(مصحح بخاری: حدیث نبر 7249) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

PPP demands Shehbaz-led govt disclose US deals in Parliament

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader and former Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani on Tuesday demanded that the federal government disclose all international agreements being made abroad, claiming that even the public found out about major petroleum and mineral deals through a tweet by the US President.



**Govt ensuring safe, smooth travel for** Arbaeen pilgrims: Khawaja Asif

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday assured the National Assembly that the government is taking all necessary measures to facilitate pilgrims travelling to Iran and Iraq for Arbaeen. Speaking in the National Assembly, the de sised that the safety and conven

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Safar 11, Wednesday, August 6, 2025







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#### Kashmir Exploitation Day

ISLAMABAD: A large number of people participating in the rally regarding "Kashmir Exploitation Day" outside Parliament House in



# Pakistan reiterates solidarity with Kashmiris on Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's civil and military leadership on Tuesday reaffirmed their unwavering solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir being observed today.

Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is observed on August 5 to mark India's illegal annexation of occupied Kashmir by revoking Article 370 of its constitution in 2019.

In their separate messages, the civil and military leadership condemned India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and the atrocities of the Indian mili-

They also urged the international community to play its role in implementing UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute.

In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy and urged the international community to play a role to halt Indian human rights crimes in Indian-occupied Kashmir and reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019.

The prime minister also called for the global community's role in prime minister remarked. urging India to repeal the draconian laws and implement the UN

Jammu and Kashmir.

"On this Youm-e-Istehsal, the Government of Pakistan and I reaffirm the unwavering solidarity of the Pakistani people with our Kashmiri sisters and brothers. We reiterate our strongest condemnation of India's illegal and unilateral actions taken since 5 August 2019 to alter the demographic structure, and political landscape of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), in complete defiance of international law, norms and principles, as well as the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council," the

Calling Youm-e-Istehsal a sobering reminder of India's tary to suppress the just struggle Security Council resolutions on rejection of peace and stability and spirit of sacrifice of the Kash-

and its investment in brutality and unilateralism, he said that the continued denial of the basic human rights, dignity and identity of Kashmiris living under India's illegal and unconscionable occupation was a recipe for

regional instability. The prime minister said that India's occupation could not be sustained by any normal means, and it has thus doubled down on a nearly eight-decade regime of

state terrorism and oppression. "The brave Kashmiri people have endured this brutality with incredible dignity. Today is a day for all Pakistanis, and all peaceloving people of the world, to salute the unwavering resilience

miri people."

He said that the efforts to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people were part of the wider hegemonic and extremist agenda that informs India's illegal occupation of Kashmir.

"The imprisonment of Kashmiri leaders and activists, including Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Yasin Malik and Masarrat Alam Bhatt, will never dim the resolve of our Kashmiri sisters and brothers. The continued defiance of Kashmiris in an environment of unending intimidation across the illegal Indian occupation is more proof of the indomitable courage of the Kashmiri people," Prime Minister Shehbaz added.

### **Armed forces** reaffirm solidarity with Kashmiri people

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal, Field Marshal, Chief of Army Staff Sved Asim Munir, NI(M), along with the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, and the Pakistan Armed Forces, reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with the resilient and courageous people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The Armed Forces of Pakistan fully support the legitimate and ongoing struggle of the Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in international law and UN Security Council resolutions, said a statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The continued illegal occupation of IIOJK by Indian security forces - characterised by an unrelenting military siege, systemic human rights violations, and demographic engineering — constitutes a grave breach of international norms and remains a matter of deep concern.

India's repressive actions,



coupled with its belligerent posture and incendiary rhetoric, serve only to exacerbate regional instability and perpetuate human suffering, it further said.

It is unequivocally evident that durable peace in South Asia remains unattainable without the just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and relevant UN resolutions.

"The Pakistan Armed Forces pay solemn tribute to the martyrs of IIOJK and reiterate their enduring commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiri people in their just and rightful struggle for freedom," the statement

# Nine lawmakers including Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz disqualified by ECP

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has disqualified Senate Opposition Leader Shibli Faraz and National Assembly Opposition Leader Omar Ayub, along with seven other lawmakers, following their conviction in multiple

anti-terrorism cases. According to an official ECP notification issued on August 5, 2025, the disqualifications follow orders from the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Faisalabad, which handed down convictions Muhammad Hamid Raza, in three separate cases. The

under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution, which bars individuals convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude from remaining members of parliament.

The following parliamentarians have been disqualified and de-notified: Senator Syed Shibli Faraz (Opposition Leader, Senate), Omar Ayub Khan, MNA, NA-18 Haripur (Opposition Leader, National Assembly), Rai Haider Ali Khan, MNA, NA-96 Faisalabad-II, Sahibzada Continued on Page 8

# Interior ministry announces repatriation of Afghan 'Proof of Registration' card holders

B City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ministry of Interior Affairs announced the repatriation of Afghan nationals holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards from September 1.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting, citing security concerns and increasing pres-

sure on national resources. As per the decision, NADRA

will cancel the registration of repatriation drive for Afghan refu-Afghans at border terminals, while the FIA will provide facilitation at designated border crossing

The decision also calls for the establishment of transit areas and

financial assistance for deportees. Daily progress on the repatriation will be monitored through the Foreign National Security Dashboard, the notification stated.

Pakistan launched a major

gees in 2023, which was intensified in April this year.

During the campaign, the government revoked residence permits of hundreds of thousands of Afghan nationals and warned that those overstaying the deadline would face arrest.

So far, over 1 million Afghan nationals have left Pakistan, including 200,000 since April



### National Assembly condemns India's August 5 actions in occupied Kashmir

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution condemnly Occupied Jammu and Kashmir 5, 2019.

The resolution was tabled by Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Magam.

According to the resolution, ing India's unilateral actions of India undertook illegal actions in August 5, 2019, in Indian Illegal- Jammu and Kashmir on August

The House expressed unwavering solidarity with the people Jammu and Kashmir. of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for the right to self-determination.

House categorically rejected all unconstitutional actions, domestic laws and poli-

cies adopted by India in occupied The resolution declared that

these actions were in clear violation of United Nations resolutions and international laws. It paid tribute to the sacrifices, bravery, and courage of the Kashmiri

people and strongly condemned the atrocities and human rights violations committed by the Indian armed forces.

The House also called for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Indian occupied

### Malik Riaz hints at Bahria Town shutdown, offers dialogue

News Desk

Property ISLAMABAD: tycoon Malik Riaz has hinted at a possible shutdown of Bahria Town operations across Pakistan, citing what he calls sustained pressure and actions by government institutions that have "crippled" the company's ability to function.

In a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Riaz claimed that Bahria Town's operations have been severely affected in recent months due to government-led crackdowns.

He alleged that dozens of staff members have been arrested, company accounts frozen, and vehicles confiscated, bringing cash flow to a standstill and daily services

to a halt. "We are now unable to pay the salaries of tens of thousands of our staff," Riaz said,



warning that the situation has escalated to a point where a complete nationwide shutdown of Bahria Town operations is being considered.

However, he called this a "last resort" and expressed a willingness to step back if conditions improve.

Riaz said the company's core infrastructure — comprising 50,000 employees — has been paralysed, with senior staff missing, services suspended, development projects stalled, and basic community maintenance in disarray.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

# Pakistan reaffirms solidarity with Kashmiri people on 'Youm-e-Istehsal'

ISLAMABAD: The people and Government of Pakistan on Tuesday solemnly observed the 'Youm-e-Istehsal', on the sixth anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In their special messages on the occasion, the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister have renewed Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic, political and moral support to the Kashmir Cause and called for resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, a news release from Foreign Office Spokesperson said.

They have also underscored that India's unlawful actions since 5 August 2019 are aimed at turning the Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their land.

The Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister has addressed letters



Assembly, the President of the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the OIC Secretary-General to apprise them of the latest developments in IIOJK.

In these letters, he has urged the implementation of relevant UN Secupeople of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their future.

He has also stressed the urgent need for improving the human rights situation in IIOJK and releasing the incarcerated Kashmiri political prisoners.

Ahead of the 'Youm-e-Istehsal', the Foreign Secretary briefed the Islamato the President of the UN General rity Council resolutions to enable the bad-based diplomatic missions on the

situation in IIOJK, on 4 August 2025.

She highlighted the legal, security and human rights dimensions of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, with special reference to the developments of the past few months in the region.

To express solidarity with the oppressed people of IIOJK, a special 'Walk' was held in Islamabad this morning, along Constitution Avenue, up to the D-Chowk.

The walk was led by the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister. The officers and staff members of the Ministry participated in the walk, alongside people from other spheres

A range of activities have been designed throughout the country to observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal', which include public rallies, seminars, webinars, panel discussions and photo exhibitions.

With the active participation of the Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora, Pakistan's diplomatic missions around the world are also arranging special events to raise global awareness about the Indian oppression in

# August 5, 2019 is the darkest day in Kashmiri history: Sardar Attique



**Bureau Report** 

MUZAFFARABAD/DHIRKOT: Addressing the main event organized by the Muslim Conference in Dhirkot on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that August 5, 2019 is the darkest day in Kashmiri history, the day on which India not only robbed the fundamental rights of Kashmiris by abolishing the special constitutional status of occupied Kashmir but also openly violated the resolutions of the United Nations, democratic values and human rights. He said that India tried to completely occupy Kashmir by abolishing Articles 370 and 35-A, but the Kashmiri people have rejected it. The hearts of Kashmiris still beat with Pakistan and their destination is only and only freedom. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that: Our party, All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, is a representative party of the Kashmiri people whose past is also full of sacrifices and the present is also a mirror of resistance and struggle. We will continue to be the voice of the Kashmiri people at every forum in the world. These views were expressed while addressing a grand ceremony in Dhirkot. On this occasion, central leaders, former member of the Kashmir Council Raja Iftikhar Ayub, Major (retd) Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Abdul Rashid Chughtai Advocate, Irfan Abbasi, Raja Munir, Raja Tabarak Ali and others were present. He further said that the August 5 initiative is not only a political crime but also a human tragedy. Millions of Kashmiris are facing continuous curfew, lockdown, internet shutdown, and worst violence. Rape of women, disappearance of youth, and insult to elders have become the hallmark of the occupied valley today. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan thanked the \*government of Pakistan, the armed forces of Pakistan and the people\* for standing with the Kashmiris in every difficult time. He said that Pakistan is the hope of Kashmiris, our diplomatic and moral protector, and the backer of our movement. We want Pakistan to present  $\,$ this struggle in a stronger manner at the global level. The President of the Muslim Conference called on the international community, the United Nations, the OIC and human rights organizations to break the silence and take notice of the ongoing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

#### Pakistan and Azad Kashmir Flag Carrying Protest Rally Demands UN Intervention in Occupied Kashmir

#### **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: A protest rally was organized in Muzaffarabad on the occasion of the Liberation Day under the auspices of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell. The rally was led by Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, Minister Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Ms. Imtiaz Naseem, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushhal Khan. The participants of the rally raised slogans against the illegal occupation of India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The participants of the rally were hoisting the flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The participants of the rally submitted a memorandum to the United Nations Observer Office condemning the illegal occupation of India-occupied Kashmir, the actions taken after August 5, 2019, the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and demanded that the UN Secretary General implement his resolutions regarding Kashmir.

# People across KP express solidarity with Kashmiris, condemn Indian atrocities

PESHAWAR: People across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa observed Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir and staged rallies and demonstration on Tuesday to express solidarity with Kashmiris and condemn the atrocity of Indian security forces against them. In this connection, a procession was staged on Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Road. The procession participated by a large number of students, teachers, civil society, trading and lawyers' communities was led by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi. Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr Mohammad Ali Saif also participated in the rally.

The rally started from the gate of the Governor's House marched on the Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Road till Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Addressing the participants of the rally, the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi said, six years have passed since the barbar $ic\,abolition\,of\,the\,special\,status\,of\,the\,Indian\,Illegally\,Occupied\,Jammu$ Kashmir (IIOJK) by India.

He said that today the world community is silent over the atrocity of Indian security forces against innocent Kashmiris who are struggling for their just right to self-determination. But, whenever the issue of Palestine comes to limelight then all super powers come forward to support Israel.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that they have always adopted peaceful mean of diplomacy for expressing solidarity with Kashmiris in their struggle for independence.

He said that due to powerful diplomacy, Pakistan has sidelined India in the world and today the whole world is appreciating us, as our security forces due to strong faith and spirit have defeated an enemy, which was considered stronger than us in all fields. He said that the stronger response of Pakistan stunned the whole world and they begun appeals for the stoppage of the war.

# Kashmir issue to remain Pakistan's top priority: Minister Amir Muqam

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam said that Pakistan will always stand with the Kashmiri people, August 5 is a day of solidarity with the Kashmiri people and condemnation of Indian atrocities, the Kashmir issue was highlighted in a full manner under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, foreign policy under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar played an effective role, the US President also declared Kashmir a controversial issue, the Pakistani people will always stand with the Kashmiris, the Kashmiris will definitely get their

He said that the Pakistani armed forces under the leadership of Army role, the Shehbaz Sharif government ical protest call on the occasion of the miris, protest politics on August 5 is an impose occupation on Kashmir under



Chief General Munir played a proud Exploitation Day on August 5 is a insult to the sacrifices of Kashmiris, we fought the Kashmir case at the global and national unity, this particular group politics. Federal Information Minister issue is resolved, peace will not be establevel in a good manner, giving a politisabusing both Pakistan and Kash- Attaullah Tarar said that India tried to lished in the world.

are sure that the people will reject such

martyrs are buried in the Pakistani flag. Pakistan will continue to fight the case of Kashmir. The Prime Minister fought the case of Kashmiris on every front. One day, Kashmiris will get the right to self-determination as per the resolu-

a conspiracy. India does not know that

this is the valley where the bodies of

tions of the United Nations. This is the inalienable right of Kashmiris. India was defeated on the military and diplomatic fronts. India's usurping occupation will not last long. Advisor to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan paid tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir. Minister of State for Education Wajih Qamar said that today you have proven that you are a true warrior. Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Qasim Noon said that India is committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir. After May 10, Kashmir has been highlighted on the global stage. Until the Kashmir

Photos: Online by Sultan Bashir

the defenseless Kashmiris. The

Kashmiri hero Pir Syed Ali

Gilani, may God have mercy

on him, who endured the hard-

ships of imprisonment and

detention all his life, declared

that "We are Pakistanis, Paki-

stan is ours." Kashmiris from all

over the world are still making

sacrifices as guardians of this

The Kashmiri leadership

# Kashmiri Leader Salutes Sacrifices of Oppressed People on Exploitation Day

#### **B** Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan participated in the Kashmir Exploitation Day Rally along with hundreds of people to express solidarity with his oppressed Kashmiris and salute the eternal sacrifices of the Kashmiri people against the usurping, cruel, unconstitutional actions of the Indian government on August 5, 2019.

On this occasion, the former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, while addressing the rally participants, said that the Kashmiris had decided to join Pakistan on July 19, 1947, in the form of a unanimous resolution at the residence of Ghazi-



e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Kashmir is currently the most where 1 million Indian armed Ibrahim Khan. Occupied militarized zone in the world forces are wreaking havoc on

made every sacrifice for the freedom movement. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Masarat Alam, Shabbir Shah, Yasin Malik and Asia Andrabi have become the metaphor of resistance in

Kashmir. The children and youth of Kashmir are following the path of martyr Burhanuddin Wani and sacrificing their beautiful youth for their

# Kashmir Exploitation Day: PM condemns India's illegal actions in Occupied Kashmir

#### 👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minisul Haq, has reaffirmed the unwaverstruggle for the freedom of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, declaring that the ongoing liberation movement movement will be carried to its logical will be taken to its logical conclusion despite all odds.

addressing a special session of the Assembly, convened on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day, observed annually on August 5 to condemn India's unilateral and illegal revocation of Articles 370 and 35A in 2019.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Haq said, "240 million people ter of Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar of Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, Occupied Kashmir, and the global Kashmiri diasing national resolve to continue the pora stand united behind the cause of Kashmir.

"The ongoing Kashmir freedom conclusion despite all odds", he reiterated. The Prime Minister lauded the He expressed these views while efforts of the current military leadership, particularly Field Marshal Syed Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Asim Munir, for adopting a clear-cut stance on the Kashmir issue following India's August 5, 2019 move.

"The stance taken by the Army Chief

Kashmir issue but made it a flashpoint once again," he stated. Condemning India's actions in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Haq said the Indian government's designs were aimed at changing the region's demographic composition and suppressing the political voice of Kashmiris.

He criticized the puppet authorities in Indian occupied Kashmir for denial of fundamental rights, including the refusal to allow Kashmiris to pay respects at martyrs' graves.

Referring to internal matters, the Prime Minister rejected attempts to make the issue of refugee seats a divisive debate, asserting that the issue was not only lifted the fog surrounding the being raised unnecessarily to sabotage

"Any such conspiracies will be dealt

with firmly. When the state decides to the Constitution of Azad Jammu and the authority to amend it.

implement its writ, it does not take Kashmir, the Prime Minister affirmed 30 seconds," he warned. Defending that only the elected Assembly holds



30º - 38º Clear

SERVI	CES
Namaz T	imings
Fajr	
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:05 pm
Maghrib	7:05 pm
Isha	8:38 pm

<b>EMERGENCY</b>
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

#### ENGLIDY

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS**

E-7, F-10 & F-11. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, .....9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Wasa Water Tank

#### FDA to hold special events to celebrate *Independence* Day

#### **Bureau Report**

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) is holding special events to celebrate Independence Day in a befitting manner. As part of these celebrations, the FDA Complex has been decorated with green and white lights, following a national flag theme. National flags and banners have also been displayed on various main roads to highlight the significance of the "Battle for Truth," "Operation Bunyanul-Marsus," and national pride. Acting Director General FDA

Qaisar Abbas Rind chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Independence Day activities. The meeting was attended by Directors Asma Mohsin, Junaid Hassan Manj, Yasir Ijaz Chattha, Sohail Maqsood Pannu, Asim Mehmood and other

officials. He announced that the "Jashan-e-Azadi Mushaira" (Independence Day Poetry Recital) will be held at the FDA Complex on August 11. Renowned poets will present their poetry to highlight patriotic sentiments, pay tribute to the sacrifices made for Pakistan, and emphasize the importance of protecting its independence.

# Masood Khan calls for sustained global advocacy and unified civil rights movement for Kashmir

#### Beroue Report

MUZAFFARABAD: "Kashmir is not forgotten—it remains a global issue, but the skewed international balance of power continues to stifle the voice of Kashmiris," said Sardar Masood Khan, Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan's former Ambassador to the United States, China, and the United Nations. In a special interview with Radio Pakistan, Ambassador Khan called for sustained, structured efforts across diplomatic forums

agenda, particularly through forums like the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, and international platforms such as the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

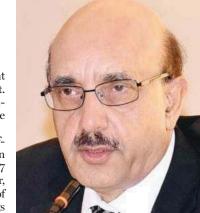
Commenting on the failure of bilateralism, Ambassador Khan asserted that India's longstanding tactic has been to present Kashmir as a bilateral matter to the international community—only to then deny its very existence when engaged at the negotiating table. "When Kashmiris seek their rights, they are

to ensure Kashmir returns to the global labelled rebels and traitors. This is the tragedy of India's two-faced strategy," he said. He urged Pakistanis, Kashmiris, and the global diaspora to strengthen their efforts, emphasizing that the time has come for a new era of resistance and strategic clarity.

Reflecting on past peace initiatives, including the Musharraf-Manmohan Singh formula, he stated that such models are obsolete under the current Indian government led by Narendra Modi and driven by extremist forces like the RSS. "Even under more favour-

able circumstances, that formula sought to freeze the status quo-not resolve it. Today, it would provoke fierce opposition and bury the Kashmir cause," he

Ambassador Khan strongly reaffirmed Pakistan's principled position on Kashmir's sovereignty. "Under the 1947 Indian Independence Act, UN Charter, and international law, the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir rightfully belongs to Pakistan," he emphasized. He criticized the distortion of legal and historical facts by India and reiterated that the will



of the Kashmiri people must be central to any future political arrangement.

#### Called on

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Head of the European Union delegation to Pakistan Dr. Riina Kionka called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Awan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



# King Salman Relief completes distribution food packages to affected families in AJK

#### 

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has successfully completed the distribution of 6,000 food packages to families affected by natural disasters across ten districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The distribution included 325 food packages in Muzaffarabad, 542 in Jhelum Valley, 433 in Neelum, 796 in Kotli, 281 in Bhimber, 250 in Mirpur, 1,040 in Sudhnoti, 1,073 in Poonch, 934 in Haveli, and 326 in Bagh.

Each food package weighs 95 kilograms and includes 80 kg of flour, 5 liters of cooking oil, 5 kg of sugar, and 5 kg of lentils (chana dal). This humanitarian aid initiative was carried out in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the State Disaster Management Authority of AJK, and the Hayat Foundation, ensuring commitment to supporting itude to King Salman Relief timely and transparent delivery and rehabilitating disaster-af- and the Kingdom of Saudi



of assistance to the affected

More than 41,121 individuals directly benefited from AJK Disaster Managethis effort, which stands as a ment testament to KSrelief's strong

fected communities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Director General of the Authority, Sardar Waheed, expressed his gratArabia for their timely and generous support. He personally attended a distribution ceremony in Muzaffarabad, reflecting the strong cooperation between KSrelief and the Government of Azad Kashmir to reach those most in need.

### $On \, occasion \, of Kashmir Siege$ Day rally Lead By Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab

MULTAN: On the occasion of Kashmir Siege Day, a rally was organized by the South Punjab Secretariat, led by Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fuad Hashim Rabbani.

Special Secretary C&W Aftab Pirzada, Section Officers, and staff members participated in the rally.

While addressing the rally, Fuad Hashim Rabbani stated that August 5, 2019, will be remembered in the history of occupied Kashmir as a dark chapter of oppression and tyranny.

He said that India, through its unilateral and illegal actions, attacked the identity, rights, and freedom of the Kashmiri people. He emphasized that the right of self-determination cannot be taken away from Kashmiris through the use of force.

Meanwhile, a similar rally at the South Punjab Secretariat Multan was led by Deputy Secretary Staff Abdul Saboor Thakur.

#### Youm-i-Istehsal Kashmir Observed across Toba Tek Singh District



TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir was observed across Toba Tek Singh with solemnity and resolve. The district-level observance was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu, with the main event organized at District Council Hall.

The ceremony was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Syed Jamil Haider Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Zeeshan Labbha Masih, Assistant Commissioner, CEO District Council Mahr Anwar Baig Sial, officers from various departments, PML-N leader Haris Amjad, representatives of the traders' association, peace committee, civil society and media personnel. ADC (Revenue) Syed Jamil Haider Shah stated that India had taken an unlawful step to consolidate its occupa-

ADC (General) Zeeshan Labbha Masih called the move a reflection of Hindu fascism and racial supremacy. PML-N leader Haris Amjad emphasized that no matter how long the night of oppression, the dawn of freedom is inevitable.

Participants paid tribute to the Kashmiri martyrs and expressed unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people. The event concluded with a rally where participants raised Pakistani and Kashmiri flags, chanting slogans of "Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan".

Peace Committee member Ma'nam Siddiqi led a special prayer for the Kashmiri martyrs. Similar seminars and rallies were also held in Kamalia, Pir Mahal, and Gojra with significant public partici-

# Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum: A champion of public welfare and a builder of livelihoods

#### **Special Correspondent**

MULTAN: Creating employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan, promoting industry and trade, and launching welfare projects are acts of great national service. In this context, the efforts of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum are highly commendable and worthy of emulation.

Known as the benefactor of Multan, the doors of employment, but has also of two modern RO water filtration Sabzwari Town is a reflection of this Dogar, and Rao Asif have expressed

spirit. These plants provide clean, pure, and hygienic drinking water completely free of cost. This initiative is not only a significant step for public health but also holds the promise of a marked improvement in the quality of life for the local residents. Residents such as Dr. Tayyab

Malik, Hafeez-ur-Rehman Suiya, Muhammad Siddiq Siddiqui, Nadeem Khan, Kashan Bhutta, Subhan Bhutta, he has not only contributed to industry Muhammad Shafiq, Tahir Khan, and and craftsmanship, thereby opening Hafiz Ameen have acknowledged that this access to clean water will greatly fulfilled his social responsibilities by benefit their health. Similarly, well-inserving humanity. The establishment formed citizens like Abu Hizam Qari Ali Ahmad, Hamza Askari, Atiq-urplants in New Shah Shams Colony and Rehman, Javed Chaudhry, Mubashir

heartfelt gratitude to Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, stating that the example he has set in public service is a guiding light for others in the private

The services of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum stand as a remarkable example of national service—an achievement that every compassionate Pakistani can take pride in. His dedication, sincerity, and practical steps for public welfare truly deserve appreciation.

Project in-charge Zain Khan Malghani clarified that these RO filtration plants are not only benefitting the residents of the two colonies but also people from distant areas and markets, who are availing clean and quality water for 18 hours a day, free of



charge. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum success alone but devoted themselves is among those rare individuals who to the service of humanity. His welfare ment opportunities—are shining examdid not limit their purpose to business initiatives—especially the provision of

clean water and creation of employples of social service.

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#### Youm- e- Istehsal observed across globe

akistan missions and embassies in various capitals of the world, Tuesday, observed Youm-e-Istehsal-Kashmir to mark the 6th anniversary of India's continued illegal actions of 5th August 2019, in which a large number of Pakistani diaspora and Kashmiris participated.

The messages of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and were read out during these events and special documentaries highlighting atrocities of Indian Government in IIOJK were also screened.

Pakistan embassy in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates observed the day to highlight India's illegal steps aimed at altering the internationally recognized disputed status of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

In his statement, Charge d'affaires Qasim Aziz highlighted the importance of observance of the Youm-e-Istehsal and recalled India's brutality in IIOJK resulting in violation of fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

He referred to illegal actions of 5 August 2019 as a blatant violation of international law including the UN Charter and UN Security Council Resolutions.

Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran organized an event to denounce the abrogation of article 35 A and 370 of the constitution that guarantee special autonomous status for Jammu & Kashmir by Indian Government on 5th August 2019 which aimed at changing demography in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

On the occasion, Deputy Head of Mission Ismat Hassan Sial mentioned that Iranian leadership has also given a great regard to struggle in Kashmir and at multiple times called upon the world community to break its silence on the human rights violations in Jammu & Kashmir.

A minute of silence was observed by Pakistan Embassy in Egypt by the Ambassador, embassy Officials earlier on Youm e Estehsal to honour the relentless sacrifices of valiant Kashmiri people for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Pakistan Embassy in Jordan organized a seminar to mark Youm-e-Istehsal (Day of Exploitation, Kashmir), highlighting the ongoing oppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The event was attended by distinguished members of the academia, think tanks, media, and other notables from Jordan.

High Commissioner Malik Farooq attended the Youm-e-Ishtehsal event in Cape Town organized by PASA

He highlighted Indian atrocities in IIOJK & reaffirmed 's support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination. Ganief Hendricks, Khalid Syed & local MPs also joined.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo observed the sixth anniversary of Youm-e-Istehsal. On this occasion, the embassy also organized a photographic exhibition to highlight the human rights situation in IIOK.

# A Decisive Blow to Kashmir: The Wound of August 5 That Remains Unhealed

icles of tyranny oppression are written in the annals of human history, the plight of the Kashmiri people features as a recurring tragedy. August 5, 2019, marks one of the darkest chapters in Kashmir's modern history a day when the Modi-led Indian government unilaterally and unlawfully abrogated Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, stripping the region of its special constitutional status. This action not only dismantled Kashmir's identity but also blatantly violated United Nations resolutions, international laws, and bilateral

Article 370 was the constitutional arrangement promised by India at the time of Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession in 1947. It guaranteed the region internal autonomy, a separate constitution, local citizenship, and exclusive rights over land and legislation. Article 35A legally restricted non-Kashmiris from purchasing land or holding government jobs in the state a crucial safeguard for preserving its Muslim-majority identity. However, on August 5, through a presidential order, these provisions were revoked, and the state was split into two union territories placed under direct central control. This act was not

henever the chron-identity of an entire nation.

Even before the formal announcement, Kashmir had already been turned into a heavily militarized prison. Tens of thousands of additional troops were deployed; internet, phone, and mobile networks were suspended; and the region's political leadership was either placed under house arrest or imprisoned. The local population was alienated in their own home-

land. Journalists were silenced, human rights activists suppressed, and thousands of youth detained without trial, creating an atmosphere of fear and subjugation. With international media barred and a full digital blackout imposed, Kashmir was cut off from the outside

Life in Kashmir became a collective punishment. Education collapsed, healthcare systems deteriorated, businesses crumbled, and society fell into a deep state of stagnation and despair. Women, children, and the elderly all suffered under the shadow of relentless state oppression. Their tongues were silenced, yet their eyes screamed. Their bodies remained motionless, but their hearts carried storms. The world, just a constitutional maneuver, but a which claims to uphold human rights deliberate attempt to erase the collective and modern values, responded with mere

concern no action. Institutions like the strategy to turn Kashmiris into a minority UN, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch issued reports condemning India's actions, but the global conscience remained dormant beneath the weight of economic and strategic interests.

Pakistan has consistently extended its political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people. At the United Nations, Pakistan laid bare the Modi

government's fascist agenda and Hindutva ideology. Efforts were made on diplomatic fronts to awaken the world to the grim reality of Kashmir the world listened, but did not heed. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) released traditional statements of support, yet failed

to deliver any concrete backing. The Kashmiris were left alone as oppressed nations so often are in the pages of

history. Five years have now passed. It is 2025, and the situation in Kashmir remains unchanged. India has embarked on a campaign of demographic engineering, redrawing electoral boundaries to weaken Muslim representation. Millions of non-Kashmiris have been granted domicile certificates, lands are being allotted, jobs distributed all part of a long-term

in their own homeland. This is nothing short of demographic aggression a gross violation of international law and UN resolutions, which recognize Kashmir as a disputed territory whose fate must be decided through a plebiscite.

Today, Kashmir is still a prison. Its people may be muzzled, but their spirit endures. Their hopes, though wounded, are not extinguished. They understand that the sun of tyranny cannot shine forever. History bears witness that oppressors perish, but the voice of freedom can never be silenced.

The 5th of August serves as a stark reminder that the price of freedom is not paid by blood alone, but also through patience, sacrifice, and unwavering resolve. The Kashmiris are walking that path even now. The time has come for the international community, the Muslim world, and every person of conscience to raise their voice before history aligns us with the perpetrators of injustice. Silence in the face of tyranny amounts to complicity. If we continue to ignore the cries of Kashmiris, history will not

This column is not just a commemoration of a day; it is a wake-up call to every living conscience. August 5 is a wound that only justice can heal. Otherwise, it will continue to fester across generations. staining the pages of history with unan-



Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Khan Singhanvi

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

### August 5, 2019: The Darkest Day in Kashmir's History

#### Farhat Ali Mir

ugust 5, 2019, marks an indelible scar in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, the Indian government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), unilaterally abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution—stripping the disputed region of its special status, dividing it into Union Territories, and bringing it directly under the control of New Delhi.

This was not a mere constitutional maneuver; it was a direct assault on the unique identity, political autonomy, and internationally recognized right to selfdetermination of the Kashmiri people. The move blatantly violated international law, the UN Charter, and numerous United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that recognize Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory whose final status is to be determined by a plebiscite.

In the aftermath of August 5, India unleashed a campaign of demographic reengineering-issuing domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris, settling outsiders in the region, and enabling them to own land and compete for jobs traditionally reserved for native Kashmiris. This neocolonial tactic aims to convert a majorityMuslim region into a compliant demographic that suits the ideological goals of the ruling elite. Furthermore, Kashmiris face economic exploitation, suppression of free expression, and institutionalized disenfranchisement. Youth are targeted, employment is politicized, and access to education and health care is severely restricted. However, these policies have not broken the resolve of the people.

One of the most encouraging developments in recent years is the emergence of a dynamic and politically active Kashmiri youth, both within the Valley and among the global diaspora. This new generation, armed with education, awareness, and digital tools, is raising Kashmir's voice in international forums, universities, parliaments, and human rights platforms world-London, Washington, Brussels, Istanbul, and beyond have transformed into effective ambassadors of their people's cause.

Their peaceful yet assertive advocacy has challenged India's false narrative of Kashmir being an "internal matter." In reality. Kashmir remains one of the oldest unresolved disputes on the UN agenda.

It is no longer acceptable for the international community to remain passive in the face of such blatant violations. The abrogation of Article 370 was a unilateral act in a bilateral and internationally recognized dispute. World powers, especially the United States, must reclaim their role in conflict resolution—not through vague

rhetoric, but through firm diplomacy. In this context, former U.S. President Donald Trump's 2019 offer to mediate between India and Pakistan was both timely and significant. While India summarily rejected it, the initiative reflected the urgency and legitimacy of international intervention in Kashmir. More recently, in May 2025, President Trump once again urged India to cease international law and human rights, will its aggression, playing a pivotal role in defusing a war-like situation between

Kashmir dispute and emphasized the need for a peaceful and just resolution in accordance with international norms.

International law is not selective. The principles of justice, self-determination, and human dignity must apply equally to Kashmiris as they do to Palestinians, Ukrainians, and others. If the rules-based world order is to mean anything, Kashmir cannot be ignored.

Modi's aggressive Hindutva agenda not wide. Kashmiri diaspora communities in only threatens Kashmir but also endangers India's own democratic fabric. Religious polarization, suppression of dissent, and violent nationalism are eroding India's institutions from within.

> History is witness: states that rule by fear, discrimination, and injustice collapse under the weight of their own contradictions. India cannot win Kashmir by occupation. No matter how many soldiers are deployed, how many laws are rewritten, or how many voices are silenced, the soul of Kashmir remains defiant.

> The people of Kashmir-whether in the snowbound valleys of the region or in exile across the world—remain united in their cause. Their belief in the justness of their struggle is unshakable. They do not despair; they know that despair is a sin. They do not submit; they know submission is betrayal.

> The future of Kashmir belongs to those who continue to fight for justice with courage and conviction. The global Kashmiri voice is louder than ever before.

Their peaceful resistance, fortified by eventually compel the world to act. And when that moment comes, the darkness India and Pakistan. On that occasion, he of August 5 will be replaced by the dawn reiterated his earlier offer to mediate the of freedom.

### August 5, 2019: The Day Delhi **Declared War on Kashmir's Identity**

#### Waqar Mustafa

ix years have passed since New Delhi revoked Article 370, extinguishing the last fig leaf of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)'s constitutional autonomy. For Pakistan, August 5 is not just a date—it is a sombre symbol of betrayal and brute force. What India trumpeted as "integration," Pakistan and the world beyond recognise as annexation by stealth. On August 5, 2019, India tore through both international norms and its own constitutional fabric. Article 370—Kashmir's fragile legal shield-was revoked. The region was divided into two centrally administered territories, stripped of autonomy, flooded with troops, and shrouded in curfews, lockdowns, and silence. Pakistan condemned it as an illegal annexation. India called it "normalcy." For six years, India insisted that the move was a masterstroke enabling national integration, economic revival, and peacebuilding. But Pakistan—and now a growing chorus within India—saw it for what it was: unilateralism in the guise of reform. Occupation repack-

aged. Consent erased. The removal of Article 35-A opened the gates for outsiders to settle in Kashmir, threatening to dilute its demography and political voice. And while New Delhi peddled dreams of development, the lived reality has been grim. According to World Bank and UNDP data. per capita income has stagnated or declined since 2019. Youth unemployment exceeds 25%. Tourism, once a lifeline, is state-managed. A 2022 UNICEF report found nearly 70% of Kashmiri children exhibit symptoms of trauma and anxiety. Kashmir, Chakrabarti writes, has become a testing ground for global technologies of control-Israeli drones American surveillance systems, Russian small arms. "Kashmiris are not consumers" he observes. "They are test

For Pakistan—and for those in the international community who still believe in the right to self-determinationthis is no revelation. But it remains a vital reminder: Kashmir is not a settled mater. It is an open wound. And even as India silences dissent, the truth continues to surface. International watchdogs, too, have spoken. In

2024, Amnesty International issued a blistering indictment of India's crackdown in Jammu and Kashmir. Far from restoring democracy, the region has become a theatre of repression-where journalists, lawyers, activists, and ordinary civilians are detained arbitrarily, banned from travel. stripped of passports and subjected to constant surveillance. Governance has been replaced by management-of people,

dissent, and perception. In October 2024, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) published Your Land is Our Land a detailed exposé of how the Indian state has weaponised land policy in Kashmir. The report documents sweeping legal changes that paved the way for evictions, land grabs, and demographic engineering. Nearly 2.24 million kanals of land-roughly the size of Hong Kong-were seized under the guise of "anti-encroachment" drives. Most of the displaced belonged to indigenous Gujjar and Bakerwal communities. There was no due process, no compensation, and no consultation. As FIDH frames it, these moves are part of a larger state-sanctioned agenda of demographic transformation. The addition of 25 million new voters in 2022 and the redrawing of electoral boundaries -- tailored to favour Hindu majority Jammu -- have disenfranchised Kashmiri people.

Meanwhile, the press once a fragile witness to Kashmir's agony— has been systematically silenced. Al Jazeera's Institute reports that since 2019, journalists have faced routine harassment, surveillance, and anti-terror charges. Foreign correspondents are denied access. Local reporters are summoned, raided, and often forced to choose between silence and state reprisal. According to groups like Reporters Without Borders and Amnesty, this media clampdown is not incidental -- it is integral to a broader strategy of narrative control, designed to project calm while suppressing reality. As Chakrabarti puts it: "Emergency becomes the norm in Kashmir." Under AFSPA, the military operates with near-total impunity. Civilians are detained without trial. Torture is common. Disappearances are routine. Families search for the missing with no hope of justice. The valley, be writes, "operates under laws designed for wareven in supposed peacetime." Kashmir bleeds in silence. Its suffering escapes headlines—only curfews that never lift, schools that stay shut, and futures that never come.

# As directed by CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif cities across Punjab are decorated like bride

**Spokesman Report** 

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif noted,"Process of decorating various cities including Bahawalpur, Rajanpur, Gujrat, Layyah, Gujranwala, Jhelum, Rawalpindi and Attock for 79th Independence Day, titled 'Achievement of Independence from Protection of Independence' is under way with national zeal and zest. 08 days are left in these celebrations, cities across Punjab have been decorated like a bride. In Rawalpindi, Murree, Saddar, Satellite Town, Faizabad, Commercial Market, Chandni Chowk, Committee Chowk, Raja Bazar, Fawara Chowk, Mall Road and Charing Cross are decorated with green crescent flags. National flags are also hoisted on other highways including Gowalmandi, Moti Bazar, Liaquat Road, Chaklala, Sixth Road and Seventh Road. National flags, banners and decorative flags are displayed on interested in flux of national flags on



both sides of the Murree Road."

Madam Chief Minister was briefed-In connection with the Independence Day, hoardings and large screens have also been installed on various highways and squares. Children are particularly

the highways of cities." She was also apprised,"Process of hoisting national flag on houses, and putting flags and stickers on vehicles is also ongoing. Youth and ordinary citizens are also decorating motorcycles with national

Sharif was apprised further,"Government and private buildings are also illuminated, and intersections are decorated with electric lights." She was briefed," Hospitals, old-age homes and other buildings are beautifully illuminated. Screens, hoardings and national flags have been installed on highways connecting major cities." She was updated,"Administration and civic organizations are also active across Punjab in connection with the Independence Day."

Madam Chief Minister noted,"Various colorful events are also underway in schools, colleges and universities in connection

with the Independence Day." She said,"-This is not just a celebration of independence, but also an opportunity to renew an ideology." She added,"Like dignified nations, we must acknowledge the kindness of those who built

# Pakistan High Commission Condemns India's Illegal Actions in Kashmir

B Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The Pakistan High Commission in London organised a Seminar/Webinar to observe "Youm-e-Istehsal", denouncing India's unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019, wherein it revoked the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

The seminar was attended by Lord Qurban Hussain; Lord Shaffaq Mohammed; Chair of APPG on Pakistan Yasmin Qureshi MP; Chairman, UK-Pakistan Kashmiri Councillors Forum Mr. Liaqat Ali MBE; Khalid Mehmood, former MP; Dr. Sheikh Ramzy, Director Oxford Islamic Information Centre; Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Deputy Mayor of Newham; Councilor Amjad Abbasi; Ms. Shamim Shawl, Executive Member All Parties Hurriyat Conference; Ahmed Qureshi, International Journalist; Advocate Rehana Ali, Information Secretary Tehreek-e-Kashmir; Dr Abida Rafique, Chair of activists, academia and a large number of Kashmiris in UK.



guest speakers condemned the action of Indian government to revoke Article 370-A illegally and unconstitutionally,

During their remarks, the speakers Asian Resource Forum Kashmir; social expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri Parliament and decision makers, for tions of the Kashmiri people. Attendees people, calling on India to halt human rights abuses in IIOJK. They under-his key-note address at the seminar, honor the martyrs of Kashmir.

Members of the British Parliament, scored the urgent need to resolve the lawyers, human right activists and the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

They suggested drawing up a road-map comprising of actions and activities for outreach to the UK dispute in accordance with the aspiraa just solution of the dispute. During also observed a minute of silence to

High Commissioner Dr. Mohammad Faisal emphasized the importance of unity among Kashmiris and Pakistanis worldwide to effectively advocate for the Kashmir cause.

He strongly condemned India's brutal tactics in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), including arbitrary detentions of Hurriyat leaders, media suppression, communication blackouts, enforced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings. Dr. Faisal highlighted the nation's unwavering support for Pakistan's armed forces during Operation Bunyan Al-Marsoos, which led to the decisive success of Marka-e-Haq. Prior to the seminar, the High Commission hosted a photo exhibition showcasing evidence of atrocities committed by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK.

The harrowing images served as a stark reminder of the ongoing human rights crisis and the necessity of a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir

### Photo Exhibition, Documentary Film, and Protest Rally Held at Punjab Arts Council, Rawalpindi

👺 City Desk

brutality, oppression, and atrocifrom political and social figures, as well as students.

The chief guest, Syed Shahid Iftikhar Bukhari, Director of Agrispeaking to the media, stated that the RSS agenda has completely failed. He said the "Modi government has normalized the detention and tion."

bloodshed of Kashmiris. The past six years have witnessed the highest RAWALPINID: On the occasion of number of human rights violations Kashmir Exploitation Day, a photo in Kashmir." He further emphasized exhibition, documentary screening, that global powers must raise their and rally were held at the Punjab voices against this exploitation in Arts Council to highlight Indian order to curb this state-sponsored terrorism, and that Kashmiris should ties, including; rape and genocide. be granted the full right to self-de-The event saw strong participation termination in accordance with UN resolutions so that the saga of oppression can come to an end.

At the end of the event, thunderous slogans were chanted against culture, Rawalpindi Division, while India's undemocratic behavior and oppression, such as: "We will achieve freedom," "Freedom is our right," and "Free Kashmir from Indian occupa-



lives for the sake of freedom. He said continues."

Director of the Arts Council, "children have been martyred, loved Muhammad Shakoor, paid tribute ones have been subjected to brutalito the sacrifices of the Kashmiri ties before the eyes of their families, people, who have given millions of yet their struggle for independence

# Lawyers Movement Successful: Court fees ticket price significantly reduced



MULTAN: Lawyers movement successful, court fee ticket price significantly reduced, wave of joy among lawyers and litigants, lawyers' tribute to Syed Riaz-ul-Hassan Gillani. Nasheed Arif Gondal and Miss Bushra Naqvi Advocates for the success of the movement. The continuous struggle of lawyers has finally borne fruit, great news for litigants and lawyers. The government has reduced the price of court fee ticket submitted in the courts from Rs 500 to Rs 100. On this important success, lawyers distributed sweets in the District Bar Hall and raised slogans of "Long live lawyers' union". This success is the result of the ongoing movement led by former President High Court Bar Syed Riaz-ul-Hassan Gilani and Coordinator of People's Lawyers Forum Nasheed Arif Gondal, under which lawyers repeatedly held protests, sit-ins and press conferences. People's Lawyers Forum, Bar Associations of South Punjab and other organizations played an active role in the movement. Speaking at the ceremony on this occasion, Syed Riaz-ul-Hassan Gilani said that this success is the result of the solidarity and steadfastness of the lawyers. We have always raised our voice for public interests and this decision will bring relief to the weaker sections of the society. This effort to make access to the judiciary easy and affordable will continue. Furthermore, the lawyers' community also thanked President Asif Ali Zardari and Governor Punjab Saleem Haider, who were informed about the issue through a formal letter from former President Bar Syed Riaz-ul-Hassan Gilani and People's Lawyers' Forum Coordinator Nasheed Arif Gondal, on which they played an important role in resolving it. In this regard, a delegation of People's Lawyers' Forum led by Coordinator Nasheed Arif Gondal was also scheduled to meet the Governor Punjab to express their gratitude, which was postponed due to the visit of the Iranian President.

#### FO rejects reports Pakistani nationals are fighting for Russia against Ukraine

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has categorically rejected the baseless and unfounded allegations of the involvement of Pakistani nationals in the conflict in Ukraine.

In a statement issued in Islamabad on Tuesday, the Foreign Office said "To date, Pakistan has not been formally approached by the Ukrainian authorities, nor has any verifiable evidence been presented to substantiate such claims."

The Government of Pakistan shall take up this matter with the Ukrainian authorities, and seek clarification in this regard."

Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance  $\,$ with the principles of the UN Charter.

Earlier on Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said that Ukrainian troops in northeastern Ukraine were fighting foreign "mercenaries" from various countries including China, Pakistan and parts of Africa, and vowed a response.

Zelenskiy has previously accused Moscow of recruiting Chinese obters for its war effort against Ukraine, charges Reijing denied while North Korea has also provided thousands of its own troops in

Zelenskyy claimed that his country's troops in the northeast are battling foreign "mercenaries" recruited by Russia from various countries, vowing to "respond".

The Ukrainian president visited front-line troops in the Kharkiv region on Monday, hearing reports from his "warriors" that fighters from China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and African countries were on board with Russia.

Reporting from Kyiv, Al Jazeera said there was no way of verifying Zelenskyy's claims. Conversely, he added, "lots of foreign fighters" had also volunteered to fight for Ukraine and were still on the frontlines.

He said in a post in X that he had held discussions with commanders on "the frontline situation, the defence of Vovchansk, and the dynamics of the battles", and was also looking at "drone supply and deployment, recruitment, and direct funding for the brigades"

#### Türkiye sets all-time export record in July

ASTANA: Türkiye's Trade Minister Omer Bolat on said the country achieved a record \$25 billion worth of exports in July, Anadolu reports. "We achieved the highest monthly export figure in our history this July. This marks not only the highest July export figure ever recorded, but also the highest 12-month cumulative goods export volume in our nation's history," Bolat told a press conference in the province of

He highlighted another positive development, noting a slowdown in the pace of monthly import growth and a significant narrowing of the foreign trade deficit in July, compared to the same month last year and June. He added that the export-to-import coverage ratio also improved.

## From Commerce to Conscience: Reclaiming Ethics in Communication, Corporates, and Classrooms

of my days in classrooms—engaging with students rather than shaping brand narratives. Yet recently, I found myself back among familiar faces in deeply resonated with me, particularly the corporate and media world, not as someone who has watched instituin pursuit of prestige, but in search of purpose.

the launch of Imran Ghaznavi's new book—an event held on a weekday morning that brought together econ-

placed conscience above credentials. Imran Ghaznavi, with a career

tionist, I spend most tion on his professional journey-it is a timely reminder of the moral vacuum growing within our media and corporate spheres. His call for truth, transparency, and responsible leadership tions chase image over integrity.

As I listened to Mr. Ghaznavi speak, I had the privilege of attending I was reminded of my own journey reflections I once shared in The Daily Spokesman through an article titled 'My Journey from Compliance to omists, educators, corporate leaders, Conscience." In that piece, I wrote and policymakers. What stood out was about how a culture of ticking boxes not the stature of the attendees, but the and following rules without genuine sincerity of the conversation: one that ethical intent leads to fragile systems. Policies alone cannot earn public trust unless they are grounded in moral spanning journalism, public rela- conviction. That realization came tions, and public service, has long during my years in corporate and regu-

by Mr. Muhammad Ali, former SECP Chairman currently Advisor to the Minister on Privatisation. Mr. Ali, known for his work in introducing Pakistan's Code of Corpo-Governance, spoke not just as a

policymaker, but as a conscience-keeper. He lamented the erosion of enforceable labour laws and

Muhammad

Rabnawaz Awan

emphasized the need to embed ethics into the core of economic reform. His message struck a deep chord with me, especially as it mirrored

nce a corporate commulator, now an education. His book is not just a reflection of thical commulator, now an education. His book is not just a reflection of the saw responsible from Compliance to Conscience." Mr. In that article, I critiqued Pakistan's Ali reminded us that systems evolve, growing push toward privatization This very theme was echoed but ethics often lag behind. Without powerfully in the speech delivered ethical foresight, even the best-de-

signed frameworks fail. It was a sobering reminder that the regulatory mindset I once operated in—and later questioned—still struggles to balance performance with principle.

During the discussions that followed, I found another inter-

section between my work and the issues being raised. Mr. Ali's remarks on policy without protection, and reform without justice, reinforced the arguments I made in another piece: "Is Privatization the Cure or the Curse? the concerns I raised in "My Journey A Teacher's Cry from the Classroom."

in education, warning that efficiency without empathy is no reform at all. If we reduce education to a commercial transaction, we risk hollowing out

Both Mr. Ghaznavi's reflections and Mr. Ali's insights brought me back to a fundamental truth: whether we work in boardrooms, newsrooms, or classrooms, the strength of our institutions depends on the moral clarity of those who run them. Ethics must not be treated as an optional add-on, but as the foundation upon which real and lasting progress is built.

For me, the event was not just a book launch. It was a quiet affirmation of a belief I've long carried—that success, in any field, must be rooted in values that withstand applause and outlive careers. The journeys of Mr. Ghaznavi

and Mr. Ali are powerful reminders that principled leadership is not a relic-it is still alive, and still capable of inspiring others to do the right thing, even when it is not the easiest.

Published Works by the Author: ly Journey from Compliance to Conscience The Daily Spokesman

A reflection on how rule-based compliance without moral clarity can undermine institutional credibility, based on the author's experience in the corporate and regulatory space. Is Privatization the Cure or the Curse? A

Teachers Cry from the Classroom The **Daily Spokesman** A critique of the unbalanced push for privatization in Pakistan's education sector, urging for reforms that

uphold both efficiency and equity. The Author is a corporate communications and public relations specialist turned educationist.



Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
143,037.16	142,052.64		
Day's High	Day's Low		
143,281.34	142,235.71 <b>Change</b>		
Index Value			
29,136,013,489	+984.52		
Percentage	Time		
+0.69%	5 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,142.73	+14.43		
Percentage	Time		
+0.16%	5 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
<b>USA: Dow Jones I</b>	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,175.02	+1.38		
Percentage	Time		
+0.0031%	5 Aug, 12:55 pm		

	GIVI 1-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
40,549.54	+258.84		
Percentage	Time		
+0.64%	5 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.25	187.25
Bahrain Dinar	753.20	755.70
Canadian Dollar	205	210
China Yuan	39.09	39.49
Danish Krone	43.55	43.95
Euro	328	329.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.77	36.12
Indian Rupee	3.15	3.24
Japanese Yen	1.9055	2.0055
Kuwaiti Dinar	920.15	928.15
Malaysian Ringgit	65.78	66.38
NewZealand \$	165.47	167.47
Norwegians Krone	27.31	27.61
Omani Riyal	737.75	740.25
Qatari Riyal	77.19	77.89
Saudi Riyal	75.7	75.95
Singapore Dollar	218.5	223.50
Swedish Korona	29.02	29.32
Swiss Franc	348.05	350.80
Thai Bhat	8.6	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	77.45	77.6
UK Pound Sterling	377.10	379
US Dollar	284.45	285.15

### Lucky Cement Partners with NLC to Offer Vocational Training to Youth from Lakki Marwat

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

LAKKI MARWAT: In a continued effort to uplift and empower communities through skill development, Lucky Cement Limited has partnered with the National Logistics Cell (NLC) to provide vocational training opportunities to 10 students from Lakki Marwat. The training will take place at NLC's Amangarh Facility, where the students will receive hands-on technical instruction

- in the following trades: Auto Electricians
- Auto Mechanics • Heavy Machinery Operators
- This initiative is part of Lucky Cement's CSR commitment to youth empowerment through education and vocational skill building. The program aims to enhance the employability of participants and open pathways to sustainable livelihoods, particularly in underserved regions.

#### Gold prices decrease by Rs1,500 to Rs 358,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD, AUG 5 (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs1,500 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs358,000 against its sale at Rs359,500 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs 1,286 to Rs.306,927 from Rs 308,213 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went down by 1,170 to Rs 281,359 from Rs 282,529.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs18 and Rs15 to Rs3,971 and Rs 3,404 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$15 to \$3,353 from \$3,368 whereas silver increased \$0.18 to \$37.38 against \$\$37.20, the Association reported.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan firms to develop this sector. Iqbal Chaudhary has highlighted electric vehicles (EVs) as a key area of future cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Answering a CEN reporter's question at a importance of EV technology and reaffirmed

Pakistan's interest in partnering with Chinese

"EVs have become a very important segment," Iqbal said, emphasizing Pakistan's desire to benefit from China's technological advancements, including the development of press conference at the Pakistani Embassy in next-generation batteries such as sodium-ion Beijing on August 4, Iqbal noted the growing batteries, which offer advantages over traditional lithium technology

# Pakistan, China to deepen cooperation in electric vehicle sector

September 4 in China will serve as a platform to foster such partnerships. "We are expecting over 250 companies from Pakistan and more than 200 from China," he said. "There will be industry matchmaking across sectors such as electric vehicles, solar energy, chemicals, and agriculture."

Iqbal stressed that establishing EV manufacturing in Pakistan offers cost advantages for Chinese companies and will help Pakistan involved in assembling EVs, expanding infrareduce dependence on fossil fuels. He welcomed structure, and enabling Pakistan to serve as a Chinese investment in localized EV produc-

The minister announced that the Paki- tion, calling it a strategic step toward energy stan-China Business Conference scheduled for efficiency, job creation, and sustainable development.

Notably, Pakistan's new National Electric Vehicle Policy 2025-2030 mandates that 30% of new vehicle sales be electric by 2030 and aims for net-zero transport by 2060. It offers generous incentives—tax reductions, subsidies, support for charging infrastructure—and emphasizes localization.

Chinese firms like BYD, Chery, and others are regional EV production hub.

#### Street Vendor

ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying sun glasses and p-caps at his roadside workplace, in the Federal



### **DWP Group launches** 'Tameer-e-Mustaqbil' to empower the next generation of professionals

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: DWP Group has officially launched its program, Tameer-e-Mustaqbil. The program marks a and building a stronger tomorrow." employer brand within Pakistan's corporate sector.

Farooq Naseem, Chairman and CEO of DWP Group, said, "At DWP Group, we believe that the future is built by those we invest in today. Tameer- the industry at large.

e-Mustaqbil is not just an internship; it's our promise to equip young professionals with the tools, mindset, and flagship paid internship mentorship they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. This program reflects significant step forward in our deep-rooted belief in DWP Group's commitment talent development and to nurturing young talent sustainable leadership for

Through Tameer-e-Mustaqbil, DWP Group aims to create a long-term pipeline of capable, futureready professionals who will go on to contribute meaningfully to the organization and

# Pakistan Mart: joint meeting of FPCCI, DP World, and the NLC

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

ISLAMABAD: A joint meeting of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), DP World, and the National Logistic Corporation (NLC) was held at FPCCI President Secretariat Islamabad chaired by Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, to discuss joint project to establish "Pakistan Mart" in Dubai, a venture aimed at boosting Pakistan's exports to the UAE.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, stated that the collaboration between FPCCI, NLC, and DP World is a strategic move that will "open new avenues of trade in the region. He expressed his hope that the "Pakistan Mart" will serve as a successful role model, similar to China's "Dragon Mart," which has played a crucial part in the economic partnership between UAE

Mr. Abdullah Yaqoob Al-Sayed, Head of Traders Market at DP World, emphasized the strategic importance of the "Pakistan Mart" project during a recent event and highlighted that in a major



economic hub like Dubai, an institution Jadoon and Mr. Zaki Ijaz, Chairman/ such as "Pakistan Mart" is crucial. Mr. Al-Sayed stressed that the project is not merely a business venture but will become a vital part of Pakistan's national identity abroad.

He confirmed that the mart's primary purpose is to serve as a platform for the sale of Pakistani-made goods, and that officials are very enthusiastic about the prospects of this joint project.

FPCCI Vice Presidents Mr. Tariq Khan the meeting.

Incharge Capital Office Mr. Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail Hussain, Former President Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Member Senator Mian Atiq Sheikh, various committee conveners, and officials from different chambers, including Mr. Shafiq Swati, Aamna Awan Malik, Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi, and Muhammad Asif Javed are also addressed

#### **ZNC Solar and Soluna** unite to power Pakistan's clean energy future



ZNC Solar and Soluna – World re-owned lithium-Ion battery Manufacturer united at the 'Powering the Future" event, marking a defining moment in ZNC Solar clean energy

On his first visit to Pakistan, George Guo, CEO-Soluna, accompanied by Penny Gao, Sales & Marketing Director, unveiled Soluna's new IP65 10KWH Low Voltage Battery. A standout moment was the signing of a 100MWh Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between George Guo and Usman Arif, CEO-ZNC expertise.

Solar, solidifying long-term collaboration, technological exchange, and expanded solar-battery integration across Pakistan.

"This MoU, paving the way for smarter energy storage solutions," said Usman Arif. With Solar Industry leaders in attendance, the event emphasized Pakistan's growing potential in solar technology and sustainable infrastructure. ZNC Solar continues to drive the momentum for a greener tomorrow — now backed by Soluna's global

# PTCL officials brief CCP bench on business plan

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

ISLAMABAD: In continuation of to its proposed acquisition of 100 proceedings under Section 11(6) percent shareholding in Telenor of the Competition Act, 2010, the Pakistan (Private) Limited (TP) senior management of Pakistan and Orion Towers (Private) Limited Telecommunication Company (OT). Limited (PTCL) appeared before the bench of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP).

presented a detailed briefing on the actively engaged with the PTCL company's proposed business plan, representatives and raised probing claimed efficiencies, and regulatory questions on various aspects of the

The briefing was in relation

The bench, comprising CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Member Salman Amin, During the proceeding, PTCL and Member Abdul Rashid Sheikh,



proposed transaction. The Commission sought further

clarity on key issues to ensure a merger's impact on competition and comprehensive assessment of the consumers.

# Pakistan-Ireland Women's T20I Series start on Wednesday

 $Fatima\,Sana-led\,Pakistan\,Women's\,Cricket\,Team\,to\,Begin\,a\,long\,international\,Season\,with\,Three\,T-20\,Match\,Series\,in\,Dublin\,A$ 

**Asim Tanveer** 

DUBLIN: Pakistan Women's cricket team is set to begin a busy year in international cricket, which also involves two white-ball World Cups, on Wednesday, 6 August with the three-match T20I series against Ireland in Dublin.

The series, fifth bilateral T20I engagement between two nations, will be played at the Clontarf Cricket Club with the second and third matches taking place on 8 and 10 August, respectively. The first ball is each of on 3 August after attending a 17-day the three matches is expected to be bowled at 4pm local time.

Both the teams have won two bilateral T20I series each since first taking on each other in a one-off T20I in Dublin in May 2009. In total Pakistan have won 15 out of the 19 T20Is against Ireland.

In the last T20I meeting between the two teams Muneeba Ali created history becoming the first Pakistan Women's batter to register a impressive performances. T20I century and it was in an ICC Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape match T20I series and two-match

Pakistan's squad arrived in Dublin at home in July.



skills camp and five-day pre-tour camp at the Hanif Muhammad High Performance Centre in Karachi.

20-year-old batter Eyman Fatima is the only uncapped player in the squad, while Sadaf Shamas, who teared her left quadriceps muscle, was replaced by Shawaal Zulfiqar. Among other players, World no.1 ranked T20I bowler Sadia Iqbal will be looking to stabilise her position on the top with

Ireland are coming into the series on T20 World Cup 2023 fixture at the the back of series sweeps in the three-Town. Pakistan reaped a 70-run win. ODI series against Zimbabwe Women

Pakistan captain, Fatima Sana in her pre-departure statement said "Our morale is high before the beginning of a busy season. All the players have put in a lot of hard work to improve their skills in the Karachi camp and everyone is looking forward to give their best in the T20I series".

We want to keep our unbeaten streak intact from the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in April by winning this series as well."

Pakistan squad:

Fatima Sana (captain), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Eyman Fatima, Gull Feroza, Muneeba Ali, Najiha Alvi

Player support personnel:

Hina Munawar (manager), Muhammad Wasim (head coach), Junaid Khan (assistant coach bowling), Abdul Saad (assistant coach

(wicket-keeper), Nashra Sundhu,

Natalia Parvaiz, Rameen Shamim,

Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Shawaal

Zulfiqar, Tuba Hassan and Waheeda

fielding), Waleed Ahmed (analyst) and Tehreem Sumbal (physiotherapist)

Ireland T20I Squad: Gaby Lewis (captain), Orla Prendergast (vice-captain), Amy Hunter (wicket-keeper), Arlene Kelly, Ava Canning, Cara Murray, Christina Coulter Reilly, Freya Sargent, Jane Maguire, Lara McBride, Laura Delany, Leah Paul, Louise Little and Cricket Club, Dublin.

Rebecca Stokell

Series schedule: (All matches to begin at 4pm local time; 8pm Pakistan time)

6 Aug - First T20I at Clontarf Cricket Club, Dublin

8 Aug – Second T20I at Clontarf Cricket Club, Dublin

10 Aug - Third T20I at Clontarf

## Karachi Clinches Title at Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari Inter-Division Women's Hockey Championship

**Sports Desk** 

KARACHI: Karachi Division emerged as the champion of the Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari All Sindh Inter-Division Pink Hockey Championship, held at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Hockey Stadium, Nawabshah. In a one-sided final match, Karachi defeated the host team, Benazirabad, with a commanding score of 10-0, while Sukkur secured third place after a hard-fought win against Larkana.

The three-day championship was organized under the directives of Sindh Minister for Sports Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar and Provincial Secretary for Sports Mr. Munawar Ali Mahesar, and was hosted by the District Sports Office Shaheed Benazirahad Government of Sindh.

The final day featured the championship match and the third-place playoff. The closing ceremony was held with Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Mr. Abdul Samad Nizamani as the chief guest, accompanied by Mayor Nawabshah Qazi Abdul Rasheed Bhatti and Deputy Mayor Chaudhry Mubashir Arain. They distributed trophies and medals to the winners and runners-up

Also in attendance were, Town Chairman H. M. Khawaja Syed Atif Hussain Zaidi, Chairman Old Nawabshah Town Hayat Kakepota, District Officer Mr. Abdul Rahim Rajput in



Sports Committee Coordinator Mr. Arshad Qureshi, Organizing Secretary Syed Hassan Askari, Principal of Benazir Public School Madam Mahdiyah, In-charge Bilawal Sports Complex Mr. Fida Hussain Dahri, Sports Organizer Mr. Shahid Rana, and other dignitaries.

Mr. Abdul Samad Nizamani, while addressing the gathering, commended the consistent efforts of the Sindh Sports Department and the District Sports

provincial women's hockey championship following the recent volleyball event and assured full support for future sports activities.

Earlier, DSO Abdul Rahim Rajput presented a detailed report of the cham-

promoting sports in the region. He Hamna Nadeem contributed three lauded the successful hosting of the goals, Momil added two, and Ayesha scored one. A minute of silence was observed in memory of late Nawabshah hockey player Mishal Baloch, and prayers were offered for her soul.

In the third-place match, Sukkur edged past Larkana 2-1 in an exciting contest to claim the bronze medal. In the final match, Karachi's Maheen Larkana finished fourth, followed by stole the show by scoring four goals and Mirpurkhas in fifth, and Hyderabad in becoming the top scorer of the final. sixth place.

# Impact of Environment on the Lives of Seasonal and Brick Kiln Workers

has been increasing steadily over the past few years. It reaches its peak just before the onset of winter, severely affecting daily life. For people with dust allergies or asthma, smog is nothing short of a crisis. While it affects the general population of Pakistan, the worst-hit are those who lack alternative livelihoods and skills—Pakistan's most vulnerable and marginalized communities, commonly known as brick kiln

These laborers, who mold bricks day in and day out with their entire families—regardless of extreme heat or cold—are the first to be impacted when smog season begins, as the government mandates the shutdown of brick kilns to control air pollution. This leads to immediate loss of income for these families who rely solely on this work for survival. These communities have been engaged in this work for generations, and tragically, they continue to be denied even the minimum wage set by the government.

For example, in 2024, the Government of Punjab set the official minimum wage for producing 1.000 bricks at PKR 2,700. However, brick kiln workers are still being paid between PKR 800 and PKR 1,100 per 1,000 bricks—around 60% less than the mandated rate. Meanwhile, the labor department often reports that all is well on paper and avoids action due to informal arrangements with kiln owners, shielding them from any accountability.

To this day, brick kiln workers have

mog is a natural disaster that been deprived of their basic rights. of documentation deprives them of According to Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, no person shall be held in slavery or servitude, and slavery and the slave trade kiln workers are still deprived of basic signatures are taken on documents shall be prohibited in all their forms. Yet, many brick kiln workers are still forced to live under conditions akin to slavery. In many cases, workers who do not accept advance payments are sold

> practice that falls under human trafficking. Recently, Government of Punjab has taken steps to tighten legislation to c~ombat human traf-

to other kiln owners—a

ficking, but enforcement remains critical to ensure real change in the lives of these marginalized laborers. As a result, there has been a noticeable reduction in human trafficking to some

Furthermore, during smog, rain, or any natural disaster that halts kiln operations, these workers are not permitted to work elsewhere, nor are they provided any form of support or

However, the reality for brick kiln workers is very different. Due to a lack of awareness and literacy, many workers are married through informal religious ceremonies (Nikah) without proper legal documentation. As a result, when children are born, the parents cannot obtain official identification cards, and the children themselves cannot receive birth certificates or B-forms. This lack

their legal identity and access to basic rights and services.

education. Although the Government of schools at some brick kilns, the number remains insufficient. When it comes to technical and

vocational education, Providing them with skills or vocational training can offer an alternative means of livelihood alongside

their existing work,

helping them build a

Aqsa Hashmi more secure future. If these workers acquire new skills, their abilities will improve, and they will be at the government level to enforce better equipped to earn a sustainable income through jobs that are simpler and more suited to their context.

Some of the recommended trades include: Tire puncture repair, Laundry work, Hairdressing/barbering, Shoe repair (cobbler), Tailoring

These are practical and accessible become proficient and eventually start their own small businesses. In this Organization in Multan will soon begin implementing such a program. Upon successful completion, participants will be provided with toolkits to help them start their businesses and support their

Similar to kiln workers, factory workers in Pakistan are also yet to receive the officially declared minimum Unfortunately, many children of wage at the government level. Although stating payment of the minimum wage, Punjab has recently begun establishing in reality, workers often receive less than the legally mandated amount-highlighting the ongoing exploitation and gaps in enforcement. However, these workers are still being paid only PKR it holds great impor- 20,000 to 22,000 per month. In today's tance for kiln workers. era of rising inflation, it is extremely difficult to manage household expenses on such a low salary.

There is a pressing need for the government to form a special team that visits every district to directly meet with workers at brick kilns and factories. This would give authorities a clear and accurate picture of the ground realities.

If concrete and sincere action is taken minimum wage laws, then poor laborers could at least afford two meals a day with dignity. However, there should be a clear condition: the team must not include the labor officers of the same district, as they are often the reason why workers are unable to receive their rightful wages. These officers typically trades in which kiln workers can report that "all is well," when in fact, the reality is quite different.

If the labor department alone fulfills regard, the social organization Ahad its responsibilities honestly and efficiently, brick kiln workers—as well as other laborers—could finally receive their full rights and fair compensation for their hard work.

The writer is senior analyst. She can be reched at Aqsahashmi 198@gmail.com

### Maguire allowed to resume bowling in international cricket



**№** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that following remedial work and re-assessment, the bowling action of Ireland spinner Aimee Maguire has been found to be legal, and she can resume bowling in international cricket.

Maguire was suspended from bowling after being reported during the first ODI of the ICC Women's Championship series against India in Rajkot on 10 January this year, said a press release. An independent assessment of Maguire's remodelled bowling tion at an ICC accredited testing centre concluded that the amount of elbow extension was within the 15-degree level of toler-

#### ance permitted under the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations. PMYP-Qalandars Cricket Talent Hunt Lands on Wednesday

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The next phase of the nationwide Cricket Talent Hunt Trials under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) is set to begin on Wednesday in Lahore.

The initiative is being jointly



organized by the Higher Educa-

tion Commission (HEC) and Lahore Qalandars, said a press release. According to Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana, the overwhelming participation from young cricketers across Pakistan reflects the nation's enduring passion for the sport. He added that the enthusiasm isn't limited to just the players—parents, cricket clubs, and local associations are also actively encouraging participation and nominating talented athletes.

"So far, more than 122,000 young players have registered and taken part in the trials held across various regions of the country," he said. In Sindh alone, over 48,000 players turned up at trial venues in

Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, and Shaheed Benazirabad. In Balochistan, 14,000 participants from five designated regions gathered at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) in Quetta. In Southern Punjab, trials in Bahawalpur and Multan collectively drew over 26,000 players. Faisalabad recorded around 20,000 participants, while more than 12,000 young cricketers joined the trials in Sargodha.

HEC Director Sports Javed Memon said that such large-scale participation is evidence that the initiative is effectively engaging youth in positive, healthy, and competitive activities.

Teams from HEC, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, and Lahore Qalandars are actively present at the venues to ensure a transparent selection process and to give young players full opportunities to showcase their talent. Following the two-day Lahore trials, the next phases will be held in Sialkot and Rawalpindi.

#### Arshad Nadeem ruled out of Diamond League due to fitness concerns

Pakistan's star javelin thrower, Arshad Nadeem, has been ruled out of the upcoming Diamond League due to his fitness issues. According to details, Arshad's medical team has advised him against participating in the elite event as he continues his recovery

from a serious leg injury. The Olympic medalist is currently undergoing an intensive rehabilitation program in England, where he has gradually started to put weight on his injured leg after surgery, an encouraging step forward in his recovery journey. However, according to Dr. Ali Sher Bajwa, who performed Arshad's surgery in Cambridge last month, Arshad has not yet completed his rehabilitation, and the nature of his injury is serious, which means recovery will take time.

# The Spokesman

# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding facilitating Agri Loans on Tuesday.

# Pakistan's Naval Chief receives Turkiye's Legion of Merit award

#### **Spokesman Report**

ANKARA: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf undertook an official visit to Turkiye, during which he was conferred the prestigious Legion of Merit by the Turkish Armed Forces'The award was presented by Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu in recognition of Admiral Naveed Ashraf's efforts to strengthen defence ties and maritime cooperly countries.

Upon his arrival at the Turkish Naval Forces Headquarters, Admiral Naveed Ashraf was presented a guard of honour and subsequently called on the Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu.

During the meeting, both dignitaries discussed matters of professional interest, focusing on enhanced collaboration between the two navies.

eration between the two broth- Chief also called on the Minister programmes.

of National Defence Yasar Guler, Chief of the General Staff General Metin Gurak, and Commander of the Turkish Navy Fleet Admiral Kadir Yildiz. These high-level engagements included discussions on regional maritime security and bilateral defence cooperation.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasized the need for increased interaction between the armed forces through joint exercises, mutual visits, During the visit, the Naval and training and exchange

Later, the Naval Chief visited the National Defence Univer-Istanbul Naval Shipyard, where he called on the Commander of the shipyard and received a detailed briefing on Pakistan Navy's MILGEM project a flagship initiative in bilateral defence collaboration. He also visited Golcuk Naval Base,

edge submarine design and construction facilities. Admiral Naveed Ashraf further visited the Turkish and S/M PIRIREIS, as well as

where he observed cutting-

sity (NDU) in Turkiye. He also called on the Commander of the North Sea Area and laid a wreath at the mausoleum of Turkiye's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, as a mark of The Naval Chief's visit is

expected to play a pivotal role in further strengthening and expanding defence relations between Pakistan and Turkiye, two nations bound by deepnaval vessels TCG ORUCREIS rooted historical, cultural, and

# AD Ports Group opens Islamabad office to expand its strategic presence in Pakistan

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

ISLAMABAD: industry, officially launched its first representative office in Islamabad on Tuesaday, marking a significant milestone in the Group's international growth journey and its long-term commitment to enabling trade and logistics across South and Central Asia.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Mohammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, and Federal Minister of Information and Khalid Hussain Magsi, Federal Ports Group, and other senior Minister for Science and Tech- officials were also present cooperation.



Zaabi, the UAE Ambassador in Pakistan, Abdulaziz Zayed nology, Hamad Obaid Al on the occasion, said a press

comprehensive Al Shamsi, Regional CEO, AD representation from both sides Ports Group; AbdulAziz Al reflects the depth of the bilat- Pakistan's key federal minis-Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar. Balooshi, Regional CEO, AD eral relationship and shared vision for long-term economic

Complimenting the Group's ical platform for deepening logistics hub.

global network of more than 140 offices, and strategically located in close proximity to tries, regulatory bodies, and state-owned enterprises, the new office will serve as a critengagement with government stakeholders and advancing priority infrastructure and trade initiatives

As a client-facing and administrative hub, the Islamabad office will also support ongoing operations and facilitate strategic partnerships in the ports, maritime, logistics, and industrial development sectors.

The opening of the Islamabad office follows a series of high-impact investments by AD Ports Group in Pakistan, including USD 295 million committed towards the development and enhancement of container, bulk, and general cargo terminals at Karachi Port's East Wharf. These investments are central to the Group's strategy to support the transformation of Pakistan into a regional trade and

### Country's largest money-laundering scandal unearthed

#### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Post Clearance Audit has revealed the biggest money laundering scandal in Pakistan's history and exposed that importers cleared luxury vehicles worth billions of rupees by declaring them at mere thousands, evading billions in customs duties and taxes.

According to TV channel, the audit covered the period from December 2024 to March 2025 under the Faceless Customs Assessment System and found evidence of systematic under-invoicing in 1,335 import consignments, mostly involving luxury cars.

One of the most glaring examples in the audit report was the import of a 2023 Land Cruiser vehicle declared at

a value of just Rs17,635. In reality, the market value of the



due taxes and duties totalling over Rs 47 million. The audit found 99% under-invoicing in this single case

According to the audit report,

as the total value of 1,335 cars, while the actual value was more than Rs7,250 million.

On these cars, only Rs1.29 billion in customs duty was paid, while the actual and tax fraud scheme.

purchase of the vehicles. This raises serious suspicions of payments made through illegal channels such as hawala

duty and tax liability was estimated at Rs18.78 billion. This exposes a shortfall of

over Rs17 billion, indicating

deliberate underreporting and

tax evasion by the customs

Audit officials stated that

none of the importers could

produce legal foreign exchange

remittance records for the

officers.

or hundi, a classic sign of international money laundering. Beyond customs evasion, the

audit reveals that importers also tax returns, committing double fraud by avoiding income tax on luxury asset declarations. This has been labelled a highly organised money laundering

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# **PM Shehbaz directs** swift reforms to ease low-cost loans for small farmers

#### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday directed immediate reforms to simplify and expand access to low-cost agricultural loans for small and medium-scale farmers, calling it a critical step for boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring economic dignity for the country's rural backbone.

The prime minister while chairing a high-level review meeting here, emphasized that small farmers must be treated with respect and given due facilitation, particularly when it comes to acquiring low-interest loans for their agricultural needs, a Prime Minister's Office news release

challenges in securing low-cost Musharraf Zaidi, among others.

loans," said PM Shehbaz, adding, "Providing them with easier access to affordable credit is among the government's top priorities."

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz instructed the concerned authorities to accelerate reforms within the Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL), and to encourage private banks to step forward in offering concessional loans to the agricultural sector on easier terms.

Key federal cabinet members and top officials present at the meeting included Federal Ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain and Ahsan Iqbal, PM's Advisors Muhammad Ali and Haroon Akhtar, Ministers of State Bilal Azhar Kayani and Abdul Rehman Kanju, Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmad, MNA 

# Law minister invites opposition to dialogue on reforms



#### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has called on the opposition to engage that mere sloganeering will not steer ating table. the country in the right direction.

law minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has consistently extended a hand for dialogue.

He, however, regretted that political hate has intensified to such in dialogue with the government to an extent that political parties are help reform the system, emphasizing unwilling to come to the negoti-

The Minister further said those Speaking on the floor of the who break the law and cross all limits National Assembly on Tuesday, the will face consequences.

### PTI protest: 2300 workers arrested, 201 detained across Punjab

#### 跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: More than 2300 PTI workers were arrested while 201 others were detained by Punjab police during protest call. The high-

Lahore, with 165 people being detained, while 950 were arrested. In Multan 490 while in DG Khan 192workers were arrested by police.

 $205\,\mathrm{were}\,\mathrm{arrested}\,\mathrm{from}$ Muzaffargarh, 45 in Faisalabad and 67 workers were held in district

Layyah. Most of the arrests were MPAs. According to police sources,

down against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), arresting over 400 active party members and leaders within two days.

Those arrested include Punjab Assembly Deputy Opposition Leader est number of arrests was made in Moen Qureshi and five other PTI



made of those who came out to the crackdown targeted individuals protest. Additional personnel have involved in organising, facilitating, been deployed across the province or attempting to lead rallies and to maintain public order. Lahore protests, especially ahead of PTI's Police have intensified their crack- announced protest campaign.

#### Nine lawmakers including Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz disqualified by ECP

Continued from Page 1 31, 2025, which convicted the

MNA, NA-104 Faisalabad-X, Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, MNA, NA-143 Sahiwal-II, Zartaj Gul, MNA, NA-185 D. G Khan-II, Muhammad Ansar Igbal, MPA, PP-73 Sargodha-II, Junaid Afzal Sahi, MPA, PP-98 Faisalabad-I,Rai Muhammad Murtaza Iqbal, MPA, PP-203 Sahiwal-VI, As holding public office unless a court a result, all nine have lost their seats grants relief. in the National Assembly, Senate, and Provincial Assemblies, respectively.

The ECP stated that the disqualification was implemented in pursuance of the ATC's orders dated July law.

lawmakers in connection with the May 9 violence cases and sentenced them to imprisonment.

Under Article 63(1)(h), any member found guilty of an offense involving moral turpitude and sentenced to a prison term of more than two years is disqualified from

The notification added that the lawmakers' seats are now officially vacant, and by-elections will be scheduled in accordance with the