

Punjab CM Maryam salutes women joining Border Military Police

In a tweet on a social media platform, X She Paying tributes to the females joining the Border Military Police, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Saturday said that 53 females by joining the Force in Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan had created history.



Earthquake tremors of 5.4 magnitude jolt Punjab, KP and Azad Kashmir

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan



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🔰 @daily spokesman

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime

Minister and Foreign Minis-

ter Senator Ishaq Dar received

Iranian Foreign Minister

Seyed Abbas Araghchi on

his arrival at the Ministry of

The meeting took place

Foreign Affairs on Saturday.

Safar 8, Sunday, August 3, 2025







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Ishaq Dar, Abbas

Araghchi reaffirm commitment to

stronger Pakistan-Iran ties



Iranian president eyes China trade route through Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Iranian President in Pakistan on Saturday for a two-day official visit, marking his first trip to the country since assuming office.

After a brief stop in Lahore, President Pezeshkian reached Islamabad, where he was received at the airport by Prime Minister enhancing cooperation in trade, Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime energy, border security, and Minister Ishaq Dar, and Infor-

mation Minister Atta Tarar.

Upon arrival in the capital, the Iranian president was accorded a Dr Masoud Pezeshkian arrived 21-gun salute in line with diplomatic protocol.

During the visit, President Pezeshkian is scheduled to hold meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The discussions are expected to focus on

During the visit, Iran's Foreign on Sunday. Minister Abbas Araghchi will also hold important talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

The visit aims to strengthen bilateral ties, with a particular focus on trade, regional cooperation, and border security, according to Pakistan's Foreign

President Pezeshkian is also expected to hold meetings with other senior officials in Islamabad

According to diplomatic sources, Iran is particularly keen to expand trade with China via Pakistan, with Pezeshkian stating, "Through the Silk Road, we can connect with both Pakistan and China."

The visit is seen as a diplomatic step forward in boosting economic and strategic ties of growing regional connectivity.

Earlier, talking to the media in Tehran before his departure, the Iranian president said: "We want to increase the volume of Pak-Iran trade to \$10 billion. Trade relations between Pakistan and Iran are excellent. We can connect with Pakistan and China through the Silk Road, and this road can go to Europe via Iran."

Pakistan and Iran have signed between the two neighbouring several agreements in the fields countries, especially in the context of trade, energy, and security in

tion in key areas of mutual during the official visit of Iranian President Dr Masoud interest. They agreed on prac-Pezeshkian to Pakistan. tical steps to promote enduring The two foreign ministers collaboration and long-term held wide-ranging talks and relations between the two reaffirmed their commitment neighboring countries. Afghan FM Amir Khan Muttaqi to arrive in Islamabad on

Monday for key talks

ISLAMABAD: Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is expected to arrive in Islamabad on Monday for a three-day official visit, his first

since November 2021, lead-

ing a high-level delegation for

crucial talks with Pakistan's top

Naveed Ahmad Khan

leadership. According to official sources, Muttaqi will meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq

Dar, and other senior govern-

ment officials during his stay. The visit comes at a time when both countries are seeking to reset ties amid security, regional trade, and

cross-border connectivity. strengthening bilateral rela- regional stability.



to further strengthen Pakistan-Iran relations.

According to a statement

from the Foreign Office, both

sides emphasised the impor-

tance of enhanced cooperation

in regional stability, trade, and

The ministers also discussed expanding bilateral coopera-

economic development.

tions, addressing rity concerns, enhancing land connectivity, and expanding economic cooperation. Notably, both sides are expected to sign a preferential trade agreement during the visit, aimed at boosting commerce on a priority basis.

Officials say the agreement is part of broader efforts to revive structured engagegrowing concerns over border ment between Islamabad and Kabul, especially as trade routes through land borders Key agenda items include become increasingly vital for

Ahsan Iqbal meets Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong

E City Desk

and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Igbal, met the Chinese China-Pakistan Weidong in Beijing.

warmly received Minister Ahsan Iqbal upon his arrival, said a press message of goodwill from Prime billion-dollar reality.

release issued here on Saturday. During the meeting, both sides

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minis- discussed matters of mutual ter for Planning, Development interest with a particular focus on the second phase of the Economic Vice Foreign Minister Sun Corridor (CPEC), especially industrial development and busi-Vice Minister Sun Weidong ness-to-business cooperation.

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the Chinese leadership. Both leaders reaffirmed their

commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

The minister remarked that during Sun Weidong's diplomatic tenure in Pakistan, we transformed the CPEC journey Ahsan Iqbal conveyed the from a paper plan into a multi-



China's unwavering support for Pakistan during recent regional

The minister appreciated lasting friendship with the leadership and people of China.

Ahsan Iqbal praised China's tension and said, The people of leadership for playing a construc-Pakistan take pride in the ever- tive role in global peace.

Waziristan Jirga supports Army's policy for elimination of terrorism

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: An important Jirga of tribal elders and advisors was held in Miran Shah North Waziristan with the support of the Pakistan Army.

Officer General Commanding, Major General Adil Iftikhar Warraich attended the Jirga as the special guest.

The elders and advisors announced their full support for the Pakistan Army's zero tolerance policy for the establishment of peace and the elimination of Fitna al-Khwarij. The participants paid great

tribute to the eternal sacrifices of the Pakistan Army, security forces and martyrs.

The participants unani-



tion of Fitna al-Khwarij and tion with the authorities in this

The chief guest paid tribute to the sacrifices of the tribal people and said that the role of tribal elders is key for complete peace in the region.

The tribal elders and elders thanked the Pakistan Army for its efforts in the area regarding education and health, especially the education of girls.

Entire nation welcomed Iranian President to Pakistan: Tarar

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Saturday said the entire nation welcomed Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian along with his delegation which would spend a busy day in Pakistan to further advance the bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Their stay in Islamabad included bilateral meetings and a warm reception, the minister said while talking to the media along with tChief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman of Capital Development Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa after reviewing Munir.

the arrangements. Tarar said the whole route

from airport has been decorated with Pakistani and Iranian flags while portraits of Pakistani and Iranian leadership are displayed across the city creating an environment of festivity in Islamabad to welcome the Iranian President "This is a very crucial visit as

the Iranian President is visiting on the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif," the minister said, adding their meeting took place in Azerbaijan that was further supplemented with a successful visit of the prime minister to Iran along with Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry urges Tehreek-e-Insaf to focus on politics, not confrontation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has said that the Muslim League (N) will participate in the upcoming elections in Azad Kashmir with full force and will form the government by winning with a two-thirds majority so that the people of Azad Kashmir can also benefit from the fruits of development in Pakistan. I tell the Tehreek-e-Insaf to do politics but not fight the state.

The plaintiff for the events of May 9 is not the current government but the state of Pakistan and its people.

No one can stop Pakistan from developing. There are definitely challenges, but the current leadership of Pakistan has the full potential to make this country great and great.



We have a very clear policy and a which the political and military leadblunt stance on the Kashmir issue. In the recent Pakistan-India war, Pakistan stunned the world by shooting down the Rafale aircraft that were considered invincible, and the brilliant success of Operation Banyan al-Marsoos has

ership of Pakistan deserves congrat-

President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that apart from the Muslim League (N), no other politmade Pakistan proud in the world, for ical party has the strength and ability to uency, to the Muslim League. N.

form a government in Azad Kashmir. In the upcoming elections, our competition is with the PPP, which does not have candidates in 18 out of 33 constituencies of Azad Kashmir.

Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan said that the current political situation in Azad Kashmir is not very good.

Voting for the current government is a stain on my political career. An attempt is being made to create ideological chaos in Azad Kashmir and a small group has put everyone ahead by drawing a line between political parties.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held to mark the joining of Sardar Shahid Aftab Chughtai, a well-known political and social figure from Sharqi Bagh constit-

Commissioner and Dy Commissioner Multan expressed their condolences to Chairman Senate



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan and Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu visited Gilani

Commissioner Multan Aamir Karim Khan and Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu expressed their condolences to Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on the death of his cousin Makhdoom Tanveer-ul-Hassan Gilani.

Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan and Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu also expressed their condolences to Syed Ahmed Mujtaba Gilani, Makhdoom Abul-Hassan Gilani, Syed Ali Musa Gilani, Syed Ali Haider Gilani and Syed Ali Qasim

On this occasion, prayers were also offered for the elevation of the

Crackdown on Corruption: SSP Poonch vows to eliminate bribery and incompetence

Majeed Tahir



RAWALAKOT: Laying the foundation for a fundamental change in the culture of policing in Poonch district, Senior Superintendent of Police Khawar Ali Shaukat, who was recently transferred from Mirpur to Poonch, has issued historic orders related to police station culture, investigation system, public dealing and internal discipline of the force, giving a clear message to all officers that either they meet the new standards or be ready for the consequences. In a high-level crime meeting held in Rawalakot,

SSP Poonch announced the complete elimination of the rule of law, bribery, incompetence, political influence and interference of private individuals in the police station and said that reforms are no longer just words but practical orders, which will be implemented in any case.

The SSP directed that the use of official number plates on a private vehicle by any government employee or police officer will be unacceptable and considered a crime. Police motorcycle riders will have to demonstrate the helmet requirement in practice within three days, otherwise action will be taken against them too. An FIR has been ordered to be registered immediately by completing the inquiry within an hour against the bribe-taking police officers and officers. The crackdown against drug peddlers will be expanded and in case of failure, the concerned SHO will be held responsible.

Khawar Ali Shaukat categorically announced that incompetence, illegal actions, ignoring public complaints or any kind of political or private influence will not be tolerated in the Poonch Police under any circumstances. Immediate and ruthless action will be taken in case of violation.

According to experts, these instructions are not only a milestone in correcting the direction of the Poonch Police but can also become a practical example for other districts of Azad Kashmir, where law enforcement agencies need to be built on a new foundation of transparency, accountability and professional ethics.

MEPCO Operation Multan Circle Focuses on Better Services, Amjad Nawaz Bhatti

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Superintending Engineer MEPCO Operation Multan Circle Amjad Nawaz Bhatti has said that all available resources should be

utilized to achieve the set goals and ensure provision of better services to the consumers. The elimination of electricity theft and recovery of arrears should be expedited. The process of tagging and coding of transformers should be expedited and the project should be completed as soon as possible and the data should be sent. He was addressing a meeting of officers of Cantt/Musa Pak divisions held at the Circle Office. He said that to reduce line



losses, targeted operations should be conducted against electricity thieves and they should be brought to their logical conclusion. Fines imposed on electricity thieves should be collected and cases should be registered and arrests should be made. He directed XEN Cantt Division Babar Ali Gujjar and XEN Musa Pak Division Ghulam Mohiuddin Maitla to conduct operations against defaulting consumers, disconnect electricity and dismantle electricity installations. Electricity should never be restored

The meeting Attended by Deputy Director Technical Multan Circle Malik Muhammad Arif Wance, SDO Hassan Parwana Sub-Division Sheikh Muhammad Imran, SDO Nawanshahr Sub-Division Sheikh Muhammad Bilal, SDO Wapda Town Sub-Division Umair Lodhi, SDO Gilgasht Subdivision Ikram Sial, SDO Shamsabad Sub-Division Rashid Mahmood, SDO Hassanabad Sub-Division Noman Khan, SDO Bosan Road Sub-Division Akhtar Sial.

Shaarjeel reiterates support to freedom of expression, welfare of journalist

KARACHI, AUG 02 (APP): The Sindh Senior Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Saturday, stated that the Sindh government's policy is founded on the principles of protecting journalists, ensuring their welfare, and upholding freedom of expression.

Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon was speaking at a luncheon hosted in honor of the office bearers of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists here in Karachi by him, said a statement issued here.

The event was attended by provincial minister Saeed Ghani, Sindh government spokespersons Samata Afzal Syed, Ganhwar Khan Isran, Saadia Javed, Buland Khan Junejo, Aqraba Fatima, Sukhdev Asardas Himnani, Nader Nabil Gabol, Tahseen Abidi, and Mustafa Baloch. Senior leaders and office bearers of the Unions of Journalists from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh were also present at the event.

Preparations of Independence day

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying national flags attraction for costumers alongside a road ahead of upcoming Independence Day on 14th August, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashi

Kashmir Leader Urges Global Action on Istehsal-e-Kashmir Day

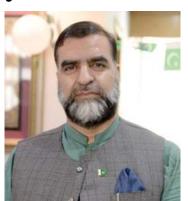
ISLAMABAD: Senior Hurriyat leader and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement and Altaf Ahmed Bhat has strongly endorsed the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) call to observe August 5 as Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, urging the people of Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and across the globe to mark the day with a complete shutdown and peaceful resistance.

said that August 5, 2019, marks the darkest chapter in Kashmir's political history—when India unilaterally abrogated Articles 370 and 35A, stripping the region of its limited autonomy and constitutional guarantees. "This day stands as a painful reminder of India's said. "It is not just a date—it is a wound occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Mr. Bhat

on the collective soul of Kashmir."

Bhat praised the unwavering resilience of Kashmiris who, despite continued lockdowns, communication blackouts, and military repression, have never surrendered their will. "The spirit of our people remains unbroken. No amount of force can erase our identity or silence our legitimate demand for the right to self-determination,"

He also strongly condemned Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's provoc-In a statement, Altaf Ahmed Bhat ative remarks against the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, calling them a desperate and dishonest attempt to discredit the legitimate and peaceful struggle of the Kashmiri people. He said branding Hurriyat as a "terrorist organization" is not just factually wrong but reflects India's growing treachery and brute occupation," he frustration over its failed policies in



emphasized that Hurriyat represents the genuine political voice of Kashmiris, rooted in democratic principles and the internationally recognized right to self-determination. He called on the global community to reject this false narrative and hold India account-

able for its continued denial of basic human rights and its violations of international law.

Calling for urgent humanitarian intervention, he demanded the release of all political detainees, including Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Dr Hameed Fayyaz, Yasin Malik, Masarat Alam Bhat, Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Asiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, and hundreds of others unlawfully imprisoned. "These leaders are not criminals—they are the conscience of Kashmir. Denying them basic medical care in jails is a violation of international law," Bhat warned.

"Let August 5 be observed as a day of defiance and remembrance," he said. "Our protest will send a clear message: the Kashmiri nation rejects illegal occupation and stands united in its peaceful quest for freedom and

Sheikh Aftab Ahmed returns from Umrah, offers special prayers for Pakistan and Muslim Ummah

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Member National Assembly and Supreme Judicial Commission member Sheikh Aftab Ahmed has returned from the holy journey of Umrah, describing it as one of the most spiritually uplifting experiences of his life. In an exclusive conversation with former Attock Press Club Chairman Sheikh Javed Iqbal, he expressed profound gratitude to Allah for granting him the opportunity to visit the Sacred House and perform acts of

"Alhamdulillah, traveling to the

House of Allah has been the most beautiful journey I've ever made," Sheikh Aftab said. "I have visited many countries, but none compare to the peace and spiritual fulfillment one experiences at the Haram Sharif it beautifies both this world and

During his residence in the sacred precincts, Sheikh Aftab offered heartfelt prayers for his homeland, Pakistan, invoking peace, progress, and prosperity for the nation. He also prayed fervently for the well-being and unity of the entire Muslim Ummah.

His remarks were made at a gath-

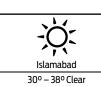
ering at his residence following his return, where Sheikh Javed Iqbal extended warm congratulations and Duas, requesting that Allah grant Sheikh Aftab another opportunity to undertake the blessed journey.

Notable attendees included MPA Ejaz Hussain Bukhari, former provincial assembly candidate Sardar Rehmat Ali Khan, Patron in chief and former chairman Attock press club registered Raza Naqvi, as well as dignitaries such as Sheikh Bakhshish Illahi (popularly known as Sheikh Kaku), Shahzad Ahmed (PSII to Sheikh Aftab), Malik Ghaffar

Khan (JKJ), Malik Hamidullah, Muhammad Idrees Iftikhar (Pappu), Abid Raza, Muhammad Adil Hattar, DSP Islamabad Afzal Khan of Qutab Bandi, Kamran Naseem, Abdul Mueez Kamran, Raja Ehsan Taxila, Sheikh Mahmood Ahmad, Raja Arif, Muhammad Arshad Beg (aka Kaka Beg), and other guests who joined in the congratulatory gathering.

Sheikh Aftab concluded by expressing his deep appreciation to all those who congratulated him, saying: "Your kind wishes mean a great deal to me, and may Allah bless everyone with His mercy."





Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

| EIMENAEI16 I | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Rescue (Police) | 15 |
| Bomb Disposal | 15 |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi/ | |
| Islamabad112 | 2 & 16 |
| Emergency Ambulance | 1122 & |
| & Rescue Services 44 | 51122 |
| Motorway Police926 | 6044 |
| Motorway Police92706 | 01-20 |
| | |

Women Police

| Stations | | |
|------------|--------------|--|
| Islamabad | 9222596 | |
| Rawalpindi | . 9270601-20 | |
| | | |

| ENQUIRY | | |
|----------------------|-------|--|
| Edhi Ambulance | 115 | |
| PIA Flight Info | 114 | |
| PIA Cargo 928 | 30979 | |
| Railway Inquiry | | |
| Railway Exchange9270 | | |
| WASA Rawalpindi555 | 55489 | |
| | | |

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

| CDA | 9221334-43 |
|------------------|-------------|
| CDA | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 |
| RDA | 5555864 |
| TMA | 5770886 |
| Cantonment Board | d 9270151-3 |
| Islamabad Metrop | olitan |
| Corporation | 9209224 |
| | |

SIUT Team performs successful deceased organ transplant

E City Desk

KARACHI: A team of transplant surgeons of SIUT (Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation) successfully performed a deceased organ donation transplantation of two kidneys. According to the institutes' sources the surgery was performed in the early hours of this morning by a team of urologists and anesthetists. Giving the details a spokesperson of SIUT said one Sultan Zafar, a 23 year old student of dental surgery, met a fatal accident and suffered severe head injuries. He was rushed to a local hospital in a comatose condition. He remained in the ICU for a week before he was declared brain dead.

Subsequently he was brought to SIUT for deceased organ donation transplantation. The deceased's mother Dr Mehr Afroze who is a Consultant Nephrologist at SIUT took a courageous decision and donated Sultan's two kidneys which were transplanted to two needy patients who were on dialysis and did not have any organ donors in their families and hence were kept on a waiting list.

This generous donation of Dr Mehr in an hour of profound grief and distress is widely hailed by the members of the medical profession and the society

at large. Director SIUT, Prof Adib Rizvi has greatly lauded the gesture of the family which allowed the organ donation and gave a new lease of life to two patients and called upon the society to emulate this noble act of saving lives.

Iranian President arrived in Lahore, received by President PML-N with Chief Minister Punjab

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: President Pakistan Muslim League-N, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had an enthusiastic handshake with the President of Islamic Republic of Iran H. E Masoud Pezeshkian, while welcoming him along with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif at Lahore Airport. Madam Chief Minister welcomed the visiting President on his arrival in Lahore. He was presented bouquets on his first official visit to Pakistan.

The visiting Iranian President H. E Masoud Pezhakian expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome, and had a formal meeting with President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif at Lahore Airport Lounge. Later, she accompanied the visiting President to Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Main highways from Lahore Airport to Iqbal Shrine were decorated with welcome banners. Upon their arrival at Hazuri Bagh, Iranian President H. E Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and other delegation members were warmly welcomed cials were also present on the occasion.

Culture, Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Minister Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharat and Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad.

Along with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the visiting President entered the Iqbal Shrine accompanied by Punjab Rangers. Salute was presented to them by a smart and agile contingent of Punjab Rangers. H. E Masoud Pezeshkian visited the Iqbal Shrine and laid flowers. He paid tribute to the poet of the East and laid flowers. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad led prayers at the Iqbal shrine and recited Fateha.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran recorded his impressions in the guest book, and along with his delegation took a group photo with Madam Chief Minister, who thanked the visiting president for his visit to Lahore and called him an honor for the people of Punjab. She saw off the guest president and his companions at Lahore Airport. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, provincial ministers, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, IG Usman Anwar and other senior offi-



*J*ctopus

ISLAMABAD: Visitors looking an Octopus sculpture at Pakistan Museum of Natural History, in the Federal Capital.



Independence Day Celebrations start in Toba district

Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Independence Day celebrations themed "Husool-e-Azadi Se Tahafuz-e-Azadi Tak - Jashn-e-Azadi aur Ma'raka-e-Haq" have commenced in Toba Tek Singh with great enthusiasm. The festivities are being held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. As part of the celebrations, a women's hockey match was organized in Tehsil Gojra, featuring enthusiastic participation from female players across the country. The event witnessed tremendous energy from players, making it a memorable occasion. The match was graced by Assistant Commissioner Gojra Sadaf Akbar as the chief guest, who watched the game and distrib-



on the occasion, she said that the and contribute to the country's Independence Day and Battle of Truth events reflect public spir- from negative activities. Meanit and national unity. She urged while, educational institutions uted prizes among the players at the youth to highlight Pakistan's across the district continue to

development while staying away

the closing ceremony. Speaking positive image through sports hold special programs on the theme of Jashn-e-Azadi aur Ma'raka-e-Haq, where students express patriotism through national songs, speeches and

Devcom Chief Calls for Climate Adaptation

"Pakistan Idol" launches nationwide in landmark partnership with MHL Global and Fremantle



KARACHI: In a groundbreaking move for Pakistan's entertainment industry, Pakistan Idol, the world's most iconic music competition format, is officially launching nationwide. Produced under license from Fremantle, the global powerhouse behind the Idol franchise, the show will be brought to local audiences by MHL Global, one of Pakistan's leading media and entertainment companies.

Adding star power and musical credibility to the season, the judging panel features four of the nation's most celebrated artists: Fawad Khan, Zeb Bangash, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, and Bilal Maqsood. Together, they promise to deliver expert guidance to contestants and an unforgettable viewing experience for audiences each week.

"Our partnership with Fremantle on Pakistan Idol marks a major step forward for Pakistan's creative and entertainment industrie said Zoya Merchant, Director of MHL Global. "This launch represents more than entertainment—it's a cultural movement. Pakistan has incredible musical talent, and this platform will not only spotlight it nationwide but elevate it to the global stage."

Gujrat District Administration Finalizes Security Arrangements for Chehlum



Mar Chuhan

KHARAIN: A meeting of the District Peace Committee was held at Aamir Hall, DC Complex, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Gujrat, Noor-ul-Ain Qureshi, to ensure peaceful and effective arrangements for the Chehlum (40th day of martyrdom) of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S.).

The meeting was attended by District Police Officer Gujrat Mehar Muhammad Riaz Naz, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Afzal Hayat Tarar, Assistant Commissioner Gujrat Bilal Zubair, Sahibzada Saeed Ahmed Shah Gujrati, Syed Altaf Abbas Kazmi, Syed Altaf-ur-Rehman, Mir Jawad Jafri, Khadim Ali Khadim, Jawad-ur-Rehman Saifi, Altaf Abbas Shah, Munawar Khokhar, other members of the

Peace Committee, and officers of concerned departments. It was informed during the meeting that the central procession of Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S.) will commence from Imambargah Hussainia. The district administration and police have finalized all arrangements regarding security, cleanliness, lighting, and other facilities for the procession.

Spokesman Report

no religion, no humanity and no mercy. We need to have a social-ISLAMABAD: "Disasters have ly cohesive and inclusive climate

Action Plan at Grassroots adaptation action plan at grass- and development diplomacy faith leaders, civil society represent- flash floods and urban heatwaves, root level countrywide. Commu- expert, and Executive Director nity based disaster risk reduction and preemptive measures for every household on shared vision is a must to combat the menace of climate impact at the final era of this human race. Being a top most vulnerable country to climate

induced disasters, our communi-

ties are the frontline victims which

are estimated to 70 percent of the

population," said Munir Ahmed, a

renowned environment, climate,

of Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan), while delivering the keynote address at a community dialogue titled "Climate Change and Social Cohesion - Our Responsibilities for grassroot Communities."

The event was jointly organized by Alfalah Without Walls and the Christian Study Centre at Islamabad on Saturday, bringing together an inclusive gathering of

atives, educators, youth, development professionals, and concerned citizens. The aim was to explore the growing connection between climate change impacts and the erosion or strengthening of social cohesion-particularly at the grassroots level. In his keynote speech as a guest of honour, Munir Ahmed emphasized that climate change is already reshaping the daily lives of ordinary citizens in Pakistan. From severe droughts in arid regions to

the consequences of changing climate patterns are visible and increasing in frequency and intensity. "The most vulnerable, especially women, youth, elderly citizens, religious minorities, and those living in informal settlements inclusive participation, and face the harshest consequences of a crisis they did not cause," Ahmed that local dialogues such as this are said. "Their resilience is not just a essential in bridging knowledge matter of survival, it is central to our national climate response."

from Alfalah

Organizers

Ilyas Iderys, advocate Basharat Masih and Shumaila Amir appreciated Munir Ahmed's insights and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting interfaith harmony, community resilience. They noted gaps and mobilizing communities to own their role in environmental stewardship.

Without Walls and the Christian

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Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

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Celebrations of 79th Independence Day Start in Dignified Way

hief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif said,"-This year, Independence Day celebrations will be held with special participation of youth and children, the importance of struggle for truth, traditional dress and national pride will be highlighted." She added,"Messages from children, celebrities, national heroes, sportsmen and eminent personalities from various fields should be played on Independence Day." She highlighted,"Struggle for truth has increased the importance of freedom and its celebration"

The Chief Minister underscored,"This year, Independence Day is being celebrated with a spirit of Pakistan's victory in the 'Battle of Truth, Operation 'Bunjan-um-Marsoos.'" She said,"Independence Day celebrations have been titled "From the Acquisition of Independence to the Protection of Independence". She directed the authorities concerned to organize Independence Day celebrations across Punjab.

Special Independence Day activities have begun in every district from today. She noted,"Activities from August 01 to 14 have already been finalized."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said,"Main Independence Day ceremony will be held at Huzuri Bagh on August 14, where I will hoist the national flag." She added,"I will unveil 'Battle of Truth Park', 'Battle of Truth Museum' and 'Memorial of Battle of Truth' at Expo Center Lahore on August 14." She underscored,"Public Celebrations will be held with full participation of all sections of society. Houses, shops and markets will be decorated with national flags and

banners." The Chief Minister said,"A campaign to hoist the Pakistani flag on houses has been launched across Punjab." She added,"Government and private buildings across Punjab have started lighting up Independence Day lights." She highlighted,"Special road shows will be held on Independence Day, floats will also be run to express cultures of the coun-

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said,"Fireworks and laser shows will be held at Minar-e-Pakistan on August 9. Fireworks and laser shows will also be held at tehsil and division levels." She added,"Flag hoisting ceremonies will be held at Chief Minister's Office and other government offices on August 10, while motorbikes will be released on August 13."

The Chief Minister said,"Under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, our brave armed forces have added a golden chapter to the history of protecting freedom." She added,"Nation, together with its brave armed forces, have proved that we know how to protect our freedom." She flagged,"I appeal to mothers, sisters, daughters, sons, brothers and elders to take full part in the Independence Day celebrations to show that we are a vibrant and dignified nation."

Monsoon Misery in South Asia: A Gendered Emergency Unfolding in Silence

clouds gather over South Asia, millions brace for nature's deluge. From Pakistan to Bangladesh, India to Nepal, the monsoons bring torrential rain, flooding rivers, landslides, and infrastructure collapse. But what often remains submerged in these storms is the voice of half the population, women. The annual climate onslaught does not affect men and women equally. In fact, across rural fields and urban slums of South Asia, monsoons deepen existing gender divides, pushing women into more precarious, invisible, and dangerous terrains.

In rural South Asia, women are central to household and community survival. They manage food, water, fuel, and care for children and elders. Yet their agency is constrained by patriarchal norms that restrict mobility, decision-making, and access to information.

When monsoon rains arrive, fields flood, roads vanish, and livestock is swept away. In such emergencies, women are less likely to have access to evacuation transport or early warning systems. In the char (riverine) lands of Bangladesh or floodplains of Punjab, it is often men who are first to flee with movable assets, while women stay behind to protect homes and the elderly.

For working women, maids, factory laborers, and nurses, getting to work means wading through contaminated waters, risking disease and harassment. In urban South Asia, where public transport is male-dominated and unsafe, monsoons further limit women's mobility, cutting them off from income and opportunity.

During emergencies, gender-neutral disaster plans fail to account for single mothers or women-led households. Relief distribution often happens in male-domi-

from collecting aid. Emergency shelters rarely offer segregated toilets or breastfeeding rooms, forcing women to choose between exposure and exclusion.

Post-disaster relief camps in South Asia are notorious for being unsafe for women. Privacy is scarce, and gender-based violence (GBV) rises in the wake of climate disasters. In India, studies following the 2004

tsunami revealed that sexual violence against women increased in both camps and resettlement areas. In Nepal. post-earthquake camps in 2015 showed similar patterns. The lack of female police officers. counselors, or women-led camp committees exac-

erbates the crisis. Cultural stigma often silences survivors, while legal systems fail to prioritize their protection. Even basic needs like sanitary pads, contraception, or maternal care are missing from relief kits.

Floodwaters do not discriminate, but healthcare systems do. Across South Asia, access to healthcare is already skewed against women. Add flood-induced displacements, and the situation becomes deadly. In Pakistan, more than 650,000 pregnant women were affected by the 2022 floods, yet maternal care facilities were nonexistent in most camps.

Floods contaminate drinking water, increasing diarrheal diseases. Women, often the last to drink or eat in patriarchal households, are more prone to dehydration and infection. Girls miss school due to ruined infrastructure and lack of sanitary supplies. Women with disabilities face even more extreme neglect.

South Asian women form the backbone

very year, as dark monsoon nated public spaces, discouraging women of informal economies, from weaving mats in Kerala to farming rice in Sindh. Their livelihoods are climate-sensitive and poorly insured. When monsoons destroy crops or workshops, women have no fallback.

In Bangladesh, millions of women work in the ready-made garment industry, located in flood-prone zones. Factory shutdowns during monsoons mean weeks without pay. In Nepal, where female-

headed households rely on remittances or tourism, monsoon landslides destroy connectivity and income.

Women entrepreparticularly those running homebased businesses, lose tools, stock, and spaces. Recovery loans are inac-

cessible due to lack of collateral, documentation, or male guarantors.

One of the major reasons why gendered impacts remain invisible is the lack of gender-disaggregated data in disaster risk assessments. National disaster agencies across South Asia do not collect or publish adequate data on how women are affected differently. As a result, funding and policy design remain skewed.

The absence of women in decision-making bodies further perpetuates blind spots. In Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, disaster management authorities are overwhelmingly male. Women are rarely consulted when developing early warning systems, urban master plans, or climate finance projects.

The climate emergency in South Asia is not just about carbon emissions or melting glaciers. It is about who suffers first and recovers last. Women in South Asia are not just victims of climate change; they are also

agents of resilience. From organizing relief networks to innovating adaptation techniques like floating gardens in Bangladesh or rooftop farming in Nepal, women are already leading change.

Cities must rethink how they design infrastructure. Drainage systems should consider not just engineering flows but social flows, how women move through spaces. Public transport must be safe and accessible during emergencies. Mobile clinics and community kitchens should be gender-inclusive. Digital alert systems should be tailored to reach women who may not own phones or be literate.

Municipal authorities must conduct gender audits of their disaster readiness and invest in data collection that reflects lived realities. Climate-smart cities cannot be smart unless they are safe and inclusive for women. Monsoon rains are becoming more intense due to global warming, but their damage is multiplied by social structures that treat women as afterthoughts. South Asia's journey to climate resilience must go through the hearts and hands of its women. Not only because they suffer more, but because they know what recovery

From community kitchens in Chennai to women-only flood brigades in Pakistan's Sindh, examples of female leadership abound. What remains is the political will to listen, invest, and elevate.

In this unfolding crisis, silence is complicity. It's time for a gender-responsive climate compact for South Asia, one that doesn't just weather the storms but transforms them into opportunities for equity, dignity, and resilience.

The author is founder and Chief Executive Officer at Mishal Pakistan | Strategic Communications, Public Policy, Narratologu.



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

First to Rise, Last to Fall: The Glorious Legacy of Sindh Police

and intelligent officers. These individuals have not only strengthened the force in terms of capacity and numbers but have also devised effective strategies to deal with various challenges, including the maintenance of public safety and security. Since then, every August 4 stands as a day of The province of Sindh has faced extremely challenging circumstances, including terrorism and fallen in the line of duty.

various other crimes. Yet, the Sindh Police has consistently overcome these hurdles with resilience and determination. The credit for the restoration of peace in Sindh goes to the brave officers and personnel of the Sindh Police who have tirelessly devoted themselves to their duties, often at great personal risk. The sacrifices

made by these valiant officers, who laid down the Sindh Police has consistently remained at the their lives in the line of duty, are an enduring part of the province's journey toward peace. Behind every success and sacrifice in the history of the Sindh Police stands a force of dedicated officers and personnel who have worked relentlessly for the restoration of peace and have never hesitated to give their lives for the homeland.

The police have always stood as the first line of defense against every threat that challenges the safety and security of our nation. In every crisis, every emergency, and every moment of uncertainty, it is the police who step forward, placing themselves in harm's way to protect the lives of countless others. To honor the extraordinary bravery and selfless devotion of police officers who laid down their lives for the motherland, Pakistan observes _Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police on August 4_ each year. This solemn day whose sacrifices remain etched in the heart of

he history of the Sindh Police is a the nation. The observance of Youm-e-Shuha-vibrant bouquet of brave, fearless, da-e-Police was initiated in 2010 following the martyrdom of Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Safwat Ghayoor, who lost his life in a tragic suicide attack. His sacrifice became a symbol of the countless heroes who embraced martyrdom while standing guard over the nation. remembrance for the police officers who have

A look into history reveals that the Sindh Police holds the distinction of being the first modern police force in the subcontinent. Throughout its existence, the Sindh Police has dutifully fulfilled its responsibility of maintaining law and order with utmost dedication and professionalism. With a legacy spanning over 180 years,

forefront of maintaining law and order, often at great personal risk. To date, more than 2,500 valiant officers of this force have laid down their lives in the line of duty, embodying the highest ideals of sacrifice and dedication.

One of the most striking examples of the Sindh Police's courage was demonstrated on June 29, 2020, during the terrorist attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange. On that day, four heavily armed attackers attempted to storm the building, aiming to inflict mass casualties. However, the swift and heroic response of the police thwarted their sinister plans. One such hero was Sub-Inspector Muhammad Shahid, who fearlessly confronted terrorists without regard for his own life. Alongside him, the brave personnel of the Rapid Response Force (RRF) and snipers kept a vigilant eye on every move of the attackers serves as a tribute to the martyrs of the police, and prevented them from entering the Pakistan Stock Exchange building. Within just eight

minutes, the nefarious plans of the terrorists were thwarted, preserving countless lives thanks to the bravery, skill, and quick action of the Sindh police, all four terrorists were eliminated within just eight minutes. Tragically, Sub-Inspector Muhammad Shahid, three security guards, and two civilians lost their lives, while seven others sustained injuries. The Sindh Police has always stood at the forefront in safeguarding the lives and peace of its people-often at the cost of their own. The sacrifices made by the brave officers who laid down their lives in the line of duty are not forgotten. Their legacy continues to live on through the unwavering support extended to their families and the comprehensive Shuhada

Compensation Package. Shuhada Package, A Commitment to the Fami-

Understanding the magnitude of the sacrifices made by its personnel, the Sindh Police has established a generous compensation package for the families of martyred officers. This package not only serves as a token of respect but also aims to provide long-term security and support to the bereaved families.

The high status of martyrs is also affirmed in the Holy Quran. In Surah Al-Bagarah (2:154), Allah says:

"And do not say about those who are killed in the way of Allah, 'They are dead.' Rather, they are alive, but you do not perceive."

This verse reminds us that the sacrifices of our martyrs are eternal and honored in both this life and the Hereafter. A Salute to the Guardians of Peace. As citizens, it is our moral and national duty to stand in gratitude and respect for the selfless services of our police. They are the true guardians who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety and peace.

"Sindh Police Zindabad, Pakistan Paindabad" The writer is social worker and she can be reached at sabahatsarwar9@gmail.com

Pakistans Climate Struggle and the ICJs Call for Global Responsibility

Raeesa Riaz

s large parts of Pakistan are once again submerged under devastating monsoon floods, a historic decision from the world's highest court lands with urgent relevance. In its eagerly anticipated Advisory Opinion on climate change, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) declared on July 23 that states have a legal obligation to address the climate crisis and that failure to do so constitutes a violation of human rights. The decision provides both affirmation and a potential instrument for justice for Pakistan, a nation that experiences climate-driven calamities annually despite producing less than 1% of global emissions.

The world's top court has made it clear in a unanimous ruling that polluting nations are required by law to reduce their emissions and provide compensation to those who are already impacted and are suffering the consequences.

Climate justice is now an absolute necessity. The ICJ's decision now places legal pressure on major polluters to respond quickly and fairly, rather than just admitting their responsibility. The advisory opinion highlights important responsibilities that are highly relevant to Pakistan's climatic situation. It reaffirms the need for governments to phase out fossil fuels and stop supporting development that generates significant amounts of emissions, two actions that are still responsible for Pakistan's annual climate catastrophes. Most importantly, it creates legal accountability by establishing that failure to prevent foreseeable climate harm is an internationally wrongful act. The ruling acknowledges the right of frontline states like Pakistan to reparations, which include financial support for

adaptation, compensation for loss and damage, and assurances that such harm won't occur again. The opinion's core focus is human rights, reaffirming that the rights to food, water, life, health, and a healthy environment must be safeguarded against the effects of climate change. The idea for the historic advisory opinion was first proposed in 2019 by University of the South Pacific law students, sparking a global youth-led movement for climate justice. Their appeal inspired the creation of the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC and the World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ) which brought together more than 1,500 organisations and effectively pushed for the UN to petition the International Court of Justice for this landmark ruling. Youth from Pakistan and other Asian countries joined the movement, seeking meaningful involvement and climate accountability as part of this global momentum. The Court's statement today reflects those demands, providing not only recognition but also a strong legal basis to combat climate inaction and seek justice.

The Global South has suffered enough. For too long, countries like Pakistan have paid the price for a crisis they did not create. Now, with the ICJs advisory opinion in hand, the time for empty promises is over and its time for accountability. States must act, and they must act now, turning the Courts guidance into lasting, tangible change. And to the youth of my country: we have suffered enough too. This moment driven by the vision, courage, and persistence of young people around the world is now ours to carry forward. It is our duty to ensure that states uphold their legal obligations. Climate justice is no longer just a demand, it is now the law

The writer associated with Worlds Youth for Climate Justice an she can be reached at raaesa@wy4cj.org

Promoting Bilateral Trade Between Azerbaijan and Pakistan Is a Top Priority: Ambassador

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are exemplary, rooted in mutual trust, brotherhood, and shared interests. The leadership of both countries — President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif — are committed to further strengthening these ties. This was stated by Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. Khazar Farhadov, during his visit to the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce.

Present on the occasion were United Business Group (UBG) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman of the Azerbaijan -Pakistan Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, former President highlighted the increase in air of Chakwal Chamber Waqar Bakhtawari, Adeel Butt, President of Azerbaijan Trade House in Lahore, connected to Azer- flights from Lahore and two

Commerce and Industry in Islamabad along with other notable business personalities.

Ambassador Farhadov emphasized that the role of the private sector is crucial in elevating economic and trade cooperation between the two countries to new heights. Azerbaijan not only welcomes Pakistani traders and investors but also offers them market access. facilitation, and excellent investment opportunities. He noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has visited Azerbaijan four times in recent months, and Field Marshal Asim Munir has also held significant meetings a reflection of the deep strategic ties between the two nations.

The Ambassador further countries as a positive development — with four weekly baijan-Pakistan Chamber of from Islamabad — which will

connectivity between the two enhance people-to-people and imports, exports, and joint busicommercial exchanges.

ness ventures between the two During the meeting, it was nations. This initiative will help

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that he plans to visit Baku also agreed to establish a joint strengthen industrial linkages in August, while Zafar Bakhttrade company to promote and increase the volume of bilat- awari will lead a high-level

trade delegation in September to explore practical avenues of collaboration in potential

Speaking on the occasion, eral trade and cultural relations.

Adeel Butt shared that during his stay in Azerbaijan, he closely observed various trade opportunities and saw open doors for cooperation in key sectors such as road trade, logistics, energy, agriculture, information technology, tourism, and textiles. He emphasized that partnerships in these areas will not only strengthen trade ties but also open new chapters of friendship between the two countries. He further stressed that there is significant potential for Pakistani products in the Azerbaijani market, which, if leveraged properly, can lead to a substantial increase in exports.

Waqar Bakhtawari appreciated the efforts of the Azerbaijan -Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, describing it as an economic bridge between the two countries. He also thanked Ambassador Farhadov for his keen interest in fostering bilat-

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan vow to explore joint initiatives in Crypto, Blockchain

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan are moving toward stronger cooperation in rapidly evolving field of virtual assets after a high-level video conference.

According to details, Minister of State for Crypto and Blockchain Bilal bin Saqib held a detailed discussion with Farkhat Iminov, Director of Kyrgyzstan's National Investment Agency, as the two sides focused on strengthening bilateral ties and exploring joint initiatives in the crypto and blockchain sectors.

According to the Kyrgyz National Investment Agency, both sides expressed strong interest in expanding collaboration through the exchange of experience, information, and best practices between relevant institutions and national councils.

Bilal emphasized Islamabad's readiness to work closely with Central Asian nations, highlighting major potential for cooperation in shaping regulatory frameworks and promoting innovation in the digital asset space



share similar strategic visions for devel- structured engagement. oping virtual assets industry, under-Both sides reaffirmed their commit- in Central and South Asia's growing lining the importance of formalizing ment to continued dialogue and active interest in blockchain technology and

Farkhat Iminov said the two sides randum of Cooperation to facilitate innovative environment for virtual

the partnership through a Memo-cooperation in building a secure and

asset development as a step forward digital finance

Fasting Buddha replica gifted to Bai Dinh Pagoda, Vietnam

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meticulously crafted replica of the revered Fasting Buddha, an iconic Gandhara-era masterpiece dating back to the 2nd century, was formally handed over to Bai Dinh Pagoda, Viet-

nam's largest Buddhist temple. The gift was given by Ambassador of Pakistan Kohdayar Marri in a landmark event symbolizing cultural and spiritual solidarity between Pakistan and Vietnam, Vietnam Fasting Buddha stan's on Saturday, said in a press

Fasting Buddha replica Marri, during the cere-



Foreign Office Spokesperson, replica gifted to Bai Dinh preserving Buddhist heritage

Pagoda, Vietnam Ambassador Kohdayar dialogue.

commitment to and fostering intercultural

"This gift reflects Pakistan's gifted to Bai Dinh Pagoda, mony, emphasised Paki- rich heritage, respect for all

faiths and our shared vision of Venerable Thich Duc Thien, peace. Tolerance and respect is the essence of Islam, and such Pakistani Embassy before its exchanges reinforce diplomacy and harmony," he said.

The original Fasting Siddhartha statue, discovered in Sikri, Pakistan and housed in Lahore Museum depicts Prince Siddhartha's profound austerity in pursuit of enlightenment.

The replica, gifted by the Government of Pakistan, embodies values of discipline, resilience, and interfaith harmony," it was added.

The event commenced with sacred prayers led by the Secre-Buddhist Sangha, Most

who blessed the statue at the

journey to Ninh Binh. At Bai Dinh Pagoda, the statue was received by Most Venerable Thich Minh Quang in a traditional Buddhist ritual. attended by senior Vietnamese officials, religious leaders, and dignitaries.

Venerable Thich Minh Quang hailed the gesture as a beacon of inter-religious goodwill, promoting mutual understanding between Pakistan and Vietnam.

The ceremony concluded with prayers for enduring tary General of the Vietnam friendship between the two

Pakistan gifts Fasting Buddha replica to **Thailand**

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a gesture to celebrate shared heritage and deepen bilateral relations, Pakistan has presented a meticulously crafted replica of the Fasting Buddha sculpture to Thailand at the National Museum in Bangkok.

The ceremony, titled "A Spiritual Journey from Gandhara to ASEAN: Celebrating Shared Heritage and Religious Tourism," highlighted the centuries-old connection between Pakistan's Gandhara civilization and the ASEAN region, where Buddhism thrived, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson said in a press release on Saturday.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Thailand Rukhsana Afzaal presented the replica to Director General of Thailand's Fine

Arts Department Phanomboot Chantrachoti.

The attendees included Thai officials. diplomats, UN representatives, civil society, academics, and media.

Ambassador Afzaal highlighted the replica, crafted by Pakistani artist Jamil Kakar, as a testament to Pakistan's Gandhara legacy, centered in ancient Taxila, and its role in Buddhist civi-

She underscored its significance in strengthening Pakistan-Thailand friendship and promoting cultural exchanges under Pakistan's longstanding ASEAN partnership.

Most Venerable Anil Sakya described the event as a spiritual reconnection, with the Fasting Buddha symbolizing

wisdom and balance. Director General Chantrachoti



expressed gratitude, noting the gift as tial to enhance Pakistan-Southeast a symbol of enduring diplomatic and cultural ties, reflecting shared Gandharan and Buddhist heritage.

He emphasized its potential to foster collaboration through exhibitions and cultural initiatives.

Executive Director at the Centre for Cultural Development, Islamabad Dr. Nadeem Omar Tarrar also emphasized the sculpture's spiritual and artistic significance, blending Greco-Roman and Gandharan styles, and its poten-

The ceremony featured a photographic exhibition of Gandhara artifacts and Buddhist sites in Pakistan by renowned photographer David Chi

Pakistan, a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN for over three decades, continues to strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties, with this gesture reinforcing cultural connections and people-to-people exchanges.

US warns officials against visits to Karachi hotels

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The US State Department announced on Friday that it has temporarily restricted official government personnel from visiting highend hotels in Karachi, Pakistan, following a reported security threat.

In a security alert, the department stated: "The US Consulate General Karachi received a report of a threat directed at high-end hotels in Karachi. As a precaution, the Consulate has

temporarily limited visits by official U.S. government personnel to these establishments."

The State Department noted that it routinely designates certain locations—such as hotels, tourist attractions, markets, shopping centers, and restaurants—as off-limits to US personnel in response to credible threats. The alert advises individuals to avoid crowded areas, maintain a low profile, and remain vigilant in places popular with tourists and Western nationals.

The US government currently maintains a travel advisory for Pakistan, urging American citizens to reconsider travel due to ongoing security risks, including terrorism and the potential for armed conflict.

Pakistan to receive first US crude oil shipment in October



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest refiner Cnergyico will import 1 million barrels of oil from Vitol in October, its Vice Chairman Usama Qureshi told Reuters on Friday, marking the country's first-ever purchase of US crude following a landmark trade deal.

The West Texas Intermediate light crude cargo will be loaded from Houston this month and is expected to arrive in Karachi in the second half of October, Qureshi said.

"This is a test spot cargo under our umbrella term agreement with Vitol. If it is commercially viable and available, we could import at least one cargo per month," he said, adding that the shipment was not meant for resale.

The deal follows months of multiple negotiations which first began in April, he said, after US President Donald Trump threatened to impose 29% tariffs on imports from Pakistan. Qureshi said Pakistan's finance and petroleum ministries encour-

aged local refineries to explore US crude imports after the April tariff announcement. Vitol did not immediately respond to a request for comment sent

On Thursday, Pakistan hailed a trade deal struck with the US, its top export market, and said the agreement would increase investments. The White House said on Thursday the US will charge a 19% tariff on imports from Pakistan.

A key China ally, Pakistan has been warming up to Trump after he threatened tariffs. It has credited US diplomatic intervention for ending recent hostilities with neighbouring India and nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. Oil is Pakistan's biggest import item and its shipments were valued at \$11.3 billion in the year ended June 30, 2025, accounting for nearly a fifth of the coun-

The import deal will help Pakistan diversify its crude sourcing and reduce reliance on Middle Eastern suppliers, who account for nearly all of its oil imports.

"Gross refining margin is on par with Gulf grades, and no blending or refinery tweaks are required," Qureshi said.

Cnergyico can process 156,000 barrels of crude per day and operates the country's only single-point mooring terminal near Karachi, enabling it to handle large tankers unlike other refiners in Pakistan.

larger or more frequent shipments, and to upgrade its refinery over the next five to six years, Qureshi said. The refiner, which has been operating at an average refinery run rate of 30% to 35% due to tepid local demand, is betting on growth

The company plans to install a second offshore terminal to allow

in demand for oil products. We expect run rates to rise as domestic demand strengthens and

local production is prioritised over imported fuels," Qureshi said. Trump said on Wednesday the US would also cooperate with Pakistan to develop the South Asian country's "massive oil reserves", without providing further details.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

| '``' Index Fluctuation | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Pakistan: PSX 1 | 00-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 I | ndustrial 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 | |
| 0.669/ | 1 Aug, 3:45 pm | |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 182 | 187 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 753.3 | 763.30 |
| Canadian Dollar | 204 | 209 |
| China Yuan | 39.03 | 39.43 |
| Danish Krone | 44.2 | 44.60 |
| Euro | 324.35 | 325.80 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.79 | 36.14 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.14 | 3.23 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.8645 | 1.9645 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 919.95 | 931.95 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 66.31 | 66.91 |
| NewZealand \$ | 165.69 | 167.69 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.32 | 27.62 |
| Omani Riyal | 738.20 | 748.20 |
| Qatari Riyal | 77.24 | 77.94 |
| Saudi Riyal | 75.8 | 76 |
| Singapore Dollar | 217.25 | 222.25 |
| Swedish Korona | 28.81 | 29.11 |
| Swiss Franc | 346.94 | 349.69 |
| Thai Bhat | 8.53 | 8.68 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 77.5 | 77.7 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 375.10 | 376.60 |
| US Dollar | 284.8 | 285.3 |

FPCCIActing President Zaki Ejaz Declares the Economy "Dead



KARACHI: The Acting President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Zaki Aijaz, has declared the country's economy to be "dead." Addressing a press conference at the FPCCI Head Office on Saturday, he stated that due to the government's measures, the economy is unable to revive and is currently in a dead state.

Present at the press conference were FPCCI Regional Chairman (Sindh) and Vice President, Abdul Abdul Muhamin Khan, Vice President, Asif Inam, Mian Zahid Hussain, and Malik Khuda Bakhsh.

Zaki Aijaz said that keeping the interest rate at 11% and not reducing electricity prices has worsened the economic situation. He urged the government to bring the interest rate into single digits without waiting for the new monetary policy, in order to revive the economy.

He further stated that after successful negotiations between the government and the business community official notifications are expected to start being issued by Monday. Zaki Aijaz claimed that the government has accepted their demands regarding Section 37AA, the two-lakh cash deposit limit, and digital invoicing. He said that Section 37AA was a major demand of the business community, and FBR has already issued a notification on it.

As per the notification, a five-member committee has been formed. Regarding cash deposits over PKR 200,000, he explained that there will be no tax on such transactions if they are made through **sales tax registered accounts and are properly invoiced. He also informed that the government has given time from September to December 2025 for the implementation of digital invoicing. Zaki Aijaz further revealed that the Karachi Chamber of Commerce had assured the government during negotiations that there would be no strike, but despite issuing a press release to that effect, they **later called for a strike independently.

Government sets Nov 1 deadline for sugar mills as imports likely to rise

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To tackle the ongoing sugar crisis in the country, the federal government has initiated key measures, including a firm deadline for sugar mills to begin crushing from November 1, without exception.

Sources in the Ministry of National Food Security confirmed that imported sugar is expected to arrive in Pakistan by the end of September, with shipments landing at Karachi Port.

The government has also reviewed sugar millers' demand for an increase in ex-mill sugar prices to ensure timely crushing. However, officials warn that any delay in starting the season will result in further imports of sugar to stabilise the market.

Meanwhile, the government has assumed full control over sugar stockpiles, including those held by private mills. Surveillance of these reserves is now underway to prevent artificial shortages and arbitrary price hikes, Food Security officials confirmed.



Sources say that FBR officials have been mill warehouses. deployed across the country to monitor sugar Additionally, the names of 18 sugar mill stocks into the market.

ities say these names will be made public soon. At present, 1.9 million metric tonnes of sugar are under direct government supervision. To meet immediate demand, Pakistan floated

global tenders to import 100,000 metric tonnes

owners and relevant stakeholders have been placed on the Exit Control List (ECL). Author-

According to European traders, the lowest bid, \$539 per tonne (C&F), was submitted by UK-based ED&F Man for the supply of 50,000 tonnes of refined white sugar.

Other major bids include 25,000 tonnes from Dreyfus at \$567.40 per tonne and 30,000 tonnes of medium-grain sugar from Al Khaleej Sugar at \$599 per tonne.

The Trading Corporation of Pakistan is currently reviewing the bids, but no final agreements have been signed yet.

Meanwhile, the federal government has directed provincial authorities to launch a strict crackdown on sugar hoarders to bring hidden

Road closed

LAHORE: A view of road closed with heavy shipping containers at Mall road area due to security reasons during Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, visit, in the Provincial Capital.



Pakistan's Olive Oil industry on the rise: A new era of green gold

Example 2 Commerce Desk

QUETTA: Pakistan is rapidly emerging as a significant player in the global olive oil market. Once reliant on imports, the country is now cultivating its own high-quality olives, particularly in regions like Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Potohar plateau—areas with ideal climate and soil conditions for olive farming.

Government initiatives such as the Olive Cultivation Program under the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project and public-private partnerships have played a crucial role in promoting olive plantation, introducing advanced farming techniques and supporting local farmers.

Founded by Arsalan Khan Nasar, a dedicated BS IT student at BUITEMS Quetta and a proud native of Bostan, Balochistan, Al Maharah was born from a vision to share the hidden gems of Balochistan with the world. What started as a modest online venture has grown into a thriving platform offering the finest handpicked, handcrafted and locally sourced products. ship.



Al Maharah Quetta Dry Fruits & Premium Wild Olive Oil is a brand rooted in the rugged mountains and rich soils of Balochistan while reflecting a legacy of purity, tradition and skilled craftsman-

We invite you to explore our store, experience our heritage, and taste the purity of untouched nature. Whether you're looking for, Quetta dry fruits, Dry fruit price in Pakistan, Wild olive oil, Extra virgin olive oil, Organic handcrafted products.

DGTO Launches Probe into APCAA **Irregularities**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Director General of Trade Organizations (DGTO) has initiated a formal investigation into the All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA) following serious allegations of administrative irregularities and violations of the Trade Organizations Act. The DGTO's action follows multiple written complaints highlighting misuse of power, breaches of the association's constitution, and non-compliance with legal protocols. The investigation will scru-

tinize all actions that contra-

vene legal and organizational procedures. A key focus of the probe

is the controversial appointment of the APCAA's current chairman, which reportedly bypassed legal requirements and the association's consti-

Allegations suggest the position was assumed unlawfully, eroding trust and credibility among members.

Stakeholders have urged APCAA members to cooperate fully with the DGTO's investigation and to actively support efforts to restore legality, transparency, and accountability within the organization.

India will buy Russian oil despite Trump's threats, NYT reports



Indian officials have said they would keep purchasing oil from Russia despite the threat of penalties that US President Donald Trump said he would impose, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

The White House, India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump last month indicated in a Truth Social post that India would face additional penalties for the purchase of Russian arms and oil.

However, he later said that he did not care what India does with Russia. On Friday, Trump told

reporters that he had heard that India would no longer be buying oil from Russia. Two senior Indian offi-

cials said there had been no change in policy, according to the NYT report, which added that one official said the government had "not given any direction to oil companies" to cut back imports from Russia.

Reuters had earlier reported that Indian state refiners stopped buying Russian oil in the past week as discounts narrowed in July.

ICCI hosts Iranian Delegation, agrees on joint exhibitions, cross-border trade initiatives

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Iranian delegation led by Reza Masrour, Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Saturday and held a productive meeting with ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi to explore avenues for deepening economic cooperation between the two industrial brotherly nations.

included Mohammad Said initiatives. Reza Masrour Arbabi, Managing Director of the Chamber of Free tial of Iran's free trade zones, Zones; Saeed Rabiei, Deputy especially the Chabahar Free Secretary of Free Zones; Ali Reza Khayyami, Director; businessmen for a visit to Zahra Qadyanlo, Commer- explore investment prospects.

cial Counsellor; Asif Ghias, Managing Director Zenith; and Ms. Faiza Hussaini.

The ICCI side was represented by Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Chairman Founder Group Shaikh Tariq Sadiq, Executive Members Mohammad Imran Minhas, Waseem Chaudhry, and Advisor to the ICCI President, Naeem Siddiqui. Both sides agreed to foster

collaboration in trade, joint ventures, investment, and cooperation, emphasizing the need for The Iranian delegation mutually beneficial economic showcased the vast poten-Zone, and invited Pakistani

Highlighting a major proposal, Mohammad Said Arbabi suggested the establishment of a joint border free zone between Iran and Pakistan.

Welcoming the delegation, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi underlined the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Iran and emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral trade, organizing joint exhibitions, and enhancing people-to-people and business-to-business linkages.

Chairman Founder Group, Shaikh Tariq Sadiq, and Executive Members Imran Minhas and Waseem Chaudhry and Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui apprecidiplomatic mission in Islam-



ated the efforts of the Iranian abad for fostering bilateral heartfelt solidarity with the affected by recent Israeli trade ties. He also expressed families of Iranian martyrs aggression.

The World vs. U. S.-Israeli Brutality in Gaza

Analysis

Qamar Bashir

the wailing of mothers clutching lifeless in agony as their limbs are amputated, their bodies shredded, their reproduc-They look away from children dying not only from bombs but from starvation, Kingdom, long America's most loyal as two million people are herded from one ruined shelter to another, promised food only to find death. This is not war. This is a calculated slaughterhouse, a genocide carried out under the shield

Yet Washington and Tel Aviv expect everyone else to mimic their silence do not see, do not hear, do not speak. They want to render humanity numb to Donald Trump's transactional diplomacy, where allies are insulted and international partnerships are reduced to trade-offs and arm-twisting, has driven even America's closest friends to break free. Nations once compelled to echo U.S. narratives are now openly defying them, charting their own course, of State Marco Rubio mocked the 140 and rejecting the moral bankruptcy of shielding Israel's crimes.

As French President Emmanuel

United States have turned ence on Palestine, "The status quo is colorblind, deaf, and heart- no longer acceptable. France will recogless, refusing to see the rivers nize a Palestinian state because peace of blood in Gaza or hear the cannot be postponed indefinitely while cries of its dying children. They ignore children die every day in Gaza." Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerinfants, the screams of youth writhing bock echoed this, saying, "Humanitarian law is not optional. No ally, no matter how powerful, can expect us tive organs destroyed by sniper fire. to be complicit in mass starvation and endless occupation." Even the United partner, now openly calls for an "irreversible pathway to Palestinian statehood," signaling a break from Washington's veto of justice.

Meanwhile, António Guterres, of "self-defense," and the world knows it. UN Secretary-General, tore through decades of diplomatic hypocrisy with unprecedented clarity: "Statehood for the Palestinians is a right, not a reward... Gaza has descended into a cascade of horror. But their dominance is fading. catastrophes—tens of thousands dead, virtually the entire population displaced many times over, the shadow of starvation looming over everyone. These are not preconditions for peace. They are the foundation of it."

> Yet from Washington, the response is chillingly different. U. S. Secretary nations pledging to recognize Palestine: "They can't even tell you where this Palestinian state is... At the end of

nstantly, both Israel and the Macron declared at the UN confer- the day, Hamas is sitting there saying: We're winning the PR war. The Palestinian statehood side is the Hamas side." In one sentence, Rubio dismissed the will of nearly the entire planet, equated Palestinian self-determination with terrorism, and gave Israel another blank check to continue its war crimes.

This arrogance exposes the deepening streamed massacre defended relentisolation of the U.S.-Israeli axis. On one side, 140 nations, the UN, humanitarian agencies, civil society, and millions in the streets of London, Paris, Berlin, and New York demand ceasefire, statehood, and accountability for atrocity crimes. On the

other, two governments defy global law and morality, veto every path to peace, and unleash a narrative so grotesque that even mainstream U.S. media is cracking.

When Israel's ambassador recently suggested that countries supporting Palestinian statehood should "take the Palestinians into their own lands," Fox News anchor Brian Kilmeade sarcastically asked, "Why doesn't Israel migrate instead, leaving the land to its original owners, the Palestinians?" Such questions were once unthinkable in America but are now inevitable because the

brutality is undeniable.

Europe's defiance is not a sudden act of courage but the result of exhaustion with U.S. unilateralism. Trump's foreign policy has humiliated allies, reduced partnerships to mere transactions, and insulted leaders across NATO. The last straw is Gaza: a live-

> lessly by Washington. Macron said it plainly: "The international order cannot survive if a superpower shields an occupying force from law while condemning others for far less." Canada, once in lockstep with U. S. policy, now calls

for sanctions on Israeli officials over settlement expansion and starvation tactics, defying its largest ally.

The tide is turning because the truth can no longer be buried. The International Court of Justice has ruled that Israel's occupation, annexation, and forced displacement are illegal. The UN General Assembly passed resolutions demanding ceasefire and humanitarian access, only to be vetoed or ignored by Washington. Civil society, from London's streets to Jakarta's mosques, is united under one banner: Stop the genocide. Free Palestine. Social

media has shattered propaganda walls, showing unfiltered images of bombed hospitals, starved infants, and mass graves. The world sees what America refuses to: deliberate extermination disguised as war.

Even within the U. S., voices of conscience rise despite political fear. Senator Bernie Sanders declared, "We cannot stand by while a whole people is bombed, starved, and erased from history under our funding and protection." UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese described Israel's actions as "a war of extermination against an occupied people," earning U.S. sanctions for telling the truth. The line is now clear: stand with humanity and be punished by Washington, or stand with Washington and be complicit in atrocity.

This strategy is failing. U. S. power, once unquestionable, is now bought off with trade deals and investments as nations build independence from its dictates. Trump's recent EU trade deal has been interpreted not as strength but as a payoff for European defiance over Gaza. The old world order, where America dictated morality, is dead. In its place is a multipolar conscience where even U.S. allies refuse to endorse blind support for Israel's slaughterhouse poli-

And yet, Israel and the U.S. cling to a delusion: that Palestinians can be

erased, either by bullets or by "resettlement," stripping them of homeland and history. This delusion is what fuels resistance, global outrage, and calls for immediate statehood. As Guterres warned, "We cannot defer peace efforts until suffering becomes unbearable. We must act before it is too late." The world has chosen to act, with or without Washington's approval.

The conclusion is as inevitable as it is just. The momentum of history, powered by the conscience of humanity, is moving toward Palestinian freedom. The days when America and Israel could bully nations into silence are gone. Their veto cannot erase law. Their propaganda cannot hide mass graves. Their power cannot crush the will of a people who, despite decades of dispossession, refuse to vanish.

The day is coming—and now it feels close-when Palestinians will live in a sovereign state, when Israel will exist as a nation among equals instead of a colonizer above the law, and when the United States, stripped of its moral cloak, will face the shame of having stood on the wrong side of humanity's last great struggle for justice.

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Israel-Iran Conflict in the Middle East and Regional Instability

Arooba Abbasi

hroughout history, in the Middle East, the conflict between Israel and Iran has resulted in a complicated web of proxy wars, sectarian conflicts, and regional instability. Although long-term animosity between Israel and Iran was sparked by their divergent ideologies, the military conflicts and transgressions have been the main cause of this conflict's smoldering for decades.

The recent attacks on each other indicate a substantial conflict between Israel and Iran, far exceeding past conflicts involving Israel and Hamas. This consequences, affecting not only them as perpetrators but also and genocide in Gaza, and further destabilizing the region.

According to historical anal-

Conflicting interests, ideologies, and security concerns are the main causes of the Israeli Iranian conflict. Iran views Israel as a rogue state that aims to safeguard its political interests and sphere of influence in the area, while Israel views Iran's nuclear program as a threat to its security.

Israel has long been enraged by the Iran-USA nuclear agreement (JCPOA). This is why, when Israel's lobbying went successful and the US withdrew from the agreement in 2018, Israel hailed it greatly. Israel has consistently accused Iran of aiding militants like Hamas, Hezbollah escalation in the continuing and Houthi rebels in the region and criticized the "Axis of Resistance." Iran, on the other hand, has consistently resisted and counconfrontation has far-reaching tered Israel's increasing influence after the Islamic Revolution; it saw Israel as an illegal rogue state increasing the ongoing cruelty in the region and has worked to counter its actions in the Middle

is the two countries had quite them have their roots in a

Eastern events, including the assassination of Iranian army general Qassem Soleimani and Israel's public celebration of it in December 2023, Israel's increased ground offensives in the Gaza Strip that increased the number of refugees and the death toll, and a suspected Israeli airstrike on the Iranian embassy compound in Damascus in 2024 that killed seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard officers. Israel has always considered a nuclear-armed Iran as an intolerable

Tel Aviv has constantly warned that the concern is not only what Iran would do with such a weapon, but also what it would signify for the region: a potential nuclear arms race in the Middle East, empowered Iranian proxy militias, and increased overall

As tensions between Israel and Iran worsen, it is not just the two countries at the center The recent conflicts between of the conflict that are feeling the heat. The possible political.

is not limited to the Middle East, but it has global significance because several significant actors, including the USA and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, actively contributed to easing recent tensions between the two countries. While the fighting has primarily involved Israel, Iran, and various proxy militias operating in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, there are signs that the conflict may expand. The recent clashes between Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and US forces in Yemen and the overthrow of the Asaad regime in Syria are signs of escalating tensions between the two countries.

Certain angles of the conflict must be considered. Arab states, particularly those under the Abraham Accords, have grown closer to Israel in recent years, and intelligence cooperation, to the Palestinians However

cordial relations with each other. number of important Middle military, and economic impact because these are monarchical tists, if tensions rise, the conflict the U. S. and the Kingdom of states, public opinion and mass could involve multiple regional Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia and narrative have little impact on government decisions. Also, we tating consequences for regional members can cooperate to resolve must not forget the decade-long stability and the global economy. the issue. sectarian divide between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which has brought Saudi Arabia closer to Israel while moving away from Iran. There is also an economic dimension, as Iran controls the shipping routes in the Persian Gulf, which are a critical chokepoint for world energy supplies and might cause global oil prices to fluctuate. If tensions between Israel and Iran worsen, energy markets could see substantial shocks, potentially affecting global inflation, particularly in energy-importing countries. The most dangerous possibility, however, is a full-fledged regional conflict. It is impossible to rule out this possibility, particularly particularly in terms of economic in the event of a significant occurrence, such as widespread civilian despite the fact that public casualties or a successful attack on opinion in many of these coun- a strategic Iranian or Israeli city. tries remains broadly sympathetic Since Iran already suffers from the important regional actors and the loss of key officials and scien-

Recommendations

approach to dealing with this issue. Among the strategies may

1. Increased diplomacy and strategic initiatives to address and resolve the underlying issues driving the conflict, such as Iran's nuclear program and Israel's security concerns.

environment for negotiations by incorporating important parties who may then address the underlying reasons of the issue and find a solution, thus fostering regional discussion.

3. International organizations play significant role as well. An international body should involve concerned global actors, such as

and global actors, with devas- other Gulf Cooperation Council

4. The era of war-related alli-Since the regional instability ances has long passed; a new caused by the Israel-Iran conflict era of trade-oriented relations has serious consequences, it is has emerged, in which strong critical to take a multifaceted economic links and diplomatic partnerships build the new international order, which is entirely dependent on strong trade and economic cooperation with one another. Political instability, regional instability, and security threats all endanger economic prospects. It is critical that Iran and Israel recog-2. To foster a more favorable nize this and work together to strengthen their economic and

> trade relations. (All the thoughts are based on personal perception and analysis of certain research paper and news articles)

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Is Indian Prejudice Polluting the American Think tank?

Midhah Fatima

Foreign Affairs article, "How to Survive the New that Washington must revitalize its nuclear strategy. They contend that to Pakistan. due to regional geopolitical dynamics a complex network of interconnected to the wall street journal "Pakistan's

clear, policy-oriented viewpoint and provides a nuanced examination of n the July/August 2025 nuclear challenges across multiple regions. My assessment raises concerns about whether the writers' Nuclear Age," Vipin Narang heritage shaped Indian centric lens and Pranay Vaddi argue and subtly biases how dangers are defined, particularly with reference

Narang and Vaddi suggested that between China, Russia, North Korea, Pakistan may be developing inter-Iran, Pakistan, and India, it is essen- continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) tial to address the deteriorating that could reach the U.S. mainland. global security environment. They This claim is based on unnamed U.S. also demonstrate how the fragmen- intelligence sources and lacks credible tation of nuclear deterrence is creating evidence or confirmation. According

security threats. This article offers a Nuclear Strategy Shifts as US Realigns advancements received little critical India has started suggesting author-Ties in Asia" Pakistan officials have rejected the claims of having ICBMs that could potentially strike US. They asserted this claim as irrational and that their nuclear program is purely defensive and no such weapons have ever been tested or used. Moreover, in the recent confrontation between India and Pakistan, Indian media claimed that India through its air defense system responded successfully by intercepting and neutralizing the conventional missile used by Pakistan. No evidence of using any ICBMs by Pakistan was found or produced

Moreover, India's nuclear policy and

attention in this article and the author do not apply the same level of analysis to India's nuclear development. It fails to discuss India's apparent shift away from its "no first use" (NFU) policy, which originally pledged that India would only use nuclear weapons in retaliation.

This internally driven doctrinal reconsideration could have profound destabilizing effect in the region. According to Modern Diplomacy "22 Years of Nuclearization of South Asia: Current Doctrinal Posture" the $authors\,suggested\,that\,India\,seems\,to$ be drifting away from its NFU policy since 2003. The article expressed that

ization of nuclear retaliation even for chemical or biological weapons. It also affirms that India is keen towards building a more advanced triad nuclear delivery system such as Multiple Independently targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs) and sea-based nuclear weapons.

To conclude, Narang and Vaddi's article shows lack of analytical balance. This is most likely due to their prejudice towards Pakistan and trying to pollute the American think tank.

This narrative has been amplified by recent segments of the Indian media trying to shape U. S. perceptions towards Pakistan in a way that

may not be fully grounded in verified facts.

This selective focus in the article is a try to skew the objective assessment of American thinktank regarding South Asia's regional security dynamics towards Indias favor. In my opinion, instead of being influenced by biased opinions of the individuals based on their nationalism, future U. S nuclear policy towards Pakistan should be formulated on verified facts and evidence.

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The Changing Rhythm of Rain in Pakistan

Pakistan's calendar comforting predictability of its seasons sweltering summers broken by monsoon showers, cool winters welcomed by dry breezes, and springtime harvests brought forth by timely rains. But those rhythms are now faltering. In recent years, the country has witnessed a drastic shift in its rainfall patterns with long spells of drought giving way to sudden, violent downpours. The sky, once a familiar friend, has become increasingly unpredictable.

Cities like Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad are bearing the brunt of this volatility. Where rainfall once arrived in manageable cycles, it now appears in aggressive bursts, flooding streets and crippling infrastructure. At the same time, entire months pass without a drop of rain, baking crops in their fields and emptying the reservoirs that millions rely on. It's a dual crisis: water scarcity on one hand, and urban flooding on the other.

This changing pattern is not just anecdotal it's scien- devastating dry spells. In tific. According to the Global contrast, places like Balochistan

generations, Climate Risk Index by German-previously outside the monsoon's watch, Pakistan consistently ranks among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change. Ironically, despite contributing less than 1% to global greenhouse gas emissions, the country faces some of the gravest climate consequences. The erratic rainfall is a direct reflection of a warming planet. As global temperatures rise, the atmosphere holds more moisture, increasing the likelihood of both prolonged dry spells and intense, concentrated rainfall events. Historically, Pakistan's climate

was moderated by a delicate interplay of monsoon winds, western disturbances, and subtropical jet streams. But these systems have become increasingly erratic over the past two decades. The monsoon, once a consistent guest from June to September, now behaves unpredictably sometimes arriving late, other times dumping excessive rain in just a few hours. Regions like southern Punjab and Sindh, traditionally dependent on monsoon rains, have faced

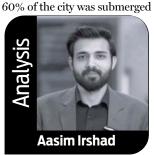
primary path have experienced severe flooding.

The devastating floods of August 2022 served as a wake-up call. Districts in Sindh and Balochistan received nearly 500% more rainfall than average, leading to the displacement of over 33 million people and damages estimated at more than \$30 billion. Just a year later, in 2023, the country faced an opposite yet equally alarming scenario: widespread drought across its agricultural belt, affecting wheat and cotton crops, both vital to the national

The consequences are far-reaching. For rural Pakistan, especially regions dependent on barani (rain-fed) agriculture, erratic rainfall directly impacts livelihoods. Crops like wheat, maize, and pulses rely on consistent rain. Too little, and the seeds don't sprout. Too much, and they're washed away before they can root. In districts like Potohar and Tharparkar, farmers increasingly report crop failure, food insecurity, and

economic distress. In urban areas, the problem

manifests differently but with have increased by more than preventive. While initiatives like addressed without widespread equal severity. Take Lahore, for example once lauded for its gardens and green belts, it now drowns after just a few hours of rainfall. In July 2025, more than



in less than 12 hours of torrential rain. Concrete sprawl, deforestation, clogged drainage systems, and unregulated construction have turned once-resilient cities into disaster zones. Karachi and Islamabad tell similar stories nullahs overflow, streets become rivers, and civic systems collapse under pressure.

According to a 2024 report by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), average monsoon rainfall has declined by 10-15% over the past decade, while extreme weather events particularly heavy downpours

intensity and frequency is precisely what makes the new ture, and people are simply not underfunded. equipped to handle it.

is clear. As the Earth's temperature increases, evaporation from oceans and land also intensifies. The warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, which is then released in short but violent rain events. At the same time, changing wind patterns and jet streams trap weather systems in certain regions, leading to either prolonged droughts or back-toback storms. South Asia, due to its geography and population density, is particularly vulner-

Unfortunately, Pakistan's climate infrastructure remains woefully inadequate. The country's early warning systems lack precision, particularly for localized storms. Many rural areas have no warning systems at all, and urban centers depend on outdated stormwater infrastructure. Government response has often been reactive rather than

30%. This mismatch between the Recharge Pakistan program aimed at restoring wetlands and managing floodwaters are steps rainfall patterns so dangerous. in the right direction, imple-The environment, infrastruc- mentation remains sluggish and

In the face of such a multi-The science behind this shift faceted crisis, Pakistan needs an equally layered response. First, water management must be reformed. Small and medium-sized reservoirs, rainwater harvesting systems, and sustainable groundwater practices can country is in a position to attract all help alleviate water scarcity. Second, cities must be redesigned for climate resilience including investments in permeable pavements, green belts, urban forests, and strict enforcement of zoning laws. Third, rural agriculture must adopt climatesmart practices. Drought-resistant crops, drip irrigation, rethinking of how we build our and soil conservation methods cities, grow our food, and treat need to be taught at the grassroots level. Fourth, forecasting capabilities must be upgraded. AI-enabled radar systems and satellite-based tracking tools can drastically improve preparedness and disaster response. Finally, public education is vital. The climate crisis will never be

understanding and behavioral

Despite the grim statistics, there is room for optimism. Pakistan has a large, young population that is increasingly aware of environmental issues. The tech sector is expanding. Green startups are emerging. With international climate funding now more accessible particularly after Pakistan's pivotal role in COP27 negotiations the resources for adaptation and mitigation.

But time is running out. If current trends continue, the rainfall that once nurtured this land could become its greatest threat. The crisis demands not just action from policymakers but a national awakening a our environment. Rain is no longer a blessing we can take for granted. It has become a test one that Pakistan must urgently rise

Author is a multimedia journalist based in Pakistan, with a focus on public policy, governance, and socio-political affairs.

The Spokesman

Induction ceremony of Z-10ME Multan: Field Marshal Asim Munir is briefed by Pakistan Army officials during the induction ceremony of Z-10ME attack

Pakistan Army inducts Z-10ME gunship helicopters into combat fleet

Asim Tanveer

Army has further strengthened its aerial capabilities with and ongoing training activities Z-10ME is seen as a decithe induction of the "Z-10ME" at Corps Headquarters during sive step forward in the Pakigunship helicopter into its his to Multan Garrison. aviation division.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS)

MULTAN: The Pakistan briefing on the operational effectively. preparedness of the formation

The "Z-10ME" gunship satisfaction over the high dation. elicopter is capable of effec-professionalism, training tively targeting air and ground standards and combat read- witnessed a live firepower the importance of national targets and is being hailed as iness of the Pakistan Army a new development in the and reiterated the resolve to helicopters at the Muzaffarchanging combat environ- defend the country's sover- garh Field Firing Range. eignty and territorial integrity.

state-of-the-art, Field Marshal Asim Munir all-weather, day and night presided over the induction gunship platform is equipped ceremony in Multan, the Inter with advanced radar systems, Services Public Relations electronic warfare capabilities (ISPR) said in a press release. and precision-guided muni-

Field Marshal Asim Munir tions, enabling it to strike also received a detailed enemy air and ground targets

The induction of the stan Army's modern warfare The army chief expressed strategy and aviation upgra-

demonstration by Z-10ME unity, civil-military coordina- Munir was welcomed by the

On this occasion, various presented an impressive display of "combined arms

The army chief appreciated Headquarters in Multan, the

skills and combat readiness of the soldiers and said that the Pakistan Army is fully prepared to maintain a decisive edge even in the changing

war environment.

this occasion, he stressed to the enemy tion and a common national strategy.

He said that unity of the units of the Pakistan Army entire nation is essential to deal with the hybrid threats of the present era.

In his address at the Corps

and regional security will be defended at all costs. He termed the ongoing

stan's national sovereignty

training activities of the Pakistan Army as a matter of pride The army chief also met and said that this preparation various academic and social further strengthens the capafigures during his visit. On bility to give a befitting reply

> Earlier, Field Marshal Asim Corps Commander Multan upon his arrival in Multan.

Military experts have described the visit as extremely important in the context of assessing the operational preparedness of the Pakistan Army and integrating modern the high morale, professional army chief said that Paki-technology.

NAB highlights illegal distribution of government land

跨 Bureau Report

acres of valuable government

According to a report,

QUETTA: The National senior officials of the Board their front men.

According to reliable lands is in billions of rupees. includes serious crimes like could not be traced.

a well organized collusion sources, NAB Balochistan has has come to light between intensified investigation operations in Karak, Samkhel, Accountability Bureau (NAB) of Revenue, influential land Tala Haiderzai, Chashma lands can be frozen and the transfer of lands. Balochistan has highlighted a mafia and certain polit- Achozai areas of Quetta ongoing process of forgery can major fraud of illegal distri- ical figures through mutual district and Mawali Shumali bution of more than 11,000 connivance transferred land and Chichai of Hub district. worth billions of rupees to Due to the attractive locations

on this matter so that these be stopped.

According to the sources, the scam was being run by

NAB has approached the forgery of records, fake allot-Accountability Court Quetta ments, manipulation of government orders and illegal

Lands were often transferred in the names of favoured individuals or frontmen of influential in the areas, the value of the an organized network, which figures, so that the real owners

Lahore ATC holds jail trial of PTI leaders in May 9 Gulberg riots case

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore conducted a hearing in the May 9 riots case at Kot Lakhpat Jail.

The ATC judge, Arshad Javed, presided over the in-camera proceedings.

According to court prosecution details, witnesses, including officials from the FIA Islamabad, PEMRA, and investigating officers, appeared in court for cross-examination.

However, lead defense counsel advocate Burhan Moazzam Malik, who is representing political leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid, Shah Mahmood Qureshi,



a different court.

In his absence, a junior defense lawyer appeared and requested more time to prepare for cross-examination, which the court accepted, adjourning the proceedings until August 5.

Attendance of both under-custody and on-bail accused was recorded. However, two accused— Nayyar Irfan and Altaf Bashir—failed to appear.

In response, the court issued non-bailable arrest warrants for the absentees and also cancelled their surety bonds.

Meanwhile, Dr Yasmin Rashid and Ejaz Chaudhry were presented in court. Their attendance was

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Palestinian Government urges international action to open crossings into Gaza



RAMALLAH: Government Communication Center - The Palestinian Government on Saturday issued an urgent appeal to the international community and UN humanitarian agencies to exert greater pressure on the Israeli occupation to immediately open all border crossings into the Gaza Strip and allow the unhindered fire is in place. entry of thousands of life-saving aid trucks currently stranded near the commended the coordinated efforts besieged enclave; as well as to stop Israel, the occupying Power, from using starvation as a weapon in its genocidal war against the Palestinian people. The appeal comes as food insecurity in Gaza has reached 100%, hunger crisis, which has reached cataaccording to specialized UN agencies. strophic and unprecedented levels.

In a statement, the Government also expressed deep appreciation for the continued efforts of international humanitarian organizations working to deliver aid contribution to the starved Palestinian people in the Strip. It emphasized the urgent need to secure additional resources to scale up relief operations as soon as greater access is allowed and a cease-

The Government of Jordan, the UAE, France, Spain, and Germany, whose joint initiative resulted in airdrops of aid into Gaza. The operation was carried out in response to the rapidly worsening

Mortar shell explosion kills five children in Lakki Marwat



👺 Mati Ullah

LAKKI MARWAT: In a tragic incident, five children were killed and 11 others injured when a mortar shell exploded in the Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

The incident occurred within the limits of Saddar Police Station. According to police, the accident occurred when the children found a mortar shell in an open field, which they unknowingly brought to their home. Once at home, the shell exploded, causing a devastating blast.

According to a rescue spokesperson, emergency ambulances reached the spot immediately after receiving reports of the explosion.

The injured and deceased were

sources confirmed that most of the 19. injured were children, with some in critical condition.

An emergency has been declared at the hospital, and all staff have been instructed to report to duty imme-The sources said that 17 people

were brought to the hospital, of whom five were declared dead and 12 injured. They said that the injured were being provided immediate medical assistance.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident, while the bomb disposal squad is also searching the area to check for the presence of more mortar shells.

The incident has caused widespread fear and panic among the shifted to a nearby hospital. Hospital local population.

Islamabad Express en route to Rawalpindi derails near Kala Shah Kaku

跨 Bureau Report

GUJRANWALAL: The Islamabad Express, which was going from Lahore to Rawalpindi met with an accident near Kala Shah Kaku last night. The seven bogies of the train derailed, and more than 30 passengers were injured in the incident.

Initial reports blamed the driver, who allegedly ignored the prescribed train speed. Sources said misalignment issues were reported before the that the accident was also caused by departure of the train, but these prob- a crack in the track.

lems were not properly looked into.

According to railway officials, a total of nine bogies were affected in the accident, while the train's engine remained unaf-

fected. According to the DS Railways, 800 metres of track has

been affected at the accident site, and work is underway to lay a temporary track with the help of heavy machinery so that train traffic can be restored soon.

The sources said that it may take another five hours for the complete restoration of the track.

Railway officials have formed a high-level committee to investigate the accident. Initially, it is suspected

