



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



RAWALPINDI

فرمان رسول ﷺ  
چار رحی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ ہم میں سے  
ایک شخص کے یہاں بچہ پیدا ہوا تو انہوں نے  
اس کا نام قاسم رکھا۔ صحابہ نے ان سے کہا کہ  
جب تک ہم نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے  
نہیں ملے ہیں۔ ہم اس نام پر تمہاری کثیت نہیں  
ہوئے دیں گے۔ پھر نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ  
وسلم نے فرمایا کہ میرے نام پر نام رکھو لیکن  
میری کثیت نہ اختیار کرو۔  
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6187)  
**Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited**



## Jamiat Ahle Hadees to elect new ameer today

After the death of Prof Sajid Mir, elections for the office of the Jamiat Ahle Hadees ameer will be held today. Members of Jamiat Ahle Hadees' Majlis-e-Shura will elect the new ameer. Voting for the election of the new ameer will be held at the Ahle Hadees Markaz.



## CDA announces increase in bus fares

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has made an 100 per cent increase in the fare of green, blue, orange and electric buses in Islamabad with effect from May 26. The CDA announced a hike in one-way fares from Rs50 to Rs100 for all metro and electric buses operating on 17 routes across the capital. Officials said 90,000 passengers travel in CDA buses daily.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziq'a'd 27, Sunday, May 25, 2025

[www.dailyspokesman.net](http://www.dailyspokesman.net)

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 40

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Monument

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir presented souvenir to Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the occasion of the dinner hosted by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff, to honour the political leadership, steadfast commitment of the Armed Forces, and the indomitable spirit of the people of Pakistan as demonstrated during Marka-e-Haq, Operation Bunyanum Marsoos.



Photo: Online

# Field Marshal Syed Asim hosts dinner in honour of political leadership, armed forces

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A dinner was hosted by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff, to honour the political leadership, steadfast commitment of the Armed Forces, and the indomitable spirit of the people of Pakistan as demonstrated during Marka-e-Haq, Operation Bunyanum Marsoos.

The distinguished gathering was graced by the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari; the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif; Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister; Chairman Senate; Speaker National Assembly; Federal Ministers; Governors; Chief Ministers; Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Chief of Air & Naval Staff; senior leadership of major political parties;

high-ranking government officials; and senior officers from the three Services.

Participants paid tribute to the sagacious leadership that steered the nation through a defining moment, hailed the courage and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, and commended the resolute patriotism of the Pakistani people.

In his remarks, the Chief of Army Staff expressed profound

gratitude to the political leadership for their strategic foresight during Marka-e-Haq and lauded the seamless inter-services coordination that ensured operational success in Operation Bunyanum Marsoos.

He further acknowledged the unwavering role of Pakistani youth and media in countering the disinformation campaign waged by India, describing them

as a 'steel wall' against malign propaganda. The COAS also commended the outstanding contributions of Pakistani scientists, engineers, and diplomats, whose professionalism and resolve proved critical during the conflict.

The evening stood as a powerful affirmation of national unity and the collective resolve to advance with renewed strength and cohesion.

# Pakistan's narrative gains global credibility, India's deception unmasked: Daniyal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry on Saturday expressed confidence in Pakistan's diplomatic delegates to effectively articulate the country's concerns, particularly regarding Kashmir and terrorism.

In an exclusive conversation

with a local channel outside the Parliament House, Daniyal Chaudhry stated, "Pakistan's narrative has finally gained the global credibility it deserves, while India's deception has been unmasked." He emphasized that the international community was increasingly recognizing the truth about Pakistan's stance, while India's attempts to distort reality are being exposed.



Daniyal Chaudhry emphasized that Pakistan's delegates would proactively engage with every legal and international forum to present irrefutable evidence exposing India's support for terrorism. He specifically mentioned the fabricated Phalgama incident, where India falsely blamed Pakistan, as an example of India's deceitful tactics.

# 9 die, 45 injured as windstorm, rain lash Punjab

Bureau Reports

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) stated on Saturday that severe storms across Punjab have resulted in the deaths of nine people while 45 others got injured as rains and windstorm lashes Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

Emergency was declared in Rawalpindi as heavy rain and hailstorms hits upper parts of the country and many cities in Punjab, bringing much-needed respite to the people from scorching heat.

According to an initial report issued by PDMA, fatalities took place due to the collapse of dilapidated buildings, trees and solar panel plates. Three deaths were reported in Jhelum, while one fatality each occurred in Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Sheikhupura, Mianwali, and Nankana Sahib district.

One woman died on the spot in Multan



as wall collapsed on her during the windstorm.

Relief Commissioner Punjab, Nabeel Javed, has instructed authorities to provide the best medical treatment to the injured.

All commissioners, deputy commissioners, and rescue services across the province have been directed to remain on high alert. In Gul Afshan Colony, a young man died after a tree fell on him during the storm.

In West Colony, a woman died when the roof of a house collapsed, according to rescue sources.

In Dhoke Wahab Din, a hotel waiter was killed after a wall collapsed. Near the cattle market in Dina, three people sustained serious injuries when a wall fell. In Pind Dadan Khan, the roof of a house collapsed, injuring four people. Solar panels and hoarding boards installed on rooftops of several houses were also blown down. Damage to citizens' vehicles and motorbikes was reported. Separately, in Pasrur, a house wall collapsed as a result of heavy rain. A 60-year-old man, Tariq, was injured after being trapped under the debris, according to Rescue officials. Rescue teams recovered the injured man from the rubble and transported him to hospital.

According to the Meteorological Department, the spell of heavy rain is expected to continue intermittently.

# DPM, Azerbaijan's FM discuss bilateral, regional issues



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister, Jeyhun Bayramov on Sunday.

They discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

The two leaders also discussed the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan.

# Minister reaffirms commitment to peace, warns against global instability



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik on Saturday reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to peaceful conflict resolution during a panel discussion at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

Speaking at the session titled "Dialogue, Not Discord: Conflict Resolution, Diplomacy, and the Rule of Law in U.S.-Pakistan Relations," Malik stressed that sustainable peace required mutual respect and principled diplomacy.

"Empathy and understanding are essential in dialogue," he said. "Peace is only possible when states engage to resolve, not dominate."

Addressing the recent hostilities, Malik highlighted India's one-sided aggression, citing

attacks on civilian areas and water infrastructure. "Pakistan had every right to retaliate but showed restraint, targeting only military installations," he stated.

He compared India's actions to the "Israeli doctrine of offensive defense," warning that such hegemonic policies threaten global stability.

When questioned about Pakistan's nuclear stance, Malik dismissed concerns as unnecessary. "Pakistan has proven it can counter threats conventionally without escalation," he asserted.

Malik also linked global instability to environmental neglect, urging international cooperation. "Climate change knows no borders—melting glaciers and rising temperatures will affect everyone," he said.

# Tarar lauds late PML-N activist Samina Qasim for countering enemies narrative against Pakistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that late Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz worker Samina Qasim played a crucial role in countering the narrative of enemies against Pakistan.

Talking to the media here after attending the funeral prayer of the PML-N activist, he lauded veteran Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) worker, Samina Qasim. "She played a crucial role in countering the narrative of enemies against Pakistan. Her post was a clear proof of her social and national conscious-

ness and her deep attachment to the country," he added.

He praised the PML-N workers from Karachi who had played critical role during the war to counter fake news and propaganda from India.

The information minister acknowledged the invaluable services rendered by late Samina Qasim for the Party. She had a long journey with the Party and it would be hard to fill the void created by her demise, he maintained.

On the occasion, the minister also offered condolences and sympathies with the bereaved family. "May the Almighty grant the departed soul the highest ranks in Jannah," he prayed.

# Pakistan’s Deterrence Restored, China Emerges as Key Player in South Asia, says Report

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute, the premier think tank on China and the region founded by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, launched a comprehensive report on the recent Pakistan-India recent conflict under the title: “16 Hours that reshaped South Asia: How Modi’s miscalculation led to Pakistan’s primacy”.

Talking to media while launching the report, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that the Pakistan-China Institute is the first think tank in Pakistan to prepare such a comprehensive report, that examines all aspects of the conflict and its consequences, Modi’s miscalculation and the reasons for Pakistan’s success in what he termed as ‘India’s most serious setback since Nehru’s defeat in the 1962 war with China’. He also acclaimed Pakistan’s

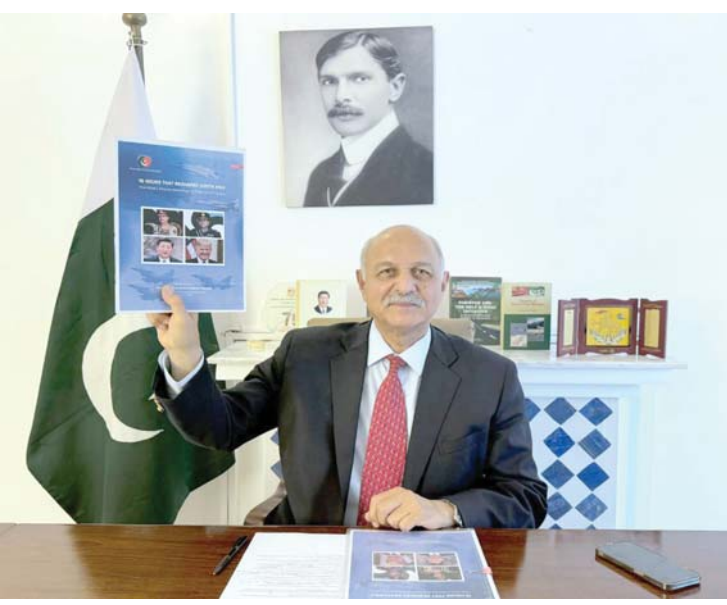
armed forces for their daring initiatives, attributing these to the dynamic leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar who worked together in unison in remarkable inter-service coordination demonstrating strategic clarity.

Presenting the Report whose cover has 4 pictures with JF -17 Thunder and J 10C jets flying in the backdrop, Senator Mushahid Hussain lauded the role of China, which under President Xi Jinping, has stood like a solid rock with Pakistan. He also appreciated the role of President Trump for brokering the ceasefire and for reviving the Kashmir issue, which was a big blow for India.

Ruling out the possibility of war, Senator Mushahid Hussain said that as a consequence of what happened in May, three new strategic realities

emerged: Pakistan restored Deterrence, China is now a de facto party to the Kashmir dispute as well as the key stabilising force in South Asia serving as a bastion of support for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan, while the United States has emerged as the other major global player preserving peace and security by reviving the Kashmir issue and treating Pakistan and India at par as equal players.

One of the key takeaways of the PCI report is that the South Asian version of the ‘balance of terror’ has worked, since both Pakistan and India are nuclear neighbours, in effectively preventing Indian aggression and preserving peace, security and stability in South Asia. In fact, in what is an historic achievement, Pakistan has also managed to restore conventional deterrence with India, despite the



disparity in size and numbers between the two countries.

Concluding, Senator Mushahid Hussain said that although there was no possibility of war, however vigilance should remain since India is determined to pursue what the PCI Report says is a 3-D strategy: Demonise Pakistan, Damage Pakistan and Destabilise Pakistan. He said that this strategy can be countered by building on the national unity that is witnessed in the country today by ending political polarization through giving the country a ‘healing touch’ and formulating an effective counter terror strategy. He said this conflict has given a morale booster to the people and injected national self-confidence in the Pakistani nation with a renewed faith in the future of Pakistan that people feel pride and unity driving the nation forward.

## Delegation

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Hindu and Buddhist community leaders from South Punjab called on Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara to discuss key issues facing their communities. Mr. Bhandara attentively listened to their concerns and assured them of his support in addressing the challenges they face as religious minorities.



Photo: Spokesman

# Azerbaijan’s media expert visits Azad Jammu Kashmir’s Public Relations Directorate

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Almaz Mahmood Nasibova, Head of Azerbaijan’s Media and Information Literacy Center and Vice-Rector of the Tele-Radio Academy, AZ Television, visited the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) in Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). She was warmly welcomed by Director General Public Relations, Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas, and received an extensive briefing on the department’s operations, strategies, and achievements in the digital media landscape.

Accompanied by a delegation, including President of Azerbaijan Trade House Adeel Ahmed Butt and senior officials from various depart-



ments, she toured multiple sections of the DGPR.

During the visit, DGPR Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas highlighted

the department’s transition to digital platforms and its proactive response to information warfare, particularly during recent regional tensions. “In the face of Indian cyber warfare and misinformation campaigns, our Emergency Information Response Center worked around the clock to counter.

Speaking on the occasion, Almaz Mahmood Nasibova of AZ Television expressed great pleasure in visiting the Public Relations Department. She appreciated the excellent work being done in the modern media sectors and praised the hospitality of the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir, stating that the love and warmth she received here might be unmatched elsewhere in the world.

# NAB announces its quarterly figure of recoveries

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) recovered and disbursed over Rs. 88 billion during the first quarter of 2025 (January–March). These recoveries included direct recoveries worth Rs. 2.085 billion and indirect recoveries amounting to Rs. 86 billion, involving public and private lands associated with cases of illegal transfer and occupation. The disbursed amounts were returned to the relevant affected entities.

Regarding indirect recoveries, NAB (Balochistan) retrieved state land measuring 340 acres of Chiltan Park and 250 acres of Forest department which translate into Rs. 6.45 billion, NAB (KPK) secured Rs. 0.56 billion in case titled inquiry against officers/officials of Univer-

sity of Swabi, Revenue and Forest departments, NAB (Lahore) recovered Rs. 70.87 billion in three mega cases including Employees Cooperative Housing Society, State Life Insurance Employees Cooperative Housing Society and Sarwar Omega Villas, NAB (Multan) recovered Rs. 0.013 billion in GFS 7 wonders housing Scheme while NAB(Sukkur) recovered 610 acres of NHA land worth of Rs. 8.53 billion.

Regarding disbursement of direct recoveries, NAB transferred Rs. 9.72 million directly to the Federal Government, Rs. 10.80 million to Provincial Governments and Rs. 73.51 million to different department/financial institutions, etc. Further, a significant portion amounting to Rs. 1990.771 million has been directly distributed to 19105 victims of various scams. This includes Rs. 72.04 million to 4778 affectees of

National House Building and Road Development Corporation by NAB (Rawalpindi), Rs. 1168.26 million to 11855 affectees of Eden Housing Case by NAB (Lahore), Rs. 405.08 million to 989 affectees of SHG & Others case by NAB(Lahore), Rs. 111.08 million to 496 affectees of Arain City case by NAB (Rawalpindi), Rs. 109.15 million to 452 affectees of Toyota Motors Gujranwala case by NAB (Lahore), Rs. 23.56 million to 246 affectees of Gulshan-e-Rehman case by NAB (Rawalpindi) Rs. 12.07 million to 99 affectees of THG case by NAB (Lahore), Rs. 47.31 million to 60 affectees of Gilani Housing Corporation by NAB (Rawalpindi), Rs. 3.631 million to 78 affectees of Ahmed City Housing Scheme by NAB (Lahore) and Rs. 38.59 million to 52 affectees of other various scams.

The recoveries made in the first



quarter of 2025 has taken the NAB’s overall recovery amount since its inception to Rs 6.236 trillion, of which 62.92 % (Rs 3.92 trillion) were recovered in last 18 months.

These recoveries were made from individuals and entities through plea bargains, voluntary returns and settlements.

This substantial disbursement highlights NAB’s commitment not only to holding offenders accountable but also to ensuring swift restitution for the victims of financial fraud. NAB remains resolute in its mission to recover looted public funds and advance its vision of a corruption-free Pakistan.

## PR Officials learn crisis communication and media monitoring strategies in IESCO Workshop

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad: On the special directives of the Ministry of Energy a two-day training workshop was organized for the officers and officials of the Public Relations (PR) department of four Distribution Companies (DISCOs) under the Electricity Distribution Efficiency Improvement Project (EDEIP), in which Public Relations officials of FESCO (Faisalabad), IESCO (Islamabad), GEPCO (Gujranwala) and LESCO (Lahore) participated. This training was hosted by the Public Relations Department of IESCO (Islamabad).

The training aims to further improve the performance of the Public Relations department and strengthen communication capabilities through new tools and software, as well as equip communication professionals with the necessary skills in media monitoring, crisis communication strategies, and effective use of social media to increase transparency in the energy sector.

Director Public Relations Engr. Muhammad Saeed Raza, Ayub Ahmed Yaqoob, Muhammad Shafiq and Muhammad Muzammil participated in the said training on behalf of FESCO. At the closing ceremony of the training, Joint Secretary (CAD), Ministry of Energy, Khalid Khan distributed certificates to the participants who completed the training. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) IESCO Muhammad Naeem Jan and trainers Waqar Khan and Farhad Ali Jaral were also present on the occasion.

## PPP has imposed undeclared martial law in Sindh — Awami Tahreek

Abdul Qayum Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Awami Tahreek has strongly condemned the brutal state repression unleashed by the PPP-led Sindh government on peaceful protesters across the province. Central President Wasand Thari stated that the killing of a young activist in Moro, violent crackdowns, and mass arrests of Sindhi youth expose a systematic assault on the rights and dignity of Sindhi’s people. He said the PPP government has transformed into an occupying force, surrendering Sindh’s resources and autonomy to Islamabad’s elite and corporate lobbies.

Thari noted that the people protested against destructive canal projects threatening the Indus and Sindh’s agriculture, but were met with police brutality and sedition charges. “An undeclared martial law has been imposed,” he declared, “and if this is what they call democracy, then we curse such a democracy.”

Secretary General Advocate Sajid Mahesar expressed grave concern over the labeling of protesters as terrorists. He condemned the government’s use of colonial-era tactics and called the Moro killing a state crime. He demanded the formation of an independent commission to investigate the real causes of public anger instead of further suppressing dissent. “Rather than carrying the bodies of martyrs, the government must address the people’s rage,” he said.

Wasand Thari added that the PPP now poses the biggest threat to Sindh’s existence — serving corporate farming mafias, selling ancestral lands, ignoring the poor, and remaining silent on enforced disappearances. Advocate Sajid Mahesar demanded the immediate resignation of the Sindh Home Minister, a judicial probe into the Moro incident, release of all arrested protesters, withdrawal of fake FIRs, cancellation of canal and corporate farming projects, and the safe return of all missing persons.

Concluding the statement, Wasand Thari warned that if the PPP continues to act as a colonial agent, it will lose all legitimacy in Sindh. “Awami Tahreek stands with the people in their struggle for water, land, identity, and justice,” he said. “The resistance will rise stronger — no repression can silence Sindh.

## Heavy rain brings much-needed relief from scorching heat in Hazara Division

ABBOTTABAD: Heavy rainfall lashed various parts of Hazara Division on Saturday, bringing long-awaited relief to residents reeling under an intense heatwave that had gripped the region for several days.

The downpour, accompanied by cool winds and overcast skies, brought a significant drop in temperatures across Abbottabad, Mansehra, Haripur, and adjoining areas. Residents welcomed the refreshing change, as families ventured outdoors to enjoy the pleasant weather after enduring days of extreme heat and humidity.

Besides providing natural respite, the rainfall has led to a visible improvement in air quality, reduced dust levels, and contributed to the replenishment of surface and ground water resources. Farmers and environmental experts noted the positive impact on water tables, which had been steadily declining due to prolonged dry conditions.

The rainfall is also expected to boost local tourism in popular hill destinations such as Nathiagali, Thandiani, and Shogran, as tourists from across the country are likely to head toward cooler and greener landscapes. Hotel bookings in these areas have already started picking up pace following the change in weather.

According to the Meteorological Department, more showers are expected over the next few days, especially in the upper Hazara region. This forecast is being welcomed by agricultural communities as well, who expect the rain to benefit seasonal crops and forest growth.

Local authorities have urged residents in low-lying and landslide-prone areas to remain alert and take necessary precautions during periods of intense rainfall. No untoward incidents were reported till the filing of this report.

Islamabad  
30° – 38° Clear

## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:22 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	5:01 pm
Maghrib	7:08 pm
Isha	8:48 pm

## EMERGENCY

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

## ENQUIRY

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

## HOSPITALS

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

## DEPARTMENTS

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

## COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

## Looting at Faisalabad Railway Station

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: The market for looting is hot at Faisalabad station. The station administration, police, rickshaw employees and tow mafia are looting the people traveling by train and dropping them with both hands. While no one is asking them, this is what President Pakistan Railways Prem Union Sheikh Muhammad Anwar told the media while talking to the media on the telephone. He further said that parking charges are Rs 30 for motorcycles, Rs 50 for rickshaws and Rs 100 for cars. If someone keeps their motorcycle parked at the station overnight, they are charged Rs 100 per hour. If any beggar asks to reduce the fee, he is made a target of beating, which is completely unfair. The police station staff and the station staff are also involved in this matter. The Faisalabad media contacted me numerous times in the last two months, on which despite my request, the media person was abused and the station staff did not take any action. This has further boosted the morale of the parking staff. I demand that the DS Railways take notice of the alleged abuses at the parking lot and stalls of Faisalabad station and hold the wrongdoers accountable and bring them to justice.

# NUML signs MoUs with NADRA and Dream Sports Group to foster research and youth engagement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Dream Sports Group Pvt Ltd, marking a strong step forward in promoting research, innovation, and youth development through collaborative efforts.

The MoU between NUML and NADRA aims to foster cooperation in innovative research projects and the exchange of expertise in areas of mutual interest. Both institutions agreed to jointly determine the scope and subject of collaborative research and development activities, in alignment with their respective objectives. The agreement was signed by Director General NUML, Brigadier Shahzad Munir, and TL (SID) NADRA, Dr. Qamar Farooq.

In another key development, NUML

also partnered with Dream Sports Group Pvt Ltd to promote sports and healthy activities among the youth. The MoU, signed by DG NUML Brigadier Shahzad Munir and Ch Qaiser Iqbal Baryar,

Chairman Dream Sports Group underscores the importance of engaging students in physical and extracurricular development.

Rector NUML, Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani (Retd), graced both signing ceremonies with his presence. He appreciated the initiatives and expressed hope that these collaborations will lead to meaningful outcomes, particularly in the fields of research, innovation, and youth empowerment.

NUML remains committed to expanding its collaborative horizons and providing its students and faculty with new opportunities for growth and engagement through strategic partnerships.



## PNCA Boards Meeting

ISLAMABAD: PNCA Boards meeting held chaired by Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Minister of State Huzaifa Rehman, Federal Secretary Asad Gilani, DG Ayub Jamali, Member Punjab Assembly Farah Khan, Federal Secretary Information Ambreen Jan and others also present in the meeting.



## Zero Tolerance for Harassment: Ombudsman Nabila

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Ombuds Women Punjab Nabila Hakim visited Multan to ensure the implementation of the zero tolerance policy against harassment of women. During this, she made a surprise inspection of the Health, Sports and other government offices and reviewed the performance of the anti-harassment committees established in the offices.

Hearing several complaints, Nabila Hakim said that harassment of women in offices is an intolerable crime, and strict action is being taken against such elements. She expressed her deep anger over the inactive harassment committees and ordered the relevant departments to take immediate departmental action.

Women Ombuds women Nabila Hakim said, "Talks alone are not enough to protect



women, now is the time for practical steps. Banners of the anti-harassment law should be displayed clearly and prominently in every institution so that every individual is aware of their rights and duties." Ms. Nabila Hakim, while calling the estab-

lishment of anti-harassment committees in all government and private institutions urgent and mandatory, said that silence on complaints is now tantamount to a crime, women should come forward, raise their voice, the state stands with them.

## Rauf Raja Receives Appreciation Award from DHM Malaysian Embassy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Entertainments) in Pakistan, CEO Brain Designer, CEO 'Global Trade and Tourism Center Muhammad Rauf Raja was honored by the High Commission of Malaysia in recognition of excellent services in the tourism sector. He received Appreciation Award from Muhammad Syafiq Firdous Hasbullah—Charge De Affairs High Commission of Malaysia

at Islamabad. Muhammad Syafiq Firdous Bin Husbullah said on the occasion that the young entrepreneurship leader, Muhammad Rauf Raja, has played a vital role in promoting the mutual tourism and trade of Pakistan and Malaysia. Such an educated 'courageous, enthusiastic and talented young leadership is needed to promote friendly economic relations of Pakistan with other countries at the diplomatic level by playing a leading role in national development, and in this regard, Muhammed Rauf Raja is contributing with national zeal. Earlier delivering welcome note Muhammad Rauf Raja said that it is my commitment to unite the youth at every platform to create an strengthened economic force and no effort would be left to take full advantage of the capabilities of the youth of Pakistan.

## Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir supported in rally by North Karachi Industrialists

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A rally was organized on Saturday by the North Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (NKATI) in the industrial area to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army and to celebrate the awarding of the title of Field Marshal to Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir. The rally was led by NKATI President Faisal Moiz Khan. Thousands of industrialists participated in the rally, expressing their solidarity with the Pakistan Army and chanting slogans congratulating the new Field Marshal.

Prominent industrialists including Imran Moiz Khan, Akhtar Ismail, Shehzad Elahi, Shahid Ansari, Ahmer Lone, Azfar Hussain, Yasir Ali, Naeem Haider, and others were present. Participants in the rally, under the leadership of President Faisal Moiz Khan, chanted loud slogans such as "Long Live Pakistan Army" and "Down with India."

Speaking on the occasion, NKATI President Faisal Moiz Khan stated that the entire nation stands with its brave armed forces, and the honor of Field Marshal awarded to Army Chief Asim Munir is a source of pride not only for the business community but for the entire nation.

Faisal Moiz Khan also criticized India, stating that despite being defeated, it has not learned its lesson. He condemned a cowardly act carried out by India involving a blast on an Army Public School bus in Khuzdar, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of children.

Addressing Modi, he warned that Modi should come to his senses, as his nefarious plans will soon come to an end. He raised slogans in favor of the Pakistan Army and emphasized that our military is the guardian of our borders, and the entire Pakistani nation is proud of its armed forces.



## Training of Sindh Food Authority Staff on benefits of edible oil fortification

Qayoom Sarohi

KARACHI: Nutrition International conducted the training of Sindh Food Authority Staff (Food Safety Officers) on benefits of edible oil fortification & its quality assurance & quality control at Beach Luxury Hotel-Karachi.

DG Sindh Food Authority, Technical director, deputy directors, professors from Karachi University and Senior Scientific Officer from PCSIR participated as well. The purpose of

tanning was to enhance the knowledge of Food Safety Officers of SFA & guide them technically to ensure food fortification for all.

DG, Sindh Food Authority Mr. Asif Jan, representing the Sindh Food Authority, emphasized the importance of Food Fortification.

He outlined the provincial ban on loose edible oil sales, emphasizing the health risks associated with unregulated products.

Mr. Mueen Qureshi, Provin-

cial Program Manager for Nutrition International's Edible Oil Fortification Component, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to assisting Sindh Food Authority.

Professor Dr. Gufran Saeed, from the Food Science & Technology department at University of Karachi, informed the participants that, "Nutritious Food and edible oil fortification are need of hour for Pakistani nation, as loose oil and unbalanced diet have affected the poor people at large scale".



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir  
Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad  
Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan  
Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood  
Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)  
Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. 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  
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

## Saudi Arabia a pillar of hope in postwar Syria

After more than a decade of relentless conflict, bloodshed and destruction, Syria — once one of the cultural and economic pillars of the Arab world — finds itself at a pivotal moment in its history. For years, Syrians lived under the shadow of despair, enduring sanctions, isolation and the devastation of war with little hope of respite. Yet, as the dust begins to settle, a new chapter is being written.

Recent political and diplomatic developments have brought a renewed sense of optimism and transformation. In this moment of profound transition, Saudi Arabia has risen as a beacon of hope, offering both humanitarian lifelines and diplomatic breakthroughs that could redefine Syria's future.

In an extraordinary turn of events that many did not anticipate, President Donald Trump announced the full lifting of US sanctions on Syria during his historic visit to Riyadh last week. It was a moment that underscored the power of diplomacy and Saudi Arabia's growing influence on the world stage.

The Kingdom had called for the lifting of sanctions on post-Assad Syria, arguing that the punitive measures were no longer serving their intended purpose and were instead prolonging the suffering of ordinary Syrians. That Trump chose to reveal this monumental policy shift not from Washington but from Riyadh speaks volumes about the Kingdom's diplomatic stature and its instrumental role in this geopolitical pivot.

Financially, Saudi Arabia's commitment has gone even further. The Kingdom, together with Qatar, has repaid Syria's outstanding \$15 million debt to the World Bank. This payment removes a critical barrier to Syria's access to international financing and makes it eligible for new grants and loans vital for infrastructure development, education and health services. This debt relief is a tangible gesture of brotherhood and strategic foresight. It is not merely about clearing an account — it is about clearing a path. By ensuring Syria can reenter global economic systems, Saudi Arabia is helping lay the foundations for its long-term recovery and growth.

At the heart of these developments is the crown prince. He has demonstrated through his actions in Syria that he is motivated by a broader vision: one of Arab solidarity, regional peace and humanitarian leadership. His ability to combine strategic diplomacy with humanitarian generosity reflects a new model for regional leadership — one that prioritizes reconciliation over conflict and unity over sectarianism. His efforts in Syria exemplify this approach, serving not only to help a war-torn nation heal, but also to usher in a more peaceful and cooperative Middle East.

By acting as a mediator, a peacemaker and a provider, Saudi Arabia is asserting itself as a force for stability in a region too often defined by division. The Kingdom's efforts have illuminated a path forward for Syria and perhaps for the entire region. It is a reminder that, in times of despair, leadership rooted in compassion and vision can redefine what is possible.

## Outstanding and Transformational Leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir

The historic elevation of General Syed Asim Munir to the prestigious rank of field marshal has ushered in a wave of admiration, pride, and unity across Pakistan.

This landmark decision by the government of Pakistan not only honors an individual but also symbolizes a broader tribute to the collective courage and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces. His promotion is an embodiment of unwavering commitment, unmatched professionalism, and a testament to the resilience of the nation's defense institutions.

Field Marshal Asim Munir's journey has been one of quiet strength, discipline, and visionary leadership. His distinguished service in key intelligence and command roles, combined with a deep understanding of strategic affairs, has placed him in a unique position to shape Pakistan's future. Under his guidance, Operation Bunyad-ul-Marsous emerged as a model of military excellence, decisively neutralizing hostile threats and restoring stability in sensitive regions. His leadership during the operation showcased the highest standards of discipline, tactical brilliance, and unshakable morale. From troops on the front lines to commanding officers at the top, the operation was a masterclass in unity and coordination. It sent a powerful message both domestically and internationally that Pakistan's military is a modern, strategic force that can overcome any threat with resolve and professionalism.

In every corner of Pakistan, people have praised his elevation as a moment of national pride. Political leaders, military veterans, scholars, and civilians alike have described it as a reflection of the nation's gratitude for a leader who stood tall during difficult times. One citizen, Hans, echoed

the sentiment of millions when he declared that "great nations never forget their heroes—they honor and remember them forever." His message saluted not only Field Marshal Munir but every soldier who bravely stood for the country's sovereignty during the battle for truth.

### Champion of Unity, Professionalism, and Modern Warfare

Recognizing the complexity of global challenges, Field Marshal Munir always called for a multilateral approach to combat terrorism, climate change, health crises, and social issues. His message is clear: Pakistan must not only defend its borders but also contribute to global peace and stability. What makes Field Marshal Asim Munir exceptional as a leader is his unique combination of strategic foresight and administrative excellence. Under his command, the Pakistan Armed Forces have emerged stronger, more agile, and better prepared to face any challenge.

The Prime Minister's Office described the promotion as recognition of "outstanding military leadership and unwavering commitment to national defense." From intercepting aerial and cyber threats to dealing with regional provocations, Field Marshal Munir's responses have been measured, intelligent, and effective.

Field Marshal Munir's compassionate leadership is further evident in his regular visits to forward positions. His empathetic approach reinforces the belief that leadership is not just about commands but about connection, motivation, and mutual respect.

In today's global complexities and uncertainties, such leadership is invaluable. His promotion represents a beacon of hope and resilience. The army, navy, and air force of Pakistan, under his guidance, now rank among the most organized

and potent defense forces in the world. In addition to military reforms, his focus on youth empowerment, technological advancement, and civil-military harmony is shaping a new narrative for Pakistan. He has inspired confidence in the younger generation, reminding them that Pakistan's future is bright, its institutions strong, and its leadership visionary. The trust placed in him by the government, armed forces, and the people is immense and well deserved.

The international recognition of Field Marshal Asim Munir's capabilities is also a proud moment for Pakistan. International defense magazines, strategic think tanks, and foreign officials have acknowledged his contributions toward regional stability and global peace. His efforts are not confined to borders; they extend across oceans and continents, enhancing Pakistan's image as a peace-loving, stable, and resilient nation.

His wise strategies in counter-terrorism and diplomacy have not only secured Pakistan's internal security but also strengthened its position in global forums. The elevation ceremony, attended by dignitaries, senior officers, and national leaders, was not just a tribute to one man but a celebration of an entire institution that highlights the unity, strength, and potential of Pakistan's armed forces. It reminded every Pakistani that courage, discipline, and integrity are always rewarded, and that national pride lies in service.

As Field Marshal Asim Munir continues to lead, there is full confidence among the people and the state that the Pakistan Armed Forces will continue to reach new heights. His journey is a reminder that nations progress not through slogans, but through the sacrifices and achievements of individuals who serve with distinction.

**Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Pakistan Research Center, for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad**

# Sarah Adam Lifts the Veil on India-TTP Nexus to Kill Kashmiris

In a world growing increasingly chaotic, the latest revelations by former CIA operative Sarah Adam could not have come at a more critical moment. Her interview, rich in classified insight and field-sourced intelligence, exposes a sinister and elaborate strategy being orchestrated by India—one that not only seeks to eliminate Pakistan-aligned Kashmiri militants but also aims to destabilize Balochistan and undermine the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sarah Adam's whistleblowing reveals a two-pronged covert war being waged by India. On one front, India is reportedly collaborating with Taliban factions to assassinate Kashmiri militants on Pakistani soil, specifically those aligned with Pakistan's military and intelligence services. On the second front, India is accused of utilizing Afghan soil and TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan) infrastructure to arm and finance Baloch separatists—targeting Pakistan's territorial integrity and its most vital economic artery: CPEC.

Despite efforts in the U. S. Congress to introduce accountability measures—such as the stalled Protecting Death Act—no meaningful action has been taken to plug these financial leaks. Sarah Adam calls this a case of strategic blindness, warning that Western aid is unintentionally funding the next regional war.

Adam describes India's strategy as a classic case of short-term gain, long-term catastrophe. By weaponizing the Taliban against Pakistani interests, India may have scored a few tactical wins, but it is also creating a monster it cannot control. The second-tier Kashmiri lead-

ership now being cultivated is deeply radical, bound not by nationalism but by jihadist ideology. And while Pakistan may be the immediate target, India will not be immune to their long-term plans.

The Taliban and Al-Qaeda-aligned fighters, once fully entrenched, will have no qualms about shifting their attention toward India—particularly in Kashmir. Their transnational agenda doesn't distinguish between India and Pakistan; both are seen as secular enemies obstructing their vision of Islamic rule.

One of the most alarming outcomes Sarah Adam highlights is the increased risk of accidental war. Given the current volatility in India-Pakistan relations, even a small, third-party terrorist strike could ignite a massive military confrontation. With both states on hair-trigger alert, a misattributed attack could spiral into a catastrophic war—not between nations by intent, but orchestrated by extremist groups for mutual destruction.

Adam calls this scenario "killing two birds with one stone," where radical groups manipulate mistrust between India and Pakistan to fuel regional chaos and ideological expansion.

Sarah Adam's revelations extend beyond Kashmir. India is also financing, training, and arming Baloch separatists via TTP networks operating from Afghan soil. These militants, under the guise of "freedom fighters," have been responsible for killing Pakistani soldiers, police, and

civilians, including fellow Baloch who support federal integration and CPEC development.

India's objective is clear: destabilize Balochistan, interrupt CPEC's infrastructure rollout, and cripple Pakistan's economic lifeline. Projects like Gwadar Port, Gwadar International Airport, and trans-provincial road links—all essential components of CPEC—are under constant threat from Indian-backed militants.

But this strategy is also on the brink of collapse. With growing Afghan interest in joining CPEC, and the Taliban regime recognizing the economic and geopolitical advantages of aligning with China and Pakistan, there is a strong chance that the Taliban will pivot toward protecting CPEC rather than attacking it.

Sarah Adam's testimony is not just intelligence—it is a strategic roadmap for Pakistan's next moves. Islamabad must act swiftly to internationalize Adam's findings by presenting them at the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the European Union, and in key world capitals. It must engage with the Taliban-led government in Kabul to dismantle Indian-backed militant camps and cut off funding channels to the TTP.

Domestically, Pakistan should secure all CPEC zones through enhanced surveillance, deploy advanced technology to trace and intercept cross-border infiltration, and intensify efforts to dismantle TTP

sleepers cells within the country. Simultaneously, it must expand community engagement, integration, and reconciliation programs to strengthen ideological counter-radicalization efforts, particularly in Kashmir and Balochistan.

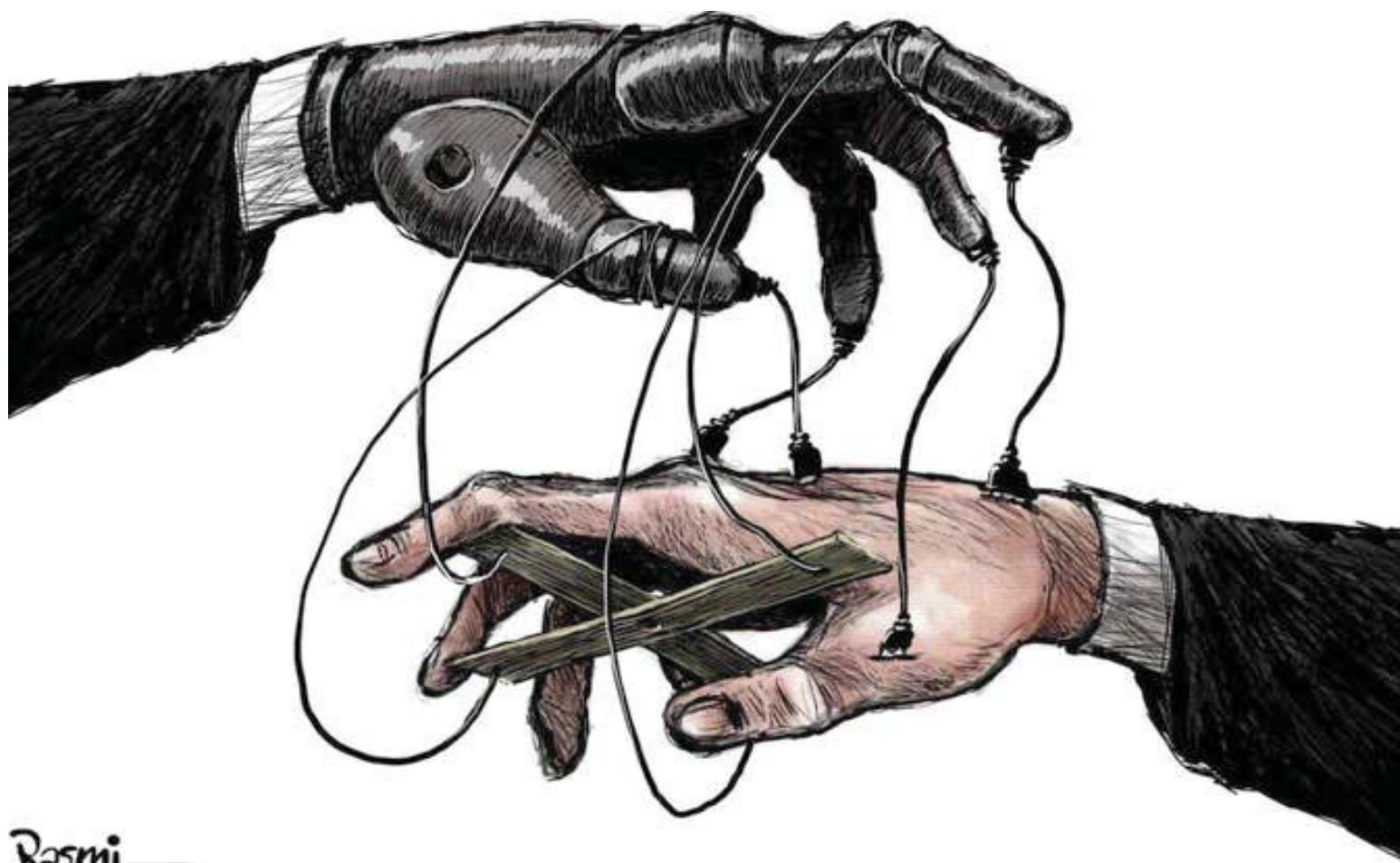
Development must be accelerated in Balochistan to address root grievances and deny extremist groups local support. Lastly, Pakistan must urgently brief global powers—especially the United States and China—on the long-term threat of a jihadist takeover in Kashmir, which poses a direct risk to regional and global stability.

India, in its quest to undercut Pakistan, is playing with fire. It has chosen to collaborate with forces that obey no rules, respect no borders, and recognize no diplomacy. By arming Taliban factions and funding separatists, it may have struck at Pakistan's heart—but it has also invited peril to its own doorstep.

The future of Kashmir—and indeed South Asia—now hangs in the balance. If India and the world fail to recognize the gravity of Sarah Adam's revelations, then the next war may not be fought by nations, but ignited by stateless militants, waging ideological warfare in the name of empires long dead and doctrines long discredited.

India must step back from this brink. Pakistan must rise to the challenge. And the world must understand: the storm is gathering—not between two countries, but within them.

*Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC*



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

## Role of Hakim Ali Zardari from Maulana Mashriqi to Asif Zardari

Sindh has been a fertile ground in politics. There are some characters in Sindh politics who have either achieved fame in the country or have become famous themselves and have

left the charm of a popular revolutionary personality, and some political characters have brought their children to the forefront of politics and public service through political work. Among the political characters who were active in political activities in the 1950s and 1960s, and in the 1970s, one of the political characters who was active in political activities was the Sindh-born Hakim Ali Zardari. Hakim Ali Zardari was a friendly character in his personal, tolerance, political and social aspects.

During Mahtma Shaheed's tenure in power in 1993, Hakim Ali Zardari was an MNA and also served as the Chairman of PAC in the National Assembly.

Hakim Ali Zardari was born on December 9, 1930, in the house of Haji Muhammad Hussain Zardari. His family was religiously inclined, along with the landowner. He received his early education in his village, and secular and religious education were also part of his training. According to information available about Hakim Ali Khan Zardari, he was also a Hafiz of the Quran. After receiving further education from Hyderabad and Karachi, Hakim Ali Khan Zardari returned to his village and started his ancestral profession of landownership. The son of the current President Asif Ali Zardari, the first marriage of the late Hakim Ali Zardari was with the daughter of a prison officer, Muhammad Hussain Memon, who was the granddaughter of Hassan Ali Effendi, Mohtarma Bilqis Sultana. From whom he had one son, Asif Ali Zardari, and two daughters, Faryal Talpur, Ezra Pechuho and

Fozia Zardari. He married Zarin Begum for the second time, but they did not have any children. Hakim Ali Khan Zardari became interested in politics in 1963. In the same year, in 1963, he was elected a member of the District Council. At

that time, the District Council Elected Vice President of the. Opposing Field Marshal Ayub Khan, Hakim Ali Zardari stood in the election with the sister of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This entire introduction is by Hakim Ali Zardari, the grandfather of the young political leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the father of the

current President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, and the father of the PPP parliamentary woman leader Madam Faryal Talpur. He is the only political character in the political history of Sindh who raised his children with such political commitment that today the world recognizes Asif Ali Zardari as the President of Pakistan and the king of political reconciliation. Today's chapter of political history seems to be incomplete than the history of the Zardari family. Targeting Asif Ali Zardari politically and using vulgar and vulgar language is not a thing of today. This political move and speech was used by the great leaders of Nawabshah in their politics due to their closeness to Allama Mashriqi. Today, when the history and history of politics, state and power are described, if Asif Ali and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari are mentioned, then when Madam Faryal Talpur is mentioned, it seems as if the introduction and the result of the political hard work of Hakim Ali Khan Zardari are completely revealed. Such a role has not been played by any revolutionary leader or political leader of Sindh. May 24 is the death anniversary of Hakim Ali Zardari. We present his introduction, hard work and political training to the public, which is also an important chapter in today's history that no one can forget.

# AIMS Annual Day Resonates with Palestinian Solidarity and Youthful Spirit



Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Annual Day of AIMS Education System, held at the National Skills University Islamabad, transformed into a powerful celebration of unity, cultural pride, and heartfelt solidarity with Palestine. The event was graced by His Excellency Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, who served as chief guest.

In an impassioned address, Dr. Zaid expressed deep gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. "The love of the Palestinian people for Pakistan is deep and sincere," he said, adding, "We pray for Pakistan's peace, prosperity, and development, as your stability and strength empower Palestine."

The ambassador urged the Pakistani people to act as a unifying force for the Pales-



tinian cause, encouraging them to prioritize the interests of Palestine above all organizational lines. "Palestine has united the people of Pakistan—its government, opposition, and all political parties. I ask you to be a single voice for us in return," he remarked.

He deeply appreciated AIMS Education System and its dedicated staff for educating young minds about Palestine and nurturing their emotional and intellectual connection to the cause. "What I witnessed today touched my heart and brought me back to the soil of my homeland, to its deep pain and resilient spirit," he said. "With such brotherhood,

we are not weak. In fact, we are stronger than ever."

The event opened with the recitation and translation of Surah Bani Israel (Verses 1-7), followed by a heartfelt Na'at that established a spiritual tone. A key moment of the day was the Oath-Taking Ceremony, where student leaders pledged to uphold values of empathy, integrity, and leadership.

A series of moving cultural performances followed, centered around the Palestinian identity. "The Heavenly Fruits of Palestine" showcased the richness of Palestinian agriculture and heritage, while "ميس فلسطين من تحت كبريت" (Why

We Love Palestine) highlighted the historical and emotional ties between Pakistan and Palestine.

Interlude presentations—mainly theatrical engagement, leading into theatrical segments such as a dramatic portrayal of Salahuddin Ayubi's valor, "The First Aliyah," and the stirring performance "The Olive Tree," symbolizing peace and steadfastness. The event concluded with the emotional and symbolic finale "ميس فلسطين من تحت كبريت" (I Am Palestine), which left many visibly moved.

Dr. Zaid noted how the comments and support from the Pakistani audience added profoundly to his experience,



reinforcing the emotional and spiritual connection between the two nations. "I wish and pray that one day we will all be able to stand and pray together in a free Al-Aqsa Mosque, our first Qibla," he said.

Chairman of AIMS Education System, Mr. Almas Ayoub Sabir—whose two-decade-long vision gave rise to the institu-

tion—along with Executive Director Dr. Moazzam Manawar Sheikh, presented souvenirs to the ambassador and expressed sincere thanks for his presence. The event closed with the distribution of student titles and a group photo capturing the spirit of solidarity and shared purpose.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

# Thai Animated Film Khan Kluay Premieres in Islamabad to Warm Applause

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad premiered the acclaimed Thai animated film Khan Kluay with English subtitles at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), drawing enthusiastic applause from an audience comprising people from diverse walks of life, especially women and young girls.

The film, Thailand's first 3D animated feature, captivated viewers with its powerful storytelling and rich cultural narrative. Directed by Kompin Kemgunnird, Khan Kluay offers a moving tale of a young elephant who embarks on a perilous journey to save his herd and ultimately, the Kingdom of Thailand. The film delivers over a hundred lessons through its social, cultural, and ethical themes leaving a deep emotional impact on the audi-



ence.

His Excellency Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan, welcomed guests in his inaugural remarks. He emphasized the importance of cultural exchanges in strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries. "Cultural relations between Thailand and Pakistan have flourished through academic collaborations



and personal connections," he noted. The ambassador further highlighted the role of educational partnerships, scholarships, and exchange programmes in fostering mutual understanding, with shared Buddhist and Islamic heritage continuing to serve as a cultural bridge.

Director General of PNCA, Mr. Muhammad Ayoub Jamali, lauded the enduring cultural



cooperation between Pakistan and Thailand. He emphasized that high-level exchanges have helped nurture mutual respect and appreciation in the fields of arts and culture.

Khan Kluay has emerged as Thailand's most successful animated film to date, grossing \$1.96 million (75 million baht) on just 60 screens in Bangkok within three weeks of release. Produced

by Kantana Animation and distributed by Sahamongkolfilm International, the \$5 million film even held its own against international blockbusters such as The Da Vinci Code and X-Men: The Last Stand. The studio anticipates the film's earnings may surpass \$3.14 million (120 million baht), making it one of Thailand's top films for the year.

The director, Kompin



Kemgunnird, has an impressive background in animation, having worked on renowned Hollywood titles like Ice Age, Atlantis: The Lost Empire, and Tarzan. The film also marks the return of Kantana to film production after an eight-year hiatus.

One of the youngest attendees, little Asma, shared her thoughts on the movie, saying, "The first part of the movie teaches us never

to give up. It has love, a moral, and even some sadness when Khan Kluay's mother dies. I liked the second part the most—Khan Kluay and his wife had children, and they were so cute."

The screening not only celebrated Thai cinematic art but also reinforced the growing bond of friendship and cultural exchange between Thailand and Pakistan.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

# 'Independence Day' of Azerbaijan represents declaration of sovereignty spirit of resilience: Ambassador Farhadov

Spokesman Report

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov on Friday said that 'Independence Day' of the Republic of Azerbaijan represents not only the declaration of sovereignty but also the spirit of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering quest for progress that characterizes the people of Azerbaijan.

Today "we celebrate the 107th anniversary of our independence, marking the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on May 28, 1918 – first secular republic in the Muslim East."

Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik was the chief guest. The reception was attended by Governors of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, Kamran Tessori and Faisal Karim Kundi, former Minister Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, Senator Sherry Rehman and other dignitaries.

Foreign ambassadors and diplomats based in Islamabad, Pakistani government officials, representatives of business community and civil society, well known media personalities and Azerbaijanis living in Pakistan also attended the reception.

The Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik expressed appreciation for Azerbaijan's firm support to Pakistan during its recent conflict with India. He highlighted the strong brotherly ties between the two countries and conveyed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's best wishes and deep regard for Azerbaijan's well being and prosperity. He emphasized the need to



boost cooperation in oil and gas exploration, energy trade, and investment.

The minister is participating in the Baku Energy Week, where he will engage with global energy leaders to attract investment and promote sustainable energy initiatives. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov said this while addressing the celebration of the 107th anniversary of independence of Republic of Azerbaijan, here in Movenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad.

Azerbaijani envoy said that within a remarkably brief span, Azerbaijan established its first parliament and government, defined its borders, instituted state attributes, and carried out crucial

state-building measures.

He said that important steps were taken in the field of state building, recognition of the Republic as a subject of international relations, and protection of its national interests.

The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, though it had an existence of only 23 months, played a pivotal role in the formation of democratic traditions and the history of national statehood, and laid a solid foundation for the future independence of the Republic by strengthening the sentiments of freedom and independence, he said.

Ambassador Farhadov said that the legal successor of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the independent Republic of Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991 and managed to preserve its sovereignty thanks to the Great leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev who has made an immense contribution to the people and the state of Azerbaijan.

The Ambassador said that Azerbaijan has been implementing the policy of Heydar Aliyev, continuing and enriching it under the leadership of H. E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was one of the first countries that recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 12, 1991, he said.

He said that the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on June 9, 1992. The envoy said that from the first day of our independence,



"we feel Pakistan's full support to the Republic of Azerbaijan both in bilateral format and within the framework of international organizations, and during the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by invader Armenia and their liberation by Azerbaijan, and in the post-conflict period."

He said that in 2020, under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan liberated its internationally recognized territories from the

almost 30-year long occupation by Armenia, implementing UN Security Council 4 resolutions of 1993, he said.

The Ambassador said that to prevent further large-scale provocations by Armenian forces in the Karabakh economic region of Azerbaijan and to restore the constitutional order, the Azerbaijani Army conducted an anti-terror operation on September 19, 2023, which lasted just 23 hours, forcing the enemy to surrender.

Khazar Farhadov said that this victory fully restored Azerbai-

jan's sovereignty, and today, the Azerbaijani flag flies proudly in all territories where Azerbaijani sovereignty is established and, Azerbaijan has officially declared 2025 as the Year of Constitution and Sovereignty.

He said that over the past years, Azerbaijan has successfully chaired several important organizations such as the UN Security Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Turkic States, and many others.

In this regard, "I would like to highlight my country's successful

hosting of the COP29 conference, which not only underscored our nation's growing leadership in global climate action but also provided a vital platform for international cooperation. I am especially pleased to acknowledge the participation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, represented by a large and esteemed delegation led by the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif that has contributed to climate cooperation between our two brotherly peoples", the Ambassador said.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
119,102.67	119,153.04
Day's High	Day's Low
119,542.51	118,665.25
Index Value	Change
20,655,338,866	-50.37
Percentage	Time
-0.04%	23 May, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,717.97	-21.29
Percentage	Time
-0.24%	23 May, 4:35 pm GMT + 1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
41,727.96	-131.13
Percentage	Time
-0.31%	23 May, 1:30 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,160.47	+174.60
Percentage	Time
+0.47%	23 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.20	186.45
Bahrain Dinar	752.40	760.40
Canadian Dollar	207.00	209.40
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.23	42.63
Euro	319.65	322.40
Hong Kong Dollar	35.64	35.99
Indian Rupee	3.2	3.29
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.04
Kuwaiti Dinar	915.30	924.80
Malaysian Ringgit	65.38	65.98
NewZealand \$	166.10	168.10
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.60
Omani Riyal	736.85	745.35
Qatari Riyal	76.85	77.55
Saudi Riyal	75.30	75.85
Singapore Dollar	220.5	222.50
Swedish Korona	28.98	29.28
Swiss Franc	335.55	338.35
Thai Bhat	8.42	8.57
U.A.E Dirham	76.90	77.55
UK Pound Sterling	379.70	383.2
US Dollar	282.65	284.15

Restrictive Trade  
Practices May  
Attract Rs. 75  
Million Fine: CCP



 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued a cautionary notice to undertakings that enter into prohibited agreements without seeking prior exemption, warning of financial penalties up to Rs. 75 million or 10% of annual turnover.

The CCP has observed that certain agreements between undertakings and their wholesalers, dealers, agents, and retailers may constitute a refusal to deal with non-dealers and often include restrictive provisions that could violate Section 4(2) of the Competition Act, 2010.

These potentially anti-competitive clauses may include resale price maintenance, market division, non-compete obligations, or other conditions that restrict competition. Such vertical agreements — those between parties operating at different levels of the supply chain — are void ab initio as they prevent, restrict, or distort competition, unless specifically exempted by the CCP under Section 5 read with Section 9 of the Act.

Exemption applications submitted to the CCP are evaluated using the criteria in Section 9 of the Act. Agreements that promote production or distribution, encourage technical or economic progress, or result in efficiency gains that outweigh any adverse impact on competition may be granted exemption.

The CCP has strongly advised all undertakings to apply for an exemption under Section 5 before entering into any such agreements to avoid potential sanctions.

Under the Competition Act, 2010, the CCP is empowered to ensure free competition across all sectors of the economy, aiming to enhance economic efficiency and protect consumers from anti-competitive practices such as abuse of dominance, cartelization, deceptive marketing, and mergers that may reduce market competition.

MD PPL inaugurates PPL-Funded  
Center of Excellence at UET Lahore

 **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: MD & CEO, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) Mr. Imran Abbasy as Chief Guest, formally inaugurated the Center of Excellence for Research, Development and Training (CERDT) at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, a landmark initiative funded by PPL under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

MD PPL unveiled the commemorative plaque in the presence of Professor Dr. Shahid Munir, Vice Chancellor, UET Lahore, alongside senior officials and industry representatives.

Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council, VC Qarshi University, Chairman Pakistan Chemicals Manufacturing Association and Chairman Pakistan Chemistry Council, besides a large number of university faculty and students were also present. The audience applauded PPL's initiative in research and training and development of the young students.

With a PKR 51.1 million grant by PPL over three years (2022-25), the CERDT is a flagship academia-industry collaboration aimed at strengthening Pakistan's indigenous technical expertise and research ecosystem in the oil and gas sector. The funding development."



covered the construction, furnishing, and procurement of cutting-edge simulation and laboratory equipment for the Centre.

Mr. Imran Abbasy, while addressing the audience, reaffirmed PPL's commitment to social investment. "As one of the largest corporate donors in Pakistan, contributing over PKR 3.5 billion annually, PPL is deeply committed to human resource development and fostering innovation through strategic academia-industry synergies," he said. "This initiative empowers youth by creating research, training, and innovation opportunities right here in Pakistan," he added.

Vice Chancellor UET, Dr. Shahid Munir, emphasized the university's continued commitment to aligning academic excellence with industry needs. "The establishment of CERDT is a bold step in producing future-ready professionals equipped with real-world expertise," he added.

The inauguration marks a milestone in building a self-reliant, skilled workforce, and boosting Pakistan's capacity in energy innovation and sustainable

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets with a delegation of the Pakistan Textile Council (PTC) led by Chairman Mr. Fawad Anwar, Mr. Asif Tata (Chairman, Naveena Group), and CEO Mr. Muhammad H. Shafqaat to discuss budgetary support, tariff rationalization, and green investment strategies for enhancing competitiveness and sustainability in Pakistan's textiles and apparel sector on Saturday.



Pakistan-ASEAN Friendship  
Association Mourns Passing of  
Vietnam's Former President

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan-ASEAN Friendship Association, led by Chairman Zafar Bakhtawari, visited the Embassy of Vietnam and offered condolences to the Vietnamese Ambassador, Pham Anh Tuan, on the passing of former President Tran Duc Luong. Madam Sadaf Asim Abbasi and Malik Mohsin Khalid also accompanied Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion.

While signing the condolence book, Zafar Bakhtawari wrote that former President Tran Duc Luong was a great political leader who led Vietnam forward with national unity and solidarity. Under his leadership, Vietnam achieved not only internal stability but also gained a prominent position on the global stage. He introduced economic reforms that have turned Vietnam into a key economic power in the Eastern world today.



He further stated that Tran Duc Luong promoted Vietnam's positive role not only in the ASEAN region but also at the international level. Under his leadership, Vietnam embraced the principles of peace, development, and prosperity, which became the solid foundation of the country.

On the occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari also held a bilateral discussion with the Vietnamese Ambassador. They discussed the exchange of trade delegations, promotion of cultural

North American investors  
and leading conglomerates  
attend high-level PIA  
privatization presentation

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of the Privatisation Commission of Pakistan, a high-level presentation was held to engage prospective investors for the strategic sale of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The event was attended by distinguished North American investors and prominent business groups based in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Mohammad Ali, Chairman of the Privatisation Commission, and the CEO of PIA, along with representatives from Ernst & Young (E&Y) and other senior officials.

The lead investors, Ms. Shazia Sharaf (Chairperson) and Mr. Nasim Siddiqi (Director) of MEGA Group, expressed appreciation for the transparent and facilitative approach adopted by the Privatisation Commission team.

The North American investor group, which has formed a consortium of leading organizations both within and outside Pakistan, reaffirmed its commitment to transforming PIA into a regional aviation leader with world-class operational standards.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Nasim Siddiqi lauded the professionalism of the presentation and commended the business-friendly environment fostered by the Privatisation Commission.

This initiative is expected to open the door for a broader wave of North American private sector investments into Pakistan in the near future.

The lead financial advisor to the North American investor consortium for this transaction is Alliot Hadi Shahid, a leading Dubai-based chartered accountancy and advisory firm.

Onic becomes first digital  
telecom brand in Pakistan  
to offer GPT 4o Premium  
Free to All Customers

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Onic, continues to transform the telecommunications experience by becoming Pakistan's first truly digital telecom brand, to offer GPT 4o Premium, fully integrated into the Onic app and available free for all users. This innovation marks a major milestone and reinforces Onic's position at the forefront of digital advancement in the industry.

"Onic has consistently demonstrated a commitment to redefining what a digital telecom brand can be. The integration of GPT 4o Premium into the Onic experience is not just a technological advancement, it is a step toward democratizing

access to AI in Pakistan," said Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group Chief Executive Officer, PTCL and Ufone 4G. "We are proud to support a platform that puts innovation directly into the hands of the people and continues to set new standards for the industry."

Commenting on the launch, Omer Bin Tariq, Country Head of Onic Pakistan, said, "Making GPT 4o Premium available to all our users at no cost reflects our commitment to delivering meaningful innovation. By integrating this powerful AI directly into the Onic app, we are giving our customers easy access to tools that support creativity, productivity, and smarter everyday decisions."

IT Career Symposium at KICS-UET Lahore Inspires  
Students Towards a Future in Tech Innovation

 **Tahir Amin Malik.**

LAHORE: The 2nd Information Technology Career Symposium, organized by the Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, brought together industry experts and aspiring technologists under one roof to share insights on emerging trends in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Kashif Bashir, Manager Trainings at KICS, delivered the Welcome Note, highlighting the strategic importance of connecting academic learning with real-world industry

expertise. He said that thousands of students were trained in the High-Tech IT courses such as AI, Advance Python, Web development, JavaScript Full Stack Development and Data Mining. He said that the invited speakers were from Top IT Companies like Devsinc, Forward Solutions, Opus AI, Imzlab Technologies and EilaaVerse.

Following this, Mr. Muzammil Hassan, Principal Manager SSRL, emphasized the Importance of NAVTTC Courses in building a skilled and future-ready youth workforce.

Ahmad Manzoor, CEO of EilaaVerse, delivered an energetic session

on "Career Path in Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship."

Ms. Noor Ul Ain Butt, Head of Talent Acquisition & Employer Branding at Devsinc, followed with a corporate HR perspective in her session "Modern Hiring Requirements."

Awais Sheikh, CEO of Forward Solutions, spoke on "Business Thinking for Everyone - From Idea to Action."

Prof. Dr. Waqar Mahmood, Director KICS, applauded the enthusiasm of the students and appreciated the valuable insights shared by the invited speakers.

The Chief Guest, Ms. Asfa



Maqbool, Director General NAVTTC Punjab, reaffirmed NAVTTC's unwavering commitment to advancing skill-based learning and entrepreneurship across Pakistan.

In the closing ceremony, Ms. Asfa Maqbool presented shields to the invited speakers and dignitaries. She also distributed NAVTTC certificates to the top-performing students.

# PM commends Naila Kiani for scaling Peak Kanchenjunga

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday appreciated mountaineer Naila Kiani for scaling the world's third highest peak.

The prime minister congratulated Naila Kiani on becoming the first Pakistani woman to summit Mount Kanchenjunga, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

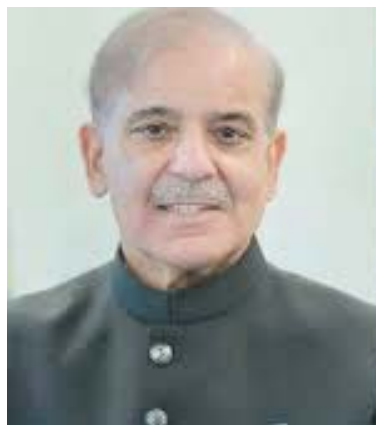
"Pakistanis are making their country proud in every field of sports," he added.

The prime minister further said that setting records in challenging sports like mountaineering by Pakistani women was a source of strength.

Pakistani mountaineer Naila Kiani has reached the summit of Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586m), becoming the first Pakistani woman to scale 12 of the world's 14 highest peaks over 8,000 metres, her team said on Friday.

Kiani, who began her final ascent evening, braved harsh conditions including sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfall to complete the climb overnight. Her success brings her closer to joining an elite group of fewer than 20 women globally to have climbed all 14 "eight-thousanders."

"This summit is not just a personal milestone," Kiani said in a statement during her descent. "It's a message to



every girl and woman in Pakistan and beyond: you are stronger than you think."

The expedition was supported by the BARD Foundation, an initiative of Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood aimed at supporting Pakistani talent. "What Naila has achieved is historic," said Abdul Razak Dawood. "Her drive and purpose reflect the values we aim to champion."

An aerospace engineer, banker, competitive boxer, mother of two, and AI startup co-founder, Kiani has emerged as one of Pakistan's most prominent sports-women. She previously received the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian honour, and has also led high-altitude environmental cleanups and humanitarian missions.

Her efforts have drawn congratulations from across the mountaineering community. "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Naila Kiani on this historic feat,"



said Major General Irfan Arshad, Patron of the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) and Abu Zafar Sadiq, the club's president. "She is a beacon of inspiration for all Pakistanis, especially women in sports."

"This is far more than just a climb. It's a monumental milestone for Pakistan and a moment of immense national pride," said Karrar Haidri, Secretary of the ACP.

"We salute her unmatched courage and perseverance."

Kiani's accomplishment adds momentum to her quest to become the first Pakistani to summit all 14 of the world's tallest mountains. Her 12 summited peaks to date are:

Everest, K2, Broad Peak, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II, Annapurna, Lhotse, Manaslu, Makalu, Cho Oyu, and now Kanchenjunga. Only two peaks – Shishapangma and Dhaulagiri remain.

## Saad makes history, summits Mount Everest via North Side route



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The first and only Pakistani Saad Bin Munawar has made history by summiting Mount Everest (8,848.86 meters) via the challenging North Side route, a feat that places him among the world's elite mountaineers.

According to Karrar Haidri, Secretary, Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP), a renowned adventurer, mountaineer, and author, Saad has long been a source of inspiration in Pakistan's adventure community.

Before this Everest ascent, he was the first Pakistani to summit Mt. Aconcagua, the highest peak outside Asia. His leadership in expeditions and mountaineering literature continues to motivate a new generation of climbers.

On May 24, 2025, the Everest North Expedition team, organized by Imagine Nepal, successfully reached the summit after a weather delay the previous day. Saad was among nine climbers who summited, alongside notable mountaineers including expedition leader Dawa Gyalje Sherpa (completing his 14th 8000er) and international climbers and Sherpas.

This remarkable achievement is not only a personal triumph for Saad but a proud milestone for Pakistan's mountaineering community.

The Alpine Club of Pakistan, extended heartfelt congratulations to Saad for his courage, determination, and extraordinary contribution to the legacy of high-altitude climbing.

## Saeed, Ammad, Anas, Abdullah move in PSA Satellite Squash Tournament semis



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Saeed Abdul, Muhammad Ammad, Anas Ali Shah Bukhari and Abdullah Nawaz moved in the semifinals of 1st Jansher Khan PSA Satellite Squash Tournament here at the Mushaf Squash Complex on Saturday.

The tournament has a draw of 32 players. In the quarterfinals, Saeed Abdul beat Hurraira Khan 11-2, 11-8, 11-2 in 20 Minutes, Muhammad Ammad beat Abdul Basit Khan 11-5, 11-1, 11-7 in 16 Minutes, Anas Ali Shah Bukhari beat Sadam Ul Haq 7-11, 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 15-13 in 51 Minutes and Abdullah Nawaz beat Khaqan Malik 11-4, 11-7, 11-6 in 16 Minutes.

The semifinals will be played on Sunday. In the 1st semifinal, Saeed Abdul will play Muhammad Ammad while Anas Ali Bukhari will face Abdullah Nawaz in the 2nd semifinal.

## Zone VI fourth Consecutive win in the PCB Inter District U-19 Cricket Tournament (Karachi Region)

### Deadly Bowling by Ayan Saleem 6/44

KARACHI: Three more matches were decided in the PCB Inter District Under-19 One Day Cricket Tournament (Karachi Region) at various grounds of the city. Zone-VI won their 4th Match in a row after beating Zone-I by 194 runs.

The highlights of the days play was fine batting by Zone- IV Ahmer Riaz Gaziani 82 and Deadly bowling by Zone-VII left arm Pacer Ayan Saleem Capturing 6 wickets for 44 runs. The Tournament is being Organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI beat Zone-I BY 194 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-VI 270/8 in 50 overs. Hammad Alam 60 3x4. Sajjad Ahmed 58 6x4 not out, Muhammad Azan 28, Hamza Qureshi 28, Huzaifa Ahsan 27. Muhammad Farman 2/39, Raffay Ahmed 2/62.

Zone-I 76 all-out in 31.1 overs. Murtaza Ahmed 22. Niaz Shafiq (sla) 3/19, Saad Sakhawat 3/21, Huzaifa Ahsan 2/8.

In the 2nd Match Zone-VII beat Zone-IV by 3 wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-IV 178 all-out in 49.3 overs. Ahmer Riaz Gaziani 82 10x4, Daniyal Khan 34, Sheraz Ali 21 not out. Ayan Saleem (Imf) 6/44, Rohail Nisar (Imf) 3/25.

Zone-VII 179/7 in 33.2 overs. Ali Sher 54 7x4, Talah Irfan 36, Fahad Hussain Khan 22, Rohail Nisar 17 not out. Zulfiqar Ali 3/24, Huzaifa Bin Sajjad 2/36.

In the 3rd Match Zone-II beat Zone-V by 9 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-II 140 allout in 37.5 overs. Muhammad Noman 53 6x4, Abdullah Waheed 29, Muhammad Ahmed Aleem 29. Hafiz Musfir (rls) 4/44, Rizwan ullah (mf) 3/23. Haziq Qureshi 2/37.

Zone-V 131 all-out in 41.5 overs. Majid Ali 62 8x5 not out, Yawar Hussain 20. Syed Muhammad Sameer (rls) 3/36, Muhammad Ahmed Aleem 2/18, Abdul Rauf 2/37.

Umpires were Asim Alvi, Asghar Shah, Imtia, Iqbal, Muhammad Nasir, Imran Jawed, S. M. Babar and Scorer Salman Hussain Kazmi, Junaid Afzal and Khayyam Mustafa. Fixture for Monday 26th May: Zone-III vs Zone-V at Agha Khan Gymkhana Ground, Zone-I vs Zone-VII at Gulberg Gymkhana Ground, Zone-IV vs Zone-VI at KCCA Stadium.

# Punjab Equally Facilitating Female Athletes to Thrive: CM Maryam

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: "Athlete Mona Khan has proved that female athletes are no less than anyone," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while meeting Gold-medalist of London Marathon 2025, athlete journalist Mona Khan and her coach Muhammad Yousuf. She gave them cheques worth Rs 5 lakh each when they presented her the gold medal won by athlete Mona Khan in 42.2-kilometer long London Marathon 2025. She also signed a T-shirt on Mona Khan's request. Athlete Mona Khan dressed Madam Chief Minister in Sindh's Ajrak and presented her a pencil sketch.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated Mona Khan and her coach Muhammad Yousuf on their success, at which both of them thanked her for the patronage. She said, "Pakistani athletes and players are performing well in arenas around the world." She added, "Punjab Sports Program has been launched to promote sports in Punjab." She high-



lighted, "Punjab government is taking all possible measures to promote sports in the province. Our primary goal is to bring youth to the sports arenas."

Madam Chief Minister underscored, "1300 female players participated in the first/ever Pink Games held in the province in 2024, setting a record." She added, "Prize money of the Pink Games was increased from Rs 5 million to Rs

10 million." She vowed, "I will provide a conducive environment and facilities for female players and athletes to showcase their talents."

Athlete Mona Khan said, "A daughter of Punjab has shown unprecedented respect for a daughter of Sindh." She added, "Punjab has honored and encouraged her by inviting her." She attributed her medal to Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz Sharif. She acknowledged, "Maryam Nawaz Sharif is not only a very good Chief Minister, but a wonderful woman too." She noted, "Women are seen crying, but this is not true, Pakistani women are very brave."

Mona Khan said, "Because of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, I got the positive energy and honor." She added, "I have always heard praise from people of Punjab about Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Scholarships and laptops for students from Punjab and other provinces are good initiatives of Madam Chief Minister." She remarked, "Whenever I receive

an honor at the international front, the name of Pakistan and Pakistan's daughter Maryam Nawaz Sharif will also come up." She thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for inviting her to Lahore and encouraging her. Her coach Muhammad Yousuf, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Chief Secretary and Secretary Sports were also present in the meeting.

## Pakistan Super League X Championship 2025

# Defending Champion Islamabad out: Lahore Qalandars reach in PSL X Final



**Asim Tanveer**

LAHORE: PSL 10, defending champion Islamabad out, Lahore Qalandars reach final. Latest cricket news is that the cricket team of the federal capital of Pakistan, Islamabad United, suffered a second big defeat in three days. Out of PSL 10. The journey of the defending champion is over.

A victorious start in the league matches, the intoxication of winning five consecutive matches was very high, but after that, after some defeats, this team again joined the top two teams. It got the honor of making two attempts for the final. It suffered a big defeat from Quetta Eaters in the qualifier and today it was again defeated by Lahore Qalandars in Elementor Two at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The story is over. Lahore Qalandars, which was not in the top two in PSL, won two matches in the last 24 hours. First, they wiped out Karachi Kings and today they threw out Islamabad United and got the honor of playing the final. Lahore Qalandars will now face Quetta Gladiators in the final on Sunday.

In the most important knockout match played at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore on Friday, Lahore Qalandars batted first and scored 202 runs for 8 wickets. They also won the toss of this match and decided

to bat first. The highlight of Qalandars' innings was Muhammad Naeem, who is the opener, scored 50 runs. Kushal Prayara, who belongs to Sri Lanka, played an innings of 61 runs off 35 balls. Apart from them, no player could play a big innings. Fakhar Zaman contributed 12 runs, Abdullah Shafiq had 25 runs and Raja Pakasa had 22 runs off 13 balls. Asif Ali made 15 runs off 7 balls. And then the important thing is that even though captain Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shakib Al Hasan went for zero, Lahore Qalandars scored about 50 runs in the last four overs, which gave them a big advantage.

Naseem Shah conceded 52 runs in four overs from Islamabad United. He could not take any wickets. Timal Mills took the most wickets by giving away 42 runs in four overs. Salman Irshad gave away 40 runs in four overs, dismissed two players, and Imad Wasim took one wicket for 16 runs.

### Islamabad innings

In reply, Islamabad United had a disastrous start. Muhammad Shahzad went for zero. Darren Dussin scored seven runs. Sahibzada Farhan became the guest of three runs. He was 3 out for 13. After that, Salman Ali Agha was standing at one end, but Imad Wasim could score 8 runs. The fourth wicket fell for 33 runs.



Some Salman Ali Agha stood for 72 for the fifth wicket. He was also dismissed on the score of. He scored 33 runs. Captain Shadab Khan was also the sixth player to be dismissed when the score was 88, he was dismissed after scoring 26 runs. The series of wickets continued to fall and during this time many interesting scenes were also seen and many players left in strange and strange ways.

Islamabad United's team was dismissed

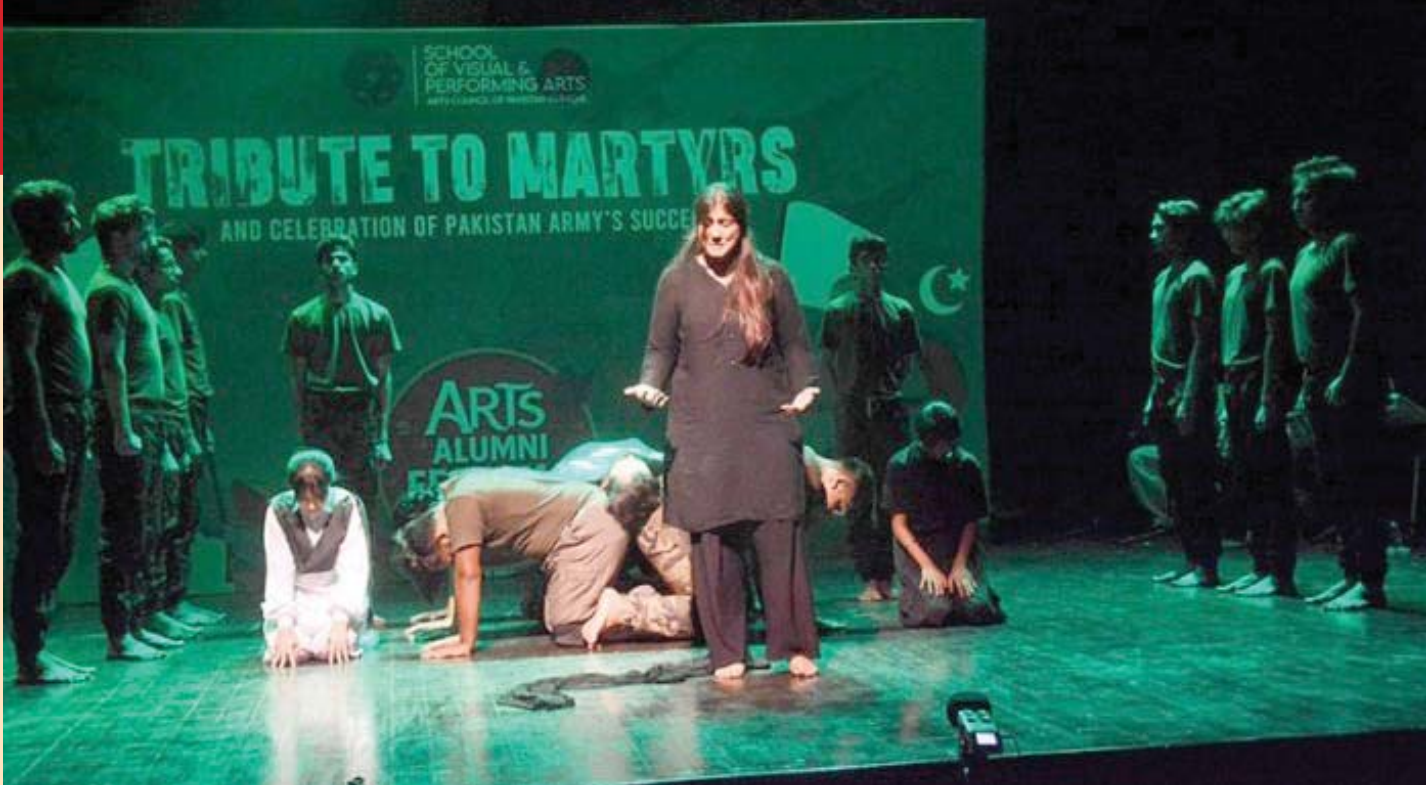
after scoring only 107 runs in 15.1 overs. Thus, Lahore Qalandars have made it to the final of PSL 10 with a win by 95 runs. The final will be played on Sunday, May 25.

### Shaheen's Magic

Shaheen Shah Afridi did magic for Qalandars, taking 3 wickets with a maiden and 3 runs in 3.1 overs. Salman Mirza and Rashad Hussain took 3 wickets each by giving away 16 runs and 34 runs.

Tributes to Martyrs

KARACHI: Young artists performing in a stage play to pay tributes to Martyrs and celebration of Pakistan Armed Forces success against Indian aggression during three days Arts Alumni Festival 2025 at Arts Council of Pakistan



News In Pictures

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff hosts a grand dinner



Gaza civil defence says six killed in Israeli strikes

**AFP**

GAZA: Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes killed at least six people on Saturday across the Palestinian territory, where Israel has ramped up its military offensive in recent days.

"Our teams have recovered at least six dead," civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

He said a couple were killed with their two young children in a pre-dawn strike on a house in the Amal quarter of the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Another two people were killed in a strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the centre of the territory, he said.

The Israeli military said it was unable to comment on individual strikes without their "precise geographical coordinates".

Israel resumed operations in Gaza on March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire.

Gaza's health ministry said Friday that at least 3,673 people had been killed in the territory since then, taking the war's overall toll to 53,822, mostly civilians.

Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Militants also took 251 hostages, 57 of whom remain in Gaza including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said on Friday that Palestinians were enduring "the cruellest phase" of the war in Gaza, where more than a dozen food trucks were looted following the partial easing of a lengthy Israeli blockade.

The World Food Programme called on Israel "to get far greater volumes of food assistance into Gaza faster", saying: "Hunger, desperation, and anxiety over whether more food aid is coming, is contributing to rising insecurity."

Aid deliveries to the Gaza Strip restarted on Monday for the first time since March 2, amid mounting condemnation of the Israeli blockade, which has resulted in severe shortages of food and medicines.



Pakistan's retaliatory strikes shocked India: AJK President Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry

**Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, said on Saturday that Pakistan's armed forces gave a befitting response to the Indian aggression and crushed its war madness.

Talking to a delegation led by Mirpur District Council Chairman Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga at Kashmir House in Islamabad, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that India violated Pakistan's borders and committed war aggression. He paid tribute to the Pakistan forces. He said that India was a coward enemy who attacked Pakistan in the darkness of night and martyred innocent people.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry that India was shocked by Pakistan's retaliatory strikes therefore it started bombing civilian population on the Line of Control, resulting in damage to civilian property and martyrdom of innocent people.

He said that India faced a crushing defeat in the retaliatory action by the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force. He said the Modi government was currently facing defeat within its own country.

Indian people, he said, were demanding the resignation of Narendra Modi after India's defeat in the war against Pakistan. He said that India has now come to a defensive position.

"We all have to play our role in resolving the Kashmir dispute and exposing Indian aggression to the world, above all political affiliations," he said.



PTI leader Qureshi shifted back to jail from hospital

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was discharged from hospital on Saturday and taken back to prison in Lahore.

A police team took Shah Mehmood Qureshi from Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) and shifted him back to Kot Lakhpat Jail.

Qureshi remained under treatment at the PIC for eight days. The PTI leader was brought to the PIC after complaining of heartache. His lawyer confirmed that Qureshi experienced chest discomfort following the Fajr prayers, after which jail authorities transferred him to the PIC for further examination and treatment.

The jail administration had also alerted Qureshi's family of his condition and transfer.

Pakistan will increase defence budget, says Ahsan Iqbal



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said that Pakistan will raise its defence budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-26 keeping in view the recent escalation with India.

Earlier this month, the minister had announced that the federal budget would be presented on June 2, however, Adviser to the Finance Minister Khuram Schehzad said yesterday that the budget would be presented on June 10, while the Pakistan Economic Survey would be released a day earlier.

After attending a meeting at the Institution of Engineers Pakistan (IEP) in Lahore, the planning minister told reporters that the budget had not been delayed due to any pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but because of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to friendly nations and the Eidul Azha holidays.

"We had very good negotiations with the IMF," Iqbal said. "The main reason behind the delay is the PM's five-day visit to friendly countries and Eid after that. "We decided to present the budget after Eid so that we can easily convene a meeting of parliament afterwards," he added.

Ji threatens to besiege K-Electric for overbilling

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Amir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has threatened to besiege K-Electric for overbilling and increase in electricity charges.

Addressing a news conference at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi on Saturday, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman announced that Jamaat-e-Islami will stage a demonstration to express solidarity with Palestinian on May 31, 2025.

Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman expressed his anger over unscheduled load-shedding in Karachi. He said that peoples of Karachi are fed up of this situation.

He accused K-Electric to pay kick-backs to all political parties to avail benefits. He demanded government to reduce electricity charges.

Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that during census the population of Karachi was not counted correctly and showed less numbers.

He appealed all the political parties to take part in demonstration being staged in support of Palestinians.

Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that government should address all issues being faced by people of Balochistan.