



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عبد اللہ بن مسعود نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا ہم سے عبد العزیز بن ابی حازم نے بیان کیا ان سے ان کے والد نے اور ان سے اس نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے آپ کو یہ فرماتے ہوئے سنا کہ جنت میں ایک کوڑے جتنی جگہ دنیا اور اس میں جو کچھ ہے سب سے بہتر ہے اور اللہ کے راستے میں حج کیا شام کو تھوڑا سا چائے بھی «الدُّنْيَا بَيْتُهَا» سے بہتر ہے۔
(بخاری: ۳۵۷۱، صحیح مسلم: ۶۴۱۵)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Mohsin Naqvi condemns dacoits attack on police post
Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday strongly condemned the dacoits' attack on Shekhani police checkpost in Sadiqabad, which resulted in martyrdom of five policemen. He expressed his heartfelt and deep condolences to the bereaved families of police martyrs.



FPSC notifies 100pc increase in application fees for competitive exams
The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) has officially announced a 100 percent increase in online application fees for its competitive examinations. The revised fee structure, approved by the Finance Division, will come into effect on September 21.

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Meeting on floods

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding floods in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, on Friday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz reaffirms federal support for GB, AJK after Monsoon devastation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed the support of the federal government to ensure relief and recovery in the monsoon devastation affected regions of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The prime minister chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the human and material losses caused by the ongoing monsoon season, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The session focused on immediate relief

efforts, future preparedness, and federal support to the affected regions, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and extensive damage inflicted by torrential rains across the country, especially in GB and AJK. He reiterated the federal government's unwavering solidarity with the regional governments and the affected people.

"The federal government stands shoulder to shoulder with the administrations and citizens of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad

Kashmir in this hour of grief," the prime minister stated.

"I will soon visit Gilgit-Baltistan to express solidarity with the victims, and a comprehensive federal relief package will be announced to support recovery and rehabilitation efforts," he added.

The Prime Minister issued special directives to all federal agencies to collaborate closely with regional authorities to conduct damage assessments and expedite relief measures. He stressed the need to prioritize life-saving interventions and safeguard both human lives and property.

During the briefing, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, informed the meeting that the monsoon-related disasters have so far resulted in 295 fatalities and over 700 injuries nationwide. More than 1,600 homes have been completely destroyed, and 876 livestock lost due to the severe weather.

The NDMA chief also warned of continuing high flood threats in various rivers and streams. Minor flooding is expected at Tarbela, Chashma, Taunsa, and Kalabagh, while moderate flood

levels may occur at Head Marala and Guddu on the Chenab River. He cautioned that the monsoon may intensify further towards the end of August.

The meeting was attended by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, and other senior government officials.

Narrative of disintegrated PTI, nothing but pack of lies: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday dismissed the narrative of the disintegrated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as a pack of lies. In reaction to the opposition's Press Conference, the minister said their narrative had nothing to do with reality, absolutely based on lies, deceit and fraud.

He said those people who were betting

on the country's default are now stunned by the economic milestones achieved by Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The current account surplus, the increase in foreign exchange reserves, and a decrease in inflation and petrol prices are the major cause of their frustration, he said, adding the opposition is wary of the Foreign Direct Investment in the country.

He also noted the daily rise in the stock



market, which reflects investors' confidence in the economy. "They are doing criticism

just for the sake of criticism," he said highlighting a pattern of the PTI's actions aimed at undermining the success of country.

Citing the upcoming visit of the Iranian President to Pakistan-a major milestone in Pakistan's foreign policy, he said their press conference is aimed at sabotaging the high-level visit.

The PTI had the history of always siding with those who are hostile to Pakistan, he stressed.

Pakistan rejects Indian claims on so-called Operation Mahadev and Operation Sindoor: FO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday strongly rejected India's claims related to its so-called Operation Mahadev and the recently debated Operation Sindoor, accusing New Delhi of inciting aggression and distorting facts for political purposes.

During his weekly media

briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan denounced the recent statements made by Indian leaders in the Lok Sabha as "provocative and baseless," saying they were an attempt to mislead the international community and justify aggression against Pakistan.

The Foreign Office spokesperson said that the assertions

made by Indian leaders during the Lok Sabha debate reflected a dangerous tendency to misrepresent the truth and justify unilateral aggression. He said India was targeting innocent civilians in the name of Operation Mahadev.

Pakistan accused New Delhi of distorting facts, glorifying aggression, and pursuing domestic political mileage through provocative

narratives.

"Pakistan categorically rejects the baseless assertions and provocative claims made by the Indian leaders during the Lok Sabha debate on the so-called 'Operation Sindoor,'" the spokesperson said. "These statements reflect a dangerous tendency to distort facts, justify aggression, and glorify conflict for domestic consumption."

He said the provocative claims of Indian leaders were baseless, Pakistan will give a befitting reply to any aggression, he said, India attacked Pakistan without investigating Pahalagam, Indian statements are tantamount to distorting facts and fueling aggression. The FO made it clear that Pakistan wants peace in the region.

President directs CM Bugti to work for further peace in Balochistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday directed Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti to further improve peace and security in Balochistan, besides taking measures to uplift people's living standards there.

The president, in a meeting with Balochistan chief minister, who called on him

at Bilawal House in Karachi, also called for ensuring public welfare, basic facilities for people, and the timely completion of development projects.

In the meeting, they discussed the development projects in Balochistan and the overall political situation.

The chief minister briefed the president on the law and order situation in the province and development projects.

Govt should win the hearts of the people of Balochistan, says Bilawal



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Balochistan was facing many key issues including menace of terrorism, adding that issues in Balochistan will not end with use of force but only by winning the hearts of the local people.

Addressing a reception hosted by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) at the Chief Minister's House, Bilawal said during war with India, Paki-

stan realized that digital media was asset of the country which countered disinformation. He said it was need of the hour to counter disinformation.

He said the government will try to implement laws which are aimed at the protection of the journalists.

Bilawal Bhutto said that just as the Pakistan Air Force defeated India, Pakistani journalism also defeated the Indian media. He said "during the war, we realized that digital media is our asset".

He said ending the ban on digital media was a good move.

Australian high commissioner meets PTI chairman Barrister Gohar

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins met with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan.

During the meeting, Barrister Khan briefed High Commissioner Hawkins about the evolving political landscape in Pakistan and PTI's ongoing efforts to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

He expressed concern over the state of the judiciary following the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which, he noted, has undermined judicial independence by placing it under executive influence.

The discussion also touched upon the mass convictions of PTI leaders, which Khan asserted are being carried out without adherence to due legal process.

High Commissioner Hawkins reiterated Australia's commitment to supporting a stable, democratic, and prosperous Pakistan.

He affirmed that Australia continues to advocate for the protection of democratic principles and human rights, in line with Pakistan's Constitution and international obligations.

He also emphasized that Australia maintains regular diplomatic engagement with all major political parties in Pakistan.

‘Azad Kashmir to Mark Exploitation Day with National Solidarity’

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Kashmir government has summoned a session of the Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly to celebrate the Exploitation Day on August 5 with full enthusiasm and enthusiasm as a national solidarity against the abrogation of the special status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir by India through amendments to Article 370 and Article 35.

The special session called to express solidarity with the oppressed, oppressed, freedom-loving, defenseless, peaceful people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir will be presided over by Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar.

Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq has invited Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to address the special session of the Legislative Assembly.

On the call of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Pasban Hurriyat, the Exploitation Day/Black



Day will be observed on August 5 in both sides of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and all four provinces of Pakistan, including the world.

Protest demonstrations will be held throughout Azad Kashmir by holding rallies, processions, sit-ins and demonstrations. The world community's attention will be drawn to the worst Indian atrocities, state terrorism and human rights violations in the capital, Muzaffarabad, on the evening of August 4.

A torchlight rally will be held to protest the move, while on August 5, a long march will be held at Azadi Chowk outside the Press Club at 9 am to the UN mission office and a memorandum will be presented to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, led by Chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, Peoples Party leader Shaukat Javed Mir, Hurriyat leaders Mushtaq Ul Islam and Usman Ali Hashim, leaders of all schools of thought, as well as political and religious parties.

On the occasion of the same day, a big protest sit-in is being held in front of the Indian Embassy in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Leaders of the Hurriyat Conference will participate. Talking to the media yesterday regarding August 5, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali Shaukat Javed Mir said that on August 5, a public referendum will be held in the state of Jammu and Kashmir against India's forced occupation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the black laws.

The victory of the Pakistani army in the limited war between Pakistan and India under the leadership of Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir has strengthened the Kashmir issue in the houses of parliaments around the world.

The Pakistani army and national security agencies are ready to make great sacrifices to defend the people of Kashmir. He appealed to the entire Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and the world to celebrate August 5 with national unity and play a vanguard role in destroying India's expansionist ambitions.

Ownership certificates

Nawabshah: First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari is distributing land ownership certificates for houses being built for flood victims under the Sindh People's Housing Scheme for Flood Effects in Shaheed Benazirabad, Nawabshah District.



IG Punjab Attended Funeral Prayers of 5 Police Personnel Martyred

 **Bureau Report**

BAHAWALPUR: Funeral prayers of 5 police personnel martyred in Sheikhani Police Check Post Rahim Yar Khan were offered at Sadiq Shaheed Police Lines. IG Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, Additional IG Elite Police Force Waqar Abbasi, Commissioner Bahawalpur, RPO Bahawalpur Rai Babar Saeed, SSP Ghotki, DPO Rahim Yar Khan, DPO Rajanpur, Rangers and Pakistan Army officers, families of the martyrs, senior police officers and personnel attended the funeral prayers. A police contingent presented a guard of honor to the martyrs. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar saluted the martyrs and laid wreaths.

I salute the courage and bravery of the officers and pay tribute to their heirs.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar Talking To M3dia After Funeral Prayer He Said



Punjab Police is the faithful force of more than 1650 brave martyrs. After offering the funeral prayers, Inspector General Punjab Police Dr. Talking to the media Dr Usman Anwar said that

the police will bring the robbers and evil elements of the Kacha area to justice and no effort will be spared in the welfare of the families of the martyred policemen. The Punjab Police will always

support the family members of the police personnel who sacrificed themselves during the operation against the robbers. The families of the martyrs will fulfill the responsibility of the police department in a good manner. On this occasion, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar further said that the Punjab Police and the Special Branch.

CTD and CCD departments will fight with more strength and strategy against the enemies of the people and the country and criminals of the Kacha, 5 elite force personnel martyred in the attack on Sheikhani police post, while 01 robber was killed in the police retaliatory action, Police martyrs include Muhammad Irfan, Muhammad Saleem, Nakheel, Khalil and Ghazanfar.

The bodies of the martyred policemen have been sent to their native areas for burial.

Funeral Prayers of Makhdoom Syed Tanveer-ul-Hassan Gilani offered in Multan

 **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The Funeral Prayers of Makhdoom Syed Tanveer-ul-Hassan Gilani Former Federal Minister and Cousin of Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, were Offered in Multan.

The funeral prayers were offered by Makhdoom Tanveer-ul-Hassan Gilani's younger son Imran Gilani. Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani and former Punjab Assembly Member Ahmed Mujtaba Gilani attended the funeral prayers.

Head of Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat Pakistan Allama Syed Mazhar Saeed Kazmi attended the funeral prayers.



Chairman Public Accounts Committee Syed Ali Haider Gilani.

Member of National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gilani attended the

funeral prayers of Sarkart, Member of National Assembly Syed Ali Musa Gilani, Member of National Assembly Syed Samiul Hassan Gilani. Peer Lal Shah Mashhadi Hassan Raza attended the funeral prayers of senior politician and former federal minister Makhdoom Javed Hashmi, Senior Vice President Pakistan Peoples Party Khawaja Rizwan Alam attended the funeral prayers, Director Haj Rehan Abbas Khokhar also attended the funeral prayers, Member of Provincial Assembly Wasif Mazhar Raan also attended. Multan: Peer Lal Shah, Darbar Chadar Wali Sarkar Syed Ali Hussain Shah. Rajan Bakhsh Gilani, Wilayat Hussain Gilani also attended the funeral prayers.

Kashmir Freedom Movement: A Responsibility of the New Generation

 **Spokesman Report**

NOTTINGHAM/MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Youth Wing Muslim Conference Sardar Usman Ali Khan, while addressing the participants in Nottingham, said that the Kashmir Freedom Movement is the trust of our elders, which is protected and fought with full understanding, it is the first responsibility of our new generation. He was addressing a special event organized by the Muslim Conference Youth Wing in Nottingham, in which prominent leaders of the Overseas Kashmiri community, young workers and people from different walks of life participated in large numbers. Sardar Usman Ali Khan said in his address that the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference is making its organizational activities in the UK more active and coordinated so that the younger generation can be made aware of the Kashmir issue, the freedom movement and its national identity. He said that the illegal action of India on August 5, 2019 has further highlighted the Kashmir issue at the international level, and it is time for the Kashmiris living abroad to make their voice heard to the world in an organized manner.

Independence Day Celebrations in Hyderabad to Feature Rahat Fateh Ali Khan



 **Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: A grand musical event under the banner of "Maarka-e-Haq" will be held in Hyderabad to celebrate Independence Day, featuring renowned artists including Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, who will perform at Rani Bagh.

Preparations are in full swing in Hyderabad to celebrate Independence Day in a befitting manner under the theme "Maarka-e-Haq."

In this regard, an important meeting was held at Shahbaz Hall, chaired by Sindh's Provincial Minister for Culture and Tourism, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah.

The meeting was attended by Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro, MNA Tariq Hussain Jamoat, PPP leader Aajiz Dhamrah, along with the Commissioner, DIG, Deputy Commissioner, and SSP of Hyderabad.

The provincial minister announced that on August 8, a grand musical event will take place at Rani Bagh, Hyderabad, where internationally acclaimed singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Sanam Marvi, Kaifi Khalil, and other artists will showcase their performances.

MNA Dr. Mahesh applauds performance of Thar students in Federal Board Matriculation exams

 **Bureau Report**

MITHI: In a celebration event held at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Cultural Complex in Mithi, Tharparkar, MNA Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani commended the outstanding performance of students, especially from Block II, in the Federal Board matriculation exams.

All 41 students from three secondary schools, jointly operated by Thar Foundation and The Citizens Foundation (TCF), have passed the Federal Board matriculation exams. Dr Mahesh praised the impact of Thar Foundation and TCF in transforming the region's educational landscape with a 100% success rate in these exams.

"A 100% passing rate is a remarkable milestone which indicates a clear sign that Tharparkar's education system is evolving in the right direction," he said. "The work being done here is not only delivering quality education but also ushering in a meaningful shift, one where girls are stepping into classrooms in greater numbers and excelling. No girl should be deprived of this right and the progress we are seeing today is truly encouraging." He also pledged continued support for education initiatives in the region.

Thar Foundation has operated these schools with a strong focus on high quality and inclusive education, particularly for girls. In Islamkot alone, the Foundation and its partners operate 28 school units with enrolment of more than 5,000 students, half of which are girls.

Beyond classroom education, Thar Foundation has expanded its focus to skill development and technical training. More than 2,000 community members have received vocational training in fields such as solarization, welding, and hospitality, equipping them with skills to secure sustainable livelihoods. Since 2018, a key partnership with the Government Polytechnic Institute (GPI) Mithi has introduced programs in mining, electrical, mechanical and civil engineering. Over 300 students, including 13 women for the first time, are enrolled in these diploma technical courses.

TECNO Launches Spark Go 2 in Pakistan — Slim, Smart, and Built for Real Life

 **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: TECNO has officially launched the Spark Go 2 in Pakistan, the latest addition to its innovative smartphone lineup. Designed to deliver a seamless blend of style, durability, and functionality, the Spark Go 2 offers everyday users a reliable, feature-packed experience. With its modern aesthetics and smart performance upgrades, it's the perfect choice for those seeking value without compromise.



Engineered for everyday resilience, the Spark Go 2 features IP64 Dust and Water Resistance—ready to withstand splashes, rain, and dusty environments with ease. Its reinforced body also offers up to 1.5M Drop Resistance, making it ideal for users who need a smartphone that can keep up with real-world challenges. With Spark Go 2, durability comes built-in—so you can go further, worry-free. Spark Go 2 comes equipped with innovative FreeLink technology, enabling calls and messages via Bluetooth—without the need for a mobile network. With an outdoor range of up to 500 meters and 60 meters indoors, it ensures seamless connectivity in basements, remote areas, or locations with limited or no signal. Whether off the grid or deep underground, Spark Go 2 keeps communication within reach when it's needed most.

Powered by TECNO's ELLA AI, Spark Go 2 brings a suite of intelligent features designed to simplify everyday tasks. From real-time Face-to-Face Translation and AI Writing Assistance to AI Call Noise Reduction, the phone delivers practical innovation for daily use. A side-mounted fingerprint sensor adds secure, seamless access for added convenience.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:45 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:06 pm
Maghrib	7:08 pm
Isha	8:43 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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DIG Welfare meets families of police martyrs in Dera Ismail Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: On special instructions from the Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfikar Hameed, the DIG Welfare KP Police, Kashif Mushtaq Kanju, visited Police Lines in Dera Ismail Khan Friday and met with the families of police martyrs from Dera, Tank, Upper and Lower South Waziristan.

The visit was aimed at honoring the sacrifices of the martyred police personnel and expressing solidarity with their families. During the meeting, DIG Welfare presented condolence letters and cheques worth Rs. 50,000 each to the families on behalf of the IGP.

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera, Syed Ashfaq Anwar, and District Police Officer (DPO) Dera, Sajad Ahmad Sahabzada, were also present on the occasion.

DIG Welfare listened to the concerns of the families and issued on-the-spot directives to resolve their problems. He said the bravery and sacrifices of the police martyrs had played a key role in restoring peace in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police stands firmly with the families of the martyrs and will continue to take all possible measures for their welfare," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, RPO Dera Syed Ashfaq Anwar said that police martyrs are the true national heroes who live in our hearts. "Observing Police Martyrs' Day is meant to reaffirm our commitment to the families that we are always with them," he said.

BISP celebrates young achievers of beneficiary families

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "This isn't just my success—it's a moment of pride for the entire nation. For the past year, I have been receiving educational support through the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme. I owe my success to my parents and teachers, and I am deeply grateful to Allah Almighty for this incredible achievement. I sincerely thank the Benazir Income Support Programme for making this possible," said Hafiza Maryam Bibi, a 15-year-old from Multan who secured 1st position in the Multan Board.

In a heartwarming ceremony held today, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) celebrated the extraordinary academic achievements of

students from beneficiary families whose lives have been transformed through the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif educational stipend. The event, hosted at BISP Headquarters, served as a powerful reminder of how access to education and sustained support can help overcome adversity.

Among the shining stars was Hafiz Asad Raza, a determined student from a remote village in Fort Abbas Tehsil, District Bahawalnagar. Despite his father's modest income as a bus conductor and the responsibility of supporting seven siblings, Asad defied the odds and secured 3rd position in the Bahawalpur Board Matriculation Examination.

"Without BISP's support, it might have been impossible for me to continue my education," he said, his voice filled with gratitude.

The ceremony also recognized the outstanding achievements of Momina Fatima, who secured 3rd position in the Multan Board, and Mehwish, who achieved 3rd position in Karak—a remote district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where girls often face significant challenges in accessing education. Despite cultural and financial barriers, Mehwish's accomplishment stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and determination, highlighting the transformative impact of the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme in marginalized regions. All four students paid heartfelt tribute to their parents, teachers, and BISP, sharing how the program's financial support enabled them to remain focused on their studies and navigate the many challenges they faced.

Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina



Khalid, in her address to the gathering, stated that today marks a proud moment for BISP and for Pakistan. These children—especially our brilliant girls—have proven that with the right support, there

is no limit to what they can achieve. "I congratulate not only the students but also their parents, whose sacrifices have made this success possible. You have made the entire nation proud."

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Atamatsu Shuichi taking interest in paintings during exhibition at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

District Administration Kicks Off Independence and Victory of Truth Marka e Haq Celebrations



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The District Administration of Hyderabad has officially launched the celebrations for Independence Day and Victory of Truth, "Marka e Haq" with a vibrant rally led by Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon. The event began from Shahbaz Build-

ing and proceeded to the Post Master General Chowk, marking the formal start of a series of festivities planned from August 1 to 14.

The rally saw enthusiastic participation from Assistant Commissioners of all four talukas, District Health Officer, officers from the district police and traffic departments, as well

as officials from Local Government, Highways Department, Culture Department, and Social Welfare Departments. School children and women also joined in large numbers, waving national flags, holding banners, and chanting patriotic slogans.

While speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon said that, In

May, we defeated our hostile neighbor in a historic battle the Victory of Truth, "Marka e Haq" As we step into Pakistan's 78th Independence Day celebrations, the Government of Pakistan, the Government of Sindh, district administration and all departments are united in celebrating this momentous occasion from August 1 to 14.

A literary event held in honor of Dr. Obaid Bazgh Amar.

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A literary event was held in honor of renowned poet, critic and researcher Dr. Obaid Bazgh Amar in collaboration with Rawalpindi Arts Council, Bazm Ahbab Qalam Pakistan. The first session was a poetry recital and the second session was a discussion session by the writers. The event was organized to mark the recent PhD of Dr. Obaid Bazgh Amar and was presided over by renowned poet Khawar Ijaz. Dr. Zahid Hassan Chughtai and Ali Muhammad Farshi were the special guests of the event. While Nasir Abbas Chaudhry and Dr. Khaliq-ur-Rehman were the guests of honor. The event was directed by Ayub Joseph and Malik Asif Nawaz. Qazi Arif Hussain, Dr. Khaliq-ur-Rehman, Nir Sarhadi, Muhammad Akbar Niazi, Khalid Bhutral, Shahidi Urfi, Farid Zahid, Rukhsana Nazi, Iqbal Malik Advocate, and other prominent writers expressed their views and said that Obaid Bazgh Amar is an important poet who emerged in the 90s in terms of ghazal and nazm. His poems are unique in that they have collected poetic traditions from Meera Ji, Rashid, Faiz Sahir to Habib Jalib and Ahmed Faraz. He gave a strong tone of resistance to modern Urdu poetry and created masterpieces like Zard Sahifa, Facebook, Adhar Choti Si Basti Thi, and Sal Naw. The poems included in his first poetry collection, Agar Main Asmaan Hota, were well received by the art community. While the second poetry collection, Mohabbat Naam Hai Meera, is in the final stages of printing. BAZM President Ali Asghar Samar thanked the participants and guests and presented Dr. Obaid Bazgh Amar with an honorary shield on behalf of BAZM.

Faisalabad Region Police Crackdown, 271 Gangs Busted, Over 7,000 Proclaimed Offenders Arrested

Zafar Chishti

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Zeeshan Asghar released the performance report from January to July, 2025. A total of 271 criminal gangs were dismantled, leading to the arrest of 691 gang members and the registration of 2,361 cases against them.

The police also made significant recoveries of stolen property including 61 cars, 1,176 motorcycles, 81 tolas of gold, 268 mobile phones and 272 stolen buffaloes. The total value of recovered cash and valuables is estimated at over Rs1.8 billion. The department's efforts against drug trafficking resulted in the arrest of 3,623 drug peddlers and the registration of 3,822 cases. Large quantities of narcotics were seized, including 1,304 kg of cannabis, 49 kg of crystal meth (ICE), 261 kg of heroin, 232 kg of opium, and 51,520 bottles of liquor. In a move to curb illegal arms proliferation, the police recovered a substantial cache of illicit weapons. The seizures included 85 Kalashnikov rifles, 2,957 pistols, 247 rifles and 19 revolvers, along with 13,249 rounds of ammunition. In a concerted effort to bring fugitives to justice, police apprehended a total of 7,026 proclaimed offenders (POs). This included 2,114 from Category A and 4,912 from Category B, demonstrating a proactive and intelligence-led approach. RPO Zeeshan Asghar highlighted the importance of community engagement and increased surveillance in preventing crime.

Third meeting of Awaam Pakistan Party's Women Wing Balochistan held

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The third meeting of the Women Wing Balochistan of the Awaam Pakistan Party was held in Quetta under the chairmanship of Provincial Convener Syed Aman Shah. The meeting was attended by Provincial General Secretary Prof. Dr. Haleem Sadiq, central Women Wing leader Ms. Fatima Atif and local leaders including Ms. Fatima Khan, Ms. Sana Malik, Ms. Hinz, Ms. Sana Suleman, the provincial spokesperson for Balochistan and other women members.

Addressing the meeting, Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener Balochistan, stated that the women of Balochistan are brave, hard-working, and talented, but lack of adequate opportunities and platforms has stifled their growth. He reaffirmed that the Awaam Pakistan Party is taking all possible measures to empower and engage women in political and social processes.

Ms. Fatima Atif, while addressing the meeting, emphasized the need to form teams for reorganization of the Women Wing in each district and proposed the submission of a special report to the central leadership outlining the fundamental issues faced by women in Balochistan. She further announced that an awareness campaign would be launched across the province to raise political consciousness among women.

Speaking at the meeting, Fatima Khan stated that policy recommendations and an action plan would be finalized in the next meeting. The Women Wing of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan is emerging as a committed, empowered, and dynamic platform that will continue its struggle to secure the rightful place of women in the province.

Renowned advocate Khawaja Shamsul Islam killed in Karachi firing incident

KARACHI: Renowned advocate Khawaja Shamsul Islam succumbed to his injuries after being critically wounded in a firing incident in Defence area, on Friday.

According to police, the attack took place as Khawaja Shamsul Islam was leaving the mosque after attending the funeral prayers of a well-known trader. Unidentified gunmen opened fire, injuring him and two others.

CEO Health Dr. Kashif Visits THQ Hospital Kamalia Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Toba Tek Singh Dr. Kashif Nadeem visited Tehsil Headquarters Hospital (THQ) Kamalia. He was accompanied by Medical Superintendent Dr. Mian Adeel Arif, who conducted a detailed inspection of the hospital's emergency, dialysis unit, main store and various wards.

DMS Dr. Ghulam Abbas and Admin Officer Ali Tasaram were also present on the occasion. On this occasion, Dr. Mian Adeel Arif said that all medical facilities are being provided completely free of cost to



the patients coming to the hospital's emergency, dialysis, CCU and other departments.

He said that the care and treatment of the patients is continuing as per standard principles. CEO Health Dr. Kashif Nadeem, while appreciating the efforts of the hospital administration, directed that in accordance with the vision of the Punjab government, all possible quality and timely medical facilities should be provided to the patients so that the public's trust in government health institutions is further strengthened.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir
Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad
Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan
Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood
Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Punjab Government set to Launch ‘Green Corridor’ Project to Tackle Smog And Pollution

In a major move to combat smog and environmental degradation, the Government of Punjab has announced the launch of the Green Corridor Project under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The initiative aims to transform the land alongside the railway track from Shahdara to Raiwind into continuous green belts. The project, spearheaded by Senior Minister Punjab Maryam Aurangzeb, reflects the province’s renewed commitment to climate resilience and urban beautification. Her active leadership in driving environmental policy has been instrumental in shaping long-term solutions for pollution and smog control across the region. According to the spokesperson of Housing Department Punjab, the project will be executed through a collaboration between the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) and Pakistan Railways, while the Housing Department Punjab will maintain overall oversight. The corridor spans approximately 40 kilometers and covers around 700 kanals of land. The total estimated cost is PKR 2.35 billion, and the project is expected to be completed within one year. The project has been divided into four implementation packages: Package 1: Shahdara to Lahore Railway Station; Package 2: Railway Station to Walton; Package 3: Walton to Kot Lakhpat; Package 4: Kot Lakhpat to Raiwind. In addition to green landscaping, several recreational spots will be developed along the route for public use. Old railway carriages will be repurposed into libraries and cafes, offering residents engaging social spaces amid green surroundings. Spokesperson further told that this initiative is part of a broader directive from Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to expand green spaces throughout Lahore. “The Green Corridor will not only mitigate smog and urban heat but also uplift the aesthetic and recreational value of the city,” he said. The Green Corridor stands as a model for sustainable urban development and reflects Punjab’s strategic approach to safeguarding environmental health for future generations.

It stated that hundreds of people, including dozens of children, have been hospitalized in hard-hit cities, and the pollution is so severe that it is visible from space.

“As smog continues to persist in Punjab province, I am extremely concerned about the well-being of young children who are forced to breathe polluted, toxic air,” said Abdullah Fadil, the UNICEF representative in Pakistan.

He called for urgent efforts to reduce air pollution and protect children’s health, noting that even before the record-breaking levels of smog, about 12% of deaths in children under five in Pakistan were attributed to air pollution.

“The impact of this year’s extraordinary smog will take time to assess, but we know that doubling and tripling the amount of pollution in the air will have devastating effects, particularly on children and pregnant women,” Fadil said.

The combination of smoke, emissions, and dust has lately become an annual challenge for the provincial government, particularly in Lahore. Research reports cited vehicles, construction dust, and smoke from farm fires as major contributors.

Residents in Lahore, the second biggest city in Pakistan, have increasingly complained in media interviews that smog irritates the eyes and causes throat discomfort when outdoors. Most people cannot afford air purifiers inside homes to limit the harm from toxic particles infiltrating doors and windows.

Medical Triumph of the ENT Team at Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security (SITE) Hospital

Across the world, the healthcare sector is not merely a symbol of humanitarian service it is also a mirror reflecting a nation’s cultural, scientific, and administrative maturity. In the world of medicine, there are times when knowledge, experience, and clinical expertise are not enough. What is required then is a healing force that transcends the scalpel a force born of sincerity, unity, and the purest sense of human compassion. When, in a developing nation with scarce resources, sluggish systems, and unequal access, an institution achieves something truly remarkable, it becomes worthy of being called a national treasure.

Under the umbrella of the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI), the Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security (SITE) Hospital now stands as one such luminous beacon. Its Medical Superintendent, Dr. Mumtaz Ali Shaikh, is far more than a medical expert; he is the embodiment of kindness, sincerity, integrity, and unwavering commitment. Through his leadership, the hospital has not only restored institutional dignity but also rekindled the spiritual hope of its patients.

Recently, the hospital’s ENT department accomplished an extraordinary medical feat by successfully conducting two complex, multi-stage cancer surgeries achievements that bring pride not only to the medical fraternity but to the entire nation. Both patients were facing highly advanced cancers that had eroded the structural and functional foundations of life, including the tongue, jaw, and facial tissues making survival uncertain and requiring an exceptional blend of surgical expertise and clinical

harmony.

The first case involved an elderly woman with cancer of the tongue, which had invaded the floor of the mouth and jawbone. On July 1st, 2025, under the leadership of Dr. Tahir Hussain Khan and Dr. Abdul Waheed, the ENT team carried out a meticulously planned, high-risk surgery that included excision of cervical lymph nodes, the internal jugular vein, submandibular gland, and sternocleidomastoid muscle. Advanced procedures such as hemiglossectomy, floor-of-mouth resection, and segmental mandibulectomy were also performed, adhering strictly to oncological principles.

The second patient was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the cheek. The tumor had spread to facial muscles, skin, and underlying tissues, demanding urgent and aggressive intervention. Once again, the ENT team displayed impeccable coordination and surgical finesse. A modified radical neck dissection and wide local excision were completed, followed by reconstructive surgery led by plastic surgeon Dr. Baslat using a PM flap. Meanwhile, Dr. Sikandar and Dr. Dawood ensured nutritional continuity through gastrostomy tube insertion. The surgery concluded successfully at 4:00 p.m not just a clinical success, but a triumph of collective synergy.

This was not the achievement of a single surgeon but a fully integrated, high-functioning medical ecosystem. From Dr. Raheed’s expert airway manage-

ment to Dr. Irfan’s pre-operative preparation, and the committed assistance of Arif Rana, Muhammad Owais, Maurice Sabir, Ataullah, and Hamza Ahmad in the operating theatre all played vital roles in ensuring a seamless outcome. This was not merely a medical procedure; it was the embodiment of an ideal institutional culture.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), oral cancer rates in South Asia are rising rapidly, primarily due to harmful substances such as gutka, naswar, tobacco, and betel quid. Once cancer reaches the tongue, jaw, or cervical lymph nodes, it affects

not only speech and nutrition but also one’s sense of identity. In such situations, oncology surgery must be accompanied by rehabilitation and reconstructive strategies.

In Pakistan, access to comprehensive cancer care remains alarmingly limited. As per the National Cancer Registry, over 150,000 new cancer cases are reported annually, with oral cancers being significantly prevalent. Most head and neck cancer patients hail from low-income communities. For them, Kulsoom Bai Valika Hospital is not merely a medical facility it is a sanctuary of last hope.

Perhaps the most exceptional aspect of this achievement is the hospital’s service-oriented ethos completely devoid of commercial motives, bias, or discrimination. Under the compassionate leadership of Dr. Mumtaz Ali Shaikh, the ENT team received full institutional backing, both in terms of resources and moral

encouragement. His vision, the team’s synergy, and their ethical foundations offer a template that must be replicated throughout the public healthcare system.

These successful surgeries signify much more than the saving of two lives they represent the awakening of a system, the empowerment of a team, and the revival of a nation’s medical conscience. When leadership is sincere, surgeons are trustworthy, and the entire team works as one, no medical challenge remains unconquerable.

The ENT team at Kulsoom Bai Valika Hospital is not just treating patients; it is setting a new clinical paradigm for Pakistan’s public hospitals. Their accomplishments remind us that when advanced surgery, scientific rigor, and humanitarian values unite, healing becomes rebirth.

All praise belongs to Allah, who enabled the ENT team to write a new chapter in Pakistan’s medical history under the banner of social security healthcare ushering in an era defined by excellence and compassion. May this team be protected, may their knowledge and skill continue to grow, and may every hospital in our country become a similar cradle of sincerity and service.

As revealed in the Holy Qur’an, Surah Al-Ma’idah (5:32):

“For this reason, We decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption in the land it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one it is as if he had saved mankind entirely.”

No words better capture the profound significance of this medical triumph than this divine verse. The ENT team’s endeavor is, in every sense, its living embodiment.



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

Significance of the Historic Trade Agreement Between Pakistan-US

The recently concluded historic trade agreement between Pakistan and the United States marks the beginning of a new chapter in bilateral relations and presents a golden opportunity for Pakistan’s economic growth. For decades, Pakistan-US relations revolved around security and military cooperation. However, this trade agreement has laid the foundation for a sustainable and positive shift in these ties.

The agreement is based on cooperation in key sectors such as energy, oil exploration, investment, and industrial development. In particular, the partnership of American companies for the discovery and development of Pakistan’s underground oil reserves is being considered the cornerstone of this agreement. If successfully implemented, this agreement will not only strengthen Pakistan economically but also allow it to emerge as a new energy hub in South Asia.

Former US President Donald Trump announced that both countries would work together to develop Pakistan’s vast natural resources. His remark, “Perhaps one day Pakistan will be selling oil to India,” highlighted the strategic importance of the agreement. It envisions a future that could bring major changes to South Asian politics and economy.

Notably, the United States has imposed the lowest tariff rates on goods imported from Pakistan compared to

other major trading partners like India, Canada, and Mexico. This preferential trade policy reflects America’s serious interest in expanding economic ties with Pakistan and strengthening its economy. According to data from the US Trade Commission, many products imported from Pakistan enjoy duty-free or highly concessional tariff rates — a major economic concession.

If the agreement is effectively implemented, it could open the door for significant investment in Pakistan. With development in the energy sector, industrial production will increase, and thousands of new employment opportunities will be created.

Pakistan has long suffered from energy crises. This agreement can help Pakistan utilize its natural resources and pave the way toward energy self-sufficiency.

Stronger trade ties with the United States will give Pakistan better access to global markets, resulting in increased exports and improvement in foreign exchange reserves.

This agreement can once again position Pakistan as a key player in South Asia. Especially at a time when the US is experiencing trade tensions with India, Pakistan is in an ideal position to fill this strategic vacuum.

This agreement has provided a new foundation for Pakistan-US relations, moving away from a purely security-based partnership to one grounded in economic cooperation. In the past,

the relationship largely revolved around military and intelligence collaboration. Now, economic growth, investment, and joint energy projects are becoming the central focus.

The agreement shows that both countries are now seeing each other not merely through a lens of geographical or military interests but as partners in shared economic development. This is not only a positive trend but also a diplomatic success for Pakistan.

Certainly, every major agreement comes with its challenges. Pakistan must ensure transparency, political stability, and policy continuity to maintain the confidence of American investors. Bureaucratic hurdles, legal complications, and delays in implementation could hinder progress. Environmental protection in the energy sector and safeguarding the rights of local communities must also be ensured.

The recent trade agreement between Pakistan and the United States has the full potential to set a new direction in bilateral ties. This agreement is not just limited to energy or the economy — it can help establish a sustainable, balanced, and mutually beneficial relationship that fosters peace, development, and prosperity in the region.

If Pakistan makes full use of this opportunity and implements the agreement with transparency and integrity, it could, in the coming years, secure a prominent place in the global energy landscape and elevate its international stature.

(Writer is a Free Lance Writer/Columnist and can be reached: aahsan210@gmail.com)

Why Field Marshal Asim Munir Is in the Crosshairs of the Agents of Chaos

In a time of global instability and regional brinkmanship, the emergence of a strong, resolute figure at the helm of Pakistan’s military has rattled not only hostile foreign actors but also internal power structures accustomed to unchecked control.

FM General Asim Munir, Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff, is under fire—not because he has failed, but precisely because he has succeeded. His bold actions have disturbed the architecture of corruption, proxy wars, smuggling empires, and media manipulation. In doing so, he has become a target of the Agents of Chaos—a term increasingly used to describe both foreign intelligence networks and domestic mafias determined to destabilize Pakistan from within.

Field Marshal Asim Munir has done what few before him could manage: transform the international narrative. Where once Pakistan faced near-constant demonization across global news outlets, under his leadership, headlines began to shift. With sharp diplomacy, intelligence sharing, and strategic clarity, he compelled global media platforms, talk shows, and journals to reassess their previously one-sided reporting.

Where past regimes ignored or exploited Pakistan’s vast mineral reserves, FM General Asim Munir took a different route. He invited international investors—not as masters but as partners—and convinced them to invest in Pakistan’s mineral wealth through legal, transparent means. Reko Diq, Thar coal, and Balochistan’s precious resources are no longer dormant assets—they are becoming sources of national power. This move alone could reshape Pakistan’s economic future.

In one of his most daring domestic clean-ups, Field Marshal General Asim Munir shattered the builder-mafia-media nexus. This group—comprising elite builders, real estate tycoons, certain media owners, and politicians—had long manipulated land, inflated property bubbles, and laundered billions through housing schemes. Worse, they built an illusion of parallel sovereignty. Under General Asim Munir’s leadership, this ecosystem was challenged head-on, causing panic among those who once operated with impunity. For the first time in decades, the narrative of a “state within a state” is being reversed.

Field Marshal General Asim Munir’s national security doctrine made it clear: there will be zero tolerance for Indian-backed proxies operating in Balochistan or the ex-FATA regions. Intelligence-led operations, fencing, and local engagement strategies were deployed with precision. But unlike past strategies that relied solely on brute force, General Asim Munir emphasized development and integration, offering tribal communities a stake in peace. This multidimensional approach broke the back of proxy infiltration, especially those routes used by RAW and NDS operatives.

Perhaps the boldest stroke of Field Marshal General Asim Munir’s leadership was his neutralization of cult-like populist politics. He dismantled the aura of a certain political leader who projected himself as the sole savior of Pakistan with slogans like “I am dangerous” or “Without me, there is no Pakistan.” This political narcissism fed into foreign agendas like Project Undo Pakistan, which sought to fracture national unity under the guise of reform. General Asim Munir replaced chaos with institutional order, reminding the nation: Pakistan’s salvation lies in strong institutions—not messianic figures.

It is simple: Field Marshal General Asim Munir’s actions disrupted billions of dollars in illicit trade, neutered propaganda machines, crushed foreign-backed insurgencies, restored Pakistan’s diplomatic stature, and reduced the influence of domestic mafias. He made the system uncomfortable for those who thrive in disorder. His vision for a strong, sovereign Pakistan threatens every node of chaos—foreign or domestic.

His name is being dragged in misinformation campaigns, digital attacks, and psychological warfare not because of scandal—but because of success.

Every time Pakistan shows signs of self-correction, enemies—foreign handlers, intelligence agencies, economic parasites, and their local agents—launch a fresh offensive. But this time, they are up against an opponent who does not play for applause. Field Marshal General Asim Munir isn’t building a legacy for fame—he is reclaiming a country.

And that, in today’s age of engineered instability, is the most revolutionary act of all.

Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem hosts reception honouring Japanese Ambassador

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem hosted a reception at his residence to honour His Excellency Akamatsu Schuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan.

The Senator commended Ambassador Akamatsu's dynamic and purposeful engagement since taking office, including his active public outreach, support for infrastructure projects, and efforts in human resource development.

He especially noted the significance of the Pakistan-Japan Human Resources Stakeholders Meeting as a milestone for talent exchange and workforce collaboration.

Highlighting the broader bilateral



relationship, the Senator described Pakistan-Japan ties as historic and forward-looking, grounded in mutual respect and shared democratic values.

He acknowledged Japan's consistent support in key sectors including infrastructure, education, and disaster resilience.

Ambassador Akamatsu expressed sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and reaffirmed Japan's commitment to strengthening ties with Pakistan.

He emphasized shared aspirations for peace and prosperity and expressed Japan's continued interest in expanding cooperation in areas such as economic development, technology, education, and cultural exchange.

Pakistan and WHO aim to intensify hepatitis C prevention to avert 850,000 deaths and 1 million new infections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners committed today to intensify the fight against hepatitis C, aiming to avert 850,000 deaths and 1.1 million new infections by 2050 under the umbrella of the Prime Minister's National Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C.

This was one of the objectives discussed during an event chaired by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal. "This is not just an occasion. This is a commitment. It is a mission. When it comes to the health care system of Pakistan, we have to do everything that we should have done yesterday, but it is never too late. We have to start as soon as possible. For this mission, for this cause, I, along with my entire team, will work day and night, Inshallah, and we will leave no stone unturned to achieve our target. Millions of people are already affected, and many more are getting affected every single day. We must act now to save our people."

"The fight against hepatitis is not a job, but a passion, a commitment and a mission. We have to screen our population. The success story is there. The Honorable Prime Minister himself has



spoken to the President of Egypt. I call upon all stakeholders to join hands in this mission to protect the health and future of the nation," said the Federal Minister.

As part of World Hepatitis Day (28 July) commemorations, WHO and the Ministry of Health convened national and international experts for a discussion, highlighting that, in addition to saving lives, every dollar invested in hepatitis prevention yields an economic return of USD 11.

According to data presented during the event, the implementation of the Prime Minister Programme could save 150,000 lives and avoid 210,000 infections by 2030, preventing 90,000

liver cancer cases and 71,000 cirrhosis cases. This prevention will also save over the next five years 1.3 billion Pakistani rupees (PKR) (USD 4.6 million) in treatment and over PKR 2 billion (USD 7 million) in hospitalization costs, totaling savings of PKR 3.3 billion.

"As we speak, every 30 seconds someone dies from hepatitis-related severe liver disease or liver cancer. This means that at least 8 people will have died due to hepatitis before I finish this speech. I am convinced that, together, under the Government of Pakistan's leadership, we can break hepatitis down," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng Luo. "Detecting and treating hepatitis is essential,

but prevention is the key to end the disease. We will continue to partner with Pakistan to implement science-based approaches and adapt to the Pakistani context best practices and lessons learned from around the world".

With 10 million of the 50 million estimated cases worldwide, Pakistan has the heaviest burden of hepatitis C globally. It is estimated that, every year, 110,000 people are infected in the country – 62% due to unsafe medical injections (including blood transfusions) and 38% due to injection drug use.

Under the theme "Let's break it down", WHO is urging policymakers and health authorities worldwide to simplify, scale up and integrate hepatitis services into national health systems – including vaccination, safe injection practices, harm reduction, and especially testing and treatment. The goal: ending hepatitis as a public health problem by 2030.

WHO reiterates its full support for Pakistan's efforts to fight the disease, including the Prime Minister's National Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C Infection. The Programme aims to test 50% of the eligible population (82.5 million people aged 12 years and above) and treat 5 million people by 2027.

Bhandara Represents Pakistan at World Speakers Conference, Fostering Global Cooperation

Spokesman Report

GENEVA: As Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara wraps up his participation in the 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva as part of a five-member parliamentary delegation led by Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, here are some glimpses from Pakistan's parliamentary diplomacy on the sidelines of the conference with parliamentary speakers from key strategic partners: the United Kingdom, China, Türkiye, and Iran.



The meetings focused on strengthening parliamentary cooperation, deepening people-to-people ties, and reaffirming shared positions on pressing global and regional challenges including the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and broader multilateral engagement. Strategic priorities such as CPEC and institutional collaboration were also discussed.

Mr. Bhandara was honoured to represent Pakistan at this important global forum and contribute to dialogue promoting peace, understanding, and lasting partnerships.

Kick-off Ceremony of "Central Asia Tour 2025" Highlights Regional Tourism, Cultural Connectivity, and Peace



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The kick-off ceremony of the Central Asia Tour 2025, an international motorbike rally promoting tourism, peace, and cultural integration across Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, was held today at 10:00 AM at Kohsar Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.

Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in collaboration with Globe Strainers. This unique 23-days journey will cover over 5,000 kilometers, showcasing Pakistan's tourism potential while fostering regional collaboration through people-to-people diplomacy.

The tour commenced from Lahore on July 31, passing through Islamabad, Torkham, and Kabul, before reaching Kunduz and entering Tajikistan via Kalaikhum. Riders will explore key destinations including Dushanbe, Khujand, and later cross into Uzbekistan, visiting cities like Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara. The rally will return via Afghanistan, concluding in Lahore on August 22, 2025. The adventure rally carries the theme: "Explore Muslim Heritage & Culture – Promote Tourism & Friendship."

The ceremony was graced by Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, National Tourism Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Tourism, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary, Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), as the Guest of Honour. The event was also attended by Mr. Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director PTDC; H. E. Mr. Alisher Tukhtayev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan; and H. E. Mr. Saidjon Shafiev, Deputy Head of Mission of Tajikistan.

Thai Army clarifies the ongoing conflict with Cambodia

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Royal Thai Army (RTA) on Friday briefed diplomats, military attachés based in Thailand, and the media regarding the ongoing Thai-Cambodian border conflict. The army reaffirmed its commitment to defending Thailand's sovereignty and adhering to international law, while emphasising its consistent efforts to resolve the situation through genuine and peaceful bilateral dialogue between Thailand and Cambodia. The statement also highlighted the army's ongoing dedication to upholding Thailand's national interests while seeking a diplomatic solution to the tensions.

Thai Army addresses border conflict with Cambodia, reaffirms commitment to sovereignty and international law. The RTA outlined several key incidents of Cambodian aggression as follows:

13 February 2025: Cambodian forces brought tourists to Ta Muen Thom Temple to sing songs, stoking nationalist sentiments.

28 February 2025: Cambodia set fire to the Tri Muk Pavilion, a symbol of Thai-Cambodian-Laos cooperation.

March-April 2025: Cambodian forces altered the landscape along the border to strengthen military positions, expand routes, and encroach into Thai territory by digging trenches.

April-May 2025: Cambodia moved additional troops and military equipment closer to the Thai-Cambodian border, which was later confirmed through satellite imagery analysed by Australian researchers.

28 May 2025: Cambodia initiated a skirmish between military units, prompting a defensive response from Thai forces



along Chong Bok.

In July 2025, Cambodia escalated the situation by planting PMN-2 anti-personnel mines in multiple areas within Thai territory, injuring two Thai soldiers, who lost their legs from the explosions. The Royal Thai Army condemned this act as a grave violation of humanitarian principles and a breach of the Ottawa Convention, which both Thailand and Cambodia are signatories to. The international community has since assisted in demining operations to ensure safety in the affected areas.

At the same time, Cambodia has been accused of further provocations, including sending both uniformed and plainclothes soldiers disguised as civilians to the border regions, especially around Ta Kwai and Ta Muen Thom temples, to engage in disruptive activities. These actions, including organising Cambodian crowds and stirring up emotions among Thai citizens and soldiers, have led to clashes and increased the risk of conflict.

August 01, 2025
Army discloses itinerary of foreign envoys' inspection in Si Sa Ket

July 31, 2025
Thai Army invites ASEAN military attachés to discuss

Thai-Cambodia border situation and ceasefire monitoring

July 31, 2025

Additionally, the RTA clarified its border control measures and responded to Cambodia's attack on 24 July 2025 at Ta Muen Thom Temple, where small arms, guns, and mortar launchers were used, leading to an escalation into full-scale clashes.

Following this, Cambodia escalated the conflict by deploying combat forces and supporting weapons, including artillery and BM-21 multiple rocket launchers, which targeted Thai positions along the entire border. These attacks deliberately targeted civilian areas, with some strikes occurring nearly 10 to 30 kilometres away from the border, such as at Phanom Dong Rak Hospital in Surin Province, PTT petrol station in Kantharalak, Sisaket Province, and civilian homes in Surin, Buriram, Sisaket, and Ubon Ratchathani. The attacks resulted in 36 civilian injuries, 15 fatalities, including the death of an 8-year-old child, and forced more than 150,000 civilians to evacuate.

The RTA stated that it responded under the principle of the right to self-defence as defined in international law, particularly Article 51 of the

United Nations Charter, which states:

"Nothing in this Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations."

The RTA's response was therefore lawful and conducted in accordance with the principles of necessity and proportionality, with the sole aim of deterring threats, reducing civilian casualties, and maintaining the stability of national sovereignty. The Thai Army stressed that its actions were not intended to invade or go beyond the scope of self-defence from Cambodian aggression.

The RTA insisted that it specifically targeted military objectives, while Cambodia engaged in indiscriminate targeting, which resulted in significant civilian casualties on the Thai side. Moreover, Cambodia's deployment of supporting weapons in

civilian areas acted as a human shield, with Thailand not retaliating against these positions. This action was considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law and human rights principles, marking an act so inhumane that it is unforgivable. No civilised country in the world would accept such inhumane conduct.

The RTA has provided an update on the current situation, stating that Cambodia continues its military operations despite the ceasefire agreement made in Malaysia on 28 July 2025. After midnight on that day, Cambodia violated the ceasefire agreement in the following areas:

Cambodia continued to violate the ceasefire until 05:10 AM on 30 July 2025. On 31 July 2025, it was reported that Cambodian troops had increased their presence along the border and deployed unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to conduct reconnaissance in Thai territory.

Thai Army addresses border conflict with Cambodia, reaffirms commitment to sovereignty and international law

In response to Cambodia's disinformation campaign, which accused Thailand of invading and violating international law, the Thai Army reaffirmed that Thailand, as a member of the United Nations, fully respects the UN Charter, including the principle of non-use of force in settling international disputes (Article 2(4) of the UN Charter).

Thailand's actions were taken

in self-defence and were both necessary and proportional as outlined in Article 51 of the UN Charter, following Cambodia's attacks on Thai military posts, administrative units, and civilian communities in multiple areas. Evidence shows that Cambodian forces have crossed into Thai territory several times and targeted Thai forces, particularly civilian areas, including attacking Phanom Dong Rak Hospital (located nearly 10 km from the border) and a PTT petrol station in Ban Phue (around 30 km from the border).

The allegation of chemical weapon use is a serious and baseless accusation. Thailand, as a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), strictly adheres to its provisions. No unit of the Thai military has ever used chemical weapons in any tactical or strategic capacity. These claims are deemed to be war propaganda and an attempt to distort the facts. The "chemical bomb" images circulated by Cambodia were actually from a California wildfire operation in the United States in 2022, and the images can be found online.

As for the use of F-16 fighter jets and heavy weapons by Thailand, all weapons deployed were appropriate and proportional to counter Cambodia's encroachment and target military objectives along the border. Thailand's actions were not an offensive attack but were in response to Cambodia's forces positioning and firing weapons from civilian areas, using the civilian community as "human shields", which is a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

The RTA also clarified that the recent claims made by Heng Ratana, the Director of CMAC (Cambodian Mine Action Centre), regarding Thailand using MK-84 bombs that

allegedly landed on Cambodian homes, are blatantly misleading. The Thai military stated that Cambodia is using outdated images and creating false connections that are not supported by any factual evidence. Thailand has firmly denied these accusations.

The RTA stated: "The images Cambodia presented as evidence of MK-84 bombs were in fact old bombs from the Vietnam War era, and they do not align with scientific principles. Thailand condemned the accusations and urged Cambodia to cease spreading false claims intended to incite hatred. Instead, Thailand calls for cooperation between both countries and the international community to resolve the border situation peacefully through honest dialogue and collaboration."

Additionally, the RTA pointed out that on 30 July 2025, Cambodia invited foreign military attachés stationed in Cambodia to inspect a combat area located 30 km from the border. However, Cambodia changed the plan and took the military attachés to the Chong An Ma area, a combat zone still at risk of danger.

In conclusion, the RTA reiterated that the Cambodian side initiated the attack first, using long-range weapons to target civilian areas, causing unacceptable damage to both lives and property. Despite the agreement to cease fire, Cambodia has continued to violate the ceasefire, which has led to further escalation.

Furthermore, Cambodia has been spreading misleading information systematically. Thailand urges the international community to follow the situation with understanding and join in pushing for bilateral negotiations to peacefully resolve the issues.



Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
141,034.98	139,390.42
Day's High	Day's Low
141,160.93	138,957.70
Index Value	Change
43,126,229,953	+ 1644.56
Percentage	Time
+ 1.18%	1 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,068.58	− 64.23
Percentage	Time
−0.70%	1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT + 1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,474.57	− 656.41
Percentage	Time
−1.49%	1 Aug, 1:20 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
40,799.60	− 270.22
Percentage	Time
−0.66%	1 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

SECP Ignites

Mutual Fund

Transformation

Through Strategic

Initiatives

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has taken several strategic initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's mutual funds industry. These measures include the registration of the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP) as a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO), the approval of a comprehensive Digital Asset Management Companies (Digital AMC) Framework, and the formation of a committee for the development of Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in Pakistan. These steps aim to facilitate market development, enhance investor confidence, improve transparency, and promote financial inclusion.

By being recognized as an SRO, MUFAP will now play a pivotal role in industry development, investor education, and self-regulating the business conduct of the mutual fund sector.

MUFAP's expanded mandate includes promoting ethical practices and professional competence within the industry, conducting and sharing research, assisting in the development of industry standards aligned with global best practices, overseeing compliance through inspections, arbitrating disputes, and supporting financial inclusion, investor outreach, and education while implementing measures for investor protection.

Additionally, MUFAP will review constitutive documents such as trust deeds and offering documents, undertake standardized industry documentation and reporting, and ultimately lay the groundwork for a more responsive, transparent, and investor-friendly mutual fund ecosystem.

The approval of the Digital AMC Framework will enable technological innovation, broaden market access, and foster industry growth by reducing entry barriers, expanding retail participation, and providing end-to-end digital access to mutual fund investments.

CM Inaugurates 20th my Karachi Exhibition

Murad Ali Shah urges federal govt to

increase Karachi's water allocation

from Hub Dam

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, while emphasizing the urgent need to address Karachi's water challenges, criticized the federal government for allocating only Rs. 3 billion this year out of the Rs. 78 billion it had committed for K-IV project.

Sindh Minister for Industries and Production Ikramullah Khan Dharejo, Sindh Minister for Local Governments Saeed Ghani, Additional IGP Jawed Alam Odho, Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala, Vice Chairman BMG & President KCCI Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, Vice Chairman BMG Mian Abrar Ahmed, Senior Vice President Zia ul Arfeen, Vice President Faisal Khalil, Chairman Special Committee for My Karachi Exhibition Muhammad Idrees, Diplomats from friendly countries, KCCI Managing Committee Members and others distinguished figures were also present on the occasion.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah paid tribute to the late Siraj Kasam Teli—founder of the My Karachi Exhibition—and visited every stall at the exhibition. He met with various exhibitors, including Farhan Lakhani



and Rizwan Lakhani, directors of Lakhani Silk Mills; Sheikh Muhammad Tahseen, head of United Kings; and Nusair Siraj Teli, director at Pakistan Beverages. At these and other stalls, he discussed business conditions and exports with the manufacturers.

Earlier, Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala,

in his remarks, paid glowing tribute to Sindh government for extending full support and cooperation to KCCI in dealing with numerous issues being faced by the business community in Karachi.

President KCCI Jawed Bilwani, while delivering the welcome address, expressed deep

appreciation to the Sindh Government for choosing "Marka-e-Haq" as this year's theme for Independence Day celebrations, calling it a meaningful and inspiring tribute to the truth of the Pakistan Movement and the valiant role of Pakistan's armed forces in defending the nation against aggression.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar khan was called on by Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev to discuss the opportunities for cooperation and trade on Friday.



Photo: Online

LCCI President Inaugurates Three-

Day Electricity Pakistan and EVS

World Exhibitions

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Electricity Pakistan and EVS World Exhibitions opened today at Expo Centre Lahore, inaugurated by the President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Mian Abuzar Shad, in the presence of leading industry stakeholders, and international delegates.

Organized by Fakt Exhibitions, the three-day event—taking place from August 1 to 3—features over 100 national and international companies, showcasing cutting-edge advancements in energy, power, and electric mobility solutions.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad emphasized the importance of innovation and collaboration in achieving Pakistan's future goals. "Exhibitions like Electricity Pakistan and EVS World are vital for fostering industrial growth and attracting technology-driven investments," he said. "As we navigate the transition toward



cleaner and smarter test results, it is encouraging to see local and international players come together on this platform to shape a sustainable future for Pakistan."

Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO of FAKT

Exhibitions, shared his vision for the event: "These exhibitions play a vital role in shaping Pakistan's future. We're building a gateway where global innovation meets local ambition, creating a platform for solutions that truly matter."

CCP Raids Fan Manufacturers, Association over

Suspected Price Fixing

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has conducted search and inspection of the premises of two leading electric fan manufacturers and their industry association in Gujrat, amid strong suspicions of cartelization and price fixing.

The enforcement action was carried out as part of an ongoing investigation into potential viola-

tions of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, which strictly prohibits agreements or practices that have the object or effect of preventing, restricting, or reducing competition.

Acting under Section 34 of the Act, three CCP teams comprising duly authorized officers entered and searched the business premises of the undertakings. The teams secured documents, pricing records, and digital evidence relevant to the

enquiry.

The Enquiry Committee examined three years of pricing data and obtained circulars issued by the industry association to its member undertakings. These circulars contained coordinated announcements of price increases for different fan variants. Moreover, price lists collected from various brands revealed strikingly similar pricing patterns, including: Multiple manufacturers revising prices on identical

dates, Price differences between standard ceiling fan models being as low as 0.05% and In several cases, competing brands charging and revising exactly the same prices for certain variants.

These consistent and uniform pricing practices raise strong concerns of collusion and a prima facie violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act.

The fan industry holds significant importance in Pakistan's economy,

and CCP remains vigilant in monitoring the sector to ensure that consumers are protected from artificially inflated prices and anti-competitive conduct.

The CCP is mandated under the Competition Act, 2010 to promote free competition across all sectors of the economy, enhance efficiency, and safeguard consumer interests against practices such as price fixing, collusion, and abuse of market power.

Expo and Tourism

Conference to Attract

Business Community

from Across Sectors



KARACHI: Founder Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas met with Chairman Abad Muhammad Hassan Bakshi at Abad House in Karachi. In the meeting, the founder chairman discussed the 8th Pakistan International Property Expo and Tourism Investment Conference which is being held at Pearl Continental Karachi on November 22-23. A large number of business community members from various sectors related to tourism, medical, education, overseas

employment, private developers, stock exchange information technology, and other sectors will participate in the conference. He also discussed the conference and the expo with Chairman Abad Muhammad Hassan Bakshi.

During the conversation, it was said that the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry organized domestic and international events in Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta and international ones, including an Expo Conference in Saudi Arabia, Jeddah, the UK and Bahrain in May 2025.

23 Bottled Water Brands

Found Unfit for Human

Consumption in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicize the results for awareness of public health. For the 2nd quarter of year 2025 (April to June), 203 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 21 major cities. Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 23 brands were unsafe for human consumption due to microbi-

ological or chemical contamination. Eleven brands (New Mehran, Aqua 111, Nice Pure Max, Pure Drinking Water, Logic, Himalya Cool, Natural Pure Life, Natural, Forever Bottled Drinking Water, Drinkly Pure Drinking Water, Qudrat Water) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium, four brands (Atco Drinking Water, Aqua nest, Pani, New mountain) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of arsenic, while, one brand (Vey Forever) was found unsafe due to presence of high level of potassium than the permissible limit.

IS Pakistan vs West Indies Three T-20 Match Series

Pakistan Cricket Team Defeat West Indies By 14 Runs in First T-20 Match

ASIM TANVEER

LAUDERHILL: Despite a confident start, West Indies failed, Pakistan won the first T20 match. The West Indies cricket team did not get off the track of defeat even after losing 5 T20 International matches to Australia. They lost against Pakistan after a good start. The reason was the difficulty in playing against spinners. Jewel Andrew, who made his debut for the West Indies at the age of just over 18, took the wind out of Pakistani pacers Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf, including all the bowlers, when the West Indies openers washed away the early overs. The spinners stopped the openers' pace. Sometimes 50 runs in 6.5 overs and sometimes only 63 in 10 overs. Sufyan Muqim and Mohammad Nawaz stopped Charles and Andrew with spin. Pakistan's first victory was given by Mohammad Nawaz in the 12th over at a score of 72, when the young Jewel Andrew scored 35 runs off 33 balls and was caught by Fakhar Zaman. Nawaz got Johnson Charles caught by Mohammad Haris on the fourth ball of the same over. He could



make 35 off 36 balls. On the very next ball, he got Gakesh Moti on a duck, his catch was taken by Saim Ayub. Thus, the West Indies The partnership was broken in the same over and 3 wickets fell. Mohammad Nawaz's 4-over spell ended here. He took 3 wickets for 23 runs. First T20, Pakistan's innings complete, target set for West Indies

The target was now becoming difficult for West Indies. In the next over of Saim Ayub, captain Shai Hope scored 2 runs off 5 balls and was caught straight to Hassan Nawaz. Here, West Indies lost the match by losing 4 wickets

for 5 runs in 11 balls. West Indies suffered their 5th loss at 92, when Rutherford scored 11 runs off 3 balls and was caught by Fakhar Zaman off Saim Ayub's ball. In the 16th over of the innings, Roston Chase was caught by Farhan off Shaheen Afridi's ball. He could score 5 runs. In the next over, Sufyan Muqim bowled Romario Shepherd for 12. West Indies were 7 out. Jason Holder and Shammar Joseph provided some entertainment but it was too late. Jason Holder was unbeaten on 30 runs off 12 balls. Shammar Joseph He was not out with 21 runs off 12 balls. The West Indies team

could score 164 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs. Thus, Pakistan won the first match by 14 runs and took a 0-1 lead in the 3-match series. Mohammad Nawaz took 3 wickets for 23 runs in 4 overs and Shaheen took one wicket for 27 runs in 4 overs. Sufyan Muqim gave 20 runs in 4 overs and took one wicket. Saim Ayub took 2 wickets for 20 runs. Haris Rauf was rightly placed. He gave 41 runs in 4 overs and could not take any wickets. Earlier, in the first match of the 3-match series being held in Lauderhill, USA, the Green Shirts batted first after

losing the toss. Opener Sahibzada Farhan could make 14. Fakhar Zaman 28 and Hassan Nawaz 24 were the guests. However, Saim Ayub made a fifty. He scored 57 off 38 balls, hitting 2 sixes and 5 fours. Mohammad Nawaz was caught for 9. Faheem Ashraf scored 15 runs. Salman Ali Agha was not out for 11 runs off 10 balls. Pakistan scored 178 runs for 6 wickets in 20 overs. For the West Indies, Shimer Joseph took 3 wickets for 30 runs. The second T20 match will be played at the same venue on August 3 at 5 am Pakistan time.



Ghulam Ashraf and Sohail Khan hit tons in PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Ties

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Three last round matches of the PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) begins here at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the 1st days play was debutant Wicket Keeper Batsman of Zone-VI 161 with the help of 31 boundaries and M. Sohail Khan 100 with 5 fours and 5 Sixes and 88 by Nabeel Wahid.

Scores in Brief:

At KCCA Stadium Zone-VI 1st Innings 349/9 declared in 74.3 overs, Ghulam Ashraf 161 21x4 1x6 (in 172 balls), Haider Abbas 73 7x4, Maaz Khurram 52 3x4, Ebad Khan 22. Israr Ahmed Awan (sla) 4/49, Fahad Amin 2/91.

In reply Zone-III 1st Innings 57/3 in 13 overs. Shahzar Muhammad 38, Obais ullah 4 at the crease.

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-II 1st Innings 312/9 in 75 Overs. Muhammad Sohail Khan 100 5x5 6x6 (in 92 balls). Ali

Hasan 71 5x4 1x6, Omer Farooq 55 9x4, Tariq Bakht 22, Kashan Faheem 2/46, Najeibur Rehman 2/68.

At the Close of Play Zone-VII 1st Innings 76/0 Huzaifa Munir 60 14x4, Ghani Subhan 16 both not out.

At Baqai Cricket Ground Zone-V 1st Innings 222 allout in 69.3 overs. Nabeel Wahid 88 9x4, Saifullah 36, Fawad Shah 21. Rehman Ghani (sla) 3/27, Muhammad Raza (mf) 3/56. Ahmed Khan 2/33.

In reply Zone-I 1st Innings 47/1 in 18



overs. Fazal Subhan 38 and Alman Shafiq 8 both at the crease.

Deputy Commissioner Gujrat's Visit to Jalalpur Jattan Cricket Stadium



BUREAU REPORT

GUJRAT: Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid Deputy Commissioner Gujrat's Visit to Jalalpur Jattan Cricket Stadium—Inaugurates Sports Competitions for Independence Day Celebrations

Deputy Commissioner Gujrat, Ms. Noor-ul-Ain Qureshi, visited the Jalalpur Jattan Cricket Stadium as part of the 78th Independence Day celebrations of Pakistan, where she inaugurated competitions in cricket, football, kabaddi, hockey, and other sports.

The Deputy Commissioner watched various matches and met with the players. District Sports Officer Gujrat, Chaudhry Raheel Bajwa, was also present on the occasion. He stated that the sports competitions will continue from 1 to 14 August.

Pakistan secure 5th place at World Junior Squash Team C'ships



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan finished fifth at the World Junior Squash Team Championships 2025 after edging out Korea 2-1 in a thrilling final placement match in Egyptian capital Cairo on Friday.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation, in the opening clash, Abdullah Nawaz went down to Korea's Joo Young Na in four games, 12-10, 4-11, 3-11, 3-11, putting Pakistan on the back foot. However, Anas Ali Shah leveled the tie with a gritty five-game win over Jeong Uk Ryu, 11-6, 7-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-3.

The deciding match saw Muhammad Umair Anif hold his nerve in a nail-biting contest against Jonghyeok Lee, eventually prevailing 13-11, 5-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8 to clinch victory for Pakistan.

Earlier in the tournament, Pakistan reached the quarterfinals before bowing out to England in a 2-0 defeat. Despite missing out on a semifinal berth, the team's overall performance was commendable, underlining the promise and potential of the country's rising squash talent.

Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley break England's longstanding record against India

LONDON: England's opening pair Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley created history on Friday after setting a new opening record here at the Oval in the fifth Test of the series against India.

The opening pair provided England a belligerent start after bundling out the visitors for a modest 224-run total.

Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett added 92 runs for the first wicket in just 12.5 overs. With this stand, the opening pair surpassed Alastair Cook and Andrew Strauss to record the most runs as a pair against India. Cook and Strauss have opened for England for six years from 2006 to 2012, amassing an overall of 4711 runs in 117 innings. England's most successful opening pair notched up 12 century stands and 18 half-centuries in that period at an impressive average of 40.96

Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett have so far amassed 984 runs as an opening pair in 18 innings, whereas Cook and Strauss had scored 932 runs in 20 innings against India. Additionally, Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett levelled with the former West Indies opening pair of Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes for most half-century stands against India in Test cricket.

International motorbike rally 'Central Asia Tour 2025' sets off

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: International motorbike rally, 'Central Asia Tour 2025' set off here on Friday which aims to promote tourism, culture, heritage and friendship across the region.

Talking to APP, Mukaram Kareem, a key participant and organizer said that rally comprises a delegation of 11 Pakistani bikers who will travel over 5,000 kilometers through four countries — Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan — over a period of 23 days.

"This journey is not just about adventure; it's about showcasing Pakistan's soft image to the world, promoting people-to-people connections, and opening new avenues for regional tourism," Kareem added.

He said that the rally carries a message of goodwill for bikers and tourists in Central Asia, encouraging them to visit Pakistan and explore its natural beauty and warm hospitality.

He shared that notably, Punjab Tourism, Federal Tourism, PTDC, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tourism are providing significant support, along with



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Pakistan's embassy.

"We will celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14 at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tashkent — it will be a unique ceremony," Kareem said.

"Pakistanis are a lively nation, lovers of adventure and nature. They also own

some of the best and most valuable motorbikes in the world, and they have positive mindsets and healthy spirits," he underlined.

In his concluding remarks, Mukaram expressed hope that the tour would become a historic milestone — for the first time, a Pakistani motorbike group is trav-

eling into Central Asia, and in the future, people will see Pakistani number plates on vehicles on international highways.

Participants from various cities, including Lahore, Islamabad, and Sialkot, are part of this rally. A special media team has also been deployed to cover the entire journey.

Mohammad Hafeez provides update on Shahid Afridi's availability for WCL 2025 final

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan Champions captain Mohammad Hafeez on Friday provided an update on ace all-rounder Shahid Afridi ahead of the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 final against South Africa.

Former all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who is part of the Pakistan Champions squad, is yet to feature in a match due to fitness concerns.

Speaking during a media interaction ahead of the WCL 2025 final, Hafeez rued Afridi's absence, hinting at his inclusion for the summit clash tomorrow.

"It is very unfortunate regarding him that he is still not feeling very well, but today I'm really happy that he tried his level best. He is trying every day, but if we feel that we can get an impactful contribution from him, then we will definitely consider him," he said.



The Pakistan Champions remained unbeaten throughout the league stage fixtures, topping the points table. Green Shirts advanced to the final for the second time in the event's history after the India

Champions' forfeiture.

"First of all, I am really proud of the efforts from each and every one during our campaign, Mohammad Hafeez stated while praising the team spirit.

Every player took responsibility and followed three important points, which were integrity, respect, and the spirit of the game. We hit all of them," he added.

Hafeez, who himself had a decent run with the bat, highlighted the challenge players faced and praised everyone for their contribution.

"We played excellent cricket throughout the tournament, and it was by no means fun cricket. It was very demanding, and everyone was very focused on delivering," Hafeez said in a lighthearted manner.

One question regarding the playing XI, Hafeez said, they will finalize the lineup after assessing the conditions.

"Look, we did not assess the conditions yet. We'll analyse the provided conditions tomorrow, and since all of our players are ready, so we will field our best composition," Hafeez concluded.

Chinese People's Liberation Army

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Mr Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan and others cut the cake during ceremony to the celebrate the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army of China at GHQ, Rawalpindi.



Photo: ISPR

Pak-China military partnership to safeguard shared interests, says Field Marshal

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff, has emphasized that the enduring partnership between Pakistan and China will continue to play a pivotal role in promoting regional stability and safeguarding shared strategic interests.

This he said while hosting a ceremony at GHQ on Friday to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation

Army (PLA) of China, said an ISPR statement.

His Excellency Mr Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The ceremony was also attended by Major General Wang Zhong, Defence Attaché, officials from the Chinese Embassy, and senior military officers from the tri-services of Pakistan.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir extended a warm welcome to the Chinese

guests and congratulated the PLA on its 98th founding anniversary. He lauded the PLA's pivotal role in China's defence, security, and nation-building.

The COAS underscored the strength and strategic significance of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing that the bond between the two nations is unique, time-tested, and exceptionally resilient amid evolving regional and global challenges.

The Field Marshal highlighted that the Paki-

stan-China strategic relationship exemplifies mutual trust, unwavering support, and shared commitment. He stressed that despite shifting strategic dynamics, the friendship between the two nations has remained steadfast and unshakable.

Concluding his address, Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army and the PLA are true brothers-in-arms. He emphasized that their enduring partnership will continue to play a pivotal role in

promoting regional stability and safeguarding shared strategic interests.

Addressing the gathering, the Chinese Ambassador expressed his sincere gratitude to the COAS for hosting the event commemorating the PLA's 98th anniversary. He acknowledged the steadfast role of the Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism and reaffirmed China's unwavering support for and commitment to its strategic partnership with Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif & CM Maryam meet UAE Ambassador

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Presidents PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met UAE Ambassador to Pakistan H. E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi for a detailed discussion on how to expand bilateral cooperation in fraternal relations, economic partnership, education, science and sustainable development. They warmly welcomed the UAE Ambassador, and conveyed best wishes and goodwill of people of Punjab to the visionary leadership and people of UAE. They agreed to take cooperation between Pakistan and UAE to new heights, and paid tribute to the leadership of UAE Pres-



ident Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. They appreciated the scientific progress, environmental friendliness,

and modern vision of UAE leadership.

President PML-N said, "Relationship between Pakistan

and UAE is not just diplomatic but a bond of hearts."

He added, "Bilateral relations between Pakistan and UAE

have always stood the test of time and circumstances."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "We are keen to further expand cooperation with UAE in fields of education, research and environment." She added, "Visa-free entry for official and diplomatic passport holders between Pakistan and UAE is commendable." She highlighted, "Increase in Pak-UAE bilateral trade volume is a source of joy. Education, health, infrastructure and renewable energy sectors in Punjab have been put on the path of innovation." She invited UAE investors, institutions and business community to invest in Punjab, which has become a best choice of investment with its business-friendly environment.

Opposition's APC for upholding rule of law, restoring peace in KP, Balochistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Conference (APC) convened by the Tehreek Tahafuz Ain Movement has demanded of the government to restore rule of law in the country and political victimization must come to an end.

According to a joint declaration of the APC, the opposition alliance rejected the results of the 2024 general elections and called for the repeal of the 26th constitutional amendment.

Earlier it was reported that several participants of the APC has raised objection on joint declaration and refused to sign it and later their demands were incorporated in the declaration.

The declaration was read aloud by



Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, who stated

that the conference engaged in demo-

cratic consultation and that all political parties present expressed concerns about the systematic weakening of the opposition.

The statement condemned the cancellation of hotel bookings arranged for the conference by the administration and expressed serious reservations regarding the state of the national economy. According to the APC, 45 per cent of the population is living below the poverty line, unemployment has reached 22 per cent, and youth unemployment stands at 30 per cent.

The conference called for the immediate hearing of legal cases concerning the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and his spouse, condemning their continued deten-

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Iranian President due in Islamabad today for two-day visit



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to arrive here on Saturday for a two-day state visit to Pakistan on August 2-3, 2025, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Dr. Pezeshkian will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, senior ministers, and other high-ranking officials,

according to a Foreign Office press release.

During his stay, President Pezeshkian will meet with President Asif Ali Zardari, and hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

This marks Dr. Pezeshkian's first official visit to Pakistan as the President of Iran. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last visited Iran on May 26, 2025. The visit is expected to further strengthen the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran.

Govt notifies transfer, posting of officers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Friday issued transfer and posting orders for several senior officers across different departments. According to the official orders, Nazia Abrar Khan (Grade 19, PAS) currently serving in the CDA has been transferred and appointed as Deputy Permanent Delegate at the Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to UNESCO, Paris.

Arshad Farid Khan (Grade 20), an OSD has been assigned to the Virtual Regulatory Authority.

Deputy Secretary of the Finance Division, Fahad Ahmed, has been made an OSD while Deputy Secretary Shagufta Iqbal transferred from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to the Industries and Production Division.

Zafar Iqbal has been transferred from Industries and Production to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs. Grade 19 officer Abdul Rauf, serving in the Balochistan Revenue Authority

has been repatriated to the FBR. Dr. Arshad Mahmood (Grade 22, PAS) has been made an OSD. Grade 17 officer Muhammad Siddiq, serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has received a one-year extension in deputation.

Lt. Commander Muhammad Saeed's tenure as Education Officer at Pakistan Marine Academy has also been extended for one year, effective from February 16, 2025.

Zeenat Tariq, Section Officer in the Finance Division has been made OSD and granted leave. Asad Ali has been transferred and appointed as Deputy Director at the Directorate General of Special Education, Islamabad, from his previous position as Deputy Director at the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation. The official notification has officially issued by the Establishment Division for these orders.

These transfers and appointments are part of the federal government's restructuring to enhance departmental efficiency.

SAPM Haroon, Uzbek ambassador discuss issues of mutual interest



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev called on Prime Minister's Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar Khan in Islamabad on Friday. During the meeting, both sides deliberated on strengthening ties in light of the Prime Minister's vision and directives, emphasizing enhanced trade, investment, and mutual collaboration. Discussions also covered potential agreements aimed at deepening economic relations between the two countries.

Key areas of focus included trade cooperation, B2B engagements, and the establishment of a warehouse in Peshawar to support logistics and commerce. The two dignitaries also explored collaboration in various

sectors such as industry, agriculture, transport, mining, and minerals.

Haroon Akhtar Khan highlighted the potential for joint ventures in the tractor and mining industries, and stressed the importance of identifying new opportunities to achieve the two billion dollar trade target with Uzbekistan.

He further shared plans for delegations from both countries to hold meetings in sectors including Information Technology, e-commerce, and banking.

The Uzbek Ambassador expressed keen interest in Pakistan's textile industry and invited SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan to visit Uzbekistan's Techno Park. He also showed interest in Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector.