(مصحى بنارى: مديث نمر 6114) Barkat Rice Mills

Salute to National Hero Dr. A.Q. Khan

May 28th, the Day of Takbeer, is actually a day of survival, a day of loyalty, and a day of renewal of the pledge that the country's defense was made



KP Police seek Rs20b in upcoming budget amid security challenges

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police have demanded Rs20 billion from the provincial government in the upcoming budget for the current budget of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police force.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

COAS Asim Munir

Ziqa'ad 30, Wednesday, May 28, 2025

PM Shehbaz

News Desk

of this four-nation visit.

will later proceed to Tajikistan.

winds up Iran visit; leaves for Baku

TEHRAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on

Tuesday winded up his two-day bilateral visit to

The prime minister left for Baku at the invi-

Following visits to Turkey, Iran and Azerbaijan, he

At Mehrabad Airport, Iranian Interior Minister

Eskandar Momeni, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan

Reza Amiri Moghadam, Pakistan's Ambassador to

Iran Mudassir Tipu, and senior diplomatic officials

During the two-day visit to Iran, Prime Minister

saw off the prime minister and his delegation.

Shehbaz met with Supreme Leader Ayatollah

Seyyed Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Dr.

Masoud Pezeshkian. The meetings focused on

Pakistan-Iran relations, particularly the promo-

tion of trade and regional connectivity, besides

covering regional issues, with appreciation for

Iran's efforts to maintain peace in the region.

tation of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Iran and departed for Azerbaijan, on the third leg

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Shack Hand

Field Marshal Asim Munir greets Iranian Chief of General Staff Mohammad Bagheri.



Lachin Summit: A New Chapter in Pakistan-Azerbaijan Relations

Spokesman Report

LANCHIN-AZERBAIJAN: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday during a bilateral meeting underscored the importance of coordinated efforts to promote regional stability, mutual prosperity, and principled positions on key international issues.

The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, held a bilateral meeting with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the city of Lachin, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The meeting took place on the eve of the Trilateral meeting of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye that would take place on Azerbaijan's Independence Day, adding a symbolic dimension to the Prime Minister conveyed warm felicitations to President Aliyev and the people of Azerbaijan on this important national

people of both countries enjoy an eternal bond of friendship.

the recent Pakistan-India confrontation, in the face of Indian provocation and acknowledged the public expressions of solidarity from both the leadership and the people of brotherly Azerbaijan. In this regard delegation level talks will Fatemi were also present.



He said that people of Azerbaijan celebrated the success of Pakistan in Maarka-e-Haq against India.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral exchange between the two leaders. The relations and expressed satisfaction over the upward trajectory of political, economic, defence, and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

They reaffirmed their shared commit-The prime minister emphasized that ment to diversifying the strategic partnership through investment in mutually beneficial avenues. The prime minister The prime minister thanked Azer- reiterated that both the countries had baijan for its steadfast support during stood by each other on every occasion and would continue to do so.

Azerbaijan side agreed to exchange of delegations with regard to progress in investment of Azerbaijan in Pakistan.

be organized very soon.

The prime minister noted that holding this meeting in Lachin, a city that reflects Azerbaijan's journey of resilience and restoration, carries deep symbolic and emotional significance for both sides.

The meeting concluded with both leaders reaffirming their commitment to the deepening of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan partnership and working closely to further advance shared objectives at the bilateral and regional levels.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Chief of the Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Ullah Tarrar and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq

Pakistan strongly condemns Israeli provocative actions on Al-Aqsa Mosque

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday condemned in the strongest possible terms the latest provocative actions by Israeli occupying power as well as illereligious, historical and legal status of the civilians in Gaza by the occupying power. Al-Aqsa Mosque.

international law, and have the potential to further escalate an already vola-

Israel from any further provocations," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

Pakistan also strongly deplored the gal settlers that aimed to undermine the continued targeting of the Palestinian

The latest reprehensible attack against "Such actions are unacceptable and a school sheltering displaced families in constitute a flagrant violation of the Gaza was an example of continued Israeli impunity. "The harrowing images being witnessed by the world in the aftermath tile situation in the region. Pakistan calls of the attack that resulted in dozens of

for upholding the sanctity and historical deaths, many of them children, should status of the holy sites, and preventing be a wake-up call for the international community. These attacks must end forthwith, and Israel must be held accountable for its heinous crimes," it

was further stressed. The spokesperson said Pakistan reiterated its unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and called for the establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its

meets Iran's Chief of General Staff, holds talks on defence cooperation Spokesman Report shared border, and exploring TEHRAN: Field Marshal

Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan, visited the General Staff Headquarters in Tehran during his official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran on

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army Chief held a meeting with Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces. "The two military leaders engaged in discussions on the evolving regional security landscape, with particular focus on strengthening bilateral defence ties," the statement

Key areas of mutual interest included "enhancing military-to-military cooperation, improving security mechanisms along the friendly countries.

avenues for transforming the border regions into zones of trade and economic connectivity, thereby contributing to regional stability and prosperity." Upon his arrival at the

General Staff Headquarters, Field Marshal Asim Munir was accorded a warm welcome, including a ceremonial guard of honour presented by a wellturned-out contingent of the Iranian Armed Forces. The COAS, along with the Prime Minister of Paki-

stan, also met with Ayatollah Syed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran, and Masoud Pezeshkian, President of Iran.

The ISPR said the Army Chief is on an official visit to Türkiye, Iran, and Azerbaijan as part of the Prime Minister's delegation visiting the three

Youm-e-Takbir to be celebrated with full enthusiasm today

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The main and big ceremonies to express gratitude for the victory of Youm-e-Takbir and Muarka-e-Haq will be held in Peshawar and Mirpur, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Mugam will be the chief guests, said a press release.

Special ceremonies will also be held in Gilgit-Baltistan. of not compromising on Amir Muqam will address the central rally in Mirpur.

Preparations for Youme-Takbir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are complete. Muslim League-Nawaz will organize special ceremonies across the province. The central ceremony in

be held at the (N) League Secretariat in Peshawar. Amir Mugam will address. All wings of the (N) League

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will

have also been instructed to hold rallies on the instructions of Amir Muqam. Youm-e-Takbir and Muar-

ka-e-Haq are announcements national dignity and defense. Message from Amir Muqam.



Pakistan's nuclear deterrent: A shield against aggression, says Azad Kashmir President

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan on May 28, 1998, restored the strategic balance in the region and made Pakistan's defense impregnable.

In a special message, on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbir, he commended the exceptional role played by then Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in initiating nuclear program.

Barrister Chaudhry also highlighted Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's significant role in development and advancement of Pakistan's missile tech-

"These initiatives had made Pakistan's defense invincible", the president said, evil eye on the country. adding no enemy can even dare to shed an

Summer Vacation



The president, while emphasizing on early dispute, said, "Kashmir, a nuclear flash-Kashmir issue.

point between India and Pakistan, has a potential to trigger a nuclear war between the two countries'

"Any incident, regardless of its size, can potentially escalate into a larger conflict between India and Pakistan that can potentially jeopardize peace of the whole world", Barrister Chudhary added.

"The key to peace in South Asia lies in a just and honourable settlement of the Kashmir issue", he remarked.

He said that it was high time that the international community should play its due role in resolving the longstanding Kashmir issue in line with the UNSC resolutions

Terming Kashmiris as the principle party to the dispute, the president stressed the need for associating Kashmiri leadership in dialogue

and amicable settlement of the Kashmir process to find out a lasting solution to the

DFP calls for international intervention to resolve long-standing dispute

😂 Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has urged the international community to play its much needed role to help resolve longstanding Kashmir dispute to ensure lasting peace in the region.



In a statement issued in Srinagar, the DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal, said that a deeper engagement on the part of influential world governments particularly the US could help pave the way for a just and lasting resolution to the issue that happens to be the root cause of tensions between two nuclear armed neighbours.

Stressing on a sustainable and result oriented talks involving all stakeholders, the the spokesman said, " Inclusion of genuine Kashmiri leadership in any decision making process is imperative to ensure that the interests and aspirations of the Kashmiri people are

He said that Kashmiri leadership has always supported dialogue to find out a just and honourable settlement of the Kashmiri dispute stressing that peace and stability in the region hinges on the resolution of the long running Kashmir dispute.

The spokesman urged the Indian government to immediately release all political prisoners, including Shabir Ahmed Shah, who, along with other Hurriyat leaders, is languishing in different jails in and outside the Kashmir Valley.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan calls for national solidarity on Youm-e-**Takbir**

👺 Bureau Report



MUZAFFARA-BAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that May 28, Youm-e-Takbir, reminds

nation of its unity to make the defense of the country invincible. Youm-e-Takbir is a proof of our nation's steadfastness, unwavering will and determination to maintain regional peace and stability. He expressed these views in a statement issued on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbir. He said that Youm-e-Takbir is a proof of our nation's steadfastness, unwavering resolve and determination to maintain regional peace and stability.

Today, Pakistan has successfully demonstrated its nuclear capability and joined the ranks of nuclear powers. Pakistan, as a responsible nuclear state, firmly believes in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Meanwhile, President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan had a busy time during his visit to Muzaffarabad.

Muslim Conference workers and leaders also met with President Muslim Conference. The previous day, he attended the wedding of District Council Member Sved Yasir Gilani's son in Rera and the wedding of former DG Local Government Nusrat Aziz's son Later, he visited Syed Bashir Shah Gilani, a long-time associate of Mujahid e Awwal, and former Director Augaf Sardar Magsood Abbasi, President Muslim Conference met Sohail in Jalalabad. Abbasi, Naqash Abbasi and Shiraz Abbasi's mother, Mohtarma, were offered Fateha. The President of the Muslim Conference expressed his condolences to the son and other relatives of Retired Secretary Sardar Ilyas Abbasi in Tandali and offered Fateha.

LAHORE: Students are leaving towards their houses on the very last day before summer vacation as all public and private sector colleges and schools in Punjab shall remain closed from 28-05-2025 (Wednesday) to 14-08-2025 (Thursday) for summer vacations.



Neelum Valley paralyzed as heavy rain blocks highway

Majeed Tahir:

MUZAFFARABAD/ RAWALAKOT/ NEELUM VALLEY: Like the other parts of the country Severe loss of life and property due to heavy cloudburst and torrential rain in Azad Kashmir. A woman died while five houses and a mosque were damaged due to rain and flash floods in the adjoining areas of Muzaffarabad. Damage was reported in Bulgran village, while the Neelum velley Blocked highway between Semari and Mirpura was stuck between several traffic slides.

Bulgran cloudburst Central Jamia Masjid Bulgran Shaheed Five houses destroyed One woman died. Body recovered Local sources reported

Despite heavy rain, District administra-roads in Neelum Valley.



tion active — Work is underway to restore

in Neelum Valley.

The district administration, rescue teams and the highway department are actively opening roads for the convenience of the public despite all the weather obstacles. According to a report, the road is currently being restored at Mirpura

After this, the road will be opened at Chaliana Uchhar, wherever the machinery has reached

Meanwhile, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Chaudhry Guftar Hussain has issued a travel advisory due to bad weather. According to the advisory issued by the Commissioner's Office, due to heavy rain in different areas of Muzaffarabad Roads have been closed at various Division, there is currently flooding in places due to continuous and heavy rains rivers and landslides in some places.

COMSATS Industrial Connect- Career **Expo Spring 25**

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS Industrial Connect- Career Expo Spring 25 was held under supervision of Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar In Charge COMSATS University Islamabad- Islamabad Campus at CUI, Islamabad Campus on Tuesday 27th May, 25.

The event was inaugurated by Worthy Rector COMSATS University Islamabad Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, and was attended by 60 prominent Companies of Pakistan including Allied Bank, Askari Bank, HBL Microfinance

Bank, Haideri Beverages, Gourmet cola, Cheezious, Tapal Tea, Study in Australia Education Consultancy, Times Consultancy, Study-In, Jin Technologies, Alachisoft, Zameen. com, ELctronic Interconnect Engineering, Ciklum, Urtasker, Claim Care, Jazz, Ace Money Transfer. Paysa, Nayatel, Shanghai Zixel Company and many more top notch companies of Pakistan.

The event also displayed final year projects of students of different Programs of Computer Science (including Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security and Data Science) Bank, Mobilink Microfinance as well as final year projects of



Departments of Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Physics, Chemistry Industry leaders visited the Expo

The event was a huge success as

for hiring of students and took great interest in their Final Year

SSGC|LPG|

SSGC LPG Ltd.

Tender Notice

Tender No.	Description	Bid Submission Date/Time	Bid Opening Date/Time
SLL/1060	Services required of Custom Clearing Agent who must hold vast experience of handling LPG Cargos etc. Under Single Stage Single envelope bidding method.	13.06.25 1500 Hrs.	13.06.25 1530 Hrs.

1. Tender documents contain detailed Terms & Conditions method of procurement, procedure for submission, bid validity, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, rejection of bids, bid bond and performance bond (if applicable) etc. may be obtained from SSGC LPG H.O., SSGC LDC Building, Karachi Terminal, Opposite Safari Park Main University Road, Karachi on payment of Rs. 3000/- each through pay order / demand Draft in favor of SSGC LPG Limited or on Cash payment from Monday through Friday between 0900 Hrs.

2. Bid / Documents in sealed envelope distinctly marked with 'Tender enquiry No." must be submitted on or before the date, time and address mentioned above

3. Request letter for issuance of tender documents should be

a. Copy of GST SST & NTN registration certificate (where applicable)

b. Undertaking on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100 certifying that supplier(s) is / are not temporarily or permanently debarred from any Govt. agency / authority / department (without bearing any responsibility on SSGC LPG whatsoever in this regards).

4. The above tenders are also displayed on websites of PPRA (www.ppra.org.pk).

5. Bids / Documents will be opened publicly 30 minutes after bid submission time at address mentioned below. In case the bid opening date falls on holiday, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time in the presence of bidders or their authorize representatives who may intend to attend.

6. SSGC LPG Limited reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals and cancel the bidding process before acceptance of bids or proposals.

For further details, please contact (Procurement Department) in writing: SSGC LPG Head Office, LDC Building, SSGC Karachi Terminal, Main University Road, Karachi

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Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

EMENOEI16 I
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services 4451122
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Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

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PIA Cargo	9280979
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CAA	9281092

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CMH	5611111
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MH	561116
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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
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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
Pawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service 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 ...0331-5022125 Rawalpindi.

Ch. Kamran condemns terrorist Attack on Children Bus at Khuzdar Zero Point

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, Patron-in-Chief Kamalia Tajers Itehad Chaudhry Kamran Ahmad Nusrat strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a children's bus at Khuzdar Zero Point in Balochistan, calling it a cowardly and

inhumane act. He said that targeting innocent students is the worst example of barbarity. Which is not only a national tragedy but also a tragedy for the entire humanity.

The sacrifices of the martyrs will never go in vain and the entire nation will unite and uproot the scourge of terrorism. Chaudhry Kamran Ahmad Nusrat demanded from the government that full and effective action be taken against the terrorists and their facilitators so that such heartbreaking incidents can be prevented in the future.

Pakistan's dairy sector needs smart taxation to promote formalization and nutrition

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a focused policy dialogue titled "Enabling Dairy Sector Transformation through Smart Taxation". The session, moderated by Zainab Naeem and organized as part of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's (SDPI) pre-budget consultation series, aimed to finalize a joint statement and action plan to formalize the largely informal dairy sector through rational tax policies.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, highlighted that despite contributing significantly to economic activity, over 90% of Pakistan's dairy sector remains undocumented and untaxed. "Documentation of the economy is crucial not just for fiscal stability but also for tackling malnutrition and ensuring food safety," said Dr. Suleri. He emphasized that the current tax policy particularly the 18% GST on packaged

and undermines both public health and economic development.

Representing the private sector, Muhammad Nasir of Friesland Campina Engro Pakistan stressed the sector's socio-economic importance, especially in rural areas. "Dairy acts as a social safety net, yet our productivity remains among the world's lowest," he said.

Aatekah Mir from Nestlé Pakistan explained that the sales tax freeze has halted investment in milk conversion infrastructure. "This tax was criticized across political lines," she noted, adding that Nestlé and others are fully aligned with the SDPI's policy recommenda-Dr. Shehzad Amin, CEO of the Paki-

stan Dairy Association, called for a rational and uniform tax regime. "No country taxes milk at 18% - the highest global rate is 9%. Safe milk is not a luxury, it's a right," he asserted.

Dr Muhammad Anjum Iqbal, Animal Nutritionist at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research urged the



milk - disincentivizes the formal sector government to incentivize quality milk production, highlighting the need for improving animal health, diet, and envi-ronment.

Dust storms

ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Faisal Avenue during rain after dust storm in Federal Capital on Tuesday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Int'l moot on Quality Teacher Education concludes at AIOU

ISLAMABAD: The two-day international conference on the theme of teacher education and training concluded successfully at Allama Iqbal Open University. Vice Chancellor of the university and Chairman of NACTE, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood was the chief guest, while Professor Dr. Qazi Waseem, Vice Chancellor of Karachi Metropolitan University, was the guest of honor. Other notable speakers included Professor Dr. Sajid Ali from Aga Khan University, Dr. Shamsa Aziz, Secretary of NACTE, and Dr. Naveed Sultana, Chairperson of the Secondary Teacher Education Department at the Open University.

In his address, Dr. Nasir Mahmood described teacher training as a cornerstone



of national intellectual and academic development, and praised the organization of the more than 250 education conference as a commendable academic effort. He expressed gratitude to the organizers, conference education experts, partner institutions, and all participants for their key roles in making this academic gath-

Dr. Qazi Waseem highlighted that bringing together experts was a major achievement, and noted that the significantly contributed to the development of quality and contemporary

teacher education programs. Sponsors of the conference included Global Partnership

for Education (GPE-KIX), College of Education - Ziauddin University, Virtual University, University of Gujrat, and Sarhad University. All partner institutions deserve appreciation and congratulations for this successful initiative, which will undoubtedly serve as a milestone in promoting quality education.

Three wanted in murder case arrested

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Three persons among them two brothers were arrested in connection to their involvement in a murder case registered against them in Jand Police station in February last year. The Police spokesman has said that Aqib and his brother Imran besides Muhammad Ashiq all residents were reportedly been concealing their identities to evade arrest. A police spokesperson stated that the accused were on the list of proclaimed offenders and had managed to avoid law enforcement for over a year. "Their arrest marks a significant success in our efforts to bring justice to the victims and their families," the official added.

Sister-in-Law rapist netted: A man was arrested for allegedly drugging and sexually assaulting his sister-in-law while her husband was working abroad, police said. According to the First Information Report (FIR) lodged at Hazro Police Station, the victim, wife of Muhammad Sohail, a resident of Musa village, stated that she had been married for nine years and is a mother of three. Her husband has been employed overseas for the past one year.

GCWUF Hosts Strategic Meeting to Strengthen Higher Education in Punjab

S Abdul Maiid

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University (GCWUF) hosted a strategic meeting on May 24, 2025, chaired by Prof. Dr. Igrai Ahmad Khan, Chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). Vice Chancellors from public sector universities of the Faisalabad region participated in the session aimed at strengthening collaboration and addressing key challenges in higher education.

Vice Chancellor GCWUF, Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen, welcomed the Chairperson and academic leaders, highlighting the shared commitment to quality assurance, innovation, and institutional reform. Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan appreciated GCWUF's leadership in facilitating the dialogue and stressed the importance of academic collaboration for progress in Punjab's higher education sector.

Discussions focused on enhancing quality, strengthening QECs, ORICs, and IQCs, promoting academic freedom, and increasing research impact. The meeting reinforced the collective resolve to drive educational excellence through cooperation and visionary leadership.

Mayor Karachi chairs City Council meeting on water issues

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday chaired a session of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Council to discuss in detail the improvement of the water supply and drainage systems, at the City Council Hall in the KMC headquar-

Members from all political parties expressed their views during

On the occasion the Mayor Karachi said that joint action would be taken against water theft. He emphasized the need to move forward with consensus to resolve the city's water supply issues.

The mayor announced strict monitoring of all water hydrant nozzles, including obtaining written affidavits from the responsible officers. He also announced the formation of a committee comprising members from both the government and opposition to oversee the

The Mayor Karachi further stated that the PC-I for the K-III overground pipeline for Lyari is being revised in the new fiscal budget.

Public-Private partnership proves effective in building resilient health ecosystem in Karachi's underserved communities

News Desk

KARACHI: In the bustling, often overlooked urban slum settlements of Karachi, change is taking place. Children who once faced the dual threats of vaccine-preventable diseases and malnutrition are now being reached by the Engaging Private Providers for Immunization-Integrated Services project—an innovative initiative that blends routine immunization and nutrition services. Funded by the Gates Foundation, this project is made possible through a collaboration between the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Pakistan, Government of University (AKU) and local commu-

In 2022, the project was born out of necessity. Rapid increase in the mobile and migrant population in Karachi has led to an increase in densely populated underserved slum areas with lack of access to health care - especially preventive services such as childhood routine vaccination.

In 10 High Risk and five Super High Risk Union Councils (designated by the Pakistan polio program) across three Karachi districts where health care access was scarce and trust in the system low, families struggled to protect their children. This included four Union Councils in District East, Sindh Health Department, Aga Khan one Union Council in Malir and 10 Union Councils in District West.

However, by December 2024, the numbers told a new story: 144,563 children under two vaccinated, 68,861 screened for malnutrition, and a 76% drop in zero-dose children. Behind these figures lie countless small victories: a mother no longer fearing measles, a toddler regaining strength after malnutrition treatment and a community trusting health care workers. Dr Azra Pechuho, Sindh's

Health Minister, reflected on the project's potential saying, beyond Karachi to the rest of Sindh. Karachi was meant to serve as a pilot



"We hope to expand these efforts to generate data that could inform scale-up across other districts." Dr Zahid Memon, Associate

Professor from the Community Health Sciences Department at AKU and Project Lead believes that "This initia-

tive proves that when the public and private sectors unite with communities, we can dismantle barriers to health care. By integrating immunization and nutrition services we're building a resilient health ecosystem."

At the recent Primary Health care Symposium at AKU, Dr Mukhtar Bharat, Minister of State, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan, referred to this project and praised partners such as the Gates Foun-

dation for their provision of technical assistance and innovations for health systems strengthening."

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Urgent tax increases on tobacco can save lives

he World Health Organization (WHO) warns that Pakistan is losing 164 000 lives and PKR (Pakistani Rupees) 700 billion (approximately US\$ 2.5 billion) annually due to the devastating impacts of tobacco on public health and is calling for urgent measures – including increased taxation – to save lives. All tobacco products on the market, without exception and regardless of its manufacturer, are extremely harmful to health and pose a major risk to vulnerable populations such as children and teenagers.

As World No Tobacco Day – observed on 31 May – approaches, WHO reaffirms its commitment to partnering with Pakistan to address the chronic health crisis caused by tobacco. WHO advocates for taxation to be used as a tool to reduce consumption while increasing revenues that can be directed towards health and development priorities.

Without additional measures, the harmful impact of tobacco on public health and the national economy will continue to jeopardize Pakistan's efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Research has shown that tobacco taxation is effective in increasing revenues for the Government while also reducing consumption, tobacco-related diseases and pressure on health systems. In 2023, following a tax increase on tobacco products in Pakistan, tobacco use declined by 19.2%, with 26.3% of smokers cutting down on cigarette consumption. Revenue collection from the Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cigarettes increased by 66%, from PKR 142 billion in 2022-23 to 237 billion in 2023–24.

In Pakistan, FED rates on cigarettes have not increased since February 2023 – making them more affordable – and taxation levels remain below WHO's recommended 75% of the retail price. This presents an opportunity to strengthen control measures.

Pakistan ratified the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2004, and WHO provides continuous technical support to the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and the Federal Board of Revenue in areas such as tobacco tax policy and track-and-trace implementation.

"There is no such thing as a safe tobacco product. Tobacco is a devastating burden on public health, for the economy, for our children and for our grandchildren. Tobacco kills up to half of its users who don't quit, overstretches health systems and also harms non-smokers in our communities and families. Make no mistake, all tobacco products on the market - without exception - are extremely toxic and dangerous," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng Luo.

WHO stands with the Government of Pakistan as it strives to reduce tobacco consumption and save lives.

Despite Crushing Defeat, Modi Remains Unlearned

Minister Narendra Modi issued a stark yet hollow warning to Pakistan, declaring, "Live a life of peace and eat your roti in calm, or else, my bullet is always ready." Delivered in the humiliating aftermath of Operation Sindoor, where India suffered a crushing and comprehensive defeat on all fronts, Modi's bluster masked the reality of India's exposed vulnerabilities, broken illusions of regional dominance, and the utter failure of its military might against Pakistan's far smaller yet far more agile and resolute forces. His speech, laced with threats, revealed a dangerous refusal to reflect on India's strategic miscalculations and a desperate attempt to spin humiliation into hollow bravado. As Pakistan's air force, missile command, cyber units, and the sheer resilience of its people stood tall, Modi's empty threats only deepened the cracks in India's facade of strength, revealing a nation unprepared for the consequences of its reckless aggression.

The pattern is predictable: every war begins with heightened rhetoric, spirals into military confrontation, and ultimately ends at the negotiating table often right where it all started. So, why not choose the table first and save countless lives and resources? Why not learn from the lessons of history, where every war has brought more pain than gain, more wounds than wins, and more bitterness than breakthroughs?

Central to this perpetual conflict is the

n a fiery address from Bhuj, Prime has fueled tensions for decades. Until this of problems. War kills not just soldiers comparable in influence to NATO or the core dispute is resolved in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, lasting peace will remain elusive. Kashmir is not just a piece of land; it is a symbol of unresolved grievances, a humanitarian crisis, and the spark that has ignited many of the wars between the two countries.

While international actors, including former U.S. President Donald Trump, have offered their good offices to mediate a solution. India continues to resist external facilitation, insisting on bilateral dialogue while simultaneously rejecting meaningful negotiations. This stalemate serves no

one-least of all the people of Kashmir, who continue to suffer the most.

If India, as the larger country with greater resources and population—five times that of Pakistan—claims the mantle of a rising global power, it must show magnanimity, not arrogance; statesmanship, not saber-rattling. True greatness lies not in coercing weaker neighbors but in resolving disputes honorably, fostering peace, and lifting entire regions into prosperity. Yet, time and again, India's belligerence has reduced its stature, tarnished its global image, and isolated it diplomatically.

It is high time both nations learn that Kashmir issue—a festering wound that war is not a solution—it is a multiplier

but children, women, and elderly civilians. It destroys infrastructure, maims economies, deepens hatred, and creates cycles of vengeance. The real cost of war is not measured in missiles fired or jets downed but in homes reduced to rubble, schools turned into graves, and futures robbed of hope.

The alternative path is clear. Dialogue, negotiation, and diplomacy must replace confrontation. Bilateral negotiations, supplemented by third-party mediation where necessary, can address thorny issues like Kashmir, water disputes, and border tensions. These talks should be held in

good faith, with a commitment to incremental progress and confidence-building measures. People-to-people exchanges academic collaborations, cultural programs, tourism, and sports-must continue uninterrupted, creating human bridges that make war unthinkable.

Imagine the dividends of peace: billions of dollars saved annually in defense spending, redirected to uplift millions out of poverty. India's defense budget alone, at \$86 billion, and Pakistan's, at \$10 billion, could fund universal healthcare, world-class universities, and cuttingedge infrastructure. The region's collective population—over 1.7 billion people could become a formidable global bloc,

European Union, not through militarism but through trade, innovation, and shared prosperity.

This is not wishful thinking. It is the proven trajectory of other regions— Europe, once ravaged by war, now stands united in trade and development. China, Japan, and Korea, despite historical animosities, have built robust economic ties. Even the U.S. and China, amidst fierce competition, maintain over \$560 billion in bilateral trade because economic logic outweighs political posturing.

South Asia must learn from these examples. Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh share history, culture, language, and people. Their futures are intertwined. It is time they act accordingly—before another war steals more lives, robs more futures, and deepens the wounds that already run

Prime Minister Modi must realize that one cannot bomb a path to peace. The Kashmir issue must be resolved, not ignored. Both nations must lower the rhetoric, end the cycle of blame, and focus on building a shared future. The cost of continued conflict is too high, and the dividends of peace are too rich to ignore.

The choice is clear: dialogue or destruction, cooperation or confrontation, a shared destiny or mutual ruin. The time to choose wisely is now.

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



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

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Relations: The Arc of Brotherhood

n the changing geopolitical terrain rarely last. Interests change, partners adapt, and strategic alignments evolve. Yet there are exceptions - ties that defy transactional thinking, relationships that deepen not through convenience but through consistency and shared convictions. The Pakistan-Azerbaijan axis has proven to be just that: a model of fraternal statecraft based on mutual respect, regional vision and political alignment.

Recent developments between the two nations reveal the substance behind the symbolism. While world powers get caught up in cycles of rhetoric, Baku and Islamabad are charting a course based on decisive action, tangible cooperation and strategic foresight.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are based on real-time two-state solution are not performative cooperation in energy, defense, connectivity and global engagement. Azerbaijan's embrace of Pakistan is not just gratitude for Pakistan's unwavering support during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It is a strategic recognition of Pakistan's potential as a regional stabilizer, economic link and global

Azerbaijan sees Pakistan as a partner that not only shares historical sentiments but also shows the institutional and ideological will to

work towards a common future. This is not mere gas trade—it is energy diplomacy in motion. It binds national interests through critical infrastructure. It creates interdependence that goes beyond paper agreements. It anchors bilateral relations in real-world stakes.

The International system is shifting. Old of Central and South Asia, alliances hegemonies are fraying, and new poles of power are forming. Pakistan and Azerbaijan are forging their own alliances.

> The political rhetoric of peace, progress, and prosperity is not hollow when it comes from leaderships that act on it. From Islamabad to Baku, there is a clear recognition that their nations can no longer afford to be reactive. They must be proactive. They must lead in their regions—not simply balance others.

This leadership is also reflected in moral diplomacy. While global capitals offer muted, calculated responses to crises in Kashmir or Gaza, Pakistan and Azerbaijan speak with a clarity often absent in international forums. Shehbaz Sharif's calls for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and a viable

they are rooted in principle. So too is Azerbaijan's longstanding support for Muslim causes globally, including Palestine.

Such moral clarity builds credibility. And in a world where credibility is the currency of diplomacy, Islamabad and Baku are quietly accumulating influence.

While political and economic cooperation forms the skeleton of bilateral relations, the flesh is provided by growing people-topeople contact. Increased air links, tourism, academic exchanges, and cultural integration are now on the agenda.

The success of these efforts lies in the shared cultural affinity between the peoples of Pakistan and Azerbaijan. With overlapping religious values, similar historical experiences, and a shared desire for modernization without westernization, both societies see in each other not foreign counterparts but familiar allies.

This grassroots diplomacy reinforces what official statements declare. It ensures that the relationship is not limited to ministries and boardrooms but lives in the aspirations of ordinary citizens.

In an age where alliances are often crafted in boardrooms and undone in press releases, the Pakistan-Azerbaijan relationship is refreshingly resilient. It is built not on dependency, but on dignity. Not on hierarchy, but on mutual respect. Not on opportunism,

but on shared purpose. As global fault lines deepen, as economic rivalries intensify, and as new cold wars begin to surface, smaller states must navigate with greater precision. Pakistan and Azerbaijan have chosen to do so together. Their partnership is not merely about hedging bets or balancing powers-it is about creating a third way. A path that is independent, principled, and purposeful.

From defense to energy, from transport to diplomacy, the message is clear: Pakistan and Azerbaijan are not waiting for the world to define their role. They are defining it themselves. And in doing so, they offer a model of modern statecraft—where strategy meets solidarity, and cooperation meets conviction.

This brotherhood is no longer an aspiration. It is now a geopolitical reality. And as both nations deepen their ties, one thing becomes certain: the arc from the Arabian Sea to the Caspian is not just symbolic—it is strategic, and it is here to stay.

(Writer is Peshawar based political $analyst, secretary\,general\,of\,Pakistan$ China Friendship Association, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Chapter. He can be reached $at\ syeed. gilani@gmail.com).$

Youm-e-Takbeer: Thank You, **Nawaz Sharif**

Sardar Abdul Khaliq

Chaghi echoed with a sound that changed the course of Pakistan's history. As nuclear flames lit the sky, Pakistan entered the exclusive club of nuclear nations-declaring to the world that its sovereignty, security, and honor were non-negotiable. Behind this historic moment stood Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, who with stood immense global pressure and upheld the nation's right to self-de-

Twenty-seven years have passed since Pakistan emerged as the first nuclear power in the Muslim world and the seventh globally. Nawaz Sharif, then serving as Prime Minister, rejected lucrative foreign offers and chose to respond to India's five nuclear tests with six of Pakistan's own. These tests recalibrated strategic balance in South Asia and bestowed upon Pakistan a deterrent that reshaped its geopolitical role.

By working in tandem with civilian leadership particularly in counterterrorism operations like Bunyan-ul-Marsous—and maintaining constitutional boundaries, he has ushered in a new era in Pakistan's civil-military relations. This chapter is defined not by power games but by law, trust, and mutual respect.

This evolving doctrine contrasts starkly with previous patterns of military overreach. Field Marshal Munir's leadership represents a transition from coercion to collaboration, and from interference to institutional discipline. By honoring democratic legitimacy and civilian supremacy, he embodies the institutional maturity Pakistan so urgently needs.

The legacy of May 28, 1998, now lives not only in nuclear arsenals and silos-but also in the mindset of those entrusted with defending the republic.

Youm-e-Takbeer is more than a date in history—it is a national symbol of defiance and unity. Every year, Pakistanis commemorate the day when their nation

proved that it would not bow to threats. Through

n May 28, 1998, the mountains of seminars, parades, and media retrospectives, one truth echoes clearly: Pakistan stands sovereign and resilient. For the youth, it offers purpose. For elders, it rekindles pride. And for those in leadership, it reminds them

of the gravity of decisions made in the national interest. Pakistan's nuclear doctrine remains grounded in minimum credible deterrence. The 1998 tests were not provocations—they were declarations of survival. Since then, despite provocations and occasional hostilities, large-scale war has been deterred.

This deterrent has prevented coercion and preserved Pakistan's strategic space, compelling adversaries to engage

through diplomacy rather than brute force. Despite his pivotal role, Nawaz Sharif's contribution has often been overshadowed by political turbu-

lence. Yet, his decision on May 28, 1998, remains untarnished by partisanship or revisionism. It was a rare moment of moral clarity and statesmanship.

While Bhutto envisioned Pakistan's nuclear future, it was Nawaz Sharif who delivered it. In doing so, he passed a test of leadership that few in history have faced. It is time Pakistan recognized that legacy not out of loyalty, but in the spirit of historical justice.

Youm-e-Takbeer reminds us that great nations are forged through decisive moments—and by leaders who put country above politics. In an era defined by hybrid threats and global manipulation, Pakistan must continue to protect its sovereignty not just through arms, but with unity, prudence, and visionary

As we mark another anniversary of that fiery day in Chaghi, let us remember the man who made it possible. On May 28, 1998, Nawaz Sharif did not merely lead a government—he defined a generation. He defined a nation.

Disclaimer: the writer is Focal Person of PMLN AJK and this his personal views.which the institution does not have to agree with

Nation honors scientists, leaders on Youm-e-Takbeer: President Zardari

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On this momentous occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari said in his message "I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the entire nation. Today, we observe the 27th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer - a day when we demonstrated our nuclear capabilities and established strategic deterrence. This day serves as a reminder of our commitment to safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of our beloved

Today, we pay rich tribute to our scientists, engineers, and civil and military leadership, whose dedication and commitment made this achievement possible. We also pay tribute to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who laid the foundation of Pakistan's nuclear programme, which made the coun-



try's defence impregnable. We also acknowledge the role of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, whose stewardship further advanced and strengthened our nuclear programme.

Becoming a nuclear power was not merely a demonstration of our technological advancement—it was a calculated decision to ensure peace through strength, to maintain our country.

the strategic balance in South Asia, and to protect our nation against any external aggression. In today's evolving regional security situation, our nuclear capability continues to serve as a credible minimum deterrent that guarantees our peace and ensures that no one can undermine our sovereignty and national security.

Pakistan does not seek conflict and is committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence and respect for international law. In the face of recent unprovoked Indian aggression, Pakistan demonstrated its strategic patience and commitment to peace. Our calibrated response, under Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, was measured and effective, which forced the enemy to cease its hostile actions.

As we commemorate Youm-e-Takbeer, let us renew our pledge to uphold and safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

On Youm-e-Takbeer, PM Shehbaz vows economic strength, national unity

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD,: As the nation observes the 27th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hailed Pakistan's nuclear journey and called for renewed unity and determination to transform the country into an econom-

In his message on the occasion, the Prime Minister thanked Allah Almighty and congratulated the people of Pakistan, saying, "Today on Youm-e-Takbeer, I thank Allah Almighty and congratulate from the core of my heart the entire nation and all patriotic Pakistanis.'

Marking 27 years since Pakistan became the seventh nuclear power in the world and the first among Muslim nations, PM Sharif emphasised that Youm-e-Takbeer was more than a celebration and was a solemn reminder of Pakistan's resolve to safeguard its sovereignty.

The Prime Minister linked this year's commemoration with what he described as Pakistan's recent success in defending itself sacrifices throughout the journey.

from "an unjustified war imposed by India." He hailed the nation's spirit during the May 6-10 confrontation, stating, "The joys of Youme-Takbeer have further increased for a nation filled with victory."

Reflecting on the historic nuclear tests of May 28, 1998, conducted under the leadership of the then-Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister noted that the decision to respond with six nuclear tests, compared to India's five, was a demonstration of "iron resolve" in the face of global pressure and sanctions.

"Mr. Nawaz Sharif represented the aspirations and national interests of the entire nation... and made our geographical borders impregnable forever," he said.

PM Shehbaz paid glowing tribute to the architects of Pakistan's nuclear program including Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the scientific community, and the armed forces for their role in establishing Pakistan's deterrent capability. He also lauded the public for their unwavering support and

Youm-e-Takbeer: A day to remember Pakistan's emergence as a nuclear power

City Desk

Pakistan, along with the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Commit-

tee and Services Chiefs, extend heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan.

Youm-e-Takbeer commemorates the momentous occasion in 1998 when Pakistan emerged as a nuclear powerrestoring the strategic balance in South Asia and asserting its sovereign right to self-defence. This historic achievement epitomizes the nation's resolve, unity,

peaceful existence.

Pakistan's strategic capability is a national trust, reflecting the collective aspirations of its people. The commemoration of Youm-e-Takbeer is a tribute to the foresight of visionary leadership, the brilliance of our scientists and engineers, and the countless contributions of all those who rendered Pakistan's defence unassailable.

This day underscores Pakistan's steadfast commitment to preserving its sover-RAWALPINDI: On the 27th anniversary eignty and territorial integrity. It affirms our of Youm-e-Takbeer, the Armed Forces of doctrine of credible minimum deterrence, rooted in the principle of maintaining

peace and strategic stability in the region. The Armed Forces of

Pakistan reiterate their unflinching resolve to defend the motherland against all threats across the full spectrum of conflict As responsible custodians of the nation's strategic assets, we reaffirm that our nuclear capability remains solely for defensive purposes and stands as a guarantor of peace.

Let this day renew our collective and unwavering pursuit of a dignified and pledge to remain vigilant, united, and resolute in our commitment to the security, progress, and prosperity of our beloved homeland.

> The Armed Forces stand in solidarity with the nation—honouring the sacrifices that made this milestone possible and continuing the journey toward strength, stability, and self-reliance.

Pakistan Zindabad

Ch Zulfiqar Ali Anjum extends heartfelt felicitations on Youm-e-Takbeer



👺 Zain Khan

MULTAN: Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development, and Member of the Board of Investment, Chaudhry Zulfigar Ali Anjum has extended heartfelt felicitations to the nation on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, terming May 28 as a pivotal and historic chapter in Pakistan's history.

said "this

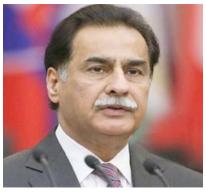
the commemorates successful nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan in 1998, making it the sixth nuclear power in the world and the first in the Muslim world".

It is a day when the cry of "Allahu Akbar" echoed with pride, sending a clear message to Pakistan's enemies that the country was now self-reliant in its defence.

After India's nuclear tests, Pakistan faced immense pressure not to respond. However, due to the unity of the nation, the resolve of its leadership, and the hard work of its scientists, Pakistan made the decision to conduct its own tests.

It had become essential for Pakistan to develop nuclear capability for its defence, especially after India disrupted the strategic balance in the region.

Youm-e-Takbeer symbolizes Pakistan's technological excellence, military strength, and national unity: NA Speaker



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, calling May 28 a shining chapter in the country's history. He said that the nuclear tests conducted in Chagai on this day in 1998 marked a milestone in Pakistan's defense autonomy, national dignity, and technical capability. This day stands as a reflection of the nation's

unity, confidence, and unwavering resolve. In his message, the Speaker paid tribute to former Prime Ministers Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, as well as nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. He credited their leadership, determination, and dedication for making Pakistan the first nuclear power in the Muslim world and the seventh globally.

He emphasized that Nawaz Sharif's historic decision to proceed with nuclear tests despite international pressure made Pakistan's defense invincible and elevated its national stature.

Sardar Avaz Sadio noted that Youm-e Takbeer stands as clear evidence of Pakistan's scientific and military resolve, the professionalism of its armed forces, and its national cohesion. He stated that Pakistan's nuclear capability reflects its self-reliance and defense self-sufficiency. The day sends a strong message to adversaries that Pakistan will never compromise on its defense.

He also paid tribute to the bravery and courage of the Pakistan Armed Forces during recent Indian aggression, highlighting Operation "Bunyānun Marsūs" as a testament to the country's defense readiness and military capabilities. He praised the armed forces for thwarting hostile designs using advanced technology and strategic excellence, effectively defending the nation's land, sea, and

The Father of Pakistan's Nuclear Deterrence

Youm-e-Takbeer: Honouring the Legacy of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan

Muhammad Saeed Chishti Nizami

n the occasion of Youme-Takbeer, a solemn and deeply emotional tribute was paid to Pakistan's national hero, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the illustrious architect of the country's nuclear program. The event, held in Islamabad and organized by the Hayya Alal Falah Foundation, marked a historic reflection on Pakistan's journey from a vulnerable state to a nuclear power—an achievement that forever altered the strategic landscape of South Asia.

Youm-e-Takbeer, observed annually on May 28, is a national reminder of resilience, sacrifice, and sovereignty. It commemorates the day in 1998 when Bhutto said: "We will eat grass, but we will Pakistan, under severe international pressure and looming regional threats, conducted successful nuclear tests in Chagai, Balochistan—becoming the first Islamic country to possess nuclear capability. At the heart of this momentous achievement stood Dr. A. Q. Khan, whose visionary leadership, scientific genius, and unmatched patriotism enabled Pakistan to deter aggression and secure its national interests.

The seeds of Pakistan's nuclear program were sown in 1974, following to produce highly enriched uranium India's first nuclear test. Recognizing the existential threat this posed to regional stability and Pakistan's sovereignty, Dr. A. stan's brightest scientists and engi-Q. Khan approached then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with a proposal that would change the course of history. In what later became an iconic declaration,



make the atomic bomb." This symbolic expression of resolve became a rallying cry for the nation, and under Dr. Khan's technical guidance, Pakistan's nuclear program took root.

Despite enormous diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, and global skepticism, Dr. Khan and his team established a covert research and enrichment facility in Kahuta. This facility became the nerve centre of Pakistan's nuclear research, enabling the country necessary for nuclear weapons. Dr. Khan's team, comprising some of Pakineers, worked silently but tirelessly, with unmatched devotion to national defense.

Today, the spirit of Dr. A. Q. Khan lives on-not just in nuclear deterrence, but in humanitarian service and national development. At the commemorative event in Islamabad, Dr. Khan's daughter, Dr. Dina Khan, an academic. social advocate, and now the guardian of her father's legacy, delivered a heartfelt speech reflecting on the challenges she faced in recent years.

She revealed a disturbing chapteran organized attempt by certain individuals to illegally seize the assets of the Dr. A. Q. Khan Foundation, using forged documents and manipulative tactics. The foundation, which was created to carry forward Dr. Khan's humanitarian mission of education, healthcare, and public welfare, had become the target of those seeking personal enrichment. "This wasn't merely a personal ordeal," Dr. Dina said with emotion. "It was an assault on a national trust-on the legacy of a man who dedicated his life to Pakistan."

After a three-year legal battle, Dr. Dina Khan succeeded in reclaiming the stolen assets, restoring not only the integrity of the foundation but also affirming her commitment to the values her father cherished—honesty, transparency, service, and national pride.

Braving personal attacks, legal obstacles, and coordinated disinformation campaigns, Dr. Dina Khan has emerged as a courageous steward of her father's vision. Her stance is not merely administrative—it is ideological and patriotic. She emphasized that Dr. A. Q. Khan believed true national strength lay not in nuclear power alone, but in an educated, healthy, and self-reliant citizenry.



"He dreamt of a Pakistan where no child is denied education, no patient is turned away from treatment, and every citizen lives with dignity and justice," she said. Reaffirming this mission, she pledged that the Dr. A. Q. Khan Foundation would now operate with transparency, accountability, and merit as its foundational principles. "My foremost commitment," she added, "is to ensure that not a single rupee of public donations is misused. Every contribution must reach those who need it the most."

As part of the day's events, a moving spiritual procession led by Sain Naeem Ahmad, Sajada Nashin of Astana-e-Alia Banth Sharif, made its way to the

final resting place of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. There, an overwhelming sea of humanity gathered—women draped in white, students holding candles, scholars with bowed heads, and citizens from across the country—united in grief, pride, and reverence.

With teary eyes, the crowd chanted 'La Ilaha Illallah" and recited Darood Sharif, as Dr. Dina Khan, along with spiritual leaders and citizens, laid fragrant floral wreaths upon the grave. The atmosphere was steeped in solemnity and grace. The winds seemed to carry whispers of gratitude, and the surroundings shimmered with a rare tranquility. It was not just a mourning gmail.com).

of a man-it was the commemoration of a legacy that still lives on in the heartbeat of the nation.

Later that evening, another grand event titled "Izhar-e-Tashakkur" (Expression of Gratitude) was held in Islamabad, where Dr. Dina Khan was honoured with memorial shields and conferred the title of "Ameen-e-Mission-e-Qadeer" by the Hayya Alal Falah Foundation and Haq Trust Gujarkhan. Speaking to a packed audience, she announced a comprehensive plan to upgrade all the charitable institutions under the foundation and introduce modern skills training programs for youth and women.

She stressed that the foundation would champion innovation, inclusivity, and empowerment, just as her father envisioned. "This is not just a tribute to a person-it is a commitment to a nation," she declared, to thunderous applause.

The event was graced by distinguished figures such as Qazi Shaukat Mehmood, Prof. Malik Abdul Naveed, Al-Haj Muhammad Saeed Chishti Nizami, Prof. Zia Ur Rehman, Raja Ishrat Mukhtar, and Raja Tahir Mahmood. The venue brimmed with students, social activists, scholars, and members of civil society—an inspiring testament to the enduring and ever-growing legacy of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan..

In her closing remarks, Dr. Dina Khan left the audience with a message of unity and hope: "Pakistan is a great country. And together, with the same spirit my father embodied, we must make it even greater." (Saeed87alam@

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

'``' Index	Fluctuation
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index
Current	Prev. Close
118,332.90	118,221.12
Day's High	Day's Low
118,807.92	118,143.67
Index Value	Change
16,867,788,623	+111.78
Percentage	Time
+0.09%	27 May, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index
Index Value	Change
8,783.43	+65.46
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	27 May, 4:28 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average

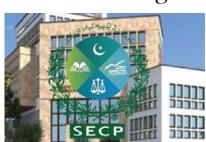
Index Value	Change
42,178.87	+575.80
Percentage	Time
+1.38%	27 May, 11:28 am GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
37,724.11	+192.58	
Percentage	Time	
+0.51%	27 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Open Market I Grex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.25	187.50
Bahrain Dinar	749.00	757.00
Canadian Dollar	207.60	210.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.23	42.63
Euro	322.25	325.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.64	35.99
Indian Rupee	3.2	3.29
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.06
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.30	922.80
Malaysian Ringgit	65.38	65.98
NewZealand \$	166.10	168.10
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.60
Omani Riyal	733.50	742.00
Qatari Riyal	76.85	77.55
Saudi Riyal	75.30	75.85
Singapore Dollar	221	223
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	383.50	387
US Dollar	282.65	284.30

SECP concludes Day 2 of Mutual Fund Focus Group 2025 with Actionable Insights



ISLAMABAD: The second and final day of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) 2025 Mutual Fund Focus Group Session, themed "Mutual Funds as Catalysts for Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth," concluded on May 27 in Karachi. Building on the momentum of the first day's discussions, the session engaged a new set of industry participants. SECP Commissioner Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed Mirza opened the day with a welcome address, setting the tone for interactive presentations and expert-led discussions on innovation. regulatory evolution, and the future of

mutual funds in Pakistan. Structured into eight thematic sessions over two days, the focus group provided a platform for candid dialogue on regulatory challenges, innovation priorities, digital transformation, governance practices, and investor inclusion. Discussions highlighted domestic policy gaps while benchmarking against international best practices, with comparative insights from global mutual fund markets.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Zeeshan Rehman Khattak, Commissioner SECP,

"This session was never intended to be a symbolic gathering. It was designed as a platform for active engagement—a space for ideas, insights, and constructive criticism to flow freely. I am pleased to say it has delivered."

He emphasized that participant feedback would directly inform SECP's reform agenda, reaffirming the Commission's commitment to sustained, meaningful collaboration with stakeholders.

CM Sindh inaugurates FPCCI & Sindh HEC Exhibition

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Syed Murad Ali Shah, CM Sindh, inaugurated the Sindh Innovative Startups Exhibition 2025 at Federation House, Karachi – aimed at promoting indigenous business ideas; industry-academia linkages; emerging technologies; import substitution solutions; technologically-driven business & economic development and ecosystem of tech entrepreneurship in the country.

FPCCI Chief also acknowledged the tireless efforts of Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman Sindh tive manner. He highlighted that Sindh allo-

HEC, for pushing the boundaries of academic cates the most funds for the universities among FPCCI, Sindh Higher Education Commisimpact beyond the classroom and into the all provinces. economy and Ms. Maheen Salman, Convener Higher Education, Science & Technology, for all over the world with the help of universities envisioning and executing the exhibition with clarity, energy and purpose.

Syed Murad Ali Shah, CM Sindh, reiterated his government's support for universities and their R&D initiatives as it is the only sustainable way forward for creating a robust economic environment in Sindh through capitalizing the potential of youth in a constructive and produc-

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, as industry can determine the real-world needs and market-driven use of technologies.

Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of Sindh HEC, stressed that the exhibition is a major initia- Innovative Startups Exhibition 2025 featured tive that SHEC and FPCCI have worked on together. We've previously launched the Sindh Research Support Program and organized including, industrial automation, textiles, agrievents spotlighting university-based inventions. tech, climate technologies, IT, healthcare and Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, noted that food sciences.

Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP FPCCI, added that Sindh 50 creative technology projects from universities across Sindh in diverse sector and verticals;

sion (SHEC) and Government of Sindh (GoS) jointly organized the first-of-its-kind techof FPCCI's Central Standing Committee on explained that industries lead the innovation nology showcase in the country; which can very well be a starting point to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship culture in the

Startups Exhibition 2025

Syed Murad Ali Shah, CM Sindh and Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, are inaugurating the Sindh Innovative Startups Exhibition 2025 at Federation House, Karachi. Mr. Aman Paracha & Mr. Asif Sakhi, VPs FPCCI; Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman Sindh HEC; Consul Generals of important countries; Vice Chancellors of universities; prominent business leaders and student entrepreneurs were also present in large number



PIDE and AIIB Launch Landmark Climate Report

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD,: In a powerful call for climate-conscious development, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) jointly unveiled the Asian Infrastructure Finance 2025 report under the theme "Infrastructure for Planetary Health." The launch was marked by a high-level conference in Islamabad, bringing together policymakers, economists, development partners, and climate experts for a deep dive into solutions for building resilient, sustainable infrastruc-

The event, themed "Building Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Lessons and Way Forward," sounded an urgent alarm: infrastructure must evolve—not just to fuel growth, but to protect the health of people and the planet.

Welcoming participants, Dr. Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor of PIDE, reflected on the stark reality Pakistan faces. "The 2022 floods were a national catastrophe-\$32 billion in losses, two decades of development washed away, and over six million pushed into poverty," he said. "Climate change is not tomorrow's threat—it is today's crisis.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, congratulated PIDE and AIIB on their strategic partnership and issued a resounding call for change.

"We must build infrastructure that doesn't just deliver growth—but ensures survival," Prof. Iqbal declared. He outlined the government's bold steps under the 5Es



framework, including the deployment of zero-emission electric buses, restoration of flood-prone riverbanks, and climateproofing healthcare facilities.

Equally important, the Minister stressed the need to invest in climate-literate professionals-engineers, planners, architects, and economists who can design a futureproof Pakistan. He acknowledged PIDE and AIIB's thought leadership and urged sustained collaboration to embed climate resilience into national policy frameworks.

Presenting the flagship report, Dr. Jang Ping Thia, Lead Economist at AIIB, revealed a sobering link between weak infrastructure and worsening health outcomes in Asia. He highlighted that climate change magnifies inequalities,

disproportionately affecting low-income and marginalized communities.

The conference concluded with an expert panel featuring Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Chief Economist at the Ministry of Planning; Dr. Muhammad Faisal, Research Fellow at PIDE; and others. They stressed the urgency of integrating climate risk into infrastructure planning, scaling green finance, and embracing adaptive agriculture and resilient urban development.

Closing the conference, Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Director of Research at PIDE, issued a final rallying cry: "This is more than a development agenda—it's a survival strategy. Every policy decision we make today will shape the wellbeing of future generations.

Master Group Inks Strategic Alliance with China's Chery **Automobile to** Bring PHEVs, NEVs to Pakistan

Master Group of Indus- world-class 3S Dealership most respected and diversified business conglomexporter, to bring the latest Malik (CEO). Super Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) heralds a new era for Pakiand New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) to Pakistan. With driven by sustainable over 60 years of industrial excellence and around 40 years of auto-manufacturing experience, Master Group is investing in a cutting-edge

tries, one of Pakistan's network, and comprehensive after-sales support, led by Master Auto Engineering erates, has officially part- (a subsidiary of Master nered with Chery Brand, Group of Industries) under China's No.1 global vehicle the leadership of Mr. Samir

> This strategic alliance stan's automotive industry, mobility, advanced technology, and an elevated customer experience.

Get ready for groundbreaking product launches, manufacturing facility, innovations, and more.

SAI Proposes Reforms to Boost Industrial **Growth, Exports in Budget 2025-26**

Commerce Desk

ciation of Industry (SAI) has submitted comprehensive budget proposals for the Federal Budget 2025-26, advocating for policy measures to stimulate industrial growth and enhance Pakistan's export competitive-

In budget recommendations, SAI President Ahmed Azeem Alvi and former president Riaz Uddin, who chairs the association's taxation committee, emphasized the need to transform budgeteconomic tool rather than

maintaining it as a routine fiscal exercise. The industry body empha

sized the institutional separation of tax policy formulation and tax administration to avoid conflicts of interest and align with global best practices.

Drawing comparisons with the UK and other neighboring countries' models, SAI suggested the establishment of a structure where tax policy rests with the Ministry of Finance, revenue sharing is managed by an independent finance commission, and consumpmaking into a strategic tion taxes are regulated by a dedicated council.

Gold declines to Rs347,900 per tola

LAHORE: Sharp decline in to buyers in the domestic gold rates as 24-Karat bullion Rs347,900 per tola on May 27, 2025 Tuesday.

All Pakistan Gems Jewelers Traders and Exporters Association's shared data reveals sharp decline across the country, offering some relief

market. Price of 10 grams moved down by Rs3600 to of gold saw a decrease of Rs.3,086 and now stands at Rs.298,268. Drones The downward trend

aligns with a global dip in gold prices. In the internathat gold prices witnessing tional market, the price of gold fell by \$36 per ounce, settling at \$3,295.

Zong inaugurates State-of-the-Art Customer Service Center in Rawalpindi

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has inaugurated its newly relocated and upgraded Customer Service Center (CSC) in Rawalpindi. The move highlights Zong's customer-first commitment and expands its nationwide footprint. The inauguration ceremony was led by Zong's senior leadership, including Mr. Faheem Durrani, Regional General Manager (North), Mr. Tauseef ur Rehman, Director Sales and Distribution; Mr. Sajid Munir, Director Marketing and Mr. Farrukh Khurshid, Director OAS, alongside local stakeholders. The event highlighted the company's vision of merg-

ing technology with empathy to build lasting customer relationships.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Faheem Durrani, Regional General Manager (North), stated: "At Zong, our customers are at the core of everything we do. The inauguration of our Rawalpindi Service Center underscores our commitment to delivering accessible.

world-class service to our valued users." The upgraded CSC is part of Zong's broader strategy to strengthen its physical service infrastructure alongside its digital transformation goals. By investing in high-impact customer touchpoints like the Rawalpindi center, Zong solidifies its leadership in innovation, service excellence, and inclusive growth in Pakistan.



Match officials announced for Pakistan v Bangladesh T20 **Cricket Series**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board has announced that Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle, who is a member of ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, will lead the playing control teams for the three-match T20I series between Pakistan and Bangladesh in Lahore.

Madugalle, who has also officiated the most international cricket matches (804) across three formats as Match Referee, also led playing control teams in seven matches of the recently concluded HBL PSL X.

For the first T20I, Asif Yaqoob and Rashid Riaz – both part of the PCB International Panel of Umpires, will be the on-field umpires. Ahsan Raza, member of ICC Elite Panel of Umpires will be the third umpire, while Faisal Khan Aafreedi - an ICC International Panel Umpire, will act as the fourth umpire.

In the second T20I, Rashid Riaz will join Faisal Khan Aafreedi to perform the on-field duties while Ahsan Raza will be the third umpire. Asif Yaqoob will be the fourth umpire.



For the third T20I, Ahsan Raza will on-field duties, while Faisal Khan Riaz will work as the fourth umpire for be joined by Asif Yaqoob to perform Aafreedi will be the third umpire. Rashid the final T20I of the series.

Pakistan Cricket Team VS Bangladesh T20 Series to Begin on Wednesday

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan are all set to take on Bangladesh in the three-match T20I series commencing from Wednesday, 28 May. The second T20I will be held on Friday, 30 May, while the third and final T20I of the series is scheduled on 1 June.

All three T20Is will be played at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, which will host its first T20I series after going through a complete renovation earlier this year. The T20Is will begin at 8pm, with the toss taking place at 7.30pm local time.

Salman Ali Agha will lead Pakistan, while Litton Das to captain Bangladesh. Both sides had their first training session at the Gaddafi Stadium under lights on Monday evening, while they will undergo anoth training session on Tuesday appointed Pakistan's white-ball thing we are hoping to carry evening to get themselves ready for the series.

stan, both sides have featured skipper of the side. in four T20Is with Bangladesh touring Pakistan for T20I in captain "We had a very produc-2020. Pakistan have won three tive practice session yesterday T20Is, while one match was and the boys are doing well as washed out. Overall in five a unit. A lot of our players are bilateral series, Pakistan have coming off strong performances edged out Bangladesh four in the HBLPSLX, which is one times with the visitor's only

win coming in 2015.



coach, while Salman Ali Agha, who has so far led the team in

Salman Ali Agha, Pakistan of the most competitive T20

into this series".

Bangladesh are a quality side On head to head in Paki- nine T20Is, will continue to the with talented players and we are expecting a good challenge from them. I believe fans are in for some thrilling cricket over the next few days.

> I would like to urge fans to turn up in big numbers and support not just us, but the spirit of the game.

Litton Das, Bangladesh tournaments in the world. That captain "We have had a good Earlier, Mike Hesson was form and momentum are sometraining session and we are stan Cricket Board has unveiled 2,000.

here. The players are looking forward to the series. Everyone is focused and understands the challenge Pakistan poses, espe-

cially in their home conditions". This series is a great opportunity for every player to step up. We are trying a few combinations in the build-up to the T20 World Cup next year and this tour is a valuable part of that process."

the five-member commentary panel for the series. Former Test captains Aamir Sohail and Ramiz Raja, Test cricketer Bazid Khan and former Bangladesh international cricketer Athar Ali Khan alongside Mike Haysman. Zainab Abbas will be the series presenter.

The T20I matches will be broadcast live on A Sports and Ten Sports in Pakistan, while the matches will be live-stream on Tamasha and Tapmad within Pakistan. 24 full High-Definition cameras will beam live action around the globe through PCB's broadcast partners.

For international viewers, Cricbuzz (Middle-East and North Africa), TSports (Bangladesh), Tapmad (Bangladesh), ARY (UK), Dialog (Sri Lanka), Super Sports (Africa) and familiar with the conditions Willow TV (North America) will broadcast matches internationally.

Ticket details: The tickets for the series have been put on sale to fans from 25 May onwards at TCS Express Centres (infographic attached). To encourage fans to come to the ground, affordable prices have been set for the matches with general enclosures tickets available from PKR 200, while Gallery Broadcast details: The Paki- tickets are available at PKR

Huzaifa Ahsan, Abdul Sami and Sufyan Usmani star with blistering tons in PCB

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI winning their 5th league Match in a row after beating Zone-IV and Zone-VII also won 5 Matches out Six in the PCB Inter District Under-19 One Day Cricket Tournament (Karachi Region) at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Huzaifa Ahsan unbeaten 114, Sufyan Usmani 113, Abdul Sami 102, All-round Performance by Rizwan Ullah 65 and 4/46, Deadly Bowling by Niqab Shafiq 5/22, M. Zaid Hasan 5/22, Saad Sakhawat 4/16.

The Tournament is being Organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI beat Zone-IV by 208 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI 302/3 in 50 overs. Huzaifa Ahsan 114 11x4 4x6 not out, Abdul Sami 102 13x4, Muhammad Azan 34 not out, Aryan Khan 22.

Zone-IV 94 all-out in 32.5 overs. Musa Azad 28, Aun Abbas 20. Niqab Shafiq (sla) 5/22, Saa Sakhawat (rlb) 4/16.

In the 2nd Match Zone-VII beat Zone-I by 6 wickets at Gulberg Gymkhana Ground. Zone-I 108 allout in 34.4 overs. Abdul Rafay 28, Muhammad Fasih 24. Muhammad Zaid Hasan (sla) 5/22, Muhammad Soban Sadiq (ob) 3/10.

Zone-VII 110/4 in 22 overs. Talah Irfan 27, Fahad Hussain Khan 23 not out, Muhammad Sohail 22. Affan Abbasi

In the 3rd Match Zone-V beat Zone-III by 9 runs at Agha Khan Gymkhana Ground. Zone-V 249/9 in 50 overs. Sufyan Usmani 113 13x4, Rizwan ullah 65 5x4 5x6. Arman Hussain (sla) 3/39, Saqib Niazi 2/38.



'Waseem Akram as Global Brand Ambassador for HASHMI ISPAGHÖl'



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Hashmi Pakistan, a trusted name in health and beauty industry, proudly announced the appointment of cricketing icon Wasim Akram as the Official Global Brand Ambassador for Hashmi Ispaghol, the company's flagship natural fiber supplement.

The grand signing ceremony was held at a prestigious event in Marriott Hotel, Karachi, attended by the honored Wasim Akram, along with key members of the Hashmi Pakistan's leadership team, and national media representatives. The event marked a significant milestone in the brand's journey to promote healthy living through trusted, natural products.

Wasim Akram, not only a sports legend but also a strong advocate for health, fitness, and an active lifestyle-values that closely align with Hashmi Ispaghol, is therefore the ideal face for the brand. Through this collaboration, Hashmi Pakistan aims to amplify its message of digestive wellness and daily fiber intake to a wider audience, inspiring people to take proactive steps towards healthier living.

Speaking to the press on the occasion, Amir Hashmi, Executive Director of Hashmi Pakistan, commented: "Hashmi has built a legacy of promoting health and wellness to families over the course of the last 229 years. This is why, when we were looking for a brand ambassador for Hashmi Ispaghol, we could think of no one other than the global wellness icon Wasim Akram to head our campaign. Together, we hope to make lives better and healthier in our country and beyond!"25th National IKO-MATSUSHIMA Kyokushin karate championship was held at Dha, Lahore.

National IKO-MATSUSHIMA championships

Tahir Amin Malik

This Successful event was held under the supervision of DEFENCE $\,$ HOUSING AUTHORITY SPORTS Director Brig Mir Saddique & Col Ali Murtaza.

Shihan Atta Hussain Butt Black Belt 5th Dan (Japan) International karate master instructor IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan thanks all officers & officials of Capt Fasih Babar Amin Shaheed Sports $complex\,DHA\text{-}VI\,Lahore\,for\,excellent\,arrangements.\,Shihan\,also$ gave honour to all teams officials, managers, coaches, Referee/ Judges from all over Pakistan to be a part of the successful National IKO-MATSUSHIMA championships. Especially Shihan Entikhab Allam, Sensei Hassan Raza, Sensei Dr Rizwan, Sensei Kamran Malik, Sensei Imran Ali, Sensie Amjad Prince, Sensei Ghazenfer Ali, Sensei Ali Abbas Mirza, Sensei Adeel Ashfaq, Sensie Mazher Ellahi, Sensei Ali Adnan, Sensei Ms Saima Batool Black Belt 3rd Dan Japan (first lady of Pakistan ever achieved this rank) conducted kumite MALE/FEMALE and also be the part of prize distribution ceremony. Social media handler Sanpai Zoela Fatima and team Amplecut studio CEO Faizan Zaheer.

Guests were S Ghazenfer Mehdi (Wafaqi Muhtasib), Mr Faheem Hashmi H6 Hotel owner President Islamabad KKO, Mr Hafeez ullah Khan General Manager Welfare & Special initiatives Pakistan Railway (President Pakistan Railway Sports Board). S Mudaser Shah DGM / Wli & Si Pak Railway, Mr Fahdari Sheikh honorary Council Philippines, Lt Col Dr Mazhar Abbas Butt, S Hashim Raza politician (Appi Shah G), Mr Faisal Abbas PKKF, Ms Abida Abid Sports Incharge Garrison college for women University Lahore, Sh Naeem VP PKOKK etc.

Central park Cricket Club beat Model Town Green by 10 runs

156 Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: Central park Cricket Club beat Model Town Green by 10 runs match played at central park Housing Society Sports Complex Cricket Ground on other day.

Central park Scored: 226/8 Faizan Hamayun 82 runs with the help of 6 Sixes to Model Town Green Left arm fast bowler Shaheryar in one over, Ali Sheikh 27, Ahmed Sultan 26, Ahsan kaleem 28 runs not out, Muhammed umar 22 runs were their main runs getters from CPCC.

Kabeer 2 and Hassan Nawaz, Abhad took one wickets each. In reply Model Town Green Scored: 216/10

Kabeer 50, Nouman. 31 and Essa 30 runs.

Ubaid Akhtar 2, Faisal Akbar 2, Sahil Nadeen, Hashar kamran

Faizan Hamayun declare man of the match for his brilliant

Sadia regains No. 1 spot in ICC Rankings

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal has regained the number one position among bowlers in the ICC Women's T20I Rankings, released Tuesday.

Sadia regained the number one position, after Sophie Ecclestone missed her team's recent T20I series. Meanwhile, West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has moved up to a career-best-equalling second position in the ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings after a valiant show against England.

Matthews, who top-scored in the three-match series with 177 runs that included an unbeaten century (100) in the first match in Canterbury and was named the Player of the Series, has overtaken India's Smriti Mandhana and Australia's Tahlia McGrath to reclaim second position, which she had last occupied in December last year.

Former England captain Heather Knight, who contributed 109 runs including an unbeaten 66 in the third match in Chelmsford, has moved up seven places to 17th, while skipper Nat Sciver Brunt is up five slots to ninth after aggregating 92 runs and leading her side to a 3-0 series washout. Sophia Dunkley is up eight places to 29th.

In the bowling rankings, England spinner Sophie Ecclestone has slipped from first to fourth after missing the series as she was recuperating from an injury and played domestic cricket during

The Spokesman

Meeting

Islamabad: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb meeting with a delegation of the All Pakistan Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers Association (APCTMA) to discuss the industry's progress, challenges, and policy support for enhancing industrial competitiveness.



President stresses mass awareness, support for success of polio vaccination drive

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif tors, ensuring every child Ali Zardari on Tuesday urged the countrymen, including the media, teachers, religious gious leaders, and commuscholars and the community, to create awareness and polio vaccination drive and tions to achieve a polio-free safe, effective, and our best Pakistan.

their doors to vaccinareceives the life-saving polio drops. I urge teachers, reliweapon," the president said in

"I call on parents to open his message on the occasion of community leaders, and youth the countrywide polio eradication campaign launched on Monday targeting 45.4 million under-five children.

He reiterated his full nity elders to champion this support to his daughter and noble cause, dispelling myths the First Lady, Aseefa Bhutto extend their support to the and building trust. I appeal Zardari, whose tireless advoto the media to amplify the cacy and efforts had galvadispel the allied misconceptruth: the polio vaccine is nized Pakistan in this fight against polio.

"Her call to unite parents, healthier future for our nation,

reminds us that eradicating

polio is our shared responsi-

bility," President Zardari said.

would go door-to-door across

the cities, villages, and remote

saving polio drops. This effort

is a cornerstone of our mission

to eradicate polio and secure a

He said that over 400,000

The president also paid tribute to the brave polio workers, who risk their lives to reach every child, often in the face of grave danger. dedicated frontline workers

'We also honour those polio workers and security officials valleys to administer lifewho have made the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives to cowardly attacks aimed at derailing our efforts to make Pakistan polio-free," he added.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of Youm- context of the recent "Marqa-e-Haq,"

Nation Proud to be Nuclear Power: Abdul Aleem Khan

of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party & Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan expressed pride on behalf of the nation in every individual who played a role in making Pakistan the first Islamic Nuclear Power.

Paying tributes to the architects of Pakistan's nuclear deterrent, he extended heartfelt appreciation to the nuclear scientists, defense experts, engineers, technicians and the political leadership for their collective efforts. He emphasized that this year's Youme-Takbeer brings dual pride in the

e-Takbeer, the Central President as Pakistan's nuclear capabilities have President Malik Zaman Naseeb, delivered tangible strategic outcomes.

Leaders of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party at both Central and Provincial levels also extended congratulations to the nation on Youm-e-Tak-

They paid homage to the martyrs and veterans, asserting that vibrant nations remember the sacrifices and achievements of their forefathers. In a joint statement, IPP Secretary General Mian Khalid Mehmood, Provincial President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan, Secretary General & MPA Shoaib Siddiqui, Lahore regional strategic balance.

Women's Wing President Dr. Javeria Suhrawardy and Punjab Vice Presidents Mian Junaid Zulfiqar and Yasir Arafat Chaudhry stated that the purpose of nuclear strength is deterrence not aggression. Pakistan's nuclear capability has effectively restrained hostile ambitions.

they added. They mentioned that even after a quarter of a century, adversaries have not dared to look at Pakistan with ill intent and the nuclear status of the country has helped to maintain

Council of Islamic Ideology rejects bill banning under-18 marriages

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Tuesday, during which the members Ideology (CII) has rejected a bill passed thoroughly deliberated over the issue by the National Assembly and Senate seeking to prohibit marriage under the benchmark. The Council remained age of 18, stating that it is not satisfied with the fixed age limit.

A meeting of the Islamic Ideology

ship of Dr Raghib Hussain Naeemi on of the age of puberty and the 18-year unconvinced about setting 18 as a fixed age for marriage

Sources said the Council agreed on Islamic principles and societal norms. criminalisation.

Council was held under the chairmanthe need to address social and moral issues in society but stressed that the subject of marriage should be evaluated from social, cultural, and religious perspectives. The participants emphamarriage-related matters through a comprehensive lens that includes

Council concluded that setting a legal minimum age for marriage and treating underage marriage as a form of abuse with legal punishments is inconsistent with Islamic teachings. sised the importance of reviewing However, the Council did support discouraging child marriages through awareness and education, rather than

Dust storms, thunderstorms expected across Pakistan, PMD issues fresh alert

🍃 Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a fresh weather advisory predicting thunderstorms, strong winds, and rainfall in various parts of the country from today (Tuesday) until May 31.

Punjab, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock, Gujranwala, and Sialkot, are likely to have rain and thunderstorms. Islamabad, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan are also expected to receive rainfall.

Similar weather conditions are forecasted for districts in Khyber Pakh-According to the PMD, cities in tunkhwa and Balochistan. A dust



storm alert has been issued particularly for western and southern Pakistan, especially Balochistan, where high-speed winds and dust storms may cause damage to buildings, vehi-

In response, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released an alert warning the public and authorities to remain vigilant due to the potential risks posed by these

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Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq hails Pakistan's nuclear achievements on Youm-e-Takbeer

跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Youme-Takbeer marks the day when Pakistan emerged as the nuclear weapon state at the global stage, the first country in the Muslim world and the seventh nation globally.

In his special message issued on the eve of Youm-e-Takbeer, the prime minister said that the nuclear tests conducted on May 28, 1998, not only restored balance of power in the region but also made the country's defense impregnable.

and security amongst the Kashmiri people on both sides of the LoC", the

The prime minister, on the occa-Ali Bhutto Shaheed for initiating power.



"It also generated a sense of pride the nuclear program, former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for conducting nuclear tests, the military leadership, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and other scientists sion, commended the role of former and engineers who worked painstak-Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar ingly in making Pakistan a nuclear

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visits Imam Raza's shrine in Iran



Spokesman Report

MASHHAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has arrived in Iran and visited the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A. S.) in Mashhad. Upon arrival at Mashhad Inter-

national Airport, Naqvi received a warm welcome from Khorasan Governor General Ghulam Hossein

During his visit, the minister pilgrims.

offered prayers, toured various sections of the shrine, and prayed for peace, prosperity, and regional stability.

Expressing gratitude, Mohsin Naqvi thanked the Iranian government for making special arrangements for Pakistani pilgrims, and expressed hope for enhanced collaboration between Pakistan and Iran to further improve facilities for

PTI supporters rally outside IHC to express solidarity with judiciary



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Members and supporters of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) gathered outside the Islamabad High Court to show their solidarity with the judiciary on Tuesday. In anticipation of the protest, heightened security measures have been put in place around

Additional police and Frontier Corps units were deployed, along with prisoner vans and armored vehicles stationed outside the High Court. Security forces are on standby to address any emergencies. PTI leadership voiced their denial of justice.

concerns over the lack of a scheduled hearing for the suspension of Imran Khan's sentence in the £190 million case. They plan to appeal to the court today for an expedited

Advisor on Information for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Dr. Safeer, emphasized that a significant protest will take place outside

the Islamabad High Court. He called for the 26th constitutional amendment to be overturned and for the founder's cases to be heard, criticizing the judicial system as ineffective and asserting that delays in justice amount to