

ABC Certified The Spokesman

(صحيح بخاري: حديث نمبر 6028) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Eid ul Azha likely on June 7 in Pakistan, predicts astronomer

Renowned Pakistani astronomer Dr Faheem Hashmi has predicted that Eidul Azha in Pakistan is likely to be observed on June 7, 2025 (Friday). According to Dr Hashmi, the moon is not expected to be visible in Pakistan



PM laptop scheme deadline extended: students get a second chance

A Leading National Daily

The Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme has a

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziqa'ad 22, Tuesday, May 20, 2025





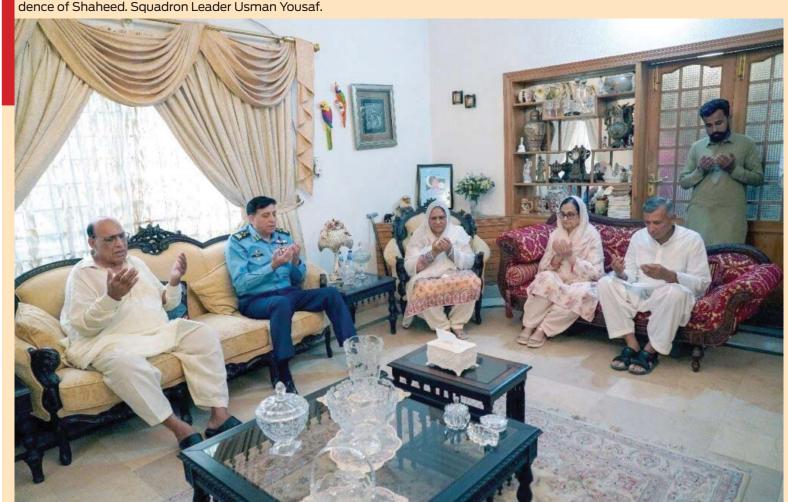


🚉 www.dailyspokesman.net 🍼 💓 @daily_spokesman 📢 Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 35

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Condolence

RAWALPINDI: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force offering Fateha at the resi-



China-bound Ishaq Dar to lay focus on in-depth discussions on India conflict

Spokesman Report

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar departed for Beijing on Monday for a three-day official visit to China, amid heightened tensions between Pakistan and India following the Pahalgam incident in Indian-occupied

Speaking to the media at the Dar firmly stated that India's baseless allegations regarding

Pakistan's involvement in the attack have been exposed.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, Ishaq DAr emphasised that the global community is no longer buying into New Delhi's blame game, and Pakistan has presented clear evidence to refute the claims.

Dar said Pakistan has proven to the world that India's allegations of Pakistan's involvement airport before departure, Ishaq in the Pahalgam incident were

Dar's visit, extended on the

invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, is aimed at holding in-depth discussions on the evolving regional dynamics in South Asia, particularly in light of the recent military escalation

between India and Pakistan. The two sides will also review Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchange views on broader regional and global

issues of mutual interest. Diplomatic sources highlighted that China has vocally supported Pakistan during

its recent standoff with India, reinforcing the strategic trust between the two nations.

Dar's agenda will include regional security, strategic cooperation, and development partnerships, particularly in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Former diplomats Khalid Masood, Naghmana Hashmi, and Maria Sultan commented that Pakistan's cordial ties with China, Bangladesh, Turkiye, and Azerbaijan contrast sharply with



India's increasing diplomatic isolation.

They noted that Pakistan's foreign policy stance has gained credibility, especially with recent international calls for restraint

Air Chief Marshal Sidhu offers condolences to **Shaheed Officer's Family**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force visited the residence of Squadron Leader Usman Yousaf Shaheed in Rawalpindi to offer Fateha and to convey his condolences to the bereaved family. The Air Chief paid rich tribute to Squadron Leader Usman Yousaf Shaheed, who gave the supreme sacrifice and embraced martydom in the line of duty during the recent enemy attack on an operational Air Base of Pakistan Air Force. Chief of the Air Staff assured the family of the Shaheed officer that the services and sacrifices of our martyrs will forever be etched in the nation's memory and honored with unwavering reverence. He also offered Fateha for the elevation of the martyr's ranks in heaven and prayed that Allah Almighty grant patience to the bereaved family.

Air Chief Marshal Sidhu Offers Condolences to Shaheed Officer's FamilyLater, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu visited Combined Military Hospital Rawalpindi, where he met with injured personnel from Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Army as well as civilians who sustained injuries during the conflict. He also received a comprehensive medical briefing on their condition and interacted with the wounded personnel, lauding their resilience and unwavering courage in the face of adversity. He directed the hospital staff that the best possible medical care and administrative support be provided to the injured personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Air Staff reiterated Pakistan Air Force's steadfast resolve to defend the aerial frontiers of Pakistan at every cost and to uphold the legacy of valour & commitment demonstrated by its personnel in the

Three 'Indiansponsored terrorists' killed in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Three terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Baloch Liberation Front, were killed in two engagements in Balochistan on May 17-18.

An intelligence based operation was conducted by the security forces in general area Gishkur, Awaran District, on reported presence of Indian

sponsored terrorists. During the operation, troops effectively engaged the terrorists. After an intense exchange of fire, Indian sponsored terrorist Younas was killed

and two of his accomplices were wounded.

In another engagement in Turbat City, Kech District, security forces successfully neutralized two Indian sponsored terrorists, terrorist ring leader Sabr Ullah and terrorist Amjad @ Bichoo.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed Indian sponsored terrorists, who remained actively involved in multiple terrorists activities against the law enforcement agencies as well as target killing of innocent civilians.

Justice Ejaz Swati made permanent BHC C.F



跨 Bureau Report

QUETTA: The Judicial Commission has formally approved the appointment of Justice Muhammad Ejaz Swati as the permanent Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel on Monday.

According to the channel report, the approval was granted during a commission meeting chaired by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, where the names of three senior judges were deliberated for the top judicial

Justice Ejaz Swati, who had been serving as the Acting Chief Justice since February 14, 2025, will now permanently hold the position.

Pakistan denounces Indian media's false claims of Shaheen Missile use in **Operation Bunyanum** Marsoos

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISI AMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday categorically rejected baseless and misleading claims, propagated by segments of Indi-Pakistan's Shaheen missile during Operation

Bunyanum Marsoos In an official state-

ment, Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan condemned the allegations as "unfounded" and part disinformation.

Indian Army's official Twitter account shared a remarked. video purporting to show Pakistan's use of Shaheen was quickly debunked and

led to the post being deleted. However, by then, various Indian media outlets had already circulated the narrative without verification, he realities, India seems intent added.

an media, alleging the use of offered no clarification or mislead public and internaretraction following the tional observers," the spokes-

of a broader campaign of removal of its erroneous post. This silence raises He noted that the claims serious questions about the gained traction after the credibility and intent behind such disinformation," he

He said that spread of such false narratives, apparently missile — an assertion that aimed at distracting from India's setbacks in Opera-

tion Sindoor and from Pakistan's conventional military successes. "Rather than acknowledging the ground on manufacturing stories "The Indian Army has to deflect attention and person said.

He further highlighted that detailed information on the weaponry used by Pakistan in Operation BM was publicly released in the Inter-Services Public Relations

(ISPR) statement on 12 May 2025. According to the ISPR, the Pakistan Armed Forces deployed precision-guided Fatah series missiles (F1 and F2), advanced long-range loitering munitions, and highly accurate long-range artillery — none of which included Shaheen missile.



Kashmir President hails Pakistan's victory in Operation Banyan Marsous

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that we bow our heads in gratitude to Allah the almighty for granting the Pakistani Armed Forces a remarkable victory in Operation "Banyan Marsous".

While addressing a function hosted by former President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chaudhry Javed Iqbal here today, the president said that the recent clash between Pakistan and India was a battle of truth against falsehood, where Pakistan Army not only defeated the enemy ten times bigger in terms of numbers but also crushed its war madness and arrogance.



"We owe this victory to our great world. martyrs who shed their blood to protect the territorial sovereignty of the homeland", he remarked. The Pakistan Air Forces' tooth-crushing response to the enemy's aggression, he noted, has further cemented Pakistan's military position and its exceptional professional capabilities throughout the

The glorious victory in Operation Banyan Marsous stands out as a vivid manifestation of bravery, courage and professionalism with which the armed forces fought", the president remarked. He said that the entire Kashmiri and Pakistani nation was proud of the historic victory.

The function was attended by former President of Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chaudhry Javed Iqbal, Chairman District Council Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga, Mayor Mirpur Chaudhry Usman Khalid, President Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Umar Shahzad and

Freshen

RAWALPINDI: A vendor is showering water on the displayed Armenian cucumber to keep them fresh and attract the customers, on his pushcart, in the city.



Shahid Afridi's Visit Leaves Lasting Impression on Lipa Valley Youth

👺 Bureau Report

LIPA VALLEY: Former Pakistan cricket team captain and world-renowned fast bowler Shahid Khan Afridi's one-day visit to Lipa Valley left a lasting impression on the public. Youths' enthusiasm for the gym has increased.

There has been a demand for the establishment of a cricket academy. Shahid Afridi has offered coaching. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari selection was given an exemplary decision for leading a delegation of parliamentarians going abroad and for his role in the Pakistan-India war. While the PPP candidate for Assembly Constituency 7. Shaukat Javed Mir. received the title of a good leader.

On this occasion, PPP leader Shaukat Javed Mir, Pezada, Shami Saif The emotional slogans of Rehman Awan and the enthusiastic response of the people made the atmosphere of the sky-high mountains, green fields, fields and fields Pakistan Zindabad, India is dead, Pak Army is with you, God is with you, we are with you, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir Martyrs' Memorial at Nokot Gali and



Pakistan, La ilaha illallah, the sign of victory resonated with the voices of the

Shahid Afridi first went to the

is ours, what is the relationship with and recited Fateh Khawani. Later, the sionalism, defense capabilities. Pakispecial guest of honor attended the reception at the tourist spot. Speaking on the occasion, Shahid Afridi said that the brave forces of Pakistan have majority of its people are extremists crushed India's expansionist ambitions

with their strength of faith and professtan is a peaceful country and its army and people are peaceful and religious. India is an occupying country, the vast and adhere to the ideology of Hindutva.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's diplomatic front strategy praised by Chaudhry Yasin

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Yasin has said that the government's selection of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to fight the war on the diplomatic front is a recognition of his leadership skills and is a source of pride for the people because this is a diplomatic front, a frontier that determines the passing

and coming times of countries. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations yesterday. He said that history is witness that



earlier as the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, he had shown his leadership skills by taking Pakistan out of diplomatic isolation and

played the role of a thoughtful national leader during the war with India.

He said that when difficult times came for Pakistan, the leadership of matic front as well.

all differences aside and raised the slogan of Pakistan's kaphe.

He said that if there is a state, then there is politics. He said that the Pakistani army has achieved a historic victory against India, which the world has acknowledged. He said that the nation has built a wall of lead with the Pakistani army.

He said that under the leadership of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari, Pakistan will create a new history of diplomatic successes and the enemy will be defeated on the diplo-

Peace advocate urges renewed global engagement on Kashmir



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-profile roundtable conference convened in Muzaffarabad has called on the international community to reengage meaningfully with the protracted Kashmir conflict, warning that continued inaction poses a grave threat to regional peace and stability.

Chaired by Tanveerul Islam- a former militant turned peace advocate and now Chairman of the Sawera Foundation—the event brought together diplomats, academics, civil society representatives, and journalists under the banner "Voices for Peace and Justice." The conference was organized by the Sawera Foundation, a nonprofit working on peace-

building and human rights in South Asia.

Speakers at the forum underscored the urgent need for a rights-based and just resolution to the Kashmir dispute, emphasizing that silence or neglect would only deepen the humanitarian and geopolitical crisis.

Reflecting on recent diplomatic de-escalation efforts between India and Pakistan, Tanveerul Islam lauded the behind-the-scenes interventions of former U.S. President Donald Trump-supported by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates-for helping avert a potential military escalation. "That moment of diplomacy was not just a pause in hostilities-it was a demonstration of what principled international engagement can

Pakistan Army's bravery leaves India reeling, says Sardar Attique



👺 Bureau Report

MIRPUR/SAMAHANI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the entire Kashmiri nation stands by the armed forces, now any enemy will think a hundred times before committing an adventure. Love for the Pakistan Army is a patriotic feeling, the role played by the Pakistani army in the defense of the country is commendable, under the enthusiastic leadership of General Hafiz Syed Asim Munir, a befitting reply was given to India, which it will always remember. India must have come to know what it is like to compete with real soldiers. He said that in a test, every Kashmiri and Pakistani is ready to sacrifice his life and property for Pakistan, slavery of the enemy is not acceptable to any proud Kashmiri and Pakistani. He expressed these views while expressing gratitude for the success of Operation Banyan Marsus organized by the Samahani Muslim Conference Halqa and addressing the Armed Forces of Pakistan Zindabad program in Samahani. Slogans of Pak Army Zindabad, Kashmir will become Pakistan were raised at the ceremony. Former President of Muslim Conference Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral Advocate, former candidate for assembly Raja Khushnood Azam, Chairperson of Women's Department Mirrour Division Ms. Amira Khanum Chairman Public Relations Board Chaudhry Khizr Hayat, Member of District Council Raja Shahid Raza, Chaudhry Muhammad Yousaf, Nahid Akhtar Raja and other leaders spoke at the ceremony. On this occasion, President of Women's Department Mirpur Division Amira Khanum, General Secretary of Halqa Samahni Ms. Shazia Kausar, President of Town Committee Samahni Mirza Shamrez Yasin Zargar, Senior Vice President Abdul Qader Mughal, Organizer Raja Nasir Ali Bandalvi, Mirza Mohsin Safir, Raja Nadeem Khan, Raja Mazhar Iqbal, Hafiz Ansar Mehboob and other workers participated. Former Assembly candidates Raja Khushnawad Azam, Chaudhry Khizr Hayat and Ms. Amira Khanum were active in making the program a success. Meanwhile, when the President of Muslim Conference reached Samahni, he was given a grand welcome.

Dr. Rubina Akhtar leads solidarity rally for Pakistan Army

Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: Dr. Rubina Akhtar, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and candidate from NA-148, stated that on the morning of May 10, Pakistan delivered a resounding slap of defeat to India in the recent conflict, and India is still reeling from the impact. The international media also exposed the lies and false reporting of the Indian media during the war, which has become a source of embarrassment for them.

She added that although Indian leaders are still issuing threats of war in an attempt to cover their humiliation, after experiencing defeat, they will think a hundred times before initiating conflict again. She expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the nation to our friendly countries-China, Turkey, Arab nations, Iran, and Azerbaijan—for their unwavering support.

"We salute our armed forces, navy, and especially the air force," she said, adding that "our pilots have written a new chapter of courage and bravery in history." Dr. Rubina Akhtar shared these remarks while addressing a women's gathering in Basti No., NA-148. A large number of women and children were present at the event. She joined the participants in chanting slogans in favor of the Pakistan Army and prayed for further

Multan - Dr. Rubina Akhtar, PTI leader and candidate from NA-148, is leading the "Long Live Pakistan Army" solidarity rally in support of

Over 38,000 drivers fined for illegal parking in Capital

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has fined over 38,000 drivers for illegal parking during the ongoing year as part of a campaign to maintain traffic flow, improve the integrated traffic system, and ensure strict adherence to traffic laws

An official told APP on Monday that indiscriminate action was taken against violators involved in illegal parking, and several vehicles were impounded at various police stations for occupying footpath areas and causing obstructions.

He said a special squad has also been formed to crack down on illegal parking in shopping malls, markets, and commercial centers across the city to ensure road discipline.

 $Chief Traffic \ Officer \ (CTO) \ Captain \ (retd) \ Syed \ Zeeshan \ Haider \ is sued$ special instructions to all zonal DSPs, emphasizing strict enforcement of traffic laws to reduce violations and ensure a smoother traffic system.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{CTO}}$ Zeeshan directed that actions against those obstructing traffic flow must be made more stringent and effective, and that parking will only be allowed in designated areas.

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Namaz Timings Maghrib ..7:05 pm .. 8:43 pm

EMEDGENCY

FINIFICATION	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	.9266044
Motorway Police92	270601-20

Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

ENOUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	56111
MH	56111
MH	56111
Cantt Hospital	9270907-
DHQ	5556311-
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-

Hamdard University Hospital observes International Nurses Day

KARACHI: Rufayda Hamdard College of Nursing (RHCN) hosted a special event yesterday at Naimat Begum Hamdard University Hospital to mark the International Nursing Day. Ms. Sadia Rashid, President - HFP and Chancellor of Hamdard University presided over the event. Eminent medical professionals and participants praised the medical services of paramedic professionals working in the field of nursing in Pakistan and paid tribute to Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Associate Professor Alia Nasir, Principal of RHCN, said that the college has achieved a significant milestone. The number of seats in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program has increased from 50 to 100. She credited this success to the vision of Chancellor Ms. Sadia Rashid, who is working hard to modernize the healthcare sector in Pakistan and equip the new generation with contemporary knowledge.

Brigadier (R) Dr. Riaz-ul-Haq said that nursing plays a vital role in the medical field. Nurses are professionals responsible for the personal care of patients. Madam Nightingale dedicated her entire life to

nursing. In recognition of her services, International Nurses Day is observed on

In her presidential address, Ms. Sadia Rashid said that nursing is a noble profession. Bibi Rufayda Al-Aslamiyyah (RA) was the first Muslim female physician, nurse, and social worker. She also founded the first charitable clinic. Ms. Rashid expressed her happiness at seeing students actively involved in academic and extracurricular activities. She emphasized that everything students learn during their education becomes part of their professional skills. Therefore, they should complete their studies with full focus.

Chief guest Dr. Shaheen Zafar said that Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim Muhammad Said was a great role model for the nation. She praised Ms. Sadia Rashid for continuing his mission and expanding Hamdard Pakistan's services so effectively, calling it a great service to society. She added that compassion and care for patients are the core responsibilities of

Guest of honour, Professor Dr. Riffat Jan, said that the awarding of Hilal-e-Imtiaz to Ms. Sadia Rashid is a shared achievement



Islamabad A student District. from Layyah Miss Bismillah Mumtaz Khan Dreshakh, received the degree of MSc Agriculture and Horticulture with significant success from Agriculture University Rawalpindi.

All facilities Available in Hospital: MS Dr. Adeel



跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: According to the details, Dr. Adeel Arif, Medical Superintendent (MS) of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Kamalia, Talking to our Correspondent in his office, said that all facilities are available in the hospital and no patient needs to take private medicine. Dr. Adeel Arif further said that medicines are being provided free of cost to the patients admitted and Come to the hospital. Apart from this, some medical tests are also being done free of cost. The treatment and care of the patients admitted in the hospital is being done very well. Doctors from all departments are present in the hospital at all times and there are doctors and paramedical staff available 24 hours a day in the emergency wards who check up the patients in case of any emergency. Doctor Adeel Arif said that our effort is to ensure that patients coming and admitted to the hospital do not face any

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Honorary Consuls General from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Islamabad met with Mr. Asim Khan Goraya, Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)



Museums Day Celebrations at Bahawalpur Museum

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: On the occasion of International Museum Day, several colorful cultural and literary events were organized at Bahawalpur Museum, Bahawalpur.

These included the objectives of establishing museums, the role of the International Council of Museums, a platform working for the construction and development of museums, a documentary about museums in Pakistan and especially Bahawalpur Museum. Handicraft stalls of students of Government Technology College for Women, a visit to the museum by students of various educational institutions including Kotham College, folk music based on Cholistani bean and Nigara highlighting the regional culture, guided tours by the staff for students visiting the museum and others.



and the entry of visitors was organized under the leadfree and the citizens were in ership of Director Museum full swing all day. The citizens Muhammad Zubair Rabbani highly appreciated the museum in which students participated To highlight the importance of this day, the museum izing a successful program. A also cut in the gallery on the seen simultaneously.

remained open until 5 pm, museum awareness walk was occasion of this day. Speaking in this regard, Director of the Museum, Muhammad Zubair Rabbani, said that museums are gateways from which the

ICMA Multan Branch Council Celebrates Summer Gala with a Bang



MULTAN: Samina Khan Kayani, Joint Director of ICMA Multan Branch Council, stated that students pursuing education here have a very bright future, as the demand for accounting education is increasing both in Pakistan and globally. She emphasized that extracurricular activities help polish students' personalities and bring their hidden talents to light. That is why all festivals and national days are celebrated at the institute, giving every student an opportunity to appear on stage.

She expressed these views while addressing the Summer Gala event recently held at the ICMA Multan Branch Council. She further stated that graduates from this institute are making their mark in developed countries and contributing to Pakistan's progress. The institute provides students with every opportunity to move forward, including various seminars, workshops, and special lectures by expert faculty in

On this occasion, students praised the leadership skills of Joint Director Samina Khan Kayani, saying that under her guidance, the ICMA Multan Branch is progressing rapidly. The institute offers an excellent environment with a dedicated team of teachers constantly working for student development. During the Summer Gala, students performed a variety of programs, and the event concluded with a performance by renowned qawwals from Multan. A large number of students and teachers participated in the ceremony.

Operation "Bunyan Marsoos" won hearts of entire people: Mehmood Nasir

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Vice President of Press Club Toba Tek Singh and Senior Photographer Journalist Mehmood Nasir said that the recent Operation "Bunyan Marsoos" of the Pakistan Army is a successful and



courageous operation against the evil intentions of the enemy, which has won the hearts of the entire nation. He said that this operation is not only a proof of the professional capacity of the security agencies but also a symbol of the nation's unwavering trust in the Pakistan Army. Mehmood Nasir said that as a Cameraman, I have always seen that the dedication with which our soldiers serve on the front line requires indescribable passion. In "Bunyan Marsoos" as well, our soldiers left no stone unturned in fulfilling their duty. He said that this operation not only gave a befitting reply to the enemy but also gave new courage to the peace-loving people. Mehmood Nasir also appealed to media workers and social media users to unite against anti-national propaganda and strengthen the national narrative. He prayed that Allah Almighty may protect the Pakistani Armed Forces grant stability to the homeland, and enable us to fulfill our responsibilities honestly.

Al-Shifa Trust urges caution as scorching heat wave hits Pakistan

Spokesman Report

problems.

RAWALPINDI: The Al-Shifa Trust (AST) on Monday raised concerns about the increasing health probtrust stated that both children and tion span, language, and emotional adults are using screens more than growth. ever, resulting in significant physical and mental health issues.

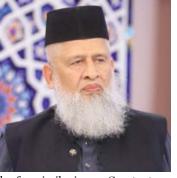
Consultant and Head of the meals and bedtime, and use story-Oculoplastics Department at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi, instead of just games and videos. said that disproportionate screen

time is associated with eye problems, depression, anxiety, sleep issues, obesity, and impaired social devel-

Talking to reporters, he explained lems linked to excessive time spent that children are especially at risk as on mobile and computer screens. The it can affect their eyes, sleep, atten-

He advised parents to limit screen time according to age, encourage Dr. Tayyab Afghani, Senior outdoor play, avoid screens during telling and educational activities

Dr. Afghani said that professionals



also face similar issues. Constant use of screens for emails, meetings, and

messages cause eye strain, headaches, as eye, breathing, and heart problems, action can prevent long-term damage. back pain, and poor posture.

He suggested that after every 20 minutes on screen, people should look at something 20 feet away for

20 seconds to reduce eye problems. He added that people should prioritise their well-being by setting clear limits between work and personal time, especially when working from

Dr. Afghani also urgently warned about the ongoing heat wave and growing air pollution. He stressed that the hot weather and air pollution are increasing health risks, such especially for children, the elderly, and people with medical conditions.

He noted that temperatures in many cities are reaching record highs, making outdoor exposure increasingly dangerous. To stay safe, he advised avoiding going out during the hottest part of the day, drinking plenty of water, wearing sunglasses and light clothes, staying in cool places, using face masks outdoors, keeping windows closed, and using air purifiers if possible.

Dr. Tayyab Afghani emphasised that public awareness and early

He encouraged schools, parents, and employers to work together in creating screen-safe environments and healthier routines, especially during the ongoing heat wave, when people's vulnerability to eye strain and dehydration increases significantly.

He also mentioned that with its comprehensive services, Al-Shifa Trust offers nearly 80% of its patients free eye treatment at hospitals in Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Kohat, Sukkur, Muzaffarabad, and Gilgit. A new hospital in Lahore will start operations by 2027.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

(jaffrani@adpluse.pk Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. Head Office: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Khurram Jaffrani

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

What Saudi Arabia gained from Trump's visit

S President Donald Trump's decision to make Riyadh his first foreign destination in his second term was not merely a gesture of diplomacy — it was a geopolitical statement. For Saudi Arabia, last week's visit was a powerful affirmation of its growing centrality in the international system and a clear signal that Washington continues to view the Kingdom as a key anchor of stability and influence in the region. The visit also brought tangible benefits, reaffirming old ties while ushering in a pragmatic framework for bilateral engagement rooted in mutual interest and strategic alignment.

Contrary to much of the noise in the Western media, the Saudi-US relationship is not transactional in the simplistic sense often portrayed. It is built on decades of strategic alignment — on energy security, regional stability and counterterrorism. What President Trump's visit achieved was to reset that partnership within the context of today's multipolar world. By choosing Riyadh as the launchpad for his foreign travels, Trump acknowledged Saudi Arabia's unique ability to influence both regional dynamics and global markets.

This was a recognition of a transformed Kingdom. Gone is the passive, rentier state of the past. Today's Saudi Arabia is proactive, reformist and unapologetically assertive in defining its interests. Vision 2030, the brainchild of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has fundamentally altered the country's trajectory, moving it away from total oil dependency toward a more diversified and competitive economy. Trump's visit, and the high-level business and defense delegations that accompanied him — including top tech leaders — affirmed that America sees a partner, not a client, in this new Saudi Arabia.

One of the most transformative and forward-looking outcomes of the visit was the spotlight on artificial intelligence. Among the most significant announcements was a joint venture between AMD and Saudi Arabia to supply high-end AI chips to support the Kingdom's rapidly expanding data infrastructure. This partnership places Saudi Arabia at the forefront of the global AI race and signals its intent to build not just capacity, but leadership, in the technologies that will define the next century.

This deal also reflects Saudi Arabia's evolution from a consumer of innovation to a producer and enabler of it. The AMD partnership is about more than chips — it is about building ecosystems: data centers, talent pipelines, research institutions and regional innovation hubs. In doing so, Saudi Arabia is staking a claim as both a supplier of capital and a destination for advanced technology investment.

Broader economic integration accompanied this initiative. Major investment agreements were announced across sectors semiconductors, green hydrogen, fintech and tourism infrastructure. These deals represent a maturing economic relationship, where capital flows in both directions and where Saudi Arabia is increasingly seen not only as a global investor but also as one of the world's most dynamic emerging investment des-

Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos-Reasons Lessons & Conclusions

Abdul Basit Alvi

nation that respects the sovereignty of other countries and refrains from interfering in their internal affairs. Unfortunately, Pakistan has long been a victim of terrorism and continues to make significant sacrifices in its fight against this global menace.

There is credible evidence pointing to Indian involvement in supporting terrorist activities within Pakistan, particularly through groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). The arrest and confession of Indian spy Kulbhushan Yadav stand as a testament to India's role in destabilizing Pakistan. Despite these serious violations, Pakistan has consistently chosen the path of dialogue and peace.

Meanwhile, the human rights situation in India, especially regarding minorities, has drawn global concern. The safety, dignity, and rights of minorities are frequently at risk, and incidents of violence and extremism in India often stem from deep-rooted internal issues. Rather than addressing these challenges domestically, India has repeatedly attempted to externalize blame—often pointing fingers at Pakistan without credible evidence.

Domestically, the conflict exposed deep-seated issues within India, particularly its treatment of minorities, including Muslims and Sikhs. This drew attention from international media and rights organizations. In contrast, Paki-

akistan is a peace-loving stan saw a unifying effect internally, as mapped and struck, while Rafale jets brated restraint. As Pakistan asserted political divisions narrowed and national solidarity strengthened. Pakistan's narrative-based on documented evidencegained credibility, while India's claims were widely criticized as unsubstantiated or fabricated.

> Importantly, Pakistan used the moment to shed longstanding allegations of being a state sponsor of terrorism. Instead, India came under scrutiny for

supporting destabilizing elements in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other regions. This marked a significant reversal in international perception.

Regionally, conflict reset geopolitical dynamics. India's long-standing effort to

"de-hyphenate" itself from Pakistan in global diplomacy was effectively undone. The Kashmir issue, long pushed to the margins, re-entered international discourse with renewed urgency. Indian deterrence suffered a visible and public collapse, as Pakistan effectively countered India's strikes and asserted strategic dominance.

The Pakistan Air Force's post-strike briefing became a defining moment. Unlike rhetorical claims, it presented verifiable data—radar logs, satellite images, jamming signals, and missile trajectory spoofing. India's prized S-400 air defense system at Adampur was

engage effectively in contested airspace. India's command-and-control satellite links were jammed mid-battle, crippling their beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) coordination and fragmenting their operational networks.

Indian drones were either electronically blinded or shot down. Confirmed losses included a Rafale and a Su-30MKI,

with debris filmed inside Indian territory. Unexploded SCALP-EG warheads landed in Pakistani fields. Several of India's retaliatory missiles misfired or crashed within its own borders, with one French M88 engine found in Bathinda and

wreckage of a Russian AL-31FP engine scattered across the Akhnoor forests. Satellite intelligence from China's MizarVision confirmed that Indian strikes on Nur Khan Airbase caused minimal damage, merely scorching ground vehicles rather than achieving mission-critical destruction.

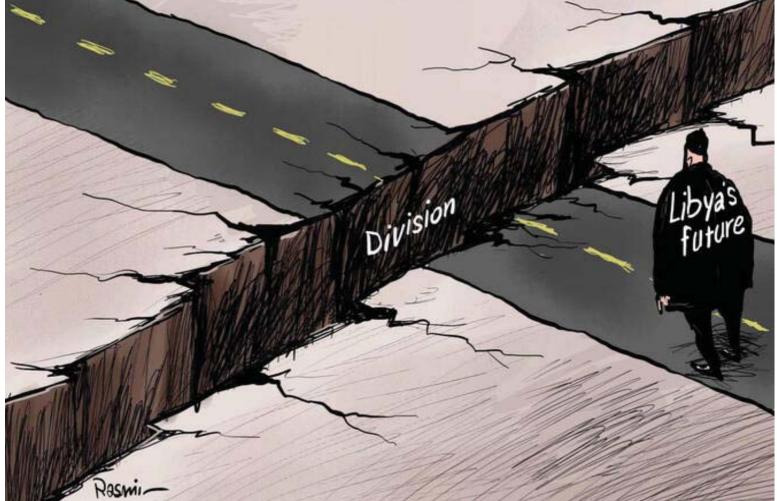
Meanwhile, Pakistan's precision strikes hit 26 military targets, including BrahMos storage depots at Bas and command hubs at Barnala. The Pakistan Navy maintained underwater dominance, tracking Indian submarines without surfacing its own.

All of this was carried out with cali-

were reportedly grounded and unable to control over the battlefield narrative, India scrambled diplomatically reaching out to the U.S., appealing to Saudi Arabia, and seeking a negotiated exit. A public comment by U. S. President Donald Trump internationalized the Kashmir issue, aligning with one of Pakistan's long-standing strategic goals.

India's failed "Operation Sindoor" became a case study in miscalculation. Even Indian defense experts—such as retired Army officer Pravin Sawhneyacknowledged Pakistan's edge in training, strategic thinking, and execution.

As South Asia undergoes profound geopolitical shifts, it has become increasingly clear that for Pakistan, a capable and modern military is not a luxury—it is an imperative. The recent conflict with India underscored the need for readiness, resilience, and strategic foresight. While war remains an undesirable path, sustainable peace must be built on the foundation of strength. A modernized, well-equipped military ensures that Pakistan can protect its national interests, uphold its sovereignty, and contribute meaningfully to long-term peace and stability in the region. The people of Pakistan deeply appreciate the outstanding role played by the Pakistan Army in successfully countering the Indian military across all fronts. There is a strong public desire to see the armed forces become even more powerful, modernized, and well-equipped to face future



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

Language of Conflict: How Rhetoric and Media Shape Public Perception in Times of War

serves as both a weapon and

Pahalgam attack in Kashmir, have once called for an international inquiry, thereby

again brought the two arch rivals to the brink of nuclear war. The attack, which took place in April 2025, resulted in the death of 26 civilians. The violence quickly escalated, with both sides engaging in intense rhetoric and media coverage.

zens alike play crucial roles in framing the narrative surrounding such incidents.

During any conflict, the media plays a central role in shaping the way people think and feel. In the latest border tensions following the Pahalgam attack, Indian media quickly labeled the attack as any independent verification. Channels repeatedly broadcast slogans like ke maarenge", "Pakistani misadventure", using emotional language designed to action. This kind of reporting, while space for alternative interpretations or the ceasefire within hours, despite inter-

n times of war, language diplomatic dialogue.

Umar Faroog

Media is not just reporting; it's shaping opinion. By presenting military actions as This statement reflects heroic and civilian deaths as collateral, the power of words in the Indian media convinced many citishaping public perception during mili- zens that war was necessary and justitary conflict. The ongoing India-Pa-fied. On the other hand, the Pakistani side kistan tensions, particularly after the often highlighted civilian suffering and

> shaping a narrative of victimhood. This difference in approach is not just about patriotism - it's about controlling how the average citizen sees the other nation.

One of the biggest issues was the lack of balance in coverage. Indian television gave

Governments, media outlets, and citi- very little space to voices that questioned the government's narrative or called for restraint. For example, when Indian airstrikes reportedly hit areas close to civilian zones in Pakistan-administered Kashmir that was either downplayed or ignored in Indian media. Pakistani media did the same to some extent. In this "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism" without way, rhetoric became a one-way message rather than a conversation.

The problem with media-fueled "Surgical strike 2.0", "Ghar mein ghus nationalism is that it leaves little room for peace. When people get used to anger and fear, peace becomes suspicious. Diplospark outrage, and support for military mats who suggest talks are seen as weak, and war becomes the only answer. This popular among the public, does not allow was evident when both countries violated

national calls for restraint. The language used on TV and newspapers made it harder for citizens to imagine peace, as they were already convinced that the 'enemy' cannot be trusted.

It's important to acknowledge that Pakistani media is not perfect either. There are also cases of one-sided narratives, especially during moments of national pride or tragedy. However, the scale and aggressiveness of Indian media's coverage - especially it's mixing of patriotism with journalism — has been more intense. This does not justify any wrong action by Pakistan, but it highlights how critical it is for both nations to promote responsible media behavior, especially when nuclear-armed countries

are involved. In conclusion, the media in both India and Pakistan play a powerful role in shaping public understanding of war and peace. The recent escalation shows how language can deepen divisions instead of healing them. I believe it is our responsibility to question what we hear and demand balanced reporting. Peace cannot come from bullets and bombs alone — it begins with words, and the media must be the first to choose them wisely. In a region as emotionally and historically charged as South Asia, mastering the language of peace may be as critical as mastering the tools of war.

Writer is student of National Defence University, Islamabad. He can be reached at umararian66@gmail.com

The Linguistic Conquest: How Arabic Became the Language of North Africa

Zainab Imran

ne can fathom and be astonished at the conquest of an age old language spreading and forgingthe culture, identity, and an everyday way of life of millions of people of a continent.

Hearing the word "Arabic" presently make us associate it with the Middle East or the gulf countries. But this ancient language has very much outgrown its native land and became a majorpart of North Africa, weaving its way into Cairo's buoyant streets to Marrakech's lively markets. But how had this Semitic tongue, at one time uttered by tribes that roamed the Arabian Desert, come to designate an entire territory so distant from its source?

The century marks the Arabization of North Africa, when the conquest of the prevalent ArabMuslims, and the expansion of Umayyad and Rashidun Caliphates approached to the Africanlands, the instituting of the Islamic religion and rule brought with it the administration of the Arabic language. The impact of the language was a multi-faceted and gradual process, which was assimilated through education, religion, business / trade and governmental bodies.

Although a multitude of other languages also represented North Africa, which were known as Punic, Berber and Latin languages. The establishment of the Arabs and the adoption of Islamicrule of law and learning the language of the Qur'an, resulted in a seamless institution of the Arabic language which was subtly undiminished and had frivolous religious significance.

The unification brought by the Islamic religion paved the way for the fusion of the Arabiclanguage into the local languages, thus creating unique dialects for the northern regions. Thisblending and combination of the languages created unique dialects which presently are spoken inthe Moroccan, Tunisian, Algerian and Libyan regions referred to as the Maghrebi Arabic. This dialect includes the formerly local language words from French, Berber and Spanish which giveway for the peculiar pronunciation patterns, this merger of the dialects and languages dwells in the richness of the linguistic hybridity.

The fusion may have given birth to the peculiar dialects, but in the past few years the revival of the Berber language was in attempt in the Algerian and Moroccan regions. Nevertheless theendurance of the local dialects and languages, Arabic is still dominating in the Africans and intheir educational, religious, governmental and social

The Arabization of the north might have been a revolutionary age in terms of the linguistic conquest, setting up the way of life, institutions and establish the norms of the social and politicalway. But a dark era also came for the language when the colonization of North Africa by the French and Spanish occupations was seen, where the forceful of the French and Spanishlanguage was deemed upon the region and the replacement of Arabic in all the social and political institutions was established, which demoted the Arabic dialect to be kept for thereligious and domestic spaces.

The turning point came for the revival of the language, when the policies and strategies werelaunched for the re-institutionalization of the language. These policies were put in place for therecapturing of their regional and cultural autonomy brought by the linguistic conquest. Thoughmove may have been condemned for the reduction and gradual invisibility of the Berber language and culture from the region, but this move was also an advantage of the Arabiclanguage supremacy in the northerner's national identity.

One can only see the kind of power a language holds, when seen through the lens of the linguistic conquest of Arabic through North Africa. It is a witness to history of the adaptation, influence and integration of the language. It is a testament of their identity, culture, their expression, religion and social institutions. A phenomenal journey of a language which is not only the means of expression, it's a national pride and the emblem of unity under one

The refinements of the scripture of Arabic are seen in the modern day literature, publicmonuments and religious works. This marks the notion of a linguistic conquest which remade the soul of a continent.

Writer is student of National Defense University, Islamabad. She can be reached at zainabimran1219@gmail.

The Spokesman 5

Rawalpindi, 19 May 2025:

PM pays tribute to Pakistan Navy for its key role in Operation Bunyanum Marsoos



rime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, visited Pakistan Navy Dockyard today to pay tribute to the Pakistan Navy for its pivotal role in Operation Bunyanum

Upon arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Baber Sidhu were also

During the visit, the Prime Minister boarded the Type-054A Class Destroyer PNS TAIMUR, where he was briefed by Commander Pakistan Fleet on the Pakistan Navy's strategic orientation, operational undertakings, and noteworthy contributions during the ongoing operation.

The Prime Minister interacted with officers and sailors of the Pakistan Navy, lauding their exemplary profession-



alism, combat readiness, and steadfast commitment to national defence. He conveyed the nation's deep appreciation and reaffirmed unwavering confidence in the capabilities of Pakistan's Armed Forces.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime guarding sea lines of communication

Navy for its resolute posture, operational dexterity, and effective deterrent response in countering adversarial maritime threats. He particularly praised the Navy's critical role in safe-



Minister commended the Pakistan and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of maritime trade, while maintaining absolute maritime sovereignty through a layered and assured seaward defence.

Recalling the Navy's proud legacy of decisive operations, the Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan

Navy remains fully capable of executing ning, Development and Special Initihigh-intensity operations akin to the historic Operation Dwarka, whenever and wherever required.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Planatives Mr Ahsan Igbal Chaudhary. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr Attaulah Tarar, and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool

Pakistan & China at 74: Friendship Beyond Borders

China's measured approach stands out as cooperation becomes critical and global attention sharpens

into a deep and multifaceted alliance. On May 21, 1951, Pakistan became the first country in the Muslim world to formally recognize and establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, putting not remain local. the degree for decades of collaboration built on trust, strategic alignment, and mutual admire. The China-Pakistan its presence. Without it, diplomacy relationship stands nowadays not best is hollow, and peace is provisional.

as a version of bilateral friendship but as a symbol of what lengthy-term, principled diplomacy can attain. As each nations move forward, their shared vision guarantees to deepen an already resilient bond.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Tensions are rising in South Asia. Two nuclear neighbors, Pakistan and India, are once again by policies they are fought by people, staring each other down. A single mistake could lead to disaster. In the middle of this storm, China has stepped in. No loud statements. No threats. Just deadly attack in Pahalgam, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi picked up the phone. He called Pakistan's Ishaq Dar. Then India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The message was clear: stop the slide, talk it out. Wang condemned the violence. He urged calm. He asked both sides to pull back and talk. No blame game. No drama. Just dialogue. In a region where emotions run hot, Beijing's move stands out. Calm. Calcu-

lated. Careful. But very real. This is not

new. China has done it before. But this

time, the stakes are higher. And the

world is watching. Cooperation was

urged. The clock, however, is ticking. In recent weeks, what once simmered in silence has approached a boiling point. What was a diplomatic chill has turned into a perilous frost. Along the volatile Line of Control, violations accusations of them, at least have intensified. What began as sporadic exchanges of fire now resemble rehearsals for something far more grave. On May 11th, both sides pointed fingers, alleging breaches of an already fragile ceasefire. This was not merely a border skirmish. It was a signal, a flare in the night sky, that South Asia is standing far too close to

And then, as if on cue, the global spotlight swiveled. U. S. President Donald Trump, initially dismissive

74 years of diplomatic rela-reversed course. Alarming intelligence tions, that has grown from had surfaced. Vice President JD Vance a diplomatic gesture right called Indian Prime Minister Narendra Mod with a message cloaked in urgency. For once, Washington appeared to understand: in a region where trust is virtually extinct, a single misstep could ignite a war whose consequences would

Trust—that elusive, flickering ember in the dark. Its absence is felt more than

> Pakistan and India are caught in a cycle of suspicion, where every conciliatory gesture is perceived as strategic deception, and every silence is read as ominous. The people of both nations, however, seem to understand what their

leaders often forget: wars are not fought

and they are suffered by them. Lurking beneath the immediate hostilities is a longer-burning issue: the future of the Indus Waters Treaty quiet, steady diplomacy. Soon after the (IWT). Once hailed as a paragon of cross-border water cooperation, the treaty now hangs by a thread. India's recent unilateral decision to suspend certain treaty obligations has set off alarm bells among environmental experts and regional policymakers alike. Water, the most basic human

> Zedong announced the founding of the People's Republic of China. Pakistan recognized the new Chinese government on 4 January 1950, becoming the first Muslim country to do so.

On 1 October 1949, Mao

need, has become a strategic weapon—a bargaining chip in a high-stakes game. Islamabad is being urged to raise the matter with Washington, not merely to honor the treaty's mechanisms but to prevent a collapse that could tilt the region into ecological and humani-

Signed in 1960 with the facilitation

akistan and China mark "not our business," he had said suddenly of the World Bank, the IWT carved out a river-sharing formula that defied even war: India would control the eastern rivers-Ravi, Beas, Sutlej; Pakistan, the western trio Indus, Jhelum, Chenab. But now, with tensions escalating and diplomatic channels ossified, the treaty's structural integrity feels increasingly precarious. For Pakistan, whose agriculture, drinking water, and energy sectors are entwined with the western rivers, any disruption could be devastating. Beyond technicalities, it's about

Meanwhile, Islamabad's strategic circles are advocating for a complete recalibration a reset. The ceasefire must be reasserted. Hotlines, now dormant. need to crackle back to life. Diplomatic missions must reopen. Talks-comprehensive and courageous-should resume, and they must include the voices long excluded: Kashmiris themselves. The foundation? UN resolutions. The vehicle? Dialogue, not diatribe.

Public diplomacy, too, must be resurrected from its premature grave. Let students trade campuses, let journalists compare notes, let artists collaborate, and let civil society breathe the same air. A region bound by shared history, languages, cuisine, and pain cannot afford to drift further apart. Media institutions must recognize their duty not as provocateurs of war, but as stewards of truth. The battle for ratings should never override the responsibility to inform fairly, wisely, and without venom.

Trade, not tension. Cooperation, not confrontation. Climate resilience, not catastrophe. These are not utopian ideals—they are practical imperatives in an interconnected age where neither nation can afford the luxury of eternal enmity. The youth on both sides of the Radcliffe Line do not dream of mushroom clouds. They dream of opportunity, stability, and purpose.

But none of these ambitions will matter without political will visible, determined, and sustained. Peace cannot be outsourced. It requires risk. It demands courage. Most of all, it asks for leaders to see further than the next election cycle, to value the lives of strangers as they would their own kin.

History, as ever, casts a long shadow. It tells us that when war ends, dialogue begins. But the wiser path, the humane $\,$ path is to converse before conflict consumes. Because war not only razes cities and claims lives, it scorches futures. Peace, when pursued with sincerity, sows' prosperity, restores dignity, and rekindles hope.



moment. The choice is clear. Will the leaders rise to meet it? Cooperation was

urged. The clock, however, is ticking. In recent weeks, what once simmered in silence has approached a boiling point. What was a diplomatic chill has turned into a perilous frost. Along the volatile Line of Control, violationsaccusations of them, at least—have intensified. What began as sporadic exchanges of fire now resemble rehearsals for something far more grave. On May 11th, both sides pointed fingers, alleging breaches of an already

Tensions escalate between nuclear neighbors Pakistan and India. China intervenes with quiet diplomacy, urging dialogue and cooperation amid heightened risks and global scrutiny.

fragile ceasefire. This was not merely a border skirmish. It was a signal, a flare in the night sky, that South Asia is standing far too close to the edge.

And then, as if on cue, the global spotlight swiveled. U. S. President Donald Trump, initially dismissive "not our business," he had said, suddenly reversed course. Alarming intelligence had surfaced. Vice President JD Vance called Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a message cloaked in urgency. For once, Washington appeared to understand: in a region where trust is virtually extinct, a single misstep could ignite a war whose consequences would not remain local.

Trust is like a small light in the dark, hard to see and easy to lose. Its absence

This is not just a moment. This is the is felt more than its presence. Without it, diplomacy is hollow, and peace is provisional. Pakistan and India are caught in a cycle of suspicion, where every conciliatory gesture is perceived as strategic deception, and every silence is read as ominous. The people of both nations, however, seem to understand what their leaders often forget: wars are not fought by policies—they are fought by people, and they are suffered

> Lurking beneath the immediate hostilities is a longer-burning issue: the future of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Once hailed as a paragon of cross-border water cooperation, the treaty now hangs by a thread. India's recent unilateral decision to suspend certain treaty obligations has set off alarm bells among environmental experts and regional policymakers alike. Water, the most basic human need, has become a strategic weapon, a bargaining chip in a high-stakes game. Islamabad is being urged to raise the matter with Washington, not merely to honor the treaty's mechanisms but to prevent a collapse that could tilt the region into ecological and humani-

> Signed in 1960 with the facilitation of the World Bank, the IWT carved out a river-sharing formula that defied even war: India would control the eastern rivers-Ravi, Beas, Sutlej; Pakistan, the western trio, Indus, Jhelum, Chenab. But now, with tensions escalating and diplomatic channels ossified, the treaty's structural integrity feels increasingly precarious. For Pakistan, whose agriculture, drinking water, and energy sectors are entwined with the western rivers, any disruption could be devastating. Beyond technicalities, it's about

Meanwhile, Islamabad's strategic circles are advocating for a complete recalibration, a reset. The ceasefire must be reasserted. Hotlines, now

dormant, need to crackle back to life. Diplomatic missions must reopen. Talks comprehensive and courageous, should resume, and they must include the voices long excluded: Kashmiris themselves. The foundation? UN resolutions. The vehicle? Dialogue, not

Public diplomacy, too, must be resurrected from its premature grave. Let students trade campuses, let journalists compare notes, let artists collaborate, and let civil society breathe the same air. A region bound by shared history, languages, cuisine, and pain cannot afford to drift further apart. Media institutions must recognize their duty not as provocateurs of war, but as stewards of truth. The battle for ratings should never override the responsibility to inform-fairly, wisely, and without

Trade, not tension. Cooperation, not confrontation. Climate resilience, not catastrophe. These are not utopian ideals—they are practical imperatives in an interconnected age where neither nation can afford the luxury of eternal enmity. The youth on both sides of the Radcliffe Line do not dream of mushroom clouds. They dream of opportunity, stability, and purpose.

But none of these ambitions will matter without political will-visible, determined, and sustained. Peace cannot be outsourced. It requires risk. It demands courage. Most of all, it asks for leaders to see further than the next elec-

Trust is like a small light in the dark - hard to see and easy to lose.

tion cycle, to value the lives of strangers as they would their own kin.

History, as ever, casts a long shadow. It tells us that when war ends, dialogue begins. But the wiser path, the humane path, is to converse before conflict consumes. Because war not only razes cities and claims lives, it scorches futures. Peace, when pursued with sincerity, sows' prosperity, restores dignity, and rekindles hope.

This is not just a moment. This is the moment. The choice is clear. Will the leaders rise to meet it?

(Syed Gilani, Political Analyst, Secretary General, Pakistan China Friendship Association (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter) can be reached at syeed.gilani@gmail.com)

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
119,689.63	119,649.14		
Day's High	Day's Low		
120,285.54	119,250.67		
Index Value	Change		
13,822,277,233	+40.49		
Percentage	Time		
+0.03%	19 May, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		

Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,699.31	+14.75	
Percentage	Time	
+0.17%	19 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1	

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,634.99	-19.75	
Percentage	Time	
-0.046%	19 May, 11:44 am GMT-4	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
37,498.63	-255.09	
Percentage	Time	
-0.68%	19 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	318.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.94	36.29
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.95	2.01
Kuwaiti Dinar	912.55	922.05
Malaysian Ringgit	64.95	65.55
NewZealand \$	164.62	166.62
Norwegians Krone	26.89	27.19
Omani Riyal	732.65	741.15
Qatari Riyal	76.68	77.38
Saudi Riyal	75.15	75.70
Singapore Dollar	214.73	216.73
Swedish Korona	28.65	28.95
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	282.25	283.75

SITE President Commends Mayor, KWSC CEO for Recycled Water Initiative

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A high-level delegation from the SITE Association of Industry (SAI), led by its President Ahmed Azeem Alvi, visited the TP-1 and TP-3 recycled water treatment plants in the SITE industrial area to review the progress of the reclaimed water initiative spearheaded by the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corpora-

The delegation included Chief Coordinator Saleem Parekh, Former President Muhammad Kamran Arbi, APTPMA Zonal Chairman Anwer Aziz, Executive Committee Members Ahmed Zulfigar Chaudhry and Muhammad Kamran Lakhany, as well as Muhammad Altaf Sheikhani. Irshad Hussain of Pak-Oasis also joined the visit and Dr. Muhammad Bashir Lakhany of Techno Consult Inter-

President SAI expressed strong appreciation for the leadership and vision of Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, whose proactive approach to addressing the city's water challenges is beginning to bear fruit. He lauded the Mayor's commitment to transforming SITE into an environmentally responsible and water-resilient industrial zone.

Gold prices increase Rs.4,000 to Rs.342,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.4,000 on Monday and was sold at Rs.342,500 against its sale at Rs.338,500 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.3,429 to Rs.293,638 from Rs 290,209 whereas the price of 10 grams

of 22 Karat also increased to Rs.270,348. The rates of per tola silver and ten gram remained unchanged and closed at Rs.3,410 and Rs.2,923.

Finance Minister meets Deloitte Delegation to discuss collaboration on critical minerals and energy

reforms

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting today with a high-level delegation from Deloitte, led by Mr. Richard Longstaff, Managing Director and Head of Energy / Critical Minerals, and Mr. Sofyan Yusufi, Partner at Deloitte Risk and Financial Advisory - Government and Public Services.

The meeting was a follow-up to earlier discussions held on the sidelines of the IMF / World Bank Spring Meetings 2025 in Washington D. C., where avenues for collaboration in critical minerals, energy sector reforms, privatization, and the operationalization of the Country

Welcoming the Deloitte team to Pakistan, the



stan's development priorities. He emphasized tural reforms and promote productivity and Finance Minister appreciated their continued the government's commitment to leveraging export-led economic growth.

Partnership Framework (CPF) were explored. engagement and interest in supporting Paki- private sector expertise to fast-track struc-

The meeting focused on the operationalisation of the CPF and leveraging Deloitte's technical advisory and global experience for Pakistan's ongoing initiatives, which should be outcome based and standardized, streamlined project development in different sectors, including health, climate, energy, mining and minerals and the public-private initiatives.

The delegation apprised the Minister of their upcoming meetings with key stakeholders, including officials from the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to maintain close coordination in the weeks ahead and to work jointly on identifying actionable, high-impact, outcome based initiatives that align with Pakistan's economic development and transformation vision.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President National Labour Federation Pakistan Shams U Rehman Swati along with Secretary General NLF Haseeb U Rehman met Federal Minister Labour Manpower and overseas Pakistanis Ch Salik Hussain and discussed bilateral issues regarding labourers in Pakistan and overseas.



Turkiye wants to strengthen trade and economic ties with Pakistan: Turk Envoy

跨 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Ambassador of Turkive Irfan Neziroglu has said that Turkiye and Pakistan enjoy deep-rooted historical ties. Turkiye is keen to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in multiple sectors including defence, tourism, business, agriculture and higher

He was speaking a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion, Executive Committee Members Mian Aamir Saeed, Ahsan Shahid, Firdous Nisar, Karamat Ali Awan, Syed Salman Ali, Irfan Ahmed Qureshi, Ahad Ameen Malik, Asif Khan and Muhammad Imran Salimi Waqas Aslam were also present.

The Ambassador stressed the need for a mindset shift saying that we are one nation and must act in unison with a sense of common purpose. He said that there is immense potential to boost trade and economic ties between the two brotherly



in critical times. He said that we are thankful to the Honorable President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who extended full support to Pakistan. Not only did Turkiye send a warship to support the Pakistan Navy but also provided drones to respond effectively to any threat from India.

"We deeply appreciate our Turkish LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad brothers who prayed for Pakistan's safety. expressed profound gratitude to the people
It would not be wrong to say that Turkiye of Turkiye for standing firmly with Pakistan stood as an equal partner with Pakistan in

achieving this historic success against India. May Allah bless the people of Turkiye", he

LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry highlighted the importance of organizing trade delegations and singlecountry exhibitions expressed LCCI's willingness to establish strong ties with leading chambers of commerce in Turkiye under the Ambassador's guidance.

Dr Ishrat Hussain joins SDPI as **Senior Advisor**

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ishrat Hussain, the eminent economist, former governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, and former advisor to the prime minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity, has joined Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) as Senior Advisor to strengthen the Institute's policy landscape.

With a distinguished career spanning over five decades, Dr. Hussain's association with SDPI marks a evidence-based policy and



institutional reform in Paki-

His unparalleled experience in governance, public sector restructuring, and economic management is expected to elevate SDPI's significant leap in the think strategic vision and deepen tank's mission to influence its impact on national policy discourse.

inDrive Transforms Ride-Hailing in Pakistan with 'Set **Your Fare and Choose Your Driver' Model**



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: inDrive, a global mobility and urban services platform, has reshaped the ride-hailing landscape in Pakistan with its pioneering 'Set Your Fare and Choose Your Driver' model, giving passengers full control over their ride experience.

Unlike other ride-hailing apps where pricing is driven by automated algorithms, inDrive offers a fresh, human-centric approach. Passengers can propose their own fare and choose a driver based on key criteria such

distance. This unique model ensures greater freedom, transparency, and fairness enabling both customers and drivers to make informed. mutually beneficial decisions.

Muhammad Country Lead at inDrive Pakistan, said: "Since its launch in Pakistan in 2021, inDrive has expanded to 20 cities for local rides. We were the first to introduce the 'Set Your Fare and Choose Your Driver' model in the country - and the response has been incredible. inDrive has become the second most downloaded ride-hailing app globally and as ratings, vehicle type, esti- the fifth most downloaded mated time of arrival, and app in the travel category."

NBP advances technology to power smarter and safer banking solutions

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In pursuit of innovation and excellence in customer service, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has successfully completed a major upgrade of its banking technology platform. This strategic enhancement demonstrates NBP's ongoing

The improved banking platform introduces a suite of enhancements, including accelerated transaction processing, significantly reduced system downtime, and greater operational efficiency across branches and digital channels. The modern infrastructure enables NBP to offer faster, smarter, and more secure banking commitment to harnessing modern services to millions of customers innovations to streamline operations. nationwide and internationally.

In addition to performance improvements, the system advancement brings state-of-the-art security features, offering stronger data protection while minimizing potential vulnerabilities. Customers will also benefit from more intuitive mobile and digital banking services, powered by technology-driven insights and personalized financial



ciation to its valued customers for

NBP extends its sincere appre- This achievement marks a significant step forward in the Bank's mission to their continued support and trust deliver world-class banking experiduring this critical transformation. ences, both in Pakistan and globally.

Pakistan Super League X Cricket Champions Ship

Peshawar Zalmi's journey is also over, Lahore Qalandars Enter the Playoffs









Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: PSL 10. Peshawar Zalmi's journey is also over, Lahore Qalandars enter the playoffs. After Multan Sultans in PSL 10, Peshawar Zalmi's journey is of the league played in Rawal-

26-run win. Quetta Gladiators, Karachi Kings, Islamabad United and Lahore Qalandars are the 4 teams that will be in the PSL playoffs.

Peshawar Zalmi captain Babar Azam won the toss and decided also over. In the do or die match to bowl first. The match started late due to rain and was reduced pindi, the Zalmi team could not to 13 overs per innings. Qalandars compete with Qalandars and was came out on top and completed limited to 123 runs in pursuit of their fifty before the 4th over. At 150 runs. Thus, Qalandars have 54, Mohammad Naeem made entered the PSL 10 playoffs with a 22 off 10 balls. Fakhar Zaman

changed the game by playing an innings of 60 runs off 36 balls, hitting 3 sixes and 7 fours. Kushal Perera made 17 off 8 balls and Asif Ali made 18 off 6 balls to take the score to 149 for 8 in the stipulated 13 overs. There is no doubt that Zalmi's bowlers did well in the last 8 overs, but their fielders dug a well for themselves by dropping about half a dozen catches.

Ali Raza, Ahmed Daniyal and Daniel Sims took 2 wickets each.

had a disastrous start. After in 3 overs. starting with 20 runs, they lost 7 wickets for 63 runs. Saim Ayub, Muhammad Haris scored 8, 8 and Babar Azam scored 16 runs. Max Brent was dismissed for zero. Moaz Sadaqat went for 4 and Abdul Samad scored 17 runs. Ahmed Daniyal played

Lahore Qalandars' Salman

an innings of 24 runs. The team

scored 123 runs for 8 wickets in

In PSL 10, after rain and field conditions, the overs of the match were cut and limited to 13 overs per innings, but the Pakistan Cricket Board has raised questions by spending a long period of time in the innings break. According to the ICC and broadcasting rules, the match must end in the stipulated time. Why are Test matches declared draws due to this slow over rate, these In reply, Peshawar Zalmi Mirza took 4 wickets for 31 runs penalties or the difference of one

there are rules and regulations behind them.

149 runs for 9 wickets in the stipulated 13 overs against Peshawar Zalmi at the Pindi of a few minutes here but a long was held here.

A grand tribute was paid to the display was also performed.

wicket or one run? This is because Pakistan Air Force's Falcons at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Special participation of Chief Lahore Qalandars scored of Air Staff Zaheer Babar and Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Mohsin Naqvi. Full solidarity with the Pakistan Air Force was Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi expressed in the match between on Sunday. There was a break Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi. The professional skills and break was made. The ceremony expertise of Pakistan's Falcons were appreciated in a grand According to the PCB, PSL 10. manner. A magnificent fireworks

175 new sports schemes to be built in ADP 2025-26: minister

跨 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In a bid to promote sports culture across province in accordance with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has announced to build and upgrade several sports facilities in various cities of the province.

He said that besides constructing vast sports infrastructure across the Punjab uilding shops and markets around all major stadiums and sports complexes to earn sufficient revenue to complete its sports projects. He said this while presiding over a meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Several important decisions were taken about the next ADP 2025-26 and other sports development projects in the meeting which was attended by Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan



Qaiser Raza and other officials. Addressing the meeting, Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab Sports Department will construct 175 new sports schemes in the next Annual Development Programme.

"The Punjab Stadium will be upgraded and through this upgradation, the capacity of spectators will be

ball Court, Indoor Sports Complex, Archery Sports Complex, Table Tennis Arena, Board Games Sports Complex be restored in Jampur and Rajanpur". and Baseball Sports Complex will be constructed in Lahore. "Besides this, the Velodrome Sports Complex will be upgraded so that our cyclists could prepare themselves at an international

Punjab sports minister further and Sialkot. Bahawalpur Stadium will be upgraded while sports stadium will

Faisal Khokhar said that Sports Complex will be constructed in DG Khan. "New hockey turfs will be laid in many cities including Sahiwal. Besides this, a Sports Complex will also be built

province, Punjab Sports Department is Sial, DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal enhanced at the stadium". Elaborating further, he informed that said that Pedal Tennis Court will Mian Usman Ali, Project Director PMU several sports projects including Volley- constructed in Lahore, Pindi, Multan

PM Talent Hunt Program Men's and Women's Boxing League Karachi Region Trials held at Karachi University

Sports Desk

KARACHI: More than 250 boxers from various universities and boxing clubs of Karachi participated on the first day of the two-day trials held at the Sports Gymnasium of Karachi University for the Prime Minister Talent Hunt Program Men's and Women's Boxing League. A five-member selection committee comprising Rashid Qambrani, Shoaib Rashid, Asghar Baloch, Muhammad Ali and Abdul Hameed Jan also kept testing the players' abilities.

The Organizing Secretary of the Boxing League, Professor Dr. Basit Ansari, gave a welcome speech in which he shed light on the league and informed the guests about the details. On this occasion, the special guest, Fahad Shafiq, Coordinator of the Prime Minister Talent Hunt Program Sindh, said that the Boxing League will bring out new



boxing talent in the country. The Prime Minister Talent Hunt is a ized.

successful program under which more

than 12 sports leagues have been organ-

The aim of organizing the Boxing of university students.

League is to bring out boxing talent from every city of Pakistan. He said that the boxers participating in the trials also seemed happy with the initiative of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He added that only players below the age of 25 are eligible to participate in the trials.

The ceremony was attended by Karachi University Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Masrat Jahan, Deputy Director Prime Minister Youth Program Muhammad Ali, Director General HEC Karachi Region Nazir Hussain, Students Advisor Nousheen Raza, Boxing League Coordinator and Director Sports University of Karachi Muhammad Akbar, Sports Officer Karachi University Muhammad Ali Syed Danish Ali, Boxing League Ambassadors Olympian boxers Rashid Qambrani and Shoaib Rashid, Sindh Olympic Association Secretary Ahmed Ali Rajput, Abid Brohi and a large number

U-14 exhibition football matches played

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Football Association, in collaboration with District Sports Department, held under-14 exhibition football matches at Shahbaz Sharif Indoor Sports Complex, Kaleem Shaheed Colony, on Monday.

Teams of four football clubs took part in the event. In the final, Al-Fateh football club beat La Sal football club by 7-5 goals. The chief guest, Coordinator to CM Punjab for Prisons Department & Chairman Faisalabad Football Association, Khushnood Awan, distributed prizes among winning teams.

President Football Association Dr. Shahzad Mustafa, Finance Secretary and other officials were also present.

Bangladesh to play extra T20 match against UAE in Sharjah

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Bangladesh cricket team will play an additional T20 International match against the United Arab Emirates. The Bangladesh and UAE cricket officials agreed to add another T20 to their ongoing series. This extra fixture is scheduled to take place on May 21 at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Originally, the series between the two nations was set to comprise two T20 matches, as per the initial schedule.

However, after mutual consultation between the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), both parties agreed to include a third T20 match in the itinerary.

Pak Women to tour Ireland *inAugust*



LAHORE: Pakistan women's cricket team will tour Ireland in August this year to play a three-match T20I series against the hosts. According to the PCB Media here on Monday, the first T20I will take place on 6 August, followed by the second T20I on 8 August. The third and final match of the series is scheduled on 10 August. All three T20Is will be played at the Clontarf Cricket Club in Dublin, Ireland.

Federal Cup National Ranking Tennis kicks off

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 37th OGDCL Federal Cup National Ranking Tennis Championships kicked off with an action-packed opening day here at the S.

Dilawar Abbas PTF Tennis Complex on Monday. While most seeded players cruised through their first-round matches in the Men's Singles category, a major upset marked the day as unseeded Talha Khan of Islamabad defeated 6th seed Abdullah Adnan in straight sets.

showcasing maturity and skill beyond his years. He stormed through the first set 6-1 by breaking Abdullah in the 3rd and 5th games. In the second set, Talha maintained his momentum and form, not allowing his higher-ranked opponent a single game, sealing the match with a commanding 6-1, 6-0 victory.

The second most exciting match of the day featured Muhammad Yahya against M. Hamza Aasim, also from Islam-

After dropping the first set 3-6, Talha Khan dominated the Yahya bounced back to take the much-anticipated encounter, second 6-2. He was leading 4-1

in the third set when Hamza was forced to retire, giving Yahya the win in a match filled with intensity and grit.

Matches were also played in the Ladies Singles, Junior 18 & Under, and Boys 14 & Under categories, where established players largely overpowered their ess experienced opponents.

Uzair Aslam Chaudhary, CEO of Air Blue, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Notable attendees included Tariq Mehmood Murtaza, Chairman, and Majid Bashir, President of the Islamabad Tennis Association, along with Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din, Secre-



tary of PTF, and Col. (R) Gul Rehman, Director of Security,

The tournament continues with more first-round matches scheduled for tomorrow, as players vie for ranking points and national glory.

Men's Singles (1st Round): Muhammad Shoaib beat Ali

Abdaar 6-2 6-1, Huzaima Abdul Gibran-ul-Haq 6-3 6-3, Ahmad Hassan Amir 6-0 6-0, Saqib Ali Rehman beat M. Taha Khizer 6-0 6-0, Muhammad Yahya beat M. Hamza Aasim 3-6 6-2 4-1 (Retd). Barkatullah beat Abdul BAsit 6-0 6-2, Yousaf Khalil beat Zohaib Afzal Malik 6-2 6-2, Ahmad Chaurday beat Jabir Ali 6-4 6-2, M. Haziq Aasim beat Muhammad Rayyan 6-3 6-4, M. Talha Khan beat Abdullah Adnan 6-1 6-0, Sami Zeb Khan w/o Hisashi Izumi, Saqib Hayat beat M. Talha Khan(PES), 6-1 6-2, M. Huzaifa Khan beat Waqar Ahmad 6-0 6-0, Muzammil Murtaza beat Saifullah Khan 6-1 6-1, Muhammad Ali beat

Nael Qureshi beat Kamran Khan 6-0 6-1, Muhammad Salar beat Kashan Tariq 6-0 6-1, Aqeel Khan beat M. Umer JAved 6-0

Ladies Singles (1st Round): Lalarukh Sajid beat Maria Rasheed 6-0, 6-1, Mehaq Khokhar beat Sofia Tariq 6-1 6-0, Zunaisha Noor beat Shandana Rabbi 6-0, 6-1, Noor Malik was given a walk over against Maida Awais, Maryam Hussain was given a walk over against Ayma

Junior 18&Under Singles (1st Round): Razik Sultan beat

beat Ahmad Abrar 6-0 6-1. Boys 14&Under Singles

(1st Round): M. Faizan beat Moazzam Babar 4-0 4-0, M. Zohaib Javed w/o Salar Khan, M. Mahad Mahmood beat Ather Sher Dil 4-0 4-0, Behroze M. Wander beat M. Adam Raja 4-0 4-1, Muhammad Shakaib beat M. Ahmad Afzal 4-1 4-2.

Tuesday's matches will be scheduled at 9am, Men's Singles and Ladies Singles followed by Junior 18&Under Singles, whereas Boys 14&U and Men's Doubles will be in 2nd half of

The Spokesman

Bilateral trade ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan in a meeting with the Ambassador of Belarus, A. Metelitsa, to discuss strengthening industrial and textile cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus, held on Monday.

Pakistan will never bow to Indian aggression, warns DG ISPR

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a bold military officials, was "precise and clear message to India, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif following intense cross-border Chaudhry reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace while warning that the country will never tolerate aggression or Indian hegemony.

dismissed India's attempts to draw false parallels, saying, "The truth is that India is not the US and Pakistan is not Afghanistan. India is not Israel, and Pakistan is not

the aftermath of Operation tion. Bunyan-un-Marsoos, a retaliatory military action launched

The operation, according to and proportionate," targeting only Indian military installations across multiple regions escalations.

The Pakistan Air Force reportedly downed six Indian jets, including three Rafales and a Mirage 2000, as well Speaking to Anadolu as destroying an S-400 air Agency, Lt Gen Chaudhry defence system, in the four-day conflict that ended the Pahalgam attack in Indiwith a US-brokered ceasefire on May 10.

ISPR confirmed that 53 people, including 13 armed forces personnel and 40 civilians, were martyred in Indian terrorism within Pakistan. His comments come in strikes during the confronta-

ised that India has failed



an-occupied Kashmir, where 26 tourists were killed.

He accused India of using the tragedy to justify state aggression and spreading

he asserted, noting that such by Pakistan in response to to provide any credible evidence had been submitted this essential right." India's unprovoked aggres- evidence linking Pakistan to to the International Court of Reiterating that Pakistan sion.

In a separate media appearance, Chaudhry warned India of catastrophic consequences if it attempted to block water flowing to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty. "No one "There is a lot of evidence dares stop water from Pakiover 240 million people of

seeks peace, the DG ISPR cautioned that any future attacks or provocations would trigger a swift and forceful response. "We never bow to tyranny or threats, and we never will," he declared.

Despite the ceasefire, Lt Gen Chaudhry made it clear that Pakistan's armed forces remain vigilant and committed to safeguarding national sovereignty.

He underlined that the military adheres to government policy, respects international commitments, and remains professional and disciplined, even in the face of extreme provocation.

His comments echoed those of Prime Minister Shehbaz linking India to terrorist stan," he stated. "It would be Sharif, who confirmed the Lt Gen Chaudhry empha- activities inside Pakistan," madness to try and deprive downing of six Indian aircraft and praised the armed forces for their restraint and preci-

Gohar says rumours of noconfidence motion against PM baseless



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has strongly refuted rumours about bringing a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Shehbaz

speaking to the media in Islamabad, Gohar said that the news regarding a no-confidence motion against the prime minister, National Assembly Speaker, and the deputy speaker is entirely fake and fabricated.

"We have neither held any such meeting nor is there any such agenda," he clarified, adding, "But I will say this-things must change."

Referring to the recent ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India, Gohar remarked, "Everything changed in just one week; a ceasefire was reached with India. Now, a similar ceasefire should take place

He questioned the ongoing imprisonment of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, stating, "How long will you keep the most popular leader of the country in jail? Imran Khan must be released. What is his crime? All According to the channel report, the cases against him are baseless."

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq shrugs off no-confidence rumours



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Asseman informal conversation with joursupport of assembly members.

"I have heard that a no-confidence of everyone." motion is being brought against me," Sadiq said. "Those friends who wish impartiality, he noted, "As Speaker, to fulfil this desire are free to do so, I take care of everyone regardless of but I know many PTI members will political affiliation."

not support such a move."

Sadiq, who has previously served in the same role during politically bly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in turbulent times, appeared unbothered by the reported manoeunalists, dismissed talks of a no-con- vring, saying, "Even if the motion fidence motion against him, express- is brought, their own people will ing full confidence in his role and the not support them. I am satisfied, and my role as Speaker is in front

Reaffirming his commitment to

Pakistan, IMF begin talks to shape 2025-26 budget

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation arrived in Islamabad on Monday and officially launched policy-level discussions with the government's economic teams to finalise budget proposals for the fiscal year 2025-26.

According to 24News-HDTV, the talks, which began today, will continue until May 22. Officials from the Finance Ministry, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Planning Commission, Affairs Division, and Petroleum Ministry are partici-



pating in the negotiations. As per the channel report, talks with State Bank of Paki-Economic stan (SBP) officials are also scheduled.

Sources within the Finance make annual salaries up to Rs latest

Ministry confirmed that the core agenda includes potential tax relief for the salaried class, in line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive to

1.2 million tax-free.

Discussions will focus on reducing income tax rates for salaried employees, a move intended to alleviate inflationary pressure on the middle

The IMF, however, is expected to push for alternative revenue measures to compensate for any relief granted.

The global lender has expressed concern over Pakistan's external financial vulnerabilities, despite recent improvements in debt repayment capacity.

According to the IMF's projections, Paki-

stan faces a massive external financing need of \$19.3 billion in the coming fiscal year alone.

The requirement is projected to rise to \$19.75 billion in 2026-27 and to \$31.35 billion by 2027-28, the highest during the fiveyear outlook.

In the years that follow, the country will still require \$23.13 billion in 2028-29 and \$22.16 billion by 2030.

The IMF team is also expected to advise against expanding subsidies, warning that doing so could jeopardise the country's fragile economic stability and undermine previous reform efforts.

Budget 2025-26: None-filers to face ban on property, vehicle purchase

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The second round of negotiations between the government's economic team and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is currently underway in Islamabad, with a strong focus on finalising the federal budget for the fiscal year 2025-26.

During the talks, the government has assured the IMF of strinincluding a proposed ban on property and vehicle purchases for those not registered with the tax system.

According to sources, Pakistan's economic team participating in of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

the talks includes officials from the Ministry of Finance, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Planning Commission, Economic Affairs Division, and the Ministry of Petro-

As per insider reports, key discussions are taking place on income and expenditure frameworks. One of the proposals under consideration is to provide income tax relief to salagent measures against non-filers, ried individuals, particularly those earning between Rs1 million and Rs1.2 million annually, who may be exempted from tax. This relief plan is being pursued on the instructions

Minister Pushes for Air Ambulance Service on Pakistan's Motorways

News Desk

Communications Abdul Aleem Khan that can be adopted across various has stated that efforts are currently underway to introduce Air Ambulance Service on Motorways and National Highways across the country.

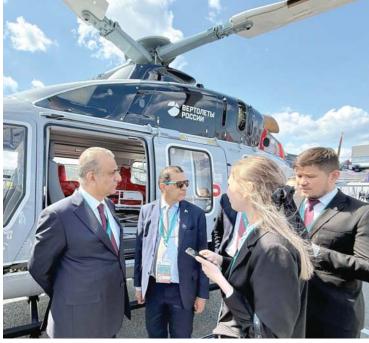
that to ensure that those injured in traffic accidents can be transported to and experience-sharing between the

hospitals in the shortest possible time. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan expressed these views during his visit to the Expo Center following the conclusion of the Kazan Forum at Tatarstan.

Federal Minister pointed out that Kazan's development model is highly KAZAN: Federal Minister for impressive and offers valuable insights sectors in Pakistan.

He highlighted the efficiency of Air Ambulance Service in Kazan, noting that such initiatives could greatly He added that this facility is aimed aid Pakistan in establishing similar services, fostering mutual learning two countries.

> Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that the high mortality rate resulting from road accidents during travel is a matter of serious concern and it is the Government's responsibility to ensure that the



to nearby medical facilities.

ments are being made in Pakistan's automated facilities.

injured ones are promptly transported transportation infrastructure and efforts are underway to raise public He added that continuous improve- awareness about e-tagging and other

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Using Facebook to learn bomb-making: Lahore man jailed for two and a half years

News Desk

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Monday sentenced a man to two and a half years in prison and imposed a Rs50,000 fine on Gul directed the authorities to shift him after it was proved that he was searching for information on how to make a bomb.

According to details, convict Hanan Abdullah had been on bail militants via Facebook. He was in and he was arrested on the court premises after the court announced its verdict against him.

registered a case against Hanan in collected against him.

2022, accusing him of searching for bomb making techniques on Face-

Announcing verdict in the case today, ATC admin judge Manzar Ali the convict to Kot Lakhpat Jail in According to the prosecution,

Hanan had been in contact with contact with the members of a militant organization.

The prosecution asked the judge According to details, the Federal to punish Hanan on the basis of the Investigation Agency (FIA) had evidence that investigators have