Trump says Gaza ceasefire deal 'very close'

US President Donald Trump said Friday that a deal was "very close" on a new ceasefire in Gaza after Israel warned Hamas to accept a US-backed proposal or be "annihilated." "They're very close to an agreement on Gaza," Trump told reporters. "We'll let you know about it during the day or maybe tomorrow. And we have a chance of that.

Pakistan, US formally kick off negotiations on Trump's reciprocal tariffs

Pakistan has formally kicked off negotiations with the US on

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Family photo



Field Marshal Asim Munir visits Command & Staff College Quetta

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Command & Staff College Quetta today and addressed Student Officers and faculty of the Command and Staff College.

Paying tribute to the Shuhada of Operation 'Bunyanum Marsoos' and expressing complete solidarity with their family members, the COAS stated that under the national leadership, the people of Pakistan became a wall of steel for the Defence of the motherland. Praising professionalism of the Armed Forces, the COAS reiterated that success of 'Ma'arnational resolve, and complete synergy among all elements of national power.



COAS shed light on the character of emerging conflict, with particular emphasis on India's increasingly dangerous propenka-e-Haq' is a testimony to our sity to use unprovoked military aggression against Pakistan. While reiterating the resolve to Asia, the COAS emphasized the on the reinvigorated counter defeat any aggression and ability need for peaceful resolution of terrorism drive and expressed Commenting on global and to deal with threats across the

COAS asserted that Pakistan ical designs to distract Pakistan's efforts against war on terrorism will be comprehensively defeated. For strategic stability of South

regional environment, the entire conflict spectrum, the recognized Kashmir dispute, and warned against the unlawful will never be coerced and inim- and legally untenable 'hydro terrorism' by India.

Highlighting Indian state's role in sponsoring terrorism inside Pakistan, the COAS commented longstanding internationally confidence that Nation's fight

against terrorism will be driven to a logical conclusion-success against all forms and manifestations of terrorism.

Photo: PID

Talking about leadership, the Field Marshal advised the student officers to fulfill their obligations with utmost dedication, passion and resolve. Emphasizing the need for innovative thinking and research, he lauded the Command & Staff College Quetta for grooming future military leaders who uphold the highest standards of this sacred profession. "Training must reflect not only the current realities but also prepare us for the future battlefield, one that demands agility, innovation, and unwavering

resolve," he remarked. Earlier on arrival at Quetta, the Field Marshal was received by Commander Quetta Corps and Commandant Command and Staff College Quetta.

Pakistan won't allow India to cross **IWT red line: PM** tells Int'l glaciers conference

News Desk

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, rejecting the weaponization of water, warned that Pakistan would not allow India to cross the red line by holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and endangering millions of lives for narrow political gains.

"India's unilateral and illegal decision to hold in his comprehensive address, abeyance the Indus Water Treaty, which governs the sharing of the Indus Basin's water, is deeply regrettable. Millions of lives must not be held hostage to narrow political gains, and Pakistan will not allow this. We will never allow the red line to be crossed," the prime minister humanity's shared destiny. said addressing the three-day

High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation being held here from May 29-31 2025

The conference is being attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 UN member states and 70 international organizations, including prime ministers, vice presidents, ministers, and UN assistant secretaries-general.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, in touched all the relevant issues, including glacial preservation, Pakistan's climate vulnerability, 2022 floods in Pakistan, global climate action and responsibility, scientific projections on glacial melt, weaponization of water and call to protect nature and

Continued on Page 7

Justice Mandokhail, Justice Naeem declare civilians' trial in military courts unconstitutional



ISLAMABAD: Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan of the Supreme Court of Pakistan have ruled that civilians' trial in military courts is unconsti-

tutional. In their dissenting note on a petition challenging the court order against civilians' trial in military courts, they said that civilians cannot be court-martialled. The 36-page dissenting note written by Justice Mandokhail says that sentencing of people in May 9 cases and their trial are declared null and void. It says it is correct that the rate of sentencing in criminal courts is very low, but

the criminal courts are capable of dispensing justice. The note says the Supreme Court of Pakistan is reviewing decisions of the lower courts.

The Supreme Court has observed that most acquittals are happening in politically motivated unfounded cases. Such cases are the result of unprofessional investigations and weak prosecution. Intra-court appeals were filed by the federation, Punjab and Balochistan governments. It appears that unfortunately these governments do not have confidence in the criminal courts anymore. Sadly, these elected governments have eroded the confidence in the criminal courts.

May 9 cases: PTI **MNA Abdul Latif** among 11 sentenced over Ramna Police **Station attack**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in on police personnel. Islamabad on Friday

attacking the Ramna Police 144.

Station, torching motorcycles, and launching an attempted murder assault

According to the judgsentenced Pakistan Tehreek- ment, "24 witnesses testie-Insaf (PTI) Member of fied before the court." Under National Assembly Abdul anti-terrorism laws, the Latif and 10 others to a convicts were awarded ten cumulative 15 years and 4 years of imprisonment and months imprisonment in fined Rs 200,000. Addithe case related to the May tionally, they were sentenced 9 attack on Ramna Police to five years for setting the police station on fire and The verdict, delivered attacking law enforcement, by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas three months for interfering Supra, stated that the in official duties, and one convicts were involved in month for violating Section

Pakistan appoints ambassador to Afghanistan; Decision leads to 'enhanced engagement'

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Friday the appointment of a full-fledged Pakistani ambassador to Kabul, replacing the current Chargé d'Affaires.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Ishaq Dar stated, "Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are on positive trajectory after my very productive visit to Kabul with Pakistan Ambassador." delegation on 19th April 2025. To maintain this momentum, I am pleased to announce the decision of the Government of Pakistan to upgrade the level of its Chargé



He expressed confidence that the move would lead to "enhanced engagement, deepen Pak-Afghan bilateral ties, and the new appointcooperation in economic, security, CT & trade areas and promote d'Affaires in Kabul to the level of further exchanges between two tory.

fraternal countries.

Dar noted that his April 19 visit to Kabul marked a turning point in ment reflects Islamabad's intent to further solidify this positive trajec-

Islamabad Police arrest JI Senator for violating section 144

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Friday arrested Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) senior leader and Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan for allegedly violating Section 144 during a protest outside the National Press Club.

According to police, JI workers attempted to gather in the area despite restrictions in place under Section 144. "The gathering was in direct violation of the current Section 144 orders," officials said, adding that several party workers were also detained during the crackdown.

JI leadership strongly condemned the arrests, calling



the move "an attack on democratic norms." In a statement, party representatives said, "Peaceful protest is a constitutional right of every citizen, and the arrest of our leader is unacceptable."

The incident has sparked criticism from civil society groups and political commentators, who argue that restrictions on public assembly are being increasingly used to suppress

A high level meeting held, under the chairmanship of PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high level meeting held here today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, reviewed the progress and pending payments related to different development sectors.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary and Secretaries of different departments.

The secretaries gave a comprehensive briefing to the PM regarding the current status of development projects within their domains. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to consolidate all the pending payments owed to development sectors including road infrastructure, local government, physical planning and housing, electricity, public health, education and tourism.

He ordered that a report, in this regard, be submitted within three days. The PM asked the relevant authorities to ensure timely completion of development projects without compromising on the quality of work.



"Delay in project completion results didn't allow it to derail or hamper the good. in cost increases, placing extra burden on the government exchequer", he added.

Despite facing financial constraints,

progress

The Prime Minister emphasized that the public interest projects must receive focused attention to ensure that these the PM said that the government projects effectively serve the public

He said that despite offering significant subsidies on electricity and wheat flour, the government ensured continuity in the process of construction and development in Azad Kashmir.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, met with Ms. Coco Ushiyama, Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Friday.



Actions against illegal buildings continue: CO Ali Raza

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, On the Orders of Municipal Committee Kamalia Chief Officer (CO) Ali Raza, Municipal Officer Planning Hafiz Shoaib along with his team sealed several commercial buildings in Kamalia while taking action against buildings without a map pass.

Chief Officer Municipal Committee Kamalia Ali Raza Talking to Daily The Spokesman, said that actions are underway against commercial buildings without



team has carried out Ation and housing societies.

against including commercial He further said that our shops, commercial markets

target was 4 Cror, In which Conwen fee 2 Cror and 15 Lak, Compounding fee 700,000 and building fee 52 Lak and has been received and deposited in the treasury of the Government of Punjab. We are trying to complete the target as soon as possible.

Ali Raza said that those who build commercial buildings without a map pass do not deserve any concession because they do illegal work by not getting passing the map, so we have to take action against

Chief Officer Ali Raza said such people. In the end, Ali that the government's annual Raza said that I am sending a message to all those who builders commercial shops, markets and housing societies that if anyone is caught without a map pass, Along with an FIR against him, his building will also be sealed and further action will be taken.

On this Occasion, Umar Nawaz Khan Muncipal Officer (Infrastructure) Municipal Committee Kamalia, Building Inspector Muhammad Sohail and Sub Engineer Sheikh Ehsan Yousaf were also present.

Sardar Masood Khan's vision for Kashmir: A turning point in diplomatic relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Today, the world acknowledges Pakistan's military supremacy and diplomatic ingenuity. Our confidence has soared, and hope has been reignited in the hearts of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir," said Sardar Masood Khan. Kashmir, in his address at the Air University, Islamabad, on "The Future contextualises prospects for Kashmir diplomacy in the current geopolitical realities, diplomatic shifts, and Pakistan's strategic imperatives in the aftermath of the recent conflict with India. Sardar Masood Khan pay tribute to 11, who proposed a renewed diplomatic

the Armed Forces of Pakistan, especially the Pakistan Air Force, for their resounding success in the recent war with India. He stated that this historic victory has not only enhanced Pakistan's prestige globally but also redefined strategic military doctrines between the two nuclear powers.

"Today, the world acknowledges Former President of Azad Jammu & Pakistan's military supremacy and diplomatic ingenuity. Our confidence has soared, and hope has been reigof Indian Occupied Kashmir". He nited in the hearts of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir,"

> He referenced a significant diplomatic breakthrough initiated by former U.S. President Donald Trump on May



channel on Kashmir, describing it as a "window of opportunity" for peace. This came after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced a bilateral ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan and the initiation of talks at a

Masood Khan noted that while

Pakistan has welcomed this development, India responded with denials and hostility, retreating from its initial commitment and expressing alarm over renewed international attention on Kashmir.

He pointed out that this turn of events had shaken India's political and military posture, highlighting that its strategic doctrines were debunked and oublic confidence fractured following its military failure and global scrutiny.

The address was attended by faculty, students, members of the strategic community, and senior officials. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a reaffirmation of Pakistan's enduring commitment to the Kashmiri cause.

India is creating a history of cruelty and barbarity in occupied Kashmir: Sardar Attique

Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that India is creating a history of cruelty and barbarity in occupied Kashmir, condemns the silence of the world community on the ongoing lockdown in the occupied valley and demands that steps be taken to stop the ongoing inhuman atrocities in the occu-

pied valley. These views were expressed while talking to Rizwan Khalil Abbasi, Arbab Qadir Abbasi and Misri Bin Khalil Abbasi, Malik Sajjad Hussain, Haji Asghar Khan, Sheikh Ashfaq, Fayyaz Ahmed and others at Mujahid Manzil. He said that without a solution to the Kashmir issue, peace is not possible in South Asia. Kashmiris have waged a long struggle for the Kashmir freedom movement, which is unparalleled in the world. Kashmiris have sacrificed millions of lives to achieve this goal. The basic rights of Kashmiris are being taken away. Inhuman atrocities are being committed in occupied Kashmir.

Rising crime in Sardoshah: A wake-up call for local authorities and residents

跨 Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: In the jurisdiction of Police Station Sardoshah, unidentified thieves have caused panic by setting up operations in the area. Residents are so frightened that they avoid leaving their homes after sunset. In broad daylight, thieves entered a house and stole 500,000 rupees in cash, three tolas of gold, and two mobile phones before fleeing. In addition, two Honda 70 motorcycles were also stolen. According to reports, unknown thieves stole two Honda 70 motorcycles last night from Rehmat Khan and Mujahid Khan, sons of Nazir Khan, residents of Mughal Kalle, Sardoshah. Similarly, in another incident, thieves entered the house of Sanaullah, resident of Abid Khan Koruna, in broad daylight and stole 500,000 rupees in cash, three tolas of gold, and two mobile phones. The Sardoshah Police Station has marked the cases as resolved and is placating the victims with false assurances. The residents of Sardoshah and surrounding areas have strongly appealed to the DPO Mardan for immediate action and reform.

Sultan Zainul Abideen University delegation visits the University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: An eight-member delegation from Sultan Zainul Abideen University of Malaysia visited the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali. The delegation was led by Nurnisoha bint Yusuf. During the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed to strengthen ties between the two institutions. Vice Chancellor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali informed the delegation that the University of Agriculture organizes seminars every year in collaboration with the Malaysian High Commission so that relations can be further strengthened by charting new paths for research and development between the two countries. He said that by benefiting from each other's experiences, common challenges can be easily addressed. He said that the University of Agriculture Faisalabad is among the best universities in the world and this institution is rendering valuable services to ensure agriculture and rural development. The delegation also met with Dean Faculty of Agriculture Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, Director Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization Dr. Imran Arshad, Dr. Nadeem Akbar, Dr. Bushra Saadia, Dr. Aamir Maqsood, Dr. Wasim Akram, Dr. Ahmed Sattar, Dr. Abdul Rehman Bhatti, Dr. Muhammad Tahseen Azhar, Dr. Muhammad Ahsan, State Officer Shahzad Mahmood and others.

Uzma Kardar reviews polio eradication efforts in Multan

MULTAN: Chief Minister Punjab's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Uzma Kardar, visited Multan on Thursday to review the progress of the ongoing anti-polio campaign and assess the performance of the district health

department. During her visit, she inspected vari-

ous urban localities and monitored the activities of polio vaccination teams. She also chaired a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office to evaluate field operations and administrative support provided during the campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu briefed the focal person on the district's polio strategy, noting that over 1.02 million children were successfully administered polio drops during the recent five-day campaign. He added that a comprehensive plan was executed across all union councils and that third-party screening of households was also conducted to ensure full coverage.

Uzma Kardar appreciated the district administration's efforts and congratulated the DC and his team for achieving their targets without facing any refusals from parents. She emphasized that the recent samples collected from sewage showed clear results, which was an encouraging sign.

"Due to its geographical location, Multan is classified as a high-risk district, and the administration's performance here is commendable," she said, reiterating Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's policy of zero tolerance towards any negligence in polio eradication efforts.

Kardar highlighted that Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the only two polio-endemic countries in the world, and the presence of the virus damages the country's global image. She further said that the Punjab government is implementing strict measures due to recent polio cases reported from other provinces. Drones

She assured that on the special directives of the Chief Minister, she is visiting all districts to ensure accountability and improvement in campaign quality. "The cold chain of the vaccine has been effectively maintained, and all missed children have been promptly traced and

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Saif and Assistant Commissioners also attended the meeting.

6 bike lifters arrested, 9 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police on Friday arrested six accused involved in street crime, including bike lifting, from different areas of the district and recovered nine stolen motorcycles and other valua-

According to the police spokesman, the Wah Saddar Police busted a gang of three criminals recovering five stolen motorcycles, Rs 12,500 snatched from citizens, and weapons from them.





SERVICES		
Namaz	Timings	
Fajr	3:18 am	
	12:05 pm	
Asr	5:04 pm	
Maghrib	7:12 pm	
Isha	8:53 pm	

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 445112
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

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

HOCDITALC

HOSFII	ALJ
CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	. 9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3

City's sacrificial cattle markets bustle with buyers

RAWALPINDI: As Eid-ul-Azha approaches, the city's sacrificial animals' markets have become the destination of festivity for people.

The largest market, set up at Bhatta Chowk, has become the central hub for buyers and sellers, offering a variety of sacrificial animals, including cows, bulls, camels, goats, and sheep.

The market's capacity to hold nearly 100,000 animals, has drawn visitors from the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, to find the perfect sacrificial animals.

Located at the jun of the twin cities, the cattle market has been provided security measures jointly by Rawalpindi and Islamabad administrations to ensure smooth operations within the market.

Visitors while talking to APP have appreciated the arrangements, observing the ease with which they can navigate through the sections to inspect animals. However, amid the excitement, they have also shown concerns about the rising prices of the animals.

Many buyers expressed that the cost of animals has gone beyond their budget this year.

Tahir Malik said he would prefer collective sacrifice where 5 or 7 people share a single animal to manage expenses.

Families, including women and children, visit through the market, particularly in evening time. The festive atmosphere is attractive, with laughter, bargaining, and the sonorous bells hanging in animals necks.

Third Harappa International Conference inaugurated by Dr. Tariq

Fazal Chaudhry

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Third Harappa International Conference, themed "Human Settlements in Transition: From Historic Roots to Future Visions in South Asia," is currently underway at COMSATS University Islamabad. Organized by the Department of Architecture, the conference brings together leading scholars, urban planners, policymakers, and cultural experts from across South Asia and around the world.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. In his address, Dr. Chaudhry highlighted the importance of drawing lessons from South Asia's urban heritage to build inclusive and resilient cities. Dr. Chaudhry also emphasized the role of the conference in connecting the young student body of the actively contribute to initiatives aimed at urban landscapes.

national progress. He further expressed his resolve to take recommendations from such scholarly events into consideration for policymaking and relevant governing

Addressing the occasion, Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, reiterated his commitment to enhancing academia's role in preserving and promoting built heritage. Dr. Qamar said that we find ourselves at a critical junction where rapid industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancement are reshaping the very fabric of how and where we live. In this context, revisiting the lessons of the past becomes not just relevant but essential.

Delivering the keynote address, Professor Dr. Noman Ahmed, Acting Vice Chancellor of NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, stressed the urgent need for inclusive, Department of Architecture with their resilient, and context-sensitive planning historical roots, encouraging students to to address South Asia's rapidly evolving



Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi inaugurating NADRA Mega Center in Sector I-8, on Friday



Photo: PID

Regional Drama Festival on the sixth day of 2025

👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi artists are working hard and diligently, they are less encouraged. The efforts of the Punjab Government in this regard are commendable. These views were expressed and Raja Naseer President Youth Wing PML N Rawalpindi addressed the Punjab Council of the Arts Rawalpindi in his address after distributing prizes to the artists at the end of the stage drama participants, held on the sixth day of the Regional Drama Festival 2025. Muhammad Shakur Director Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi said that the festival is being organized on the special instructions of the Provincial Minister for Principles and Culture Government of Punjab, Ms. Azma Bukhari, which aims to restore family theater and revive cultural activities. So that people get clean and standard entertainment and promoting cultural activities as well as artists. The drama was writ-



ident Union of Journalists Rawalpindi, drama presented on daily basis.

ten by renowned artist, Munawar Khan Islamabad, Tariq Mughal, media family Afridi. There were included. The prom- members. a large number of people and inent figures were attended by Dr. Gulf- congratulated the Arts Council struggles raz Abbasi Principal Government Gordon on organizing excellent dramas. The festi-College Rawalpindi, Abid Abbasi Pres- val will continue till June 5. In which a new

Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab Participates in High-Level Meeting with Chairperson PHEC

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kamalia, participated in an important consultative meeting convened by Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, the newly appointed Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) on 24th May, 2025. The meeting was held at the Vice Chancellor's Office, Government College Women University, Faisalabad, and brought together heads of public sector

universities from the region. This strategic gathering



aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) under the leadership of the new Chairperson. Discussions focused on enhancing academic quality, streamlining governance, and promoting innovation and research across universities in Puniab

Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab shared key insights from his leadership experience and highlighted recent advancements at the University of Kamalia, including the launch of academic programs and efforts toward public-private partnerships.

Embassy of Romania, proudly launched Opera Singing Courses

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts in collaboration with the Embassy of Romania, proudly launched its first-ever Opera Singing Courses today at the PNCA Islamabad — marking a significant step in Pakistan's performing arts education and international cultural exchange.

The launch event was graced by two distinguished chief guests. Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, and H. E. Mr. Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to

In her remarks, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar lauded PNCA and the Embassy of Romania for taking a visionary step in introducing opera singing in Pakistan. She emphasized the importance of such collaborations in nurturing new talent and strengthening cultural diplomacy Ambassador Dan Stoenescu delivered an inspiring address high-

lighting the universal power of music and announced a generous initiative by offering scholarships for music students in Romania. This scholarship program is a major opportunity for emerging Paki-

stani musicians to receive world-class training abroad. DG PNCA highlighted the role of PNCA for promotion of music and arts in Pakistan. Many international cultural exchange initiatives were taken under the leadership of Muhammad Ayoub Jamali being

The event concluded with refreshments and a warm round of applause for all participants and organizers.

High Court Directs HEC to Resolve Promotion Policy for BPS Faculty

Example 2 City Desk

KARACHI: In a landmark development for the rights of university faculty across Pakistan, the Sindh High Court has disposed of the constitutional petition filed by Dr. Kamran Zakria and fellow Assistant Professors at NED University, directing the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to resolve the long-standing issue of promotions for Basic Pay Scale (BPS) faculty members.

The petition, filed by members of the All Pakistan University BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA), challenged the inaction of HEC in implementing a fair and transparent promotion policy for BPS faculty, a matter that has remained unresolved since 2002. The petitioners argued that despite a formal agreement dated March 10, 2022, and a subsequent notification issued on March 11, 2022, HEC failed to fulfill its commitment to finalize the promotion policy, thereby violating their fundamental rights under Articles 4 and 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

It is worthwhile to mention that more than 60 thousand teachers under the leadership of APUBTA has been struggling for the same rights of service structure, staged several protests, sit-in, proven their rights on various forums like senate, National Assembly, HEC and many others but HEC was using its delaying tactics that shall now timely be resolved as directed by the Honourable court.

GAIN Advances Food Systems Transformation through Academic Capacity Building in **Pakistan**

👺 City Desk

LAHORE: The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), in collaboration with leading academic institutions, inaugurated a two-day Capacity Building Workshop on Food Systems Courses for university faculty on May 29-30, 2025, at Avari Hotel, Lahore.

The workshop brought together over 40 faculty members from 10 universities across Lahore and Faisalabad, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing food systems education and strengthening nutrition-sensitive policy development in Pakistan.

The primary aim of the training was to equip university faculty with the knowledge, methodologies, and pedagogical tools needed to integrate food systems thinking into academic curricula. The initiative supports both national and global efforts to tackle the triple burden of malnutrition while fostering sustainable, resilient, and equitable

In her opening remarks, Ms. Farah Naz, Country Director of GAIN Pakistan, emphasized the essential role of faculty members in shaping a future-ready food workforce and reaffirmed GAIN's dedication to supporting transformative change within the education sector.

Faiz Rasool, Head of Policy and Advocacy at GAIN Pakistan, highlighted the pressing issue of malnutrition in the country, particularly as it relates to food insecurity and the growing impact of climate change. He emphasized the importance of equipping youth with relevant food systems knowledge and using that foundation to inform future policy and program development.

This workshop marks a pivotal step toward institutionalizing food systems education within Pakistan's higher education sector. It lays the groundwork for continued academic engagement, capacity strengthening, and knowledge co-creation, ultimately supporting a more nutrition-secure and sustainable future for the country.

Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, May 31, 2025

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Establish Nawaz Sharif Centre of Excellence in DG Khan & Layyah

hief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif made important announcements at a ceremony to distribute laptops and Honhaar scholarship cheques in Layyah. She announced the establishment of a medical college in Layyah along with starting classes. She announced historic funds worth Rs. 3 billion for the universities of Dera Ghazi Khan and Layyah. She announced the establishment of Nawaz Sharif Centre of Excellence for 'Early Childhood Education' in Dera Ghazi Khan and Layyah. She also announced the provision of classrooms, toilets and other basic facilities in all schools of Punjab within the completion of one year with a huge fund of Rs 110 billion. She announced that now no school in Punjab will remain deprived of essential facilities. She congratulated Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on the success of Operation 'Bunyan-um-Marsoos'. She also congratulated Air Chief Babar Zaheer Sindhu on behalf of the students and paid tribute to the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army and other institutions.

The Chief Minister while addressing the ceremony said, "If the youth become an iron wall, no power in the world can defeat Pakistan. Despite being a small country in terms of population and resources, it defeated a country many times larger in proportion. Those who used to say that no one can bring down Rafale, we brought it down with JF Thunder. The youth should show their strength and themselves become 'Bunyan-um-Marsoos' for their nation." She highlighted, "On May 28, 1998, Nawaz Sharif made the country a nuclear power, now the enemy does not have the courage to show any aggressive designs towards Pakistan. The one who is not afraid of big powers is a true leader."

She added, "I congratulate the students, teachers and their parents on their success, I am more happier than everyone over the success of every student. Our students have resources but children who study and earn academic distinctions despite not having enough resources are commendable. I want to put all the government's resources at the disposal of talented students." She maintained, "If parents do not have ample resources, the state should think like a mother. The state should itself reach out to every child who works hard and gets good results. The Honhaar scholarship has been increased from 30 thousand to 50 thousand and laptops from 40 thousand to one lac so that children need not to depend on anyone. Students should not express gratitude to me as I am only providing them their due right. I am here to fulfill the prayers of parents and dreams of talented students."

American Scientists on Sale

Soviet Union in 1991, the Russian economy plummeted, and most of its government-funded research institutions shut down. This included groundbreaking work in fields like space exploration, medicine, health, and advanced engineering. The lack of funds abruptly halted research projects, and thousands of brilliant scientists once the lifeblood of the Soviet innovation machine-were left jobless. These scientists became a global commodity, sought after by nations eager to bolster their own research and development infrastructures.

One country that capitalized on this opportunity was Israel. Israel actively imported Russian Jews, welcoming tens of thousands of engineers, scientists, doctors, and professors. By some estimates, nearly 70,000 professionals migrated to Israel in the early 1990s. Their expertise was transformative: they injected fresh talent into Israel's industries, contributing up to 10% GDP growth annually during the 1990s. These Soviet-trained experts became the backbone of Israel's R&D sector, propelling Israel into the ranks of the world's top innovation hubs. Major global corporations-Samsung, Hyundai, Daewoo, and others-began outsourcing their R&D to Israel, recognizing its unmatched talent pool, much of which stemmed directly from the Soviet brain drain.

Israel's leap wasn't limited to techit also gained formidable capabilities in defense, space, and medical research. The Russian scientists built a multi-sector R&D ecosystem that continues to give Israel a strategic edge in defense technology, aerospace, and innovation-led

and a similar exodus is unfolding in the United States. Instead of learning from Russia's collapse and protecting its intellectual capital, the Trump administra-

and Vivek Ramaswamy-two of the most ambitious yet controversial figures in American leadership—has unleashed the DOGE initiative (Decentralization of Government Education). DOGE, under the guise of reform, is waging a war against U.S. universities and scientific

with "strange names" they can't comprehend, cutting off grants for fundamental science, and pushing a dangerous narrative that American research is wasteful.

As a result, top universities—once magnets for global talent and engines of innovation—are being

suffocated. Federal funding is drying up, research projects are being canceled, and leading scientists are being laid off in droves. These scientists, left without support, are now seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Qamar Bashir

Countries that understand the value of brainpower, like China, France, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Turkey, are eagerly recruiting these displaced American experts. They offer lucrative salaries, advanced labs, and the freedom to conduct cutting-edge research. China, in particular, is on a recruitment spree hiring top-tier U.S. scientists to accelerate its technological and military ambitions. As America clamps down, China is absorbing these minds to build its own world-class R&D infrastructure—one that could rival, or even surpass, what the U. S, once had.

This dangerous trend is unfolding even as Trump's administration pushes to Now, fast forward to the present day, revoke student visas for Chinese students, making it harder for them to study in the U.S. But while Chinese students scramble to stay in America, jobless U.S. professors, researchers, and scientists are heading

fter the collapse of the tion, under the guidance of Elon Musk to China—creating a reverse pipeline of

This is a double blow to America's future. First, by cutting off student visas, the U.S. is closing its doors to global talent that once fueled its innovation. Second, by starving universities of funding, it is forcing its own talent to seek refuge in

institutions. They are mocking research countries like China. Instead of America educating the world, it risks becoming a brain drain exporter.

This exodus mirrors Marco Rubio's stark warnings. Rubio has repeatedly cautioned that the U.S. is lagging dangerously behind China in a military and economic rivalry that

could lead to conflict. He highlights China's unprecedented peacetime military buildup—the fastest in history—and the U.S. policy failures that allowed China to dominate manufacturing, critical supply chains, and now, the intellectual arena. Rubio has pointed out that while the U. S. spends over \$900 billion annually on defense compared to China's officially reported \$314 billion (though some estimates suggest China's actual spending is over \$470 billion), the quality and focus of China's investments, especially in hypersonic missiles, cyber warfare, space, and AI, give it a decisive edge.

Rubio also laments how deindustrialization—the result of U.S. companies moving manufacturing overseas for cheaper labor and fewer regulations—has hollowed out America's industrial base. Between 1998 and 2021, the U.S. lost over 5 million manufacturing jobs and 70,000 factories. Even if the U.S. starts reshoring these industries now, rebuilding its manufacturing strength could take two decades—by which time the world will have moved on, and America will still be playing catch-up.

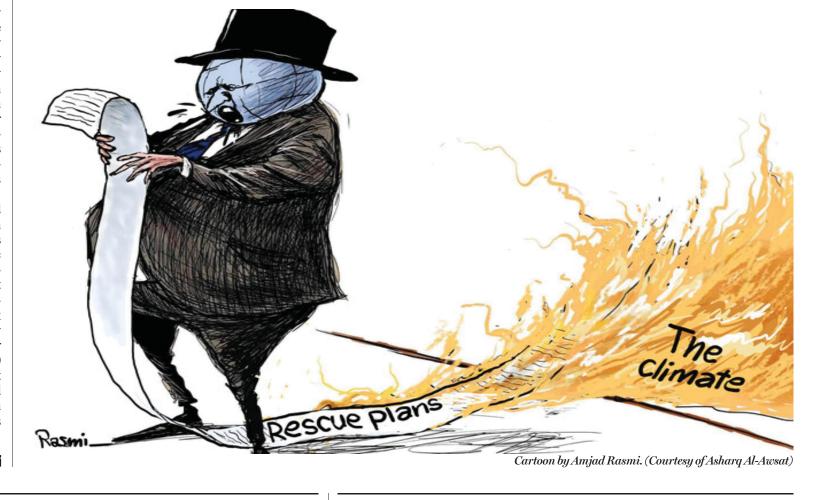
Meanwhile, Trump's Golden Dome project, modeled after Israel's Iron Dome, is being touted as a solution to external threats. This ambitious missile defense system is designed to protect against ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles, with an estimated cost between \$175 billion and \$500 billion—a colossal sum in an era when research budgets for fundamental science are being slashed. Critics argue that the Golden Dome is a band-aid solution that cannot compensate for the systematic hollowing out of America's scientific, industrial, and technological base.

The reality is grim: America is facing a multi-dimensional crisis—in science, manufacturing, education, and defense. The U.S. is no longer the magnet for the world's best minds; it is actively driving them away. As China, France, the Middle East, and others scoop up these talents, they are not only gaining a competitive edge but also reshaping the global balance of power.

To prevent this decline from becoming permanent, the United States must undergo fundamental, surgical reforms. It needs to rebuild its industrial base, reinvest in universities and research, restore funding for basic and applied sciences, and embrace global talent instead of driving it away. Without a comprehensive strategy, the U.S. risks losing its position as the world's sole superpower-a position that now looks increasingly fragile and uncertain.

In the end, it is not just a question of competing with China or Russia. It is about whether the U.S. has the vision, leadership, and humility to learn from the mistakes of others—and from its own past-and to build a future that can stand the test of time.

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



World No Tobacco Day 2025: Innovative Tobacco Products: An Innovative Killing Tool

total of 10.7% Pakistani youth and easy affordability. This means nearly

diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and chronic lung diseases. Yearly, 170,000 people die due to tobacco consumption. This is a very alarming situation which needs immediate interventions by the government to safeguard public health.

The Global statistics are far Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar more alarming as WHO esti-

mates suggest more than 8 million deaths shops and online websites. each year due to tobacco consumption while 1.2 million of these are a result of secondhand smoke exposure. Around the world, efforts to reduce tobacco use are undermined by the aggressive opposition of the big tobacco industry, which puts profits over lives.

Since becoming a party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2005, Pakistan has strived towards safeguarding children from tobacco consumption. Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Ordinance 2002 bans selling tobacco products to children under the age of 18 and also bans sale of these products within 50 meter radius of educational institutions. Unfortunately in Pakistan tobacco control haven't gone beyond cigarettes and Gutka. Lack as discounted products, free samples, gifts and

ccording to World Health of implementation of 2002 ordinance aside; Organization the number there has been no control efforts against the of smokers in Pakistan has emerging nicotine tobacco products i.e. nicoreached up to 29 million. A tine pouches, e-cigarettes and vapes.

There has been no policy or legislation to $(13-15\,\mathrm{years})$ indulges in to bacco due to cheap $$ control and monitor sales, promotion and advertisement of nicotine pouches. Tobacco 1200 children begin smoking every day in the industry has claimed that these products are not country. This tobacco consumption makes tobacco products and they're launched to help them prone towards non-communicable people overcome nicotine addiction. It is medi-

cally proven that nicotine can cause serious threats such as cardiovascular disease and stroke, and harmful changes in the development of brain among children. It is also to be noted that cessation products can't be given without prescription however these products are openly sold in super stores, malls, grocery

A study "Big Tobacco-Tiny Targets" conducted by civil society organization examined the sale and advertising trends of innovative tobacco products (nicotine pouches, e-cigarettes, and heated tobacco products) within 100-meter radius of schools, universities, hostels, playground and parks, cinemas, shopping malls, indoor gaming / entertaining center and, restaurants in 9 cities of Pakistan.

The survey revealed that all points of sale were selling innovative tobacco products around points of interest for youth. These products, mainly nicotine pouches, are displayed at visible eye level for children and placed beside candies, sweets and toys to appeal children and youth. Vendors also utilize sales techniques such

competition entries to attract the customers. These findings are an eye opener for everyone that Pakistan's children are bombarded with marketing and easy accessibility of addictive nicotine products around their educational and recreational facilities. These products are claimed as cessation products but in fact, are new form of nicotine addiction. The tobacco industry has already mislead the government by claiming that e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches are less harmful and only for smokers who want to quit. However these products are openly promoted online and sold to young and new consumers.

Government must recognize the dangers of innovative tobacco products before it is too late. The government must regulate emerging addictive nicotine products and also strengthen Pakistan's tobacco control legislation, to include a ban on all forms of point-of-sale tobacco advertising and point of sale tobacco product

The government should reconstitute and activate the Committee on Tobacco Advertisement Guidelines (CTAG) on a permanent basis and task the CTAG with continuously reviewing and updating Pakistan's tobacco control legislation as it relates to tobacco industry advertising, promotion and sponsorship. Municipal authorities should license tobacco vendors and exclusive tobacco shops where only tobacco products are sold. This will reduce exposure to tobacco products by children and non-users who will not frequently visit such stores.

The writer is a child rights activist and public health advocate, currently working as a Program Manager at the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC)

The Farewell Hajj of Rasulullah **S. A.** W (Part 7)

Mufti Abdul Razaq

The order to come out of Ihram for those who did not bring sacrificial animals.

fter completing the Sa'ee, Rasulullah S. A. W firmly instructed his companions who were without sacrificial animals to come out of their Ihram by either trimming their hair short or shaving the head. Consequently, those companions without sacrificial animals followed suit and opened their Ihram, while those with sacrificial animals remained in the state of Ihram. Even from amongst the noble wives of Nabi S. A. W those who did not bring sacrificial animals followed the instruction and came out of the state of Ihram. This ruling aimed to accommodate those without sacrificial animals and to ensure the smooth progression of their Hajj journey. (Bukhari, Hadith 1486)

During this event, Rasulullah S. A. W expressed a sentiment of understanding and reassurance to his companions. He remarked that had he known about the ensuing events, he would not have brought a sacrificial animal and would have performed Umrah instead.

If I knew from before of what I am aware now, I would not have brought the sacrificial animals and made this into an Umrah

(Sunan Abu Dawud, Hadith 1905, Pg. 220) This statement aimed to console the noble companions, as they would be distraught if they could not follow the practice of Rasulullah S. A. W and also to affirm the companions' adherence to his example, ensuring their satisfaction with his guidance.

At this point (i.e. after concluding Sa'ee between Safa and Marwah), Rasulullah S. A. W underwent the ritual of shaving his head. Following this, he fervently prayed for forgiveness three times for those who shaved their heads and once for those who trimmed their hair. This prayer was also

recited during the Umrah of Hudaybiyyah in some traditions. (Bukhari, Hadith No. 1640)

Sayyiduna Suraqah Ibn Malik R. A queried the

following from Rasulullah S. A. W: O the Nabi of Allah! Is this for this year only,

or forever? In response Rasulullah S. A. W illustrated its permanence by interlocking his fingers and declaring twice, 'Umrah has become a part of Hajj

forever." (Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 1303) This emphasized that Umrah was now an integral component of Hajj, applicable not just for that

year but for all future pilgrimages.

The return of Sayyiduna Ali r from Yemen

Rasulullah S. A. W had sent Ali R. A as an ambassador to Yemen to collect taxes that were due. This narrative has been recorded with all the details in the Book of military expeditions of Imam Bukhari. Sayyiduna Ali R. A had just returned to Makkah, and upon his return Rasulullah S. A. W inquired about his state of Ihram.

Hadhrat Ali R. A responded that he had adopted the same Ihram as Rasulullah S. A. W. In response, the Nabi of Allah S. A. Winstructed him to maintain his state of Ihram and have the sacrificial animals prepared, highlighting the importance of adhering to the rites of Hajj. (Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 1483) Similarly, Sayyiduna Abu Musa al-Ash'ari R. A followed suit by adopting a similar Ihram as Nabi S. A. W. However, due to the lacking of a sacrificial animal, Rasulullah S. A. Winstructed him to annul the Ihram of Hajj and change it to that of Umrah and to come out of the state of Ihram. (Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 1484)

Sayyiduna Ali R. A brought the sacrificial animals of Nabi S. A. W from Yemen and the beloved of Allah Ta'ala also brought some animals from Madinah Munawwarah for the sacrifice of Hajj. There were a total of 100 sacrificial animals.

The writer is a renowned Islamic Scholar. esteemed for his extensive expertise in Hajj ಆ Masa'il e Hajj. He has written several books on Hajj <mark>੪ Umrah</mark>

Pakistan sets the 'New Normal' A Paradigm Shift in South Asia's Power Equation

News Desk

made a fundamental shift On May 10th, 2025, in its defense and diplomatic posture vis-à-vis India, declaring the establishment of a "New through "Operation Bunyan-ul-Normal" a doctrine aimed at rede- Marsoos" targeting Indian military fining red lines, deterrence threshinstallations. But it was on May 10th Indian airstrikes on May 6, which and in the region. "We will not accept Pakistan views as blatant violations of sovereignty and international law. will respond forcefully, or even more recalibration intended to deter future unilateral military actions by India while reinforcing Pakistan's readiness to respond with force and clarity.

The shift in doctrine was catalyzed by India's launch of "Operation the pretext of eliminating terror Pahalgam attack in Kashmir.

networks. Pakistan strongly rejected these claims, presenting evidence that ISLAMABAD: Pakistan formally civilian infrastructure, including a madrassa and two mosques — was hit, resulting in dozens of casualties.

On May 7-8, Pakistan responded olds, and rules of engagement in the following high-level military and face of continued Indian aggression. National Security Council meetings, The declaration followed nearly two that Pakistan drew a clear new line in weeks of heightened conflict after the sand and gave a messege to Indian India's dominance in the region and This "New Normal" reflects a strategic decisively, to uphold the balance of power and ensure regional stability." Pakistan effectively countered India's strategy to establish regional dominance by orchestrating a false flag

Despite accusations, no evidence Sindoor" targeting sites in Pakistan was provided or shared to substanand Azad Jammu & Kashmir under tiate Pakistan's involvement in the



It has been declared that any act of aggression, regardless of its scale or nature, will be met with an overwhelmingly forceful response. The era of strategic restraint has come to an end, marking the recognition of Pakistan's NEW NORMAL.

Had Pakistan remained passive in the face of India's aggressive actions, it risked ceding strategic initiative to New Delhi, potentially setting a dangerous precedent for unchecked

However, Pakistan's timely and resolute response, backed by both military and civilian leadership, effectively countered this narrative. The decisive actions underscored a clear message: any violation of Pakistan's sovereignty would be met with unwavering force. Furthermore, Pakistan signaled its readiness to defend itself against all forms of aggression, including the possibility of a fullscale conflict, and utilizing nuclear weapons if its existence were at risk, while maintaining its commitment to regional stability. This firm stance highlights Pakistan's zero-tolerance policy towards external threats, particularly from India. Pakistan has a strong stance that any incursion - air, land, or cyber — will be interpreted as an act of war. Islamabad has authorized military forces to respond in future without waiting for political clearance in specific scenarios and similar situations.

maintained a defensive posture, under the New Normal doctrine, intelligence of an imminent threat could trigger pre-emptive military action. For the first time, Pakistan formalized a doctrine where civil and military leadership act through a unified National Command Structure — accelerating response timelines and strategic coordination. Pakistan also signalled a pivot in its foreign policy by reaching out to China, Turkey, and the OIC bloc to build a stronger multilateral shield against Indian unilateralism.

The announcement was widely supported within Pakistan, both by the public and across political lines. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, addressing the Parliament, and remarked:"India mistook our peace overtures for weakness. On May 10, 2025, we corrected that mistake."The Pakistan Armed Forces were placed on elevated readiness, and military about deterrence, regional parity, and exercises were reportedly held in

While Pakistan has traditionally Balochistan and Northern Command zones to demonstrate operational preparedness under the new doctrine. India as usual dismissed Pakistan's "New Normal" as a political stunt, but analysts in the region are treating it with gravity. International observers, particularly in the U.S., China, and the Gulf, warned of a potential arms race or miscalculation, especially given the nuclear backdrop.

The United Nations called for restraint, while urging both countries to return to diplomatic engagement. Whether this shift leads to a more stable deterrence framework or increases the risk of escalation will depend largely on how both nations and the world respond to this newly declared doctrine.

The declaration of the "NEW NORMAL" Pakistan has officially ended its era of strategic patience. this is not just about retaliation — it's safeguarding national dignity.

Pakistan Dairy Association hosts national seminar to celebrate World Milk Day

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Dairy Association (PDA) recently convened a high-level National Seminar in Lahore to commemorate World Milk Day under the theme "Safe Milk, Safe Nation: Affordable Dairy for a Healthier Nation." The event brought together senior government officials, industry leaders, and dairy experts to advocate for a national shift toward safer, regulated milk and to explore the strategic role of the formal dairy sector in enhancing public health, food security, and sustainable economic development.

Dr. Shehzad Amin, Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Dairy Association, opened the seminar by highlighting the central role of dairy in public health and national development. He said, "World Milk Day is not just a celebration—it is a global moment to acknowledge nature's most complete superfood and its profound impact on nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and economic growth. Initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, this day honors the tireless efforts of millions of dairy farmers while spotlighting the sustainable development opportunities the dairy sector offers. At PDA, our mission is firmly rooted in ensuring enforcement mechanisms necessary that safe, nutritious, and affordable dairy is accessible to every citizen. We believe—and advocate—that safe milk is not a choice, but a fundamental right of every Pakistani."

Adding to this perspective, Mr. Noor Aftab, Director Corporate Affairs - Pakistan & MENA at Tetra Pak, highlighted the importance of innovation in dairy processing and packaging. "Milk is more than daily nutrition—it's a cornerstone of public health, food resilience, and economic progress. Through advanced technologies and collaborative efforts, we are committed to making safe, affordable dairy accessible to every household in Pakistan," he noted.

The seminar featured in-depth discussions on regulatory reforms, standardization, certification, and



to ensure the safety of milk. Key officials, Jahan Ara Wattoo, Vice Chairperson, Punjab Social Protection Authority, Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha -DG PAFDA, Amina Rafigue, ADG Technical, Punjab Food Authority, and Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary for Livestock & Dairy Development, shared institutional strategies for quality assurance and public awareness. The role of the private sector in driving innovation and ensuring a consistent supply of safe milk was also a central theme.

Ramesh Singh Arora, Minister for Minorities & Human Rights, Punjab, emphasized that access to safe milk should be considered a right, not a privilege. "Every citizen deserves access to clean, safe, and nutritious milk. Unfortunately, loose milk often contains harmful adulterants like urea,

milk, on the other hand, maintains strict quality standards and offers a reliable alternative. The Government of Punjab is acutely aware of the province's malnutrition challenges and is committed to ensuring safe milk reaches every household. We also recognize the negative impact of the current taxation on packaged milk and are working to address this as part of our broader health and nutrition agenda."

Romina Khurshid Alam, Minister of State & Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, emphasized the essential role of milk in ensuring nutritional wellbeing. "When we talk about health and nutrition, milk stands out as the one element that completes the nutrition cycle. In the fight against malnutrition, a single glass of milk can make a healthiest, most complete foods we can provide.

Mian Mitha, Manager - Corporate Regulatory & Scientific Affairs, Nestlé Pakistan, reinforced the importance of formalizing the dairy sector and making nutritious dairy accessible for all. "Affordable dairy is the right of every citizen. Today, we have two sectors—the formal, packaged milk sector and the informal, loose milk sector. When it comes to consumer health, the formal industry plays a pivotal role in delivering safe, nutritious, and hygienic dairy products. The private sector remains a key driver of innovation and consistency in milk supply across Pakistan."

Dr. Muhammad Nasir, Director Corporate Affairs, FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited, delivered a

on "Safe Milk - Safe Nation", calling attention to the urgent need for policy reforms to secure the future of the formal dairy sector. "Dairy acts as a social safety net, vet Pakistan's productivity remains among the lowest in the world. The imposition of 18% GST on packaged milk last year has had severe consequences, leading to the closure of over 500 formal milk processing units and redirecting an estimated Rs. 1.3 trillion in revenue went back to the informal sector. This not only undermines nutrition and safety but threatens the long-term viability of the formal dairy industry. We urgently need reforms to the current taxation regime and call for the reversal of GST from 18% to 5% to promote formalization, nutrition, and sectoral growth."

Usman Zaheer, Chairman - Paki-

stan Dairy Association and CEO -Fauji Foods Ltd, expressed his gratitude to key government stakeholders for their ongoing support and emphasized the urgent need to address the country's nutrition crisis through strategic interventions like school milk programs. "I want to thank Minister Ramesh Singh Arora for always standing with the dairy sector and supporting us at every critical juncture. Recently, I was in a meeting with the World Food Programme (WFP), where their research highlighted a deeply concerning issue: stunting affects the neurological development of children, diminishing their cognitive potential for life. This is not just a health concern; it is a national productivity crisis. Over the past two decades, we have witnessed a significant decline in both productivity and physical activity in our population."

"According to WFP, stunting is costing Pakistan an estimated \$6 billion annually. We must learn from global success stories. For example, China launched a school milk program in 2000 and saw measurable improvements in child growth -0.72 cm in 7-year-olds and 0.46 cm in 9-yearolds. They have successfully tackled malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies through such initiatives. As Chairman of the PDA. I believe it's time we ask ourselves: what do we need to do differently to achieve the same for our children?

A technical session titled "Safe Milk and Safe Nation" explored the affordability and accessibility of safe dairy for all citizens. Panelists discussed practical pathways to make safe milk a basic right rather than a privilege, and emphasized the need for coordinated action among government, industry, and civil society to build consumer trust in processed and regulated milk.

By uniting public and private sector voices on a shared platform, the seminar reaffirmed PDA's commitment to accelerating the transition toward a safer, healthier, and more resilient dairy ecosystem in Pakistan.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum's Insightful Reflections on Budget 2025-26

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board, and Member of the Board of Investment. while expressing his views on the proposed Budget 2025-26, stated that major industrialists of the country — including himself — are fulfilling their national responsibility by regularly paying taxes. In contrast, however, the small business segment is still largely outside the tax net. He emphasized that this segment must also step up and contribute to this national duty.

He stressed that the government must establish a transparent, fair, and reliable tax collection system. Coercive tax recovery methods and excessive scrutiny breed mistrust among the business community, which ultimately harms the national economy. Taxes, he said, should be collected amicably, within the framework of law, and through a

facilitative process. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum



further stated that if there is any inquiry or allegation against an industrialist, tax should only be recovered under legal procedures and based on the principles of

justice. Small taxpayers, too, must conducive environment for busiplay their role in the development of the country by fulfilling their fiscal responsibilities.

He expressed regret that a

ness is still lacking in Pakistan. For national development, the government must offer protection, incentives, and trust to the

business community so that it can for the digitization of land to encourage remittance inflows play an effective role in driving the country toward economic excellence.

"In my view," he said, "the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, expected to be presented on June 10, 2025, should not merely be a financial document. It must serve as a practical test of our economic and social resolve and administrative capacity. The confidence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — validated by the completion of the first review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the approval of the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) — offers a rare window for reform, which the

government must wisely seize." He added that indirect taxes, particularly the General Sales Tax (GST), disproportionately burden fixed-income households, thereby worsening their financial difficulties. Therefore, serious consideration must be given to reducing sales tax rates on essen-

tial items and basic utilities. Institutional reforms, he noted, are imperative. The budget should allocate resources

records, integration of NADRA with economic databases, and strengthening of regulatory authorities. Anti-corruption bodies should receive adequate funding to ensure effective oversight and promote transparency in public spending. The IMF's emphasis on governance diagnostics must be translated into concrete budgetary measures that strengthen institutions and

restore public trust. He advocated that the budget should enable easy credit access for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through interest subvention and guarantee schemes. The government should also allocate adequate funding for technology parks, export clusters, and skills training programs to generate employment and enhance competitiveness.

On building external economic budget must focus on fostering export diversification through sector-specific incentives and simplification of export proceexchange reserves, it is essential

via formal channels, for which attractive savings instruments should be introduced.

"The government," he asserted, "has a golden opportunity to use this budget as a powerful platform for transformative economic change. Clarity of priorities, alignment with global institutions, and responsiveness to domestic needs can collectively lay the foundation for a sustainable economic trajectory. The time for incremental and halfhearted measures is over. The moment demands courage, discipline, and decisive action. The future shape of Pakistan's economy may well be inscribed in the pages of the Budget for FY2025-26."

In conclusion, he stated, "Just as security institutions perform a vital defensive role, their involvement in national development is resilience, he remarked that the also a guarantee of a strong and sovereign Pakistan. The government must formulate a balanced, transparent, and forward-looking budget that addresses the needs dures. To strengthen foreign and modern requirements of the security sector."

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
119,691.09	118,971.40	
Day's High	Day's Low	
119,913.88	118,771.83	
Index Value	Change	
13,256,421,134	+719.69	
Percentage	Time	
+0.6%	30 May, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FT	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
8,772.38	+55.93	
Percentage	Time	
+0.64%	30 May, 4:40 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
42,115.58	-100.15	
Percentage	Time	

-0.24%	30 May, 1:53 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	
37,965.10	-467.88	
Percentage	Time	
-1.22%	30 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex 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	320	323.15
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	75.9
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	76.9	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	380	383.8
HC Dollar	202.5	2011

CCP holds awareness session on Competition Law for IIUI students



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: An awareness session on 'Competition Law in Pakistan' was held at the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) Headquarters for the students of School of Economics, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

Moderated by CCP's Deputy Director of Advocacy, Raja Taimur Hassan, the session commenced with a brief video showcasing the CCP's role, followed by a detailed presentation on Competition Law by Ahmed Qadir, Director General.

Ahmed Qadir explained the fundamental of Competition Law, including those related to the cartelization, abuse of dominant position, deceptive marketing, prohibited agreements and mergers & acquisitions, to the students. He supplemented his presentation with case studies to demonstrate practical enforcement of

competition law. He also highlighted the important role that Competition Law plays in fostering fair market practices, which are critical for economic growth. Students took keen interest and posed numerous questions regarding Competition Law and the work of the Commission, which were addressed

by the officials of the Commission. Dr. Babar Amin, Lecturer at the School of Economics, IIUI, commended the session, describing it as a crucial basis for students' comprehension of market dynamics and Pakistan's regulatory frameworks that govern and guide economic activity.

Welcome Decision to Reduce Trade Conversion Fees: Atif Ikram Sheikh

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), welcomed the significant decisions made by the CDA Board. He stated that measures such as the reduction in trade conversion fees and the review of industrial plot rates are commendable steps. The decision to charge residential rates instead of industrial rates for farmhouses is also a step in the right direction.

He mentioned that FPCCI had brought this crucial issue to the attention of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Haroon Akhtar, during his visit to FPCCI. He expressed gratitude to Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar for not only listening to the business communi-



An agreement was reached to review and adjust the unrealistic rates imposed on industrial plots based on FPCCI's proposals, which is a major success for the business community and something that trade and industrial stakeholders had been awaiting for a

FPCCI President Atif Ikram said that the reduction in trade-related fees will primarily benefit small and medium-sized enterprises. Lower costs will make it easier for them to start new businesses or expand existing ones. When business expenses are reduced, it becomes more attractive for both local and foreign investors to invest in the country. This can foster a favorable environment for the growth of the national economy.

Souvenir

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik being presented a commemorative souvenir by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) on Friday.



TCL and Arsenal Announce Global Partnership Expansion in Multi-Year Deal





INSPIRE GREATNESS

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV Brand, proudly announces the elevation of its partnership with Arsenal Football Club to a global level, becoming Arsenal's Official Global Consumer Electronics Partner.

General Manager TCL Middle East & Africa, Sunny Yang, Said, "We're proud to

shared drive for excellence, innovation, and passion. At TCL, we're committed to shaping the future of smart living by delivering immersive experiences that unite technology and the spirit of sport. Together, we're building a legacy to inspire greatness worldwide."

elevate our partnership with Arsenal to a Greatness' activation, supporters of the game.

global level—a milestone that reflects our can expect a new wave of storytelling through the extended global partnership featuring Arsenal men's first team player and newly appointed TCL ambassador, Bukayo Saka. The expanded partnership also includes Arsenal's UEFA Women's Champions League-winning women's team, reinforcing TCL's commitment to Following the success of the 'Inspire equality and innovation across all areas

Fair taxation urged for ride-hailing sector in upcoming federal budget

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Calls are growing for the federal government to introduce a fair and progressive taxation framework for the ride-hailing sector in the upcoming fiscal budget. Amid the country's growing urban population, a lack of adequate public transport, rising fuel costs, traffic congestion, and parking challenges, ride-hailing services have seen substantial growth in recent years.

Despite this progress, industry experts argue that the current uniform service tax is hindering further expansion. "It's concerning that platforms



as low as 10% are subjected Asia-Pacific region. to the same service tax rates as those taking up to 25%," said Anton Ambrose, Head of Public Policy and Regulacharging drivers commissions tory Affairs for inDrive in the 11% commission should be

Ambrose proposed a tiered taxation model in the upcoming budget. "Platforms that charge less than

tax," he recommended. "Those with commission rates between 11% and 15% could be taxed at 5%, while platforms exceeding 15% commission should fall into the 15% or higher tax bracket."

He emphasized that this structure would promote fairness for drivers and affordability for users. "Such revisions will not only make things fairer for drivers but will also lower costs for passengers - particularly low-income groups - ultimately driving up demand," he explained. "That increased demand could, in turn, result in higher tax revenues for the government.

Yadea Pakistan Commences Deliveries of Locally Assembled GT30 Electric Scooter



Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Yadea Pakistan has officially begun deliveries of its locally assembled GT30 solutions in the country.

Yadea first introduced the GT30 to the Pakistani market in January 2025 with imported units, tive response from both industry. The scooter's sleek design, modern features, and performance-ready specifi- Pakistan.

cations made it an instant standout in Pakistan's emerging EV landscape.

"The beginning of local deliveries for our GT30 elecelectric scooter, a significant tric scooter is a landmark step forward in the compa- achievement. It reflects our ny's mission to accelerate the dedication to building an adoption of clean mobility environmentally friendly and future-ready transport system for Pakistan. We believe this development will make EV ownership more accessible and further drive receiving a strong and posi- our ambition to capture 20% of the electric two-wheeler consumers and the auto market in the coming years," said Muhammad Salman, Managing Director, Yadea

Jazz, Pakistan's launch of two transformative platforms—Garaj 24/7



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has announced the launch of two transformative platforms—Garaj 24/7, a locally hosted collaboration suite developed in partnership with IceWarp, and Quantica Infinity, a comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) platform designed to fast-track smart automation across industries. Unveiled at a high-profile event in Karachi, this dual launch underscores Jazz's commitment to local innovation, data sovereignty, and the creation of intelligent digital infrastruc-

ture for Pakistan. Garaj 24/7 addresses the growing need for agile operations, data security, and seamless collaboration in today's connected business environment. It offers a comprehensive produc-

tivity suite comprising business email, real-time document co-authoring, secure team messaging, video conferencing, and full support across mobile and desktop platforms. Developed in collaboration with IceWarp and hosted entirely within Pakistan, Garaj 24/7 guarantees data sovereignty, regulatory compliance, and low-latency performancecritical for enterprise-grade workloads.

Asif Aziz, President Enterprise Solutions, Jazz, said, 'Pakistan's digital future depends on platforms that are not only innovative but sovereign, scalable, and secure. With Garaj 24/7 and Quantica Infinity IoT, we're equipping local enterprises with the tools they need to collaborate smarter, automate confidently, and build solutions aligned with our national digital ambitions."

Pakistan vs Bangladesh T 20 Match Series

Pakistan defeated Bangladesh by 57 runs in the second match to win the three-match series 2-0

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan defeated Bangladesh by 57 runs in the second T20 International match against Bangladesh to win the three-match series 2-0. In the second match of the three-match series being played in Hoor, they defeated Bangladesh by 57 runs after a one-sided contest. Despite a good start, the visiting team could not cope and were bowled out for 144 runs in 19 overs. The last player was unable to play.

Bangladesh started their innings in response to Pakistan's 201 runs. Openers Tanzeed Hasan and Parvez Hossain gave a good start of 44 runs in 3.5 overs, but here Haris Rauf got Parvez Hossain caught by Hassan Ali, who could score 8 runs in 7 balls. With an increase of 2 runs, Tanzeed Hasan's big wicket was taken by Faheem Ashraf. His catch was taken by Abrar Ahmed, who was fast and difficult. They made 33 in 19 balls. Captain Liton Das scored 6 runs, this time Haris paid off Hassan Ali's debt, took the catch. The bowler was while Ali also went for zero on the one ball left in the completion of first ball. Both wickets were taken by Abrar Ahmed by LBW. Shamim 4 and Rashad went for one, so Bangladesh's 7 wickets fell to just 77 runs in the 13th over. No further damage and there was one ball left in 10 was done. Pakistan got their next Haris off Saim Ayub. Bangladesh's



10 overs. Mehdi Hassan Mirza and Tanzeem Hassan Saqib took the lead and took the score above 100

Hassan Ali. Tohid also scored 5 runs, fell to just 77 runs and there was Mirza was bowled by Faheem Ashraf, innings ended here as the last player scoring 23 runs. Tanzeem Hassan gave the Lahoreis good entertainment and completed his fifty off 30 balls and scored 50 runs off 31 balls before being caught by wicketkeeper

Shariful Islam did not come to play due to injury. Pakistan won by 57

For Pakistan, Abrar Ahmed took 3 wickets for just 19 runs in 4 overs. overs. Here, Bangladesh's 7 wickets victory at 110 when Mehdi Hassan 9th wicket fell at 144. Bangladesh's elected to bat first against Bangla- runs against Lahore Qalandars in Hassan got 2 wickets for 36 runs.

desh. For the third consecutive time, the PSL 10 final on May 25. the first innings of a T20 match at The highlight of Pakistan's innings

the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore was today was opener Sahibzada Farhan's maiden T20 half-century. He scored full stop at 201 runs. Pakistan set a a brilliant 74 runs off 41 balls. Apart target of 202 runs for Bangladesh to win in the second T20 Internafrom him, Hassan Nawaz played an unbeaten innings of 51 runs off 26 In the second match of the series balls. Mohammad Haris scored 41 runs off 25 balls. Saim Avub scored in Lahore on Friday, the host team 4, Salman Ali Agha scored 19 and scored 201 runs for 6 wickets. Earlier, they had scored 201 runs in Shadab Khan scored 7 runs. For Bangladesh, Hassan Mahmood the first T20 match and even before Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and that, Quetta Gladiators scored 201 took 2 wickets for 47 runs. Tanzeem



Pakistan is most loving country; Olympian Sabrina Filzmose

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Four-time Austrian female Olympic judoka Sabrina Filzmose said that she has always received immense love whenever she visited Pakistan but negative news about Pakistan is often spread, it is important to showcase the country's positive image to the world.

I intend to ride on a bicycle from Islamabad to K2 Base Camp via Skardu before climbing K2," she said in a press briefing before starting her mission along with President Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) Col Junaid Alam at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad.

Sabrina Filzmoser was a 2005 and 2010 World bronze medalist 2008 and 2011 European Champion 7th at the 2012 Olympic Games. Winner of the fourth Olympics. Super World Cup Tournoi de Paris 2006 Prix in Cancun in 2017. In 2019 she took as the oldest medalist ever in the Judo always felt loved in the country.



Sabrina expressed her determination and 2008. Winner of the Grand Slam in to complete the K2 mission despite the Paris twice. Bronze medalist at the Grand difficulties, reiterating how tough it is to summit the peak, adding that Pakistanis bronze at the Grand Prix in Budapest are incredibly hospitable and that she has

role model for girls in the country.

to help her. She said climbing K2 is a personal challenge and highlighted the importance of raising awareness about Judo, adding that Promoting Judo is her dream and I am happy to see full support given by Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) for a good cause.

Sabrina Filzmoser further stated that Pakistan holds a special place in her heart and that she considers it her home. She consistently refutes negative narratives about Pakistan wherever she goes. She will depart for her K2 expedition from Islamabad on Saturday.

Speaking earlier, President Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) Col Junaid Alam said that Pakistan Judo Federation is grateful that Sabrina chose our beautiful country for this peace mission Pakistan's positive side to the world. Filz- She has consented to hold talent hunt moser also expressed her desire to inspire and training sessions before the expediwomen in Pakistan to take part in sports tion, during the expedition as well after and stated that she hopes to become a the expedition. Takbeer Judo Club has requested her to accept the post of Brand She shared that although her bicycle Ambassador of TJC which she has kindly broke down, local citizens came forward consented, he said.

Monitoring Committees ensure transparency in CM Punjab Summer Games: D G Sports

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has said that the Monitoring Committees have been formed to ensure transparency in Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games district level competitions and in this regard the monitoring officers have been directed to submit a report after the conclusion of sports events in their respective districts.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry expressed these views while presiding over an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games at the National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Tariq Khanzada, Deputy Director Yasmeen Akhtar and District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Abbas Shah attended the meeting in



person while all divisional and district sports officers of the province participated in the meeting through video

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the competitions of four games - hockey, volleyball, badminton and kabaddi will be organized in all the districts of the province from June 1 to 5 while the Inter-Division competitions will be organized in Lahore from June 12 to 18. "All the players have been directed to wear a proper kit for participation in the competitions".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that merit-based trials have been conducted at the tehsil level before the district level competitions. "We are quite upbeat that several young talented players will emerge from grass root level through the platform of Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games".

Over 40 boys participated in CM Summer Games hockey trials



Tahir Amin Malik

tional match.

LAHORE: The Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games Tehsil level boys' hockey trials were held on the direction of Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry at National Hockey Stadium Pitch Two on Friday.

Olympian Tauqeer Dar, international hockey umpire Beenish Hayat, District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah and Tehsil Sports Officer Nasir Malik supervised the trials process.

More than 40 boys participated in the trials and all the participating players were divided into groups for organizing practice exhibition matches to gauge the match fitness and stamina of

players. . The Chief Minister Puniah Summer Games District level competitions will be held from June 1 to 5 in all districts of the

Talking on this occasion, Olympian Taugeer Dar said that holding hockey competitions in Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games is a major development and such competitions should be organized on regular basis.

Youm-e-Takbeer Exhibition Matches Held at KHA **Stadiums**

Sports Desk

KARACHI: To commemorate Youm-e-Takbeer, the Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) organized a series of Exhibition Matches at the Olympian Hanif Khan and Dr. Junaid Ali Shah Hockey



Stadium. The event featured thrilling contests between emerging talents and youth teams as part of an ongoing talent hunt

In the first match, Talent Hunt Colours faced off against Talent Hunt White, ending in a competitive 4-2 victory for Talent Hunt White. Samina, Mahnoor, Marium, and Ayesha each netted a goal for the winning side, while Maheen and Momal scored for Talent Hunt Colours.

The second match saw a tough contest between Karachi Youth Juniors and Karachi Youth Seniors, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Hanzala scored for the Juniors, while Saad netted the equal-

The event was graced by Chairman KHA Gulfaraz Khan as chief guest, along with SVP Dr. Majid Gulfaraz, SVP Aijaz Uddin, Executive Board Member Mustafa Jamil, Abdul Ghaffour, and Naeem Ahmed. Also present were Olympian Hanif Khan, Imtiaz Ul Hassan, Muhammad Faizan, Sameera Naseem, Madam Batool Kazim, Saleem Cheena, Khalid Jr., Mehmood Ali, Zahid maqbool, and Sagheer Hussain.

Pakistan won't allow India to cross IWT red line

Continued from Page 1

"The world today bears fresh scars from the use of conventional weapons in Gaza that have left deep wounds. As if that were not enough, we are now witnessing an alarming new low—the weaponization by Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with the United Nations, UNESCO, WMO, the Asian Development Bank, and

glacier preservation, and international cooperation.

The 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, through a resolution, had declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 21st of March as World Day for Glaciers starting of water," he told the interna- in 2025, and that the Governtional conference being hosted ment of Tajikistan will host the International Conference on the subject in 2025.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan, being home to other key partners as a historic over 13,000 glaciers, was the

annual flows in the Indus River system-the lifeline of our civilisation, culture and economy.

"The five great rivers that shape our geographical landscape—Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej—all depend on the stability of glacial systems. This makes Pakistan one of the most vulnerable countries to any climatic changes that impact glaciers," he added.

He told the international gathering that Pakistan had faced the peril of glacial melt moment for climate ambition, most concerning as glaciers in the form of devastating

contributed nearly half of the floods in 2022 which destroyed millions of acres of standing crops, hundreds of thousands of houses and infrastructure, despite Pakistan's only less than half a percent contribution of the total world emissions and yet being one of the 10 most vulnerable countries.

He prayed that no other country faced such devastation, which necessitated a comprehensive plan and immediate implementation.

Referring to the "sobering" scientific projections, he highlighted that glacial melt in our

region was expected to accelerate flooding in the coming decades, followed by a drastic decline in river flows as glaciers recede further.

"These changes threaten our fragile ecosystem. As we inch closer to these grim new realities, we must heed the alarm bells, deflection signs of haunting consequences—lost livelihoods, displaced families, and deep chaos," he warned.

Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to shared responsibility and collective action, he called for enhanced global

climate action to mitigate the prime minister emphasised. negative impacts of climate change.

"The developed countries must meet their climate financial commitments without any delay and with a balanced focus as well as loss and damage. overcoming financing gaps remains critical for climate-vulnerable countries. Investment must be made in early warning systems and disaster preparPrime Minister Shehbaz

reflected on his childhood memories of swimming in the River Ravi, underscoring how rivers like Ravi and Tajikistan's Vakhsh river, fed by glaciers, on adaptation and mitigation sustained life across regions, and that the shared water Adequate funding for climate sources symbolized a common resilience, infrastructure, and ecological destiny, requiring collective efforts for their pres-

"Let us protect and preserve nature's precious bounties for our planet and our peoples," he edness and management," the urged.

The Spokesman

Good Day

Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yusaf Raza is being received by Mr. G. Rozye, Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, Mr. Annamuhammet Sarwayev, Chairman of the Friendship Parliamentary Group and Chargé D' Affaires A.l., Mr. Adnan Zahoor, and Defense Attaché Colonel Taimor Mehmood upon his arrival at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on Friday.



Pakistan, India close to completing border troop reduction, says senior Pakistani general

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Pakistan's chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, speaks during an interview with Reuters on the sidelines of the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue security summit, in Singapore, May 30, 2025, in this screengrab from a video. Reuters

Pakistan and India are close to reducing the troop in four days of clashes, their by Islamabad. buildup along their border to worst fighting in decades, levels before conflict erupted before a ceasefire was between the nuclear-armed announced. neighbours this month, a had increased the risk of escalation in the future.

Both sides used fighter jets,



26 people, most of them tour-frontier. ists. New Delhi blamed the

On May 7, India launched missiles at what it said were Reuters' requests for comment "terrorist infrastructure" sites on the remarks by Mirza. across the border and as Pakitop Pakistani military offi- fighting between the old stan responded with its own to attend the Shangri-La cial told Reuters on Friday, enemies was an April 22 attack attacks, both countries built Dialogue forum, said while although he warned the crisis in Indian Kashmir that killed up additional forces along the there was no move towards

incident on "terrorists" backed Mirza, Pakistan's chairman situation. missiles, drones and artillery by Pakistan, a charge denied of the joint chiefs of staff, said

the two militaries had started time," he said. "But you can't the process of drawing down troop levels.

'We have almost come back to the pre-22nd April situation... we are approaching that, or we must have approached that by now," said Mirza, the most senior Pakistani military official to speak publicly since the conflict.

India's ministry of defence and the office of the Indian chief of defence staff did not immediately respond to

Mirza, who is in Singap nuclear weapons during this General Sahir Shamshad conflict, it was a dangerous

"Nothing happened this

rule out any strategic miscalculation at any time, because when the crisis is on, the

responses are different." He also said the risk of escalation in the future had increased since the fighting this time was not limited to the disputed territory of Kashmir, the scenic region in the Himalayas that both nations rule in

part but claim in full. The two sides attacked military installations in their mainlands but neither has acknowledged any serious

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned Pakistan this month that New Delhi would target "terrorist hideouts" across the border again if there were new attacks

Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister meets Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China in Hong Kong



B City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with the member of Political Bureau of Communist Party of China and Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China, Wang Yi, in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China, today. This is the second meeting between the two Foreign Ministers in 10 days.

The Deputy Prime Minister congratulated Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the successful signing ceremony of the Convention establishing Inter- and exchanges.

national Organization for Mediation (IOMed). Foreign Minister Wang Yi thanked the Deputy Prime Minister

for attending the signing ceremony.

Noting with satisfaction implementation of the decisions taken by the two leaders during their last interaction in China, the two sides exchanged views on regional and international issues. Reaffirming their commitment to the iron-clad friendship and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, both sides agreed to build on the existing momentum to further fortify bilateral relations

Karachi's progress fuels Pakistan's prosperity, says Khalid Maqbool



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Chairman of MQM-Pakistan, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, stated that Pakistan's prosperity is deeply tied to Karachi's growth. "When Karachi moves forward, the entire country progresses. Despite repeated conspiracies to undermine its development, this city remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy," he asserted.

He was speaking at a dignified ceremony organized by the North Nazimabad Gymkhana Trust to commemorate Youm-e-Takbeer. The event was attended by Gymkhana President Shamim Siddiqui, founding president Feroze Alam Lari, former president Aamir Chishti, Syed Usman Ali, General Secretary Ahmed equilibrium," he added.

Ali Khan, Treasurer Majid Humail, Asma Shah, M. Akhtar, and a large number of members. The ceremony featured patriotic performances and a grand fireworks display.

Paying homage to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the architect of Pakistan's nuclear program, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui remarked, "A proud son of Karachi sacrificed a comfortable life abroad to serve his nation, transforming Pakistan into a nuclear power. Forgetting such heroes would be an unforgivable betraval."

He emphasized that Pakistan's nuclear capability is a deterrent, not a threat. "May 28 symbolizes the day we secured our sovereignty and prevented India from imposing war. Our nuclear strength ensures regional

Field Marshal Saved Pakistan: President IPP

Bureau Report

LAHORE: To express solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces and to pay tribute to the Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel on their remarkable victory in the recent Pakistan-India conflict, the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party organized the "Marqa-e-Haq Convention" in Khushab. Abdul Aleem Khan further said that Pakistan's military leadership, under the command of

battle cry of "Allahu Akbar" before delivering a resound-Minister Modi—one that, he the entire nation proud. said, would be remembered has now been forced to apolarrogance has been thoroughly extended heartfelt congratu-Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim of Staff Committee General

Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, and Chief of Naval Staff Admiing response to Indian Prime ral Naveed Ashraf for making

National Assembly and for generations. He added Parliamentary Secretary Engithat India's administration neer Gul Asghar Baghore, IPP Khushab President and ogize before the world, and its ticket holder Ameer Haider Singha, IPP Secretary General shattered. Abdul Aleem Khan Mian Khalid Mehmood, Members Punjab Assembly lations to Field Marshal Asim Shoaib Siddiqui, Ghzanfar Abbas Cheena, Punjab Pres-

Minister Malik Habib Khan, South Punjab President Syed Rafaqat Ali Gillani, Khuram Hameed Rokhari, Haroon Imran Gill, Ms. Qudrat Niazi and other party leaders. They commended Abdul Aleem Khan's initiative to organize the "Marka-e-Haq Convention", describing it as timely and commendable. Speakers emphasized that Pakistan's 250 million citizens are standing firmly behind their Munir, led the way by offering Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief Khan, Vice President Mian various political and social baijan.

the Fajr prayer and raising the of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Junaid Zulfiqar, ex Interior figures from NA-88 Khushab announced their joining in the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party. President Abdul Aleem Khan received a warm and enthusiastic welcome at different locations, including Adhi Kot and Noorpur Thal where citizens raised passionate slogans in favor of the Pakistan Armed Forces. In the venue, workers of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party expressed solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces while also holding the national flags ident Rana Nazir Ahmed Pak Forces. During the event, of China, Türkiye and Azer-

Concluding the Journey

Last Pre-Hajj flight to depart from Lahore with 287 intending pilgrims today

跨 Raziq Ali Shah/APP

MAKKAH AL-MUKAR-RAMAH: The month-long pre-Hajj flight operation, which began on April 29, will conclude on Saturday (May 31) with the departure of last flight ER-801 SereneAir, carrying 287 intending pilgrims from Lahore adding that the flight is scheduled to leave for the holy land at 9:35

Talking to APP here on Friday, Secretary Religious Affairs Dr. Syed Ata Ur Rehman said that a total of 87,058 pilgrims have landed in Saudi Arabia so far under the Government Hajj Scheme, while an additional 21,984 pilgrims have traveled under the Private Hajj Scheme.

scheduled for Saturday from Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore to airlift the remaining 1,324 pilgrims under the Government Hajj Scheme.

Dr. Ata Ur Rehman said that this year, 115,391 Pakistani pilgrims will perform Hajj -88,380 under the Government Hajj Scheme and 27,011 through Private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs). Drones

He said successful completion of the pre-Hajj flight operations is a testament to the meticulous planning and coordination of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and other

He praised the tireless efforts of the ministry's staff, who worked diligently to ensure the comfort He said that five flights are and safety of the pilgrims.

The Secretary highlighted several new initiatives introduced by the ministry to improve pilgrims' experience, including discounted long and short Hajj packages. In Mina, traditional mattresses have been replaced with sofa-cum-beds, upgraded tents now feature gypsum board walls, and air conditioners have been installed alongside existing air coolers. Elevated luggage storage racks have also been introduced to enhance space and

comfort, he added. He said each Maktab (camp) is equipped with a dedicated kitchen, and pilgrims in Mina will receive five meals per day three freshly prepared and two pre-packaged.

He said the Pakistan Hajj

supervision of the Director General (Hajj) and departmental coordinators, is overseeing the overall Hajj operation in Saudi Arabia. Drones

Dr. Ata expressed his gratitude to the pilgrims, the airlines, and the ministry's staff for their cooperation and dedication in making the pre-Hajj operation a success. He emphasized the spiritual significance of Hajj as a sacred duty for Muslims worldwide and pledged continued efforts to ensure a smooth and fulfilling experience for all pilgrims.

The flights were operated by various airlines, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Saudi Airlines, SereneAir, and AirSial, to transport pilgrims Mission (PHMM), under the from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia.



Dr Ata advised Pakistani the importance of following the its approved Makatib," he said. pilgrims to comply fully with instructions of Saudi authorities Saudi regulations, particularly during the Hajj days in Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa and Jamarah.

Regarding advisory ahead of Jamarah, all arrangements stressed that each individual Hajj starting from 8th Zilhajj, Dr Ata Ur Rehman emphasized

without argument.

"At the holy sites, including Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa, and during the Hajj days are managed by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and own actions.

He warned that any violation of Saudi laws or engagement in prohibited activities could earn bad name to the country and would be responsible for their

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