



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
ہم سے علی بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم سے سفیان بن عیینہ نے بیان کیا، ان سے ابوبختاری نے، ان سے محمد بن یزید نے اور انہوں نے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے سنا کہ ابو القاسم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا میرے نام پر نام رکھو لیکن میری کنیت نہ رکھو
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6188)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Macron urges joint UK-French recognition of Palestinian state

French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday urged joint UK-France recognition of a Palestinian state, calling such moves "the only hope for peace" in the conflict-ridden region.



Babar Azam to continue as opener: Mike Hesson

Pakistan men's team head coach Mike Hesson has said Babar Azam will continue to play as an opener, adding that there has been no intention to give wicketkeeping duties to Babar. Talking to the media, Hesson stated that Babar Azam will perform his duties purely as an opener. He said that no batter has been instructed to play with a strike rate of 150, adding that Pakistan's struggles in T20s stem from issues in the batting department.

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Corps Commanders' Conference

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), presides over the 271st Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters (GHQ).



Photo: ISPR

Pakistan Army vows decisive action against Indian proxies

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir chaired the 271st Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at General Headquarters (GHQ) where the Forum pledged decisive action against Indian-backed proxies, reviewed regional security and lauded Pakistan Navy and Air Force for enhancing tri-services synergy.

Forum offered Fateha for the martyrs of recent terrorist attacks by Indian sponsored proxies. Taking stock of recent successes against terrorist proxies, Forum resolved that blood of our Shuhada will not go waste and the safety and security of people of Pakistan remain top most priority for the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

Forum strongly asserted that it is imperative to take decisive and holistic actions at all levels against the Indian backed and sponsored proxies. Following its manifest defeat in direct aggression against Pakistan,

post Pahalgam incident, India is now doubling down to further its nefarious agenda through its proxies of Fitna Al Khawarij and Fitna Al Hindustan.

The COAS shared details of Pakistan's proactive and successful diplomatic manoeuvre, including recent visits to Iran, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UAE, where the COAS accompanied the Prime Minister.

Forum was also briefed on the historic and unique visit of the COAS to US, where meetings with top-tier leadership, afforded an opportunity to share, first hand, Pakistan's objective perspective on bilateral, regional and extra-regional developments.

The Forum conducted a holistic review of the prevailing internal and external security dynamics, with particular emphasis on the recent developments in Middle East and Iran and growing propensity for 'use of force' as a preferred policy tool, which warrants persistent develop-

ment of self-reliant capabilities as well as national unity and resolve.

Taking note of Indian Army's baseless insinuations to offset its comprehensive defeat, COAS stated, "Invoking third parties in what is unmistakably a bilateral military confrontation reflects a disingenuous attempt at bloc politics aimed at falsely projecting India's self-assigned role as a net security provider to accrue benefits in a region that is visibly growing disillusioned with Indian hegemonic ambitions and Hindutva driven extremism".

The Forum was briefed on Pakistan's Army's ongoing drive with quick adaptation towards evolving threat spectrum and changing character of war. The COAS also appreciated the leadership of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force for further strengthening tri-services synergy.

In his concluding remarks, the Army Chief expressed full confidence in the operational readiness of Pakistan Army against complete threat spectrum.

Dar meets Australian counterpart; vows to promote trade, education ties



KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Thursday met Australian Foreign Minister Senator Hon Penny Wong on the sidelines of 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting here.

The deputy prime minister reaffirmed strong Pakistan-Australia ties and resolved to enhance cooperation in trade, education, and people-to-people links.

In a "productive and forward-looking engagement," he said that Pakistani diaspora and cricket were a living bridge between the countries.

Both sides agreed to boost bilateral trade, currently at \$1.186 billion, promote academic partnerships, and increase high-level political exchanges.

Ishtiaq Ahmed, APP's Foreign Editor, leads coverage of the Prime Minister, President and Foreign Office, bringing over 20 years of journalism experience from local and international publications - Reach out at 03335293238/ ishtiaqrao@gmail.com/ X: ishtiaqrao

PM directs urgent restructuring of National Tariff Commission's powers, responsibilities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to carry out an urgent restructuring of National Tariff Commission's legal, administrative, and other institutional powers and responsibilities to enhance its effectiveness.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the performance of the National Tariff Commission, instructed for third-party review of the NTC's recent performance and remodeling the organisation on modern lines to meet the requirements of the new tariff regime effectively, according to a PM Office press release.

He said that the NTC should be cognizant of all ground realities related to domestic business, imports, exports, and markets. The automated and efficient research capabilities of the NTC can play a key role in resolving issues faced by domestic businesses, he added.



Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the government was committed to addressing the NTC's training and resource deficiencies and aligning its operations with modern requirements. He directed the immediate activation of the NTC's Appellate Tribunal and also sought a briefing on the implementation of the given directives by next month.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Dr. Musadik Malik, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, and Ali Pervaz Malik, and relevant senior government officials.

87 killed, 149 injured in rain-related incidents in two weeks: NDMA

Adnan Yaqoob

ISLAMABAD: As many as 87 people were killed while 149 were injured in different rain-related incidents in the country during the last 15 days.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) report, 30 people, including 14 kids, were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) alone during the aforementioned period.

As many as 30 people were injured in these incidents in the province.

In Punjab, 29 people, including 15 children and four women, lost their lives while 77 were injured.

Similarly, one death was reported from Kashmir, 16 from Sindh and 11 from Balochistan.

As many as 34, three and five people were injured in Sindh, Balochistan and Kashmir, respectively.

As many as six people were killed across the country during the last 24 hours.

The rains also caused damage to 242 homes; 171 homes were partially damaged, while 71 were completely damaged, said the report, adding that 106 cattle were also washed away by floodwaters; seven kilometers of road were damaged while three bridges collapsed.

Neither Zardari is resigning nor COAS aspiring to become president: Minister

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has made it crystal clear that neither President Asif Ali Zardari is resigning nor the Chief of the Army is aspiring to become president.

In a post uploaded on X platform Thursday, the interior minister said "We are fully aware of who is behind the malicious campaign targeting President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, and the Chief of Army Staff."

Mohsin Naqvi further said "I have



categorically stated that there has been no discussion, nor does any such idea exist, about the President being asked to resign or the COAS aspiring to assume the presidency."

The minister maintained "The President of Pakistan enjoys a strong and

respectful relationship with the leadership of the Armed Forces."

He clearly stated: "I know who is spreading these falsehoods, why they are doing so, and who stands to benefit from this propaganda."

Mohsin Naqvi said "The sole focus of the COAS is the strength and stability of Pakistan, nothing else. To those involved in this narrative, do whatever you wish in collaboration with hostile foreign agencies. As for us, we will do whatever is necessary to make Pakistan strong again, InshAllah."

Pakistan, China explore broadening media collaboration

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar met with Cao Shumin, Deputy Head of the CPC Publicity Department and Minister of National Radio and Television Administration of China (NRTA) China, to explore broadening cooperation through joint productions, combating disinformation, launching

training initiatives, and fostering cultural exchange.

Both leaders characterized the media partnership as a testament to mutual trust and a deep-rooted friendship.

Speaking on the occasion, Attaullah Tarar stated that Pakistan has much to learn from China's experience in media and communication. He praised China's expertise in digital media, public service broadcasting, and cultural content

promotion as truly commendable.

Pakistan and China have agreed to expand cooperation and joint broadcasting projects between their state media organizations. This initiative aims to more effectively counter fake news and disinformation.

Both leaders also endorsed a unified stance against fake news, along with plans for technical training and institutional collaboration.



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Kashmir will become Pakistan: Exploring the vision of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan

 **Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Former President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, was a strong supporter of the ideology of accession to Pakistan. He not only fought for this ideology throughout his life but also instilled a spirit of independence from India among Kashmiris.

He was an ardent supporter of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan and he gave a strong slogan of Kashmir will become Pakistan to instill a sense of attachment to Pakistan among Kashmiris.

The efforts of Mujahid e Awwal for the struggle of the freedom movement will always be remembered, these views were expressed by senior leaders of the Muslim League (N), Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Abdullah Gul, senior leaders of the Hurriyat Conference Aad Kashmir branch Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar, Shamim



Shawal, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Pirzada Muhammad Afsar Khan, Abdul Hameed Lone, Sardar Abid Razaq Khan while speaking on the occasion of the 10th death anniversary of former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell and All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Khan Afsar Khan, Incharge Digital Media Sardar Najeeb

Ghafoor Khan, President Jammu and Kashmir Community Ghulam Nabi Butt, Sardar Muhammad Siddique Khan, Lal Hussain Rajput, Ijaz Rehmani, Sardar Asim Abbasi, and others were also present on the occasion.

Raja Zafar-ul-Haq recalled the political and social services of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan and described him as a multi-faceted politician. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan's struggle for the

Jammu and Kashmir freedom movement will be written in golden words in the history of Kashmir.

Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was a big name not only in Kashmir but also in the politics of Pakistan. He was a shrewd politician. He left an indelible mark on the politics of Azad Kashmir in particular and on the politics of Pakistan in general. He created a unique place in every field and used it with great skill.

Role of Political Tolerance in Strengthening Democracy: Shaukat Javed Mir

 **Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD /MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information Candidate Assembly Constituency 7 Shaukat Javed Mir has said that the successive provocative statements made by the Muslim League against the PPP are not only a web of palace conspiracies to break the democratic unity in the federation but also a deviation from the Charter of Democracy and serious violations of it. The statement made by PPP MNA Nabil Gabol in the National Assembly while in the Prime Minister's House has sounded alarm bells. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari voluntarily returned the powers of dissolving his assembly without any protest movement or demand to make the parliament dignified and strong and to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, who was the Foreign Minister, confirmed his leadership skills in parliaments around the world for Pakistan's diplomacy and the freedom of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the right of self-determination of 15 million people, which even the worst opponents do not tire of acknowledging. In response to a question, Shaukat Javed Mir said that although bringing a no-confidence motion against the coalition government of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq in Azad Kashmir is a constitutional step, he should be given a full opportunity of six to eight months so that he does not become a political martyr by getting his finger stained with blood.



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari: The Architect of a Revitalized Pakistani Image

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi has said that he pays tribute to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the wisdom and courage with which he is expressing Pakistan's position. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said in his special statement that the parliamentary delegation of Pakistan under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted the soft image of Pakistan at the international level compared to the Indian delegation. He said that it was the successful diplomacy of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, as a result of which the world recognized Pakistan's position and the Indian delegation had to eat. He said that as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari brought Pakistan out of isolation under a successful foreign policy and raised the country's prestige at the global level. He said that recently, during an interview with Indian journalist Kiran Thapar, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari put the pieces of the Indian narrative in half. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that during this unprecedented interview, the seventy-year-old Indian journalist broke into a sweat because the dignity and dignity with which Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari presented his position is commendable. He said that the Kashmiri people love their Chairman immensely. Inshallah, President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Ms. Faryal Talpur will achieve resounding success in the 2026 elections under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Ms. Faryal Talpur, and those who dream in the day will get nothing but disappointment.



Tributes on the death anniversary of freedom fighter Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan

 **Ch. Tarique Farooq**

On yesterday death anniversary of the late and forgiving freedom fighter Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the living spirit of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, the great leader, former President and former Prime Minister of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir. We pray that Allah Almighty forgives him, grants him a high place in Paradise, raises his ranks, and grants him the intercession of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Amen

Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was an all-round personality, a self-made, united personality who struggled continuously from his early life to his last moment. After his primary education, he got a job in the British Army. He returned to his homeland after the Second World War. From his boyhood, he emerged as a militant, effective and ideological face of the Kashmir freedom movement.

Under the guidance of Sardar Qayyum Khan, the Muslim Conference provided ample opportunities to the youth. Today, most of the political leaders of Azad Kashmir, regardless of which party they are affiliated with now, have received political training from the platform of the Muslim Conference under his leadership and moved forward. Their intellectual and ideological color is still reflected in them today, even though their political paths have diverged. Today, when the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the occupied state is serious, complex and plagued by intellectual chaos, the lack of a thoughtful leader like Sardar Qayyum Khan is acutely felt. Today, there is a crisis of leadership, a lack of vision, and tolerance and tolerance have waned. This is the crisis due to which public rights, state stability and ideological affiliations are declining.

We pray to Allah Almighty to grant us the ability to take the Kashmir freedom movement to its destination according to the thoughts and ideas of Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan.



Rain water

LAHORE: Residents throwing water accumulated in their house at Margaret Anderson after the heavy rain, in the Provincial Capital.



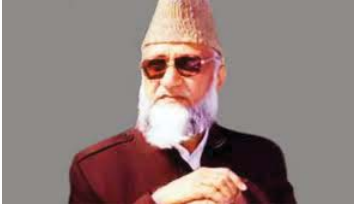
Photo: Online

10th anniversary of Mujahid I Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan observed with devotion and respect

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD/DHIRKOT: The tenth death anniversary of Mujahid eAwwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, Supreme Head of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, former President and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, former Chairman of the National Kashmir Committee, and founder of the Kashmir Freedom Movement, was observed with great devotion and respect across the country including Azad Kashmir. On this occasion, prayer events were held at district and educational levels across the state, where workers and the public arranged Quran recitation and collective prayers for the eternal peace of Mujahid eAwwal.

The main event was held at his shrine in his native Ghaziabad, where a large number of people from all districts of Azad Kashmir partici-



pated. The ceremony was attended by a salute from the Pakistan Armed Forces and Azad Kashmir Police. President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, along with the workers, laid flowers at the shrine and prayed for the eternal peace of the late leader. Former Federal Minister Kh. Saad Rafiq Former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan, Government Minister Sardar Mir Akbar, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq, Education Minister Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai, former Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Abdul Rashid Turabi, former

Government Minister Raja Yasin, All Party Hurriyat Conference leader Zahid Safi, Chairman District Council Bagh Professor Asif and other political, religious and social leaders attended and addressed the ceremony.

The speakers said that a history-making, visionary, principled and all-round leadership like Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan is born in centuries. His struggle, thoughts and ideas and political insight are still a beacon of light for the entire Kashmiri nation. He launched the armed struggle for the independence of Kashmir from Nila Butt on August 23, 1947, which gave the independence movement an organized direction. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan was not only an enthusiastic advocate of the independence movement, the ideology of accession to Pakistan and the stability of Pakistan, but also his services for the development, institu-

tion-building and strengthening of the parliamentary system in Azad Kashmir are unforgettable. The Muslim Conference was blessed with his wise leadership for almost 60 years, of which the party is still proud today. The ceremony was attended by Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, former government minister Raja Muhammad Yasin Khan, Abdul Rashid Chughtai Advocate, Azhar Shah, Syed Yasir Naqvi, Amjad Gardezi, Raja Munir, Sheikh Maqsood, Dilawar Wani, Raja Bashir Khan, Shakur Mughal (Mirpur) and political and social figures from all districts of Azad Kashmir. On this occasion, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan expressed special thanks to all the participants who attended the ceremony. He also thanked the news organizations that published special publications on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mujahid e Awwal.

Burhan Wani's Martyrdom Day A new mode of freedom movement

Who was Burhan Wani?

Burhan Muzaffar Wani was born in 1994 in a religious family in Tral town, Pulwama district of South Kashmir. Burhan Muzaffar Wani's father, Maulvi Muzaffar Ahmed Wani, was the principal of a government school in occupied Kashmir. Burhan Muzaffar Wani was a bright, civilized, educated and freedom-loving young man. Leadership, honor, and awareness were prominent in his personality from childhood.

Why did Burhan Muzaffar Wani take up arms against India?

Burhan Muzaffar Wani's life changed when the Indian forces beat him and his brother for no reason, just because they were riding a bicycle.

These cruel tactics of the Indian forces sparked a rebellion within Burhan Muzaffar Wani. Burhan Muzaffar Wani took up the gun because the honor, dignity, and freedom of the Kashmiri

people were being taken away by the Indian forces in the occupied valley. The Kashmiri people were enslaved by the Indian government, the atrocities of the Indian army had exceeded the limit, according to Burhan Muzaffar Wani, the gun was a metaphor for protesting against oppression. For all these reasons and to achieve freedom, Burhan Muzaffar Wani and his comrades took up the gun against the forced occupation of India.

Most friends ask, which military organization did Burhan Wani Shaheed belong to?

Burhan Muzaffar Wani joined Hizbul Mujahideen in 2010. Within a few years, Burhan Muzaffar Wani became the

young commander of the organization and emerged as a symbol of resistance throughout Kashmir. And he remained affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen until the day of his martyrdom. Students want to know why Burhan Wani Shaheed became famous on social media?

Burhan Wani Shaheed made social media an effective weapon of the freedom movement. He kept uploading his pictures and videos in military uniform, encouraging Kashmiri youth during Indian atrocities. He used to speak openly against oppression, his tone was soft but his passion was Karbala. Burhan Wani Shaheed challenged fear and made resistance popular.

Burhan Muzaffar Wani would die

martyred while fighting Indian forces in Karnag, Anantnag on July 8, 2016.

Indian forces, acting on a secret information, martyred Burhan Wani along with two of his companions. This was not just the martyrdom of a military commander, but the end of the young face of the freedom movement that warmed hearts.

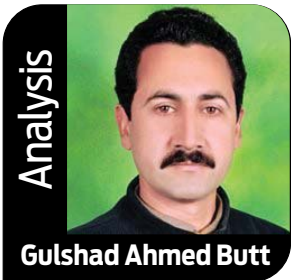
The world knows that after the martyrdom of Burhan Muzaffar Wani, the situation in occupied Kashmir remained extremely tense. There was a complete curfew in the entire valley for more than four months, during which more than two hundred Kashmiris were martyred, thousands of Kashmiris were injured during the resistance. Dozens of youth, children and women were blinded by pellet guns. The communication system in the entire Kashmir Valley remained in shambles and all types of internet and phone services

remained closed, all educational institutions, colleges and shops were closed due to curfew. The Kashmir Valley was presenting a scene of Karbala.

After the martyrdom of Burhan Wani, the Kashmiri youth took forward the struggle with new enthusiasm and fervor, slogans of "Burhan will give you color" echoed on social media and in the streets, there was strong public resistance against India. It would be correct to say that after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani, the trend of militancy increased significantly among the youth, the young generation came forward to join the Jihad in Kashmir, even the educated class did not remain silent.

After the martyrdom of Burhan Wani, the Kashmir issue once again came on the global agenda. The United Nations and human rights organizations took notice of Indian atrocities. The international media reported on pellet guns. Burhan

Wani Day was celebrated in many countries. Pakistan declared Burhan Wani a national hero and observed "Black Day". Burhan Wani's martyrdom teaches us that remaining silent in the face of oppression is a sin. Young age and limited resources cannot stop the path of struggle. Social media can be used as a weapon against oppression. Sacrifice always brings color. The condition is that the intention is pure. Giving one's life for freedom is Hussainiyat, and keeping silent is Yazidiyat. Burhan Wani is not only a martyr but also a metaphor for the Kashmir freedom movement. Burhan Wani Shaheed was an epoch-making figure who breathed new life into the history of Kashmir with his blood. Even today, Kashmiri youth are present in the field with the slogan of "Labaik Ya Burhan". Burhan is not dead, he is alive. He is still alive in every street, every valley, every heart.



Analysis

Gulshad Ahmed Butt

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:24 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:12 pm
Maghrib	7:21 pm
Isha	9:02 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Action against fake pesticide Manufacturers

Zafar Chishti

FAISALABAD: According to details, Divisional Director Pest Warning Division Faisalabad Muhammad Zulfiqar Ali Ghauri Talking to the Media said that continuous action is being taken against the manufacturers and sellers of fake pesticides.

Zulfiqar Ali Ghauri further said that I, along with my team, have taken action against a factory manufacturing fake pesticide in Faisalabad and on the spot we seized fake pesticide worth about Rs 12.5 million and Two persons were arrested and legal action under process.

He said that Inshallah, such operations will continue.

Our teams are working in the field on a daily basis. Those who make and sell fake Pesticides do not deserve any concessions because these people destroy and ruin their crops by selling such fake Pesticides to farmers.

In the End, Zulfiqar Ali Ghauri said that, “I send a message to all farmers to avoid using such fake Pesticide so that your crops are spared further damage.”

Hashoo Foundation Empowers Youth Changemakers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark celebration of youth innovation and social impact, Hashoo Foundation (HF), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), and with the financial support from the European Union (EU), hosted a dynamic Pitch Fest showcasing youth-led social enterprises developed under the Partnerships for Change initiative.

Prominent dignitaries in attendance included Philipp Oliver Gross, Deputy Head of Mission EU to Pakistan; Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Hashoo Group and Chairman of HF; Troels Vester, Country Representative of UNODC; Haris Qayyum Khan, CEO of HF; senior representatives from NACTA, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCVE), the University of Swat; as well as members of Pakistan's innovation and investment ecosystem. Their presence signified strong institutional commitment to integrating youth voices in Pakistan's development

discourse.

Speaking as guest of honor, Philipp Oliver Gross, Deputy Head of Mission EU to Pakistan, remarked: “The Pitch Fest is a powerful platform that opens doors for young people. It gives them visibility, confidence, and access to opportunities that can transform their futures—and, in doing so, help prevent the marginalization that violent extremism feeds on.”

Echoing this vision, Troels Vester of UNODC underscored the urgency of youth engagement: “The creation of the SMaRT Village in Gulibagh is not simply an output, it is a proof of concept: that youth, when trusted and resourced, can innovate their way out of marginalization and into leadership roles within their own communities.”

Haris Qayyum Khan, CEO of Hashoo Foundation, emphasized the project's inclusive ethos“Peripheral youth are often overlooked and neglected in the startup ecosystem. The innovation and confidence these young entrepreneurs have demonstrated today speak volumes about the ripple effects our impact investments can generate.”

Implemented on ground by Hashoo



Foundation in partnership with the University of Swat and KPCVE, the initiative builds on the Foundation's flagship Social Lab and its award-winning

SMaRT (Sustainable Methods and Resilient Technologies) Village model. Under the Education 4.0 framework, youth participants received future-ready tech-

anical and soft skills training, along with seed funding to implement their ideas in a selected community—transforming it into a fully functional Smart Village.

Langar

ISLAMABAD: A man is distributing free food (Langar) among the poor people outside Bari Imam shrine, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

First Convocation of Quaid-e-Azam College of Engineering & Technology, Sahiwal

Tahir Amin Malik

SAHIWAL: Quaid-e-Azam College of Engineering & Technology, Sahiwal, affiliated with the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, held its first convocation ceremony. During the ceremony, 39 students from the Civil Engineering Department, Session 2021, were awarded degrees and honorary medals.

Vice Chancellor UET Lahore, Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, graced the occasion as chief guest and conferred degrees and medals upon the graduates. In his address, Dr. Shahid Munir congratulated the graduating students and praised their academic



achievements. He expressed hope that these young engineers would play a vital role in the nation's development and progress.

The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Khalid Farooq, Dean, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Mr. Muhammad Asif,

Registrar UET Lahore, Mr. Zargham Nusrat, Controller of Examinations, and Dr. Naveed Ramzan, Dean, Faculty of Chemical, Metallurgical and Polymer Engineering.

Distinguished guests included Dr. Javid Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, University of

Sahiwal; Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad, Principal, Government Graduate College, Sahiwal; Mr. Muhammad Shehzad Rafiq, Principal, Government Imamia Associate College; Mr. Shafiq Ahmad, Principal, DPS and College, Bahawalnagar; Engr. Nauman Baig, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Sahiwal; Engr. Talha Zeeshan Afzal, Executive Engineer, LBDC, Sahiwal; Engineer Umer Ibrar, Executive Engineer, Sakhrava Division; and Mr. Waseem Irshad, Business Head, JS Bank Lahore. The event marked a significant milestone in the journey of the college and celebrated the accomplishments of its first graduating batch.

Role of Media in Shaping Narrative during Turbulent Times

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) held an in-house expert session titled “The Role of Media in Shaping Narrative During Turbulent Times”, aimed at fostering strategic reflection on how media influences national narrative during challenging times. Held under Chatham House Rules, the session brought together leading journalists and media professionals to assess the media's power to either stabilise or destabilise a country's strategic landscape.

In his opening remarks, President IRS emphasised that narrative has become a strategic tool of influence and resistance. He cited the recent May 2025 standoff between India and Pakistan, where Pakistan's fact-based and transparent media strategy was internationally recognised by outlets such as The New York Times, CNN, and Al Jazeera for de-escalating tensions. In contrast, India's media came under criticism for amplifying disinformation and speculative claims, fuelling the risks of escalation.

The session featured insights from a distinguished panel of media practitioners, including Mr. Ghulam Mujtaba Memon (Controller News and Current Affairs, Radio Pakistan); Ms. Sahar Aslam Khan (Associated Press of Pakistan); Mr. Zahid Farooq Malik (Senior Journalist); Mr. Ali Furqan (Voice of America); Mr. Farooq Mirza (4th Pillar News – The Vigilant International, USA); Mr. Haitham Naser (TRT News); Mr. Irfan Sadozai (Dawn News), Mr. Afzal Reza (IRNA); Mr. Tariq Mohiyuddin (Russia Today); Mr. Tassawar Zaman Babar (CGTN), and several others representing national and international media. Speakers delved into how hostile actors are leveraging disinformation and hybrid warfare tactics to target Pakistan's national unity and strategic credibility.

RPO Rawalpindi Babar Sarfraz Alpa holds Open Court at Hazro Police Station

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In compliance with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab and the instructions of the Inspector General of Police Punjab, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, held an open court at Hazro Police Station. District Police Officer (DPO) Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, was also present on the occasion.

A large number of citizens attended the open court and presented their grievances. RPO Rawalpindi attentively listened to all the issues raised and issued on-the-spot instructions to the officers concerned to resolve the public complaints on a priority basis.

Speaking at the event, RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa emphasized that open courts are an effective platform to restore public trust and improve policing standards. He reiterated that public welfare and prompt delivery of justice remain the top priorities of the police department.

DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan also assured the attendees that all complaints would be addressed promptly in accordance with legal procedures.

KPDC delegation discusses healthcare sector issues with Speaker KP Assembly

PESHAWAR:A delegation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Doctors' Council (KPDC), led by its President Dr. Abdul Majeed called on the Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Khan Swati, at the Assembly Secretariat here Thursday to discuss pressing issues in the healthcare sector and to seek the Speaker's support in resolving them.

The delegation was comprising on senior representatives of major medical bodies, including Prof. Dr. Musa Kaleem, President, Teaching Staff, Dr. Fazal Manan, General Secretary, KPDC, Dr. Javed Nawab, President, Islamic Doctors Forum, Dr. Hussain Haroon, President, Pakistan Medical Association and Dr. Daniyal, Spokesperson KPDC and representative of the Islamic Medical Association.

Besides, Members of the Provincial Assembly Fazal Elahi and Sajjad Ullah, senior officials from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department were also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the delegation shared detailed concerns related to the challenges faced by medical professionals, the ongoing protests, and structural issues within the public health system.

Responding to the delegation's outreach, Speaker Babar Saleem Khan Swati assumed the role of a facilitator between the medical professionals and the relevant government departments. He emphasized the need for constructive dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders to ensure effective resolution of healthcare issues and systemic improvement.

He held direct discussions with Health Department officials during the meeting, underscoring the importance of prompt and sincere action to address the valid concerns raised by the medical community.

While appreciating the department's ongoing efforts, the Speaker also highlighted the need for targeted reforms in areas where improvements are necessary.

The meeting reaffirmed that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained committed to strengthening the healthcare system and delivering quality medical services to the public.

The Speaker expressed his intent to convey the delegation's concerns to the relevant authorities and, where necessary, raise the matter in the Provincial Assembly.

AKUH Wins the 2025 Platinum Award for Heart Attack Care

City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) has once again been internationally recognised for its life-saving cardiac care, receiving the 2025 Platinum Performance Achievement Award from the Chest Pain – MI Registry, an initiative of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). This marks AKUH's third consecutive win, and its second consecutive Platinum Award, the highest honour in the ACC's performance achievement programme.

The Platinum Performance Achievement Award is presented to hospitals that consistently deliver evidence-based, guideline-directed care to patients experiencing heart attacks (myocardial infarctions). To qualify, hospitals must meet strict perfor-

mance criteria and engage in a continuous quality improvement process — monitoring clinical performance, adopting best practices, and improving outcomes for high-risk heart patients.

“This third consecutive international recognition speaks to our commitment to delivering life-saving cardiac care grounded in evidence and compassion,” said Dr Farhat Abbas T. I, S. I, CEO, AKUH Health System, Pakistan. “It is a powerful endorsement of our team's dedication to clinical excellence and patient safety. As we continue to raise the bar in cardiovascular care, we remain focused on innovation and improving outcomes for every patient we serve.”

By aligning with international best practices, AKUH ensures care that improves survival rates and long-term outcomes for heart patients in



Pakistan. This consistent recognition underscores the hospital's leadership in cardiovascular care in the region.

“This recognition reinforces our drive to elevate standards, embrace innovation, and deliver better outcomes for our heart patients,” said Dr Javed Majid Tai, Director, Cath Lab

and Site Director for National Cardiovascular Data Registry at AKUH.

As a trusted name in advanced cardiovascular care, AKUH remains committed to clinical excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement — raising the bar for heart care in Pakistan.

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Pakistan, Russia vow closer ties

A high-powered delegation led by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi, as well as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, who is also the focal person for the Pakistan Steel Mills project, called on Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk in Moscow on Thursday.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest, including political, trade and economic cooperation, as well as energy, connectivity, industrial and agricultural cooperation.

SAPM Fatemi underlined that Pakistan attached high importance to its relations with the Russian Federation, adding that strengthening relations with the latter was one of Pakistan’s foreign policy priorities. He affirmed that Pakistan viewed Russia as a stabilizing factor in the international arena.

Furthermore, during the discussion, SAPM Haroon Akhtar conveyed that Pakistan attached high importance to ongoing discussions on the new Steel Mills in Karachi, as the project carried an important legacy of Pakistan’s relations with Russia, that could serve as a “leap forward” symbol of future cooperation and partnership.

The SAPM gave an overview of the investment-friendly industrial policy of Pakistan, that had ensured macro-economic stability, achieved under the present Government.

During the meeting, DPM Overchuk who was assisted by key ministers, recalled his visit to Pakistan in September 2024 and his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on the sidelines of the SCO-Heads of Government in Islamabad in October 2024.

Characterizing Pakistan and Russia as “natural allies”, he stressed that President Putin considered Pakistan as an important partner in the growth and development of economy and energy in the region.

He also highlighted the significance of important connectivity projects between two countries, such as the railway connectivity between Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Russia, and the launching of pilot cargo train between Pakistan and Russia in August 2025.

The two sides also touched upon regional and international issues, such as the situation in South Asia, Afghanistan, and the Middle East, as well as the bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Russia at all multilateral forums.

The visit of the two SAPMs was deeply appreciated by the Deputy Prime Minister, who emphasized that President Putin was strongly in favor of further deepening of cooperation with Pakistan in all important sectors.

The deputy prime minister also shared that President Putin was greatly looking forward to his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the forthcoming SCO-Council of Heads of State in Tianjin, China, in late August this year.

Trump and Netanyahu’s Bloody Path to “Peace”

These are momentous times, not only for the region but for the shifting power dynamics of the world. On July 7 and 8, 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U. S. President Donald Trump convened in Washington, D. C., amid a rapidly evolving crisis. At the White House, flanked by their cabinets, both leaders addressed the media following back-to-back meetings where they discussed the ongoing war in Gaza, indirect ceasefire talks with Hamas, and their joint military action against Iran. The press conference that followed was revealing—not just for what was said, but for what was admitted, evaded, and conspicuously ignored.

But while both leaders stood united in the language of military strength, they diverged sharply when the conversation turned to Iran’s future. Netanyahu maintained an aggressive stance, affirming that Israel would never tolerate the re-emergence of Iranian power in Syria or the region at large. Trump, however, struck a noticeably different chord. He praised the Iranian people as “very smart, energetic people” and reiterated his desire to lift sanctions “at the right time,” suggesting a path of economic reintegration rather than perpetual war. He spoke of Iran’s “great oil power” and its “potential for peace,” offering a glimpse of a strategy built on diplomacy rather than annihilation. This contrast revealed a fundamental divide between the two leaders: one seeking permanent suppression, the other seeking calculated engagement.

Syria also emerged as a critical part of the broader plan. Netanyahu was clear that prior to their operations, “Iran was essentially running Syria.” Now, he claimed, “Iran is out of the picture,” President Trump reinforced this position, explaining that sanctions were lifted

to give the post-Iranian Syrian government a chance to rebuild. “I met the new leader... I was very impressed,” he said, signaling American willingness to reconfigure the region—so long as Iran remained on the sidelines. This transformation of Syria from Iranian stronghold to Western-aligned state was offered as both a strategic victory and a sign of shifting alliances.

But amid the triumphalism, the most conspicuous silence surrounded Gaza. President Trump spoke passionately about the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, lamenting, “These are souls... it’s appalling, it’s unforgivable.” Yet when it came to the civilian deaths in Gaza—where tens of thousands have been killed, injured, or displaced—he said nothing. No mention of the humanitarian catastrophe, the flattened hospitals, the water crisis, or the lost children. Not even a token expression of sorrow. This absence revealed a dangerous truth: that even amid international condemnation of Israel’s actions as collective punishment, ethnic cleansing, or genocide, the President of the United States dared not speak a word of dissent. This wasn’t just political—it was systemic. The silence was deafening.

The contradictions deepened further when the issue of Hamas entered the discussion. On one hand, Netanyahu framed Hamas as a terrorist entity that must be eradicated completely. “We still have to finish the job in Gaza... eliminate and destroy Hamas’s military and governance capabilities,” he declared. And yet, in the same breath, he revealed that negotiations were ongoing. “We accepted a proposal that came from the mediators...

I think that we’ve gotten closer to it.” This paradox defies logic. If Hamas has been militarily decapitated, why is Israel still negotiating with it? Why does Hamas still hold hostages? Why is it still dictating terms at the table?

The answer lies in a reality neither leader wanted to fully admit: that despite two years of siege and destruction, despite the combined might of Israeli and American forces, Hamas still remains a central political and military actor. Netanyahu acknowledged that “on the way over here and on the way from here” discussions with Hamas and intermediaries continued. This was not a sign of weakness from Hamas—it was proof of endurance. That even after half of Gaza was reduced to rubble, Hamas still holds hostages, still retains command, and still holds diplomatic leverage, exposes the failure of Israel’s total war doctrine. Far from being eradicated, Hamas has become the de facto representative of the Gazan people in any future settlement.

What’s more telling is that the negotiations themselves are being shaped by the United States, Qatar, and other regional players, all of whom recognize Hamas as a negotiating partner. This tacit legitimacy undermines Netanyahu’s claims of destroying Hamas’s governance capacity. It affirms that any future framework for Gaza and the West Bank will, by necessity, involve Hamas—not just as a spoiler, but as a stakeholder. And if Hamas holds that space now, after facing the wrath of both Israel and the United States, it only underscores its strategic depth and societal roots in the Palestinian landscape.

In the final moments of the press

conference, Netanyahu was asked about declining U. S. public support for Israel, especially among Democrats. He blamed it on “vilification and demonization on social media,” insisting, “Nothing defeats lies like the truth.” But the truth remains painfully visible. It is in the refugee camps, in the aerial footage of destroyed neighborhoods, in the buried children and grieving mothers. It is in the contradictions between rhetoric and reality, between the promise of peace and the daily grind of occupation, siege, and military dominance.

The Trump-Netanyahu meeting, though billed as a peace coordination summit, was something altogether different. It was a show of strategic triumphalism built on the ashes of diplomacy. It revealed a dual policy of war and negotiation—bombing one day, talking the next. It praised military supremacy while denying humanitarian suffering. It treated displacement as peace, and coercion as choice. It silenced Gaza while discussing Ukraine. It admitted the centrality of Hamas while vowing its extinction. It was a performance of contradictions, wrapped in ceremony, delivered with pride, and protected by silence.

If there is one thing the summit achieved, it is clarity. The clarity that this is not a war to destroy Hamas. It is a war to redefine Palestine. And in doing so, the United States and Israel have made one thing clear to the world: power is the process, peace is the packaging. And the people—their pain, their dignity, their future—remain secondary to strategic calculus.

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



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

Lessons of Faith, Unity and Sacrifice from Martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain

For Pakistan, a country founded on the ideals of Islam, justice, unity, and faith, the lessons from Imam Hussain’s martyrdom are not just relevant; they are essential for national survival, integrity, and prosperity. The legacy of Karbala offers Pakistanis a deep reservoir of guidance rooted in the principles of unwavering faith, collective unity, and supreme sacrifice—values that must shape the nation’s soul in its internal and external struggles.

Perhaps the most powerful and emotionally resonant lesson from the martyrdom of Imam Hussain is that of sacrifice. On the day of Ashura, Imam Hussain witnessed the martyrdom of his dearest family members and companions, including his own sons, brothers, nephews, and even his infant child, Ali Asghar. Despite the personal agony and unimaginable loss, he stood firm, never retreating, never compromising. This sacrifice was not made for personal gain or revenge; it was made so that the core values of Islam could survive. The blood that soaked the sands of Karbala watered the roots of truth for all generations to come. For Pakistan, which has paid a heavy price in blood for its survival, development, and security, this lesson is both painful and inspiring. From the sacrifices made during the partition of 1947, where millions were displaced and thousands killed, to the soldiers who laid down their lives defending the country’s borders and the martyrs of terrorism who fell in schools, mosques, markets, and public places—Pakistan has a long legacy of sacrifice. But the crucial question is: are we honoring those sacrifices with our actions

today? Sacrifice demands responsibility. It demands that the living uphold the values for which the martyrs died. Whether it’s civil servants, politicians, youth, or the common citizen, everyone in Pakistan must be willing to prioritize national interest above personal gain. Just as Imam Hussain gave everything without expecting worldly rewards, Pakistanis too must embrace a spirit of selflessness in service to the nation.

Imam Hussain’s martyrdom also provides a blueprint for moral resistance against oppression, even when the outcome appears bleak. He did not compromise because he believed that the integrity of Islam was more important than life itself. His legacy tells us that even if one stands alone, if one stands on the side of truth, that stand is victorious in the eyes of God and history. For Pakistanis facing challenges such as political instability, economic hardship, foreign pressure, and social injustice, this example should serve as a reminder that standing for truth, though difficult, is the only path that leads to dignity and long-lasting success. Each citizen has a role to play in this resistance—by being honest in their work, fair in their dealings, tolerant in their beliefs, and courageous in speaking against wrongs.

Moreover, the role of women in the aftermath of Karbala, particularly Hazrat Zainab (S. A.), offers another critical dimension for Pakistanis to reflect upon. After the massacre, it was she who rose, despite her grief and suffering, to deliver powerful sermons that exposed Yazid’s tyranny and ensured the truth of Karbala would echo through generations. Her strength, wisdom, and resilience

highlight the essential role women play in preserving and propagating societal values. In Pakistan, where women have historically played a central role in every sphere—from the freedom movement to education, healthcare, and national development—the example of Hazrat Zainab should serve as a reminder that empowering women is not a modern construct but a deeply Islamic principle. A society that values the contributions of its women, that educates them, respects them, and protects their rights, is one that truly follows the legacy of Karbala.

The lessons of Karbala—faith, unity, and sacrifice—are not relics of the past; they are the keys to a morally strong, resilient, and prosperous Pakistan. Imam Hussain did not fight to seize territory or claim power. He rose to awaken the conscience of the Ummah and preserve the truth. That mission continues today. Pakistan stands at a crossroads in many ways, facing threats from within and outside. However, the path forward lies not in despair, but in drawing strength from its rich Islamic legacy. By embodying the values Imam Hussain lived and died for, Pakistanis can overcome any challenge and build a nation that not only survives but thrives with dignity, justice, and peace. The blood of Hussain did not fall in vain—it flows in the veins of every soul that rises for truth. Pakistan, too, must rise—faithful, united, and willing to sacrifice for the greater good. In doing so, it will not only honor Karbala but secure its future for generations to come. The nation has recently demonstrated remarkable unity and full commitment during a recent conflict against India. The need is to sustain this unity and faith according to the teachings of Islam, our Prophet (PBUH), and Hazrat Imam Hussain, which is the only key to our development, progress, and security.



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

Getting Rid of Phatta Rickshaws: A Serious First Step Toward Public Safety

For the residents of Multan, there is finally some encouraging news: the traffic police have decided to crack down on the illegal phatta rickshaws that have long plagued the city’s roads with disorder, congestion, and an alarming rise in accidents. Chief Traffic Officer Multan, Mr. Moarhan Khan, stated clearly

that concrete steps are being taken to rid the city of encroachments and these unauthorized vehicles. He explained that not only are these rickshaws operating outside the bounds of law, but most of their drivers lack any formal training or valid licenses—factors that have significantly contributed to the surge in accidents. Mr. Moarhan Khan declared that phatta rickshaw is an illegal mode of transport with no legal standing or justification to be on the roads. To maintain traffic flow, protect lives and property, and ensure road order, a grand operation against these rickshaws will be launched soon.

The phatta rickshaw is no longer just a simple vehicle—it has become part of a well-organized and dangerous mafia. In many cases, those who used to operate donkey carts have now taken up these rickshaws. They operate them without registration, permits, or brakes—at dangerously high speeds. They transport long steel rods, heavy goods, and construction materials that can cause deadly accidents even in minor collisions.

Here, another important question arises: If someone truly cares about their livelihood, why not operate a legal, registered loading rickshaw that meets safety standards? Isn’t it possible to earn a living while staying within the law? Of course, it is—if the intention is sincere.

Unfortunately, some leaders of trader unions

are backing these illegal rickshaws for their own short-term benefits or personal connections. These are the very people who load their daily warehouse goods onto these rickshaws and become complicit in keeping this dangerous mode of transport on the roads. They must take responsibility and stop supporting these rickshaws—for the public good. Maintaining law and order is not just the duty of the police or administration; it is a collective responsibility. If we justify lawbreaking today for our convenience, tomorrow someone else may risk our safety citing poverty as an excuse.

The government must enforce the law strictly and provide alternative livelihoods for those in need. But under no circumstances should the law be wrapped in the cloak of poverty and made acceptable. The law is the law—it does not differentiate between rich and poor. If we genuinely care about societal welfare, we must uphold the rule of law at all costs, even if that means temporarily letting go of certain conveniences. Along with the ban on illegal “Phatta” rickshaws, strict warnings should also be issued to those workshop owners who are making unauthorized alterations to motorcycles to manufacture these dangerous and substandard rickshaws. This practice not only disrupts the traffic system but also poses a serious threat to the lives and property of citizens.

It is also a well-acknowledged fact that eliminating phatta rickshaws will significantly reduce accidents, improve traffic flow, ease urban life, and help clear congested roads. For the progress and safety of the city, every citizen must respect traffic laws and fully support this action. Although delayed, this step against illegal transport is a much-needed move in the right direction.



Analysis
Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

IS Hamdard Shura Meeting

Transforming Accountability: NAB’s Vision for a Corruption-Free Pakistan: Add Director

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has recovered Rs. 455 billion in cash from corrupt individuals. NAB's internal accountability system is proactive as acting on complaints from citizens, NAB has arrested several serving officers involved in misuse of authority. Tax evasion has become a widespread practice, and it must be discouraged strictly.

Masood Ahmed, Additional Director of Investigation NAB Sindh, expressed these views yesterday at the meeting of Hamdard Shura Karachi, held at Hamdard Corporate Head Office. The session was chaired by Shura Speaker Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider. The topic of the meeting was “The Need for an Accountability Process.” Ms. Sadia Rashid (Hilal-e-Imtiaz), President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, also attended the session.

Masood Ahmed said that during the fiscal year 2023–24, NAB took major action and retrieved 2.29 million acres of land from the Sindh Forest Department that was under illegal occupation. The land is worth over Rs. 2 trillion. The occupying groups had severely

damaged the forests on this land.

He added that NAB also recovered Rs. 12 billion from several fraudulent housing schemes and returned the amount to the affected victims. Since its establishment, NAB has recovered land and other assets worth billions of rupees, which are categorized as indirect recoveries. In addition, NAB has taken legal action against hundreds of individuals involved in bribery and fraud.

He further said that in 2022, NAB laws were amended to clearly define the institution's jurisdiction. Under the new rules, NAB can take legal action only in cases of corruption involving over Rs. 500 million. Additionally, the NAB Ordinance does not apply to individuals living abroad. In cases of suspicious money transfers in bank accounts, only the transactions made after the inquiry begins can be included in the investigation. Moreover, to prove bribery, there must be evidence showing the transfer of money from one bank account to the accused's account.

“Plea bargain is a legal term. It does not mean giving the accused relief from punishment, but offering partial exemption from charges if the

accused admits guilt before the trial begins. Under the NAB Ordinance, plea bargain is allowed in cases of financial corruption and misuse of authority to save the court's time and resources, and to ensure swift and effective resolution. However, even after accepting a plea bargain, the accused can be declared ineligible for public office. The illegally earned money is confiscated, heavy fines are imposed, and the person's reputation in society suffers serious damage.”

“FATF had serious concerns regarding money laundering. To comply with international regulations, the government has now made it mandatory for banks to set up an automatic alert system. This system must detect any large transaction that does not match the account's usual activity and report it to the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU).”

“Under this mechanism, the FMU examines such transactions and informs the relevant authorities if needed,” he concluded.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Speaker Shura Col (r) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, Professor Dr. Tanveer Khalid, Cdre (r) Sadeed Anwar



Malik, Engineer Parvez Sadiq, Shehla Ahmed, Huma Baig, Musarrat Akram, Professor Dr. Khalida Ghous, Professor Dr. Amir Tauseen, Engineer Ibn-ul-Hassan, Professor Dr. Amjad Jafri, and other distinguished members.

Call on

ISLAMABAD: H.E Sheikhha Asma Al Thani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.



Photo: PID

British-Pakistani Shafiq Akbar Honoured at UK Parliament for \$1 Billion Investment in Pakistan

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: British-Pakistani entrepreneur Shafiq Akbar was honoured this week at the UK Parliament in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Pakistan's economy. Akbar was acknowledged for spearheading investments exceeding \$1 billion and for generating more than 3,000 jobs, marking a significant milestone in fostering economic growth and employment opportunities in Pakistan. The prestigious event at Parliament was hosted by Lord Muhammad Shafaq, who praised Akbar's efforts as a shining example of how diaspora-led initiatives can drive transformative change in emerging markets. The gathering brought together a distinguished audience of parliamentarians, business leaders, and members of the British-Pakistani community, all united in celebrating Akbar's remarkable achievements. Shafiq Akbar, a graduate of the University of Cambridge, spent



15 years building a career in London before returning to Islamabad to realise his vision of creating a global impact from Pakistan. Through his flagship companies — IMARAT, Graana.com, and Agency21 — he has revolutionised Pakistan's real estate and technology sectors, introducing innovative business models and promoting sustainable urban development. Speaking at the event, colleagues and dignitaries lauded Akbar as a visionary leader

er whose work is not only reshaping Pakistan's business landscape but also strengthening commercial ties between the UK and Pakistan. His story stands as a powerful testament to the role of overseas Pakistanis in contributing to their homeland's progress while fostering international partnerships. Akbar's ongoing projects continue to set new benchmarks for excellence and ambition, inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs across borders.

Trade organizations decide to launch protest against on Finance Act 2025-26

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: In an important press conference held at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, chambers of commerce, trade associations and industrial organizations across the country have unanimously rejected Section 37-A, 37-B, Section 21(S), digital invoicing, e-billity and e-invoicing included in Finance Act 2025-26 and announced a joint struggle.

On this occasion, representatives of all chambers of South Punjab, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, All Pakistan Oil Mills Association, Chamber of Small Traders, Crop Protection Association, as well as chambers of Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Gujarat, Bahawalpur and other cities participated through video link.



Addressing the press conference, President of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said that under Section 37-A and 37-B, FBR officers have been given powers of arrest, detention and investigation without judicial approval, which will lead to violation of constitutional fundamental rights and promotion of fear, distrust and corruption among the business community. Karachi Chamber

President Javed Balwani, in his address via video link, said that chambers across the country were on the same page against these laws. He said that FBR officers have been given more powers than SHO's, who frame false cases and harass businessmen. He warned that if these laws are not withdrawn, traders will put up protest banners, hoist black flags and go on strike. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce's Rehan Naseem, Lahore Chamber President Mian Abuzar, Sialkot's Ikram-ul-Haq, Bahawalpur's Zafar Sharif, DG Khan's Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Small Traders' Umair Saeed, Crop Protection's Muhammad Hammad, Gujarat Chamber's Usman, Ehtesham-ul-Haq, Zafar Iqbal Siddiqui, and others also unanimously rejected the budget and the new tax laws.

Saraikistan Moments Public Campaign Start On Today: Zahoor Dharija

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Organized by Saraikistan National Council and in collaboration with Saraiki parties, the Saraikistan Public campaign will start from today. People from all walks of life including leaders, parliamentary politicians, poets, writers, singers, social leaders and social stars are participating. Chairman Saraykistan National Council and Organizer Zahoor Dharija addressed the consultation meeting in this regard and said that the Saraikistan Public campaign is also history and history makers. Our partners are traveling for Mianwali He said that the Saraiki movement is one of the peaceful movements of the world, we have been struggling for fifty years, but now the rulers should not test their patience



any more and should give Saraikistan province without delay. President of Saraikistan National Council Dr. Maqbool Hasan Gilani said that apart from the leaders of all the parties, we have invited the political parties of Wasib to participate. Is. He said that the unfair treatment of Wasib has been brought to an end, now we cannot remain silent. He said that today we will go from Multan to Mianwali in the first phase. Five districts will visit

Kot Addu, Layyah Bhakkar, Dera Ismail Khan and Mianwali. Preparations have been completed for the reception of the caravan in all cities in the route. Professor Parvez Qadir Khan said that Saraikistan is actively participating in the Public campaign, Wasib National Movement leader Hasan Khan Langah said that all parties agree on the Establishment of Saraikistan province, the Establishment of Saraiki province is our goal. Saraiki leader

ers Abid Sial, Malik Saeed Akhtar Vance, Hosho Sheedi, Dr. Farhan Brar. Ashraf Pathan Khan, Haji Eid Ahmed Dharija, Ramzan Ansari, Malik Zubair Vance, Hasnain Sanwal, Sabir Ghalu, Maqsood ul Hasan Bhutta and others participated in the meeting. Saraiki leader Zahoor Dharija addressing the meeting held today in connection with the Saraikistan Contact People campaign from Multan to Mianwali

May the Madness for Power Not Turn the World into Hell

The intoxication of power is a poison that numbs wisdom and leads to countless flawed decisions. When this intoxication turns into madness, it eclipses the discernment between good and evil. History has shown again and again the downfall of mighty empires, yet humankind refuses to learn, stubbornly repeating the same destructive mistakes that have obliterated civilizations before.

Within every human resides the potential for both virtue and vice, but power-wielders have rarely drawn equally from both. Like poison that can be transformed into medicine, even destructive forces can be harnessed for good. But those who fail to control them-

selves often use their talents to dominate others, channeling their abilities into destructive pursuits.

Our histories are steeped not in peace but in war. Peaceful eras did exist, but they are neither recorded with the same fervor, nor celebrated in curricula, nor questioned in examinations. Humanity is spoken of as one family, descendants of a single Adam, yet in practice, we are divided by beliefs, races, borders, and national pride.

Every faction views itself as superior and seeks to impose its will on the world. This ambition breeds aggression, and it is this very aggression that has brought us to a perilous edge. The lust for dominance, the race for arms, and the obsession with national superiority have not only endangered humanity but also the

planet itself.

Modern weaponry drones, missiles, nuclear technologies has severely disrupted the balance of power. Under the guise of security, nations are amassing stockpiles of nuclear, chemical, and biological arms. Military drills, hostile narratives, and border skirmishes are clear signs that humanity has failed to learn from the horrors of past wars.

War does not remain confined to the battlefield. Its consequences ripple across economies, ecosystems, education, healthcare, and, most devastatingly, human lives. The destruction



Analysis

Dr. Sughra Sadaf

of Syria, Yemen, Gaza, Ukraine, and other regions is not just evidence of political failure, but a stark reminder that war is less about victory and more about shared catastrophe.

It is deeply troubling that global leaders especially the superpowers are not inclined toward dialogue, justice, or human dignity.

The United Nations and other international bodies must devise a plan to connect the youth with the ideals of empathy, tolerance, peace, and shared humanity.

Today, the world stands cloaked

in the smog of fear and unrest. For months, Gaza has endured relentless bombings. The mangled bodies of innocent children haunt every sensitive soul. Prolonged grief numbs our compassion and pushes humanity to the brink of apathy.

Now, a new conflict between Iran and Israel has erupted. Each morning, the media presents us with images of crumbled buildings and shattered lives. The Earth, once a cradle of fertility and abundance, is now scarred by endless barrages of fire and smoke.

Despite the abundance of luxuries, inner peace is lost. The younger generation, growing up amid uncertainty and dread, is falling prey to despair and passivity.

The hope now lies not in rulers, but

in the awakened conscience of the people. Citizens from every nation must come together on a shared platform of thought, to knock on the doors of public awareness and draft a new moral charter for peace.

If we do not curb this madness for war, the day is not far when drones will become mere firecrackers, and a minor dispute could trigger the launch of missiles.

Surrounded by torn limbs and ruined cities, our pain will multiply until it drives us to madness. And this Earth—our home will indeed become a living hell.

A world where life may still exist But humanity will not. Let us act now, before that moment arrives. Let us choose peace.

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
133,782.34	132,576.98	
Day's High	Day's Low	
133,902.34	132,706.02	
Index Value	Change	
17,678,176,682	+ 1205.36	
Percentage	Time	
+0.91%	10 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,975.66	+ 108.64	
Percentage	Time	
+1.23%	10 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT + 1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
44,281.49	+ 40.73	
Percentage	Time	
+0.092%	9 Jul, 12:52 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,646.36	− 174.92	
Percentage	Time	
−0.44%	10 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	190
Bahrain Dinar	758.45	767.45
Canadian Dollar	209	212
China Yuan	39.19	39.59
Danish Krone	44.27	44.67
Euro	336.25	338
Hong Kong Dollar	35.83	36.18
Indian Rupee	3.23	3.32
Japanese Yen	1.9350	2.0350
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.45	936.45
Malaysian Ringgit	66.46	67.06
NewZealand \$	168.76	170.76
Norwegians Krone	27.84	28.14
Omani Riyal	743.25	752.25
Qatari Riyal	77.33	78.03
Saudi Riyal	76.45	76.80
Singapore Dollar	221.75	226.75
Swedish Korona	29.59	29.89
Swiss Franc	353.63	356.38
Thai Bhat	8.57	8.72
U.A.E Dirham	78.10	78.50
UK Pound Sterling	390	392.50
US Dollar	286.5	287.5

realme Partners

with PM Youth

Program to Launch

National PUBG

Tournament

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: realme, the fastest-growing smartphone brand among youth, partners with the Prime Minister Youth Program to launch the National PUBG Tournament, a groundbreaking esports competition offering a Rs. 1 million prize pool and exclusive realme 14 Series gifts. It comes off as a powerful move to accelerate the growth of Pakistan's gaming ecosystem and empower youth.

"realme has always believed in the power of youth. By joining forces with the Prime Minister Youth Program, we aim to inspire a new generation of gamers and help establish esports as a viable and rewarding career path in Pakistan," said Ethan Yin, CEO of realme.

The partnership between realme and the Prime Minister Youth Program reflects a shared vision to foster talent, drive digital innovation, and unlock new economic opportunities through technology and gaming, particularly through collaborations on popular platforms like PUBG.

Gold prices up

by Rs.3,200 to

Rs.354,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.3,200 and was traded at Rs.354,700 on Thursday as compared to its sale at Rs.351,500 on the last trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs2,744 to Rs.304,098 from Rs. 301,354 and for 10 grams of 22 Karat it went up by Rs.2,515 to Rs.278,766 from Rs. 276,251. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs10 and Rs 8 to Rs.3,851 and Rs.3,301 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$32 to \$3,324 from \$3,292, whereas that of silver increased by \$0.1 to \$36.67 from \$36.57, the Association reported.

SECP criticised for lavish retreat during economic crisis

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is facing growing concern from members of the business community over its recent corporate retreat held in Malam Jabba, reportedly costing approximately Rs 8 million.

The event, described by the SECP as a strategic Registrar Conference aimed at improving institutional performance, has drawn questions from stakeholders regarding its timing, cost, and alignment with the nation's broader economic climate.

Business leaders have expressed reservations about hosting such an event at a scenic tourist destination during a time when many enterprises are facing rising operational costs, regulatory challenges, and financial uncertainty.

Several voices from the private sector have emphasised the need for regulatory bodies to



set an example, especially during times of fiscal constraints and national austerity measures. They believe that public institutions should show prudence in both decision-making and resource allocation.

One entrepreneur, who preferred not to be named, commented that while capacity-building exercises are necessary, the location and scale of this particular retreat have raised valid concerns. He noted that a more modest setting may have delivered the same outcomes with greater symbolic value, especially during economically sensitive times.

Observers also highlighted that recent increases in registration and compliance costs have already placed strain on many businesses. In this context, perceptions of administrative excess—regardless of intent—can affect the credibility and morale of the regulatory environment.

There were also calls for transparency regarding the planning and expenditure associated with the event. Stakeholders have requested a review of how such programs are evaluated and approved to ensure consistency with the broader goals of good governance and investor confidence.

Some businesspeople also referenced past concerns about the SECP's decision-making and enforcement patterns. While acknowledging the Commission's important role, they stressed the need for stronger accountability frameworks and a more inclusive dialogue between regulators and those they oversee.

"The SECP is a vital institution for Pakistan's economic future," said a trader. "Ensuring that it operates transparently and remains sensitive to public perception is essential for maintaining trust in the financial system."

In light of these developments, there are increasing calls for internal reforms aimed at strengthening the SECP's focus on efficiency, impartiality, and stakeholder engagement.

While no formal action has yet been proposed, many in the business community are hopeful that recent feedback will encourage reflection and realignment within the institution to serve its important mission better.

Bilateral Meeting

Islamabad: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, holds a bilateral meeting with the Ambassador of Egypt, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, to discuss enhanced cooperation in agriculture on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Stable Media Vital for Business Growth and investment: Senator Sarmad Ali



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senator Sarmad Ali, Chairman of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), along with APNS Islamabad Chairman Faisal Zahid Malik, Khushnood Ali Khan, Ansar Bhatti, and other executive members, met with Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI). They congratulated Sheikh on his one-year

extension as president. Also present were S. M Tanveer Patron in chief UBG, FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadon, Vice President Zaki Ijaz, Capital Office Chairman Karim Aziz Malik, and Coordination Chairman Malik Sohail.

Senator Sarmad Ali emphasized that a stable media plays a pivotal role in providing accurate information to the business sector; highlighting market trends, and enhancing the investment climate.

He stated that resolving the media's challenges would ultimately benefit the business community.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh described media as the "bright face of society", playing a significant role in its development. He acknowledged the current issues faced by the business community, such as rising inflation, the energy crisis, and the tax burden, and agreed that the media's role is crucial in resolving these problems.

7% of industrial organizations tackle vulnerabilities only when necessary: Kaspersky study



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: According to a latest study conducted by Kaspersky in collaboration with VDC Research, 7% of industrial organizations tackle vulnerabilities only when necessary. This leaves them exposed to unplanned downtime, production losses and the reputational and financial damages that can result from possible cyber breaches..

A study "Securing OT with

Purpose-built Solutions" conducted by Kaspersky in collaboration with VDC Research, illuminates the shifting landscape of cyber-security within the industrial sector. Focusing on key industries such as energy, utilities, manufacturing and transportation, this research surveyed over 250 decision-makers to unveil vital trends and challenges faced in fortifying industrial environments against cyber threats.

Tribunal upholds CCP's order against price fixing in household appliances sector

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal has upheld the order of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) against leading electronic home appliances brands for engaging in resale price maintenance (RPM), a prohibited form of price fixing under the Competition Act, 2010. While maintaining the findings of contravention, the Tribunal reduced the monetary penalty imposed by the CCP to the tune of 90 million, directing the companies to deposit the amount within 30 days.

The CCP had earlier imposed penalties on the companies after concluding

that both the companies in the home appliances sector had engaged in anti-competitive conduct by restricting their dealers from selling products below specific prices, offering discounts, or providing package deals.

In their defense before the Tribunal, the companies did not challenge the finding of contravention but argued that the penalty imposed was high. The Tribunal noted that the appellants demonstrated remedial actions by reimbursing to the dealers the amounts which were imposed by the companies under their price fixing policy. They also assured strict future compliance with the Competition Act.

AlHuda CIBE to Host Landmark Forum on Islamic Banking and Finance in London

Spokesman Report

DUBAI - UAE): AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is proud to announce the upcoming Forum on Islamic Banking and Finance, set to take place on August 23, 2025, at the prestigious Islamic Cultural Centre in London, UK. Under the theme "Advancing Islamic Finance in a Global Financial Hub", this high-profile event will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, Shariah scholars, and financial experts to explore the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the rapidly growing Islamic finance sector.

The forum will serve as a dynamic platform to foster dialogue, share

global best practices, and strengthen the UK's position as a leading hub for Islamic finance in Europe. With sessions covering Islamic banking, Sukuk, Takaful, and Shariah-compliant investments, attendees will gain actionable insights into regulatory developments, fintech innovations, and the convergence of ethical finance with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, emphasized the forum's significance, stating, "The UK has long been a pioneer in embracing Islamic finance, and this forum represents a pivotal opportunity to strengthen its role as a global leader. By bringing together key stakeholders, we aim to foster



collaboration, address challenges, and unlock new opportunities in Shariah-compliant banking, Sukuk,

Takaful, and ethical investments. This event will not only highlight the UK's progressive regulatory environ-

ment but also showcase how Islamic finance aligns with broader goals of financial inclusion and sustainability."

The forum will include keynote addresses, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, where participants can engage with thought leaders and professionals shaping the future of Islamic finance. The forum is designed for banking and finance professionals, regulators, asset managers, Shariah advisors, academics, and fintech innovators seeking to deepen their knowledge and explore partnerships in the Islamic finance industry. With limited sponsorship opportunities and early bird registration discounts available until July 23, 2025

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of international E-commerce company Alibaba Group, led by President of International Markets James Dong met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz Sharif directs formation of committee to boost E-Commerce sector in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underscored the strategic importance of e-commerce for Pakistan's export-driven economic vision and directed the formation of a dedicated committee to devise a roadmap for the sector's growth.

The Prime Minister was speaking during a meeting with a six-member delegation of Alibaba International

Digital Commerce Company, led by its President of International Markets, James Dong, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The delegation appreciated the growing presence of Pakistani entrepreneurs on Alibaba's global e-commerce platforms. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted that over 300,000 locally manufactured Pakistani products are currently being sold on Alibaba's platforms, and emphasized the need to increase this

number substantially.

He instructed relevant authorities to take concrete steps to expand the presence of Pakistani businesses on international e-commerce platforms, which he termed as "a powerful tool to boost exports in the modern digital economy."

"E-commerce is no longer a choice but a necessity. It is a vital pillar in achieving the government's goal of an export-oriented economy," the Prime Minister stated. He called for proactive engage-

ment with the private sector to enable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access international markets through digital platforms.

James Dong praised the contributions of Pakistani entrepreneurs in global trade and reiterated Alibaba's commitment to supporting Pakistan's e-commerce ecosystem. "Currently, more than 300,000 Pakistani products are listed on Alibaba's website, with textiles among one of the most in-

demand category," he noted. He further emphasized that Pakistan holds immense untapped potential in the e-commerce sector and expressed Alibaba Group's strong interest in providing technical training to Pakistani entrepreneurs to help scale up their participation on international platforms. The meeting was also attended by Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairman FBR, and senior officials from relevant departments.

Iran Grateful for Pakistani Support: Reza Amiri Moghaddam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, H. E. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan. During the meeting, both sides discussed strengthening the existing bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated Ambassador of Iran H. E. Reza Amiri Moghaddam on



Iran's significant success in the war against Israel calling it a source of pride for every

Pakistani. He said that the people of Pakistan and Iran are bound by deep-rooted reli-

gious and fraternal ties which will continue to grow stronger over time, In Sha Allah. The

meeting also included a prayer "Fateha" for the martyrs who lost their precious lives in the war against Israel. Expressing his gratitude, Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam thanked Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and the Government of Pakistan for their unwavering support. He also acknowledged the solidarity shown by the Pakistani public and media, noting that Iran faced the Zionist mindset and aggression with resilience. This victory among the greatest blessings of Almighty Allah, he said.

Hamas says Israeli troops sticking point in truce talks as Gaza pounded

AFP

Hamas on Thursday said it opposes any ceasefire deal that includes a large Israeli military presence in Gaza, after offering to release some hostages and as the civil defence agency reported scores killed across the Palestinian territory.

The Islamist militant group said late Wednesday that it had agreed to release 10 people seized in its October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the war.

Both sides have been holding indirect talks in Qatar since Sunday to agree a temporary truce and the United States says it is hopeful that a 60-day halt can be secured in the coming days.

But Hamas said disagreements over the free flow of aid into Gaza and Israel's military withdrawal were sticking points, as were its demands for "real guarantees" for a lasting peace.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim told AFP on Thursday: "We cannot accept the perpetuation of the occupation of our land and the surrender of our people to isolated enclaves under the control of the occupation army (Israel)."

"This is what the negotiating delegation is presenting to the occupation



so far in the current round of negotiations in Doha."

Hamas was particularly opposed to Israeli control over Rafah, on the border with Egypt, and the so-called Morag Corridor between the southern city and Khan Yunis, he added.

Israel announced earlier this year that the army was seizing large areas in Gaza and incorporating them into buffer zones cleared of their inhabitants.

Naim also said the group wanted an end to the current delivery of aid by a US- and Israel-backed group, a system which has seen scores killed while seeking handouts.

On Thursday, eight children were

among 17 killed in an Israeli strike outside a medical clinic in Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, the civil defence agency said.

Rabih Torbay, the head of US medical charity Project Hope, which runs the facility, called it "a blatant violation of humanitarian law, and a stark reminder that no one and no place is safe in Gaza, even as ceasefire talks continue".

Hamas called it "an atrocious crime".

Israel's military said it had struck a Hamas militant in the city who had infiltrated Israel during the 2023 attack and that it "regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals".

- Unanswered questions -

Hamas has given no timeline for the release of hostages or indications about the return of the bodies of nine detainees that Israel says have died in captivity.

Its announcement came as Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrapped up a visit to Washington, which included a meeting between Israeli, US and Qatari representatives.

That meeting on Tuesday "aimed to progress the negotiations and support the ongoing talks in Doha", an official with knowledge of the discussions told AFP.

Qatar, with fellow mediators the United States and Egypt, has brokered back-and-forth talks for a truce since the earliest days of the war but indirect talks have failed to bring about a durable end to hostilities.

Netanyahu, under pressure at home to end the war as military casualties increase, has been uncompromising in his bid to crush Hamas and neutralise it as a security threat to Israel.

But after two high-profile meetings with Donald Trump, he indicated that a temporary truce deal could be on the horizon, echoing the US president's own optimism that a deal can be struck soon.

DPM Dar meets Russian FM on sidelines of ASEAN Forum



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy PM/Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar on Thursday met Russian FM Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum in Kuala

Lumpur.

They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening of bilateral relations and agreed to meet again next week during SCO council of Ministers meeting, a DPM's Office news release said.

Pakistan, Canada agree to upscale bilateral economic, trade ties



Spokesman Report

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan and Canada on Thursday acknowledged the positive trajectory of bilateral relations, agreed to upscale and strengthen their economic and trade ties.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand on the sidelines of 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting here in the Malaysian capital city.

The deputy prime minister invited the Canadian foreign minister to visit Pakistan, which the latter accepted.

LHC reserved its verdict Rashid Shafiq in cases of May 9 in Faisalabad

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Division Bench of the Lahore High Court has reserved its verdict on the petitions seeking the acquittal of former Member of National Assembly Sheikh Rashid Shafiq in four cases of May 9 in Faisalabad.

On Thursday, a division bench comprising Honorable Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi and Justice Asjad Javed Goral heard the case. Advocate Sardar Abdul Raziq Khan appeared on behalf of Rashid Shafiq. While presenting his arguments, he said that Rashid Shafiq was implicated in the May 9 cases after six months on the charge of aiding and abetting on the basis of the statement of an inspector. There is no evidence of aiding and abetting or conspiracy on record. Sardar Abdul Raziq Advocate

further said that according to the prosecution, the meeting held in Chakri on May 4, 2023, headed by Imran Khan, was secret, however, according to the witness, it was a public meeting, in which 250/300 people, including police and security personnel, participated. No other police official supported the statement of Ismat Kamal. Sardar Abdul Raziq Advocate told the learned Court that the witness Ismat Kamal admitted during cross-examination that his statement had nothing to do with the events of May 9. Sheikh Rashid was implicated merely for political vendetta. At this point, the Deputy Prosecutor General opposed the application on behalf of the prosecution. After which the learned Court reserved its decision after hearing the arguments of the parties.

President Xi sends congratulatory letter to Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting

BELJING:Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday sent a congratulatory letter to the Ministerial Meeting of the Global Civilizations Dialogue being held in Beijing on July 10 and 11 under the theme of "Safeguarding Diversity of Human Civilizations for World Peace and Development".

Xi emphasized that the prosperity of civilization and the progress of mankind are inseparable from the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations.

With the current international situation undergoing complex changes, there is a growing need for humanity to let dialogue transcend estrangement and mutual learning supersede clashes.

China is ready to work with all countries to uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations, practice the Global Civilization Initiative, and promote the building of a global network for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations to inject new impetus into the progress of human civilization and world peace and development, he said.

The Chinese president also expressed his hope that participants will have in-depth exchanges, build consensus, and contribute wisdom and strength to promoting mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries and the harmonious coexistence of different civilizations.