Barkat Rice Mills

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Pakistan in August to boost bilateral ties

ranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to visit Pakistan in the first week of August, diplomatic sources confirmed on Wednesday. The visit aims to further strengthen the longstanding friendship between the two neighbouring countries. According to high-level diplomatic sources, preparations for President Pezeshkian's visit have entered their final stages.



JI's Liaquat Baloch calls on JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman to discuss political situation

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharram 28, Thursday, July 24, 2025



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Review meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on privatisation of state owned enterprises on



At UN, Pakistan calls for unconditional ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access for Palestinians

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATION: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday urged the international community to deliver justice, freedom, dignity, and a state to the long-suffering Palestinian people.

He also called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, a halt to illegal settlements, and post-war reconstruction.

"It is time to give the Palestinian people what they have been denied for too long: justice, freedom, dignity, and a state of tinian Question". their own. That is the path to



the Middle East," Ishaq Dar said international law, ending foreign while chairing the UN Security Council's "Open Debate on the Middle East, including the Pales-

durable peace and stability in to lasting peace lies in upholding occupation, rejecting the use of force, and advancing solutions

through dialogue and diplomacy. Gaza has become a graveyard He emphasised that the path for innocent lives as well as for

international law," Ishaq Dar stated, citing systematic attacks on hospitals, schools, refugee camps, and aid convoys. He emphasised that the unfolding hunger crisis, with a third of Gaza's population going days without food, is a dire warning of catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

Calling the Palestinian issue a litmus test for the UN's credibility, the deputy PM warned that failure to act decisively would embolden impunity and erode the international rulesbased order.

Pakistan's Reaffirming support for a sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif

(Jerusalem) as its capital, Dar welcomed recent momentum toward Palestine's recognition and UN membership. He highlighted the upcoming International Conference on the Two-State Solution, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France, as a key opportunity for renewed diplomatic progress.

Ishaq Dar also addressed broader regional issues, urging peaceful resolution of conflicts in Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, and condemning recent Israeli military actions in Iran. He reiterated Pakistan's support for multilateral diplomacy and adherence to international law as the only path to regional peace and stability.

Pakistan and Afghanistan sign preferential trade agreement



😂 Citv Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and reached a preferential trade eration in the region. agreement under which the two countries will significantly reduce tariffs on each other's imports.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony in Islamabad Ahmadullah Zahid and Pakistan's Commerce Secretary Jawad Paul.

Under the agreement,

per cent to 27 per cent. The move is aimed at boosting bilateral trade and Afghanistan on Wednesday enhancing economic coop-

> The agreement will come into effect on August 1, 2025, and will be effective for an initial period of

Under the agreement, by Afghan Deputy Minister Pakistan will reduce duties for Commerce Mullah on grapes, pomegranates, apples and tomatoes imported from Afghanistan, while Afghanistan will reduce tariffs on mangoes, both countries have agreed kinnow, bananas and pota-

Mother of Baloch woman killed for 'honour' defends punishment to daughter

News Desk

QUETTA: The mother of Bano, the woman who had been killed along with her paramour in Balochistan town for honour three days before Eidul Adha, said on Wednesday that the murder of her daughter, a mother of five children, was in accordance with Baloch norms and traditions.

In a video statement, she said that Sardar Sher Baz Satakzai, the main suspect in the case, was innocent. "So he and others, taken into custody in connection with the incident, must immediately be set free," she demanded. She further Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz said that Bano had committed an act, which was against the principles of her tribe. "So she was made those involved in the incident.

to pay for that," she added. with her paramour named Ihsan understand the consequences of and stayed with him for 25 days. "And instead of showing any was the mother of five kids. Her remorse over his conduct, her eldest son is 17-year-old, the other paramour kept threatening my son, Jalal Khan, that he would kill to reduce tariff rates from 60 toes coming from Pakistan. him, she said, adding, "It was then daughter and a six-year-old son."



that our tribe decided to kill both of them. And at last they were taken to the mountains where they were shot dead." Bano's mother said that after all, they were all Baloch and could not remain silent on a matter of honour. She also hit out at Bugti, on whose orders raids were being conducted for the arrest of

"I admit that my daughter was Bano, she went on to say, eloped not a minor that she could not her act," she said, adding, "She one is 16-year-old, the third one is 12-year-old, a nine-year-old

Hammad Azhar ends his hiding to attend father's funeral

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Hammad Azhar, who had been in hiding for months, on Wednesday reappeared in public to attend the funeral of his father.

Hammad Azhar reached his residence to attend the funeral prayers of his father, Mian Muhammad Azhar. Hammad went into hiding after he

was nominated in several cases related to the May 9 violence. He is wanted in many cases by police

and authorities after May 9 cases challans carrying his name were submitted in courts.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of Mian Muhammad Azhar, the former governor of Punjab, and expressed sympathy to his family.

Nawaz Sharif said that Mian Azhar's father and his father, Mian Muhammad Sharif, had a long-standing relationship. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also expressed grief over the death of Mian Azhar.

PM for full autonomy of Privatization **Commission to** eliminate red tape

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD,: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the authorities to ensure that the Privatization Commission would be given full autonomy as per the law to eliminate red tape and unnecessary elements during the denationalisation process of the state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on progress of privatization of SOEs here at the Prime Minister's Office, a PM Office news release said.

PM Sharif underlined that the privatization of lossmaking national enterprises was essential for the improvement and development of the country's economy, whereas it was the government's top priority to carry out the privatization process effectively, comprehensively and efficiently.

all legal steps and transpar- the meeting.

ency requirements should be fulfilled in the privatization of selected enterprises. "Illegal occupation of valuable land of national institutions is unacceptable under any circumstances. However, every possible precaution should be taken in the disposal of valuable land owned by national institutions during the privatization process," he emphasised.

PM Shehbaz Sharif in his special directives during the meeting underlined that the phased privatization targets of the aforementioned institutions should be set according to the economic environment of the market so that the national exchequer could be protected from possible losses at all costs

Federal Ministers Sardar Owais Khan Leghari, Ahad Khan Cheema, Chairman Privatization Commission Muhammad Ali, Minister of State for Finance and Railways prime minister Bilal Azhar Kayani and other had directed the quarters relevant government officers concerned to make sure that and senior officials attended

CJCSC attends 17th International Defence Industry Fair in Istanbul



跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI,: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), attended the 17th International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF-2025) at Istanbul, Turkiye, a globally renowned event that highlights cutting-edge innovations and advancements in the defence sector.

On the sidelines, CJCSC held separate meetings with General (Retd) Yasar Guler, Minister of National Defence of Turkiye, Colonel General Hasanov Zakir Asgar Oglu, Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan, Mr Gurbanov Agil Salim Oglu, Deputy Minister of Defence Azerbaijan and General

Metin Gurak, Chief of Turkish General Staff. Discussions were held on variety of issues of bilateral military cooperation with emphasis on importance of expanding cooperation in the fields of defence and security. The dignitaries reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening strategic partnerships and enhancing defence corporation in line with dictates of future geo-strategic environment and technological advancements.

The dignitaries praised the professionalism, operational excellence, and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism, recognizing their significant contributions to regional and global peace and stability.

US State Department confirms high-level meeting with Pakistan

Agencies

NEW YORK: US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce has confirmed that a high-level meeting has been scheduled between the leaders of Pakistan and the US, in which she will also participate.

During the press briefing, a journalist asked whether President Trump has offered to mediate on Kashmir, and

what is going to happen next? The spokesperson replied that a meeting with a Pakistani leader is expected on Friday, in which all these issues will be discussed

Bruce said that the US knew how to move forward and the meeting will openly discuss regional security, bilateral relations, and international issues.

Also, on the question regarding Daesh, the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Al Qaeda, she said that Daesh has been defeated during President Trump's first term, and now he will take further steps against terrorism.

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Azad Kashmir cabinet meets, approves relief package for monsoon victims

MUZAFFARABAD: The Most Senior Minister of the Azad Kashmir Government, Colonel (Rtd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, while briefing the media after the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet meeting along with the ministers of the government Mian Abdul Waheed Advocate, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, said that the cabinet has personnel to be adjusted to the basic salary of 2015, increasing the ration the reward. allowance and paying the uniform allowance along with the salary.

to resolve other outstanding issues of police department in the current period

Rs. 80 crore at the disposal of the SDMA for immediate assistance to the victims during the monsoon.

The cabinet meeting unanimously approved the resolution to pay tribute to the services of the brave armed forces against terrorism, to pay tribute to the services of the police force in maintaining law and order in Azad Kashmir and to give the right to the seats of the approved the risk allowance for police refugees and to pay the compensation to the martyrs. Fateha was offered for

Senior Minister Col. (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor said that more attention The cabinet has formed a committee has been paid to the improvement of the

The government spent Rs. 04 billion to increase the capacity of the department to maintain law and order in Azad Kashmir. Funds were spent for logistical support, improvement of infrastructure and establishment of CTD.

The youth of the police presented demands regarding the problems. The police personnel worked with great dedication during the last two years.

During the long march of the Public Action Committee, police personnel were injured, two youths were martyred while dealing with the wave of terrorism, the timely action of the CTD police saved Azad Kashmir from a major disaster and made the people safe by sacrificing government has addressed.



themselves.

The problems of the police personnel are understood. There was a special problem of ration allowance, uniform allowance and risk allowance which the

ment will also solve the remaining prob-

During the monsoon in Azad rescued in Pithiali.

A committee has been formed to solve Kashmir, SDMA is on alert and is the remaining problems in the light of doing exemplary work. Necessary relief whose recommendations the govern- materials have been taken for immediate relief of the victims. 150 people, 81 motorcycles and 18 vehicles were



الل أميدواران اصل اسناد بشمول دينيل ماركس شيث (DMC)، قومي شناختي كار ذ (سارك كار د) ، دوميائل اورجار عد د تقيد بق شده ياسپورث سائز تصاویر کے ہمراہ درج ذیل کسی بھی ایک نز دیک ترین بی اے ایف انفار میشن اینڈ سلیکشن سینفر پر رابطہ کریں۔ : 217 شرشاهرود ۇن : 061-9201183 الله عان ۇن : 9210829 (ن : 9 دىمال روز پياور كين かな ون: 05822-923272 : شوكت لائز مزوآري يلك سكول مظفرآ باد كينت が 一本 ون: 081-9201753 : محمطي جناح رود 出林 pf # ۇن : 9310409 : : مناره رود والقابل اسلاميكالج : في اسمايف رود بالتفايل مشم أفس ميانوالي فون: 0459-350037 الله ميانوالي : الف ي بيد كوار فرز زونوي سليشن سينر جشال اؤه فول: 930088 : 95811 م ورواساعل خان : فضل الي شبيدروونزد بنول بسشينر فن : 0966-9280311

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(و) اندرون ملک و بیرون ملک کورسز اور ڈیٹویشن کے نا درمواقع۔

(٢) اعلى تعليى ادارول مين يجول كي تعليم كے لئے خصوص كويا۔

(ط) فريضة في كادائيكى كي اليدعاتي سفرى سوليات-

(ز) رمل اور موائي سنر کې ۵۰ فيصدر عاتي سپولت _

(ى) باكففائيين ربائشيكيمون كىمبرشپ



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(ج) اليے أميد واران جنبول في الناديس ردوبدل كيا مويا فلامعلومات فراہم

(+) ایک بی انٹری کے لیے ایک سے زائد سینفرز پر دجٹریش کروانے والے

(د) اخلاقی جرائم کی بناء پرعدالت سے سزایافتہ۔

(و) محمی بھی سرکاری ملازمت سے برطرف شدہ۔

وجوبات کی بناء پرناموزوں یائے گئے ان کوسروس سے ڈسچارج کردیاجائے گا۔ 0992-385157 يد ايت آباد : 310 نزوايوب ميد يكل كميليس مانهروروؤ 0992-385166 الله فيصل آباد : مين جمتك روؤ نزد ائر بورث چك فون: 9201199 فون: 9200936 : 022-9200936 ي حيدرآباد : 49ملاح الدين رود كين ۇن : 5701143-051 AFIC راوليش : 3وي الروؤ كينك، بالقائل 5701257-58 الله كماريال : من مجروال رود ، مزوايتر يو غورشي فول: 0323-0411668 العنام المناجراه فيمل مزدني اساليف بين فيمل ۇن : 99240999 : 042-99220084 : 14-منيرروۋىمنىرچوك زوييات ايف سينما 042-36671043

2 منك ٠٠ ون أب

ج- ابتدائی امتحانات پاس کرنے کے بعد میرث کی بنیاد پرمنتب امیدواران کاسلیکش سیفرزیر

د_ سائکولوجیکل شید میں موزوں قراریائے کے منتب امیدواران کاسلیشن سینوز برایتر بیڈ کوارٹرز

ائیر ہیڈ کوارٹرز کے میرٹ کی بنیاد پر کئے گئے سلیشن کے تمام مراحل کے نتائج حتی ہو گئے۔

(ابتدائي طور برفتنب اميد داران كاكوباث مين دوبار تفصيل ملى معائد بشول يبيا ٹائنس في مى اور بلڈ

ى في كياجائے گا اور جواميد واران طبي معائد اور دوران ثريننگ ميڈيکل برجيکل ياسائيکا لوجيکل

ہ۔ میرٹ کی بنیاد رحتی طور برمنتب امیدواران کوتربت کے لیے کو باث بھیحاحائے گا۔

سائيكولوجيكل (يسنيلني)ثميث

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DFP concerned over grim situation, plight of Kashmiri prisoners

😂 Spokesman Report

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has expressed grave concern over the prevailing political and human rights situation and woeful plight of the Kashmiri prisoners, languishing in different jails and detention centers within and outside Kashmir.

The DFP Spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the violence was being used by India as an instrument of war to suppress Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self-determination".

He said that the international human rights organizations must take stock of the crimes.

situation and play their due role to stop human rights violations in the disputed territory.

He also denounced the continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders, human rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists who have been arrested before and after 5th August 2019.

Voicing his party's concern over the deteriorating health condition of the incarcerated party chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah and other Hurriyat leaders including Muhammad Yasin Malik, Dr. Hameed Fayaz, Bilal Siddiqui and others, the spokesman warned that neglecting prisoners' health and treating them as subhumans amounts to war

Delhi Agreement 24 July 1952 and Kashmir dispute

of Jammu and Kashmir, which is ostensibly titled as constitutional reforms, but in reality this day was the day of political exploitation of Kashmiris, weakness of the freedom movement, and the beginning

On the same day, an agreement was signed between the Indian capital Delhi and the defunct government of occupied Kashmir, which is known in the world as the "Delhi Agreement". This agreement was signed between the then so-called Chief Minister of occupied Kashmir, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, and the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

This agreement was apparently presented as a way to protect the internal autonomy of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and clarify relations with India, but in reality it was a political trap of an Indian occupation government through which the autonomy of the Kashmiri people was squeezed into constitutional shackles. And it will try unsuccessfully

to force the people of occupied Kashmir to submit to this agreement. Below, for the information of the readers, I am mentioning the important provisions of the Delhi Agreement and their consequences. I hope you will definitely benefit.

Freedom-loving leaders

Analysis **Gulshad Ahmed Butt**

called the agreement a "betrayal" and a "betrayal" of the Kashmiris, because it neither included the opinion of the Kashmiri people nor did it have public support. Protests began, statements were made, and young activists of the freedom movement called the agreement a "plan for slavery in the guise of autonomy."

On the one hand, the brave people of Kashmir rejected the agreement, while on the other hand, after the Delhi Agreement, India started a new wave of oppression in occupied Kashmir.

Voices raised in favor of independence were arrested as "enemies of the state." Newspapers and journalists were banned. Thousands of political activists were imprisoned. Indian forces were used against Kashmiris in the name of "establishing peace."

All these steps were proof that the Delhi Agreement was just a trick, a conspiracy, India weakened the Kashmiris constitutionally and practically pushed them into the darkness of oppression and tyranny.

After this agreement, the freedom movement suffered severe damage. The narrative of the freedom movement was internally divided. Some sections became pro-India following Sheikh Abdullah. At the international level, India tried to wrap the status of Kashmir in the false narrative of "integral part".

The attention on the Kashmir issue started decreasing in the United Nations, because India kept presenting the Delhi Agreement as proof of the consent of the Kashmiris.

Thus, the Delhi Agreement not only gave a temporary setback to the freedom movement but also created an ideological weakness, the effects of which can be felt even today.

The day of 24 July reminds us that if nations blindly trust their leadership, they only suffer political betrayal. The Delhi Accord proved that the future of Kashmiris can only be decided through public participation and a referendum under the auspices of the United Nations, not through any courtly agree-

More than 77 years have passed, but the Kashmiri nation is still making sacrifices for its right to self-determination, and considers the Delhi Accord a political conspiracy and a national betrayal.



Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	. 15
Bomb Disposal	. 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 &	k 16
Emergency Ambulance 112	2&
& Rescue Services 4451	122
Motorway Police92660)44
Motorway Police 9270601	-20

Women Police Stations

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Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	
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dhi Ambulance	115
IA Flight Info	114
IA Cargo	9280979
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Railway Exchange

WASA Rawalpindi

HOSEL	IALJ
CMH	5611111
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

PFA conduct raid at fake milk factory operating in residential area

RAWALPINDI: In a major crackdown against food adulteration, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Rawalpindi has unearthed and shut down a fake milk manufacturing unit operating inside a residential house in the Amarpura area.

According to the PFA spokesperson, the unit was producing synthetic milk using hazardous ingredients, including vegetable oil, powdered milk, and chemicals, putting public health at serious risk.

During the raid, officials confiscated over 100 liters of fake milk ready for distribution. In addition to this. a large quantity of vegetable ghee and other harmful raw materials used in the preparation process were also recovered.

All the seized fake milk and ingredients were destroyed on the spot under the supervision of Food Authority.

"The operation was launched after verifying reports of suspicious activities in the area," said the spokesperson.

An FIR has been registered against the main accused at the local police station, and further legal action is underway.

The spokesperson urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious food-related activities to the Food Authority helpline. "Public cooperation is essential to eliminate the adulteration mafia. Citizens must come forward and support our efforts by informing us of any such illegal activity," the official added.

Ambassador of Jordan visits 12:14 pm .5:10 pm ...715 pm ...8:53 pm rv educational cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, H. E. Maen Khreasat, visited the new campus of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) on Wednesday. The envoy held separate meetings with the university's Rector, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, and President, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, to explore avenues of

bilateral academic collaboration.

Discussions focused on enhancing mutual cooperation between IIUI and Jordanian universities, with emphasis on technical assistance-based scholarships, academic exchange, and the possibility of jointly organized international conferences.

Welcoming the ambassador in his office, Rector Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the ambassador's proposals,



terming "education diplomacy" a key tool for promoting global peace, harmony, and development. He assured full support to strengthen academic ties between Pakistan and Jordan.

In a separate meeting, President IIUI Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed shared

the university's vision, academic profile, and strategic goals. He expressed IIUI's commitment to expanding international educational linkages, particularly with institutions in the Muslim world.

Ambassador Khreasat acknowledged IIUI's contributions to Muslim societies through education and termed the visit a step toward a "win-win situation" for both sides. He also emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and said he foresaw an increase in the number of Jordanian students at IIUI

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan H.E. Ms. Rita Dhital on Wednesday.

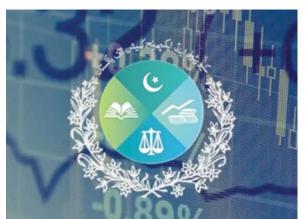


Alif Finance Licensed by SECP as an NBFC

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued an Investment Finance Services license to Alif Finance (Private) Limited, authorizing it to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) under the applicable regulatory framework. The swift and timely processing of the license reflects SECP's ongoing commitment to regulatory efficiency, responsiveness, and facilitation of credible market entrants.

Alif Finance (Private) Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alif Capital operations in Tajikistan focus on SME financing and



and Uzbekistan through Buy Now Pay Later solutions. Alif Bank and Alif Tech. This entry signals renewed The company introduces to investor confidence and posi-Pakistan a business model tive momentum in foreign centered on providing Sharidirect investment (FDI) into Holdings, a regional finan- ah-compliant digital and Pakistan's regulated financial group with existing conventional lending, with a cial sector.

The approval of Alif financial services landscape.

Finance is part of SECP's broader agenda to facilitate reputable foreign institutions investing in Pakistan and to strengthen and diversify the NBFC sector by admitting well-structured, innovation-oriented compa-

The Commission remains committed to promoting financial inclusion, enabling digital transformation, and fostering a supportive regulatory environment through the expeditious processing of licenses for NBFCs, capital market entities, insurance companies, and Section 42 companies—achieving notably swift turnaround times. This approach facilitates sustainable investment across Pakistan's regulated

Decisions in the Country's History: Malik Usman Dogar Asim Tanveer MULTAN:

Most Controversial and Dark



stan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and renowned lawyer Barrister Malik Muhammad Usman Dogar has said that the recent decision of the Anti-Terrorism Court Sargodha regarding May 9 has become one of the most controversial and dark decisions in the country's history. The sentences have been given without fulfilling the requirements of the law and this is not

against political workers but a decision against democracy by punishing democracy. In a condemnatory statement against the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regarding the May 9 cases, he said that the ten-year imprisonment sentence of the provincial opposition leader Malik Ahmed Bachhar and other party leaders Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Omar Sarfaraz Cheema, Mian Mahmood Rashid, Ahmed Chhatti and Rana Bilal and other party workers is the murder of democracy. Such decisions prove to be

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and renowned lawyer Barrister Malik Muhammad Usman Dogar is expressing his views in a condemnatory statement against the sentences of the leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regarding the May 9 cases.

ICCI all set to Host "Pak-Qatar Business Expo 2025" in Doha



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark move to promote Pakistan's investment landscape and foster stronger economic relations with Qatar, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) is all set to organize the two-day "Pak-Qatar Business Expo 2025" on 25th and 26th July at the prestigious Holiday Inn Doha.

This high-profile event is expected to open new vistas of economic cooperation and business partnerships, particularly in the real estate, construction, and industrial sectors. A 60-member delegation led by ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, comprising prominent business leaders and top marketing officials from Pakistan's leading real estate entities—including DHA Islamabad, Lahore, and Multan—will represent the country at the Expo.

According to Nasir Mansoor Qureshi the initiative highlights ICCI's continued commitment to boost trade, attract foreign investment, and deepen commercial ties with the Gulf region. The Expo is being viewed as a golden opportunity for the vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Qatar to engage with homegrown business leaders and explore meaningful collaborative ventures, he added.

Train runs over man near Hassanabdal

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: A man has lost his life he was runs over by a Quetta bound passenger train coming from Peshawar near Hassanabdal Police station on Wednesday, police and rescue sources said. The sources said that 44 years old Kafeel ur Rehman- a native of Mohra Chowk, Taxila was walking along with railway track when Quetta bound Jaffer Express coming from Peshawar runs over him resultantly he died on the spot. \\ Later the rescue 1122 shifted the body to tehsil headquarters hospital Hassanbbdal for necessary legal formalities.#

WHO and Gavi support Pakistan's vaccinators with 800 motorbikes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: The World Health Organization (WHO), with support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has distributed more than 800 motorbikes to Pakistan's Expanded Programme on Immunization across the country to enhance the mobility of vaccinators and access hard-to-reach areas in 65 high-priority districts populated by 32.5 million people.

The allocation plan directs 300 motorbikes to 21 districts in Sindh, 200 to 10 districts in Punjab and 108 to 24 districts in Balochistan. Eighty motorbikes have been provided to 4 districts in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, 80 to 2 districts in Islamabad and 60 to 4 districts in Gilgit Baltistan.



Starting in March 2025, the vehi- serve vulnerable populations in neighcles have been progressively handed bourhoods with high numbers of chil-

(zero-dose) or are under-immunized. The support is guided by micro-plans, over to vaccinators nationwide to dren who have never been vaccinated developed with technical support

from WHO at the union council level, which aim to better monitor and address equity barriers to leave no child behind.

"These motorbikes aim to support the vaccinators who work tirelessly to reach the most vulnerable, wherever they are. Every 10 seconds vaccination saves a life. Since the foundation of the Pakistan Expanded Programme on Immunization in 1978 in partnership with WHO, vaccines have saved and protected millions of lives in Pakistan. WHO will continue to support Pakistan to protect every child with lifesaving vaccines, including those in hard-to-reach areas," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng

As part of its 7-decade partnership with Pakistan, WHO supports the Expanded Programme on Immunization to protect over 7 million children and 5 million mothers each year with routine lifesaving vaccines.

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KP Pollution: A growing threat to human health

rban pollution has emerged as one of the most critical environmental and public health challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) exposing thousands to ailments and exert extra financial burden on provincial kitty.

Cities across the province including Peshawar, Mardan, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Abbottabad, Swat and so on are grappling with toxic air, contaminated water, plastic and domestic and untreated hospital and industrial waste.

Experts link this growing menace to rapid urbanization, deforestation, increasing vehicle traffic, unregulated industrial activities, brick kilns and a lack of proper waste manage-

Among all urban centers, Peshawar has been the hardest hit city with Air Quality Index (AQI) frequently exceeding the safer limits of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) levels set by the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS).

"PM2.5 pollution increases age-specific mortality risk. Residents of Peshawar are highly vulnerable due to emissions from unregulated traffic, brick kilns, marble units and chipboard factories," said Professor Dr. Muhammad Nafees, Chairman Environmental Sciences Department, University of

He explained that PM2.5 consists of microscopic particles that linger in the air and when inhaled, can damage heart, lungs and respiratory system. "These particulate matter also become a cause of high blood pressure, asthma, cancer, stroke and chronic respiratory diseases."

"Peshawar's air quality is poor — WHO recommends a PM2.5 concentration of no more than 25 µg/m³, but current levels are much higher," he added.

Studies show that smoke and dust in Peshawar hover at heights between five and ten feet, with PM2.5 levels nearly four times above NEQS standards — a cause for serious

According to these studies, emissions from the transport sector account for 58.5% of Peshawar's urban pollution, roadside dust contributes 17.7%, domestic burning shares 11.7%, industries accounts 6.6%, waste burning 4.1% and commercial burning 1.4%.

Nitrogen dioxide levels have also exceeded NEQS limits in several areas, leading to increased risks of lungs irritation and respiratory infections.

"The health impacts are severe. Respiratory diseases like asthma, bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and even lung cancer are becoming more common," said Dr. Fazal Sattar, former head of ENT Department, Khyber Teaching Hospital.

"Most of our patients reporting respiratory distress and COPD related issues come from Peshawar," he noted.

Abdul Basit Alvi

Will the U.S. Follow the Soviet Union's Collapse?

Qamar Bashir

within the ranks of intellectual scrutiny. Peace Studies researcher Jan Oberg has sounded the alarm that the United States is dangerously close to walking the same doomed path as the Soviet Union. His theory is not based on ideological rhetoric but on a structural analysis of declining mothers whose skeletal empires—those that prioritized militarism over diplomacy, war over peace, and brute force over political legitimacy. According to Oberg, and substantiated by today's geopolitical developments, the United States is eroding its foundational strength by investing in weapons while its economy weakens, its diplomacy falters, and its international credibility dwindles. His chilling comparison to the Soviet collapse, which came after overextension in an unwinnable arms race, holds a mirror to $current\,American\,for eign\,policy-and\,the$ reflection is deeply troubling.

A powerful nation is not defined by its military might alone. Oberg argues that a truly enduring power must have equilibrium—military capability, yes, but equally robust economic resilience, diplomatic dexterity, adherence to international law, and a moral compass that commands global respect. America's current trajectory betrays this balance. It has increasingly become a nation that exports weapons instead of solutions, one that supplies bombs instead of brokering peace. In doing so, it is forfeiting not just friends but also its own values. While other economies—China, India, Brazil—grow rapidly, building infrastructure, trading in goods, and cultivating partnerships, the U.S. has become synonymous with conflict zones.

Then there is the U. S. alliance with Israel, which, more than any other, has morally bankrupted America's standing in the world. For decades, Israel has carried out operations in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, and now first the Biden and now Trump administration have stood it invites isolation.

he warning comes not complicit in enabling Israel's bombardfrom an enemy, but from ment of Gaza—an act many are calling not lie in flexing military muscles. It ethnic cleansing. A nation that once claimed to champion democracy and not escalates them. It lies in upholding the Freedom of Press Index and Human human rights now vetoes UN resolu- human dignity, protecting freedom of tions aimed at feeding starving chil-

> collapsing from hunger at aid distribution points, forms mirror images from the worst genocides in history, and children dying before they can reach food lines. The world watches in horror. And at the center of this horror, the United States

is no longer seen as a neutral power, but as an accomplice to mass suffering.

It is not only distant nations that recoil from American policy. Even its closest allies, like Canada, are increasingly disillusioned. Long considered America's trusted neighbor and friend, Canada is now resisting U.S. economic pressure, building its own resilience to unjust restrictions and defining its foreign policy apart from Washington's dictates. Likewise, Europe, once united under the NATO umbrella, is slowly seeking independence from American dominance, investing in its own defense frameworks and strategic autonomy.

More alarming still is America's behavior toward Iran. The recent bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities-conducted without credible proof, international backing, or even meaningful justification—has shaken global confidence in the U.S. respect for sovereignty and due process, Iran, which has never been proven to develop nuclear weapons and which operates under the fatwa of its Supreme Leader forbidding such development, became a target not of deterrence, but of sheer political arrogance. Bomb first, ask later. This behavior no longer inspires awe;

lies in diplomacy that solves conflicts, speech, and respecting sovereignty. It lies

healthcare, and technological innovation—not merely funding the next generation of fighter jets. And America is increasingly failing to meet those

The economic dimension of this decline is undeniable. The United States has lost a signifi-

cant part of its economic sovereignty, now burdened with record debt, trade imbalances, and an eroding manufacturing base. Instead of investing in domestic welfare, it chooses to finance wars abroad. While its people struggle with rising inflation, healthcare crises, and decaying infrastructure, Washington prioritizes regime changes, proxy wars, and military aid to allies that violate international norms. The result is clear: America's legitimacy is in free fall.

In contrast, China offers a different model of global power. It has not bombed a country in living memory. It has not participated in regime change operations. Its power grows not through war, but through trade, investment, and connectivity. The Belt and Road Initiative is a prime example-building railways, ports, and power plants from Asia to Africa without firing a single missile. China does not send tanks; it sends fiber-optic cables. It does not fund insurgencies; it builds high-speed rail. That is not to say China is perfect—but it has learned the art of gaining influence without generating destruction.

It is this contrast that should alarm American policymakers. If the U.S. continues to reject the values it once championed-rule of law, human rights,

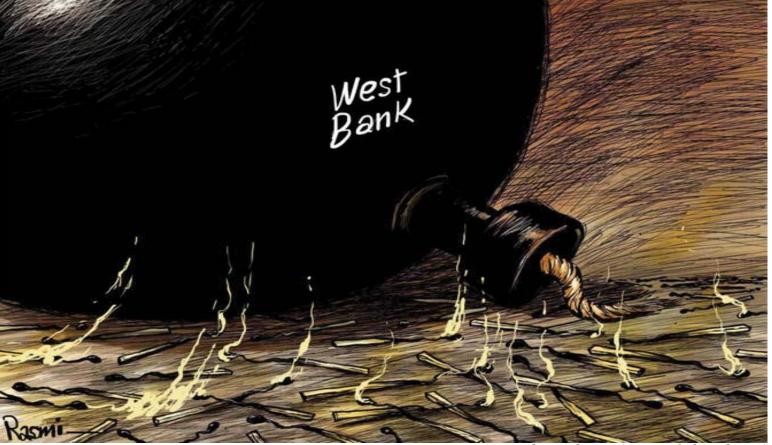
True strength, Oberg contends, does diplomacy—it will lose more than allies. It will lose the very moral compass that once made it a beacon of freedom. Even Rights Index now show America sliding backward. A country that once condemned dren. Stories abound of Gazan citizens in providing infrastructure, education, censorship now suppresses dissent. A nation that once prized civil liberties now spies on its citizens and arrests journalists. And all this while claiming to export democracy.

The lesson, as Jan Oberg suggests, is clear. Military power must be retained but as a deterrent, not a default. It must protect the homeland, not destroy foreign ones. And it must be balanced with economic strength, political wisdom, moral authority, and diplomatic sophistication. No country has the right to decide another's destiny. The notion that America must bring "freedom" through war is a relic of failed imperial thinking. Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Palestine-each a graveyard of American hubris.

To reverse course is still possible. The West is not without hope. Democratic societies can learn from their mistakes. They have the tools to self-correct—debate, dissent, elections, and institutions. But that self-correction requires courage: the courage to admit that wars are not solutions, that diplomacy is not weakness, and that power, unmoored from ethics, is merely force.

The 21st century demands a new model of strength. Not one built on coercion, but on cooperation. Not one built on regime change, but on mutual respect. The future will belong not to those who dominate with drones, but to those who uplift with ideas, dignity, and infrastructure. If the U. S wants to lead this future it must rediscover its soul before it loses its seat at the global table—forever.

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)

Widespread Public Support for Unity, Pak Army and Institutions-I

n today's world of global uncer- of RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) or economic capabilities but in the unity of its people and their terrorism and insurgency in Pakistan's trust in national institutions. Despite sensitive regions. The episode dismantled facing decades of internal challenges India's narrative of supporting democand external aggression, Pakistan has racy and human rights, exposing its true

fundamental pillars: national unity, the Pakistan Army, and its core

institutions. This cohesion has not gone unnoticed by adversaries. India, in particular, has consistently attempted to Pakiundermine stan's internal stability

through covert means. Employing propa- each attempt has met with resilient ganda campaigns, hybrid warfare tactics, public pushback and has only strengthand disinformation strategies, India has tried to erode public trust in Pakistan's military and state institutions. These attempts reflect not only hostility but a disinformation campaign came with deliberate strategy of destabilization.

India's use of state-sponsored and proxy channels for narrative manipulation highlights a broader geopolitical aim: to disrupt Pakistan's internal harmony and diminish its global standing. However, these efforts have largely backfired, as the Pakistani public continues to rally around its institutions, national institutions—especially the Pakioften responding with renewed resolve and national solidarity.

A stark example of India's covert inter-

tainty and complex security from Balochistan in 2016. His detailed dynamics, a nation's strength confession, recorded before a Pakistani lies not solely in its military magistrate, provided undeniable proof of India's direct involvement in sponsoring sustained its cohesion through three intentions before international observers.

India's today hinges on hybrid warfare—a combination of psychological operations, digital manipulation, fake news dissemination, and efforts to create discord between the Pakistani public and its institutions. But

ened Pakistan's resolve to protect its sovereignty and unity. One of the most revealing investigations into India's the release of the EU DisinfoLab report in 2020. This landmark exposé uncovered a sprawling network of over 750 fake media outlets and hundreds of fabricated NGOs, all linked back to Indian sources These entities were systematically used to flood international media platforms with anti-Pakistan narratives, targeting stan Army-and portraying the country as unstable, authoritarian, and isolated.

The goal of this operation was twofold: ference was exposed with the arrest of to tarnish Pakistan's image abroad and to Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav—a erode public trust at home, particularly serving Indian naval officer and operative among the youth. By misrepresenting the

actions of Pakistani security forces, fabricating stories of human rights abuses and distorting facts about internal affairs, these campaigns sought to psychologically weaken the public, sowing division and undermining unity from within.

At the center of India's propaganda has been a concerted effort to discredit the Pakistan Army, widely regarded as the nation's most trusted institution. In every major crisis-be it floods, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, or border conflicts—the army has stood with the people, earning a level of respect and admiration that few institutions in the region command. India has persistently tried to erode this trust through a barrage of fake videos, doctored images, and false narratives, especially regarding military operations in Balochistan and the tribal regions.

These fabrications are often amplified by Indian social media networks, mainstream journalists, and political figures. During critical moments such as the Pulwama-Balakot standoff in 2019, Indian media went into hyperdrive—broadcasting exaggerated claims, celebrating imagined victories, and promoting a sensationalist narrative that quickly unraveled under international scrutiny.

Yet, these attacks have largely backfired. Rather than weakening morale, they have strengthened the bond between the military and the public. Pakistanis, both online and offline, have actively pushed back—debunking misinformation, rallying in defense of their institutions, and reaffirming their commitment to national unity.

suffered a severe blow. Floodwaters damaged standing crops, orchards, and grazing lands-devastating local livelihoods dependent on farming and livestock. Experts warn that the risk of further landslides and glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs)

and long-term strategies.

Punjab has remained the epicenter of the crisis, with over 103 reported deaths and 393 injuries. Lahore and Rawalpindi have faced severe waterlogging. In Swat, a major tourist hub in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, floodwaters have affected both locals and tourists. In Gilgit-Baltistan, temperatures soared to 48°C, accelerating glacial melting and raising fears of glacier lake outbursts. Alarmingly, there are only 13 glacier moni-

abad alone.

Devastating Rains and Floods

Pakistan's crisis is not just a natural disaster-it's also a governance failure. Despite contributing only 0.5% to global emissions, Pakistan is among the most climate-vulnerable countries. Compared to 2024, monsoon intensity has increased by 82% in 2025, and by 124% in Punjab alone. Yet, warnings issued by the National Disaster Management

construction along streams, blocked drainage systems, and unplanned urban settlements

have magnified the threat. The rescue system is under immense pressure. Punjab has only 100 permanent rescue personnel, and other provinces have even fewer. NDMA has only six national rescue teams with 700 total members, which is grossly inadequate for a population of 250

Ahsan Ansari Although some victims were airlifted by operations are still underway. Blocked roads have made it military helicopters, and Section 144 was imposed in Punjab to restrict access to water channels, the overall state response has remained slow and ineffective. After the 2022 disaster, the global community pledged \$10 billion in aid for Pakistan, but by 2024, only \$2.8 billion had been received. Experts attribute this delay to the lack of governmental reforms. Former Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman stated, "These are not just natural disasters—they are the result of human negligence. Super monsoons are not normal. Pakistan must

> Emergency aid alone is not sufficient to tackle this crisis. Pakistan needs an estimated \$40-50 billion annually by 2050 to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Early warning systems must be established at the local level, advanced sensors for glacier monitoring must be installed, and urban planning must be overhauled to relocate populations living near water channels to safer locations. If these foundational steps are not taken, each monsoon will bring a new wave of destruction. Pakistan must move beyond emotional speeches and commit to practical reforms, or else annual losses of life and property will become the nation's tragic destiny.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at a ah san 210@gmail.com

dozens of homes were destroyed, roads washed away, and Authority (NDMA) are often vague and ineffective. Illegal thousands displaced. These scenes painfully recall the devastation of 2022 when one-third of Pakistan was submerged. In the mountainous regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Kohistan, the recent downpours caused terrifying destruction. Landslides

ike every year, the monsoon rains in July 2025 have

once again put Pakistan to a severe test. Torrential rains, flash floods, and melting glaciers across

the country have so far claimed the lives of around

200 people, more than half of whom were chil-

dren. The worst-affected areas include Punjab, Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the Kohistan region, where

triggered by heavy rainfall have already killed more than 25 people, with dozens still missing. In districts like Diamer, Astore, Hunza, and Nagar, several villages were

buried under mud and rocks, and rescue

in Pakistan

extremely difficult for aid teams to reach the affected areas. The Kohistan region was also severely affected by flash floods, sweeping away homes and forcing thousands to migrate. The destruction of roads and bridges disrupted not only transportation but also the supply of essential goods. Shortages of drinking water and medicines have triggered a secondary crisis in these regions.

Agriculture in Gilgit-Baltistan and Kohistan has also could increase in the coming weeks, necessitating immediate

To be continued toring stations in the entire region, compared to 47 in Islam-

Over 100 humanitarian organizations urge immediate action to open all Gaza crossings,

end Israeli siege

₩ WAFA

RAMALLAH: More than 100 interhave called on governments around the world to immediately open all land crossings into Gaza, restore full injured. access to food, clean water, medical supplies, shelter materials, and fuel, and to support a UN-led humanitarian mechanism, alongside an immediate and lasting ceasefire.

In a joint statement issued Wednesday, humanitarian organwhile the Israeli government's blockade continues to starve Gaza's population.

Organizations report witnessing the rapid physical deterioration of colleagues and partners, as aid supplies run critically low.

One humanitarian worker summed up the desperation: "Every morning in Gaza, people ask the same question—

will I get to eat today?'

daily massacres at food distribution telling their parents they want to go to of July 13, 875 Palestinians had been there." national humanitarian organizations $\,$ killed while searching for food - 201 on aid routes and the rest at distribution centers, with thousands more

> Meanwhile, Israeli forces have forcibly displaced nearly 2 million exhausted Palestinians, with the last mass evacuation order issued on July 20, confining the population to less than 12 percent of Gaza's territory.

The World Food Programme (WFP) izations said that aid workers are has warned that the current conditions now standing in food lines, risking make humanitarian operations "unsusgunfire, just to feed their families, tainable" and reiterated that starvation as a weapon of war constitutes a war crime.

> Despite massive stocks of aid sitting undelivered both inside and outside Gaza, organizations say distribution is blocked by Israeli-imposed restrictions, delays, and fragmentation. "These obstacles have created chaos, hunger, and death," the statement says.

One mental health worker described The statement highlights the near- the trauma among children: "Kids are

points. According to UN figures, as heaven—because at least there's food

Medical professionals are reporting unprecedented rates of acute malnutrition, particularly among children and the elderly, along with outbreaks of diarrhea, piles of uncollected waste, and people collapsing in the streets from starvation and dehydration.

On average, only 28 aid trucks enter Gaza daily — a fraction of what is needed for over 2 million people, many of whom have received no aid for weeks.

The groups firmly reject the claim that the UN-led humanitarian system has failed. "It hasn't failed — it has been deliberately obstructed," the statement declares. Humanitarian agencies have both the capacity and resources to deliver on a large scale, but access remains systematically denied, even to their own starving and exhausted staff.

The organizations also criticized recent announcements from Israel and the EU on expanding aid access. "These promises of 'progress' ring hollow in the



absence of real change," the statement says. "Every day without sustained aid flow means more deaths — from preventable disease, from starvation,

from shattered hope."

The statement emphasized that the people of Gaza are caught in a cycle of hope and despair, waiting for aid logical torture," the groups warned.

or ceasefire announcements only to awaken to even worse conditions. "This isn't just a physical ordeal — it's psycho-

Called on

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Austria, Mrs. Andrea Wicke, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-



SECP and IFC Launch ESG Pakistan Project to Advance Sustainable Business Practices

Example 2 Commerce Desk

Corporation (IFC) in collaboration with the SECP has officially launched the ESG Pakistan Project, a three-vear initiative aimed at aligning Pakistan's corporate sectors with international ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards.

awareness workshop in Islamabad the past three years through the ESG and attended by key stakeholders Regulatory Roadmap, ESG Disclosure from the capital market institu- Guidelines and the launch of the ESG tions, corporate sector and professional bodies. Chairperson SECP, Mr.

ISLAMABAD: International Finance of sustainability for capital markets and the urgent need to embed ESG principles across Pakistan's business frameworks. ``The global shift towardssustainable finance is irreversible. For a climate-vulnerable country like Pakistan, this transition is not only timely but essential." He added that SECP The launch was marked by an has made substantial progress over Sustain Portal.

"Incorporating sustainability prac-

Akif Saeed, in his keynote remarks, tices is now a critical priority for busicomprehensive set of interventions emphasized the growing relevance nesses, enabling them to strengthen including awareness and sector-spetheir reputation, improve operational cific ESG capacity building workshops, efficiency, attract investment, and drive sustainable growth" said Zeeshan rials and impact assessment of ESG Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan & Afghanistan. "This project, including today's workshop, aims to accelerate the adoption of international sustainability standards in Pakistan by fostering awareness, building capacity, and supporting the implementation of related regulatory frameworks by drawing on IFC's global expertise in

IFC will support SECP through a

development of ESG guidance matepractices among listed companies

using data on ESG Sustain. SECP and IFC are committed to advancing sustainable finance and strengthening ESG adoption in Pakistan through broad-based stakeholder collaboration. This project reinforces SECP's efforts to build a regulatory environment that is transparent, inclusive and aligned with international standards.

Resolution of Kashmir dispute indispensable amid growing use of advance technologies in military affairs'

ISLAMABAD: At a discussion hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Amb Jauhar Saleem, the Pres $ident\,of\,IRS, emphasized\,the\,critical$ importance of addressing ongoing regional political disputes in light of emerging and potentially destructive



technologies. He cautioned that mismanaged regional disputes, especially Kashmir, combined with increased military technology, could escalate conflicts to catastrophic levels.

Dr. Naeem Salik, Executive Director of the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), emphasized the impact of evolving technologies on non-contact warfare between India and Pakistan. He stated that future conflicts would likely be brief, characterized by standoff weapon exchanges, which would challenge traditional nuclear deterrence and strategic stability concepts.

Dr. Adil Sultan, Dean of Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies at Air University, highlighted the potential for advanced technologies to make conventional wars in the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute more devastating and fundamentally different.

In his presentation, he highlighted the importance of institutional focus on rapidly advancing technologies like quantum computing, AI, cyberspace, and integrated drones, which are crucial for enhancing the efficiency and decision-making capabilities of future military systems. While discussing the challenges of these emerging advanced technologies, Dr. Sultan stressed on their disruptive nature as well especially if in the hands of nonstate actors and adversary's exploitive grasp once artificial intelligence and cyber syndicates, leading towards minimum human involvement in future wars.

The incorporating of cyber quantum technology into defensive capabilities transforms the second-strike concept, he said adding that, Pakistan should invest in commercially available drones to achieve future

MIU Achieves 92% Efficiency in Detecting Anti-Competitive **Practices**

№ City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Market Intelligence Unit (MIU) of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has achieved a remarkable 92% efficiency rate in processing and referring leads related to anti-competitive practices during the fiscal year 2024-25. This milestone underscores MIU's growing role in supporting CCP's enforcement efforts and ensuring fair competition in Pakistan's evolving market landscape.

Over the past year, the MIU identified more than 170 potential cases of anti-competitive behavior across a range of sectors. These leads were referred to the relevant departments for further action, with the following

The Cartels and Trade Abuses (C&TA) Department selected five leads for formal inquiries under Section 37(1) of the Competition Act, 2010.

Experts at PIDE call for equity-driven reforms to empower marginalized youth across Pakistan

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Paki-Economics (PIDE) hosted an insightful seminar titled "Inclusion, Diversity, and Rights: A Dialogue with Youth Experts" on July 23, 2025. The event brought together leading voices from the government and civil society to explore how Pakistan can address the urgent challenges confronting its youth. Moderated by Dr. Fizzah Khalid Butt, Assistant Professor at PIDE, the discussion featured three distinguished panelists: Ms. Uzma Yaqoob (Executive Director, Forum for Dignity Initiatives), Mr. Ahmed the Minister for Planning, DevelYouth Change Advocates). Ms. Uzma Yaqoob began the

stan Institute of Development discussion by addressing the complexities of youth marginalization in Pakistan. While the often-cited statistic that 65% of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30 is viewed as a demographic advantage, she argued that this potential remains largely untapped due to systemic issues such as poverty, regional inequality, lack of mental health support, and discriminatory social structures.

Representing the government's perspective, Mr. Ahmed Sultan Butt detailed the official vision for youth development under Sultan Butt (Special Assistant to the "URAAN' Pakistan" initiative, which outlines a strategic opment & Special Initiatives), and roadmap through 2029. This Ms. Huma Jehangir (Program vision focuses on five key pillars:

Implementation Lead, Pakistan transitioning to an export-led economy, promoting clean energy, embracing the digital revolution, building resilience to climate change, and fostering ethics and equity. Ahmed Khalid Butt highlighted government programs such as the Young Peace and Development Corps, which aims to engage one million youth in civic dialogue and skillbuilding through university-based chapters.

Ms. Huma Jehangir addressed the dire state of youth health in Pakistan, especially the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes. Alarmingly, over 33 million people in Pakistan suffer from diabetes, with a significant portion under the age of 30. Despite some government interventions like health cards

and cardiovascular centers, the mental health crisis remains neglected. She pointed out that educational institutions lack even basic counseling units, while community-level support systems are nonexistent.

Throughout the seminar, panelists stressed that real inclusion must be structural, not symbolic. Inclusion cannot be limited to urban, educated, ablebodied youth; it must encompass students, domestic workers. child laborers, and marginalized communities. Ms. Uzma Yaqoob passionately advocated for the political participation of transgender individuals, including dedicated seats in provincial and national assemblies.

Audience raised critical questions about linguistic diversity, walkability of cities, and how

response, Ahmed Sultan Butt reiterated that inclusive urban planning is being addressed through task forces and reforms in ICT governance. He emphasized that political stability, continuity of policy, and devolution of power to local governments are prerequisites for meaningful reform. On the issue of

transgender inclusion, both Mr.

of government initiatives. In tity registration as a gateway to access education, health, and economic opportunities.

agreed that while numerous implementation, monitoring, and alignment with ground realities. is participatory, inclusive, and Ahmed and Ms. Uzma stressed Khalid Butt closed the session national development.

youth represent immense potential, but without responsive policies and inclusive practices, this In conclusion, all panelists demographic dividend could turn into a liability. The seminar youth-focused initiatives exist, was a call to action for academia, their effectiveness depends on policymakers, and civil society to co-create an environment where all young people—regard-They called for policy design that less of gender, ability, region, or economic status-can thrive grounded in equity. Dr. Fizzah and contribute meaningfully to





Fluctuation					
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index					
Prev. Close					
139,419.61					
Day's Low					
139,105.05					
Change					
-165.26					
Time					
23 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm					
E 100 Index					
Change					
+37.68					
Time					
23 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1					
ndustrial Average					
Change					
+390.75					
Time					
23 Jul, 1:07 pm GMT-4					
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average					
ei Stocks Average					

Open Market Forex Rates

+1,396.40

Time

23 Jul. 3:45 pm

GMT + 9

41,171.32

Percentage

+3.51%

Currency	Duving	Calling
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187	192
Bahrain Dinar	760.10	770.10
Canadian Dollar	211	215
China Yuan	39.32	39.72
Danish Krone	44.17	44.57
Euro	336.25	337.45
Hong Kong Dollar	35.94	36.29
Indian Rupee	3.22	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.9250	2.0250
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.25	940.25
Malaysian Ringgit	66.74	67.34
NewZealand \$	168.95	170.95
Norwegians Krone	27.94	28.24
Omani Riyal	744.85	754.85
Qatari Riyal	77.57	78.27
Saudi Riyal	76.50	76.80
Singapore Dollar	222.25	227.25
Swedish Korona	29.61	29.91
Swiss Franc	352.88	355.63
Thai Bhat	8.7	8.85
U.A.E Dirham	78.30	78.50
UK Pound Sterling	387.50	389.10
US Dollar	287	288.30

City-to-City Travel Booms in Pakistan: inDrive Sees 4x Yearly Growth

E Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Global mobility platform inDrive has reported a fourfold year-on-year growth in its City-to-City ride service across Pakistan. The service has gained strong traction on major routes such as Lahore-Islamabad, Lahore-Gujranwala, Karachi-Hyderabad, and to smaller cities like Sheikhupura, Kasur, Mardan, and Okara.

The summer travel season has driven the boom, with bookings to tourist hotspots like Murree jumping by 75% between April and June. Weekend travel remains especially popular, with Fridays through Sundays seeing peak demand.

Top drivers on high-demand routes are earning between PKR 300,000 to PKR 350,000 per month after expenses, supported by inDrive's smart passenger-matching system and flexible fare negotiation model. "This rapid growth reflects a shift in how Pakistanis travel and earn," said Awais Saeed, Country Head at inDrive Paki $stan. \hbox{``Our platform empowers both drivers}$ and passengers by offering choice, affordability, and opportunity."

Gold prices up by Rs.3,700 at Řs364,900

ISLAMABAD, JUL 23 (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.3,700 and was traded at Rs.364,900 on Wednesday as against its sale at Rs.361,200 the previous day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.3,171 to Rs.312,842 from Rs.309.671 whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs.2,917 to Rs.286,782 from Rs.283,865.

However, the rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs46 and Rs.39 to Rs.4,081 and Rs.3,498 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$37 to \$3,424 from \$3,387, whereas that of silver increased by \$0.46 to \$39.34 to \$38.88, the Association reported.

Al Baraka Bank Pakistan **Limited selects PTCL for Colocation Primary Data Center**

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited have signed an agreement for the provision of primary Data Center colocation services at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center facility. PTCL will provide Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited with a secure and reliable Data Center environment equipped with modern infrastructure, platform solutions, and managed security services.

Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL and Ufone 4G, and Muhammad Atif Hanif, Chief Executive Officer, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, signed the agreement during a ceremony held at the Bank's Head Office in Karachi.

Shahid Sumar, Chief Information Officer, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, Syed Muhammad Saqib, Head of IT Infrastructure, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, Basharat Qureshi, Group VP Enterprise, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Sayyed Imran Bukhari, Group VP B2B Strategy, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Saleem Ullah



PTCL, were also present on the occasion, along with other officials.

During the signing ceremony, Asif Ahmad, technology and digital transformation vision. er-centric banking ecosystem.

Baig, Group VP DC Ops, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL and security services to organizations across and Umar Farooqi, Group Director Enterprise, and Ufone 4G, said, "We are pleased to enter various industries in Pakistan. This agreement a partnership with Al Baraka Bank Pakistan reflects the growing momentum in adopting Limited to support them in their information digital solutions that enable a modern, custom-

As the national carrier of Pakistan, PTCL aspires to be at the forefront of assisting leading organizations in their efforts to adopt cuttingedge technology solutions to drive the national digital agenda."

On the occasion, Muhammad Atif Hanif, Chief Executive Officer, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, stated, "We are pleased to sign this agreement with PTCL as our trusted partner for Data Center facility as part of the Bank's technology transformation strategy. This partnership represents a major step forward in enhancing our infrastructure and strengthening our approach to data and platform management. By leveraging PTCL's expertise, we aim to improve security, reduce time-to-market, and deliver a digitally empowered financial experience to our customers and partners."

PTCL continues to deliver best-in-class ICT

Group photo of traders leadership

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, Abuzar Shad, President LCCI), Sohail Altaf, Group Leader RCCI, Muhammad Ayub Maryani, President, QCCI, Zaki Aijaz, Vice President FPCCI and Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Capital Office were posing group photo in a important meeting held a FPCCI President Secretariat on Wednesday.



SECP faces backlash over court noncompliance

跨 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top financial regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), is once again at the centre of controversy as it faces contempt of court proceedings for defying judicial orders, a move that has not only embarrassed the institution but further shaken investor confidence in the regulatory environment.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC), during a hearing on July 15 in Contempt Petition No. 172/2025 filed by the United Insurance Company, expressed strong disapproval over SECP's persistent non-compliance. The court has summoned Nasir Askar, Director of the Licensed and Unlisted Companies Department, to personally appear at the next hearing and explain why directives were ignored.

It is worth recalling that the SECP had suspended United Insurance's guarantee business on baseless allegations and publicised the move as well. The Islamabad High Court declared SECP's orders unlawful and issued a stay order, but the SECP failed to comply, prompting UIC to file a contempt of court petition.

The Office of the Attorney General for Pakistan is growing concerned over SECP's continued disregard for judicial authority. In a letter addressed to SECP Chairman Akif Saeed dated July 21, 2025, Assistant Attorney General Asia Batool noted



that the SECP has repeatedly failed to implement court instructions related to licensing matters. The court has now stayed previous directives until the next hearing and demanded a written explanation from the SECP official Nasir Askar, warning of serious consequences for further defiance.

Legal experts say the issue goes beyond a procedural lapse. "This points to a dangerous culture inside a regulatory body. The SECP is not above the law," said a constitutional lawyer, describing it as a symptom of deeper governance failures.

The episode adds to SECP's growing credibility crisis. Market observers warn that unchecked regulatory misconduct, particularly in sensitive sectors such

as insurance, erodes investor trust and disrupts business continuity. "The regulator is sending a negative signal to both local and foreign investors.

This is not the first time SECP has come under fire for ignoring legal or procedural norms. Still, public censure by the IHC marks a new low in institutional accountability. As legal uncertainty rises, investment flows may slow, and the cost of regulatory risk is expected to increase.

The Islamabad High Court's intervention is being viewed by many as a necessary check on excessive regulatory action. The outcome of the case is likely to serve as a key test for balancing regulatory authority

Zindigi launches Visa Virtual Debit Card



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Zindigi, powered by JS Bank Pakistan's fastest growing digital banking platform, has introduced its Visa Virtual Debit Card. A secure, fully digital payment solution that can be created instantly via the Zindigi app, the virtual card enables seamless local and international transactions without a physical card, like in-app stock trading, marking a leap in the coun- US dollar-based freelancers try's fintech sector.

"At Zindigi, we're focused banking. n simplifying the lives of our ering users to transact glob-solutions for a digital era

ally with ease while staying in full control of their finances, securely and instantly," said Faisal Khalid, Chief Product Officer at Zindigi.

Zindigi's innovation aligns with its mission to transform Pakistan's financial landscape. The platform, among the top-downloaded financial apps in Pakistan, has driven wealth management growth and introduced features account and customizable

Zindigi's customers. The Visa Virtual Card positions it as a leader in Debit Card is more than just Pakistan's fintech evolution, a product, it's a step toward delivering accessible, secure, true digital freedom, empow- and user-focused financial

TikTok releases Q1 **2025 Community Guidelines Enforcement Report**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: has released its Q1 2025 Community Guidelines Enforcement Report, showcasing its ongoing commitment to creating a safe digital space for its users. The report, which covers data from January to March 2025, details the proactive steps TikTok has taken to identify and remove content platform. Of the removed that violates its Community Guidelines, ensuring a positive experience for its global community.

In Q1 2025, TikTok removed a total of 24,954,128 videos in Pakistan. Proactive removal rates in Pakistan remained high at 99.4%, with 95.8% of these



videos removed within 24

Globally, TikTok removed a total of 211 million videos worldwide in this quarter, which represents about 0.9% of all content uploaded to the videos, 184,378,987 were detected and taken down using automated detection technologies, while 7,525,184 videos were reinstated after further review. The proactive removal rate stood at 99.0%, with 94.3% of the flagged content removed within 24

Daraz Pakistan Introduces Cod Plus as a Step Toward a Cashless E-Commerce Ecosystem

Example 2 Commerce Desk

country's leading e-commerce platform, is introducing a new their payment method at the time

initially selected Cash on Delivery when they receive their order.

At the time of delivery, customers feature called COD Plus, which will be sent a secure payment link will allow customers to switch that takes them back to the Daraz challenges of the Pakistani checkout page, where they can complete the transaction using a of our customers. COD Plus is With COD Plus, customers who credit/debit card or digital wallet. a powerful bridge that retains digital convenience.

will have the option to change their Director, Daraz Pakistan, empha-KARACHI: Daraz Pakistan, the payment method to a digital one sised that the company remains focused on solving local problems through innovation.

"We understand the unique market and the evolving needs



while unlocking the benefits of

It's a step forward in making e-commerce smarter, safer, and more inclusive."

Evolving Role: Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) in Combating Cyber Threats

Introduction

he landscape of cyber threats is constantly evolving, posing significant challenges to organizations across all sectors. Within this dynamic environment, the role of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) has become increasingly critical, particularly in the highly regulated and interconnected financial industry. CISOs are at the forefront of defending against sophisticated cyberattacks, managing information security risks, and ensuring regulatory compliance.

The Expanding Scope of CISO Respon-

The responsibilities of CISOs have expanded significantly beyond traditional cybersecurity functions. Modern CISOs are increasingly involved in broader domains such as business risk management, IT oversight, and digital transformation initiatives. This expanded scope underscores the understanding that cybersecurity is intrinsically linked to overall business strategy and success. As organizations increasingly rely on technology for growth and revenue, the CISO's role has transformed from a technical gatekeeper to a strategic leader who ensures the business can confidently embrace new technologies without compromising

demands a blend of technical experleadership skills. CISOs are expected to proactively identify and mitigate risks, rather than merely reacting to security incidents. They must also align and integrate their security strategies with enterprise-wide risk management frameworks to make more accurate and informed decisions.

The Three Faces of the Modern CISO

A report published by FORBES categorizes CISOs into three distinct segments based on their organizational influence and executive access

Strategic CISOs: These leaders possess both C-suite access and boardroom influence, positioning them as key strategic partners. They often report higher compensation and job satisfaction.

Functional CISOs: While strong in either executive access or boardroom engagement, they may lack visibility in both areas, limiting their comprehensive influence.

Tactical CISOs: These CISOs are typically seen as technical practitioners and face significant barriers in accessing senior leadership and the board, which constrains their overall

Future of the CISO Role

The CISO role, which emerged in the

transformation from a purely technical regulations and compliance standards, Officer (CTO), placing them within the structure often depends on the organitise, strategic planning, and strong position to a strategic leadership role. Today, CISOs are expected to possess a blend of technical expertise, business acumen, and communication skills to effectively manage cybersecurity programs and align them with

organizational objectives. Their responsibilities typically encompass developing and implementing security strategies, managing security operations, ensuring compliance regulations, statutory requirements and

international standards i.e. GDPR, attacks. PCI DSS, ISO27001, overseeing incident response, and fostering a securitv-aware culture.

Key trends for CISOs to watch:

Adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: AI and ML are becoming crucial for faster detection and response to cyber threats, though attackers are also leveraging these technologies.

Zero Trust Architecture: The principle of 'never trust, always verify' is gaining momentum due to the increasing number of cyberattacks.

Regulatory Changes and Compli-

such as GDPR, to ensure their organizations remain relevant and secure.

Talent Shortage and Skill Development: Addressing the cybersecurity talent gap requires CISOs to focus on continuous learning and professional skill development for

> Cyber ience and Incident

Response: Building highly resilient security systems and enhancing incident response capabilities are crucial for withstanding sophisticated

Integration of Security Stacks with People-Centric Cybersecurity: Modern security solutions need to integrate technology with human factors. recognizing that humans are often the weakest link in the cybersecurity chain. Trends are Changing in reporting Hier-

archies for CISOs One of the most debated aspects of the CISO role is their reporting structure. The reporting line of a CISO can significantly impact their authority, influence, and effectiveness within an organization. Traditionally, CISOs

often reported to the Chief Informa-

can facilitate technical alignment, it may also lead to conflicts of interest, as the CIO's primary focus is often on enabling business operations and innovation, which can sometimes conflict with stringent security requirements.

However, there is a growing trend, particularly in the financial sector, for CISOs to report directly to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or the Board of Directors. The Heidrick & Struggles 2024 Global CISO Survey indicates that 14% of CISOs now report directly to the CEO, a notable increase from 5% in 2023. This shift signifies a recognition of cybersecurity as a critical enterprise-wide risk that requires direct oversight from the highest levels of leadership. In Hong Kong and Singapore, a significant 35% of CISOs report to the CEO, while in the US, this figure is 9%. When CISOs report directly to the CEO or the Board, they gain greater independence, visibility, and the authority to integrate cybersecurity into strategic decision-making processes, ensuring that security is not an afterthought but a fundamental component of business strategy.

Other common reporting structures include reporting to the Deputy CEO, Chief Operating Officer (COO) or Chief

security or stability This evolution mid-1990s, has undergone a significant ance: CISOs must stay updated on new tion Officer (CIO) or Chief Technology Risk Officer (CRO). The ideal reporting IT department. While this structure zation's size, complexity, risk appetite, and regulatory environment. Regardless of the direct reporting line, it is crucial for CISOs to have direct access to and strong relationships with senior leadership and the Board to effectively communicate cyber risks and advocate for necessary resources and initiatives. Conclusion

The Chief Information Security Officer plays an indispensable role in safeguarding any sector against an increasingly sophisticated array of cyber threats. The evolution of the CISO from a technical expert to a strategic business leader, often reporting directly to the CEO or Board, underscores the growing recognition of cybersecurity as a fundamental business risk. The future of the CISO role will continue to demand adaptability, a deep understanding of emerging technologies like AI, and a strong emphasis on collaboration and regulatory compliance. By embracing these principles, CISOs can not only protect their organizations but also contribute significantly to the stability and trustworthiness of the global financial system.

Author is Chief Information Security Officer and Member, Cyber Security Forum-Pakistan Banking Associa-

Pakistan Faces Looming Public Health and Economic Catastrophe if **AMR Fight is Slackened**

f Pakistan scales back its economic fallout is equally severe. tating for both public health tivity. and the economy. AMR is already

a silent pandemic. Without urgent action, drug-resistant infections may cause annual deaths in Pakistan by 2050-1 in every 10 deaths.

Infections XDR Typhoid and Tubercu-

ardship programs, routine medical

efforts against antimicro- Pakistan's GDP could shrink by 3.5% bial resistance (AMR), the annually, with over USD 5 billion lost consequences could be devas- each year in healthcare and produc-

> Low-income families will be hit hardest. Prolonged illness and expensive millions into poverty. Agriculture and livestock, contributing 11% to GDP, are also at risk due to unregulated antibiotic use

> > and potential export

losis are rising across the country.
The National Institutes of Health Without active surveillance and stew- (NIH), WHO, and Fleming Fund have supported a national procedures could become fatal. The surveillance network, but over 60% of "We cannot afford that risk."

labs may shut down if funding ends. This would cripple early outbreak detection and allow unregulated antibiotic use to flourish in hospitals, farms, and pharmacies. Children and newborns are most

vulnerable. In Pakistan, which already has one of South Asia's treatments may drive highest neonatal mortality rates, drug-resistant infections could lead to a surge in preventable infant

Suspending AMR efforts would compromise Pakistan's global health commitments and donor partnerships. Sustaining and expanding current interventions is essential.

"Stopping AMR work is like removing your smoke detector in a fire." warns a public health expert

PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Thrilling Victory by Zone-VII

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The highlights of the 2nd day of the three day matches of the PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) was Thrilling one wicket victory of Zone-VII, All-round Performance by Muhammad Usman of Zone-VI first he scored 140 and then he got 4 wickets for 24 and deadly bowling by Rehman Ghani 6/46 in the match 11wickets for 75, Muhammad Raza 3/75 and in the match 8 for 101 but not safe their team Zone-I from defeat and some allround Performance by Fawad Khan 6/46 and in the match 8/101 and unbeaten 39, Israr Ahmed Awan (sla) 5/24.

The Tournamen

Scores in Brief:

At KCCA Stadium Zone-VII Thrilling one wicket Victory against Zone-I. Zone-I 1st Innings 83 and 158 all-out in 43.3 overs. Alman Shafiq 32, Zubair Dilawar 30, Ahmed Khan 26, Malik Zain ul Abideen 23, Ammar Iqbal 23. Fawad Khan (sla) 6/46. Saad Bin Yousuf (rlb) 2/12, Najeebur Rehman (mf) 2/65

Zone-VII 1st Innings 108 and 2nd Innings 135/9 in 39.2 overs. Fawad Khan 39 not out, Ghani Subhan 23 Najibur Rehman 10 not out. Rehman Ghani (sla) 6/46,

Muhammad Raza (mf) 3/75.

In the 2nd Match at UBL Sports 2/53 Complex Zone-VI 286/9 and 161/6 in 49 overd st the close of play Abdullah 121/1 in 24 overs. Muhammad Asif 70 Alam 40 4x4 2x6. Ashir Ahmed 32 by Regional Cricket Association Karachi. Maaz Khurram 16 both not out, Abdul out, Syed Shah Raza 24.

Rehman Niazi 26, zebad Khan 22. Zone-VI lead 306 and 4 wickets in hand. Asadullah Hamza (mf) 3/24

Zone-IV 1st Innings 141 all-out in 51.3 overs. Muhammad Afzal 65 10x4 2x6. Talah Ehsan 24. Muhammad Makki (mf) 4/33, Muhammad Usman (sla) 4/24. Ali Umer 2/37.

In the 3rd Match at NBP Sports Complex Zone-III 1st Innings 399/7.

Zone-V1st Innings all out 229 in 53.4 overs. Muhammad Asif 72 12x4, Syed Shah Raza 40 4x4 1x6, Muhammad Hassan Iqbal 31, Hassan Ali Khan 39. Israr Ahmed (sla) 5/24, Fahad Amin

After follow on Zone-V 2nd innings 9x4 Muhammad Hussain 26 both not

Over 3,300 young athletes are attaining top level training at Punjab Sports Department's Summer Sports Camps: DG Sports

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that more than 3300 young athletes are attaining top level training at Punjab Sports Department's Summer Sports Camps being organized in all districts of Punjab province.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry in a statement on Wednesday said more than 900 children are being trained at various sports venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex. "The Summer Sports Camps of 14 games will continue till August 7 in all divisions of Punjab province".

The Swimming Summer Sports Camp is different groups as per their age categories.



underway at state-of-the-art Punjab International Swimming Complex where 400 male including Rafi uz Zaman, Irfan Rehmatand female athletes are being trained daily. Expert coaches are trained the camp trainees of 5 to 19 years age after dividing them into

On boys' side, the qualified coaches ullah, M Naeem and Ayub Yaqub supervised the training sessions while female coaches Irum and Omaira imparted valuable swim-

conducted swimming competitions among the camp probable to gauge their level of game

More than 50 male and female athletes attended the taekwondo camp at Elite Training Center where senior coach Raeesur-Rehman and his team taught the children valuable taekwondo techniques.

The hockey summer camp is being conducted at National Hockey Stadium under the supervision of qualified coaches Aslam Shah, Habibur Rahman and Nargis Saeed, who taught the participating children how to play competitive hockey in different phases of a match. The hockey camp probables also ming tips at girls swimming camp. They also participated in physical exercises.

Punjab boys emerge winners in First National **Cestoball C'ship**

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab boys' team emerged winners and girls finished runners up in the First National Cestoball Championship that concluded at King Abdullah University, Muzaffarabad on Wednes-

The teams from Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Jaffarabad, Azad Kashmir and South Punjab participated in boys' event while the teams from Punjab, Khyber Pakh-

and Islamabad took part in Women's National Cestoball Championship.

Punjab thrashed Azad Kashmir with a big margin of 70-30 in the boys' title clash. Rana Waqar of Punjab was adjudged the best player of the tournament. Gilgit-Baltistan stunned Punjab women team by a narrow margin of 14-10 in women's final match.

President Pakistan Cesto-

tunkhawa, Gilgit-Baltistan of Rs 10,000 each were given to winning teams in boys' and

ball Federation (PCF) M Akram played a key role in

the organization of First

National Cestoball Championship. President of Shahzad

Sports Federation Haji Abdul

Khaliq also contributed a lot

in the successful holding of

this mega event. Cash prizes

girls' events while special cash prize of Rs 20,000 were awarded to Punjab women PCF General Secretary

Arshad Gill, Ishtiaq Kiani, Ahmed Saeed Bokhari, Marwat Rathore, Ghulam Murtaza (Sindh), Faizan Ahmed and Zeeshan Ahmed were also present on this

In the Name of Honour: The Vulture Culture We Nurture

n the name of honour "Nikah kiya tha, zina nahi" were

of silence, we nurture this vulture culture. Demanding justice only after a murder has been committed is like asking for life to return on the Day of Judgement,

when it is already too late. The recent incident in Degaari, Quetta, is a horrifying example. On 4 June 2025, a young couple, Bano Bibi and Ehsaan Ullah, were shot dead in broad daylight. Bano was shot seven times and Ehsaan nine. Their only "crime" was choosing to marry each other with

mutual consent. Her last words,

spoken while holding the Quran,

how many more lives will a desperate plea for justice that be taken? How long will was never heard and was buried we continue to stand like with her. Yet after the video of their silent vultures, watching killing went viral, some shamelessly the blood of others as if it were a alleged they were in an "illegal relaspectacle? With every moment tionship." But even if that were true, who gave anyone

> the right to kill This was not just the murder of two individuals, was the murder of humanity itself. Surah Al-Ma'idah

*؞ٛڡٙ*ڹٛۊؘؾؘڶؘؽؘڡٛ۫ڛٵؠۼؘؽڔٮؘڡٛٚڛٲۅؙڡؘڛٵ<u>ۮ۪ڣ</u> ٳڵٲؙۯۻۏؘڮٳؿؖٵۊؘؾڶٙٙٳڶؾۜ۠ٵۺۜۜۼؚۑڰٵۅٙڡؖؽ أَحْيَاهَافَكُلِيُّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَهِيعًا »

"Whoever kills a soul, unless for a soul or for corruption in the land, it is as if he had killed all mankind. And whoever saves one, it is as if he had saved all mankind."

In Baloch and Sindhi cultures, such killings are often justified under a cruel tribal custom called "Karo Kari". It is a barbaric tradition in which a man or woman is killed in the name of "honour," most often by their own family members. But this has no justification in any religion, and Islam has absolutely nothing to do with it.

Farzana Parveen, a pregnant and curiosity replace compassion, woman, was stoned to death by her father outside the Lahore High Court for marrying by choice. Qandeel Baloch, Pakistan's social media star, was strangled by her own brother in the name of honour. In Quetta, 15-year-old US-born over TikTok videos. These are just a few examples. Many rape cases are also turned into so-called "honour killings." According to the Human

charge of human life into our own actual number is estimated to be hands as if we are above divine law. close to 1,000 annually, most of which go unreported due to fear and tribal influence.

And what have we, as a society, done? We watched the video, we shared it, we gossiped about the victims' character. We acted no better than vultures circling dying prey, feeding on tragedy but doing nothing to condemn it. This is the vulture culture we nurture: This is not an isolated case. a culture where silence, gossip, action, and humanity.

The real tragedy is that this brutal incident took place just three days before Eid, vet none of the spectators dared to condemn it. Action was taken only after the video went viral and the case Hira Anwar was killed by her father became a high-profile issue and even that action seemed merely for show, destined to fade once social media outrage dies down.

Honour killings stem from deep-Rights Commission of Pakistan, rooted patriarchy and a false sense 520 honour killings were reported of control over women's lives in the

Yet today, we arrogantly take the in 2022 and 405 in 2024, but the name of tribal honour. To end this brutality, we must enforce strict criminal laws without loopholes, educate people about Islamic injunctions and women's rights, challenge outdated customs through media, and empower women economically. But above all, we must change our mind-set. There is no honour in "honour killing".

Justice delayed is justice denied. Real change will begin when we raise our voices, report crimes without fear, and stand with victims instead of judging them. Our justice system must deliver swift, uncompromising punishments, but society, too, must refuse to protect murderers in the name of family or tribal ties. Honour can never be built on blood, it lives in protecting life and dignity.

Author is (Gold Medallist in $Theology\ from\ GCU\ Lahore,$ $currently \, pursuing \, MS \, in$ Islamic Thought and Civilization from Sialkot). She can be reached at iamsdf07@gmail.com

نوٹس (مشتری هوشیار باش)

بذر بعیه نوش حذا مشتهر کیا جاتا ہے۔ کہ مکان نمبر**ے۔24** ، برقبہ تعدادی 3430 مرابع نٹ، سروے نمبر 576-c واقع جناح لين، پشاور كين جو كه كيفونمنث بورڈ كے ريكارڈ من ميسرز: شخ عنايت الله ولدشخ شالله اورع فان الله ولد شخ ذكا الله كينامول برموجود ب بيركش عنايت الله بمورى 18-05-2014 كووفات بإسك اورمندرجه ذيل افراد ليفرآف المينشريش تكلم بينترمول ج يثا وربموريد 2015-01-30 كتحت ان کے قانونی ورثا قرار یائے ہیں: مسمیان: رضوان عنایت، اسد عنایت، مساۃ شفق فرید عباس، مساۃ فہیدہ عنایت (پسران، دختر و بیوه پیخ عنایت الله مرحوم) مزیدیه که میسرز: مسافهمیده عنایت ،مساه شفق فریدعهای اور سدعنایت نے ندکورہ بالا مکان میں اپنے حصص مسمی رضوان عنایت کے حق میں بذریع دمتبر وار نامدر جشر و شد ستادیز نمبر 384 بی نمبر 01، جلد نمبر 80 بموریه 2016-03-29 کے تحت دستیردار ہو گئے ہیں۔اب مى رضوان عنايت نے ندكوره بالا مكان ميں سے شخ عنايت الله كا حسدائين نام برخفل كرنے كے لئے ايك مدد درخواست بمعه لیثرآف ایمٔ مشریش ورجمر ؤ رمتبردار نامه دفتر بندایش گزاری ب- اگر کمی فخض، جیک با دار ہے و ذکورہ مالا مکان میں سے شخ عنایت اللہ کے صے کی متعلی پرکوئی اعتراض ہوتو اشتہار حذا کی اشاعت کے پندرہ (15) دن کے اندراندرا پنااعتراض بمعد ثبوت پیش کریں۔ بعدازاں منتقلی کی کاروائی مندرجہ بالا درخواست گزار کے نام پرعمل میں لائی جائے گی اورکوئی عذر قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

المشتهر: كينٹونمنٹ ايگزيكٹيو آفيسر يشاور

The Spokesman

NDMA operation Center ISLAMABAD: NDMA held Monsoon Coordination Conference at National Emergencies Operation Center on Wednesday.

Govt plans hike in petroleum levy amid growing gas sector debt

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government has started preparations to further increase the prices of petroleum products to offset the impact of growing circular debt in the gas sector.

increase of Rs3 to Rs10 per litre in the petroleum levy is under consideration to address the rising circular debt in the gas sector.

The sources said that the government is currently holding consultations on borrowing up to Rs2000 billion from banks to over-

An important meeting is expected between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy in this regard.

On the other hand, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sought a clear and practical plan from the govern-According to sources, an ment regarding the gas sector circular debt.

The IMF warned that the government must provide a concrete roadmap for eliminating the circular debt of Rs2800 billion, or it could pose a hurdle in receiving the next loan tranche.

According to the sources, like the power sector, the governerate reforms in the gas sector, circular debt of the gas sector



leum levy is being increased to of Rs2800 billion, due to which reduce the burden of circular

on internal resources. come the financial crisis in the ment has been forced to accel- the Petroleum Division, the crisis.

and in this context, the petro- has reached a dangerous level gas companies and other stateowned oil and gas institutions According to sources in are facing a severe financial

If this increase is approved,

the public may face not only higher petrol prices but also a further hike in gas tariffs, further intensifying the inflationary wave.

A next round of talks between the government and the IMF is expected this week.

The sources said that the government has started preparing an emergency strategy to deal with this situation, under which it is considering obtaining loans of up to

Rs2000 billion from banks. The government plans to repay bank loans in phases over the next five years. If a petroleum levy is imposed, it is expected to generate an annual revenue of Rs180 billion.

PM expresses satisfaction over Pak-UK bilateral cooperation

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

He said the recently held trade talks between the two countries would lead to mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on the prime minister at the Prime Minister's House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said Pakistan was also cooperating closely with the UK at the UN Security Council, where Pakistan currently held the monthly Presidency.



Government's recent decito and from the UK, which in alleviating the hardships

faced by the British Pakistani community as well as enhancing people-to-people exchanges

The UK high commissioner thanked the prime minister for receiving her and briefed him about her recent visit to London, where she had extensive consultations on enhancing Pakistan-UK bilateral ties.

She lauded the government's economic performance in the last year and a half, under the vision and leadership of the prime minister, which had brought about a significant improvement in all key macro-economic indicators.

She also shared with the prime minister, the UK's perspective on regional developments in South Asia and the Middle East.

Monsoon mayhem: NDMA confirms 252 deaths, over 600 injured nationwide

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released a grim report detailing the human and infrastructural toll of this year's monsoon season.

From June 26 to July 23, torrential rains have claimed 252 lives and injured 611 people across Pakistan.

According to the latest NDMA data, 10 people lost their lives and 13 were injured in the past 24 hours alone. Among the total fatalities, 121 were children, 85 were men, and 46 were women, highlighting affected by flooding. the widespread and indiscriminate nature of the disaster.

worst-hit province, recording 139 remain vigilant and follow official deaths and 477 injuries. Khyber advisories as heavy rains persist.

Pakhtunkhwa followed with 60 deaths and 74 injuries, while Sindh reported 24 deaths and 40 injuries. Balochistan registered 16 fatalities with 4 injuries, Azad Kashmir saw 2 deaths, and Islamabad recorded 6 injuries.

Beyond the human loss, the monsoon havoc has caused significant damage to property and infrastructure.

So far, 1,005 houses have been damaged and 328 livestock have perished. Additionally, 12 bridges have been destroyed or severely

The NDMA continues to coordinate relief and rescue efforts across Punjab has emerged as the the country, urging citizens to

PM Azad Kashmir Visits Newly Constructed Cancer Hospital in Muzaffarabad



MUZAFFARARAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry bad, a project completed with cooperation of the federal government. During his visit the Prime Minister inspected various departments of the Hospital and reviewed the treatment the Hospital. The Prime Minister facilities being provided to patients.

He also received a comprehensive briefing from Dr. Shazia Fatima, the DG NMO, about the various departments and the machinery available for the treatment of various types of cancer.

described the health facility as a valuable gift from the federal government to the region

The Prime Minister said that Anwar ul Haq on Wednesday paid a it was his long cherished desire visit to the newly constructed Atomic to see a state of art cancer treat-Energy Cancer Hospital Muzaffara- ment facility established in Azad Kashmir.

He announced that the Health Department would provide all possible operational support to expressed satisfaction over stateof-the-art machinery and cutting edge medical equipment available at the hospital.

It is worth mentioning here that modern diagnostic and treatment the Hospital, completed at a cost of Rs 5.4 billion, will play a crucial role in the diagnosis and treat-Speaking on this occasion, Prime ment of life threatening diseases Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq like cancer.

PTI to challenge May 9 verdicts in high courts: Senator Ali Zafar



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) has announced its decision to challenge recent verdicts against its Members of the National Assembly and Punjab's opposition leader in connection with the

Senior PTI leader and legal expert Senator Ali Zafar confirmed that he has prepared the petitions and will personally lead the appeals in the respective high courts. "A legal team has been constituted, and the petitions will be filed shortly," he stated.

According to Zafar, the party plans to file separate appeals in legal action against party members.

both the Lahore High Court and the Islamabad High Court, targeting the decisions passed against PTI lawmakers involved in the post-May 9 incidents.

"I have spoken to Ahmed Khan Bachhar and assured him that there's nothing substantial in this case. I will fight it for him," Zafar said, expressing confidence that the charges will not stand up in court.

PTI's move comes as part of a broader legal and political pushback against what the party views as politically motivated cases filed in the aftermath of the May 9 protests, which saw widespread arrests and

DPM urges businessmen, investors to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Wednesday encouraged businessmen and investors to explore diverse investment opportunities in Pakistan with a view to leveraging the large consumer base, young population, growing digital economy, and advantageous geographic positioning towards mutually rewarding outcomes.

The DPM/FM shared a perspective on Pakistan's significantly improved economic landscape, highlighting strategic initiatives like the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), streamlined processes for investors across priority sectors including agriculture, IT, minerals, energy, and tourism.



diaspora towards realizing the trade,

The participants expressed their investment, and economic ties between commitment to fostering deeper two countries.

investment engagement between the

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