Sohail's performance: "Sohail Adnan's victory at the Morgan Reach Junior Squash Championship is a moment of immense pride for all of us. His dedication, discipline, and fighting spirit reflect the true potential of Pakistan's youth. We at BARD Foundation are honored to support Sohail and are confident that he will continue to inspire future generations and elevate Pakistan's name on the world stage."



ABHI and Matco Foods Join Forces to Empower Employees with Instant Salary Access

City Desj

KARACHI: ABHI, an embedded finance platform revolutionizing access to financial wellness, has partnered with Matco Foods Limited, South Asia's leading food processing and export company. Through this collaboration, Matco Foods will be providing ABHI's Earned Wage Access (EWA) service to its employees, reinforcing its longstanding commitment to employee empowerment and financial well-being.

Pakistan Super League Cricket

Quetta Gladiators Team Defeated Peshawar Zalmi Cricket Team by 64 runs



Asim Tanveer

In a crucial match of Pakistan Super League (PSL) 10, Quetta Gladiators defeated Peshawar Zalmi by 64 runs.

Babar Azam flopped, and Zalmi's batting lineup collapsed like a wall of sand. It was a dignified victory for Quetta Gladiators, and the latest cricket updates highlight the dominance of Quetta's bowling attack in the HBL PSL 10. This confident 64-run win against Peshawar Zalmi has helped Quetta continue its rise on the points table.

Babar Azam's failure and Zalmi's crumbling batting lineup were major highlights. Faheem Ashraf also emerged as a hero with his brilliant performance. At Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, chasing the target of 179 runs set by Quetta Gladiators, Peshawar Zalmi's innings turned into a nightmare. After a decent start of 17 runs, half of Zalmi's team was back in the pavilion before reaching 50 runs.

Babar Azam scored 12
Saim Ayub made 5
Mohammad Harris managed 17

Abdul Samad could only score 2

Mitchell Owen scored 15, and Alzarri Joseph was out for a duck. Hussain Talat tried to fight back but couldn't succeed — he scored 39 runs before falling as the ninth wicket. The entire Peshawar Zalmi team was bundled out for just 114 runs in 15.2 overs, handing Quetta a 64-run victory.

For Quetta Gladiators, Faheem Ashraf bowled superbly, taking 5 wickets for 33 runs in 3.3 overs. Khurram Shahzad picked up 2 wickets, while Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Wasim, and Abrar Ahmed claimed a wicket each.

Mocking celebration by Amir after Babar's wicket; Sir Vivian Richards unhappy

Earlier, Peshawar Zalmi had won the toss and opted to bowl first.

Quetta Gladiators had a solid start with a 46-run opening stand, and they were only one down at 91.

Finn Allen smashed 31 runs off 16 balls, creating a storm.

Rilee Rossouw made 27
Captain Saud Shakeel scored 32 off 26 balls



Kusal Mendis scored 32 off 27 balls
Mark Chapman made 33 off 26 balls.

Quetta Gladiators posted 178 runs for 7 wickets. For Peshawar Zalmi, Alzarri Joseph took 3 wickets for 33 runs and Saim Ayub picked 2 wickets for 24 runs.

Looking at Quetta's batting, except for Finn Allen's aggressive start, no one went into full attack



mode, but everyone contributed responsibly, maintaining decent strike rates.

On the other hand, Peshawar Zalmi failed to show any such discipline.

Turning point of the match: Mohammad Amir's bouncer to Babar Azam, followed by a mocking celebration after dismissing him. Legendary mentor Sir Vivian Richards advised Amir to stay calm after-

ward. With this victory, Quetta Gladiators have now moved to 6 points from 5 matches, leveling with Lahore Qalandars and Karachi Kings.

All three teams have equal points, but Quetta is ranked third due to a better net run rate.

Peshawar Zalmi are at fifth place with 4 points from 6 matches, while Multan Sultans sit at the bottom of the table.

Anti-India Protest

KARACHI: Teachers and students from Karachi University display banners and shout slogans during an anti-India protest in Karachi on April 28, 2025. Indian and Pakistan soldiers exchanged gunfire in disputed Kashmir for a fourth night in a row, New Delhi's army said on April 28, the latest violence as relations between the rival nuclear-armed powers fray. Pakistan also warned that any attempt by India to stop water supplies from the Indus River would be an "act of war".



Photo: Online

Senators warn India of 'crushing response' over false allegations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers from both the government and opposition benches of the Senate declared on Monday that they stand united for the country's security, vowing to give India a "crushing response" amid fresh accusations against Pakistan following the Pahalgam incident.

During a session chaired by Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan, senators

fiercely rejected India's claims, describing them as habitual and politically motivated fabrications. They accused Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of exploiting tensions for political gains ahead of elections.

Barrister Ali Zafar, addressing the House, said that the extremist Modi government had maliciously blamed Pakistan once again. He warned Modi that "the world is not foolish" and that

the BJP leadership is trying to reap political dividends through war-mongering.

Senator Faisal Vawda echoed strong sentiments, asserting that Pakistan would "pulverise" India if provoked. He emphasised the need for a united political front, suggesting that an all-parties conference be convened.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui highlighted India's longstanding brutalities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and

Kashmir (IIOJK), stating that over 90,000 Kashmiris have been martyred so far. He lambasted India for becoming "the largest graveyard for Muslims," and questioned how investigations into the Pahalgam incident immediately blamed Pakistan, suggesting the allegations were premeditated.

Opposition Leader Senator Shibli Faraz said India's actions were tantamount to acts of war and warned that Pakistan's

forces are prepared for any aggression. "The timing of the accusations is crucial, clearly aimed at diverting attention on multiple fronts," he added.

Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar stressed that India's policies were based on Hindutva extremism, which has deepened hatred across the region and marginalised minorities. He said the resistance in Kashmir remains strong despite relentless oppression.

Aurangzeb highlights economic turnaround at Harvard University conference

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Aurangzeb, while speaking at Harvard University, said that Pakistan had reached a pivotal moment of economic recovery and transformation.

"After inheriting an economy facing significant challenges—from contracting GDP to depleting reserves—we have stabilized the fundamentals, restored confidence, and reignited growth," he said at the conference titled "Bridging Divides, Building Tomorrow: Pakistan's Path to Inclusive Growth and Governance."

The Pakistan Conference is an annual flagship event that



brings together policymakers, academics, business leaders, and students to discuss Pakistan's economic, political, and social trajectory, according to press release issued by finance

ministry here Monday.

Organized by Harvard students with support from university research centers, the event is the largest student-led conference on

Pakistan in the United States. The conference serves as a vital forum to advance collaborative solutions, promote global engagement, and showcase the creativity and

resilience of the Pakistani people.

Aurangzeb highlighted key achievements including a historic reduction in inflation to 0.7%, the lowest in 60 years; foreign exchange reserves doubled; a 3% currency appreciation; and a current account surplus exceeding \$1 billion in March 2025.

Pakistan also witnessed a 44% increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), a 24% rise in IT exports, and record-high remittances projected at \$38 billion. For the first time in 24 years, Pakistan achieved a fiscal surplus, with the highest primary fiscal surplus in two decades. Fitch has upgraded Pakistan's credit sovereign credit rating to B+ with a stable outlook.

India signals for military action against Pakistan: report

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Indian police officers stop vehicles at a check point following a suspected militant attack, near Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, April 22, 2025. Reuters

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has seemed to be building a case for military action against its neighboring archrival, the New York Times reported.

The NYT quoted some Indian officials, stating that "Modi has spoken on the phone with more than a dozen world leaders and diplomats from 100 missions in India's capital have filed into the foreign ministry for briefings."

Modi, in a speech on Thursday, vowed to impose harsh penalties and destroy terror safe havens, according to a NYT report.



"In an indication of how volatile the situation remains, the security forces of the two sides have exchanged intermittent small-arms fire across the border," the report said.

The report highlighted a rise in anti-Muslim sentiment in India, particularly affecting Kashmiri students studying in other Indian cities, many of whom are experiencing significant

harassment and feeling pressured to return home.

Also, in the report, it was mentioned that in Kashmir, Indian forces have initiated a widespread crackdown, detaining hundreds as they search for those responsible for recent attacks.

In briefings to diplomats at the foreign ministry, Indian officials stated that Pakistan has a history of supporting terrorist groups targeting India, NYT reported.

"They mentioned that the investigation is ongoing and referenced technical intelligence linking the attackers from last week to Pakistan, including facial recognition data."

Analysts and diplomats noted that the current lack of strong evidence suggests two possibilities, as stated in the report:

Pakistan to safeguard its due share of water: DPM



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday emphasized that Pakistan will take all appropriate steps to safeguard its due share of water, guaranteed by the Indus Waters Treaty.

He was chairing a high-level meeting on the Indus Waters Treaty in the light of India's move to hold the treaty in abeyance.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers for Law & Justice and Water Resources, Attorney General, senior officials and technical experts.

He underscored that India's

unilateral and illegal move to hold the treaty in abeyance contravened the established norms of inter-state relations, international law, and the treaty's own provisions.

He stressed that the treaty is critical to regional stability and its sanctity must be preserved. Noting that the waters of the Indus River System remain a lifeline for Pakistan's 240 million people, he deplored the Indian attempts to weaponize water.

He reiterated that Pakistan will continue to advocate for the full implementation of the Treaty to ensure the protection of its water rights and the well-being of its people.

Pakistan defense minister warns of possible attack by India



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's defence minister said on Monday that a military incursion by neighbouring India was imminent in the aftermath of a deadly militant attack on tourists in Kashmir last week, as tensions rise between the two nuclear-armed nations.

The militant attack killed 26 people and triggered outrage in Hindu-majority India, along with

calls for action against Muslim-majority Pakistan. India accuses Pakistan of backing militancy in Kashmir, a region both claim and have fought two wars over.

"We have reinforced our forces because it is imminent now. So in that situation, some strategic decisions have to be taken, so those decisions have been taken," Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Reuters in an interview at his office in Islamabad.

US in touch with India and Pakistan

Reuters

WASHINGTON: The U. S. State Department said on Sunday Washington was in touch with both India and Pakistan while urging them to work towards what it called a "responsible solution" as tensions have risen between the two Asian nations following a recent Islamist militant attack in Kashmir.

In public, the U.S. government has expressed support for India after the attack but has not criticized Pakistan. India blamed Pakistan for the April 22 attack in Indian-administered Kashmir that killed over two dozen people. Pakistan denies responsibility

and called for a neutral probe.

"This is an evolving situation and we are monitoring developments closely. We have been in touch with the governments of India and Pakistan at multiple levels," a U.S. State Department spokesperson told Reuters in an emailed statement. "The United States encourages all parties to work together towards a responsible resolution," the spokesperson added.

The State Department spokesperson also said Washington "stands with India and strongly condemns the terrorist attack in Pahalgam," reiterating comments similar to recent ones made by President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance.

Indian woman demands Modi's resignation over Pahalgam attack

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Modi government's policies are increasingly sparking public unrest and anger, as Indian citizens openly question its failures following the latest terror incident.

Following the Pahalgam attack, a brave Indian woman openly demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation, criticising him for failing to catch the real attackers and instead diverting public attention.

Addressing PM Modi directly, she said in a video statement, "Stop fooling the people by labelling

Muslims as terrorists. First catch the actual attackers before talking about stopping Pakistan's water."

She accused Modi of inciting internal conflicts rather than focusing on bringing the Pahalgam attackers to justice. She questioned the BJP government's history, asking, "Who was responsible for the 1984 Sikh massacre? Is killing Muslims for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' not terrorism?"

She further pointed out the growing harassment of Kashmiri students in Indian universities, emphasising the deteriorating state of minority rights under Modi's rule.