



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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PIA to begin direct flights between Lahore and Paris

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has decided to begin direct flights between Lahore and Paris. PIA will begin direct flights between Lahore and Paris on June 18. Initially, PIA will operate one flight per week between Lahore and Paris.



Another setback: India's spy satellite fails due to rocket fault

In another blow to its strategic ambitions, India suffered a major setback on Sunday when its latest satellite mission, EOS-09, failed to reach orbit following a launch anomaly. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed. The mission's first and second rocket stages performed nominally, but an unexpected anomaly occurred in the third stage, resulting in the loss of the Earth Observation Satellite-09 (EOS-09).

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Real truth

The dossier irrefutable evidence of historic success in Operation Bunyan Murs, the Pahalgam false flag, and Indian aggression

OPERATION BUNYANUM MARSOOS



Photo: PID

Pakistan releases dossier exposing Indian aggression, Pahalgam false flag operation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday released a detailed dossier exposing India's alleged false flag operation in Pahalgam and the subsequent unprovoked military aggression targeting civilian areas inside Pakistan. The document also outlines the success of Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, Pakistan's retaliatory military response conducted under the right to self-defence.

According to the dossier, the Pahalgam incident on April 22, 2025, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, was

"a false flag operation orchestrated by India and deliberately exploited as a pretext to justify its aggression, serving internal political objectives rather than genuine security concerns."

Just ten minutes after the attack, Indian authorities reportedly lodged an FIR against Pakistan without any investigation or credible evidence. Pakistan offered a joint, neutral international inquiry, which India rejected.

Detail Report available on
[https://dailyspokesman.net/live/pakistan-releases-dossier-exposing-indian-aggression-pahal-](https://dailyspokesman.net/live/pakistan-releases-dossier-exposing-indian-aggression-pahalgam-false-flag-operation/)

gam-false-flag-operation/

"It is evident that the Pahalgam attack was a false flag operation; fabricated facts were used to justify attacks on Muridke, Bahawalpur, and Muzaffarabad, resulting in civilian deaths, including women and children," the dossier notes.

The dossier also includes satellite imagery, international media reports, and technical evidence pointing to Indian culpability and disinformation. It states that Indian media and RAW-affiliated social media accounts launched a coordinated propaganda campaign that

incited war hysteria and disseminated fake news targeting Pakistan.

"India's immediate attribution of blame within minutes raises serious concerns about the integrity of its claims; no standard investigative procedures were followed," the dossier states.

Pakistan responded to the attacks by launching Operation Bunyanum Marsoos on May 10, in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

"Pakistan responded with precision strikes solely on military targets; strictly avoiding civilian areas," the document

stresses.

According to the dossier, "5 Indian aircraft and large drones were shot down, S-400 systems at Adampur and Bhuj neutralised, and BrahMos storage sites at Beas and Nagrota were destroyed."

Additional targets included military logistics hubs, command centres, and radar sites used in the initial aggression. The document highlights that Pakistan exercised "brutal but measured" force in compliance with international law, and refrained from escalating beyond targeted military action.

PM Shehbaz to visit Karachi, lauds Navy's role in 'Operation Bunyanum-Marsoos'



Spokesman Report

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will visit Karachi on Monday to acknowledge the Pakistan Navy's role in successfully countering Indian aggression during Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, official sources said.

According to sources, the prime minister will meet with officers and personnel of the

Pakistan Navy during his visit. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf will receive the premier upon arrival.

Prime Minister Shehbaz is expected to address the naval officers and sailors and pay tribute to their professionalism and preparedness in thwarting hostile actions by the Indian Navy during the recent escalation.

Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu are also expected to accompany the prime minister on this visit.

In addition to his engagement with the armed forces, PM Shehbaz will also hold meetings with Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah during his stay in Karachi.

DPM/FM Dar to visit China on Monday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Wang Yi, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will undertake an official visit to Beijing from 19 to 21 May.

"During the visit, the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister will hold in-depth discussions with Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the evolving regional situation in South Asia and its implications for peace and stability," Foreign Office Spokesperson, on Sunday, said in a press release.

The two sides will also review the entire spectrum of Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and global developments of mutual interest.



"The visit forms part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China. It also underscores the two countries' shared commitment to further strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership," it was further added.

Relief to be provided to common men in new budget: Rana Sanaullah



City Desk

KARACHI: The Financial team of the federal government led by Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah met with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and MQM-Pakistan's leadership here at Governor House on Sunday and discussed proposed measures to provide relief to common men in the upcoming federal budget.

Government team comprising of Federal Minister for Finance Aurangzeb under the supervision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, also decided to provide relief to the common men in the upcoming budget.

Rana Sanaullah earlier met Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar and leading representatives of the business community at the Chief Minister House and discussed the budget making process.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at the Governor House, Rana Sanaullah said that just as the entire nation has proved in its victory against India with unity that the country's defense is in strong hands, now we should have to move forward for economic prosperity in the country.

He said that like the defense sector, the country has now come out of the economic crisis and the economic team headed by Federal Finance Minister Aurangzeb under the supervision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, also decided to provide relief to the common men in the upcoming budget.

Pakistan-IMF talks on budget proposals to start today

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Policy-level negotiations between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the budget proposals for fiscal year 2025-26 are set to start tomorrow which will continue until May 23.

Sources said Finance Ministry's team will share various proposals with international lenders to offer relief to the salaried class. The IMF team will urge need for alternative revenue measures to offset any concessions.

The talks come amid concerns raised by the IMF in its recent report on Pakistan's external financial needs, said that although Pakistan's debt repayment capacity has improved but the risks persist.

The IMF team will urge



Pakistan not to offer more subsidies which may jeopardize the country's fragile economic stability.

According to the IMF, Pakistan faces an external financing requirement of \$19.3 billion in the next fiscal year alone. The need may rise to \$19.75 billion in 2026-27, followed by \$31.35 billion in 2027-28 — the largest demand over the five-year outlook. Further external financing requirements include \$23.13 billion in 2028-29 and \$22.16 billion by 2030.

PISTA KHATAI BISCUIT

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BRANCH - 1 Airport Link Road Gulzar e Quaid, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

BRANCH - 2 Civic Center, Airport Housing Society, Iqbal Road, Rawalpindi

Punjab Governor lauds role of Sir Syed education foundation in promotion of education

 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Punjab Governor Sardar Salim Haider Khan lauded the role of Sir Syed Educational Foundation of Pakistan in promotion of education in the district Attock and termed a beacon to all other to follow the rich tradition to equip youth of the area with quality education. He expressed these views on the occasion of inauguration of Student Support Center of Sarhad University of Science and Technology Peshawar at the office of foundation in Hassanabad on Sunday. Under which associate programs in English, Urdu, and Education and in addition to BS English, BS Urdu, BS Education, B. Ed classes are also being offered for the first time in the history of Hassan Abdal.

While commenting on the regional strategic and security situation in connection with Operation Bunyan Marsoos, the governor has credited the military victory to the unwavering support of Pakistan's 250 million citizens, praising the Armed Forces for their courage and professionalism. Governor Haider praised the role of the mili-



tary leadership including Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed Baber and the Navy for their outstanding performance adding that the armed forces thwarted hostile designs with exceptional valour. "The coordination between the forces and the

political leadership, especially Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's diplomatic efforts, uplifted the nation's morale globally," he noted. He further stated that the Pakistani public was so motivated that they were ready to take up arms themselves. While taking a jibe at party arch-

rival PTI founder leader Imran Khan, Mr Haider that he (Imran Khan) was much hurry then the Indian government to send back Indian air force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman was captured inside Pakistani territory after his fighter jet was shot down by Pakistani pilots.

Zafar Mahmood Malik, director general Rehmat Ul-Lil-Alameen Authority speaking on this occasion has said that the foundation is the pioneer institution in the private sector which has implemented the newly carved syllabus on the character building. He revealed that the authority has formulated the syllabus to be implemented in the educational institutions in all four provinces besides Azad Kashmir and GB to address the issues of intolerance, extremism and sectarianism.

Dr. Sarfraz Khan, former Director, Area Study Centre University of Peshawar, Sir Syed Foundation President Tahir Mahmood Durrani, Project Director Sir Syed Educational Foundation of Pakistan Qazi Zahoor-ul-Haq, PPP district President Ashar Hayat, PPP tehsil President Zulfiqar Hayat Khan also spoke on this occasion.

Masood Khan urges diaspora unity to advance Kashmir cause



 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and senior diplomat, Sardar Masood Khan, has called on Pakistanis and Kashmiris living in the United Kingdom, Europe, and other parts of the world to unify their efforts and take advantage of renewed global interest in the Kashmir issue to present it in its true perspective.

Speaking at an event organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, for representatives of the diaspora community, Mr. Khan said the recent India-Pakistan confrontations have reminded the international community of the urgent need for a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute-long recognized as a key flashpoint between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

He emphasized the critical role played by the diaspora in internationalizing the Kashmir issue, especially following the revocation of Article 370 by India in August 2019, which he described as a global turning point.

Mr. Khan lauded the support extended by countries such as China, Turkey, Malaysia, and Azerbaijan in recent times and criticized the broader international indifference toward the human rights violations in Kashmir, warning that this neglect poses a threat to regional peace and stability.

Kashmir remains a potential flashpoint for conflict between India, Pakistan: Shabir Shah

 Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Veteran Kashmiri leader and Chairman Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has appealed to the international community to play its much needed role to help resolve the Kashmir dispute to avoid potential nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan in future.



In his message from Tihar jail, the DFP leader said that the recent India-Pakistan standoff has raised serious concerns about the possibility of a nuclear war, with both countries possessing nuclear capabilities. Shah appreciated the world leaders especially president Trump for his unprecedented role in diffusing the recent crisis that could have jeopardized peace in the region and even led to a wider conflict. He also praised the Pakistani political and military leadership for exercising maximum constraint, which he said had been instrumental in preventing the situation from spiraling into full-scale war.

Shah while welcoming the president Trump's mediation offer to resolve the longstanding Kashmir issue, he said, after the failure of bilateralism an effective third party median has become imperative to bring about a permanent solution of the decade's long dispute, which remains a potential flashpoint for conflict between the two nuclear armed neighbours.

"While both India and Pakistan have engaged in bilateral talks, these talks have often resulted in diplomatic stalemates", he said, adding that the leadership across the political spectrum in Kashmir have time and again emphasized the need for third-party mediation, arguing that bilateral negotiations alone are insufficient to resolve the issue.

Highlighting the dangerous dimensions of the Kashmir dispute, he said despite the passage of over seven decades the dispute hangs like the sword of Damocles over the two nations.

"The conflict, which has now assumed alarming proportions, continues to threaten peace and stability of the entire South Asian region", Shah said, adding that countless efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the dispute at bilateral level have been made but things have only gone from bad to worse.

Sardar Attique condemns Indian aggression, offers condolences to families of martyrs

 Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD/BARNALA/BHIMBER: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has started his tour of the areas affected by Indian firing on the LoC. Yesterday, President of Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan reached Barnala along with a delegation and after the brilliant success of Operation Bunyan Marsus Maharka e Haq, the people living on the ceasefire line and their brave armed forces of Pakistan were expressed solidarity. In Barnala, former President of the party Mr. Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral Advocate, Raja Iqbal Inqilabi, Chairman Town Committee Kot Jamil Ijaz Gul, Vice Chairman Shafiq Balo, Mirza Usman Jaral and others along with others visited the homes of those martyred and injured in Indian firing in LoC Chamb Kot Jamil Hazari Kajlor Bania and expressed their condolences to them and offered Fateha and prayed for the recovery of the injured

Meanwhile, President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan arrived in Bhimber on a two-day visit and was given a grand welcome. He addressed the Muslim Conference Executive Council in Bhimber. Condolences were offered to his son and other relatives and friends on the death of Mirza Nawaz Jaral, a member of the J&K Muslim Conference. Later, the President of the Muslim Conference offered Fateha on the death of Councilor Mirza Saqib Jaral, brother of Sessions Judge Mirza Jahangir Jaral, in Hazari. Acting President of the Muslim Conference District Bhimber, Chaudhry Muhammad Yousuf, members of the Central Executive Council, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah Gilani, Haji Muhammad Akram, Ms. Nabila Siddiqui, President of the Muslim Conference Women's Section Mirpur Division, Ms. Amira Khanum, General Secretary of the Women's Section of the Samahni constituency, Ms. Shazia Kausar, President of the Muslim Conference Town Committee, Samahni, Mirza Shamrez Yasin Zargar, Senior Vice President of the Muslim Conference Samahni constituency, Abdul Qadeer Mughal, Organizer, Raja Nasir Ali Bandalvi, Mirza Mohsin, Ambassador, Raja Nadeem. Khan Raja Mazhar Iqbal, Hafiz Ansar Mahmood and other workers participated in the meeting and congratulated the Armed Forces of Pakistan and the entire nation on the brilliant success of Operation Banyan Marsus through a resolution and expressed the determination that the entire nation stands by its brave forces of Pakistan and will give a devastating response while preventing any possible aggression of the enemy with full force.

Preparation of upcoming Eid al-Adha

KARACHI: Traders displayed cattle attraction for customers for the upcoming Eid al-Adha at Karachi Cattle Market in the Provincial Capital. Karachi Cattle Market is Asia's biggest cattle market set up at Karachi's Superhighway.



Photo: Online

Levelling Up: How Gaming and AI Are Powering Pakistan's Digital Future

Until just a decade ago, gaming in Pakistan was seen as little more than a hobby for idle youth. But in 2025, the narrative has flipped. Gaming is now a multimillion-dollar industry in Pakistan, fueling jobs, innovation, and even national pride.

Fueled by cheaper smartphones, better internet penetration, and a youthful population, gaming has become a symbol of digital literacy. PUBG Mobile, for instance, exploded into the mainstream, inspiring national-level eSports tournaments and celebrity status for top players.

Titles like Valorant, Dota 2, Call of Duty: Mobile, and Free Fire have nurtured competitive communities. Streamers like Star Anonymous and 47 Khalifa have drawn millions of followers, turning hobbies into high-earning careers.

Meanwhile, narrative-rich titles like "Dark Souls", "Bloodborne", and "Elden Ring" have become cultural icons among Pakistani gamers. These FromSoftware titles are not just games but mental training grounds in patience, problem-solving, and discipline—values mirrored in Pakistan's rising game development culture.

According to the Pakistan Software Export Board, Pakistan's gaming industry exceeded \$215 million in 2024, with projections aiming at \$400 million by 2027. Most of this growth is in mobile gaming, fueled by over 186 million mobile users.

Game studios like Mindstorm and Caramel Tech Studios are developing for global audiences. Freelancers contribute to game design, animation, and testing across global platforms, making gaming a viable export asset. Streaming platforms like YouTube Gaming and Facebook Live offer additional revenue channels.



-Gaming Revenue Growth in Pakistan (USD):**

- * 2015: \$38 million
- * 2017: \$61 million
- * 2019: \$95 million
- * 2021: \$140 million
- * 2023: \$190 million
- * 2025 (proj.): \$400 million

Far from being a waste of time, gaming improves cognitive and soft skills such as multitasking, decision-making, and strategic thinking.

Titles like "Elden Ring" and "Dark Souls" are widely praised by Pakistani youth for encouraging persistence and

adaptability. Beyond playing, youth are learning to design, code, and animate their own games using tools like Unity and Unreal Engine.

Institutions such as NCA, FAST, and COMSATS now offer game design courses. Meanwhile, gaming clubs in schools and universities build leadership, teamwork, and technical compe-

AI in boss mechanics, Pakistani developers are now prototyping intelligent game systems that react and evolve, pushing the boundaries of gameplay realism.

Yet, challenges remain. Poor internet, unreliable electricity, and lack of digital payment systems hamper progress. There is no dedicated national gaming or eSports policy, and government support is minimal.

Startups struggle with funding and visibility. Incubation programs rarely prioritize gaming or AI. Payment gateways and platform monetization remain a barrier.

However, Pakistan has the fundamentals to succeed: a young population, digital fluency, and a thriving creative culture. With focused policies and international partnerships, Pakistan can emerge as a digital hub.

Countries like India, South Korea, and Malaysia have invested heavily in gaming infrastructure and policy. Pakistan lags behind, but has unique advantages: low development costs, high creativity, and untapped market potential.

With the right tools and vision, Pakistan can shift from a game-consuming country to a game-creating powerhouse.

Gaming and AI are not distractions. They are development tools. With encouragement and investment, Pakistan's youth can turn pixels into progress and level up the nation.

Mahmoud Ahmed Sqazi a student of bahria university

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Stations

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Railway Inquiry 117
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WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
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MH 561116
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DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
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PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
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CDA 9208301-04
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Ground-
breaking
research
launched on
HIV stigma in
Transgenders
in KP

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Blue Veins and National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) jointly launched a pioneering qualitative research report titled "Understanding the Impact of HIV Stigma on Transgender Persons Living with HIV in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." The study brings to light the lived realities of transgender persons living with HIV (TPLHIV) and documents how stigma, discrimination, and structural inequalities shape their access to healthcare and quality of life.

The report reveals that transgender persons living with HIV in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa face widespread denial of healthcare, housing, and employment as a direct consequence of stigma. Many encounter discriminatory attitudes from healthcare providers, resulting in delayed or outright denial of treatment. The mental health impacts are also profound, with high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation stemming from social rejection and internalized stigma. Access to life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) is often disrupted due to discrimination at ART centres, lack of confidentiality, and long-distance travel burdens. Additionally, transgender individuals involved in sex work are particularly vulnerable to violence, police harassment, and social isolation.

IS Danger Alarming

Daily 2200 persons die due to non-communicable diseases

Spokesman Report

MURREE: Pakistan is grappling with a national health emergency, as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, obesity, and chronic liver and kidney diseases become increasingly prevalent. The country now ranks first globally in diabetes prevalence, with 31.4% of adults aged 20–79 living with the disease. This is more than a public health issue—it is a national emergency.

Over 230,000 deaths annually are linked to diabetes-related complications, and more than nine million individuals remain undiagnosed. With a health system spending only \$79 per capita, Pakistan is severely under-resourced to address this escalating crisis.

A major contributor to the rise in NCDs is the consumption of ultra-processed products. These items are aggressively marketed, highly palatable, and easily accessible—yet offer little to no nutritional value. Their overconsumption is directly linked to the surge in chronic health conditions.

These alarming statistics were shared during a media session organized by the

Pakistan National Heart Association in Murree. Health and policy experts addressed the media, urging them to raise their voices in support of this critical national issue.

It was disclosed that the Ministry of Health has formally submitted proposals to the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to increase the Federal Excise Duty (FED) on ultra-processed products—particularly those high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats—as part of the upcoming Finance Bill 2025–26.

In parallel, the Ministry has proposed the mandatory implementation of front-of-pack warning labels (FOPWL) on these products. These science-based, clear labels aim to empower consumers with accurate information at the point of purchase.

The media is expected to play a vital role in shaping public opinion and influencing policy. Its support is essential for raising awareness, educating the public, and holding decision-makers accountable for enacting life-saving regulations. Media outlets are urged to amplify the importance of these policy measures and contribute to a national movement for a healthier Pakistan.



Diplomatic Golf Tournament

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of different countries posing for a group photograph during Diplomatic Golf Cup ceremony, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Alhaji Naseer Vohra pays tribute to the Pakistani forces

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The special guest of the ceremony to celebrate the "Thanksgiving Day" of the Pakistan Army for giving a befitting reply to Indian aggression, Central President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaji Naseer Yousuf Vohra, Medium Shaheen Anthony, Director Rasta NG Network, along with her students, welcomed the guest with flower petals, garlands and bouquets. The ceremony began with prayers and recitations were also performed. Madam Shaheen Anthony explained the aims and objectives of the institution. And gave details of the departments available in the institution. Which include computer, beautician, sewing, gym and technical education. In addition, there is a hospital for eye treatment, dental, gynecology and



other diseases. There are qualified teachers for higher education. By providing technical education to girls, they get jobs very quickly. Many girls from our institution are employed

in hospitals. Our institution has the same standards for Christians, Muslims, Hindus and other minorities. In his address, the Central President of Cloth Board Ittehad Group

Pakistan, Alhaji Naseer Yousuf Vohra, first recited Durood Pak and said that the patience with which the Pakistani Army has crushed India has been appreciated by the whole world.

Bibi Maham shrine construction work halts amidst sectarian tensions

News Desk



TANDOJAM: Sindh's renowned and senior Noha Khwan (elegy reciter) and the holder of Bayaz (traditional elegy book) Mir Imdad Ali Pirali Talpur, strongly condemned the attempt by Ghulam Rasool Qureshi and others to halt the official construction work initiated by the Sindh Department of Auqaf at the holy shrine of the Masooma-e-Sindh, Bibi Maham (S. A.) at Agham Kot, following the decision issued by the Sindh High Court, Hyderabad Circuit Bench.

He denounced the act of organizing a protest by a religious group at the sacred shrine of Bibi Pak, using inflammatory slogans and issuing open threats in an apparent attempt to create sectarian tension in the area.

He drew the attention of the Sindh Government to the fact that these same individuals had attacked and vandalized the revered shrine on Eid-ul-Fitr as well, for which an FIR has been registered at the Gulab Laghari Police Station.

He demanded that the Government of Sindh, the district administration of Badin, and all security agencies immediately take notice of these sectarian-provocative acts and initiate legal action against such miscreants who are enemies of peace.

CBP Launches Comprehensive Electrical Street Lights Maintenance Drive

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The Cantonment Board Peshawar (CBP), upholding its unwavering commitment to public service and community welfare, has launched a comprehensive electrical street lights maintenance drive through its Engineering Branch (Electric Section). This initiative aims to ensure public safety, prevent electrical hazards of street lighting system and to provide a reliable infrastructure, especially during the peak summer season and unpredictable weather conditions.

As part of this drive, major roads within the cantonment—such as Mall Road, Fort Road, Khalid Road, Qafila Road, Shami Road, Ghala Mandi, RA Bazaar and Askari Colonies are being prioritized for maintenance. The Electric Section has been working diligently to address street lights issues, bind loose and dangling wires, rectify faults, and repair or restore non-functional streetlights.

To execute these tasks efficiently, a dedicated team of trained electricians has been detailed exclusively for this initiative. The Cantonment Board has also equipped the team with the necessary tools and advanced machinery, including tower vans and electric bucket vehicles, allowing work to be carried out safely and swiftly even in elevated or hard-to-reach locations.



SEPA to launch aggressive marine pollution strategy to save Karachi's coastline, ocean life

City Desk

KARACHI: In a major development for environmental protection in Sindh, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is set to unveil a comprehensive strategy aimed at combating marine pollution along Karachi's coastal belt. The initiative will seek to safeguard marine life and coastal areas from the ongoing damage caused by the unchecked discharge of domestic and industrial effluents.

The newly appointed Director General of SEPA, Waqar Hussain Phulpoto, made this announcement while addressing a roundtable discussion on environmental governance in Sindh, organised by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) at a local hotel.

Rafiqul Haq, senior environmental consultant, stressed the importance of tailoring urban plantation campaigns to the local climate, soil, and land conditions to ensure long-term success.

Afia Salam, senior environmental journalist, highlighted that strict enforcement of existing environmental laws and policies in Sindh would play a vital role in addressing the region's climate change challenges.

NFEH President, Muhammad Naeem Qureshi, emphasised the need for tighter regulation in industrial zones, calling on SEPA to crack down on the uncontrolled discharge of pollutants from factories and initiate a province-wide campaign against

harmful emissions from unfit motor vehicles.

Ruqiyah Naeem, General-Secretary of NFEH, urged SEPA to regulate and guide plantation campaigns to avoid the pitfalls of poor seasonal timing and unsuitable plant species.

The roundtable concluded with a collective call for enhanced inter-agency coordination, improved law enforcement, and increased public awareness to ensure a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for



Sindh.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Abdul Rahim Soomro, member of Sindh Local

Government Commission, senior environmental consultant Nadeem Arif, Murad Ali Soni, chief CPK, A Razzak Pardesi CEO

IHRI Ali Asghar Quettawala from Dawoodi Bohra community, Sr journalist Shuja Qureshi, and Engineer Nadeem Ashraf.

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Nakba Commemoration

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched through central London on Saturday to mark the 77th anniversary of the Nakba.

The word, which means “catastrophe” in Arabic, refers to the mass displacement of Palestinians during the creation of Israel in 1948. The UN estimates more than half the Palestinian population was permanently displaced.

The march, which was organized by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, began at Embankment and passed key landmarks, including Big Ben and Downing Street, with protesters calling on the UK government to take action over the war in Gaza.

The PSC said the protest aimed to “mark the 77th anniversary of the 1948 Nakba and demand our government take action to end the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their land,” The Independent reported.

This year’s commemoration came amid reports that the Trump administration has been in talks with Libya about resettling up to a million Palestinians from Gaza in exchange for billions of dollars.

The proposal has drawn comparisons to the Nakba and widespread international criticism.

A PSC spokesperson said they expected around 100,000 attendees from across the UK, describing the turnout as larger than recent demonstrations. “We expected around 100,000 people to attend the London march,” the spokesperson said.

However, London’s Metropolitan Police estimated the crowd at around 20,000 and enforced Public Order Act conditions that restricted protesters to designated areas.

A small counter-protest organized by Stop The Hate gathered on the Strand, waving Israeli flags and remaining in an area outlined by police at the north end of Waterloo Bridge.

Pro-Palestinian protests in the UK reached their height following the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which killed around 1,200 people in Israel, and the subsequent Israeli military response in Gaza, in which 53,000 people have been killed.

Nearly all the enclave’s 2.3 million residents have been displaced.

That November, a march held on Armistice Day drew an estimated 300,000 people, the largest to date since the war began.

Negotiations to end the war have so far stalled, with both Hamas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resisting proposed ceasefires. Netanyahu’s government recently approved new plans for further attacks in Gaza.

Humanitarian agencies and global leaders have continued to call on Israel to allow the delivery of vital aid into the besieged territory.

Also on Saturday, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called for increased pressure “to halt the massacre in Gaza” at an Arab League summit in Iraq, while UN chief Antonio Guterres told the Baghdad meeting “we need a permanent ceasefire, now.”

Trump Resets U. S.-Pakistan Relations After India Conflict

President Donald Trump, while addressing American troops in Qatar, noted that Pakistan’s use of “a different kind of missile” had forced India to request a ceasefire. He added that the United States would deepen trade ties with Pakistan and urged American institutions to accelerate commercial engagement. In a rare moment of unqualified praise, Trump described Pakistanis as “brilliant people” who invent and produce cutting-edge technology—a clear nod to Pakistan’s domestic defense industry and scientific acumen.

After years of strategic neglect, Pakistan has reemerged in U. S. foreign policy considerations. The war with India in May 2025 served as a turning point, forcing a global reassessment of South Asia’s power dynamics. Trump’s repeated positive mentions of Pakistan reflect a recalibrated U.S. outlook, acknowledging Pakistan’s growing relevance in regional and international affairs.

The four-day war not only redrew the strategic map of South Asia but also laid bare two starkly contrasting global narratives. India—long portraying itself as a rising superpower—found its arrogance, militarism, and misinformation unraveling before the world. Pakistan, in contrast, emerged as a composed, competent actor, commanding military respect and diplomatic credibility.

India’s efforts to diplomatically isolate Pakistan not only failed but boomeranged. Major global powers—excluding perhaps Israel—remained neutral or subtly critical of India’s conduct. Russia, the United States, and European nations refrained from backing New Delhi. Even traditional allies in the Gulf and the broader Muslim world declined to endorse India’s narrative. International media questioned India’s disinformation, timing, and lack of credible evidence. Even strategic allies like the U. S. and Russia withheld support during India’s military debacle.

Politically, the impact was severe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s once mythic stature among Hindu nationalists eroded rapidly. Calls for his resignation grew louder, and the opposition, civil society, and independent media demanded accountability. Globally, Modi’s image suffered irreparable damage, with analysts condemning his militarized policies, suppression of minorities, and use of conflict for electoral gains.

In contrast, Pakistan earned global admiration for its restraint, precision, and strategic maturity. Its missiles hit key Indian military targets while sparing civilian areas—a combination of tactical brilliance and moral responsibility. Pakistan’s electronic warfare systems also rendered India’s expensive defense hardware ineffective, showcasing its technological edge.

Diplomatically, Pakistan performed with poise. China and Turkey openly supported it, while countries from Africa

to Southeast Asia celebrated its victory. The United States and Western allies, though silent, acknowledged Pakistan’s competence by their inaction in support of India. Pakistani officials, from the Prime Minister to military spokespeople, engaged transparently with the media, offering facts and fielding difficult questions—in sharp contrast to India’s evasive and scripted responses.

International media recognized this openness and began to shift their tone. Pakistan, once portrayed as unstable and aggressive, was now seen as principled, disciplined, and transparent. Its moral standing improved as it framed its response within the bounds of international law and emphasized civilian protection.

Domestically, Pakistan witnessed a rare moment of unity. Citizens of all ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds rallied behind their armed forces. The war became a catalyst for national pride, reinforcing belief in self-reliance, technological capability, and institutional strength. Even opposition parties praised the government and military for their coordinated and effective response.

Crucially, Pakistan used this momentum to reignite global focus on Kashmir. With Trump endorsing mediation, Pakistan gained diplomatic traction. Its dignified wartime conduct and consistent call for peace lent it moral and political capital it had long sought.

This war did not last long, but its consequences will resonate for decades. India’s image as a stable democracy and rising power has been seriously undermined. The myth of Pakistan as a rogue state has been debunked. What remains is a clearer understanding: arrogance is not strategy, propaganda is not policy, and suppression is not victory.

As one overseas patriotic Pakistani Mr. Mubeen Ahmed Qureshi put it, this strategic space, created by the collective national resolve that defeated a far larger and better-equipped adversary, gives every reason for Pakistan to celebrate. But more importantly, Pakistan must seize this moment—not just to revel in triumph but to take a step back, identify its political, economic, financial, trade, and investment roadblocks, and with the same spirit it fought the war, begin to put its house in order. Only then can Pakistan reemerge as a significant regional and global player—not only militarily, but across all elements of national power.

The war has redrawn South Asia’s narrative landscape. The world must now reckon with a new geopolitical truth: Pakistan is no longer the problem—it is part of the solution. Meanwhile, unless India reforms its policies, rhetoric, and regional behavior, it risks becoming its own worst enemy.

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

The Influence of Social Media on Modern Language

Muskan Iqbal Orakzai

Social media platforms like Twitter (currently X), Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and Snapchat have changed how humans communicate in the modern digital era. These platforms, used by more than 4.8 billion people around the world, not only define the discussions but are reshaping the very architecture, vocabulary, and customs of contemporary language. Whereas language has always changed over time, the speed and magnitude of social media-driven linguistic change are without precedent. From emojis and hashtags to viral slang and abbreviations, social media’s impact on language is both deep and multifaceted.

A New Linguistic Landscape

In the past, language developed slowly over time through literature, oral discourse, and cultural change. The internet and specifically, social media have sped up this process exponentially. With instantaneous global access, users are not only exposed to new words and phrases every day, but they are also complicit in their creation and propagation.

Think of the emergence of abbreviations such as LOL (laugh out loud), BRB (be right back), or ICYMI (in case you missed it). What was once confined to online chat rooms and SMS culture has now permeated spoken language, corporate communications, and even mainstream media. They speak to a desire for speed, concision, and instantaneity, values that social media feeds on.

The Rise of Visual Language

Another incredible change is the incorporation of visual elements into text. Emojis, GIFs, stickers, and reaction images are now integral parts of digital communication. Emojis especially, have become a new form of global language that cuts across linguistic barriers. One emoji can

replace a sentence or express emotion in a way that words sometimes cannot.

This linguistic visual turn is not controversy-free. It is criticized as undermining conventional literacy and promoting emotional simplification. However, its advocates propose that it enriches expression and creativity so that individuals are able to convey themselves across language and cultural boundaries in a more intuitive manner.

Code-Switching and Identity

Social media also fosters linguistic flexibility, or “code-switching” the capacity to switch between multiple dialects, languages, or linguistic registers based on context. One may write an official LinkedIn status in English, tweet a joke in Urdu-English blend (also referred to as “Urdish”), and comment on Instagram with Gen Z slang within the same day.

This flexibility captures the way that language use on the internet is intimately connected to identity. People perform and build their identities in the language that they use. Having the freedom to code-switch enables people to be different parts of themselves—professional, humorous, political, or cultural—based on platform and audience.

The Democratization of Language

Maybe the most significant effect of social media is the democratization of language. Traditionally, language norms were determined by schools, literary culture, and elite speech. Now, power has moved to the masses. A teenager’s TikTok clip can make a new word or phrase go viral before a linguist can record it.

This development has resulted in increased linguistic creativity and diversity, but also in anxieties about standard grammar and spelling loss. Texts composed in all lowercase letters, the elimination of punctuation, or the introduction of intentional misspellings (such as thicc or boi) may shock conservatives, but these forms frequently have stylistic or rhetorical functions. Challenges

and Criticisms

Even with its innovations, social media’s impact on language has its drawbacks. Linguists and teachers are concerned with diminishing writing quality, shorter attention spans, and the excessive use of colloquial language in the wrong situations. Furthermore, algorithmic communication tends to produce echo chambers, where language is polarized and performative instead of exploratory or subtle.

The Future of Language in a Digital World

In the future, it is certain that social media will further influence the way we communicate, speak, and think. The lines between informal and formal language are set to become increasingly blurred, and new modes of hybrid communication language, text, sound will be the order of the day. Artificial intelligence, voice assistants, and augmented reality might herald even more revolutionary ways in which language is used in daily life.

Instead of seeing these changes as threats to language, we could view them as part of a natural process. Language, being a living system, after all, will evolve in response to the digital age, just as it did in response to the printing press and television. The secret is acknowledging its dynamism in harmony with maintaining critical awareness of its social and cultural meanings.

Social media has not only shaped contemporary language, but it has transformed it. In a time of perpetual connectedness, our communication has become more expressive, economical, and collective. Though this shift in language presents problems, it also presents tremendous potential for expression, identity, and community. As we scroll, tweet, and post our way toward tomorrow, one thing remains guaranteed: language will keep changing, emoji by emoji, hashtag by hashtag.

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Evolving Role of Libraries: From Shelves to Digital Hubs

The modest library is undergoing a stunning shift in the fast-paced, digital world of today. Modern libraries, which were once thought of as being peaceful spaces with books, have evolved into thriving community hubs that include cutting-edge technology, encourage inclusion, and serve as essential venues for education and social interaction.

The most obvious change is perhaps the transition from physical shelves to digital ecosystems. Large collections of e-books, audiobooks, online journals, and multimedia materials are available at today’s libraries and can be accessed from any location with an internet connection, even at home or on the road. This change was crucial during the most recent pandemic, guaranteeing that information was available even when physical locations were closed.

However, libraries are more than just online databases. Today, they serve as innovation hubs, holding makerspaces equipped with robotics kits, 3D printers, and multimedia resources that encourage STEM education and creativity in people of all ages. These areas are also seeing the introduction of virtual reality and augmented reality, which provide engaging and instructive immersive experiences.

At the front of this change are inclusivity and accessibility. In order to reflect the varied communities they serve, libraries provide resources in multiple languages and are outfitted with accessible technologies for patrons with impairments. The objective is to guarantee that everyone has access to the resources they require, irrespective of their background or level of competence.



In addition to technology, libraries are becoming more important community hubs. They provide social programs, cultural events, and workshops that unite individuals and promote lifelong learning and a sense of belonging. Many offer essential support services, such as lending digital gadgets to close the digital gap, assisting job seekers, and offering health information.

Additionally, contemporary libraries are using technology and data to tailor services, making programs and recommendations more pertinent to specific customers. Library services are now more accessible than ever thanks to mobile apps and web portals, which put a multitude of information at people’s fingertips.

Funding limitations, digital divisions, and the requirement for continuous staff training are still obstacles, of course. But thanks to creativity and community dedication, libraries have a bright future.

Essentially, libraries are now more than just repositories of books; they are vibrant, diverse, and creative establishments that change with the times. They serve as a reminder that community, creativity, and knowledge are more intertwined than ever. In order to create societies that are informed, connected, and empowered, we must continue to support and invest in our libraries.

By offering in-service trainings and hosting workshops and seminars for library professionals both online and in person, the department of libraries is fulfilling its crucial role in the improvement of libraries in the federal capital of Pakistan.

Writer is Director General Department of Libraries Islamabad

Climate change and water issues to be discussed at Tajikistan Conference

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan, Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir said that the three days 'International Glaciers Preservation Conference' to be held in Tajikistan, will help to raise awareness about the Climate Change and Water issues facing by our region countries.

At present, Climate Change and environmental degradation is a serious issue for the countries of our region, which will be discussed by experts from international and regional countries in the three-day International Glaciers Conference to be held on 29-31 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and will formulate a future action plan on this important issue, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan, Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir told on Sunday.

Pakistan and other countries of the regional countries are already invited and participate actively in this international conference to be held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, and join in discussions with international experts, which will pave the way



for resolving problems for the future and develop common thinking to understand the pertinent issues of Climate change, he said.

Tajik Ambassador said that regional countries are suffering from a different kind of environmental challenges due to their common geography and mountain ranges, which all regional players need

a common plan of action to deal with.

The envoy said that 'Tajikistan is the home of glaciers and clean water in the world, and glaciers melting and climate change are the biggest issues for the world, and the glaciers preservation conference in Tajikistan is an endeavor to give the world a road map for resolving the biggest challenge of

climate change and water sustainability.

He said that the third International Conference dedicated to Glaciers, and the territory of 'Tajikistan has more than ten thousand mountain glaciers, the largest of which is the Vanch-Yakh (Fedchenko) glacier.

Tajik envoy said that this initiative of Tajikistan was fully supported by the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Pakistan is actively participating in the framework of this initiative.

The conference will be hosted by the government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the conference will provide a unique platform and excellent opportunity for the world community to raise awareness of and to promote and facilitate actions and sustainable measures towards preserving glaciers, as well as its integrated management at all levels through transformative glaciers-related actions and commitments, he said.

In his concluding remarks, the envoy said that Tajikistan, renowned for its rich history, unique culture, ancient customs, and traditions, as well as its breathtaking nature with long rivers, lakes, and therapeutic springs, stands as one of the world's oldest nations.

PHMM provides free medical treatment to 9,170 intending pilgrims so far: Dr Shaheer



Raziq Ali Shah

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH: The Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission (PHMM) has provided free medical treatment to a total of 9,170 intending pilgrims in Saudi Arabia since April 29. Drones

Sharing details with APP on Sunday, PHMM Director Colonel Muhammad Shaheer Jamal said that out of the total, 6,504 pilgrims were treated in Makkah, while 2,566 received free treatment in Madinah during the said period.

He said that most patients reported body itch, fever, throat infections, warm feet, flu and musculoskeletal disorders.

He said that around 30 serious patients were referred to the Saudi German Hospital for advanced treatment. Out of these, 25 have been discharged, while five are still admitted. The Saudi German Hospital also provides state of the art health care facilities to the pilgrims free of cost without charging a single penny, he remarked.

Dr Shaheer said that 232,951 medicines have also been dispensed to the pilgrims so far.

Regarding diagnostic procedures, he said that 218 laboratory tests, 79 X-rays, 97 dental procedures, 21 ultrasounds, and 97 ECGs have been performed. Moreover, 125 minor surgical procedures have also been conducted in the hospitals so far, he added.

Responding to a question, Dr Shaheer said that no cases of communicable diseases have been reported so far, adding that PHMM shares daily updates with Saudi health authorities in this regard.

He noted that due to the recent surge in temperatures, dehydration cases have been on the rise and are being managed with IV infusions and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS).

Col. Shaheer Jamal advised pilgrims to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, juices, and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), especially with the expected hot weather. "We have a sufficient stock of ORS and intravenous fluids to meet the demand of intending pilgrims," he said.

He further advised pilgrims to wear face masks, use umbrellas, avoid direct sun exposure, and maintain hydration—preferably with ORS—to protect their health during the Hajj, which begins on the 8th of Zilhaj.

Dr. Shaheer Jamal said that PHMM is fully prepared to handle any medical emergencies during the pilgrimage. With 306 dedicated team members and a substantial stock of medicines, the mission is committed to providing comprehensive healthcare services to Pakistani pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. Drones

Since the launch of the pre-Hajj flight operation on April 29, the PHMM has been operating around the clock. The team, comprising various medical specialists, works in three shifts across two hospitals and 12 dispensaries in Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah.

This year, over 123,000 Pakistanis are expected to perform Hajj under both government and private schemes. "The Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission offers free medical treatment to all Pakistani pilgrims, regardless of the scheme under which they are performing Hajj," Col. Shaheer explained.

He said that the mission team includes a wide range of specialists, such as cardiologists, pulmonologists, dermatologists, radiologists, gynecologists, ENT specialists, dentists, and pathologists. For the first time, public health specialists and physiotherapists have also been included, enhancing the mission's capacity to meet diverse medical needs.

Col. Shaheer, a seasoned healthcare administrator with extensive experience in command, staff, and training roles, emphasized that the team is well-resourced. All medicines were brought from Pakistan after undergoing quality testing. These, along with modern medical equipment, ensure high-quality care for the pilgrims.

He said that Pakistan has partnered with the internationally recognized Saudi German Hospital Group and established a Supervisory Model to ensure the quality and continuity of care.

Government Pakistan provides full protection and all kinds of facilities to investors: Khurshid Burlas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bahrain Investment Summit and Smart Expo, organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, was held on May 17, 2025 in Crown Plaza Bahrain. A large number of community participated. The conference began with recitation from the Holy Quran

And the national anthems of Pakistani and Bahrain were also presented. Addressing the ceremony, Fahad Burlas, chairman of the Pakistan Association of Exhibition of Industry, started a regular event and thanked the distinguished guests, government and political figures for attending the conference. The conference was attended by more than 20,000 delegates from the Pakistani community and Medical, Education, Religious Tourism and Real Estate from Bahrain. It is very important to have such



conferences between Bahrain and Pakistan. This will help enhance cooperation between the two countries at the trade, diplomatic and business levels. This conference will have a lasting

impact on the Pakistani economy. In his special address, promotion of trade between Pakistan and Bahrain will be provided. In his special address, Pakistani Ambassador Saqib Rauf said that

investment in Pakistan is safe. Pakistan is rich in natural resources. We should take steps to introduce Pakistani products globally. As the Tourism Sector is developing all over the world, Pakistan should also take practical steps in this regard. It is time for such conferences and expo to attract investment to promote trade between the two countries. And we should be in links between the two countries and promote business relations with each other. Change, Sajjad Hussain, Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, Engineer Fahim Iqbal Chaudhry, Asif Ali Shirazi, Mohammad Nadeem Chaudhry, Mohammad Afzal Bhatti, Chaudhry Tariq and other speakers. Special guest honor Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Industry Pakistan, Nominated Ambassador Saqib Rauf, Chairman Paei Fahad Burlas, Founder Khurshid Burlas, distributed the awards to high companies.

NIMA-ISSI host joint seminar on 'Deep-Sea Mining'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), hosted a maiden international seminar titled "Deep-Sea Mining: Prospects & The Global Conservation Imperatives" at Islamabad. The event drew over 200 participants, including policymakers, scientists, environmentalists, industry leaders, and students.

The seminar agitated critical debate on balancing deep-sea resource exploitation with the need to protect fragile ocean

ecosystems. Vice Admiral Ahmed Saeed, President of NIMA, opened the event by emphasizing the ocean's dual identity as both a vital resource and a shared legacy.

Dr. Diva Amon, National Geographic Explorer & biologist at University of California cautioned against the irreversible damage mining could inflict on undiscovered species and carbon-rich ecosystems. In his keynote address, Senator Mushahid Hussain highlighted the geopolitical dimensions of deep-sea mining and urged Pakistan to harness its strategic Indian Ocean position while advocating for fair global govern-

ance while ensuring a balanced natural eco-system.

Ambassador Per Albert of Norway stressed to explore economic opportunities linked with deep sea mining while being cautious to environment. He highlighted that Norway's Govt is already using the less harm technology for exploration in their EEZ and Continental Shelf. Other experts included Dr. Fasiha Safdar (NIMA), Mahmood Akhtar Cheema (IUCN), Eng. Naimat Ullah Sohoo (NIO), Dr. Nawaz Ahmed Virk (MOE), Mr. Jahanzeb Sikandar (YouCan LLC), Ms. Amna Munawar Awan, SVP of

PBF & Ms. Shagufta Iqbal, Dy Secretary MoMA who shared Pakistan's perspectives.

International experts, Shigeru Tanaka (Deep-Sea Conservation Coalition, USA), Sérgio Carvalho (Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal), Julian Jackson (Pew Charitable Trusts, USA), and François Mosnier (Planet Tracker, UK) enriched the discussion with global insights.

Chief Guest, Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, DG Geological Survey of Pakistan, emphasized that Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) holds potential but called for science-led, environmentally responsible collaboration.



During the discussion, consensus was achieved that international cooperation is not just desirable – it is essential. No single country regardless of its technological prowess or economic strength, can address

the complex challenges of deep-sea governance on its own. We must work together across scientific, legal, political and industrial sectors- to ensure that any development aligns with the overarching principle of ecolog-

ical conservation. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG of ISSI, closed the session by commending NIMA's efforts in creating a platform where diverse interests aligned to seek shared solutions.

Economic stability not possible without brand protection, say business leaders at dinner reception

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Owners of prominent and reputable brands operating in various sectors of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have stated that stable brands emerging from the private sector's hard work, integrity, and long-term investment do not receive institutional protection in Pakistan. Government officials from various departments often seal businesses over minor administrative or technical issues, which not only severely damages their reputation but also affects investment and business continuity.

These views were expressed during a dinner reception hosted in honor of Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United

Business Group (FPCCI). The event was attended by notable business figures including Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari (D. Watson), Tariq Mehmood (Shaheen), Chaudhry Tahir Mehmood (Punjab), Nauman Khan (Gillani), Dr. Rizwan Opal (IDC), Hamza Ali Khan (Christie's), Roohail Anwar Butt (Shikarpuri), Junaid Ahmed (Tandoori), Luqman Ali Afzal (Monal), Shamsuddin Sultan (Shams), Habibullah Zahid (Habibi), Umar Farooq (Cheezious), Usman Shehzad (Rep Lab), Umar Akmal (Friends), and Hafiz Manzoor (Madinah), among other distinguished entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the event, Zafar Bakhtawari said, "We fully

believe in the rule of law, but we also believe that any action against a credible, renowned, and diligently built brand must be preceded by thorough investigation, prior notice, and a transparent process." He stressed that government must review the unchecked powers of public officials.

He added, "No brand is built in hours or days; it is the result of years of struggle and billions in investment. Our brands are national assets. Any action against them must be approved at a high level, follow a transparent process, and include consultation with brand owners."

Ahsan Bakhtawari emphasized that if Pakistan aims to stand among developed nations,



it must treat its brands as national assets. "Unfortunately, businesspeople are often viewed with suspicion, even though they are the backbone of employment, taxation, and economic growth," he said.

He further stated that brands

are a source of national pride, and any unnecessary or baseless action against them harms the country's business reputation. "We need a balanced and respectful system. A successful brand is the result of years of hard work, investment, and

consistency. Targeting such brands on arbitrary grounds undermines business confidence and damages the national economy."

Luqman Ali Afzal noted, "We have introduced Pakistan's name to the world, and now

we are seeking protection from our own institutions. We have raised the hospitality industry to international standards. If we are treated with interrogation rather than respect and partnership, who will invest here? We need protection and trust, not humiliation."

Roohail Anwar Butt remarked, "Our products are used by the general public. Shutting down businesses without notice over minor objections directly harms our business credibility."

Other business owners echoed the call for the government to engage with them in dialogue and assured full cooperation in resolving such issues collaboratively.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
119,961.91	118,536.52
Day's High	Day's Low
119,990.30	118,871.13
Index Value	Change
28,408,222,818	+ 1425.39
Percentage	Time
+ 1.2%	15 May, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,616.53	+ 31.52
Percentage	Time
+ 0.36%	15 May, 3:40 pm GMT + 1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
41,934.43	− 116.63
Percentage	Time
− 0.28%	15 May, 10:40 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,755.51	− 372.62
Percentage	Time
− 0.98%	15 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.25	185.50
Bahrain Dinar	748.05	756.05
Canadian Dollar	203.10	205.50
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.25	42.65
Euro	315.85	318.60
Hong Kong Dollar	35.94	36.29
Indian Rupee	3.23	3.32
Japanese Yen	1.95	2.01
Kuwaiti Dinar	911.95	921.45
Malaysian Ringgit	66.37	66.97
NewZealand \$	165.96	167.96
Norwegians Krone	26.76	27.06
Omani Riyal	732.15	740.65
Qatari Riyal	76.58	77.28
Saudi Riyal	75.15	75.70
Singapore Dollar	218.6	220.60
Swedish Korona	28.8	29.10
Swiss Franc	336.16	338.96
Thai Bhat	8.4	8.55
U.A.E Dirham	76.80	77.45
UK Pound Sterling	375.30	378.8
US Dollar	282.2	283.7

Sindh Government
Committed
to Improving
Hyderabad's
Urban
Infrastructure:
HCSTSI President



Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, has welcomed the major development decisions taken during the recent 120th Governing Body meeting of the Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA), commending the leadership of Sindh Minister for Local Government, Saeed Ghani, HCSTSI President appreciated the swift approvals of development projects and financial allocations for Gulistan-e-Sarmast and other residential schemes, calling them a reflection of the Sindh Government's serious commitment to improving the urban infrastructure of Hyderabad.

He highlighted the urgent necessity for establishing a dedicated grid station for Gulistan-e-Sarmast, in line with NEPRA policies, to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. He also called for the immediate completion of the long-pending 36-inch water supply line, which has been delayed since 2009. Emphasis was laid on expediting internal road construction, drainage systems, and provision of water and electricity lines particularly in neglected sectors such as Kohsar Extension that have been deprived of basic amenities for decades.

Federal govt delegation discusses
budget proposals with Sindh CM,
MQM delegation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government delegation led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik, Minister for Power Sardar Owais Laghari and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah held meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and MQM delegation to seek proposals for next fiscal year's federal budget.

During the meeting and relief measures for the people espically lower class were discussed in detail.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and other minister met Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in Karachi on Sunday. During the meeting, proposals for next fiscal year's federal budget and relief measures for the people came under discussion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said it is a good sign that the consultations are being made on the upcoming



budget. They also discussed measures and reforms for fiscal discipline, enhancing the country's economic and agricultural growth and providing relief to the people. Finance

Minister Aurangzeb said that the country is now on the path of economic development.

Later, federal government delegation visited MQM Pakistan at Governor House

in Karachi. MQM senior leaders Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Javed Hanif, Farooq Sattar and Nasreen Jalil welcomed the delegation. During the meeting, budget proposals and other matters of mutual interests were discussed in detail.

Addressing press conference with PML-N leaders, Governor Kamran Tessori lauded armed forces for folling Indian aggression. Tessori also praised Finance Minister M Aurangzeb who successfully held talks with IMF. He said during the meeting, budget proposals were discussed inn detail.

Addressing the press conference, PML-N leader Rana Sana said Pakistan has come out of financial crisis. He said government was trying to provide maximum relief to the mases.

MQM leader Farooq Sattar said there was need to increase base of indirect taxes in the country. He urged the government to incentivize small industries. He demanded water and other facilities in Karachi and Hyderabad.

Inauguration

Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Railways, inaugurating the stop of Awam Express at Sohawa Railway Station on Sunday.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Furniture
Council Delegation
Returns from
Productive China Visit

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) delegation Sunday returned Pakistan after a productive week-long visit to China, aimed at strengthening bilateral trade ties and exploring opportunities in the furniture sector.

On arrival CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq informed the delegation engaged in high-level meetings with Chinese counterparts to discuss collaboration in manufacturing, technology transfer, and investment.

Key outcomes included preliminary agreements on joint ventures to enhance Pakistan's furniture production capabilities and access to China's advanced technological resources. The visit also

highlighted China's interest in importing high-quality Pakistani wooden furniture, potentially boosting Pakistan's exports.

Both sides emphasized mutual benefits, with Chinese partners expressing confidence in Pakistan's skilled labor and raw material reserves. The delegation toured state-of-the-art facilities in cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou, gaining insights into sustainable practices and innovative designs.

He termed the visit a milestone, paving the way for future partnerships to position Pakistan as a competitive player in the global furniture market. This collaboration will drive economic growth, create jobs, and elevate the industry's standards.

Punjab to achieve
cotton cultivation
target in next ten days



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab government Secretary of Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Saho has said that the cotton cultivation target will be achieved during the next ten days.

He said that the Punjab government assigned a cotton cultivation target on 35 lakh acres of land while cotton cultivation is already completed on 27 lakh acres of land.

Iftikhar Ali Saho said that special attention is being given

to the safety and protection of the cotton crop.

He said that the cotton crop is now completely safe from pesticides and other disease attacks. He said that due to the current heatwave, a special advisory is being issued for the cotton crops, and special teams have been constituted for this purpose.

Iftikhar Ali Saho said that agriculture experts and farmers are already included in the cotton crop. He said that water is being provided to the cotton crop.

Second phase of auction of old
power plants, bidding to be held in
Islamabad on 19 May

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The second phase of auction of old and inactive power plants in government ownership is being held in Islamabad on Monday, May 19, 2025. In this phase, three major power plants with a total capacity of 2,362 MW will be offered for sale.

The projects offered for sale include Thermal Power Station Jamshoro (880 MW), Thermal Power Station Muzaffargarh (1,350 MW), and Steam Power Station Faisalabad (132 MW). The combined reserve price for these projects has been fixed at Rs 26.62 billion.

This auction process is being carried out with complete transparency in the



light of the energy reform agenda of the Government of Pakistan, decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, orders of the Prime Minister

and instructions of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division). The event will be held at the office of Janco Holding Company Limited, located at UPF Building, G-5/2, Islamabad from 9 am to 5 pm.

It may be noted that earlier, in the first phase of the auction, seven different old thermal power plants have been successfully sold, for a total bid of more than Rs. 9 billion, which was higher than the reserve prices.

The second phase of the auction is not only a step towards better utilization of financial resources but will also create new investment opportunities in the energy sector. Bidders, media representatives and relevant institutions have been invited to attend the event to ensure transparency.

Iftikhar Malik Warns of
Widening Technology Gap and
Its Consequences

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday highlighted that in today's rapidly evolving global landscape, technological advancement is crucial not only for military resilience but also for sustainable economic growth.

Speaking to a high level delegation of industrialists comprising Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran, Coordinator to FTO Saif Ur Rehman and Mian Zahid Iqbal former VP FPCCI here today popular octogenarian trade leader of South Asia, he pointed out that the gap between technologically advanced and developing countries is widening, posing serious challenges to national security and economic sovereignty. He stressed that investment in research and development (R&D), innova-

tion, and modern industrial practices is essential to meet the demands of contemporary global competition.

He reiterated that acquiring and mastering the latest technology is not an option but a strategic imperative especially for defence preparedness in the wake of escalating Pak-Indo tensions and economic prosperity. He urged policymakers to act swiftly to ensure that Pakistan does not fall further behind in the global technological race.



Karachi Kings Qualify for PSL 10 Playoffs, Zalmi vs Lahore Qalandars becomes a Virtual Semi-Final

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Babar Azam's Big Innings in Vain – Karachi Kings Qualify for PSL 10 Playoffs, Zalmi vs Qalandars Becomes a Virtual Semi-Final

Karachi Kings have booked their place in the PSL 10 playoffs, despite a valiant innings from Babar Azam for Peshawar Zalmi. Islamabad United also qualified due to a better net run rate. The upcoming Zalmi vs Lahore Qalandars match has effectively become a semi-final – if Qalandars win, they will qualify with certainty; if Zalmi win, they will still only have a 50% chance depending on other results.

PSL 10 resumes in Rawalpindi, marking the first match after heightened Pakistan-India tensions. The league is now in its final stages, and Pakistan resumed the tournament according to its schedule and plans, with the presence of certain notable personalities at the stadium being part of the official arrangements.

In the 9th match for both teams, Karachi Kings and Peshawar Zalmi faced off at



Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Zalmi had no room for error. Despite conceding 237 runs, they put up strong resistance. Zalmi won the toss and opted to field, which seemed beneficial to Karachi. Captain David

Warner, recently returned from Australia, looked in control. Though Ben McDermott got out for a duck, Warner and James Vince built a 162-run partnership for the second wicket.

James Vince scored a rapid

72 off 42 balls (1 six, 11 fours) before falling to Ali Raza. David Warner smashed 86 off 50 balls (2 sixes, 11 fours). Despite losing 3 wickets for just 5 runs at one point, Kings did not crumble. Khushdil Shah struck 43 off

15 balls (3 sixes, 4 fours), while Mohammad Nabi added 26 off 10 (3 sixes, 1 four). Their 70-run partnership came off just 23 balls, bringing the final total to 237/4 in 20 overs.

Among Zalmi bowlers, Luke



Wood was the most economical (4 overs, 19 runs, 2 wickets). In contrast, Ahmad Daniyal was very expensive, conceding 66 in 4 overs with no wickets. Ali Raza gave 60 in his 4 overs for one wicket. Arif Yaqub took one wicket for 29 runs.

In response, Zalmi had a decent start. Mohammad Haris fell for 9, but Babar Azam and Saim Ayub pushed the score to 107 by the 11th over. Ayub, despite a reprieve, couldn't convert it to a big score, getting out for 47 off 31. Babar completed his half-century and continued to lead the chase. Tom Kohler-Cadmore scored 20, Max Bryant made 7.

At 17.5 overs, Babar Azam was run out for 94 off 49 balls

(4 sixes, 10 fours), with Zalmi at 184/5. With 50 runs needed from the final 12 balls, it proved too difficult. Zalmi finished on 214/5, falling short by 23 runs.

For Karachi Kings, Abbas Afridi took 2 wickets for 48, while Mir Hamza claimed one before an injury forced him off the field. Hasan Ali contributed with a wicket for 30 runs.

This win brings Karachi Kings to 12 points from 9 matches, securing their playoff spot. Zalmi (8 points) and Qalandars (9 points) will face each other in a do-or-die match – the winner advances. Islamabad United, helped by net run rate, have also qualified. Quetta Gladiators had already secured their spot, while Multan Sultans are eliminated.

Multan Sultans' worst finish in the Pakistan Super League 2025

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: PSL 10, Multan Sultans' worst finish in history, Gladiators' first position confirmed. The latest cricket news is that Multan Sultans' worst finish in the Pakistan Super League 2025 or PESL 10 edition. After the 10th match, they have made the biggest disappointing finish in history with 9 defeats. They were also defeated in the last match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Sunday. Quetta Gladiators have further consolidated their first position with the victory of the wicket.

This was the 28th match of PSL 10, in which Sultans captain Muhammad Rizwan won the toss and decided to bat first in the heat of Pindi and scored 185 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. The top scorer of the event, captain Muhammad Rizwan, ended his campaign with 4 runs. Yasir Khan scored 45, Jahanzeb Sultan scored 25 and Tayyab Tahir scored 36 runs. Finally, Shahid Aziz improved the total by playing an innings of 29 runs off 14 balls. Quetta's Usman Tariq was the most successful bowler, taking 3 wickets for 32 runs in 4 overs. In reply, Quetta Gladiators captain Saud Shakeel and Khawaja Nafi made their intentions clear by scoring 60 runs in the first 6 overs. Sultans got their first victory at a score of 77 when Khawaja Nafi scored 51 runs off just 26 balls and was bowled clean by Shahid Aziz. This was the 8th over. At a score of 81, Saud Shakeel scored 18 runs and was bowled clean by Mohammad Hasnain. When Ushka Fernando went for 7 runs, Sultans got their third victory soon, but the Sultans missed the opportunity by dropping a catch on the very next ball. Quetta's 100 runs were completed on the second ball of the 11th over. Dinesh Chandimal, who came to the PSL here, put pressure on Mohammad Hasnain by hitting 3 boundaries off the first 3 balls. On a total of 116, Dinesh Chandimal returned to the pavilion after scoring 17 runs to Obaid Shah. He took 17 Score runs. Danish Aziz also went for zero at 123, which increased the interest.

Faheem Ashraf also scored 16 runs and was caught by Shahid Aziz. Thus,



Sultans got their sixth victory on a score of 158. Hassan Nawaz was hopeful. He also scored the required 11 runs in the last over. Rizwan also dropped his catch. 2 runs were needed on the last ball to give Quetta Gladiators a 2-wicket win by hitting a six. He played an innings of 67 runs off 38 balls. He hit 6 sixes and

2 fours.

Peter Heitzglobo took one wicket for 34 runs in 4 overs. Shahid Aziz took 3 wickets for 29 runs in 4 overs.

PSL 10 Points Table
Quetta Gladiators. 15 points in 10 matches, 1st position
Multan Sultans. 2 points in 10

matches. 9 losses, 1 win. 6th and last position.

Multan Sultans debuted in PSL in 2018. This was its 8th edition. In the first edition, they won 4 out of 10 matches. They lost 5. They ended at the league stage. In the second edition in 2019, they were also a full stop at the league stage, but they won 3 out of 10 matches and lost 7. In 2020, they came to the playoffs, ending in third position, winning 6 out of 11 matches and losing 3. One tie, one defeat and one inconclusive. They became champions in 2021. They won 7 out of 12 matches and lost 5. They were runners-up for 3 consecutive years from 2020 to 2024, and if you add the champion year, they played 4 consecutive finals. The year 2022 was amazing. They won 10 out of 12 and lost only 2 matches. In 2023, they won 7 out of 12 and lost 5 and in 2024, they won 7 out of 12 and lost 5. He won 8 matches out of 12 and lost 4. Check out these details, then check his condition in the ongoing PSLX. He won only one out of 10 matches. He lost 9, and only 2 points was the worst ending

British climber breaks his own record with 19th Everest summit

AFP

British climber Kenton Cool successfully climbed Mount Everest for the nineteenth time on Sunday, extending his own record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain by a non-Nepali.

More than 50 climbers have reached the summit since the spring climbing season began this month, taking advantage of a brief spell of good weather and typically calmer winds.

Mountain guide Cool, 51, first climbed Everest in 2004 and has

since had an expedition almost every year taking clients up the world's highest peak.

"Kenton summited Everest for the 19th time at 11am Nepalese time (0515 GMT) on Sunday," a post on his Instagram account said.

His 15th summit in 2021 tied him with American Dave Hahn for the most summits by a non-Nepali climber, and his summit the following year gave him a solo title.

Cool was once told he would not walk unaided again after a rock-climbing accident in 1996

that broke both his heel bones.

He told AFP in a 2022 interview after his 16th ascent that his Everest record was "not that amazing" in the context of Nepali climbers' achievements.

"I'm really surprised by the interest... considering that so many of the Sherpas have so many more ascents," he said then.

Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa, 55, is also attempting to break his own world record for the most Everest summits with his 31st climb.

Cool's latest summit comes

after at least two people—a Filipino and an Indian climber—died on Mount Everest this week.

Nepal has issued 458 permits to mountaineers this season and a city of tents hosting foreign climbers and support staff has built up at the foot of Everest.

Most Everest hopefuls are escorted by a Nepali guide, meaning more than 900 climbers will tread the path to the summit this season.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and welcomes hundreds of adventurers each spring.



A climbing boom has made mountaineering a lucrative business since Edmund Hillary and

Tenzing Norgay Sherpa made the first ascent in 1953.

Last year more than 800

climbers made it to the peak of Everest, including 74 from the northern Tibet side.

26th National IKO-Matsushima Kyokushin Karate Championships 2025

Tahir Amin Malik.

There are inviting 2 fighters from all 4 provinces, Gilgit/ Bultistan, Kashmir, Pakistan Railways, Police, Pak Army, UET Lahore, Government College Lahore, DHA sports Board, LDA Sports Board, Punjab University Lahore, Bahria School / College, & some other schools/colleges and other organisations. The Championship will e played under mentioned weight categories.

Male:- -60kg, +60kg (open)

Prizes upto 8th position.

(Age must be above 18yrs)

Female:—50kg, +50kg (open)

Prizes upto 8th position

(Age must be above 16yrs)

Winners will get Certificates, medals, trophies and gifts.

(Under-16yrs age boys and girls competitions are separate).

In which kids perform stretching exercises, nun chucks performance, stick fighting, bricks breaking, Kata's etc. The Management has arranged to give the accommodation/hostel for players and officials.

Sirbaz Khan successfully summits 8,586m Mount Kangchenjunga without oxygen

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani mountaineer Sirbaz Khan has made history by successfully peaking Mount Kangchenjunga (8,586 metres) without supplementary oxygen, Alpine Club of

Pakistan (ACP) announced on Sunday.

The ascent, achieved at 5:00 AM Nepal Time (NPT), makes him the first Pakistani to climb all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks without the aid of bottled oxygen. Sirbaz's accomplishment places him among a select few elite climbers globally to achieve this feat.

He has successfully climbed the following 14 peaks above 8,000 metres without relying on bottled oxygen: Everest (8,848 m), K2 (8,611 m), Kangchenjunga (8,586 m), Lhotse (8,516 m), Makalu (8,485 m), Cho Oyu (8,188 m), Dhaulagiri (8,167 m), Manaslu (8,163 m), Nanga Parbat (8,126 m), Annapurna I (8,091 m), Gasherbrum I (8,080 m), Broad Peak (8,051 m), Gasherbrum II (8,035 m), and Shishapangma (8,027 m).

His summit of Mt. Kangchenjunga was undertaken in pure alpine style, characterized by minimal equipment, the absence of fixed ropes or camps established by Sherpas and crucially, no supplementary oxygen. This demanding approach underscores the magnitude of his accomplishment.

Youm-e-Tashakur

SINGAPORE: Pakistan High Commission observed Youm-e-Tashakur to honor the historic Marka-e-Haq victory and to pay tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan.



Photo: Online

Chairman Senate Gillani represents Pakistan at inaugural mass of Pope Leo XIV in Rome

Kiran Asim

ROME: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, attended the inaugural Mass of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, on Sunday, 18 May 2025. The ceremony marked the formal commencement of Pope Leo XIV's papacy and was witnessed by an estimated 250,000 attendees, including numerous global leaders and dignitaries.

Chairman Gillani's presence affirms Pakistan's commitment to interfaith harmony and its respect for the Catholic community worldwide. His participation highlighted Pakistan's dedication to

fostering dialogue and mutual understanding among diverse religious traditions.

The inaugural Mass was attended by a distinguished assembly of international figures, including U. S. Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. European royalty, such as King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium and King Felipe



and Queen Letizia of Spain, were also present.

Pope Leo XIV, born in Chicago and holding dual U.

S.-Peruvian citizenship, is the first pontiff from either nation. In his homily, he emphasized themes of peace, compas-

sion, and unity, reflecting his commitment to addressing global challenges through dialogue and cooperation.

During his visit, Chairman Gillani is scheduled to engage in bilateral meetings with Vatican officials and international counterparts to discuss shared interests, including the promotion of peace, protection of minority rights, and the advancement of interfaith collaboration.

Pakistan remains steadfast in its advocacy for religious tolerance and coexistence, and Chairman Gillani's participation in this significant event reaffirms the nation's role in promoting global understanding and harmony.

India will feel consequences for decades if it stops Pakistan's water: ISPR DG

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, director general of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), has said that India cannot deter, coerce or make Pakistanis bow down through aggression.

In an interview with R T Arabic, Lt-Gen Chaudhry said that India tried to deter Pakistanis, but it forgot that it could not do this to the people and armed forces of Pakistan. He said the world saw how the entire Pakistani nation stood like a Bunyan-um-Marsoos, an iron wall, against the Indian aggression.

When asked what will be Pakistan's reaction if India stops Pakistan's water, the ISPR DG said, "I think the government of Pakistan has made it absolutely clear. There is nothing more for the army to say. I can only say that it is some mad man who can think that he can stop water of 240 million plus people of this country. Dare not, cannot. You want me to

explain those actions. I hope that time doesn't come, but it will be such action that the world will see and the consequences of that will be felt for years and decades to come. Nobody dare stop water of Pakistan."

The ISPR DG said that peace is the first choice of the Pakistani people and the international community understands this spirit of the Pakistani nation. He said that India was the main sponsor and abettor of terrorism in the region, especially in Pakistan, as it was funding Fitna al Khwarij and terrorist groups operating in Balochistan. He said that Indian policy of sponsoring terrorism is the main cause of tension with Pakistan.

Instead of acknowledging and dealing with this fact, he said, India hides behind its false narrative of terrorism and hubristically acts as a judge, jury and executioner. He said that India blamed Pakistan without any evidence said after the Pahalgam incident.

He said Pakistan had a categorical



stance and asked India to provide evidence to any neutral body for probe and "we are ready to cooperate with it". But instead of opting for that rational approach, India unilaterally decided to attack mosques and innocent civilians in Pakistan.

The ISPR DG said it was then that Pakistan retaliated, and that too in a very mature, measured, proportionate

and just manner. He said that Pakistan hit only military targets and not a single civilian infrastructure was targeted. He said Pakistan's retribution was swift and brutal, and put sense in the adversary to dial down and face the reality.

To a question, the DG said the Indian Defence Ministry requested de-escalation after Pakistan retaliated. As a peace loving country, he said, Pakistan accepted this request and then the interlocutors and international players stepped in to broker a ceasefire.

To another question, the DG said the armed forces performed the duty they were entrusted by the state and people of Pakistan, the duty of defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and they will continue to defend it at all costs.

The DG lauded the role of Pakistan's diplomatic corps and said they acted very finely and astutely, and engaged the international community in a remarkable manner.

President urges Int'l Community to resolve Kashmir dispute



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the Pakistani army has shattered the Indian warmongering regime's pride and destroyed its nefarious designs in the region.

He expressed these views in a detailed meeting with Sardar Zulfiqar Roshan (USA) and Raja Javed (Switzerland) at the presidency here on Sunday. "We salute our armed forces for giving a befitting response to Indian aggression by shooting down Indian Rafale aircraft, destroying Indian air bases and other key military installations inside India within a short span of time", the president said.

Terming Kashmir as the root cause of tension in the region, the presi-

dent stated that the clouds of war will continue to loom in South Asia unless the Kashmir issue is resolved.

The unresolved dispute, he said, continues to pose a threat to peace and stability in South Asia.

"It is, therefore, imperative that the international community should realize the sensitivity of the Kashmir issue and play its due role to help India and Pakistan to resolve this issue peacefully", Barrister Chaudhry remarked. Describing Kashmiris as the main stakeholders to the dispute, he stressed on holding tripartite talks and including Kashmiri leadership in the decision making process to find out a permanent solution to the Kashmir dispute.

He also urged the overseas Kashmiris to play their role to expose Indian jingoism and its expansionist designs before the world.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed – A Diplomatic Asset for Pakistan



Zain Khan

MULTAN: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed is widely recognized as Pakistan's unofficial ambassador on the global stage. His deep insight into international affairs, coupled with his extensive experience in foreign policy and diplomacy, makes him an invaluable asset for representing Pakistan's stance abroad.

In view of his exceptional skills and global recognition, it is strongly recommended that Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed be included

in any high-level delegation sent abroad to project Pakistan's viewpoint. His inclusion will significantly enhance the credibility, effectiveness, and intellectual strength of the delegation.

Senator Mushahid has a proven track record in international relations and global strategic discourse. He has previously served as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs and Defence, and has played a key role in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy narrative in numerous global forums.

Honourable Prime Minister, in the best interest of Pakistan, it is imperative to rise above political differences and personal viewpoints. National interest must always take precedence. Therefore, we urge you to immediately issue instructions for including Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed in the upcoming foreign delegation. His presence will not only add weight to Pakistan's diplomatic efforts but also present a unified and intellectually robust image of the country on the international front.

Tarar lauds Pakistan's armed forces for foiling India's evil design

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has praised the bravery and valour of Pakistan's armed forces. He said the role of our army, air force and navy will always be remembered in history which took revenge on the enemy for 1971.

Addressing a thanksgiving public rally in Lahore on Sunday, Attaullah Tarar said brave forces and commanders bravely and courageously destroyed the enemy's evil intentions.

Paying tribute to the inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Attaullah Tarar emphasized that national defence was safeguarded, proving that no force can defeat Pakistan's armed forces. He further said the Pakistan Army destroyed

the enemy's brigade headquarters, compelling them to raise the white flag, while the Pakistan Air Force successfully shot down enemy fighter jets.

The Minister highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan effectively countered Indian propaganda through tireless efforts in information warfare.



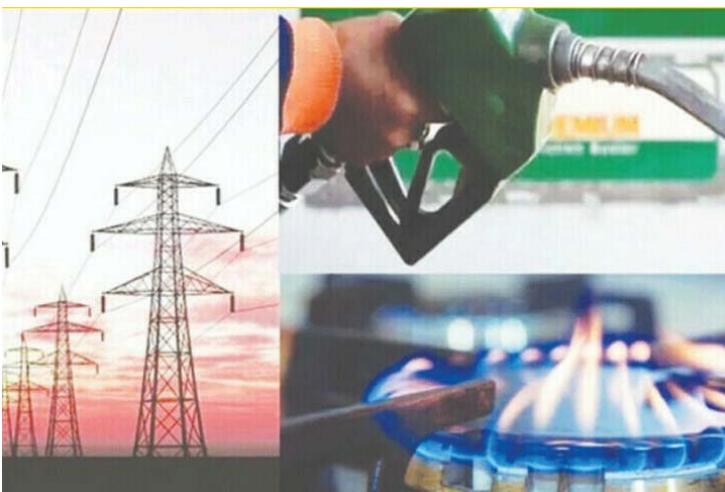
Govt finalises plan to hike electricity, gas, fuel prices in new fiscal year

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government has prepared a comprehensive plan to raise electricity, gas, and petroleum prices from the beginning of the new fiscal year, sources revealed on Friday. The move comes as part of assurances reportedly given to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ahead of the upcoming federal budget.

Sources said that starting July 1, the electricity tariff will undergo an annual rebasing, while gas tariffs will be adjusted twice on July 1 and February 15, 2026.

Additionally, a carbon levy of Rs5 per litre on petrol and diesel is also



being finalised.

The government is expected to reduce subsidies on electricity in the upcoming budget.

According to the sources, the public should brace for an additional financial burden. Added that provinces will not be allowed to provide subsidies on electricity and gas.

Sources further stated that a loan of Rs1,252 billion will be obtained from banks to settle circular debt, which will be recovered from power consumers over six years.

To this end, a 10% debt service surcharge will be added to electricity bills, and the federal government will have the authority to revise this surcharge upward if necessary.