(تى بخارى: مديث نمر 6682) Barkat Rice Mills

Train service suspended in Quetta

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi announced on Sunday that train operations in Balochistan have been suspended temporarily due to deteriorating security conditions in the region. According to the minister, the Peshawar to Quetta Jaffar Express service will be suspended from August 10 to 13, while the Quetta to Peshawar Jaffar Express will remain suspended from August 11 to 14.

Speed, sand, and sea: 12th Hub Rally set for August 17

Gear up, motorsport fans, as the adrenaline-pumping 12th Hut Rally is back, set to take place on August 17 in the coasta

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 16, Monday, August 11, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net 🚺 @daily spokesman

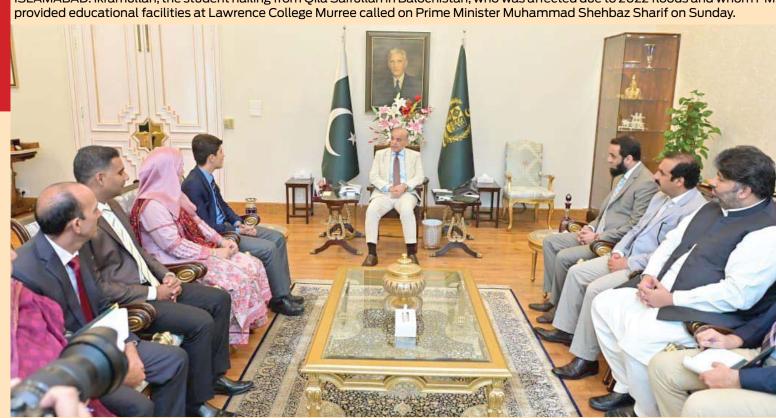




Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 116 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ikramullah, the student hailing from Qila Saifullah in Balochistan, who was affected due to 2022 floods and whom PM



Army Chief warns of Indian aggression; urges national unity during US visit

Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal resources, and global engage-Syed Asim Munir, during an extensive address to the Pakistani community in the United States. has hailed overseas Pakistanis as a vital national asset, defended Pakistan's security stance against India, highlighted foreign policy achievements, and urged collective efforts to shape the country's future.

Calling it "an honour" to meet Pakistanis living in the US, Field Marshal Munir described overseas citizens as "a source of pride and dignity" who are "just as enthusiastic and patriotic" as those living in the homeland.

He dismissed the term "brain drain" as a misrepresentation, saying overseas Pakistanis are in fact a "brain gain" whose talent,

ment contribute to the country's progress. He praised their commitment, noting that they are often the first to respond to calls for help during natural disasters or crises.

The Army Chief's visit — his second to the US in just one and a half months — was described as marking "a new dimension" in Pak-US relations. He said the objective of these interactions was to take the bilateral relationship on a "constructive, sustainable, and positive path."

He expressed optimism about a possible trade agreement with Washington, which, if finalised, could bring "huge investments" to Pakistan. Munir also highlighted the implementation of various

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and China to promote economic cooperation and investment.

Turning to regional security, Munir levelled strong criticism at India, accusing its intelligence agency RAW of orchestrating transnational terrorist activities. He cited the killing of a Sikh leader in Canada, the trial of eight Indian naval officers in Qatar, and the arrest of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav as prominent examples.

He said India's attempt to project itself as a "Vishva Guru" was far removed from reality, and its actions had become a cause of

serious global concern. The Army Chief condemned



India's recent "unprovoked aggression," which he said, under "shameful pretexts," violated Pakistan's sovereignty, martyred innoregion "to the brink of a danger-

He revealed that it was the "strategic leadership" of US President Donald Trump that helped stop an impending India-Pakistan war cent civilians, and pushed the and averted several other global

Continued on Page 7

Azerbaijani president phones PM, lauds Pakistan's support on Karabakh issue

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday evening received a telephone call from Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's consistent support on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, a statement from the PM's office said.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed an initial US-brokered peace agreement during a meeting with President Donald Trump on Friday, a deal aimed at boosting economic ties between the two countries after decades of conflict, the White House said.

The PM on Saturday hailed peace efforts following his peace deal.



role in brokering the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal, congratulating both countries on "charting a course for a peaceful future for their region" and stating: "Pakistan has always stood by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and we stand with them at this proud moment of their history."

In a post on X, PM Shehbaz said that he had a phone call with Alivey, where he conveyed warm felicitations to him and US President Donald Trump's the people of Azerbaijan on the

PM meets brilliant Baloch student Ikram Ullah, praises his hard work

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif his educational strides owing to his hard work.

During the meeting, broadcast on national TV channels, the prime minister recollected his first meeting with Ikram Ullah, whose school was damaged during the 2022 floods in Qilla Saifullah that inundated large swaths of Balochistan.

He said during his visit to flood flood-affected area, Ikram Ullah had told him that they used to travel a long way to reach their school.

The prime minister said that it was satisfying that the country. The prime Ikram Ullah had been minister also gave away a gift making progress in pursuit

of his studies and appreciated his teachers and parents for supporting him.

Speaking on the occasion, on Sunday met with Ikram Ikram Ullah expressed his grat-Ullah, a student from 2022 itude to the prime minister for flood-hit area of Balochistan. supporting him with a scholand expressed his pleasure at arship and bearing his educational expenditures. He said that he owed much to the prime minister who had supported a student from the backward area of Balochistan. The prime minister encouraged him to continue his studies with hard work and dedication.

Ikram Ullah also expressed the resolve to work and serve the nation and the country in future and showed his eagerness to appear in the CSS exams.

He said the nation needed a leader like the prime minister who was committed to uplift to Ikram Ullah.

South Waziristan tribes pledge security forces' support against Khawarij

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The elders of the Mehsud and Burki tribes reaffirmed their commitment to support Pakistan's security forces until the elimination of the Khawarij militant threat during a grand jirga held in South Waziristan.

According to the report, Inspector General Frontier Corps (KP South) attended the gathering as the chief

The tribes' elders paid tribute to the Pakistan Army and FC for their sacrifices in restoring lasting peace, while the IGFC praised the unmatched contributions of the tribal communities in the fight against terrorism.

Addressing the youth, the IGFC urged them to resist hostile propaganda by antistate elements.

He also assured the Mehsud tribes that work on the Gurbaz-to-Mangrotai road would begin soon.

Pakistan issues high-level alert over 'Blue Locker' cyber attacks on key institutions

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT) has issued an urgent advisory to 39 critical ministries and institutions, warning of a "severe risk" posed by an ongoing wave of 'Blue Lock-

er'ransomware attacks, a spokesperson confirmed on Sunday. According to NCERT,

several organizations in Pakistan have already been affected by the which has reportedly sustained signifi-

cant damage. "Our systems are actively detecting and blocking the malware, but the threat remains ongoing," NCERT spokesperson

Imran Haider told a foreign news outlet. NCERT, the agency responsible for cybersecurity coordination across government entities, issued the alert after detecting multiple targeted attacks within the country. The Aug. 9 advisory outlines how the Blue Locker ransomware affects Windows-based systems, including desktops, laptops, servers, network shares, and any infected system and report incidents cloud-synced or backup storage accessible

during the breach.

"The ransomware encrypts victim files, adds the '.blue' extension, and demands ransom payments in exchange for decryption keys," the advisory stated.

"It typically spreads through trojanized downloads, phishing emails, compro-

mised websites, and unsafe file-sharing platforms. Once active, it can disable antivirus tools, move laterally across networks, and steal sensitive information."

NCERT warns the malware, including Pakistan Petroleum, malware has the potential to cause serious data loss, operational disruption, and reputational damage.

NCERT's Recommendations for Organizations: Keep all systems updated with the latest security patches, Enable multi-factor authentication across services, Filter out malicious emails and block harmful web content, Avoid downloading software from unverified sources, Train staff to recognize cyber threats, Maintain offline backups of critical data, Continuously monitor systems for unusual activity, Immediately isolate to cybersecurity teams.



Monday, August 11, 2025

Violation of democracy and robbery on people's rights will not be tolerated anymore,

says Hafiz Naeem

MULTAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami violation of democracy and robbery on people's rights will not be tolerated anymore, Jamaat-e-Islami gathering in and difficulties of the people. November will be a ray of hope for the for people's rights

Multan on Saturday, he mentioned the plight of the people of South Punjab, especially the farmers, and the destrucobserved that the people of the area farmer was left behind, there were no present on the occasion.

programs for women, the poor and middle class were worried about the was on a one-day organizational tour education of children, and apart from Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has said that Jamaat-e-Islami, there was no voice among the political parties across the country to speak about the problems

Before the public meeting from oppressed, after the three-day gather- November 21 to 23, Jamaat-e-Islami ing, they will launch a grand movement will form thirty to forty thousand public committees and after that an Addressing a press conference in organized struggle will be launched. Secretary General Ameer-ul-Azeem, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab South Sved Zeeshan Akhtar, Secretion of agriculture, and said that he had tary General Punjab South Sanaullah Sarani and Ameer Multan District were facing severe difficulties, the small Sohaib Ammar Siddiqui were also

The Jamaat-e-Islami chief, who of South Punjab and before Multan he went to Bahawalpur, said that the total electricity consumption in the country is around 30,000 MW, while our capacity is 46,000 MW, despite this, load shedding is continuing. Three hundred billion rupees of Pakistanis have been looted in the form of overbilling, despite agreements with IPPs, the government is not reducing the price of electricity.

He said that farmers are not getting fertilizer, the rate of wheat has not been fixed, and sugarcane is not being sold. The Jamaat-e-Islami chief said that

has been six percent, which has grad- wheat, the government family owns lords have convenience and do not even despite difficult conditions, the growth ually gone down, the Punjab govern- sugar mills and is not paying the price pay taxes. He said that the ruling class rate of agriculture in the past years ment cheated farmers on the sale of of sugarcane to the farmers, big land-

Illuminated

FAISALABAD: A beautiful view of monument decorated with colorful lights in connection with upcoming Independence Day, in the city.



17th Death Anniversary of Martyr Sheikh Abdul Áziz

Abdul Majeed Tahir

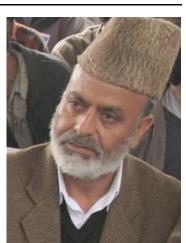
ISLAMABAD: All-Party Hurrivat Conference Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi and the entire leadership have said in a joint detailed statement on the occasion of the 17th death Sheikh Abdul Aziz faced Indian state anniversary of Martyr Sheikh Abdul Aziz that Sheikh Abdul Aziz was not only a loval, sincere and honest leader his family was harassed, but all these of the Kashmir Freedom Movement atrocities could not break his resolve. but also a symbol of the heartbeat and

right to self-determination. He knew that this path was full of sacrifices, but never backed down.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi said that oppression, torture, imprisonment, and restrictions. He was repeatedly arrested, He remained an ambassador for the

resistance of the Kashmiri people. He right to self-determination of the Kashdedicated his entire life to achieving the miri people and a loud and powerful voice against the illegal occupation of

India in every situation. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference reiterates its resolve that the sacrifices of martyred Sheikh Abdul Aziz and his comrades will never go in vain. The Kashmir Freedom Movement will be taken to its logical conclusion and the day will surely come when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will breathe v



Muslim League-N is the only party that has historical importance: Shah Ghulam Qadir

👺 Bureau Report

Sharda President Pakistan Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan will soon lay the foundation stone of Danish School Sharda. Muslim League-N is a bouquet of all communities. Muslim League-N is the only party that has historical importance. Muslim League-N is not a community but has a unified vision of state building and development on the basis of equality.

I welcome those who left the People's Party and PTI and joined the Muslim League-N and assure them of all possible cooperation and self-respect. Addressing a program in Sharda the other day, President Pakistan Muslim League-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir said that the people living in the Neelum Valley are sophisticated people, good people should come to the historical party. During the visit, senior workers of the PPP and PTI from Union Lone, Ahmed Lone, Ali Muhammad Hafiz Imran Minhas, Sachi Zaman Yousuf, while from Union Council Council Upper Grace Ward Karimabad were Ghulam Ahmed Lone, Ali Muhammad Lone, Abbas Lone, Farooq Lone, Ahsan Mir, Mahmood Lone, Yousaf Lone, Aziz Lone, Abdul Rahim Lone, Hussain Butt, Qayyum Lone, Ahmed Akhwan, Ghulam Mohiuddin, while senior workers of the PPP and PTI from Union Council Upper



Lone, Ahmed Shah, Qayyum Lone, Farooq Lone, Mahmood Lone, Abbas Lone, Aziz Lone, Hussain Butt, Rahim Lone, Ahsan Mir, Siddique Shah, Yousaf Lone, Qayyum Lone, Ahmed Akhwan, Ghulam Mohiuddin, while senior workers of the PPP and PTI from Union Council Lower Grace Ward No. 6 Buri Nar Janwai were

Grace Helmet were Ghulam Ahmed Zafaran Minhas, Ali Akbar Minhas,

Minhas, Khani Zaman Minhas, Amjad Minhas, Shahzaman Minhas, Ilyas Minhas, Adil Minhas, Manzoor Minhas, Sajid Minhas, Yasir Sulehria, Khalid Sulehria, Irshad Sulehria, Sarwar Minhas, Shabbir Ahmed Minhas, Imran Minhas along with their families, while from UC Dudhnial, PPP central leader Khawaja Manzoor Ahmed, Malik Muhammad

Sharda Markaz, PPP and PTI senior workers Malik Abdul Rashid, Master (R) Akram, Rawais Akram, Iftikhar Malik, Khurshid Malik, Sajid Malik, Qasim Malik, Owais Malik, Rafaqat Malik, Basharat Malik, Waqas Malik, Arshad Malik, Shafqat Malik, Malik Abdul Rashid, Malik Shahzallah, Saghir Malik, Abdul Rehman Mir, Khalid Mehmood, Naseer Akram.

Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (ÅS) concludes peacefully in Attock

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) was observed peacefully in Attock. The central 'Alam' and Zuljinnah procession of Chehlum in Attock city was taken out on Sunday from Imambargah Panjtani under tight security, with deep religious devotion and

Addressing the Chehlum majlis at Imambargah Panjtani, religious scholar Allama Farhan Haider Abidi from Lahore said that Karbala is a lesson-teaching event in human history, giving a message to all mankind to stand firm on truth and righteousness for eternal success and to foil the nefarious designs of evil forces. He narrated the hardships faced by Imam Hussain (AS) and his loyal companions for the glory of Islam, recounting several events leading up to the tragedy of Karbala.

Later, mourners performed Zanjeerzani and Matam. On the procession route, stalls of water, milk, and food were set up under the supervision of security personnel to facilitate the mourners. The Zuhrain prayers were offered near Fawara Chowk, after which the procession peacefully concluded in the evening at Imambargah Hussainia, Kamalpur Syedan, Attock Cantonment.

The Tehsil administration had made excellent arrangements for the procession, while the local police maintained complete vigilance. Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, District Police Officer Mavarhan Khan, SDPO Malik Iftikhar, SHO City Malik Mujahid, SHO Saddar Circle, DSP Traffic Jawad Ismail, Chief Security Officer Taimoor Khan, Chief Officer Municipal Committee Sardar Aftab, Sanitary Inspector Amir Ilyas, Rawalpindi Waste Management Committee Incharge Kashif, and MPA Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari were also present.

A special mobile medical team from Shaheed Asfandyar District Headquarters Hospital Attock and Rescue 1122 officials remained on standby to provide medical assistance to the mourners and handle any emergency situation.

A ceremony to celebrate Independence Day with special



跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A ceremony to celebrate Independence Day with special children organized by Aman Education Welfare Foundation was held at the camp of Chaudhry Faqir Hussain Dogar. The chief guest was former MPA Chaudhry Faqir Hussain Dogar. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and a Naat was also recited. CEO Sabiya Khan read the appreciation letter of Aman Special Education Welfare Foundation. On the arrival of the special guest Chaudhry Faqir Hussain Dogar, he was presented with a bouquet. National songs were sung. Former MPA Chaudhry Faqir Hussain Dogar, CEO Aman Education Welfare Foundation Saba Khan, Vice President Aftab Ahmed, Senior Photojournalist Saeed Somi, Shafqat, Muhammad Shafa, Muhammad Ali, Talha, Qadiee

Kashmir Global Council Launches "Trump for Peace" Movement

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON, D. C: The Kashmir Global Council (KGC) today announced the launch of a historic, people-led initiative Trump for Peace: A Global Citizens' Call uniting voices across continents to champion peace, justice, human dignity, and freedom.

As part of this groundbreaking campaign, the KGC has appointed renowned human rights activist and steadfast supporter of Kashmir's freedom, Shahaab Qarni, as the official representative for Trump for Peace in Washington,



'This movement is not about politics; it is about principle," the KGC declared in its official statement. "Inspired by President Donald J. Trump's vision to end endless wars and prioritize peace agreements over armed conflict, we are building a global, non-partisan coalition to place diplomacy above destruction, and sovereignty above domination."





30º - 38º Clear

SER\	/ICES
Namaz '	Timings
Fajr	3:54 am
	12:13 pm
Asr	5:01 pm
Maghrib	7:00 pm
Isha	8:32 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1	122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police92	266044
Motorway Police9270	601-20
W D-!!	

Women Police **Stations**

Islamabad	9222
Rawalpindi	
·	

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

HOCDITALC

HUSPII	ALS
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

DEDADTMENTS

PEFARIN	/ILINIS
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Dawal Town	57733/3

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

Populationof donkeys in Pakistan reached 4.9 million in 2024



ISLAMABAD: According to the Agricultural Census Report 2024, the total number of donkeys in Pakistan has reached 4.9 million. Punjab province is far ahead as over 24 lakh donkeys were reported in the province. Sindh ranks second and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ranks third in the number of donkeys while the number of donkeys in Balochistan province is less than other provinces. The number of donkeys in Punjab has reached 2.4 million while in Sindh the figure reached 1.081 million.

The population of donkeys in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reached 782,000 while the number of donkeys in Balochistan has reached 630,000. The pollution of donkeys in the federal capital has been recorded at 4,000.

Bahria University Karachi Campus holds 21st Convocation

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Bahria University Karachi Campus and Institute of Professional Psychology along with Pakistan Navy School of Logistics, held its 21st Convocation. Chief of the Naval Staff and Pro-Chancellor of Bahria University, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the event as the Chief Guest and conferred degrees upon graduates.

Addressing the ceremony Admiral Naveed Ashraf urged graduates to view life as a continuous journey of learning,

remain steadfast in their goals and face challenges with resilience. He emphasized that integrity, dedication and a strong work ethic would define their legacy and bring honour to their families, professions and alma mater.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral Asif Khaliq (Retd), reaffirmed the University's commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. He expressed confidence that Bahria graduates are well-prepared not only to excel in their chosen careers but also to lead three PhDs, were awarded across diverse high-performing students.



with integrity and contribute positively

disciplines. In recognition of exceptional academic achievement, 95 Gold Medals A total of 3,276 degrees, including and 90 Silver Medals were presented to

The ceremony was attended by graduating students, their proud families, senior officials, faculty members and distinguished guests from academia.

Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of full moon on Saturday late night, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Balochistan CM, Sindh Governor attend Shah Latif Bhittai's Urs celebrations

B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Balochistan's Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori visited the shrine of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA) on 282 Urs celebration. Balochistan CM Sarfaraz Bugti and Kamran Tessori laid chaddar on the shrine and offered special prayers for the safety and security of the

Talking to media, CM Sarfaraz Bugti said Shah Latif Bhittai always taught the lessons of peace, love, and brotherhood. He presented women as role models in his poetry. Balochistan Chief Minister said that Sindh was a land of peace and love and Latif Bhittai also shared the message of peace and brotherhood. He claimed by following



Bhittai's unparalleled message, we can eliminate extremism at the national and global levels. On the occasion, Sindh

Governor Kamran Tessori said need to make progress in all that it was a blessing that Sindh has Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai in sectors, including development its land, whose shared message projects, health and education. of peace and love. Governor

Sindh said that as a son of that public should ask ques-Sindh, he will try to eliminate tions to their representatives hatred and linguistics trends in Tessori said Sindh province

about provision of basic rights. He said Ajrak was the culture of Sindh and there should be no political point scoring on it. He said that the provision of basic rights of the people should be To a question, Tessori said

4-year Khuzaimah's Mushkpuri Ascent echos: "Keep the Mountains Clean"

E City Desk

and inspiring ascent, four-year-old Khuzaimah Sulaman, accompanied by his eight-year-old brother Ibrahim Sulaman, successfully reached the summit of Mushkpuri Peak (9,200 feet above sea level) this summer-not just with determination, but with a environment.

The two young brothers from Islamabad, embarked on the scenic yet challenging trail through the pine-covered slopes of Galliyat organ- picked up the cap.

ized by Roam On Club.

While the hike itself was ISLAMABAD: In a heart- impressive for someone so young, what truly captured attention was their quiet campaign for cleaner moun-

> Both Khuzaimah and Ibrahim practiced and promoted environmental stewardship throughout the

When they noticed a fellow message for all: protect the hiker discarding a bottle cap into the bushes, Khuzaimah gently intervened, saying, "The birds can eat it. And the forest gets sick." The hiker, moved by the child's sincerity,





Construction of Lahore's 1st Tourism Highway "Wagha Heritage Corridor" in Full Swing

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif noted,"Construction work on Lahore's first tourism highway "Wagha Heritage Corridor," running from Quaid-e-Azam Interchange to Wagah Border (Zero Line) is progressing rapidly." She added,"Rs. 285 million have been spent so far on this 13-kilometer long project." She highlighted,"-To provide best travel facilities to lakhs of citizens, the road is being widened from both sides.

Madam Chief Minister said,"The two-way tourism highway is 68 feet wide, with 20 feet wide service roads being constructed on both sides." She added,"In addition to the construction of more than 22 kilometers long RCC drainage system, 10 kilometers of decorative wall, and modern solar street lights are also being installed." She underscored,"The project, which started in January, is rapidly moving towards completion.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said,"Along with the smooth flow of traffic, completion of the project will also provide world-class $\,$ travel facilities to domestic and foreign tourists coming to watch parade at Wagah Border." She noted," Millions of people use Wagah Heritage Corridor daily."

Madam Chief Minister said,"Sikh pilgrims from India will see the unique colors of Pakistani culture, tourism and beauty upon arrival." She added,"During the city journey, they will be able to see beautiful colors decorated with portraits of strong heroes and lights." She flagged,"Rs 2850 million has been spent on the highway so far." She hoped,"Construction of the highway and installation of a new sewage system will also solve the long-standing problem of the local people."

Employees Grand Alliance Punjab has announced protests across Punjab

ISLAMABAD: The All Government Employees Grand Alliance Punjab has announced protests across Punjab on August 16 against the economic exploitation of employees, and has demanded that the 30 percent disparity allowance be recognized as their right. The harsh reforms introduced in leave encashment, pensions, and gratuity should be withdrawn.

All Government Employees Grand Alliance Punjab leaders Khalid Javed Singhera, Rana Anwarul Haq, Yasin Warraich, Professor Faiza Rana, Ziaullah Niazi, Rana Liaquat, Mukhtar Gujjar, Shafiq Gujjar, Kashif Shahzad Chaudhry, Azad Gujjar, Mian Jahangir, Zahid Rafiq Chaudhry and others said that The 30 percent disparity reduction allowance is the rightful entitlement of government employees across the province, and there can be no compromise on this demand. A 5 percent increase in pensions, instead of the expected 7 percent, is unacceptable. The anti-employee reforms in leave encashment, pensions, and gratuity have caused significant mental distress among teachers and government workers. Teachers and employees are deeply disheartened by the government's indifference and authoritarian approach. Anxiety among them is increasing day by day due to these anti-employee policies.

Hyderabad Chamber President Expresses Serious Concern Over Deteriorating Bridges



Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, has voiced deep concern over the deteriorating state of the city's infrastructure and public facilities, warning that the worsening condition of key bridges, non-functional streetlights, incomplete roads and the alarming resurgence of illegal encroachments are posing serious threats to public safety, property and commercial activities in Hyderabad.

In formal letters addressed to Commissioner Hyderabad Division Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro and Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, the Chamber President highlighted two pressing issues requiring urgent government attention.

The first and most critical concern, he emphasized, is the poor structural condition of several bridges and the long-delayed completion of the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Flyover. He pointed out that the bridge near the Sabzi Mandi on Mirpurkhas Road is in a highly dilapidated state and must be repaired without delay, as the heavy traffic flow, especially due to the vegetable market, has created severe difficulties for traders and customers.

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Challenges for the new chairman of Higher **Education Commission**

he process for appointing the new Chairperson of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has formally begun. Following the formation of a nine-member Search Committee by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who is the controlling authority of HEC, and the publication of an advertisement, the selection process for the new head is now underway. The appointment of a regular Chairperson is a critical decision that will shape the future of higher education in the country, especially at a time when the sector is facing multiple and complex challenges. The Chairperson of HEC holds the status of a Federal Minister, and the person selected will be expected to play a pivotal role in steering the higher education sector through financial crises, policy reforms, governance restructuring, and the evolving demands of the 21st-century knowledge economy.

According to the latest Economic Survey of Pakistan, the country now has 274 higher education institutions and more than 140 campuses nationwide. Despite this significant expansion in infrastructure, the higher education enrollment rate has alarmingly decreased to just 13 percent. This decline is already evident in the ongoing admissions for the Autumn 2026 intake, suggesting deeper systemic issues. Several factors appear to be contributing to this decline, such as financial barriers preventing students from pursuing higher education, a mismatch between academic programs and job market needs that discourages enrollments, limited awareness and outreach in underprivileged regions. The new HEC Chairperson should address this paradox of growing campuses but shrinking student numbers by implementing evidence-based strategies to enhance access, affordability, and relevance of higher education.

Many universities in Pakistan are currently struggling to meet even their basic financial obligations, such as paying salaries and pensions. The lack of sustainable funding is not only affecting day-to-day operations but also stifling research, innovation, and academic growth. The new HEC head will need to ensure timely release of government funds to universities, explore public-private partnerships to diversify funding sources, encourage universities to develop income-generating initiatives such as industry collaborations, consultancy services, and alumni donations, and work towards the restoration of tax rebates and other financial incentives for universities. Without financial stability, no amount of policy reform can bring about meaningful change

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technologies is reshaping the global higher education landscape. In Pakistan, there is a visible surge in demand for disciplines like computer science, information technology, cybersecurity, and data science. The new HEC chief will need to promote curriculum redesign to include AI, machine learning, and other future-oriented skills, invest in faculty training to keep pace with emerging technologies, foster international collaborations for knowledge sharing and joint research in these fields, and ensure that technology adoption in higher education is inclusive and accessible across all regions. If Pakistan fails to respond to these trends, its graduates risk being left behind in the global job market.

America's immigration dilemma: Law, accountability, and the crisis within

resident Trump insists that "millions and millions" of illegal immigrants—whom he categorizes as violent criminals, traffickers, sex offenders, and pedophiles—have "invaded" the U. S. According to him, his administration's duty is to remove these threats through mass deportations, often carried out with military-style precision. ICE raids in cities like Los Angeles, where five individuals with criminal pasts were arrested on June 7, are presented as success stories. But a deeper question lurks behind these headlines: if such individuals are indeed dangerous and illegal, how did they get into the country in the first place?

As a legal immigrant myself, my family and I embarked on a long and arduous journey. We applied in 2007 for family-sponsored immigration and were not approved until 2024. Seventeen years of background checks, verification of employment, travel history, character assessment, and criminal records-all under the scrutiny of U.S. immigration services. It is a stringent, sometimes grueling, system that leaves little room for error. If followed diligently, it is almost impossible for someone with a dubious past to pass through.

ICE is now being weaponized not just to remove the undocumented, but to reassert political dominance. The use of unmarked vehicles, masked officers, and sudden, forceful detentions-often in front of children and elders—conveys a message of fear. It is not surprising that over 10,000 protesters recently marched through downtown Los Angeles against these raids. Many carried Mexican flagsnone carried the American flag. This wasn't just a protest; it was a symptom of deeper social unrest.

while legal under the Supreme Court's allowance of 24-hour deportation notice, are being carried out in a manner that undermines constitutional due process. Rights of asylum seekers, refugees, and even undocumented residents with longstanding ties to communities are brushed aside in the name of executive orders. A nation built by immigrants is now turning

its state machinery against them. Supporters of Trump's policy, on the other hand, insist that deporting illegals-especially criminals—is not just constitutional, but necessary. They point to the Clinton-era deportations of over 12 million people, Obama's deportation of 5 million, and Bush's expe-

dited removal protocols. "This is not new," they argue. "It's enforcement overdue."

But many dissenters challenge this logic. They argue that Trump is not fixing immigration—he's weaponizing it. He's framing all undocumented migrants as threats, fueling fear for political gain. His critics claim that this dehumanization is less about justice and more about re-election. Trump's rhetoric plays to a base who feel left behind—using immigrants as scapegoats for economic and social frustrations.

This divide is not only ideological it's generational, racial, and geographic. Many immigrants, including legal ones like myself, find ourselves in a complicated space. On one hand, we support the rule of law. On the other, we reject the vilification of all migrants and the blanket criminalization of entire communities.

Let us remember: America is a nation unconstitutional and inhumane. Some

Critics argue that these ICE actions, of immigrants. Even Donald Trump comments suggest this is less about crim-German immigrant who arrived in the U. S. in 1885. The German Chancellor once presented Trump with his grandfather's immigration file during a White House visit—a reminder that no one, not in the world may be destroyed, and no even the president, is far removed from the immigrant experience.

The real issue is not race, religion, or ethnicity. The only legitimate distinc-

tion should be between legal and illegal entry. But even that must be addressed humanely, within the framework of rights and due process. It cannot become a pretext public trust. for racial profiling, family separation, or campaigns.

The lack of systemic accountability is the root of this chaos. Who failed to enforce border laws? Who allowed the lapse? Was it intentional? Was there bribery? Was it negligence or political strategy? These are the questions no one in Washington wants to answer.

The consequences of this negligence go beyond borders. As seen in the Los Angeles protest, foreign governments-like Mexico-may begin to leverage their diaspora as political tools. If unchecked, this tactic could be replicated by other countries, introducing a dangerous element of foreign interference in domestic American affairs.

In my observation of reactions on X (formerly Twitter), two dominant narratives have emerged: one, defending ICE's actions and Trump's policies as lawful and overdue; the other, denouncing the excessive force and racial undertones as

is the grandson of Friedrich Trump, a inals and more about silencing immigrants—legal and illegal alike—through fear and exclusion.

What, then, is the way forward? First, no society or country elsewhere country, especially one as powerful as the United States, should ever tolerate illegal immigration. The law must be upheld.

tional, and humane. Second, there must be rigorous accountability. Politicians, departments, and border enforcement agencies that failed in their duty must face consequences. Only then can the system regain

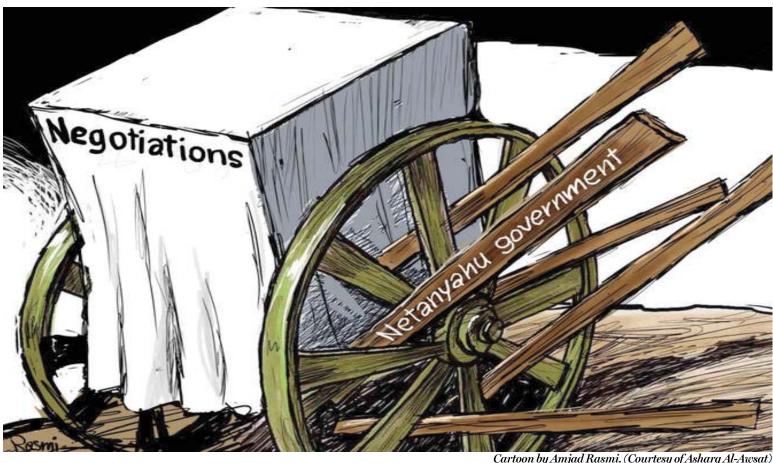
But enforcement must be precise, propor-

Third, investment must be made into technology, manpower, and processes that make it virtually impossible for undocumented migrants—especially those with criminal records—to enter undetected. The U.S. has done this before during the post-9/11 anti-terrorism era. It can do it

This is not just about protecting borders. It's about preserving the spirit of America—a land where laws are enforced, but justice is never blind to humanity. If illegal immigration is the dragon, it must be slain at its roots. Not with brutality, but with policy, accountability, and moral

Let us hope that sanity prevails. Let us hope that the United States rises above political theatrics and embraces a model of immigration that is lawful, just, and worthy of the ideals it claims to defend.

The writer is former press secretary to the president and former press minister at the Embassy of Pakistan to France.



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

'Karachi's Heart Under Siege by Pollution

Area lies the Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security Hospital, a vital lifeline for the working class. Yet today, this institution of healing stands engulfed in a devastating environmental crisis. The dense black smoke, worn in the morning turn black with soot by toxic chemicals, carbon particles, ash, and other evening. Patients seeking cure are now at greater hazardous pollutants released from the chimneys

of hundreds of surrounding factories have so thoroughly infiltrated the atmosphere that human breath, eyes, skin, clothing, and even the walls and floors of the hospital are daily victims of contamination.

A relentless layer of soot coats the hospital building its windows, doors, emergency rooms, medical wards, and residential quarters all of which require constant and strenuous cleaning by the

administrative staff. This alarming condition is a loud and painful testament to our environmental negligence and the incompetence of the responsible authorities.

This situation represents a blatant violation of global standards of public health and environmental protection and is equally deplorable from an Islamic and ethical perspective. Islam regards cleanliness as half of faith and upholds the sanctity of human life as a supreme act of worship. The Quran, in Surah Al-Baqarah, clearly instructs: "Do not throw yourselves into destruction with your own hands." Yet, criminal negligence by relevant departments, industrialists, and environmental agencies has turned this healing sanctuary into a toxic chamber.

Legally, Pakistan possesses environmental protection laws, notably the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act of 1997 and the Sindh Environmental Protection Act of 2014. These prohibit the operation of any factory without air filtration or waste-gas control systems. Hence, the current scenario demands urgent and decisive action by the Sindh Environmental Protec-

contaminated building it houses human beings suffering daily from respiratory issues, cough, eye inflammation, and skin irritations.

The situation has reached a point where clothes risk of acquiring new ailments. Entering the

hospital increasingly requires not just prescriptions but masks, goggles, air filters, and protective medication. The question now looms: When will we wake up? When will this toxic shadow be declared an environmental emergency? When will we finally value human life above

economic gain? Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Although the outlook is grim, the crisis is not insurmountable

Khan Singhanvi provided we adopt a collective consciousness, immediate action, and long-term planning. The first essential step is for SEPA to conduct an impartial and urgent environmental audit of all factories in the SITE area. Any factory operating without emission controls, filtration systems, or chemical neutralization mechanisms must be immediately shut down. Severe legal action and hefty fines must be imposed on violators to set

> an example. The Departments of Industry and Environment must be made accountable for ensuring that all factories new or existing undergo rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), with strict enforcement. Moreover, automated Air Quality Index (AQI) systems should be installed throughout industrial zones to provide real-time data and issue red alerts when pollution levels become hazardous.

> Relevant agencies must also initiate large-scale afforestation projects in SITE, planting air-purifying trees like neem, banyan, gul mohar, acacia, and pipal that can absorb toxic gases and partic-

We urge the judiciary and legal community

n the industrial heart of Karachi SITE tion Agency (SEPA). The hospital is not just a to take suo moto notice or file writ petitions, reminding institutions of their constitutional responsibilities. Environmental crimes should be classified as cognizable offenses under the criminal code, enabling swift and punitive action.

Media outlets and social activists bear a moral and human responsibility to highlight this catastrophic issue. They must become the voice of the voiceless, using public pressure to fuel a movement for environmental reform. Every major TV channel, newspaper, YouTube platform, and Twitter/Facebook user should raise awareness of this silent crisis. International organizations like the WHO and UNEP must be engaged to provide technical and financial assistance, enabling the implementation of global-standard environmental protection models in the SITE industrial zone and beyond. Their guidance should help frame a long-term national policy for environmental health in Pakistan.

Our education sector and curriculum development boards must include this issue in science and social studies syllabi, instilling environmental awareness in future generations.

Civil society, medical associations, environmental experts, lawyers, engineers, and local representatives should form a joint Environmental Monitoring Committee to serve as a bridge between government, industry, and the public. This body must offer recommendations, ensure oversight, and publish monthly progress

In conclusion, if we remain silent in the face of this collective environmental crime, tomorrow this toxic atmosphere will engulf our entire society. The environmental siege of the Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security (SITE) Hospital is not merely the tragedy of one institution it is an indictment of national apathy, industrial greed, and the institutional failure of our representatives and regulators. If we fail to implement a serious, comprehensive, and strategic response today, we may find ourselves tomorrow not only gasping for oxygen but requiring machines to keep our conscience alive.

Reforming the Tour-Guiding Profession in Pakistan

blessed with majestic mountains, rich cultural heritage, and generous hospi-

a less-discussed but central part of the visitor experience continues to be neglected: the role of the tour guide. Across the world, tour guides are the human face of tourism. They interpret, explain, manage, and often shape the very perception of a country. In Pakistan, however, the tour-guiding profession remains underde-

veloped and largely informal. Untrained, underpaid, and often unlicensed individuals dominate among visitors and missed opportunities for

Despite the challenges, there is a promising developments offer hope. The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC has introduced National Minimum Standards (NMS) for tourism services, including for tour guides. These standards aim to professionalize the industry by linking certification with formal training. Meanwhile, PTDC also initiated guides training in collaboration with Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan (STFP) and the Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO).

Public-private partnerships can play a vital role here. The govt must act as an enabler, providing infrastructure, regulation, and oversight. The private sector-including tourism colleges, hotel schools, and adventure travel companies-can contribute expertise, innovation, and operational reach. For example, regional tourism institutes or mobile training camps could be set up in key areas like Gilgit, Chitral, Mansehra, Murree Hills, Swat, and Skardu, AJK to train local youth as certified

n recent years, Pakistan has made head-guides. This not only professionalizes the field but lines as an emerging travel destination, also creates meaningful livelihood opportunities in remote regions.

Equally important is the need to change tality. From Hunza to Mohenjo-daro, public perception. Tour guiding is often the potential for tourism is vast and varied. Yet, viewed as a low-tier job or an ad hoc hustle,

not a respected profession. This mindset must change. A good tour guide is a cultural ambassador, a storyteller, a caretaker of heritage, and often, the only local connection a tourist has. Campaigns encouraging tourists to hire only certified guides-and platforms to promote licensed profes-

sionals-can help raise both

standards and status.

Abu Zafar Sadiq

There are also international examples worth the field, leading to widespread dissatisfaction noting. Countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka have long invested in formal guide certification programs, often in partnership with NGOs and tourism academies. Pakistan can learn from these models, adapting them to its own diverse geography and cultural landscape.

Ultimately, tourism in Pakistan cannot thrive without trained human resources. Roads, hotels, and airports may bring tourists to our doorstep, but it is people -especially guides-who determine whether they leave with lasting impressions or disappointing stories. Reforming the tour-guiding profession, therefore, is not a secondary concern. It is a strategic

If Pakistan is to compete in the global tourism arena, we must equip those who walk beside our guests with the tools, knowledge, and dignity they deserve. In doing so, we not only serve the tourist-we serve ourselves, our economy, and our story.

The write is a retired Joint Secretary of Secretariat Group; and visiting faculty member at Riphah International University.

Pakistan observes eighth death anniversary of Dr Ruth Pfau

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The eighth death anniversary of Dr Ruth Pfau, the German-born physician who devoted her life to eradicating leprosy in Pakistan, is being observed today.

Born on September 9, 1929, in Leipzig, Germany, Dr Pfau was a German Catholic nun and physician who moved to Pakistan in 1961. She dedicated more than five decades to fighting leprosy and improving the lives of thousands of patients across the country.

In recognition of her extraordinary services, she was awarded the Hilal-i-Pakistan, Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Nishan-

i-Quaid-i-Azam, and Sitara-i-Quaidi-Azam. Often hailed as the "Mother Teresa of Pakistan," Dr Pfau's tireless humanitarian work earned her national and international respect.

She passed away in Karachi on August 10, 2017, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, service, and



Meanwhile: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday paid tribute to Dr Ruth Pfau on her death anniversary, saying that she had spent each moment of her life serving the poor and deprived segments of society in Pakistan.

He said that Dr Pfau had set an hope for those suffering from neglected example of passion for sacrifice, utmost

compassion and helping humanity, which would always be remembered.

"Dr Ruth Pfau's untiring contributions towards treatment of leprosy patients and ensuring them a respected place in the society are a glowing chapter in our national history," the PM Office Media Wing quoted the prime minister as saying in a statement.

The prime minister further said the nation would always remember her services with pride, adding that Dr Pfau's mission carried the message of humanity, kindness and serving people.

Secretary General Women Parliamentary Caucus and President PPP Women Wing Karachi Division, Dr Syeda Shahida Rehmani also extended heartfelt tribute to Dr. Ruth Pfau on her 8th death

In her statement, Dr. Shahida Rehmani said, "Dr. Ruth Pfau set an unparalleled example of service to humanity in Pakistan who erased all boundaries of religion, colour, and nationality, choosing humanity as

her only faith." She emphasized that Dr Pfau's sacrifice, compassion, and unwavering commitment continue to shine as a beacon of hope. "We pledge to keep her mission alive so that generations to come may continue to draw inspiration from her legacy."

Over 600 pilgrims hospitalised due to chlorine gas leak in Iraq



More than 600 pilgrims in Iraq were briefly hospitalised with respiratory problems after inhaling chlorine as the result of a leak at a water treatment station, authorities said Sunday.

The incident took place overnight on the route between the two Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, located in the centre and south

This year, several million Shiite Muslim pilgrims are expected to make their way to Karbala, which houses the shrines of the revered Imam Hussein and his brother Abbas.

There, they will mark the Arbaeen — the 40-day period of mourning during which Shiites commemorate the death of Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

In a brief statement, Iraq's health ministry said "621 cases of asphyxia have been recorded following a chlorine gas leak in Karbala".

"All have received the necessary care and left hospital in good health," Security forces charged with protecting pilgrims meanwhile said

the incident had been caused by "a chlorine leak from a water station on the Karbala-Najaf road". Much of Iraq's infrastructure is in disrepair due to decades of conflict

and corruption, with adherence to safety standards often lax. In July, a massive fire at a shopping mall in the eastern city of Kut

killed more than 60 people, many of whom suffocated in the toilets, according to authorities.

Robots join Quran competition to guide visitors in 96 languages in Makkah



MAKKAH: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance has deployed interactive robots at the 45th King Abdulaziz International Competition for Memorizing, Reciting, and Interpreting the Holy Quran in Makkah in a step to enhance visitor experience.

The technology-driven initiative helps provide participants and visitors with instant access to information and guidance in a modern

Equipped with interactive touchscreens, the robots offer compreletails about the competition, including event schedu venue locations, and participation guidelines. They are also capable of answering questions in 96 languages, making the event more accessible for attendees from across the globe.

The ministry said the move reflects its commitment to adopting advanced solutions that save time, streamline services, and elevate the overall experience of one of the world's most prestigious Quranic competitions.

Jordan says to host Syria-US meeting on reconstruction

Jordan will host a meeting between the United States and Syria to discuss the situation in the war-ravaged country and explore reconstruction efforts, Amman's foreign ministry said Sunday.

The meeting on Tuesday, which will be attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani and US special envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack, "will discuss the situation in Syria and ways to support the process of rebuilding Syria on foundations that guarantee its security, stability and sovereignty", according to a state-

It will be a continuation of discussions held between the officials in Amman on July 19 about deadly clashes in the Druze-majority Syrian province of Sweida.

Responding to the announcement of the meeting, Barrack expressed in a post on X "our collective determination to move toward a future in which Syria and all of its people can live in peace, security, and prosperity".

The violence between Druze fighters and Sunni Bedouins in July ultimately drew the intervention of who came to support the Bedouins, as well as the Israeli military, which carried out strikes in support of the



government forces and tribal fighters people, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights — but the situation remained tense, flaring into

violence again in August.

of bloodshed — which killed 1,400 since December, when an Islamist-led and religious groups, the killing of Bashar al-Assad, who had presented

Syria's minority communities have have repeatedly stated their intent sectarian tensions.

A ceasefire put an end to the week expressed concerns for their safety to protect all of the country's ethnic offensive toppled longtime ruler more than 1,700 mostly Alawite civilians along the coast in March and himself as a protector of minorities. the violence in Sweida have raised While the new Syrian authorities doubts about their ability to manage

EU foreign ministers to hold urgent Ukraine talks Monday

said she would convene an emer-Monday as she stated any deal

the US state of Alaska on Friday in a statement Sunday. to try to resolve the three-year conflict. Europe insists Ukraine nary meeting of the EU foreign

must be part of the talks.

"President Trump is right Top EU diplomat Kaja Kallas that Russia has to end its war against Ukraine. The US has gency meeting of EU ministers the power to force Russia to negotiate seriously. Any deal between the United States and between the US and Russia Russia to end the war in Ukraine must have Ukraine and the must include Kviv and the bloc. EU included, for it is a matter Presidents Vladimir Putin of Ukraine's and the whole of and Donald Trump will meet in Europe's security," Kallas said

"I will convene an extraordi-

ministers on Monday to discuss our next steps," she said. The meeting will take place online.

"As we work towards a sustainable and just peace, international law is clear: All temporarily occupied territories belong to Ukraine," Kallas said.

She also warned any deal "must not provide a springboard for further Russian aggression against Ukraine. the transatlantic alliance and



Indonesian Embassy kicks off 'Independence Day Celebration'

Spokesman Report

ISI AMABAD: The Indonesian nationals and their families gathered at the embassy of the republic of Indonesia in Islamabad on Sunday to kick off celebrations for the 80th anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day to be held on August 17.

The event was graced by H. E. Mr. Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Indonesia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with the Indonesian Embassy's staff and other Indonesian community members. such as students, pilots, UN/IO staff, professionals, and the Indonesian spouses married to Pakistanis or foreigners, said release issued here.

Festivities began with an energetic morning exercise session, followed by an upbeat Zumba session that energized the crowd for the festivities ahead.

Participants in Red and white T-shirts, echoing the Indonesian flag, gave the gathering a vibrant patriotic touch.

"We must be proud to be Indonesians. Today is a day of celebration, a time to come together, enjoy, and strengthen our bonds as one family. Let us cherish our traditions, share our happiness, and celebrate with unity and pride," Ambassador Chandra accompanied by Mme Tamara Y. Sukotjo.

He further invited all Indonesians to join the upcoming flaghoisting ceremony on 17 August. "We will honor Indonesia's 80th Independence Day with dignity, joy, and spirit of nationalism."

The celebration continued with a series of sports and tradition games including badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and futsal. From the thrill of tug of war (tarik tambang) to the laughter-filled sack race (balap karung), and tomato dance (joget tomat), kept

the festive spirit alive.

Participants were treated to traditional Indonesian snacks and dishes, giving the diaspora a taste of home and introducing Indonesian flavors to friends in

Food stalls run by Indonesian students served popular favorites such as nasi ayam bakar (steamed rice with BBQ chicken), nasi pecel (steamed rice with mixed vegetables), bila ayam, and snacks like risol mayonnaise, and Indonesian pakora called bakwan, along with desserts such as pisang hijau and es cincau.

Participants expressed their joy at being part of the celebration.

We are truly excited to be here. We came to experience Indonesian culture, enjoy its traditional food, and celebrate with a community that always stands united," said Mrs. Leni Rina, who is married to a Pakistani from Lahore, shared her felicity.

"This celebration is more



than just an event; it's a chance to reconnect with our Indonesian friends. Coming together, sharing joy, and celebrating our Independence Day keeps us connected to our roots," added Ms. Nurul, UN Staff.

"This celebration makes us feel at home. We are proud to mark our Independence Day with passion and joy," said Kholifah Azizah, a student at the International Islamic University Islam-

During the event, Ambassador Chandra warmly welcomed Mr. Asrobudi, the Advisor of IBEX Indonesia, whose team including six talented Indonesian mountain climbers are heading towards Trango Towers in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan, with the spirit of friendship in commemorating the 75th anniversary of Indonesia and Pakistan Bilateral Relations.

The all day event concluded by distributing door prizes for the lucky ones.

Monday, August 11, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
145,382.79	145,647.13	
Day's High	Day's Low	
146,813.43	144,917.18	
Index Value	Change	
37,153,652,217	-264.34	
Percentage	Time	
-0.18%	8 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,095.73	-5.04	
Percentage	Time	
-0.055%	8 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
44,138.49	+169.85	
Percentage	Time	
+0.39%	8 Aug, 1:03 pm GMT-4	

ASIA PACITIC: NIKKEI STOCKS AVERAG	
Index Value	Change
41,820.48	+761.33
Percentage	Time
+1.85%	8 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184	189
Bahrain Dinar	751.75	754.25
Canadian Dollar	205	210
China Yuan	39.05	39.45
Danish Krone	43.58	43.98
Euro	330.20	332.20
Hong Kong Dollar	35.76	36.11
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.9000	2.0000
Kuwaiti Dinar	918.35	926.35
Malaysian Ringgit	66.45	67.05
NewZealand \$	165.22	167.22
Norwegians Krone	27.32	27.62
Omani Riyal	736.30	738.80
Qatari Riyal	77.18	77.88
Saudi Riyal	75.55	75.85
Singapore Dollar	219	224
Swedish Korona	29.04	29.34
Swiss Franc	348.4	351.15
Thai Bhat	8.62	8.77
U.A.E Dirham	77.3	77.55
UK Pound Sterling	380.55	382.75
US Dollar	283.9	284.9

Call for gradual reduction in policy

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to gradually reduce the policy rate to a single

In a statement issue here today, he highlighted that reducing the policy rate would provide small and medium enterprises (SMEs), access to loans at lower costs which would boost economic activity, create employment opportunities, and enhance exports. He stressed that the current high-interest rate is non lucrative to investment and places an excessive financial burden on industries already struggling with inflation and economic challenges. He urged policymakers to adopt business-friendly monetary policies to support local industries and promote economic stability. He also pointed out that regional competitors offer lower borrowing rates, making Pakistani industries less competitive in the global market.

Saif Ur Rehman suggested that lowering the policy rate would restore investor confidence and attract foreign direct investment (FDI). He reiterated that a stable and growth-oriented economic policy is crucial for Pakistan's economic revival and longterm sustainability.

Gold prices dip *by Rs*300 to *Rs* 362,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs300 on Saturday and was sold at Rs362,400 against its sale at Rs362,700 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs 257 to Rs.310,699 from Rs 310,956 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went down by 236 to Rs 284,817 from Rs 285,053.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver decreased by Rs09 and Rs12 to Rs07 and was traded at Rs.4,064 and Rs 3,484 respectively.

US-Pakistan Business Council turns 23 years

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The US-Pakistan Business Council Turns 23 years with Iftikhar Ali Malik as its founding Chairman, a milestone in promotion of bilateral economic partnership.

According to a statement issued here Sunday, Iftikhar Ali Malik in his capacity as President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry singed the memorandum of understanding in 2002 at Washington in the presence of the then Federal Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz while Ahmet C. Bozar signed as US council Chairman. The US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) proudly marks its 23rd anniversary, celebrating over two decades of commitment to strengthening economic and commercial ties between the United States and Pakistan. Founded in Washington, D. C. under the visionary leadership of renowned Pakistani business leader Iftikhar Ali Malik, the Council has emerged as a vital platform fostering mutual understanding, trade facilitation, and private sector cooperation between

As the founding chairman, Iftikhar Ali Malik brought together key stakeholders from governpromote dialogue and develop a robust frame-



work for bilateral trade. His forward-thinking played a crucial role in advancing policy advoleadership laid the foundation for long-term partnerships and opened doors for American investment in Pakistan's core sectors such as ment, industry, and business chambers to energy, IT, agriculture, textiles, and services

cacy, enhancing market access, and promoting on March 27, 2002 and credit goes to legend regulatory reforms. It has worked closely with both governments to resolve trade issues. boost transparency, and encourage sustain- Esperanza Gomes Executive Director US-Pa-Over the past 23 years, the USPBC has able economic practices. He said today, as kistan Business Council.

global economic dynamics evolve, the council remains committed to innovation, inclusivity, and long-term collaboration. It continues to serve as a bridge for strategic alliances, helping both nations navigate new economic challenges and unlock trade potential.

As the council also celebrates this historic milestone in Washington, it pays rich tributes to Iftikhar Ali Malik's enduring legacy and unwavering dedication to economic diplomacy. His efforts have not only benefited bilateral relations but have also contributed to regional stability and prosperity. The 23rd anniversary is not just a celebration of the past, but a renewed pledge to shaping a future of stronger economic integration, shared growth, and a deepened U. S.-Pakistan partnership. The journey continues—with vision, trust, and cooperation at its core. It's necessary to mention here that idea of formation of council was floated by Dr Herbert J Davis Managing Director South Asia Division, USA Chamber of Commerce during his visit to Federation of Pakistan chamber of commerce and industry trade leader Iftikhar Ali Malik for materialising the idea in close collaboration with the then Ms

Preparations

RAWALPINDI: A tailor busy in stitching national flags in his shop ahead of upcoming Independence Day on 14Th August in the city.



PFC for taking swift advantage of low US tariff

E Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Sunday that Pakistan must take swift advantage of the US low tariff by boosting its exports on top priority.

Chairing the PFC meeting here Sunday, he said Pakistan's exports to the US bear lower tariffs than countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh. And the development could open up space for manufacturers, particularly in textiles and clothing. Pakistan must benefit from this opening in the American market and attract FDI in export-oriented industries.

The global supply chain shift - accelerated by President Trump's tariffs - is already underway. He said Pak exports to United States must take advantage of lower tariffs compared to competitors creating a significant competitive edge. This development offers a promising opportunity for local manufacturers, especially in the high-potential sectors of textiles and clothing, which form the backbone of Pakistan's export portfolio.



With reduced tariff barriers, he said, Pakistani goods can enter the US market at more competitive prices, improving profit margins and encouraging higher volumes. The textile and apparel industry, already renowned for its quality and craftsmanship, can leverage this advantage to secure larger market share, attract new buyers, and expand long-term trade partnerships.

He said, the favorable tariff environment could encourage fresh investment in manufacturing, technology upgrades, and compliance with global standards, further boosting competitiveness. If effectively utilized, this tariff advantage could transform Pakistan's position in the US market, fostering sustainable export-led economic growth, he concluded.

Business community strengthening the economy of Pakistan within and at external level

跨 Abdul Majid

Mrs. Rubina Amjad, Founder President FWCCI & UBG Leader & Mrs. Shahida Aftab, President FWCCI have appreciated withdrawan draconian tax measures introduced in the Budget 2025-26 results into more revenue by Federal Board of Revenue. They have also lauded and accelerated pace of Gross support and understanding Domestic Product (GDP). of the business community's viewpoint by Field Marshal General Asim Munir. They said in a joint statement issued here today.

They said that business community is the major interest of the country.

stakeholder in the tax revenue and also in strengthening the economy of Pakistan within and at external level. They said that facilitation to the business community means to gear up the economic activities which generation, employment

They also hailed the Government for this pro-business community decision and acknowledged the Field Marshal's role in promoting the economic

Softened tax policy a big relief to business community, says: Shahid Imran

S Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, Sunday said the business community relieved over tax regime is essential for the government's decision to soften its tax policy by reversal

of several budgetary measures. Talking here today to a delegation of food exporters, he that powers granted to FBR under section 37A of the sales tax act have been strictly limited and these powers will now be exercised only in serious cases of sales tax fraud of fake or flying invoices. Income tax commissioner and two nominees of recognised trade bodies will approve conduct of investigation.

He further stressed that a stable and business-friendly



sustaining economic growth, attracting investment, and ensuring the smooth availability of essential food items at reasonable prices. Shahid Imran urged the authorities to continue consultations with the private sector to develop long-term fiscal policies that balance revenue generation with economic stability. The FPCCI top leadership led by its President Atif Akram Sh, he affirmed, will remain committed to supporting initiatives that foster sustainable growth in Pakistan's food and allied industries.

Sindh govt, transporters reach agreement to end protest after violent incidents

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The transporters on Sunday announced an end to their for arson, more arrests expected strike after successful negotiations with the authorities in Karaand violent incidents in the city.

On Saturday night, an acci-Minhas Road when a motorcycle, carrying a father and two children, was hit, killing 14-year-old to the government, demanding Ahmed Raza and 22-year-old Mahnoor on the spot.

Following the fatal accident, vehicles. the enraged citizens set fire to the seven dumpers, forcing police and between Sohrab Goth and the Rangers to intervene and restore National Highway badly.

order. The dumper driver was arrested at the scene.

At least 10 suspects detained via CCTV footage.

The All Pakistan Dumpers chi, following recent accidents Association blamed the Sindh government for failing to protect their vehicles, staged a sit-in on dent occurred at Karachi's Rashid the Superhighway, blocking both tracks.

It issued a 72-hour ultimatum the immediate arrest of those involved in setting fire to their

The sit-in blocked traffic



Traffic was rerouted to alternate routes. Association president Liaquat Mehsud vowed to continue the protest until all culprits are arrested, claiming nine vehicles were damaged.

The breakthrough between the government and transporters came during a meeting at the Commissioner House Karachi, where Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon met a delegation of transporters led by Haji Yousuf and Jam Alam.

Sharjeel Inam expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in the recent accident and strongly condemned the violence and rioting that followed.

Pakistan's Muhammad Umair Arif Secures 1st Runner-Up Position at The Jessica Company Hong Kong Junior Squash Open 2025

Sports Desk

squash talent, Muhammad Umair Arif from Peshawar, delivered an exceptional performance at The Junior Squash Open 2025, finishing as 1st Runner-Up after an intense final against the tournament's top-seeded player from Saudi Arabia.

tion, Umair's journey to the finals LAHORE: Pakistan's rising was marked by remarkable victories, including defeating higher-seeded international players from Japan, the USA, and Singa-Jessica Company Hong Kong pore. His consistent dominance on the court reflects the skill and determination that have defined his career so far.

Umair represented Pakistan in the World Squash Junior Champi-

Sponsored by BARD Founda- onships this year, where he showcased his talent on another prestigious international platform.

> Mehreen Dawood, member Board of Governors BARD Foundation, praised Umair's achievement, stating:

> "Umair's performance is a testament to the fact that Pakistan continues to produce world-class sports talent. At BARD Foundation, our mission is to nurture and

athletes to shine internationally. We are incredibly proud of his hard work and determination." Abdul Razak Dawood, Pres-

ident of BARD Foundation, "Supporting athletes like

Umair is central to our vision of building a stronger sports culture in Pakistan. His achievement in Hong Kong is not just a personal

milestone but an inspiration for the next generation of players. We look forward to seeing him achieve even greater success in the years ahead."

The BARD Foundation remains committed to empowering Pakistani athletes by providing them with the resources, mentorship, and exposure needed to excel in interna-



Freestyle wrestling Kushti

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Traditional wrestlers (Pehalwans) are in action during Freestyle Wrestling competition at an Akhara (wrestling pit) during annual Mela Baba Naadir Shah Kirmani Jakhar, in the city,



Karachi Hosts Independence Day Battle for Truth' $\it Mara thon$



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Independence Day "Battle for Truth" Marathon began on Sunday morning from Do Darya, drawing over 1,500 athletes to the city's scenic coast-

According to the details organised by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Sindh, the event features separate races for men and women, with women running 5 kilometres and men covering 10 kilometres.

The route stretches from the iconic Do Darya to Nishan-e-Pakistan at Seaview.

Prizes include Rs25,000 for first place, Rs20,000 for second, and Rs15,000 for third. Competitors placing fourth through tenth will also receive cash awards.

Pakistani archers make

history with first-ever Asian-level medals

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani archers Sanober Ameen and Areeb Hussain have made history by winning the country's first-ever medals at the Asian level, securing silver and bronze, respectively. at the WAA Asian Challenge Archery Championship.

Organised under the banner of World Archery Asia's Joint Training Program, the prestigious championship was held in the South Korean city of Incheon and featured more than 80 archers from 17 countries across Asia.

National junior gold medallist Sanober Ameen earned the silver medal in the women's team event, while Areeb Hussain Siddiqui clinched the bronze medal in the men's team event.

Their achievements mark a historic milestone for Pakistan in the sport, as the country had never before won medals in an Asian-level archery competition.

Arooj Butt appointed as first female team manager for Men's U-17 national team

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has appointed Ms. Arooj Butt as the Team Manager of the Pakistan Men's U-17 National Team.

This historic appointment makes her the first woman in the country's football history to hold such a key position at both national and inter-



national levels, said a press release issued here Sunday. Arooj Butt, who has been actively working with PFF since 2022 as Safeguarding Officer, holds multiple certifications in child safeguarding and welfare from FIFA, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and the South Asian Football Federa-

With this appointment, PFF is sending a strong message: women have a place at every level of the game, from the field

The initiative closely aligns with FIFA's global objectives, especially its commitment to human rights, anti-discrimination and the inclusion of women in football governance, as outlined in Article 3 of the FIFA Statutes. FIFA's 2016 reforms also emphasized the importance of women's full participation in shaping the future of the sport.

On the occasion, PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani said, I am proud to see women taking managerial role in the history of Pakistan football. We believe her presence will inspire more women to take up key roles in football."

Power-packed David slams 83 as Australia beat South Africa in 1st T20

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tim David crunched eight sixes in a blistering 83 from 52 balls to help Australia beat South Africa by 17 runs in their opening Twenty20 clash in Darwin on Sunday.

After being sent in, the hosts were all out for 178 on the final delivery of their 20 overs in the first game of international cricket in Australia's tropical north for 17 years.

Cameron Green (35 off 13) was the only other batsman to get going, with left-arm quick Kwena Maphaka bagging 4-20 as South Africa bowled out Australia for the first time in a T20.

But David's phenomenal innings proved enough, with the Proteas restricted to 161-9 in reply. That was despite a battling 71 from Ryan Rickelton, who fell to a spectacular Glenn Maxwell catch on the boundary.

Josh Hazlewood took 3-27 and Ben Dwarshuis 3-26.

"Great way to start the series," skipper Mitchell Marsh said after Australia's ninth T20 victory in a row.

"Certainly we want guys like David to come out and bat the way he did, he was the difference." Backing up from a recent 5-0 series

sweep against the West Indies, Australia signalled their intent early with Marsh slamming a six off the first ball.

But he lost opening partner Travis Head (two) and Josh Inglis (golden duck) in the space of three deliveries and then skied Kagiso Rabada on 13, with Maphaka taking a tricky catch before



Green and David let loose.

They put on a quickfire 40 for the fourth wicket before Green was undone by a slower ball from Lungi Ngidi.

Australia were in trouble on 75-6 when Mitch Owen was out for two and dangerman Maxwell went for one.

But David dug in and, with Dwarshuis (17), added 59 for the seventh wicket. David was dropped by Tristan Stubbs holding the catch that finally removed the big Australian after a power-packed

skipper Aiden Markram out to Hazlewood in the first over, and they had lost three wickets for 48 by the sixth over.

Rickelton and Stubbs (37) knuckled

on 56, although Stubbs made amends by but Hazlewood struck again with two wickets in an over to shatter their momentum.

South Africa's hopes were all but over South Africa's chase started badly with when Adam Zampa matched Hazlewood's feat in the next over.

"It got close, but we were pretty far from our best tonight," Markram said.

The second of the three-game series down in a threatening 72-run stand is in Darwin on Tuesday.

Army Chief warns of Indian aggression; urges national unity during US visit

Continued from Page 1

Pakistan, he said, responded "resolutely and forcefully" to Indian provocations, successfully preventing a wider confrontation. Despite this, he warned, India "remains determined to create instability in the region" aggression would be met with a "befitting reply."

On Kashmir, Munir reaf-

stance that the territory is "not an internal matter of India but an unfinished international

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's famous as one of the worst human words, he said Kashmir is the tragedies of recent times, with "jugular vein" of Pakistan. He severe consequences for both stressed that there are multiple and reiterated that any future UN Security Council resolutions supporting the Kashmiri groups operating from Afghanipeople's right to self-determination, and Pakistan fully endorses to as Fitna al-Khawarij that firmed Pakistan's longstanding these international commit- continue to target Pakistan.

The Army Chief also addressed other pressing global and regional issues, condemning the "ongoing genocide" in Gaza global and regional stability. He warned about multiple terrorist stan, including what he referred

Field Marshal Munir emphasised that Pakistan is currently "the last bulwark against terrorism" and vowed that "there is no sympathy for terrorists" — all of whom will face justice "with full force."

He linked the country's future prosperity to the contributions of Pakistanis worldwide, noting that with 64 percent of the nation's population comprising youth, there is "immense potential" to drive national growth

and innovation.

On the role of technology and communication, Munir said that while social media has become "a powerful tool," it is also exploited by anti-national elements to spread "manufactured chaos." Quoting a verse from the Holy Quran, he urged against the dangers of misin-

He noted that the thinking,

relationships, and priorities of armed forces." the new generation differ from the past, and understanding this change is essential to progress.

Reflecting on Pakistan's recent diplomatic and secu- is not if we will rise, but how rity achievements, particularly soon and with how much force against India, the Army Chief we will rise." credited these successes to "the the public to verify information mercy of Allah Almighty, the and abroad to preserve the before acting on it, warning collective efforts of the nation, legacy of their ancestors, he the foresight and perseverance of the political leadership, and forward with a new spirit and the professionalism of our brave purpose."

He concluded his address

with a call for unity, resilience, and forward momentum:

"Now the question before us

Urging Pakistanis at home said, "Let us stand up and move

Heart touching moment

GAZA: "I'm exhausted from fetching water every day. I wish I could go home and see my friends," says ten-year-old Mariam from Gaza. Photo by



Israel's Gaza plan risks 'another calamity': UN

UNITED NATIONS: A UN official on Sunday warned the Security Council that Israel's plans to control Gaza City risked "another calamity" with far-reaching consequences as Benjamin Netanyahu insisted his goal was not to occupy the territory.

The UN Security Council held a rare emergency weekend meeting after Israel said its military would "take control" of Gaza City approved by Prime mented, they will likely trigger UN Assistant Secretary Miro-Minister Netanyahu's security cabinet that sparked a wave of global criticism.

"If these plans are imple- ment, killings, and destruction," speaking on behalf of the five Gaza.



another calamity in Gaza, reverberating across the region and

nothing to secure the return of the hostages and risk further endangering their lives." "It will also worsen the

already catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and risk further death and mass displacement of Palestinian civilians."

European members of the

Security Council ahead of the

meeting, said "this decision by

the Israeli government will do

But Netanyahu said Sunday his country was "talking in terms of a fairly short timetable because we want to bring the war to an end," as he insisted causing further forced displace- to the UN Samuel Zbogar, Israel did not want to occupy

Palestinian ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour said Friday that "this escalation by the Israeli government is going in total contradiction to the will of the international commu-

The United States, a vetowielding permanent member of the Security Council, is likely to seek to shield its staunch ally Israel from any practical measure of UN censure.

Israel's ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said ahead of the meeting "Israel will not stop fighting for the release of all the hostages — and ensuring the safety and security of our citizens is our duty."

Opposition perturbed by economic progress, says Tarar

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broad- misleading and contrary to casting Attaullah Tarar on the facts. Sunday said the opposition try under the visionary leader- the minister stressed. ship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

statement, rejected the press that reached \$38 billion is not conference held by opposition leader Asad Qaiser as

is perturbed by the economic about the national economy exports were increasing and progress achieved by the counare not in the public's interest."

> He asked the opposition leaders whether the substan-

acceptable to them. Ironically, it is hard for them to acknowledge that the current account had recorded a surplus of \$2.1 "Misleading statements billion, inflation was declining, the stock market was continuously gaining the momentum,

slav Jenca told the UNSC.

ambassador

Slovenia's

The minister asked the The minister, in a news tial increase in remittances opposition why they are not

he added.





👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Modi's politics in India. Defence Khawaia Muhammad Asif on Sunday said that platform X, the minister had destroyed Pakistani tics in India."

was a failed attempt to revive the Indian Air Chief awoke

Indian Air Chief's remarks a failed attempt to revive Modi's politics: Khawaja Asif

Indian Air Chief's remarks said, "after three months, aircraft.

This was a failed attempt from his deep slumber and to revive Modi's cremated In a post on social media suddenly thought that they and reduced-to-ashes poli-

Modi has already been disgraced both at home and abroad. Such a foolish attempt has also ruined India's reputation, he said.

PTI seeks apology from nation for supporting General Bajwa's extension

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader and former Speaker National Assembly an extension to former Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa was the committing grave mistake.

opposition alliance leaders, Asad Qaiser said PTI will never support judicial system. any future extension.

effect in Pakistan at the moment. Asad Qaiser demanded that all cases of PTI should be heard according to merit. Asad Qaiser has admitted that giving He said PTI will continue to use all forums inside and outside the parliament for cases against Imran Khan. biggest mistake of his party therefore He said opposition will soon give its PTI seeks apology from the nation for protest plan. He said the disqualification of opposition leader of the Senate Addressing the media along with and the National Assembly, was no less than mockery of democracy and

He said martial law is practically in world, members of the assembly can in jail. visit jail. He said it is against the law to prevent a member of the assembly from going to jail.

Mehmood Achakzai said that the door of extention should be closed for all. He said constitution is a social contract, if it is violated, the foundations of Pakistan will be shaken. He said when Nawaz Sharif was in jail, Maryam Nawaz used to visits with legal gathering. He said NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq used to accompany the PTI leader said in democratic gathering while meeting Nawaz Sharif claimed middle class has ended.

Achakzai said when PTI lawmakers were arrested from the parliament why Speaker Ayaz Sadiq did not take

He said NA Speaker could not challenge colonel. Zubair Umer said every Pakistan wanted to raise voice against the system. He said PDM has completed three years term.

Zubair claimed elite class was responsible for economic losses and inflation has broken all records. He

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Field Marshal **Asim Munir holds** talks with top US military leadership



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), held high-level interactions with senior political and military leadership, as well as members of the Pakistani diaspora, during his ongoing visit to the United States.

In Tampa, the army chief attended the retirement ceremony of the outgoing Commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM), General Michael E. Kurilla, and the change of command ceremony for the incoming Commander, Admiral Brad Cooper.

On this occasion, Field Marshal Asim Munir appreciated General Kurilla's exemplary leadership and his invaluable contributions to strengthening Pakistan-US military

He also extended best wishes to ment and prosperity.

Admiral Cooper, expressing confidence that both sides would continue to face shared security challenges through mutual cooperation.

The army chief also met with the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, in which matters of mutual professional interest were discussed.

Field Marshal Asim Munir invited General Dan Caine to visit Pakistan. The army chief also held discussions with the defence chiefs of friendly countries.

In an interactive session with the Pakistani-American community, the army chief assured them that Pakistan has a bright future and encouraged them to play an active role in promoting investment in the country.

The Pakistani community reiterated its commitment to fully supporting the country's develop-

DPM/FM Dar, Turkish FM discuss bilateral ties, regional, global issues



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar spoke with Foreign Minister of Turkiye Hakan Fidan, and both leaders reviewed Pak-Turkiye bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on current regional and international develop-

"They also expressed grave to Israeli impunity.

concerns at the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The DPM/FM condemned the Israeli plan for a complete military takeover, calling it a flagrant violation of international law and UNSC resolutions," Foreign Office Spokesperson, on Sunday, said in a press statement.

DPM/FM Dar also stressed the urgent need for providing unimpeded humanitarian assistance and an end

Ziarat Assistant Commissioner, son kidnapped along with security guards



Bureau Report

QUETTA: Armed men on Sunday kidnapped Ziarat Assistant Commissioner Afzal Baqi, his son and his security guards from a tourist resort in the restive

Balochistan province of Pakistan. According to Levies sources, the armed later released the secu- operation.

rity guards and set the assistant commissioner's vehicle on fire.

According to sources, the incident took place at a tourist resort in Ziarat where the assistant commissioner was present with his family.

Security forces have cordoned off the area and started a search