**Barkat Rice Mills** 

Maryam Nawaz Pays Tribute to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (NH) on his 26th Martyrdom Anniversary

Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed stood as a steel wall in front of the enemy, and defended the motherland," said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif while paying him tribute on his 26th martyrdom anniversary. She added,"The stories of bravery and valor of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed will continue to light a lamp of patriotism in the hearts of future generations."



CM Bugti gives message of love, tolerance, mutual respect to public on 9th, 10th Muharram

In a statement, CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that Muharram especially the day of Ashura, provides us with practical examples the path of truth and righteousn

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## Brotherly ties

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev holding hands in solidarity showing the strong brotherly ties between the three countries after the conclusion of 17th ECO Summit



# Processions across country as 9th of Muharram observed with solemnity

 Spokesman Report∕ Bureaus

Muharram-ul-Haram was observed today to remember and pay homage to the supreme sacrifice given by the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), and his companions at Karbala some 1,400 years ago.

Majalis were held and processions of Tazia and Alam were taken out in all small and major cities of the country.

Elaborate security arrangements had been made to thwart any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, on the directions of Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, a mobile control ISLAMABAD: The 9th of room has been set up for the first time in Islamabad as part of the Ashura security plan.

The mobile control room is capable of operating even without mobile signals, ensuring uninterrupted monitoring and

Processions, majalis in Lahore In Lahore, the central procession of the 9th of Muharram has been taken out from Pando Street.

Qamar Abbas Allama Mujahid will narrate the ordeal Hazrat Imam Hussain and his at Karbala.



companions had to go through Lahore has been taken out from

Qasre Batool Imam Bargah in

Shadman Colony. A majlis has also been held at the imambargah, which has been attended by a large number of mourners.

In his speech, Maulana Syed Sajjad Haider Naqvi will shed light on the stature of the Ahle Bait in Islam.

A majlis has been held at the

Imambargah Atia Ahle Bait at Nicholson Road. Allama Absar Naqvi, in his

sermon, has shed light on the supreme sacrifice given by Hazrat Imam Hussain, members of his family and companions. Continued on Page 7

#### 跨 City Desk ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry

has announced that Pakistan's tuna sector is set for a \$200 million

For the first time, Pakistan has secured a tuna fishing quota of 25,000 metric tons from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), comprising 15,000 tons of Yellowfin Tuna and 10,000 tons of Skipjack Tuna, according to an official press release. These quotas are aligned with climate-conscious fisheries management principles aimed at protecting marine biodiversity and reducing pressure on ocean ecosystems.

"This is a landmark achievement that promises significant foreign exchange earnings," the Minister said. "With international prices for these tuna species ranging between \$5 and \$7 per kilogram, and potentially higher with value-added processing, the economic

Calling the development "a turning point for Pakistan's tuna sector,"Junaid Anwar Chaudhry noted that although the country currently catches more than 45,000 metric tons of tuna each year, much of this high-value resource has been escaping the formal

## PM Shehbaz, President Erdogan, **President Ilham** camaraderie manifests close, fraternal ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, following the Econom-(ECO) Summit, in Khankendi, Azerbaijan strolled together and exchanged pleasantries.

The president of Azerbaijan briefed the prime minister and the Turkish president about the history of Khankendi and a luncheon.

its historical buildings the other day, PM Office Media Wing, on Saturday, said in a press release.

The three leaders engaged in an informal and pleasant conversation. During the walk, the leaders

ic Cooperation Organization held their hands as a gesture of exemplary fraternal relations and solidarity among Pakistan, Turkiye, and Azerbaijan.

Later, President Ilham Aliyev personally drove the prime minister to Shusha for

# PM urges nation to take guidance from Imam Hussain

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif urged the nation to take guidance from the life and character of Imam Hussain (RA) to and freedom," he asserted. overcome internal and exter-

and progress. In a message on the occasion of Ashura 1447 AH, he said, "Ashura is a profound and instructive day in the history of Islam, which gives us the great lesson of patience, sacrifice and standing firm on principles. This day will continue to illuminate the conscience of humanity till the Day of Judgment."

The battle that took place on the battlefield of Karbala on the 10th of Muharram Al-Haram is not an ordinary battle, but an eternal message for the entire world," he remarked

He said, "The grandson of the Prophet, Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), along with his family and devoted companions, sacrificed their lives for the sake of truth, justice and religion, but did not bow down to falsehood."

"This great sacrifice of his reminds us that protecting on the truth requires great he concluded.

courage and unwavering faith. The martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA) makes it clear as day that the true spirit of Islam lies in human dignity, justice, mercy, principledness

The prime minister said, nal challenges and keep Paki- "The incident of Karbala stan on the path of peace, unity teaches us that although the path of truth is difficult, it is the path that leads to the pleasure of Allah Almighty, satisfaction of hearts and eternal welfare.

The message of the Supreme Imam is not limited to his time, but is a universal message, which even today convinces us that a Muslim stands for the truth, supports the oppressed, and supports justice in all circumstances."

He said, "Today, when our nation is facing many challenges. Be it the economy, society or national unity, we need to take guidance from the life of Imam Hussain (RA) more than ever."

"I pray that Allah Almighty keeps Pakistan on the path of peace, unity and progress, and protects Pakistan from internal and external tribulations and grants it stability, and gives us the knowledge and wisdom with which we can move towards a bright principles and standing firm and dignified future. Amen,"

## Death toll in Lyari building collapse rises to 22

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The death toll from the collapse of a five-storey residential building in the Baghdadi area of Karachi's Lyari neighbourhood has climbed to 22 after more bodies were pulled from the rubble on Saturday.

The victims included seven women and a child. According to rescue officials, eight people, including three women, were injured, while 10 to 12 residents are feared trapped under the

The tragic collapse occurred early Friday, flattening the entire structure and shaking the

The adjoining building also suffered damage, with its staircase collapsing. By late last night, 14 bodies were recovered, followed by eight more this morning, rescue authorities confirmed.

A three-month-old baby was pulled out alive. The deceased include 55-year-old Hoor Bai, 35-year-old Waseem, 26-year-old Rohit, 23-year-old Geeta, 21-year-old Prantik, 35-year-old Sunita, 28-year-old Prem, and others, including multiple members of the same families.

Rescue teams, assisted by residents and heavy machinery, continue operations at the site with extreme caution due to the unstable debris and limited visibility.

## Nawaz Sharif's meeting with Imran Khan out of question, says Ishaq Dar

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Terming the meeting between three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan merely a 'rumour', Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar said on Saturday it might be

for the sake of the country."



somebody's desire but there was no truth in it. Speaking to the media at Data Darbar in Lahore, the deputy prime minister said that Nawaz did not need to meet anybody.

He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had not yet shown any desire to join the federal cabinet. "PPP is an ally of the PML-N in the Center and will remain so."

"The government now enjoys a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly (NA)," he added.

The FM said Pakistan inflicted a humiliating defeat on India on the night between May 9 and May 10. "Pakistan downed six planes of the Indian Air Force," he said, and added, "The hostile neighbour will never forget the lesson Pakistan taught it."

Regarding Israel's aggression against Iran, he said that Pakistan strongly condemned it. Iran has now realized that Pakistan is its true friend."

Iran's parliament, the deputy PM went on to say, said thank you to Pakistan for its support during the war with Israel. Dar said that there was now prosperity in the country due to a reduction in the price hike. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has endeavored to improve the country's economy. Pakistan will now progress," he said, adding, "We sacrificed our politics

### Pakistan set to gain \$200 million from tuna industry overhaul, announces ${\it Maritime\, Minister}$



boost following global quota allocations and regulato-

potential is enormous."

economy due to unregulated operations.

# Maintaining Law & order during Muharram top priority: Mohsin Naqvi

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Comprehensive security arrangements have been implemented across the country for the processions and majalis on the 9th of Muharram. Around 2,763 processions and 7,598 majalis are being held today In the Federal Capital, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Strict security measures have been enforced in 1,129 highly sensitive areas, with continuous monitoring through drones and CCTV cameras.

The Federal Government's central monitoring cell is operational 24/7 and closely coordinating with provincial governments. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of State Tallal Chaudhry, and Interior Secre-



tary Khurram Agha are personally overseeing the monitoring and coordination processes. Today 61 majalis and 17

processions are being held in Islamabad, while 3,805 majalis and 1,677 processions in Punjab, 1,207 majalis and 644 processions in Sindh, 939 majalis and 261 processions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 115 majalis and 11 processions in Balochistan, 1,290 majalis and 111 processions in Gilgit-Baltistan and 181 majalis and 42 processions are being held in

Sunday, July 6, 2025

# Chief Secretary and IG Punjab visit Multan for security arrangements of Ashura

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the special instructions of the Chief Minister Punjab, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman and IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar visited Multan on Saturday and reviewed the city's main mourning procession and security arrangements in Mumtazabad.

They also inspected the monitoring process of processions and gatherings in the control room set up in the DC office. Divisional Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan and Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid gave a briefing on the arrangements made in connection with Muharram-ul-Haram. Chief and police are in full contact with the Secretary and IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar also met with members of peace committees, community leaders, organizers of mourning processions and gatherings.

IG Punjab said that more than 108,000 police personnel have been deployed on security duty during Muharram-ul-Haram in the province. IG Punjab said that the administration



(retd) Sohail Chaudhry, CPO Multan

Sadiq Ali Dogar were also present on

the occasion. Commissioner Multan

Aamir Karim Khan and Deputy

Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu

gave a detailed briefing on the security

said that 3182 majalis and 909 proces-

Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan

arrangements.

clerics, procession organizers and all institutions and stakeholders. Control rooms have been set up in all districts where continuous monitoring is being done with the help of CCTV cameras.

Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fawad Hashim Rabbani, Secretary Home Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, Additional IG South Punjab Kamran Khan, Additional IG CTD incident. Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan said that facilitation camps have been

comprehensive plan is ready for imme-

diate response in case of any untoward

set up on the routes for the mourners, arrangements have also been made for funeral processions, while 3182 majalis and 909 processions will be taken out

He said that orders have been issued for the district detention of 63 scholars and Zakirs, and for the language detention of 83. RPO Captain R. Sohail Chaudhry said that more than 7,000 police personnel and 3,000 volun-Waseem Sial, RPO Multan Captain teers will remain on duty in the division, while a crackdown is also being carried out on unverified content based on religious hatred on social media. Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu said that the Punjab government has delegated full powers to the district administration for peace. A comprehensive security plan has been prepared for peace and order during sions will be taken out in the division. A Muharram-ul-Haram.

# Condolences on the death of Javed Malik's sister



**Bureau Report** 

MIRPUR: On the death of the sister of District Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik, AKNS Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry Muhammad Amjad, former Director of Information Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation Muhammad Ramzan Chughtai, Member Board of Governor Press Foundation Khalid Chaudhry, Senior Journalist Naeem Hussain Baloch offered Fateha and prayed for the elevation of the deceased's rank and expressed condolences

Meanwhile President of the Gazetted Officers Association, Vaccine Building Engineer Shahzad Aurangzeb, General Secretary and State Officer Humayun Razaq, Senior Vice President Vaccine Electrical Engineer Waqar Hanif, Additional Secretary and DFO Raja Akram Subhani, District Education Officer Women, Ms. Farrukh Owais, Secretary Finance and Assistant Commissioner Inland Revenue Mukhtar Ahmed Awan offered Fateha and prayed for the elevation of the deceased's ranks and expressed condolences.

### Rising tension between PML-N and PPP: A Political Analysis

Spokesman Report

 $ISLAMABAD: The \ central \ spokes person \ of \ Pakistan \ Muslim \ League$ (N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir has strongly reacted to the allegations of pre-poll ragging against the Muslim League (N) by the PPP, saying that the PPP, realizing its failure and defeat in the upcoming elections of Azad Kashmir, is making baseless allegations prematurely. The spokesperson said that the PPP does not even have candidates available for the seats of refugees from Jammu and Kashmir residing in Pakistan in Punjab and if there is any candidate, then he should come forward. Till date, the PPP has never been able to succeed on the seats of refugees from Punjab. On the contrary, the Muslim League (N) is the biggest political force in Punjab, while the existence of the PPP is limited to Sindh only. Then where does the question of pre-poll ragging arise? The spokesperson said that the PML-N does not believe in these low-level tactics and we do not need any kind of rigging. Whether or not to appoint a political advisor is an administrative decision of the central government and it is the prerogative of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Under this prerogative, the governors of the PPP provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are appointed and are interfering politically in Azad Kashmir, but we did not object or raise any objection to their interference. Despite all the efforts, the panic in the  $\,$ tone of the local leadership of the PPP and the fear of defeat in their eyes are clearly visible, which is the proof of the success of the PML-N. Insha Allah, the PML-N will achieve victory under the leadership of the Honorable Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Mrs. Maryam Nawaz and President of the PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir by forming a government with a two-thirds majority.

### Silent Crisis: How inflation and rising prices are affecting mental health

Asim Tanveer

Society Forum Chief Executive Khawaja Zia Siddiqui. President Dr Irfan Ahmed Paracha. Chief Organizer Aurangzeb Khan Baloch Advocate and



Chief Coordinator Shahid Mahmood Ansari Talking to the Media in Multan. He Said Inflation and rising prices of electricity and petroleum products are the biggest problems of the country at the moment. It has become impossible to support a small family on a monthly basis with limited income. Utility bills of electricity and gas have made the life of the common man unbearable and the proportion of suicides is increasing rapidly in this regard. The slogan of everything is fine has now become a part of the past. Despite a good salary, one has to take up a second job to meet household expenses. People should pay house rent, buy rations, deposit utility bills or meet the expenses of children's education. The continuously rising inflation has broken the back of the people. In this regard, there is deep concern in civil society across the country. These views were expressed by the officials of the Civil Society Forum, Chief Executive Khawaja Zia Siddiqui, President Dr. Irfan Ahmed Paracha, Chief Organizer Aurangzeb Khan Baloch Advocate and Chief Coordinator Shahid Mahmood Ansari while talking to the media regarding the rising prices of electricity and petrol and heavy taxes. Social leaders, while reviewing the price of electricity, said that three years ago, electricity was available at an average of Rs 18 per unit, which has now increased by 300 times. And due to the scarcity of units and lack of equal prices, public problems have become a storm. Similarly, the price of natural gas has also increased sharply and a 400 cubic meter gas cylinder for domestic consumers, which was available for Rs 1460, today its price has increased to more than Rs 3500. Similarly, the increase in petrol prices is becoming out of the reach of the public day by day.

### Procession

KARACHI: Shiite Muslims take part in a religious procession on the ninth day of the Islamic month of Muharram on Saturday.



# Muharram is a symbol of the difference between right and wrong: Sardar Attique

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said in a statement on the arrival of Muharram that this holy month teaches us to stand firm in the face of wrong, to rise up against oppression and to sacrifice for the

The great sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions is a bright chapter in the history of humanity He said that the incident of Karbala



which will be remembered forever. is not just a historical tragedy but it

and selflessness and sacrifice which is a beacon of light for all humanity.

The Supreme Imam (a.s.) did not bow down to oppression and gave the message that no matter how powerful falsehood is, its status is zero in front of truth. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan suffering from sedition and corruption, injustice and oppression, we need to learn a lesson from Karbala to raise our voice against false forces while adhering to principles.

The path of Imam Hussain (a.s.) is arrangements for security, order and

is the highest example of truth and the path of unity, peace, justice and honesty, patience and perseverance, sincerity, by following which we can not only create a better society but also

achieve religious and moral success.

He appealed to people belonging to all schools of thought to promote sectarian harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood during Muharram. Especially the younger generation should said that today, when the world is understand the philosophy of Karbala and instill qualities like discipline, sacrifice and truthfulness in their lives.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan also appealed to the government and administration to make effective

# Reflections on a nation's struggle for democracy: The Legacy of July 5th

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/ LIPA VALLEY: On the instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, a black day was observed in the Lipa Valley in full force in all four provinces of Pakistan, including to a terrible fate, demanded Azad Kashmir and the Line of Control, on July 5, 1977, against the unconstitutional overthrow of the elected government of the people of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

On the occasion of the black day, the democratic parties Bhutto, President of Pakistan including the People's Party Asif Ali Zardari, Political Affairs declared the martial law imposed on the orders of the reviewed the alliance with the world imperialist powers as a federal government. Yesterday, poison for the country and the a Black Day ceremony was held nation and an irreparable loss for at the Central People's Secre-

stability of democracy, national dignity, and national prosperity.

Meanwhile, the effigy of those who betrayed the constitution by hanging it in front of the Parliament House and exposing future generations and history that the leader of the people, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, be declared a national hero, keeping in mind the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. In case of delaying tactics, the party chairman Bilawal Chairperson Ms. Faryal Talpur

Party Azad Kashmir Particularly in Tehsil Lipa, located on the Line of Control of Hattian District, under the chairmanship of party president Khawaja

Farooq Ahmed. The chief guests were the party's Central Deputy Secretary for Information, candidate for Assembly Constituency 7, Shaukat Javed Mir, and member of District Council Bashir Alam Awan. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest Shaukat Javed Mir paid tribute to the unwavering sacrifices of the ideological followers of the People's Party and the Bhutto family for the sake of a unified constitution, protection of the nuclear program, a strong federation of the rule of the constitution, the tariat Muzaffarabad and other occupied Jammu and Kashmir, speakers while addressing said

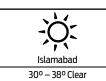
places organized by the People's the freedom of terrorism, the elimination of lawlessness. national integrity, the promotion of democracy, and strong dignity.

Members of the District Council Bashir attended the ceremony. Alam Awan, members of the local council Siddique Ahmed Sheikh Raja Sarwar Khan Azhar Mir, Subedar Muhammad Arif Mughal, youth leader Ehsan Alam Awan, Irshad Qureshi, Syed Moazzam Ali Shah Khawaja Maqbool, Khawaja Ashraf, Asad Nazir Mir, Farid Bandhan, Waqar Alam Awan, Khawaja Arif, Wali Jan Awan, Latif Awan, Salman Awan, Muqaddas Iqbal Khawaja, Shafi Mir, Ghulam Nabi Dar, Younis Mir, Wali Mughal and other



the Indian aggression through pretext of the self-imposed false tragedy.

that the Pakistani army defeated Operation Sindhur under the flag operation of the Pahalgam



## **Namaz Timings** Maghrib

### EMEDGENCY

EMIERGENCI	
Rescue (Police) 1	5
Bomb Disposal 1	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 1	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122	8
& Rescue Services 445112	2
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police9270601-2	0

## **ENOUIRY**

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

### HOSPITALS

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

### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### $CMS indh \ pays$ tribute to Ĥazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.) on Ashura

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, on the occasion of Ashura, paid heartfelt tribute to Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.) and the martyrs of Karbala.

Murad Shah emphasised that Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.)'s sacrifice was pivotal for the preservation of Islam and the reformation of the

Muslim Ummah. He highlighted that the message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.) is a timeless beacon of truth, resilience, and resistance against oppression, inspiring generations to uphold justice and stand against tyranny.

On the solemn day f Ashura. Sindh Chie Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah commemorated the unparalleled sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.) and his 72 companions, who laid down their lives for the triumph of truth. He described their martyrdom as a luminous example in human history, symbolizing spiritual, ethical, and intellectual awakening.

The Chief Minister remarked that the tragedy of Karbala transcends a mere historical event; it is a profound movement that teaches patience, sacrifice, and steadfastness. Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.) message, he said, embodies the refusal to bow before injustice, choosing martyrdom over submission

to falsehood. Shah further highlighted that Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.)'s rejection of Yazid's tyranny was the greatest declaration of freedom in history. He noted that the people of Sindh have always embraced Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.)'s message deeply, with the province's Sufi saints linking this message to love, humanity, justice, and liberty.

# CM Maryam sets new record of law and order, cleanliness & public service for mourners in Muharram

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif ensured biggest arrangements for Muharram in the history of Punjab by deploying more than 108,000 police personnels for foolproof security of processions and gatherings of mourners in Punjab during Muharram. She noted,"Unprecedented coordination between administration, police, rescue and other institutions is ongoing." She highlighted,"Members of peace committees are present near the processions and gatherings, and are providing assistance in the arrange-

Madam Chief Minister said,"Cyber patrolling is also being carried out for the first time in Muharram to prevent

She added,"24/7 control rooms have been established in the province, diviand processions." She noted,"All kinds sions and districts for comprehensive

Chief Minister Marvam Nawaz Sharif underscored, "Food and water are provided to the mourners. Sherbet and lemon water stalls are also set up for the mourners." She said, "The entire medical staff, including field hospitals and clinics on wheels, are present." She added,"Ashura Cold water bottles are also arranged for the participants of the processions."

Madam Chief Minister said,"Safe City cameras are continuously monitoring

She added, "Special security gates are installed at the entry and exit points, and drones are also being used to monitor." She flasgged," Special arrangements are made for cleanliness under Clean Punjab campaign for processions and gatherings." She added,"In view of the heat and humidity, cold water is sprinkled on the routes of gatherings of obstacles are removed from the route



## Swimming

ISLAMABAD: Younger boys are enjoying swimming at pool at F-9 Park to cool off during high temperature in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

# Minister Zafar Iqbal Malik launches election campaign in Kotli

### 跨 Shaukat Ali

**KOTLI:** Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik has officially launched his election campaign for the 2026 elections. The campaign kick-started in Union Council Kakanni, where personalities from various sectors and dozens of families have joined Malik's political convoy, pledging their support in the upcoming general elections.

A grand gathering was organized under the host of Malik Yasir Azeem, where prominent figures announced their joining Zafar Iqbal Malik's convoy. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the local youth, who welcomed Malik with flower petals and garlands.

Addressing the Gathering, Minister Zafar Iqbal Malik expressed gratitude to the people of the constituency for their support in the local body elections. He emphasized his determination to eliminate unemployment and developmental deprivation from the constituency, highlighting the govern-



ment's achievements in infrastructure Kakni Road. development. Malik mentioned specific projects, including

Road Development, Completion of Bandhor to Bagah road, Las Road, Bandian Road, and Brothian Road, with tenders issued for Tatta Pani Bagah

On Health and Education he said establishment of a first aid center at Bandhor, a civil dispensary, and upgrading of schools, including Middle Girls School Bagah to a high school and Panakha to a higher secondary school.

# 'Hee-Haw of Millennials'

stumbled upon a poor donkey tied to assortment of peculiar burdens. The a tree, holding a burden of

many sacks labeled differently, such as "Student loans with a never-ending roll of bills," a stack of medical or law books marked "Be a doctor or lawyer," a bundle

labeled "Get married, have kids" with lighten my load?" I innocently walked a wedding cake and a baby carrier, a carton of dial-ups labeled "Explaining Instagram to grandma," a vanity box labeled "Keeping up with trends," and a sack of gadgets labeled "Notifications overload with never-ending beeps and buzzes". The donkey was also holding a sack of prayer rugs with a caption

"Trying to squeeze into heaven." As I approached the donkey, I saw that it was actually a millennial buck-

ling under the 'rise and grind' situa- of scrolling through memes or funny ation Y, born between 1981 and 1996, As I was out for an evening walk, I tion, whose back was laden with an

> donkey alone was carrying too many burdens, which made its movements sluggish and drained its energy. The donkey looked up at me with a pleading expression, as if to say, "Can't someone

away, chuckling at the absurdity of it all. Who knew donkeys would become the ultimate symbol of 'The Millen-

My dear readers, if you're a millennial too, I bet you're stuck between "Do what you love" and "Love what you do" because you need the paycheck to pay the never-ending roll of bills. Your student loans are older than your friends, and your social life consists

reels at 2 AM.

Trust me, millennials, labeled as lazy, aren't lazy, they're just carrying a heavy load. They're on energy-saving mode to save some energy to bear the heavy loads of educational debts, such as tuition fees and student loans. Financial stress due to low-paying jobs, high living costs, and uncertain futures. Social expectations, pressure to conform, marry, have kids, and succeed. Generation gap, bridging the divide between traditional values and modern aspirations.

Despite these challenges, millennials are resilient, adaptable, and innovative. They're redefining success, prioritizing experiences, and driving social change. Let's acknowledge their struggles and celebrate their strengths!

Millennials, also known as Gener-

are tech-savvy, socially image-conscious, empathetic, and value-driven. They're often progressive and more

liberal than older generations. As a millennial myself, I'm writing to shed light on the absurdity of our situation. We're often referred to as the "Sandwich Generation," but I propose a different analogy - we are the donkeys. Yes, you read that right! We're carrying the weight of multiple generations, expectations, and it's time someone brayed about it. Let's give ourselves a break, turn off the Wi-Fi, and take responsibility for our own burdens. After all, we wouldn't want future generations to think we're just a bunch of donkeys.

> Sadaf Dilawar, Sialkot Iamsdf07@gmail.com

## 9th Muharram Procession in Sheen Bagh Attock Concludes Peacefully

#### 👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: A 9th Muharram procession of Alam-o-Zuljannah was taken out on Saturday morning from the rural locality of Sheen Bagh, Attock, under tight security. The procession was launched from various residences, including those of Adalat Shah and Maulana Imran Bukhari, and was attended by a large number of mourners who participated in Noha recitation, chest beating (matam), and zanjeer zani.

Water, milk, and food stalls (sabeels) were set up along the route by Malik Hameed Akbar, Malik Shehzad Akbar, and other local residents to serve the mourners. A dedicated mobile medical team from DHQ Hospital and Rescue 1122 was also deployed to provide on-the-spot

The procession peacefully concluded at Imambargah Hussainia Sheen Bagh, after which a Majlis-e-Aza was held. During the gathering, noted Zakireen highlighted the supreme sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S) and condemned the brutality of Yazidi forces at Karbala.

They said Imam Hussain (A. S) symbolizes a profound philosophy and a way of life that clearly distinguishes between truth and falsehood. The tragedy of Karbala continues to inspire mankind to uphold righteousness, truth, and resistance against oppression.

On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Anza Abbasi, District Police Officer Dr. Ghiyas Gul, District Security Officer Tahir Iqbal, SDPO Sadar Circle Malik Iftikhar, SHO City Mujahid Abbas, SHO Sadar Tahir Bashir, TMO Sardar Aftab, RWMC Incharge Kashif Javed, and other officials from law enforcement agencies were present to supervise security.

Furthermore, police sources confirmed that on Ashura (Sunday), 49 more processions and 70 Majalis are scheduled to be held in various parts of Attock district. The main Ashura procession will be taken out from Imambargah Hussainia Kamalpur Syedan, Attock Cantonment, in the morning, and will conclude at Karbala Haleem Shah in

### Lasani Express train derails near Narowal

### **Example 2** Correspondent

NAROWAL: The Lasani Express train derailed near Baddo Malhi, Narowal District, on Saturday.

According to details, the training was coming from Narowal to Lahore when it derailed.

Passengers said the train was overloaded and this was the reason

They said that this train is always overcrowded because it has only

three coaches when it runs between Narowal and Lahore. They said that people even travel on the roof of coaches and even

# CM Punjab Puts Wasa Agencies on High Alert for Muharram Processions



**Bureau Report** 

LAHORE: In line with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, all Water and Sanitation Agencies (WASA) across the province have been placed on high alert to ensure uninterrupted water supply and efficient drainage during Muharram processions and gatherings. Secretary Housing Noor-ul-Amin Mengal has issued comprehensive instructions to this effect. According to the directions, on the 10th of Muharram, all WASA agencies will deploy additional staff and machinery along the routes of processions to prevent any potential disruptions or public inconvenience.

Secretary Mengal emphasized that the entire water supply system must remain fully operational, with all water filtration plants and tube wells running 24/7. He further directed that staff presence in monsoon relief camps be ensured round the clock to respond swiftly in case of emergencies. Taking into account the possibility of rainfall on the day of Ashura, special relief operation teams have been pre-formed and will be on standby for immediate action in the event of any weather-related emergencies.

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## Tribal elders play vital role in fight against terrorism

n a significant development, tribal elders across the northwestern regions of Pakistan have taken a proactive role in supporting the government endeavors in the fight against terrorism and implementation of the National Action Plan.

Marking a renewed community led push for durable peace and stability in formerly Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), these tribal elders are diligently pursuing the communities as arbitrators and custodians of traditional codes.

Their participation in counterterrorism efforts has enhanced the legitimacy of state policies through local intelligence gathering, de-radicalization initiatives, resolution of local disputes and community policing for efficient implementation of the NAP.

The National Action Plan (NAP) was launched by the Nawaz Sharif-led government following the 2014 Army Public School Peshawar massacre, as part of a unified national strategy to combat terrorism and extremism.

A cornerstone of this counter terrorism strategy was the engagement of tribal elders, whose respected status in local Pashtun communities in erstwhile Fata was crucial in bridging the gap between state institutions and the grassroots population.

"Pro-government tribal elders have paid a heavy price in the war against terrorism. Their sacrifices paved the way for peace and stability in erstwhile FATA," said Shahgee Gul Afridi, former Member of the National Assembly from Bara Tehsil of Khyber district.

After the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001, he said militant spillover into Pakistan's tribal belt surged. "Tribal elders were among the first to rise in support of the Pakistani state agencies, aiding in the identification of extremists and helping in formation of tribal lashkars (militia) to safeguard their communities against militants' threats."

It is noteworthy that from 2001 till June 2018, at least 149 pro-government tribal elders were assassinated and 69 others injured in targeted attacks. Among the victims were prominent figures including former Federal Minister Malik Faridullah Khan Wazir, Malik Mehboob Wazir, Malik Shah Farosh, Malik Salam Khan of the Mohmand Peace Committee, and many others.

These elders were targeted for raising lashkars and issuing public statements during peace jirgas, urging communities not to shelter militants and calling on youth to reject extremist ide-

"The tribal elders have always stood for Pakistan against both internal and external threats and sacrificed lives," said Haji at Ullah Khan, former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Bajaur tribal district. "Pakistan is our motherland, and we are ready to render every sacrifice for its defense and protection against all threats.'

He said the tribal elders' efforts in conflict mediation, reintegration, and peace-building have played a vital role in erstwhile Fata and in many areas, helped establish local peace committees to coordinate closely with district administration and the government agencies to monitor suspicious activity and resolve disputes between warring groups.

# Pakistan Military at the Next Level

a nuclear-armed countrysurrounded by rivals, forged by decades of warfare, and positioned at the junction of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East—decides not just to survive, but to dominate the battlefield? This is not fiction. This is the evolving reality of Pakistan's military transformation—an extraordinary arc of resilience, innovation, and rising strategic relevance on the global stage.

How does a country build a combat doctrine not from textbooks, but from blood, pressure, and relentless engagement? Pakistan's army has not only witnessed war-it has lived it continuously. Its training fields are battle zones. Its soldiers are veterans long before promotion. Pakistan's first decisive test came during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Despite limited resources, it played a central role in organizing, arming, and coordinating the Afghan resistance. Over time, that resistance—backed by Pakistan's strategy—contributed to the breakup of the Soviet Union itself. Western analysts may debate the scale of influence, but no one denies the pivotal role played by Pakistan in one of history's most significant Cold War victories.

The Babur and Ra'ad cruise missile systems, featuring stealth and terrain-hugging trajectories, provide multi-platform delivery from land, air, and sea. Are these systems merely symbolic? Or do they signal Pakistan's mastery of strategic ambiguity and layered deterrence?

Pakistan's aerial strength has also seen remarkable evolution. The JF-17 Thunder, co-produced with China, now in its Block III configuration, comes equipped with AESA radar, BVR (beyond visual range) missile compatibility, and stealth features.

happens J-10C fighters, which are comparable this confirm what I theorized —that any in capability to Western 4.5-generation aircraft, and the equation tilts. Pakistan's pilots, many trained through real combat sorties and joint exercises with China, Turkey, and even NATO members, have repeatedly demonstrated agility, adaptability, and lethality.

Is air superiority the only gamechanger? Far from it. Pakistan's air defense matrix—once minimal now includes the HQ-9B long-range surface-to-air missile system, backed by radar jamming and electronic warfare compo-

On the seas, Pakistan's

**Qamar Bashir** Navy, though traditionally underfunded, is undergoing a serious upgrade. New Type 054A/P frigates and Hangor-class submarines (nuclear-capable variants included) are redefining maritime deterrence and second-strike capability. For a country with a short coastline, is such an investment justifiable? When considering the geopolitical value of Gwadar Port and the Indian Ocean trade arteries, the answer becomes self-evident.

How deeply integrated is Pakistan's defense network with global power structures? In a revealing interview in 2025, Indian Army General Rahul Singh admitted that India no longer faces Pakistan alone. During recent standoffs, he explained, Pakistan's military command had real-time intelligence on nearly every Indian maneuver—timings, locations, deployments.

Singh went further, acknowledging that China not only exerted pressure along India's northern border but also shared satellite intelligence with Pakistan. He described the battlespace as a "board game" in which Pakistan and China coor-Add to that the acquisition of China's dinated to destabilize India's options. Does

military plan against Pakistan must now factor in China as an active deterrent? General Singh's words remove all doubt.

While traditional defense spending and direct arms imports matter, another layer of Pakistan's rise lies beneath the surface: the silent power of dual-use civilian tech-

nology. Over the past two decades, Pakistan has legally imported photolithography machines, CNC tools,

aerospace-grade processors, encrypted satellite modules, and thermal guidance componentsmostly under industrial or medical licenses from countries like Germany, France, Switzerland,

Spain, the UK, and the United States. Were these tools left idle in labs? Quite the contrary. They were reverse-engineered, adapted, and militarized.

Through institutions like NESCOM, SUPARCO, ISPAE, and the Strategic Plans Division, Pakistan has used these components to design indigenous missile guidance systems, encrypted communications, AI-enabled drones, radar-detection platforms, and anti-jamming technology. How resilient is this supply chain? Because it is global, diversified, and rooted in civilian sectors, it is not easily disabled by sanctions or embargoes.

Can Pakistan claim independence in defense innovation? Not entirely—but its trajectory is toward autonomy. It now maintains joint development labs with China, drone collaboration with Turkey, and ISR and electronic warfare alignment with Russia. The fusion of East and West, of Cold War-era tactics and AI-age capabilities, places Pakistan in a rare position: capable of matching regional threats while disrupting global ones.

When India launched Operation

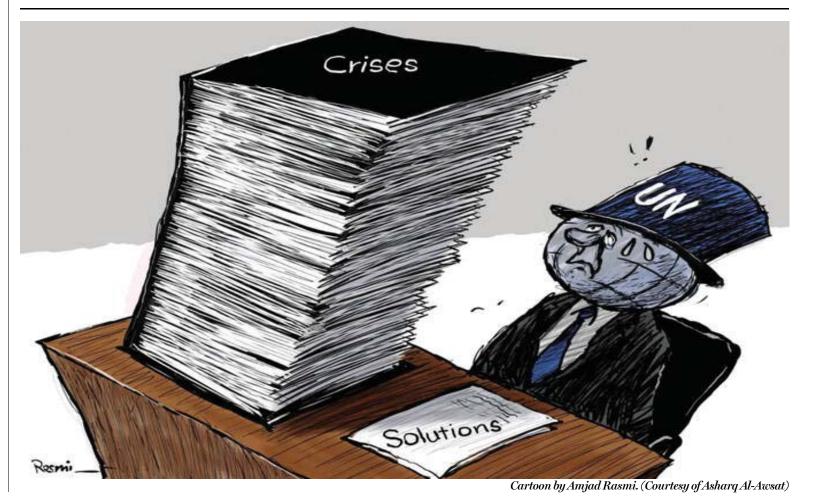
Sindoor in 2025 to strike insurgent bases, Pakistan's response was swift and strategically devastating. It reportedly downed multiple Indian aircraft—Rafales, Mirage 2000s, and SU-30MKIs-using J-10Cs equipped with PL-15 long-range missiles. Supported by Chinese AWACS and electromagnetic warfare units, Pakistan neutralized the attack with minimal losses. Were these exaggerated claims? Possibly. But independent imagery confirmed at least three Indian aircraft losses. For once, narrative control in the region tilted decisively toward Pakistan.

How does all this culminate? It leads to one unambiguous conclusion. The Pakistan military has transformed from a reactive, survivalist institution into a sophisticated, digitally integrated, battle-proven force—on land, at sea, in the skies, and now, increasingly, in cyberspace. It is no longer just a South Asian power—it is a strategic actor with global deterrence

Whether navigating the snow-covered peaks of Kashmir, the electromagnetic spectrum of digital war, or the economic chokepoints of the Arabian Sea, the Pakistan Armed Forces operate with clarity. maturity, and technological depth. They are not preparing for war—they are ready

And for any adversary, the calculus has changed. Because when you contemplate war with Pakistan, you're no longer facing a single nation. You are confronting a military-industrial matrix, battle-forged by history, reinforced by technology, and shielded by alliances. The message is unmistakable: Pakistan military is operating at the next level.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd). Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC | Macomb, Michigan, USA



# Dar's Diplomacy and Reimagining Pakistan

of paradoxes — endowed with immense geopolitical importion. However, the recent months have revolution in foreign policy stands a name more commonly associated with spreadsheets than statecraft: Ishaq Dar.

Long known as a financial troubleshooter, Dar's elevation as both Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister was, to many, a surprising political maneuver. The appointment stirred a spectrum of reactions from cautious optimism to outright skep-

ticism. Could a man who had spent his tation, turned out to be his greatest career balancing budgets and negotiating asset. He understood the corridors of with financial institutions navigate the charged and often unpredictable terrain of global diplomacy?

of the Foreign Office has been the strategic clarity and statesmanlike engagement of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Paki-stan's image as a responsible, forwardstan's Chief of Army Staff. His military diplomacy — often behind the scenes has been instrumental in reshaping Pakistan's global image as a stabilizing force nations to forging security dialogues with powers, Field Marshal Munir's vision has tion, and focused on economic corridors

the ever-volatile world of brought Pakistan's strategic priorities in as the new arteries of peace. international relations, Paki- sync with its diplomatic objectives. His stan has long been a country emphasis on economic security, regional peace, and internal cohesion has fortified the credibility of Pakistan's message tance yet often beset by diplomatic isola- abroad, allowing Dar's diplomacy to gain momentum on a foundation of strategic marked a remarkable departure from trust. Ishaq Dar's role in orchestrating that pattern. At the center of this quiet this diplomatic turnaround cannot be

> Initially viewed as a misfit in the foreign policy arena, Dar faced criticism

for being a finance czar thrust into diplomatic robes. Many questioned whether he possessed the nuance, strategic temperament, or global acumen to represent Pakistan on the international stage.

Dar's background in international finance. far from being a limi-

the IMF and World Bank not merely as negotiation chambers but as geopolitical arenas in themselves. He spoke the Complementing the diplomatic efforts language of global investors, financial ministers, and development planners and used that fluency to recast Pakithinking state.

Moreover, Dar brought with him a technocratic discipline — the ability to align foreign policy with economic rather than a security challenge. From strategy. His meetings weren't just about deepening defense cooperation with Gulf diplomacy; they were about deliverables. He advocated trade-based diplomacy, China, Central Asia, and key Western championed regional economic coopera-

While Dar's appointment was initially viewed as transitional or experimental, his performance has triggered a broader conversation about continuity in leadership. Pakistan's foreign policy gains incremental but undeniable - stem not just from tactical maneuvers but from a vision of engagement over isolation, pragmatism over populism.

Whether representing Pakistan at international summits, coordinating with Gulf allies, or framing a coherent narrative on Kashmir and Palestine, Dar has demonstrated both clarity and composure. In bilateral diplomacy and multilateral negotiations alike, he has projected Pakistan not as a reactive power, but as a state ready to shape outcomes.

Pakistan's diplomatic landscape has often been reactive, shaped by crises rather than strategy. But in this new chapter — under the dual stewardship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, with the strategic vision of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir there are signs of deliberate, forwardleaning engagement.

To critics, Dar's success may seem surprising. To seasoned observers, it is a case study in how leadership, when backed by institutional knowledge and political resolve, can transcend its perceived limits.

Dar's diplomacy has not only improved Pakistan's external relations — it has helped reimagine Pakistan's global posture. And in doing so, he has redefined his own political legacy: not merely as a finance technocrat, but as one of Pakistan's most dynamic and visionary foreign policymakers in recent memory.

## This building didn't collapse in Lyari, it is the Sindh Government that has fallen

### Abdul Wahab Munshi

yari has always held a special place in Pakistan's political history. From the birth of the nation until today, the people of Lyari have stood firmly behind the Pakistan People's Party, playing a pivotal role in bringing it to power. For them, Lyari was not just a neighborhood, it was the Taj Mahal of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

It would not be wrong to say that almost every influential political family of Sindh has, in one way or another, had ancestral ties to Lyari.

And yet, in today's time, none of them are active for Lyari, Kemari, Baba, Bhit, or Manora.

These families now only frequent the Karachi Press Club, Gymkhana, or the wedding halls of Clifton and DHA. If this sounds bitter, it's because it is the bitter truth.

The story of Pakistan's creation is not merely a tale of resolutions, rallies, or

Who bears the responsibility?

Is it not the Sindh Government? Is it not Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and the Karachi Building Control Authority, whose Director General allegedly purchased his post through millions in corrupt deals?

From what I understand, it was the responsibility of the Sindh Government, the local administration, and the SBCA to evacuate families from that building

long before it collapsed. Their negligence caused this catastrophe.

mocks and humiliates the very people whose forefathers laid everything on the line to build this nation.

Lyari's pain has been turned into a public spectacle and some shamelessly profit from it, as if these are not people, ut merchandise to be traded.

I am told that not far from where this disaster occurred lies the silent grave of Sir Abdullah Haroon—the very same Sir Abdullah who was a founding financier and intellectual architect of Pakistan.

In the shadow of the debris stands the Madrassa Mazhar-ul-Uloom,

a cradle of resistance during the Khilafat Movement, a place that once echoed with the voices of anti-colonial thinkers like Maulana Ubaidullah

This is not just any locality—it is the very first step on the staircase of Pakistan's dream. To grieve Lyari's present condition is, in truth, to mourn the defeat of our history, our inheritance, and our collective conscience.

It deeply saddens me that neither the Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, nor any of his cabinet, nor even Bilawal Zardari visited the site.

Did they not realize that if Shaheed Benazir Bhutto were alive today, she would have stood amidst the grieving people of Lyari?

This was not merely a building that collapsed, nor just another forgotten alley in Lyari, this was the symbolic collapse of an incapable, indifferent, and deteriorating Sindh Government. And yet, amid this darkness, a ray of bers

dignity shone. Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the true heir to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and

And today, the same bureaucracy Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto was in Larkana attending Muharram rituals.

> When news of the Baghdadi tragedy reached him, and he realized the people of Lyari were abandoned, he drove seven hours to 70 Clifton and then straight to Baghdadi Lyari not with a media entourage, not for political mileage, but to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people.

I Salute to Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the living reflection of a great legacy, who journeyed from Larkana to the heart of Karachi's grief, to a scene where a five-story building had buried innocence, where every sigh, every tear, and every silence screamed for justice.

He came not just to offer condolences, he came to remind us that some flames still flicker, unclouded by power, unquenched by hypocrisy.

This, too, is a wake-up call for the people of Lyari to recognize who truly stands with them in their darkest hour. I am not affiliated with any political

I am merely a writer, a lawyer.

But when I saw what this young man did, I felt compelled to write, not to praise, but to honor character. While the Sindh Government failed

to act as a state should, Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto acted as a son of the soil. This rubble did not fall on Baghdadi

alone; it fell squarely on the conscience

of the Sindh Government. And mark my words this building, this collapse, will echo its reckoning in the coming elections, for Lyari remem-

The Writer is lawyer and leading columnist. Wahab\_munshi@yahoo.

# Pakistan, Egypt reaffirm strategic partnership, eye enhanced cooperation in agriculture, trade & culture

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a vibrant ceremony marking Egypt's National Day, Pakistan and Egypt reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, with a particular focus on collaboration in agriculture, food security, trade, and cultural exchange. The event, held in Islamabad, brought together a distinguished assembly of diplomats, federal ministers, military officials, and political figures, reflecting the depth and diversity of the two nations' longstanding relationship.

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, represented Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the celebration, which was hosted by Egyptian Ambassador H. E. Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid. Upon arrival, Minister Hussain and other dignitaries received a warm welcome from Ambassador Abdelhamid and his diplomatic team. The guest list included Federal Minister for Investment Qaisar Ahmed Shaikh, Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa), and several other eminent figures from the diplomatic, political, and military communities.

Pakistan, Egypt reaffirm strategic partnership, eye enhanced cooperation in agriculture, trade & cultureIn his keynote remarks, Minister Hussain called for deepened collaboration with Egypt in agricultural science, biotechnology, and food security, citing Egypt's advanced capabilities in climate-smart technologies, arid farming, and drip irrigation systems. He emphasized the releigation of Islamic Cooperation vance of these areas to Pakistan's own agricultural challenges and



ventures, research partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives.

"Referring to Egypt's impressive progress in agricultural development, the Minister called for enhanced collaboration in areas such as seed development, arid farming, and sustainable agricultural practices," read an official statement issued after the ceremony. "He underscored the importance of bilateral initiatives in biotechnology and food security, particularly in the face of climate change and resource scarcity."

Minister Hussain further acknowledged Egypt's unwavering support for Pakistan at regional and international levels, including consistent cooperation within platforms like the Organ-(OIC) and the United Nations. He praised the revival of the Pakihighlighted the potential for joint stan-Egypt Joint Ministerial

Commission (JMC), noting that both governments are working to finalize new agreements in trade, agriculture, higher education, and cultural exchange-steps that signal a reinvigoration of bilateral ties.

Pakistan, Egypt reaffirm strategic partnership, eye enhanced cooperation in agriculture, trade & cultureIn response, Ambassador Abdelhamid extended heartfelt thanks to the government and people of Pakistan for their hospitality and reiterated Egypt's commitment to deepening its relationship with Pakistan. He noted Egypt's willingness to explore joint ventures in key sectors such as renewable energy, technology, and pharmaceuticals, and emphasized that both countries share a common vision for regional peace and development.





Egypt's growing agricultural exports and discussed opportunities for bilateral trade expansion, particularly in textiles, agriculture, and information technology. We see great potential in Pakistan as a strategic partner, and we are committed to fostering cooperation that benefits both our nations economically and culturally," he said.

Pakistan, Egypt reaffirm strategic partnership, eye enhanced cooperation in agriculture, trade & cultureThe ceremony served The ambassador highlighted not only as a diplomatic engage-

ment but also as a networking hub for business leaders and diplomats, many of whom discussed strategies to enhance the bilateral trade volume and  $explore \ investment \ opportunities.$ 

Adding a cultural dimension to the evening, guests were treated to traditional Egyptian folk performances and a display of artifacts, offering a glimpse into Egypt's rich and ancient heritage. The performances were well-received by the audience and contributed to a cele-



respect and cultural appreciation. In an era marked by global uncer-

Pakistan, Egypt reaffirm strategic partnership, eye enhanced between Pakistan and Egypt cooperation in agriculture, trade & culture Ambassador Abdelhamid also revealed plans to host more cultural festivals, academic collaborations, and student exchange programs aimed at strengthening people-to-people connections, particularly among the youth.

As the event concluded, the mood remained optimistic, with development, resilience, and both sides expressing eagerness to bratory atmosphere of mutual build on the positive momentum.

tainty, the enduring relationship stands out as a beacon of friendship, cooperation, and shared prosperity.

The National Day celebration served as more than just a ceremonial occasion—it became a platform for reaffirming a strategic partnership rooted in mutual interests, historical ties, and a shared commitment to regional stability

B Photos by Ramzan Mughal

# Rwanda celebrates 31st Liberation Day, showcasing national resilience & growing ties with Pakistan

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda commemorated its 31st Liberation Day with a vibrant and emotional ceremony in Islamabad on Friday night, honoring the East African nation's extraordinary transformation from genocide to prosperity, and reaffirming the deepening bonds of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan.

The event was led by Rwanda's High Commissioner to Pakistan, H. E. Harerimana Fatou, and attended by a distinguished gathering of political leaders, diplomats, and military officials. Former Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa), and other representatives from Pakistan's political, diplomatic, and military spheres.

Rwanda celebrates 31st Liberation Day, showcasing national resilience & growing ties with PakistanIn her keynote address, Ambassador Harerimana paid a heartfelt tribute to the heroes of Rwanda's liberation struggle, particularly the members of the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) who led the country out of one of the darkest chapters in its history-the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

"We honour the brave men and women of the Rwanda Patriotic Army who took the bold decision to fight the oppressive regime that led the country to genocide," she said. "They paid the highest price to restore the dignity of Rwandans and their right to life. Liberation Day marks not only the end of the genocide but the rebirth of a nation committed to unity, reconciliation, and inclusive development."

Rwanda celebrates 31st Liberation Day, showcasing national resilience & growing ties with PakistanAmbassador Harerimana reflected on Rwanda's transformation over the past three decades, highlighting the country's emer-







recovery and sustainable development. She cited recent economic milestones, noting that Rwanda's GDP growth rose from 7.8% in 2023 to 8.9% in 2024, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. Rwanda is also internationally celebrated as Africa's cleanest and greenest country, and a global leader in gender representation, with women occupying 63.7% of parliamentary

seats—the highest in the world. She outlined Rwanda's ambigence as a model of post-conflict tious development roadmap

under Vision 2050, which aims to transform the country into an upper-middle-income economy by 2035 and a high-income nation by 2050, driven by sustainable economic growth and improvements in quality of life.

"Rwanda has also become a hub for international diplomacy and global sporting events," she added, listing recent and upcoming events such as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022, the Inter-Parliamentary Union Summit 2019,





Rwanda celebrates 31st Liberation Day, showcasing national resilience & growing ties with PakistanTurning to foreign relations, Ambassador Harerimana emphasized the growing bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and Pakistan across multiple sectors including defence, health, education, trade, and technology. She expressed enthusiasm about expanding collaboration into new areas such as agriculture, tourism, artificial intelligence, sports, gender empowerment, and cultural exchange.

"The documentary presented here tonight is a powerful testimony to the friendship between our two countries," she remarked, reinforcing the message of unity and shared aspirations for peace, development, and innovation.

Rwanda celebrates 31st Liberation Day, showcasing national resilience & growing ties with PakistanSenator Mushahid Hussain Syed, in his address as chief guest, praised Rwanda as a beacon of resilience and visionary leadership. "Rwanda is a unique success story in the annals of Africa and the Global South," he said. Recalling his meeting with the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, he described him as "the Rwanda's remarkable progress to his firm leadership and national



matic occasion but also a celebration of Rwandan culture and identity. Guests were treated to a captivating cultural performance that highlighted the rich heritage and artistic vibrancy of Rwanda. Traditional music and dance performances added color and emotion to the evening, drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Rwanda celebrates 31st Liberation Day, showcasing national resilience & growing ties with PakistanAttendees also engaged in icant national milestone, Rwaninformal networking, discussing da's High Commission in Pakiavenues to expand bilateral trade and cooperation in emerging fields unity, and forward-looking coopstrongman of Africa," attributing such as climate resilience, youth eration, affirming that despite past innovation, and clean energy. The presence of a diverse mix of and lead by example.

The event was not only a diplo- academics, and business leaders created a dynamic atmosphere for dialogue and collaboration.

As the evening concluded, both Rwandan and Pakistani representatives expressed confidence in the growing momentum of their relationship. The Liberation Day celebration not only honored Rwanda's past struggles and current achievements but also symbolized a shared vision for a future defined by peace, dignity, and mutual prosperity.

In commemorating this signifstan sent a strong message of hope, tragedies, nations can rise, heal,

diplomats, government officials, 👺 Photos Ramzan Mughal

## **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
131,949.06	130,686.65		
Day's High	Day's Low		
132,129.60	130,716.10		
Index Value	Change		
20,036,807,441	+1262.41		
Percentage	Time		
+0.97%	4 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
8,822.91	-0.29		
Percentage	Time		
-0.0033%	4 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,828.53	+344.11		
Percentage	Time		
+0.77%	3 Jul, 1:01 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		

Open	Mar	ket	Forex	Rates

39,810.88

**Percentage** 

+0.063%

+24.98

Time

4 Jul, 3:45 pm

GMT+9

<u>'</u>		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.1	190.1
Bahrain Dinar	755.05	764.05
Canadian Dollar	208.6	213.6
China Yuan	39.22	39.62
Danish Krone	44.47	44.87
Euro	333.6	338.4
Hong Kong Dollar	35.76	36.15
Indian Rupee	3.22	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.9550	2.0550
Kuwaiti Dinar	922.4	932.4
Malaysian Ringgit	66.87	67.47
NewZealand \$	170.85	172.85
Norwegians Krone	27.81	28.11
Omani Riyal	739.90	748.90
Qatari Riyal	77.37	78.07
Saudi Riyal	76.20	76.45
Singapore Dollar	221.85	226.85
Swedish Korona	26.71	27.01
Swiss Franc	350.74	353.49
Thai Bhat	8.58	8.73
U.A.E Dirham	77.85	78.15
UK Pound Sterling	388.60	391.1
US Dollar	285.6	286.5

Here's how overseas Pakistanis can pay filer tax rate on property deals amid non-filer status



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has clarified that overseas Pakistanis will be charged the filer rate of advance income tax on the purchase and sale of immovable properties, even if they are technically classified as non-filers.

In a newly issued set of FAQs, the FBR explained that under Sections 236C and 236K of the Income Tax Ordinance, overseas Pakistanis will benefit from the lower filer tax rate provided they meet two key conditions:

They must hold either a Pakistan Origin Card (POC) or a National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP).

They must be non-resident in Pakistan meaning they spend less than 183 days in the country during a financial year.

Advance income tax rates on property transactions typically vary based on whether an individual is a filer or non-filer, as well as the fair market value of the property. However, this exemption allows overseas Pakistanis to bypass the higher non-filer rate

under specific criteria.

To access this benefit, overseas Pakistanis must follow a defined procedure through the FBR's online portal. The relevant authority such as a Registrar, housing society, or any entity responsible for property registrationmust click the "Overseas Pakistanis" link on the FBR portal to generate a PSID (Payment Slip ID).

Once redirected, the overseas Pakistani must enter their POC or NICOP number, after which the system will automatically

fetch their details. They must also upload a scanned copy of their POC/NICOP and provide documents confirming their non-resident status.

# Federal govt finalises 10-year industrial policy

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has finalised a long-awaited 10-year industrial policv after extensive consultations with the industrial and business communities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Ministry of Industries and Production to revise the existing industrial policy, especially in light of the industrial sector's declining contribution to GDP, from 26% in 1996 to just 18% in 2025.

In response, the Ministry established eight high-level sub-committees to formulate revival strategies. These committees presented their recommendations to the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, during a high-level meeting on Friday.

The proposed policy will span a decade, with progress evaluations scheduled every 18 months. It aims to strengthen support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and struggling businesses by improving access to credit and restoring non-operational industrial units. Legal amendments will also be introduced to



foster a business-friendly environment and encourage investment and localisation.

The sub-committees' recommendations have marked the beginning of the policy's implementation phase.

Haroon Akhtar Khan, addressing the meeting, emphasised the urgent need to revive the sector by boosting exports and promoting import substitution to stabilise the economy.

Pakistan issuing guidelines to revive sick industries and manage debt resolution.

Amendments to the Corporate Rehabilitation Act, 2018, have been proposed, and banks are being encouraged to adopt data forecasting tools to identify early signs of industrial distress.

Industrial unit classifications were finalised with input from the Pakistan Banking

Association. To further incentivise manufacturing, the policy suggests gradually reducing the corpo-

rate tax rate from 29% to 26% over three years. Moreover, proposed changes also target laws including the SECP Act, the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and the Income Tax Ordi-

To ensure timely execution, SAPM Khan has set up 10 new implementation sub-committees and tasked them with delivering tangible outcomes within a week. He hailed the policy as comprehensive, with the potential to spark an industrial revival in Pakistan.

Khan noted that the recommendations have been submitted to Prime Minister Shehbaz Key measures include the State Bank of Sharif, who praised their efforts.

CEO SMEDA Mr. Socrat Aman Rana signs the MoU with Chairman Akhuwat Foundation Dr. Amjad Sagib in the presence of the Secretary MoIP Mr. saif Anjum in Lahore on Saturday.



## Digitalisation is key to transparent economy

#### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq Saturday said digitalisation is the cornerstone of building a transparent, accountable, and efficient

Chairing here today board of directors meeting he stressed that embracing modern digital tools and technologies not only ensures transparency in financial transactions but also helps eliminate corruption, reduce leakages, and promote ease of doing busi-

He said the government must prioritise the digital transformation of all sectors, particularly taxation, trade, and industry, to bring informal businesses into the

both local and foreign investors, which is essential for economic growth and sustainable development.

Mian Kashif noted that through digitalisation, realtime data can be collected, analysed, and used for making better policy decisions. He said it will also increase tax compliance and broaden the tax base without burdening existing taxpayers

He lauded recent government initiatives towards digital payments and e-commerce regulations but urged faster implementation across the board. He also called for strong public-private partnerships to accelerate digital adoption and capacity building at grassroots level. Only through a strong and digitally integrated economy can Pakistan compete globformal net. He added that a ally, enhance exports, and digital economy promotes unlock its true economic trust and confidence among potential, he concluded.

# Iftikhar Malik Calls for Urgent Reforms to Boost Investor Confidence in Pakistan

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Saturday urged the government to urgently revisit sections 37A and 37B of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, in consultation with stakeholders to restore foreign and local investor confidence for ensuring sustainable growth across all industrial sectors.

Iftikhar Ali Malik stressed that the revival of investor confidence is key to economic stability. He said foreign direct investment (FDI) will drastically decline due to such arbitrary legal provisions and inconsistent taxation policies. He urged the government to prioritize economic reforms that promote confidence, legal protection, and policy continuity for investors. He further stated that the government must foster an investor-friendly environment through dialogue with trade bodies, chambers of commerce, and industrialists. "The private sector is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, and its concerns must be



investment," he added.

cials and representatives from chambers regime be ensured, he concluded.

addressed if we are to attract long-term to review and recommend amendments to these sections of the Sales Tax Act. Only He called for establishing a joint through participatory legislation can a committee comprising government offi- fair, predictable, and growth-oriented tax

## FTO's Commitment to a Fair Tax System

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman ities. Saif Ur Rehman Saturday said the business community is the backbone of the national economy, playing a vital role in industrialization, generating employment, enhancing exports, and contributing significantly to the national exchequer.

Talking here today to a delegation of business community led by Zahid Igbal Arain former VP FPCCI he said recognising this crucial role, Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has reiterto addressing the genuine tax-related grievances priority basis. He said FTO

tial to build trust between taxpayers and tax author-He said FTO has taken

various initiatives to

simplify tax procedures, ensure timely resolution of complaints, and eliminate harassment and undue FTO proactive approach

aims to create a more business-friendly tax system where traders and industrialists feel confident and

The Federal Tax Ombudsman's office serves as an independent platform where complaints are handled impartially and ated his firm commitment efficiently with disposed of in a record time of 36 days. This initiative is expected to of businesspersons on a further boost investor confidence and support sustainfirmly believes that a trans- able economic growth in the parent, fair, and responsive country, he concluded.

# Pakistan's Solar Revolution: Shifting from Fossil Fuels to Sustainable Energy

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran Saturday said absolutely there is no doubt that Pakistan can reap significant environmental and economic benefits from its solar

Talking here today to a delegation of industrialists from south Punjab productivity, and improving living led by Zia Ur Rehman he said with standards. With appropriate policy over 300 sunny days annually, the country holds immense potential public-private partnerships, Pakifor harnessing solar energy. He stan can transform its energy landsaid shifting towards solar power will drastically reduce dependency resilient, inclusive, and sustainable

exchequer and narrowing the trade deficit. It will also provide a sustainable solution to the country's chronic power shortages, enabling uninterrupted energy for homes, businesses, and industries, he added.

Pakistan's solar revolution can also empower rural communities by providing off-grid energy solutions, supporting agricultural support, financial incentives, and scape and move toward a more on expensive imported fossil fuels, economy. The time to fully embrace research, he concluded.

easing pressure on the national solar energy is now-for the prosperity of the people and the preservation of the planet, he added.

Leader of the delegation Zia Ur Rehman said environmentally solar energy offers a clean and renewable alternative, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating the adverse effects of climate change.

It will improve air quality and reduce health-related costs caused by pollution from conventional

Moreover, the growing solar sector can create thousands of new green jobs, from manufacturing and installation to maintenance and



# Kashmiri people are against alien occupation and religious persecution: Fahim Kayani

**Spokesman Report** 

WASHINGTON: Fahim Kayani, President, Tehreeke Kashmir, United Kingdom received a warm welcome from Kashmiri American community of Washington metropolitan area in recognition of his outstanding service for the Kashmir cause.

Fahim Kayani in his address highlighted the struggle of the people of Jammu & Kashmir against alien occupation, religious persecution and human rights atrocities. He added that Kashmir is not an integral part of India nor a territorial dispute. Ît is an international issue made by the United Nations by adopting multiple resolution at the Security Council which guarantee the right of self-determination of its people.

Fahim Kayani stressed that Kashmir Therefore, global Kashmiri diaspora should initiate diplomatic campaign at the corridors of power, be it United States, European Union, Asian and sibility to leverage with various thinktanks, international NGO's and national conflict, like Kashmir because all requires, Fahim Kayani emphasized the unity of thought and action among diaspora community.

need to mobilize global public opinion 
mediation seems to shut the door on to rebuttal Indian false narrative that any kind of international dialogue the normalcy has returned to Kashmir. regarding Kashmir. The Kashmiris If that was the case then why Indian are shut in, and the outside world out. government has not withdrawn its



issue demands international attention. Kashmir which is the most militarized zone in the world.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice said that it is quite conspicuous that African parliaments. It is our responting the world powers feel awkward and unequipped to intervene in any interdifferent international forums. This the country, like India is too powerful and does not listen to morals and ethics when everyone has his wallet on the table. In addition, Dr. Fai added that Fahim Kayani pointed out that we India's refusal to accept international

Dr. Fai underlined that it was the 900,000 soldiers from the Valley of genius of President Trump who under-

stood that the tension between India and Pakistan can only be removed by resolving the Kashmir dispute. The erroneous and misguided stand has led Narendra Modi, the prime minister of India to conceal the truth that President Trump intervened and brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. It is time that Modi extricates himself from baseless and false claim that Pakistani DGMO suggested the

Justice Shaukat Ali Rakhshani of Quetta, Baluchistan who is on his private visit to the United States said that every Pakistani feels the pain and suffering of the people of occupied Kashmir. We are always there to provide them the diplomatic and polit-



ical support in order to achieve their right to self-determination.

Sardar Zubair Khan, Director, Voices of Justice in Kashmir thanked the audience for their participation in this event. He emphasized that the time has come that the global Kashmiri diaspora needs to have one narrative. That can only happen when we are united at one platform.

Sardar Zarif Khan, Advisor to the President of Azad Kashmir and the main organizer of the event quoted Sardar Masood Khan Sahib, former President of Azad Kashmir who gave Presidential award and certificate to Fahim Kavani Bhai, President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK at

the President House, Muzaffarabad. Sardar Masood Khan said that the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir honours Raja Fahim Kayani, President Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK by giving the title of Pioneer of Kashmir Virtual Diplomacy for laying the foundation for Virtual Diplomacy to highlight the Kashmir cause globally during the pandemic in 2020. Fahim Kayani successfully pioneered virtual diplomacy on Kashmir and held a series of webinars that pointed to the deepening plight of the Kashmiris under siege and a communication lockdown since 2019.

Sardar Shoaib Irshad, General Secretary, Kashmir American Welfare Association (KAWA) said that Fahim award distribution ceremony held in Kayani has worked tirelessly with Tahseen.

compassion and passion to promote the Kashmir cause. He has organized dozens of Kashmiri conferences not only at the British parliament but also in major cities of the United Kingdom.

Raja Liaqat Kiyani, President, Kashmir House Washington said that Fahim Kayani has galvanized the grassroots communities in Britian. He has also organized rallies which were attended at times by tens of thousands of people. Raja Liaqat Kiyani also briefed the audience about the social programs he has imitated in his area in Azad Kashmir by investing crores of Pakistani rupees.

Senator (Dr.) Akbar Khawaja, a wellknown community leader said that reasons for the conflict over Kashmir are argued among contenders on several points, more often than not to serve globalist interests rather than the fundamental needs or desires of the Kashmiris themselves. Why, after 78 years, the problem continues to fester is the challenge for those who talk of peace, stability, and democratic rights in the region of South Asia.

The participants offered a special Du'a' for more than 100,000 martyrs of Kashmir.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony in celebration of America's Independence Day - 4th of July.

Others who spoke included: Moazzam Aftab; Sardar Zeeshan khan; Sardar Haider Irshad; Khalid Faheem; Abid Khan; Main Waseem; Akram butt; Imran khan; Raja Saqib; Atique Sudozai; Naveed; Shakil Anjam;

# Afghan Women face perils as returns from Iran & Pakistan surge, UN report

UNITED NATIONS: Afghan women (UNFPA). returning to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan face significant hardship and suffering, according to a new UN-led

Many are returning, to a country where their fundamental rights and safety are severely threatened.

Since September 2023, more than Pakistan.

half of the returnees from Pakistan, while their share among those returning from Iran has been steadily rising,

reaching around 30 per cent in June. The escalating pace of returns is straining Afghanistan's overstretched humanitarian system, with women and girls bearing the brunt of the impact, reported the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, a consortium of humanitarian actors led by UN Women distressed and disoriented. and the UN reproductive health agency

Those traveling without a mahram a male guardian - face particular risks. Interviews and discussions conducted

Working Group revealed reports of

extortion, harassment and threats of violence at border crossings. Returnees face rising exposure

2.43 million undocumented Afghan to gender-based violence, early and migrants have returned from Iran and forced marriage, trafficking and trans-

> recounted: "A widow with four daughters was looking to see if she could sell humanitarian agencies urge the one or two daughters to someone here to have money for survival." Humanitarian agencies report a crit-

ical shortage of safe spaces and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS), especially at border crossings, where many women arrive

Across provinces, women cite shelter,

livelihoods and girls' education as top

Only 10 per cent of women-headed households live in permanent shelters, and nearly four in ten fear eviction. In Herat, 71 per cent of women reported rent disputes, and 45 per cent of women-headed households were living in inadequate housing.

Women who previously worked in trades such as tailoring or handicrafts actional sex - exacerbated by a lack of now struggle to restart due to a lack of tools, restrictions on movement, and A humanitarian worker in Kandahar limited networks or documentation.

> With returns expected to continue, scale-up of gender-responsive services, including safe spaces, mental health care, livelihood support and education

UN Women and its partners are calling for increased funding and sustained international support to meet the urgent and long-term needs of Afghan returnee women and girls.

## Boost Cooperation

DUBAI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), met with H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Bin Abdulmanan A1 Awar, UAE Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research to boost cooperation in education and human resource development.



# Processions across country

Continued from Page 1

### Processions, majalis in Multan

As many as 80 processions will be taken out today on the ninth of Muharram in Multan, while 166 majalis will be held.

The main procession has been taken out from the Imambargah Hussaini, Mumtazabad locality of

Another procession will be taken sion. out from Jinnah Street, Tughluq Road tonight at 9:00 PM.

Yet another procession will be taken out from Imam Bargah Jamal Shah tonight at 9:00 PM.

from Suraj Miani Chah Mamoole

from Darbar Sakhi Sultan, Suraj Miani at 8:00 PM tonight.

personnel and 1,275 volunteers will perform security duties in the city on the occasion.

#### Processions, majalis in Karachi The main procession in Karachi

has been taken out from Nishtar Park. A majlis was held before the proces-Allama Shehenshah Hussain Naqvi

has addressed the mourners. Namaz-e-Zohrain will be offered at

the Imambargah Ali Raza.

Strict security measures have been A procession has been taken out put in place in view of the procession. A monitoring room has been set up

Wala; a procession will be taken out at Soldier Bazaar.

After Zohrain prayers, the procession will pass through Numaish, Sadar, Radio Pakistan, Jamia Cloth As many as 3,716 police officers and and Kharadar areas of the city, and will culminate at Husainia Iranian.

A procession has been taken out from Bab-e-Fatima Imambargah. Maulana Muhammad Ali Naqvi

will address the congregation. A majlis was held prior to the

procession. Large contingents of the police and the Rangers have been deployed in and around the imambargah to foil any untoward incident.

The road, connecting Liaquat No.10 to Teen Hatti, has been closed due to security concerns.

### Processions, majalis in Bahawalpur

Processions and majalis have been held in Bahawalpur to mourn the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain

The central procession has been taken out from Beri Wala Chowk, Shahdara.

After passing through various routes, it will finally culminate at the Shia Jamia Mosque near Zanana Hospital at 4:00 in the evening.

**Procession in Uch Sharif** In Uch Sharif, the mourning procession of Hazrat Abbas Alamdar (AS) has been taken out from Imambargah Mohalla Khawajgan.

### **Procession in Rohri**

In Rohri, Nodhala Tazia proces-

sion has been taken out from a an emergency. 550-year-old Karabala-e-Muala.

### **Procession on boats in Mianwali** In Mianwali, mourners have taken

out a procession on boats, a tradition that has been observed for the last 100 years.

The procession, which is unique from others, has been taken out from Marri Indus and will culminate at Wandha Kakrran.

Participants of the procession, after the distribution of Nyaz at Wandha Kakrran, return to Marri, and the practice continues throughout the

A large contingent of the police and rescue teams are on high alert in order to provide services during mourners had a view of old Tazia.

The mourners are being asked to

wear life jackets before sitting on Mourners walk on fire in Mityari

In Mityari, mourners dug out a

20-feet-deep trench, placed wood in it and set it on fire. Later, they walked on the fire to pay

homage to Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions. At the same time, the mourners

also kept beating their chests.

Strict security arrangements were put in place to prevent any unpleasant

#### **Mourners view old Tazia in Jhang** In Dabakran locality of Jhang, the

# Martyr of Islam

world in general and in the Islamic world considered very sensitive. On the one hand, this day makes every faithful Muslim cry, and on the other hand, it also reveals to us the eternal reality of sacrifice.

The religion of Islam was completed with the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), but as soon as the Rahman bin Abu Bakr (RA), Hazrat history of Islam and the Caliphate began, differences gradually began to emerge. Even the Battle of Jammal and Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbas (RA). the Battle of Saffin raised unanswered questions about the history of Islam.

Thirty years after the death of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), when Hazrat

This appointment laid the founin particular, the day dation for the Caliphate to become of 10 Muharram is a monarchy, where the five most respected companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) disagreed with this appointment. Among the companions who disagreed were Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the Prophet (peace be upon him), Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq's son Abdur Umar Farooq's son Abdullah bin Umar (RA), Hazrat Zubair bin Zubair (RA),

Ten years after Yazid was appointed as the crown prince, Hazrat Amir Muawiyah (RA) died and Yazid became the ruler. When the time came Amir Muawiyah (RA) became the to pledge allegiance to Yazid, Hazrat Caliph, he appointed his son Yazid Abu Bakr's son Abdur Rahman bin

companions were also divided into two groups

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Umar (RA) and Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas (RA) stance was that the appointment of Yazid not only gave rise to monarchy but also revived the memory of Qaiser-o-Kisra, it was still not such a big deal that

the Muslims should be pushed towards civil war again. The other two companions who opposed it were Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the Prophet (PBUH), and Hazrat Zubair ibn Zubair (RA).

Hazrat Zubair (RA)'s position was

**Afzal Choudhry** 

lmost all over the as the crown prince after ten years as Abu Bakr (RA) had already died and to unite the Muslims in the land of he himself set out for Kufa with his the court of Yazid in Damascus or obtain allegiance from them against Yazid. However, on the other hand, the

people of Kufa were constantly sending letters to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) inviting him to Kufa and assuring him of the pledge of allegiance.

It is important to note here that Hazrat Ali (AS) made Kufa the capital of the Islamic

state, but Hazrat Amir Muawiyah (RA) made Damascus the capital of the caliphate during his reign.

When Imam Hussain (RA) was continuously receiving letters from Kufa, he first sent his representative, Muslim bin Ageel, to Kufa, and then

suggested by some senior companions. the opinions of the remaining four Hijaz, i.e. Mecca and Medina, and to family. On the way, he received news that Yazid had appointed Ibn Ziyad as the governor of Kufa. He stirred up injustice in Kufa and has also martyred Muslim bin Ageel. So Hazrat Imam Hussain intended to return, but with him were the sons of Muslim bin Aqeel, who said that they will avenge their father's blood at any cost.

As soon as the caravan of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) reached Karbala. the Kufis blockaded them and sufferings were inflicted upon the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) family. The same Kufis who were constantly writing letters to Imam Hussain (AS) to pledge allegiance to him were now against

Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) said that we should be allowed to return to Medina or we should be sent to

we should be sent to some border where we can fight against the infidels and be martyred. But the Kufis did not listen to a word and martyred every single one of the Holy Prophet's family, starving and thirsty. They even martyred the grandson of the Prophet (PBUH) on the 10th of Muharram and burned down his tent. The martyrdom of Imam Hussain

made Muslims so sensitive until the Day of Judgment that every Muslim becomes sad upon hearing the name of the month of Muharram, and they view the sacrifice of the martyred grandson of the Prophet (PBUH) of Islam with such great respect and believe that Hussain's martyrdom saved the true religion Islam and made the Yazidi forces a symbol of hatred and disbelief until the Day of Judgment.

## Group photo

WARSAW: Ambassador Muhammad Ayub, Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski and others posing for a group photo on 9th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and the Republic of Poland.



# Pakistan's debt rises to Rs76 trillion, up 12 percent from last year: SBP

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's central government debt has surged by over 12 per cent compared to last year to reach nearly Rs76.05 trillion at the end of May 2025, according to statistics released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), according to the latest figures released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This marks an increase of Rs8.31 trillion from May 2024, when the debt stood at Rs67.73

In its debt bulletin issued



at Rs67.73tr in May 2024.

The domestic debt stood increase of more than Rs8.31tr as nearly Rs22.59tr, 4.52pc

In just a month from April on Friday, the SBP reported at Rs53.46tr, posting a year- to May, the central government term contribution to the lisation through long-term the central government debt on-year growth of 15.9pc. debt grew by Rs1.11tr, slightly central government's debt instruments, while short-term at Rs76.045tr, showing an The external debt was stated higher than the Rs1.035tr had increased compared to and other components saw a increase recorded in the same the short-term treasury bills.

period of 2024.

Pakistan's total debt and liabilities had stood at Rs89.83tr at the end of March, according to the data released by the SBP in May.

The SBP data showed that Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) contributed around Rs35.24tr to the public debt surging from Rs27.70tr in May 2024 — compared to Rs8.04tr by the market treasury bills, the previous fiscal year (July which have declined from 2024-March 2025), there was Rs9.44tr last year

year showed that PIBs' long-

Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb had said the government saved Rs850bn through refinancing while the central government's debt increased by Rs5.36tr to Rs52.52tr in April 2025.

In contrast, the central government's domestic debt stood at Rs47.16tr in June

In the first nine months of an increase of Rs4.8tr in the SBP data from earlier this domestic debt. The growth was largely driven by higher mobi-

# Pakistan suffered heavily from Indian-sponsored terrorism: Bilawal

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: People's Party (PPP) Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called on India to come to the negotiating table if it genuinely seeks further action against terrorism, as only through engagement can both the coun-

Jazeera, Bilawal asserted that arrest or identify him. Given Pakistan had taken an extensive action against the terrorist the past, it is our belief that he

efforts. "If India wants more action against terrorists, it Pakistan should come to the negotiating table. We too have a long list of grievances against India for its involvement in activities that have harmed Pakistan," he

Replying to a question, Bilawal said, "Hafiz Saeed is not a free man, as he is in the tries work toward lasting solu- custody of the state of Pakistan. As far as Azhar Masood In an interview with Al is concerned, we are unable to his role in the Afghan Jihad in to global counterterrorism the Indian government shares



groups, and was committed is in Afghanistan. If and when information with us that he is in happy to arrest him. But the Pakistan, we will be more than fact is that the Indian govern-

ment is not referring to them, nor any of these individuals involved in the terrorist attack that justified this war," the former foreign minister said.

The PPP chairman said confidence-building measures (CBMs) were a part of the comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan where terrorism was one of the issues that were discussed.

Bilawal criticised India's approach of trying to establish a "new normal" in South Asia through confrontation. "India's strategy not only harms Pakistan but also its own long-term interests," he observed.

# 250 dilapidated buildings declared dangerous in Rawalpindi

**Spokesman Report** 

RAWALPINDI: Following in Karachi's footsteps, the Rawalpindi Metropolitan Corporation has declared 250 old and dilapidated buildings as dangerous for human habitation, ordering immediate evacuation to prevent any potential loss of life.

Officials have issued notices to property owners under the Punjab Local Government Act 2022, warning of legal action against both residents and owners in case of non-compli-

The affected areas include Raja Bazaar, Bhabra Bazaar, Moti Masjid lane, and Dangi Khoi, where several structures are reportedly in extremely

poor condition.



188 have been classified as highly life, especially amid continuous rains Among the identified buildings, dangerous, posing a serious threat to and the risk of seismic activity.

Authorities revealed that many of the flagged buildings are being used for both residential and commercial purposes, further increasing the risk. However, several occupants have refused to vacate due to a lack of alter-

native housing. The Metropolitan Corporation has directed residents to either renovate or demolish the structures. Failure

to comply will result in legal action. According to sources, the lives of citizens have been in danger for the last two decades due to the lack of effective action against dangerous buildings despite the Punjab govern-

ment and court orders. Residents have appealed to the authorities to arrange immediate alternative housing, enabling them

to relocate safely. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

# Pakistan, Poland agree to deepen defence, trade ties

Spokesman Report

The 9th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and the Republic of Poland was held in Warsaw on 4 July 2025.

The Pakistani delegation was led by Ambassador Muhammad Ayub, Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), while the Polish delegation was headed by Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Poland Muhammad Sami-ur-Rehman, and the Polish Ambassador to Pakistan, Maciej Pisarski, were also present during the consultations.

According to a Foreign Office statement issued in Islamabad on Saturday, the two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral

The Additional Foreign Secretary

to further broadening and deepening its ties with Poland in various fields, including trade, investment, energy, security and defence cooperation, science and technology, agriculture, migration and mobility and higher education. Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration, including through the exchange of high-level visits, parliamentary exchanges and

dialogue. Regional and global issues of mutual interest, including developments in South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe were discussed in depth. The two delegations found convergence on key issues and agreed to continue cooperation at multilateral forums, including the United Nations.

It was mutually agreed that the next round of consultations will be held in Islamabad in 2026.

# Gandapur rebuffs propaganda, says KP govt stable and united



**E** City Desk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has dismissed speculations about the provincial government's instability, asserting that no member is defecting.

"Our government is strong, and no one is going anywhere," Gandapur said while speaking to the media in Peshawar.

by our own people. Had the budget not passed, the government would have fallen — and the blame would've been on us."

Taking a jab at the KP governor, Gandapur said, "He cannot do us any harm." He reaffirmed that security and peace during Muharram remain a top priority.

"Our security forces are doing an excellent job, and I pay tribute to their "The narrative that the budget dedication. The health department should not be presented was spread is also fulfilling its duties diligently."

## CTD kills 6 terrorists in two major operations in Punjab

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday foiled a major terror plot by killing six terrorists in two separate operations in Punjab's Taunsa Sharif and Bahawalpur regions.

According to a CTD spokesperson, five terrorists were gunned down during a targeted operation in a border village near Taunsa Sharif.

The operation was launched on a tip-off, during which the suspects opened fire on CTD personnel.

A heavy exchange of gunfire ensued, resulting in the deaths of five militants. Four bodies were shifted to a hospital, while the sixth was taken

The CTD further reported that five injured terrorists managed to escape into a nearby forest.

away by fleeing terrorists.

A large cache of weapons, including rifles, three improvised explosive devices (IEDs), hand grenades, and other explosive materials, was seized during the raid.

The identity of the slain terrorists

is being ascertained, and the search operation has been expanded with new check-posts established near Taunsa and Ruman to apprehend

the fugitives. In a separate joint operation in Bahawalpur, the CTD and Punjab Police neutralised another high-profile terrorist linked to the banned group Fitna Al Hindustan.

Three of his accomplices fled the scene amid an exchange of gunfire. Security forces recovered hand grenades and ammunition from the

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded the successful operations, stating, "Terrorists of Fitna Al Hindustan have been sent to hell. We are proud of the professionalism displayed by our law enforcement agencies and will continue to pursue terrorists relentlessly."

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also praised the performance of CTD and the police, saying, "The evil designs of the enemy have been crushed. Our forces remain alert and courageous on every front."

## PM leaves for Pakistan after attending ECO summit

SHUSHA: Prime Minister Muham- position on global and regional issues. mad Shehbaz Sharif Friday left for Pakistan after completing his two-day visit to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani Minister of Education and Science Emin Amrullayev, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, Pakistani Ambassador to Azerbaijan Qasim Mohiuddin and senior diplomatic and government officials bid farewell to economic sector. the Prime Minister and the Pakistani delegation at Fuzuli Airport.

During his visit, the Prime Minister Khankandi and presented Pakistan's Shavkat Mirziyoyev on this occasion.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for measures for regional connectivity, trade, investment, sustainable development and regional peace.

In the presence of the Prime Minister, an agreement was also signed between Pakistan and Azerbaijan for Azerbaijani investment worth \$2 billion in Pakistan's

The PM met with Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, attended the Economic Cooperation Turkish President Recep Tayyip Organization (ECO) Summit held in Erdogan and Uzbek President