



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابو نعیم نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا ہم
سے عثمان نے بیان کیا، ان سے عبد اللہ بن
عمر نے بیان کیا، ان سے ابن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما
نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
نے دار کے تعلق کو بیچنے، اس کو بیچ کر
سے منع فرمایا ہے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6756)

Barkat Rice Mills
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Irfan Siddiqui urges opposition to engage in collective effort for country's betterment

The parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in Senate Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui highlighted the importance of democracy, dialogue, and accountability. He criticized the opposition for not listening to opposing views and highlighted the hypocrisy of those who had previously faced legal challenges, only to now oppose the system they once engaged with.



Talal dismisses claims of overnight Mosque Seminary demolition

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry categorically dismissed media reports regarding the abrupt demolition of a mosque, clarifying that the recent relocation of a mosque seminary on Murree Road was carried out in consultation with and with the consent of the seminary's management.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 18, Wednesday, August 13, 2025



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 118 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

International youth day celebrated

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launches the Interest free loan scheme for Prospective Overseas Workers and Laptops for All Program at the International Youth Day Ceremony on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM warns India of 'decisive response' over water blockade threats

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday warned India that any attempt to block Pakistan's water in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty would draw a firm and decisive response.

"You threaten to stop our water. If you attempt such a move, Pakistan will teach you a lesson you will never forget," he said while addressing an event marking International Youth Day.

Calling water a "lifeline" for Pakistan, the prime minister vowed that no compromise would be made on the country's rights under international agreements.

He said that a "new Pakistan" had emerged after May 10, when the armed forces "defeated India" and the Paki-

stan Air Force shot down six Indian fighter jets — sinking India's arrogance.

The prime minister announced that 100,000 laptops would be distributed to students on an interest-free and merit basis, underlining his government's commitment to transparency in youth empowerment programmes.

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Minister of State for Religious Affairs Khel Das Kohistani and Chairman PM Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Khan highlighted that Pakistan's first youth policy was introduced in 2011 by Shehbaz Sharif as chief minister, leading to initiatives like laptop distribution, scholarships, and education endowments benefiting students nationwide.

Dar reviews operational efficiency at Pakistan's ports



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Tuesday, chaired a meeting to review operational efficiency at Pakistan's ports.

During the meeting, measures to address port congestion, strengthen trade facilitation, and improve logistics systems to support imports, exports, and overall economic activity were discussed. The meeting also reviewed

proposals to enhance efficiency, reduce turnaround times, and ensure smooth cargo handling.

The deputy PM underscored the importance of modernizing port infrastructure and streamlining processes to bolster Pakistan's competitiveness in regional and global trade.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Railways, NC SIFC, DG NLC, AS Maritime Affairs, and other senior officials.

PAC seeks details of bureaucrats purchasing properties in Portugal

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has taken notice of bureaucrats purchasing properties in Portugal and ordered the Establishment Division and Interior Ministry to provide a complete list of such officers. The committee has also raised concerns over the deployment of staff to Saudi Arabia during the Hajj season and the closure of Utility Stores in Pakistan.

Chaired by Junaid Akbar, the PAC meeting expressed alarm

over reports of senior government officers owning properties in Portugal. Members demanded transparency and directed the departments concerned to submit detailed records of these bureaucrats. According to report, Establishment Division, Interior Ministry, Finance Ministry and other relevant agencies also invited to PAC's next meeting.

On Aug 6, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif levelled serious allegations against Pakistan's bureaucracy, claiming that more than half of them



had purchased properties in Portugal and were preparing

to acquire foreign citizenship with money allegedly earned through corruption. In a post on social media platform X, the minister accused retired bureaucrats of spending billions of rupees and living a luxurious, peaceful retirement abroad, away from any scrutiny.

Asif revealed that a top bureaucrat, known to be close to former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar, allegedly received Rs4 billion in "salami" at his daughters' wedding before settling into a quiet retirement.

Harassment of Pakistani diplomats in New Delhi intensifies

Pakistani diplomats at the Pakistani High Commission in India are facing harassment, with at least four of them having served eviction notices concerning their private, rented residences in New Delhi, The News reported on Tuesday.

They further claimed that the landlord issued notices to the diplomats before the contract expired. The

further stated that Pakistani diplomats are constantly being monitored, while their gas and internet services is being cut-off time to time.

Additionally, the extension of Indian visas for 17 staff members, including diplomats, remains pending with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The request for these visa extensions was made 3 to 5 months

ago.

Furthermore, the water supply to the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi has also been cut off, while the delivery of Indian newspapers to the High Commission has also been stopped since a month and a half. The Pakistani High Commission has informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorities.

Naqvi commends US decision of designating BLA, Majeed Brigade as terrorist organizations



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi thanked the United States of America (USA) for declaring the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its affiliated Majeed Brigade as the terrorist organizations.

He also paid his heartfelt gratitude to American President Donald Trump and other members of his administration.

Mohsin Naqvi termed this move a big diplomatic victory for Pakistan and another blow to our enemy.

The Interior Minister said that the United States action showed that America admitted the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism.

He also appreciated the USA's support in the war against terrorism. He said that it's time to adopt a common stance against terrorism.

Mohsin Naqvi said that this US move will pave the way for peace and prosperity in the region.

Bill tabled in NA to create new province 'West Punjab'

A plan to redraw Punjab boundaries and create a new province under the name of 'West Punjab' has been presented in the National Assembly. The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2025, was tabled by Riaz Hussain Fatiana in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The proposed bill states that due to the growing population of Punjab and administrative problems, the creation of a new province is the need of the hour.

Under the proposed plan, Faisalabad Division and Sahiwal Division would be included in West Punjab province, which

will encompass Punjab's second-largest forest, a major agricultural university, and a key industrial centre.

The bill argues that the region has all the attributes necessary for survival as a separate province.

The bill proposes amendments to articles 1, 51, 59, 106, 154, 175A, 198 and 218 of the Constitution, under which there will be a change in the distribution of seats in the National and provincial assemblies.

According to the proposed amendment, Punjab will have 114 general seats

and 24 reserved for women, making a total of 138 seats.

Sindh will have a total of 75 seats, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 55, Balochistan 20, and the Federal Capital 3 seats.

For the new province of West Punjab, it is proposed to allocate 27 general seats and 8 women's seats.

The move would increase the number of provinces in Pakistan, while the federal capital would retain its separate status.

The National Assembly Speaker has referred the bill to the relevant standing committee for further consideration.

NA Speaker again invites opposition for talks with govt

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has, for the second time, invited the opposition to hold talks with the government, declaring that as the "custodian of the house", he is ready to extend all possible cooperation.

According to the details, Ayaz Sadiq, while talking to the media, said that negotiations are the only way to resolve political differences and pledged to play the role of a bridge between the government and the opposition.

He emphasised that the Constitution, the law, parliamentary

ending democracy.

The speaker further remarked that no forum like a grand jirga can be greater than the National Assembly and the Senate and urged all political forces to step forward to strengthen Parliament.

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq noted that disagreement is the beauty of democracy, but it must be transformed into constructive dialogue in the national interest.

Answering a query, Ayaz Sadiq also pointed out that following the arrest of the Indian opposition leader, no production orders had been issued.



Independence Day celebrating with success of Operation Banyan Marsus: Amir Muqam

Bureau Report

KOTLI: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam said that the relationship between Kashmiris and Pakistan will remain permanent and will remain till the end of time.

The love and affection of Kashmiris is an asset for me. Thanks to the hard work of Shah Ghulam Qadir, the PML-N is alive today and is ruling the hearts of the people.

The love of Kashmiris is for Pakistan and the PML-N. Addressing the Banyan Marsus ceremony organized by former assembly candidate and senior leader Malik Zulfikar at a local marquee, he said that in the interest of Kashmiris and in the interest of Pakistan, a PML-N government will be established in Azad Kashmir.

Independence Day is being celebrated with enthusiasm on the success of Operation Banyan Marsus. Thanks to our one voice, the Pakistani army defeated India under the leadership of Field Marshal General Asim Munir. After the victory in this war, Pakistan has emerged as a power all



Zulfikar, Vice Chairman District Council Kotli Sardar Umair Naeem Khan Advocate, President PML-N District Kotli Raja Idrees, Sardar Osama Zahid, Candidate Assembly Aziz, Malik Ittefat, Councilor Malik Ashiq Naky-alvi, Member District Council Shain Nawaz Malik, Farhan Azam, Mohsin Kamal Advocate, Sardar Yousaf Naseem, Sardar Tahir Mehmood Advocate, Yasir Mansha, Pulpit District Council Chaudhry Muhammad Asif Jan, Chaudhry Zaheer Gujjar Advocate, Malik Imtiaz, Leader PML-N Raja Gulfranz, Leader PML-N Hafiz Aurangzeb, former chairman Malik Ilyas, were also present while Hafiz Aurangzeb recited the Holy Quran. Former Minister Chaudhry Rukhsar, while addressing the ceremony at Sadat Marki, said that the Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam has come to the LoC and given a message to India that the Pakistani people, government and Pakistan forces stand behind the Kashmiris.

Former Minister Dr. Najeeb Naqi said that Malik Zulfikar has made a place in the hearts of the people of Raj Mahal. August 14, Independence Day, is approaching.

over the world.

Our army has crushed the pride of India and the dignity of Pakistan has started to touch the heights. He said that the spirit of Kashmiris was visible during the war and during Operation Banyan Marsus,

Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir celebrated Pakistan's success. Celebrated India is committing the worst atrocities on the oppressed Kashmiris, but the bond of love with Pakistan is strengthening in occupied Kashmir.

Former MPA Jamshed Mohmand and former MPA Fazlullah were also with the federal minister. On this occasion, former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan and

PML-N President Shah Ghulam Qadir and former Minister Raja Yasin, former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan, Member of Assembly President PML-N Shah Ghulam Qadir, former Minister Raja Mushtaq Ahmed

Minhas, former Senior Minister Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, former Minister Chaudhry Rukhsar, former Minister Dr. Najeeb Naqi, former Minister Masood Khalid, Member Kashmir Council Malik Muhammad Hanif, DG Malik

Azadi Festival

SLAMABAD: Artists are performing during "Azadi Festival" at Lok Versa during the celebrations of Independence Day, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has praised Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for demonstrating exceptional diplomacy during his visit to the United States. In a special statement,

PM AJK praised Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for demonstrating exceptional diplomacy

the Prime Minister noted that the visit would have far-reaching consequences for the region's political and security landscape.

He praised the Field Marshal's leadership and diplomatic skills, crediting them for the US State Department's decision to designate the BLA and Majeed Brigade as terrorist organizations. Terming the move as an important milestone in Pakistan's fight against terrorism, Prime Minister Haq said this inclusion was the direct result of the Field Marshal's efforts and a vivid reflection of the growing

trust and support of the international community for Pakistan.

He added that such international cooperation to eliminate terrorism is clear proof of the Field Marshal's successful diplomacy. The Prime Minister also commended the Army Chief's efforts for peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq paid glowing tribute to the security forces for their successful operations in Balochistan, in which three more terrorists of the "Fitna-e-Hindustan"

were killed in the Sambaza area of Zhob. Lauding their professionalism and resolve, the Prime Minister noted that a total of 50 Indian-sponsored terrorists have been eliminated in recent days. He vowed that the countless sacrifices made in eradicating the "Fitna-e-Hindustan" will not go in vain. Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said the "Fitna-e-Hindustan" is responsible for massacring innocent civilians across Balochistan, and urged the nation to unite in defeating the nefarious designs of these terrorists, aided and abetted by India.

August 14: A Day of Unity for Kashmir and Pakistan: Sardar Attique

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that August 14, Independence Day, is not just a historical day but a practical expression of the Kashmiri nation's love and attachment to Pakistan.

The entire Kashmiri nation should celebrate this day in a dignified manner and hoist the green crescent flag on every street, neighborhood and house to send a message to the world that the Kashmiri people consider their destiny to be linked to Pakistan. He



said that Muslim Conference workers should display Pakistani flags on

houses, shops, vehicles, motorcycles and roads on August 14. Muslim Conference workers living in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and around the world should organize events on the occasion of Independence Day so that the message of solidarity with Pakistan can be conveyed at all levels.

Sardar Attique expressed these views while talking to various delegations at Rawalpindi Mujahid Manzil yesterday. He said that no compromise is possible on the ideology of accession to Pakistan and the slogan "Kashmir will become Pakistan". Above any interest, greed or pressure, the flag of Pakistan will be kept high in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Journalist Ishtiaq Hamdani called on PM AJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Russia-based senior Kashmiri journalist Ishtiaq Hamdani called on Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq here today. Ishtiaq Hamdani apprised the Prime Minister of the problems faced by residents of Hattian Bala in Jhelum Valley, including lack of water supply, electricity shortages, unclean storm drains, and river erosion. He informed the Prime Minister that the area's residents have been without water supply for the past five days. Expressing his deep concern over the matter, the Prime Minister directed the Chief Engineer Public Health, Muzaffarabad Division, to submit a comprehensive report within three days, and instructed the Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Valley to furnish a detailed report on the matter. On the occasion, Hamdani presented a special booklet in Russian, prepared to raise global awareness about the Kashmir issue.



A Tribute to Martyrs: Attock's Candlelight Ceremony

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The slogan of "Battle for Truth" is our rallying cry until the achievement of complete freedom, said Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Anil Saeed while speaking to the media after the candle-lighting ceremony held at Chowk Fawara in connection with the Jashn-e-Azadi Battle for Truth Shuhada celebrations.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Officer Municipal Committee Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan, President of the Central Traders Association (Registered) Attock and former Chairman of Attock Press Club (Registered) Sheikh Javed Iqbal, Head Clerk Raja Zahid Hussain, Works Supervisor Abid Hussain, Light Inspector Raja Saleem, Record Keeper Mohsin Shah, senior journalist Nadeem Haider, and others.

Anil Saeed further said that this year, all forces will actively participate in the August 14 events. "We will visit the families of those brothers guarding our borders and those who have laid down their lives for the country, inviting them to join us in the celebrations.

Pir Chanasi incident: Rehana Khan demands a clean and transparent inquiry

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Women Commission Ms. Rehana Khan has expressed deep concern over the incident that took place in Pir Chinasi, a famous tourist destination in Muzaffarabad, and demanded that a complete clean and transparent inquiry be conducted into the incident and the accused involved be punished under the law. She said that after this unfortunate incident, I pay tribute to the police for their timely action and the accused arrested so far, however, the remaining accused involved should also be arrested as soon as possible. Ms. Rehana Khan demanded that the IG Police personally monitor the case and ensure a clean investigation so that the affected family gets justice. The Chairperson Women Commission said that such incidents not only undermine social values but also negatively affect the reputation of tourist destinations, therefore, giving exemplary punishment to the involved elements is the need of the hour.



Independence Day is being celebrated as a victory of the "Marka-e-haqq": Chairman

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: On the occasion of Independence Day, August 14, a cake cutting ceremony was organized by the Professional Photographers Association at the D-Ground to mark the victory in the struggle for truth. Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, General Secretary Qasur Munir Sheikh, Vice Presidents Muhammad Shahid, Muhammad Asif Makhan, Information Secretary Rao Mubashir, Photojournalist Abdul Majid, Shahzad Bhatti, Muhammad Shakeel, Muhammad Afzal, Muhammad Shahid, Muhammad Hussain, Shakeel Naik, Tariq Mahmood Iqbal, Sheikh Nadeem, Muazam Yaqoob, Manan, Malik Amjad and others were present at the event.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:56 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:00 pm
Maghrib	6:58 pm
Isha	8:29 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261070-9
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

PHA completes arrangements to decorate Rawalpindi

Murree in festive way

RAWALPINDI: The Parks and Horticulture Authority Rawalpindi has completed arrangements to decorate the cities of Rawalpindi and Murree in a festive way to mark the Independence Day celebrations.

A PHA spokesman in statement on Tuesday said the Murree Road, the main artery of the Rawalpindi city, and important places had been decorated in a very attractive way.

The Murree Road, he said, was illuminated with green and white lights with waving flags with every pillar of metro bus route and electric pole.

The 6th Road and Chandni Chowk flyovers were also giving festive looks with beautiful lights, he added.

Likewise, the spokesman said, important places in the Murree city had also been decorated with beautiful lights in the colours of the Pakistani Flag.

"The beautiful decorations reflect national sentiments. Green and white lights in both cities are interpreting the colours of the National Flag," he added.

On the special instructions of PHA Director General Ahmed Hassan Ranjha, he said, the PHA had completed decoration of the Rawalpindi and Murree cities in a beautiful way.

The PHA was finalizing arrangements to organize various ceremonies regarding the Independence Day, the spokesman added.

Electric Buses

Message of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif on International Youth Day

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that all possible resources will be utilized to fulfill the dreams of the youth. The youth of Punjab are the bright future and a valuable asset of Pakistan. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her message on International Youth Day said, "Every youth is the bright star of the nation's destiny, we are proud of them. Punjab's unique Honhaar scholarship program is materializing the dreams of talented students."

She highlighted, "Thousands of youth are benefiting from modern knowledge and technology through the 'CM Punjab Laptop Scheme'. Through the 'Khelta' Punjab program, the Punjab government is providing the youth of every division a platform to prosper in the fields of

sports, positive activities along with maintaining their health. The e-bike scheme is providing a dignified transportation facility and independence to thousands of students of Punjab."

She outlined, "Advanced market-based IT training is preparing the youth not merely for acquiring jobs but to create jobs as well. Young medical graduates in Maryam Nawaz clinics are portraying a practical example of providing excellent medical service to the patients."

She noted, "Assan Karobar Card and 'Assan Karobar' Finance Scheme are providing the youth financial independence and strength. The ongoing internship programs in various departments are opening avenues of practical experience and comprehension for the talented youth. Trust in the youth of Punjab will never fade away and there is no greater rejoice than witnessing their achieve-

ments and success in their practical fields."

Meanwhile: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a joyful message to the people of Punjab on 'X' said that there will be a wonderful and comfortable journey on the electric buses at only Rs 20 in the districts of Punjab. The buses equipped with air conditioning, Wi-Fi and other facilities have been prepared.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif apprised that a fleet of 100 electric buses is being loaded on a ship at the port of Yantai, China and will depart for Pakistan tonight. She highlighted, "Buses are being run on a priority basis in districts of Punjab being deprived of public transport facilities for quite a long time. E-buses are being run in Mianwali, Okara, Nankana Sahib, Muzaffargarh, Vehari, Pakpattan and Dera Ghazi Khan. Fare of the electric bus will be only Rs 20. The eco-friendly electric buses for the districts will also



have air conditioning, Wi-Fi, other facilities and will have a fully automated ticketing system." She outlined, "Special persons will also be able to travel easily on the electric buses being operated in the districts. The Punjab government will provide safe, comfortable and peaceful travel facilities to the citizens of Punjab."

Attention to

ISLAMABAD: Students of Islamabad Model school for Boys (Jhod) are facing trouble to enter to the school because of sewerage water and dairy waste at Tarnol area, which indicates the Government interest in education and it is open sign of the negligence of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Journalists play key role in maintaining peace in Malakand Division: DIG

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Saidu Sharif: Deputy Inspector General of Police Malakand Region, Sher Akbar Khan, has praised the journalists of Malakand Division for their invaluable contribution to maintaining peace in the region. He made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation of journalists and traders from Malakand Division.

The DIG acknowledged the sacrifices made by journalists and appreciated their role in supporting the administration and police in maintaining law and order. He emphasized that the collective efforts of journalists, traders, and civil society have led to the establishment of lasting peace in the region.

The delegation, which



included representatives from the Malakand Division Union of Journalists and the Malakand Traders Federation,

discussed the security situation in the region and the role of journalists in promoting peace. The DIG assured the

delegation of full cooperation and support in their efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region.

NUML Hosts Seminar to Commemorate Youm-e-Azaadi and Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Arts and Humanities, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), organised a one-day seminar to mark Youm-e-Azaadi (Independence Day) and Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq.

The event featured national songs, recitations of Allama Iqbal's poetry, and inspiring speeches by Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities, renowned columnist, scholar and Chairman National Rehmatul-lil-Alameen wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority (NRKNA), Dr. Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem, and Rector NUML, Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI (M).

Dean Faculty of Arts and Human-



ities, Prof Dr. Arshad Mahmood in his welcome address, emphasized

the responsibility of safeguarding the country's independence and striving

for national progress. He highlighted that Marka-e-Haq proved that wars are not won by weapons alone but through faith and passion.

Chief Guest, Dr. Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem reflected on the significance of the day, noting Pakistan's immense regional value and its foundational spirit built on the dedication of its youth.

He stressed that Pakistan is not an outcome of mere circumstances but the result of determination and sacrifice.

Rector NUML, Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M) delivered a thoughtful and inspiring speech, describing Pakistan as a divine blessing, achieved during Ramadan, on the night of Shab-e-Qadr; an event of great spiritual significance.

Celebrating Independence: A Call to Action for Pakistanis

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar stated that we all must contribute collectively to the development of the country. For a better future of Pakistan, shaping the character of the youth is extremely important. The Awaam Pakistan Party has complete faith in the abilities of the younger generation.



While congratulating his patriotic people of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, he said that as a nation, we must reflect on our history and future. Special attention must be given to character building among the youth. For a bright future of Pakistan, it is crucial to focus on the education and upbringing of the younger generation both at home and in educational institutions.

Chaudhry Inam Zafar emphasized that we all have to play our part in the country's progress, for which it is necessary to remember the founding principles of Pakistan. He further stated that Independence Day is a day to express patriotism and to pay tribute to those who sacrificed for freedom.

Drivers Up to 40% Off on Medical Tests

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, a global mobility and urban services platform, has joined hands with Essa Labs to offer its driver community discounts of up to 40% on a wide range of diagnostic tests. The initiative is part of inDrive's commitment to supporting the health and well-being of its drivers.

"Our drivers are the backbone of our operations, and their health and well-being are of great importance to us," said Awais Saeed, Country Head, inDrive Pakistan.

"This partnership with Essa Lab allows us to take a meaningful step in supporting those who keep our cities moving every day. We want our drivers to feel valued, not just through words but through real, tangible benefits."

Essa Labs, one of Pakistan's most trusted diagnostics providers, will extend this offer at all its branches nationwide. The discounted tests include a wide range of preventive and routine screenings, enabling early diagnosis and improved long-term health outcomes for drivers.

"At Essa Labs, we believe that access to accurate and affordable diagnostics is a fundamental right," said Professor Dr. Farhan Essa Abdullah, CEO of Essa Labs. "We are proud to collaborate with inDrive in making healthcare more accessible for the people who work tirelessly on our roads. It's a small step with the potential for a big social impact."

New report reveals how Pakistan's nurses can drive economic growth and global impact



City Desk

KARACHI: A report of national significance was launched today by the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) and Aga Khan University's (AKU) School of Nursing and Midwifery, Pakistan, highlighting the untapped potential for Pakistan's economic future: its nursing workforce. The report, titled 'Pakistan's Nursing Workforce – Export Potential and Challenges', outlines how strategic investment in nurses can strengthen the nation's healthcare system, boost the economy, and enhance Pakistan's international reputation.

"The migration of nurses from Pakistan is driven by pull and push factors," shared Dr Salimah Walani, Dean of AKU's School of Nursing and Midwifery, Pakistan. "We must have an open dialogue about what factors are pushing our nurses out." Pointing to the shocking statistic in the report that there are over 2 doctors per nurse in Pakistan, she said, "We must ask ourselves if our nurses are rightly valued and rewarded in our society and in our healthcare systems."

"This is the time for Pakistan to shift its perception of the nursing profession from undervalued to indispensable, and convert a persistent challenge into a long-term economic advantage, said Farah Naz Ata, Senior Economist at PBC. "By implementing our recommendations, we can uplift healthcare standards at home, empower our nurses, and unlock a powerful stream of foreign remittances."

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Unbridled traffic mess haunting citizens in Faisalabad

With unbridled expansion and mounting population pressure, Faisalabad is gradually becoming a nightmare for residents after grappling with an unrelenting traffic crisis.

Once celebrating its grandeur for industrial vigor and economic promises, the unruly traffic in the city is badly disrupting routine life, hampering business activities and raisin concerns of public safety.

From congested intersections to reckless driving, the traffic chaos has left citizens frustrated with authorities scrambling for solutions and urban planners questioning sustainability of city’s infrastructure.

Especially during busy hours, the traffic shows no signs of easing as snarls, violations and honking rises question in citizens’ minds as for how long they have to endure this chaos.

Without immediate and decisive action, the city roads may soon reach a breaking point—leaving people trapped in an endless cycle of gridlock and despair.

This traffic mess is not just a matter of inconvenience; but has serious implications for economy, fuel bill, environment and mental health of people.

Major arteries such as Jhang Road, Jaranwala Road, Samundri Road, Sargodha Road, Aminpur Road, Satiana Road, Circular Road, Rajbah Road, Jhumra Road and Samanabad Road are perennially clogged with bottlenecks forming at every major junction. Privately operated buses, rickshaws and Qingqi motorcycles weave in and out of traffic with little regard for lanes or signals.

“These drivers act like they own the road”, complained Saima Bibi, a college student who relies on public transport. “They stop wherever they want, block entire lanes and create jams just to pick up passengers.”

She said, absence of a regulated mass transit system forces citizens to depend on erratic modes of transport. “Lack of adherence to traffic rules and ineffective traffic management have aggravated this chaos.”

Traffic police, though present on scattered places, seem overwhelmed as traffic warden Rizwan Ali Khan remarks, “We do our best, but this much volume of vehicles is unmanageable. Much more traffic, too few roads and a general disregard for traffic laws always challenges us.”

“Violators least fear penalties. When we issue fines, political pressure forces us to cancel them. Then how to manage this,” he said.

The pedestrians are most vulnerable road users and they face brunt of disorder more than anyone else because zebra crossings are ignored; footpaths are encroached by vendors and speeding vehicles make road crossing, a perilous task.

Muhammad Younus, a transportation expert, suggested improvement in public transportation system.” It will reduce number of private vehicles on the road, decrease congestion and promote environmentally-friendly and sustainable transportation.”

A spokesman of Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) mentioned to working on multiple fronts like signals upgrading, roads expansion, awareness campaigns and public transport network in city. “The Punjab government has evolved a comprehensive mass transit network – metro bus service – for Faisalabad and we hope visible improvement once this project completes.”

Distinguished Legacy of Pakistan Air Force

The Pakistan Air Force has produced many remarkable pilots whose extraordinary bravery, skill, and commitment shine through both in historic conflicts and in recent engagements. Among the most legendary figures is Air Commodore Muhammad Mahmood Alam, widely known as M. M. Alam. During the 1965 Indo-Pak war, flying the F-86 Sabre, he shot down five Indian Hawker Hunters in less than a minute during a single sortie—earning him the rare distinction of being an “ace in a day.” Over the eleven days of combat, he achieved nine confirmed kills and two probable victories, a feat that remains one of the most breathtaking achievements in modern aerial warfare.

Another celebrated aviator is Squadron Leader Syed Sajjad Haider, credited with leading the strike on Pathankot airbase in the 1965 war. His daring low-altitude attack destroyed more than ten Indian aircraft on the ground, dealing a crippling blow to the IAF’s capabilities at a crucial moment.

PAF official accounts emphasize that on May 7-8, J-10C jets armed with long-range PL-15 missiles achieved decisive results, reportedly downing five to six Indian fighter aircraft—including Rafales, Su-30s, and MiG-29s—at ranges up to 190 km, before the Indian Air Force could mount any effective missile response. While pilot names were not disclosed, the high skill, precision, and use of advanced tactics reflect the collective excellence of PAF aviators in that engagement.

The operation narrative highlighted that the PAF’s network-centric warfare skills, real-time coordination across air,

land, and cyber domains, and leadership philosophy granting tactical autonomy contributed significantly to its success. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu reportedly empowered squadron leaders to make split-second decisions—a factor that boosted morale and operational tempo across the force.

Pakistan’s Air Force legacy includes icons like M. M. Alam, Sajjad Haider, Najeeb Ahmad Khan, Ghani Akbar, Manzoor Hashmi, and Kamran Masih Bhatti, each of whom demonstrated extraordinary courage and tactical prowess during past wars. Their spirit and skill were mirrored in recent times by pilots engaged in Operation Bunyan Marsoos—among whom Kamran Masih Bhatti was singled out—operating advanced platforms like J-10C jets, delivering precise, long-range strikes, and demonstrating air superiority under pressure. Their collective performances reaffirm the professionalism and continuing evolution of PAF aviators across generations.

The PAF’s strength and perfection have also been recognized globally and PAF is considered among the top Air Forces in the world. Recently, Pakistan achieved significant success at this year’s Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) airshow, held in the United Kingdom. Out of more than 220 aircraft from 27 different nations, Pakistan’s aircraft received two prestigious awards. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) showcased two of their flagship aircrafts at this year’s airshow. The first

aircraft, the JF-17 Thunder Block-III, was awarded the “Spirit of the Meet” Trophy. The RIAT organization noted that this trophy was awarded to the PAF “in recognition of their efforts deploying a pair of indigenous fighter aircraft on a 4,000-mile journey, alongside a tanker and specially painted transport aircraft, and presenting them in a colourful and engaging static display,” according to a statement regarding the winning participants. The second winning aircraft, the C-130H Hercules, was awarded the RUAG Trophy, presented to the overall winner of the Concours d’Elegance. Pakistan Army’s Inter-Services Public Relations issued a statement acknowledging the win and sharing the remarks of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, the Chief of the Air Staff, who “extended his heartfelt congratulations to PAF contingent.” He stated, “Winning these prestigious awards is a testament to our professionalism, technical expertise and relentless pursuit of excellence. He also commended the entire team for showcasing Pakistan’s true potential with pride and dignity.” Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also noted the achievement, stating, “By the grace of Allah, the vision of the leadership of the Pakistan Air Force and the professional skills of the pilots and technicians are making Pakistan’s name shine all over the world.” This marks the first time in seven years that Pakistan has taken home awards at RIAT, having previously won in 2018, 2016, and 2006. The Royal Interna-

tional Air Tattoo (RIAT) is the world’s largest international military airshow, occurring annually at the Royal Air Force Base Fairford in Gloucestershire, England. The three-day event boasts thousands of visitors and has been running for over 50 years, with the very first RIAT show taking place in Essex in 1971. The event also directly supports the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust (RAFCT), primarily dedicated to encouraging young people’s interest and involvement in aviation, space, and technology spheres. This year’s airshow took place from July 18 through July 20 and had over 175,000 attendees.

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) stands as a profound source of national pride for the people of Pakistan, whose trust in its unwavering dedication and exceptional capabilities for safeguarding the homeland is absolute. There is a deep-seated conviction across the nation that, with such courageous and outstanding armed forces, no external power would dare to harbor malicious intentions or cast an aggressive gaze upon Pakistan. The PAF’s remarkable service record, from its pivotal role in defending national airspace and delivering decisive strategic blows to its crucial contributions in humanitarian crises and its consistent pursuit of technological excellence, has cemented its place not just as a military branch, but as a revered symbol of national strength, resilience, and sovereignty. This collective belief in the PAF’s formidable presence underscores a powerful sense of security and unity among Pakistanis, who view their air force as an invincible shield against any form of aggression, ensuring the dignity and integrity of their beloved motherland.



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

Education at Your Fingertips: The Growing Influence of Online Learning

The advent of the internet has revolutionized education, making learning more accessible and flexible than ever before. Online learning and e-learning have emerged as powerful alternatives to traditional classroom-based education, offering students the opportunity to acquire knowledge from anywhere in the world. These digital learning methods have gained immense popularity, especially in recent years, due to their convenience, affordability, and adaptability to different learning styles.

One of the most significant advantages of online learning is its accessibility. Unlike traditional education, which requires physical presence in a classroom, e-learning allows students to access courses and materials from any location with an internet connection. This is particularly beneficial for working professionals, parents, or individuals living in remote areas who may not have easy access to educational institutions. Moreover, online learning eliminates geographical barriers, enabling students to enroll in courses offered by universities and institutions across the globe without the need for relocation.

Flexibility is another key benefit of e-learning. Traditional education follows a fixed schedule, requiring students to attend classes at specific times. In contrast, online learning platforms often provide recorded lectures and self-paced

courses, allowing learners to study at their own convenience. This flexibility helps individuals balance their education with work, family responsibilities, or other commitments. Additionally, e-learning caters to different learning speeds, enabling students to revisit difficult concepts or accelerate through familiar topics as needed.

Cost-effectiveness is also a major advantage of online education. Traditional higher education often involves substantial expenses, including tuition fees, accommodation, transportation, and textbooks. E-learning reduces many of these costs, as online courses are generally more affordable, and students can save on commuting and housing expenses. Many platforms also offer free or low-cost courses, making education more inclusive and accessible to a wider audience. Furthermore, digital resources such as e-books and online libraries eliminate the need for expensive physical textbooks.

Despite these benefits, online learning does come with challenges. One of the primary concerns is the lack of face-to-face interaction, which can lead to feelings of isolation among students. Classroom discussions, group projects, and direct communication with instructors play a crucial role in the learning experience, and their absence in e-learning can sometimes hinder engagement and collaboration. To address this, many online programs incorporate discussion

forums, live video sessions, and virtual group activities to foster interaction.

Another challenge is the need for self-discipline and motivation. Without the structure of a traditional classroom, some students may struggle with time management and procrastination. Success in e-learning requires a high level of personal responsibility, as learners must actively engage with the material and stay committed to their studies. Developing effective study habits and setting clear goals can help overcome these obstacles.

Technological barriers can also pose difficulties for some learners. Not everyone has access to reliable internet connections or modern devices, which can limit their ability to participate in online education. Institutions and governments must work toward bridging this digital divide by providing affordable technology and internet access to underserved communities.

In conclusion, online learning and e-learning have transformed the educational landscape by offering accessibility, flexibility, and affordability. While challenges such as limited interaction and the need for self-discipline exist, advancements in technology and innovative teaching methods continue to enhance the online learning experience. As digital education evolves, it has the potential to democratize learning, making quality education available to people from all walks of life. The future of education lies in a blended approach, combining the best aspects of traditional and online learning to create a more inclusive and effective system.

Pakistan Air Force: Hearts in duty, wings in the sky

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) stands as a prominent pillar of the country’s defence forces, tasked with safeguarding the skies and ensuring the security of the nation. With a rich history and a tradition of excellence, the PAF embodies dedication, professionalism, and courage in protecting Pakistan’s sovereignty. The essential role of the Pakistan Air Force, exploring its operational capabilities, training regimes, technological advancements and the commitment of its personnel.

In addition to its defensive role, the PAF also contributes to various humanitarian and peacekeeping missions within Pakistan and abroad. The PAF has been actively involved in disaster relief operations, search and rescue missions, and peacekeeping efforts under the United Nations. By leveraging its air assets and expertise, the PAF has been instrumental in providing critical support during natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and humanitarian crises.

The PAF boasts a sophisticated fleet of aircraft, including fighter jets, transport planes, and helicopters, equipped with cutting-edge technology to defend Pakistan’s airspace. The JF-17 Thunder, jointly developed with China, has become a symbol of technological prowess, showcasing the PAF’s commitment to modernization and self-reliance in defence production. Moreover, the PAF’s Air defence system, radar coverage, and strategic partnerships with other air forces contribute to a robust defence mechanism, ensuring the protection of Pakistani skies.

The rigorous training programs of the PAF are designed to produce highly skilled pilots, engineers, and ground personnel. The Pakistan Air Force Academy, located in Risalpur, is the cradle of excellence where aspiring cadets undergo rigorous physical, mental, and academic training to become future leaders of the PAF. The PAF’s emphasis on continuous

training, simulation exercises, and joint operations with allied forces enhances its operational readiness and response capabilities in times of crisis.

The PAF continuously invests in cutting-edge technology to maintain its competitive edge and stay abreast of global advancements in aviation and defence. Acquisition of state-of-the-art aircraft, avionics systems, and precision-guided munitions enables the PAF for combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Moreover, collaborations with international partners for training, maintenance and technology transfer enhance the



Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

PAF’s operational capabilities and foster inter-operability with other air forces.

The men and women of the PAF exemplify unwavering dedication, courage, and professionalism in serving their country. From pilots flying combat missions to engineers maintaining aircraft and ground crews ensuring operational readiness, every member of the PAF plays a vital role in upholding its motto of “Second to None.” The sacrifices and valor of PAF personnel in defending Pakistan’s sovereignty and safeguarding its skies epitomize the spirit of duty and honor that runs through the veins of the organization.

Pakistan Air Force stands as a symbol of national pride, embodying the values of duty, honor, and sacrifice in its mission to protect the skies of Pakistan. With a tradition of excellence, a commitment to technological advancement, and a dedicated team of professionals, the PAF continues to uphold its legacy as a formidable force in the region. As the guardians of the nation’s airspace, the hearts of the PAF beat with duty, while its wings soar high in the sky, ready to defend Pakistan at a moment’s notice.

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IS Intra-African Trade Fair

Algiers: Promoting African economic exchange and integration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Algeria will become the epicenter of African trade from September 4 to 10, in the 4th edition of the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)2025. More than a mere economic gathering, this event symbolizes Algeria's unwavering continental ambition-one that the nation is determined to fully embrace, and exceeds the scope of a conventional economic exhibition.

In a constantly evolving geopolitical context where shifting balances redefine Africa's priorities, the organization of this fair in Algiers, and it is a unique opportunity to showcase its capacity to align economic aspirations with logistical expertise and forward-thinking diplomacy.

The IATF 2025 is a strategic occasion for Algeria to reaffirm its place within the African economic sphere and to project a revitalized image of its productive capabilities.



ties. It aims to elevate intra-African cooperation to a structural level, yielding tangible outcomes in terms of trade facilitation and deeper integration into the continent's commercial momentum.

Yet, this continental fair goes well beyond the framework of a trade exhibition—it represents a critical milestone in the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The political commitment surrounding the event is a testament to the Algerian authorities' resolve to make the IATF a structural success that serves the cause of regional integration, and to transform the fair into a lever for sustainable economic diversification and a cornerstone of Algeria's strategic repositioning.

This dynamic follows the historic continuity of Algeria's commitment to African unity. Since gaining independence, the country has distinguished itself by actively supporting liberation movements and consistently engaging in a diplomacy that champions continental causes. Algeria's leading role within the African Union and its election to head numerous AU bodies are a direct reflection of this legacy—legitimizing Algiers as the host city of a continental event eagerly anticipated by entrepreneurs and economic experts alike.

President Abdelmadjid



Tebboune, unwavering in his Pan-African convictions, has consistently worked to strengthen political alignment across the continent. His vision is rooted in active solidarity, mutual support in facing common challenges, and, above all, a clear economic ambition-initiating a new growth dynamic powered by Africa's internal capacities and driven by intra-African trade. The slogan "Africa for Africans," which served as a foundational pillar of Pan-Africanism since the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), was first proclaimed from Algiers. It is no

coincidence that today's pursuit of African economic renewal is once again anchored in this land of resistance and revolutionary fervor.

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune's strategy is underpinned by a long-term vision: the diversification of the national economy, the intensification of African partnerships, and a firmly stated intention to break free from asymmetrical economic relations. This bold approach finds tangible expression in the organization of this Pan-African fair, which many experts view as a vital instrument for promoting commercial exchange across a market estimated at over \$3 trillion.

Algeria is mobilizing all necessary resources to ensure that the IATF 2025 becomes a benchmark event—a strategic turning point in Algeria's economic projection across the African continent, aligned with the aspirations of its peoples. By hosting

this major gathering, Algiers is not merely assuming the role of host; it is actively translating into reality a shared vision for the future, grounded in enduring and robust trade relations.

This upcoming event will mark far more than an economic or diplomatically symbolic occasion—Algiers will embody a collective determination to deepen economic cooperation, driven by political will, as reaffirmed by Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and Chairman of the advisory board of this exhibition. Within the span of a single week, Algiers will reconnect with its destiny as a great African capital, laden with historical significance and the enduring hope of African unity.

At a time when the continent is seeking new foundations, the 4th Intra-African Trade Fair in Algiers emerges as a beacon of exchange, ambition, and reciprocity.

IS Blood Donation on Independence Day Celebration:

Indonesian Embassy and PCRS Signed MoU on Humanitarian Cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), held a blood donation drive under the campaign, "Donate Blood, Save Lives." This activity was held as part of events in celebrating the 80th Independence Day of Indonesia and the 75th Anniversary of Indonesia-Pakistan Bilateral Relations.

The event was officially opened by H. E. Mr. Chandra W. Sukotjo, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Indonesia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In his remarks, the Indonesian Ambassador highlighted the Indonesian President's instruction to mark this year's Independence Day celebrations with simplicity while ensuring they remain meaningful and impactful to others.

"The blood donation is a powerful reminder of the extraordinary impact that our blood donors make in the community. Not only have you given the gift of life to patients who need transfusion, you are also the beacon



of hope and strength for their grateful families," Ambassador said in front of Chairperson of PCRS, Mdm. Farzana Naek, and PCRS volunteers, as well as potential donors from ASEAN diplomats, Islamabad Foreign Women's Association (IFWA), Indonesian community including students, and Pakistani

community.

In her address, Chairperson of PCRS praised the Indonesian Embassy's consistent humanitarian efforts over the years and acknowledged the success of previous joint blood donation campaigns. "It is truly an honor to be at the Indonesian Embassy for such

a noble cause," Chairperson said while extended her heartfelt wishes to all participants and expressed optimism for the continued success of the partnership between the Indonesian Embassy and PCRS.

Highlighting the significance of the event, the Indonesian Ambassador-designate and Chairperson of PCRS signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on humanitarian and emergency situation cooperation. "This partnership will act as a catalyst for further collaboration, fuelled by spirits of innovation, teamwork, and friendship," Ambassador concluded his remarks. "I am optimistic for further collaboration, not only with the Indonesian Embassy but also with other Embassies from ASEAN countries," Chairperson said during interview with journalists from several TV channels and online medias.

Participants expressed enthusiasm for being part of an event that strengthens people-to-people connections, while directly contributing to saving lives. "I'd never donated my blood before. I was scared! But this time I dared to donate it. I learned that donating blood not only



makes me healthy, but also helps the lives of others," expressed Lidzikri, an Indonesian student in International Islamic University in Islamabad (IIUI).

Several foreign nationals also participated in the blood donation. "I am excited, this is my first experience," said Nardos from Ethiopia accompanied by her husband from Eritrea. While Lee from South Africa and Elizabeth from

the Philippines experienced their first time to participate in the blood donation, Gilles from French has just participated after 20 years for not donating blood.

Indeed, the blood donation underscored the Indonesian Embassy's commitment to humanitarian causes and reinforced the warm diplomatic, cultural, and social ties among people in Pakistan.

OICCI urges urgent climate financing to secure Pakistan's future at the launch of its 3rd PCC Report

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ranked first on the Climate Risk Index 2025 despite contributing less than 0.9 percent to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan is bearing disproportionate losses. In 2022 alone, climate-induced disasters inflicted over USD 30 billion in damages, with recovery needs exceeding USD 16.3 billion. Air pollution alone causes over 128,000 premature deaths annually, while productivity in agriculture has declined by 10–20 percent due to climate variability, further straining livelihoods and the economy. Experts

warn that Pakistan now requires USD 40–50 billion annually to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate risks.

It is against this stark backdrop that the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) launched its 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference Report, titled "Creating an Enabling Environment for Private Sector Participation in Climate Resilience." The report underscores the urgency of mobilizing climate finance at scale, with the private sector positioned as a central partner in building resilience.

Speaking at the report launch,

Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&E) Aisha Humera Chaudhry said:

"Pakistan's climate vulnerability is a globally acknowledged reality. But to respond effectively, we must channel substantial and timely climate finance towards local solutions. The role of the private sector, as showcased by OICCI and its member companies, is central to our national climate strategy. We call on international partners to match Pakistan's climate ambition with significant funding support."

The economic argument for climate finance is clear. Without



urgent decarbonization, Pakistan's exports face mounting risks under new global trade frameworks, such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Secretary General OICCI M. Abdul Aleem stressed: "Pakistan's reliance on fossil fuels and carbon-intensive practices puts our exports at risk, especially under frameworks like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Decar-

bonization and green finance are no longer optional, they are essential to sustaining economic growth and global competitiveness."

Executive Director SDPI Dr. Abid Suleri reinforced the need for collaborative policy and financing mechanisms: "In the context of eroding Public and grant based Climate Finance, market-based solutions and private sector is not part of problem but an amicable solution to climate crises. Climate catastrophes are not a future concern; it is today's socioeconomic reality. Pakistan must now move beyond pledges and create an ecosystem where

private investment in climate resilience is not only encouraged but enabled through consistent policy, data transparency, and accessible financing instruments."

President ACCA Ayla Majid emphasized the role of skills and financial expertise in climate action: "Mobilizing climate finance is not just about securing funds, it is about ensuring they are deployed effectively, with transparency and measurable impact. Building the financial, technical, and governance capacities to manage these resources is key to turning commitments into real resilience for Pakistan."

The 3rd PCC Report outlines

actionable pathways in regenerative agriculture, industrial decarbonization, plastic circularity, and carbon market development. It emphasizes that climate funding must be paired with enabling policies and capacity-building to close Pakistan's climate financing gap.

OICCI, as the only private sector representative from Pakistan at COP28 and COP29, continues to champion public-private partnerships for climate action. The organization has engaged with regulators, including the State Bank of Pakistan and SECP, to advance green taxonomies and ESG reporting frameworks.

PepsiCo Pakistan convened the Misal-e-Basti Policy Dialogue with SDPI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo Pakistan convened the Misal-e-Basti Policy Dialogue, a closed-door high-level roundtable titled Advancing Water Stewardship through Model Communities, with its strategic partner Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

The dialogue earned widespread institutional backing, bringing together senior leadership from the federal government, development institutions, diplomatic community, private

sector, academia, and policy circles to mobilize cross-sector momentum for scaling community-based water and climate resilience models into national frameworks.

by SDPI. Launched on World Water Day 2023, the project was inaugurated a year later and, by mid-2025, had undergone a full independent impact assessment by SDPI.

The initiative was designed to tackle critical challenges in freshwater availability, wastewater management, sanitation, and hygiene, while building climate resilience and economic opportunity.

The dialogue underscored a paradigm shift in policymaking, from top-down approaches to integrated, community-centered frameworks, with Misal-e-Basti serving as a field-tested, scalable model that links grassroots impact with policy-level transformation.

Insights from the dialogue will directly inform SDPI's forthcoming policy recommendations, positioning Misal-e-Basti as a national blueprint for advancing water stewardship and climate resilience.

Before intervention, Chak RS faced severe water insecur-

ity, with 70 percent of residents lacking safe drinking water and 98 percent affected by waterborne diseases.

Today, through solar-powered water filtration, rainwater harvesting, floating treatment wetlands, ablution water reuse, and community-led hygiene awareness programs, Misal-e-Basti provides clean drinking water to over 15,000 people, replenishes 20 million liters annually, reduces waterborne illnesses by 45 percent, and prevents 80,000 kilograms of carbon emissions each year.

The improved access has also lowered household healthcare costs, restored local biodiversity, and freed up time for women and children to focus on education and livelihoods.

These measurable results framed the roundtable discussions, where participants emphasized the urgency of translating successful models like Misal-e-Basti into policy action. The project's ability to blend technology, nature-based solutions,

and community ownership was repeatedly highlighted as a template that can inform scalable frameworks for water security and climate adaptation in Pakistan.

Chief Guest Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, commended the initiative, stating, "Misal-e-Basti by PepsiCo Pakistan exemplifies how cross-sector collaboration between the public, private, and development sectors, alongside policy think tanks and most importantly the community, can scale solutions that advance sustainable development, climate resilience, and socio-economic progress. This model must be scaled up and embedded into national policy."

For PepsiCo Pakistan, Misal-e-Basti represents a rare example of a private sector initiative intentionally designed with policy integration in mind.

Zakiuddin Khalid, Business Head of PepsiCo Pakistan Foods, noted, "Misal-e-Basti shows how a community project, built with



strategic partnerships and local ownership, can influence the national policy conversation.

This integration of grassroots impact with policy ambition is unique in the private sector, and we call on more partners to join us in taking this framework to other water-stressed communities across Pakistan."

From the policy think tank's perspective, Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, under-

scored its replicability:

"The Misal-e-Basti model in Chak RS, Shujabad proves how private sector partnerships can deliver real impact, addressing water,

climate, touching upon not only 09 SDGs directory but also the remaining ones indirectly. With transparency, community ownership, and WASH gains validated by SDPI, it is a model the government should scale nation-

wide."

By aligning a proven, community-owned model with a high-level policy dialogue, PepsiCo Pakistan has created a bridge between grassroots innovation and institutional action. With growing multi-stakeholder momentum, Misal-e-Basti now stands not only as a local success story but as a credible pathway for shaping Pakistan's water and climate resilience policies.

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
147,005.32	146,929.84
Day's High	Day's Low
147,976.98	146,894.62
Index Value	Change
34,525,309,932	+75.48
Percentage	Time
+0.05%	12 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,147.81	+18.10
Percentage	Time
+0.20%	12 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,455.89	+480.80
Percentage	Time
+1.09%	12 Aug, 12:56 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
42,718.17	+897.69
Percentage	Time
+2.15%	12 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.2	189.2
Bahrain Dinar	751.75	754.25
Canadian Dollar	205.2	210.2
China Yuan	39.2	39.60
Danish Krone	43.68	44.08
Euro	330.40	332.40
Hong Kong Dollar	35.96	36.31
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.9000	2.0000
Kuwaiti Dinar	918.45	926.55
Malaysian Ringgit	66.55	67.15
NewZealand \$	165.22	167.22
Norwegians Krone	27.32	27.62
Omani Riyal	736.30	738.80
Qatari Riyal	77.25	77.95
Saudi Riyal	75.7	76
Singapore Dollar	219.2	224.2
Swedish Korona	29.10	29.40
Swiss Franc	348.5	351.25
Thai Bhat	8.65	8.8
U.A.E Dirham	77.4	77.65
UK Pound Sterling	380.75	382.95
US Dollar	284.2	285.7

ICCI Leadership Pushes for Lower Business Costs, Regulatory Reforms

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has stressed that maintaining fiscal discipline, strengthening beneficial foreign partnerships, and pursuing inclusive economic policies are essential for Pakistan's sustainable development.

Speaking during a meeting with a visiting delegation of renowned businessmen from the region, he said the challenges facing the country can only be overcome through prudent governance and consistent policy execution aimed at achieving lasting progress.

ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry echoed the need for comprehensive reforms to reduce the cost of doing business and enhance Pakistan's appeal as an investment destination.

Gold prices dip by Rs500 to Rs 358,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs500 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs358,300 against its sale at Rs358,800 on the previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs 429 to Rs.307,184 from Rs 307,613 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went down by Rs 393 to Rs 281,595 from Rs 281,988.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged and was traded at Rs.4,013 and Rs 3,440 respectively.

Zong 4G Secures 2nd Position in PTA's Cyber Security Awards 2025

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading technology innovation company has achieved 2nd place in the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Annual Cyber Security Awards 2025, improving from its 3rd position last year among Category-I operators.

The recognition was announced at the Next-Gen Cyber Resilience Workshop and Telecom Cyber Security Awards 2025, held on August 12, 2025, at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. Chaired by the Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, the high-profile event brought together telecom industry leaders to explore advancements in 5G, FinTech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and LEO Satellite Communications.

Each year, PTA conducts comprehensive cybersecurity audits of all telecom stakeholders, assessing readiness against emerging threats using well-defined evaluation criteria.

Category-I covers Cellular Mobile Operators and large multi-license operators — where Zong CMPak ranked 2nd in 2025 following a 3rd place ranking in 2024. This year's score was based on parameters including compliance with Critical Telecom Data & Infrastructure Security Regulation audits, improvements in external attack surface management, active threat intelligence sharing with the National Telecom Security Operations Center (nTSOC), strong performance in the National Telecom Cyber Emergency Response Team (nTCERT), and a high DNS Security (DNSSEC) validation score by APNIC.

Head of Information Security at Zong 4G, Mr. Rehan Siddiq, stated: "This achievement is a testament to our teams' dedication and our commitment to leading in cybersecurity and data protection. We will continue to invest in innovative security solutions to safeguard our customers and uphold national cyber standards."

Zong 4G remains committed to



advancing Pakistan's telecom security landscape, aligning with global best practices and PTA regulations.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Aurangzeb Khan Khichi presenting a painting to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan Mr Khazar Farhadov on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Lucky Investments Asset Manager Rating Upgraded to *AM2+ by PACRA

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Investments Limited ("Lucky Investments") has been awarded an upgraded Asset Manager Rating of AM2+ with a Stable Outlook by the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited (PACRA).

This achievement reflects the Company's exceptional growth in the Islamic asset management sector, securing over 4% market share within just a few months of operations.

As a full-fledged Islamic asset management company, Lucky Investments is committed to becoming the premier choice for Shariah-compliant investment solutions in Pakistan. Its vision is anchored in sustainable growth, financial inclusion, integrity, and innovation.



Commenting on the development, Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, CEO of Lucky Investments, said:

"We are grateful to Allah (SWT) and to our valued investors for making this milestone possible. The upgraded rating is a testament to our strong sponsor backing, robust governance framework, and professional management team.

We are determined to set new industry benchmarks and will continue to uphold the trust our stakeholders have placed in us."

PACRA's upgraded rating highlights Lucky Investments' solid capital base, sound governance, and strategic sponsor involvement, with active participation on the Board and key committees. It also recognizes the Company's experienced leadership team and proven market track record.

Naseem Shah continues his partnership with TECNO

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TECNO has officially announced that Pakistan's star fast bowler Naseem Shah will continue as the brand ambassador for its popular Spark 40 Series.

Known for his passion, determination, and youthful energy, Naseem Shah perfectly reflects the spirit of TECNO's Spark series – bold, inspiring, and committed to excellence. Just as cricket fans admire Naseem for his dedication and fearless performances, young



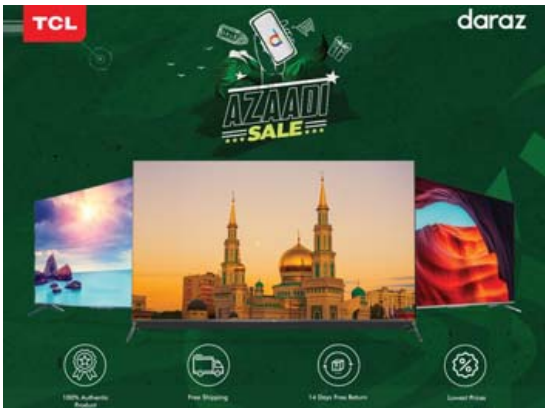
Pakistani consumers have embraced the Spark series for its innovative features, stylish designs, and exceptional value for money.

Carefully designed for the youth of Pakistan who seek both innovation and style,

the Spark 40 Series features an ultra-slim and lightweight design for all-day comfort. The addition of 30W Magnetic Wireless Charging introduces a new level of convenience, offering fast, cable-free charging that fits seamlessly into modern lifestyles.

The official launch of the TECNO Spark 40 Series will take place on 15th August 2025. Stay tuned for more details on how TECNO is set to redefine the mid-range smartphone experience.

TCL offers up to 14% discount on LED TVs this Independence Day



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand, is celebrating the nation's Independence Day with an exciting up to 14% discount on selected models across Pakistan, available both online and at flagship stores. The special offer runs from August 11 to 27 on TCL's official website, while flagship store customers can avail of the discount from August 11 to 16.

Speaking about the campaign, Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing at TCL Pakistan, said, "Independence Day is a time of pride and celebration for every Pakistani. At TCL, we want to share in that joy by giving our customers the opportunity to experience world-class technology at an even better value. This special offer is our way of thanking Pakistan for its trust and loyalty."

Tribunal upholds CCP's order against floor mills association in price-fixing case



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has upheld the order of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) against the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) for fixing the price of wheat flour, in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010. The Tribunal directed the Association to deposit a fine of PKR 35 million into the national exchequer.

The CCP had initiated an inquiry against PFMA based on multiple news reports indicating an unusual hike in wheat flour prices across Pakistan. The inquiry concluded that PFMA was engaged in anti-competitive conduct. PFMA had filed an appeal against CCP's order before the Tribunal.

CCP's counsel argued in court that Sections 4(1) and

4(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010 prohibit any agreement or decision between undertakings, including associations, aimed at fixing prices. The CCP maintained that the repeated and structured issuance of price instructions by PFMA displaced the commercial autonomy of individual mills, constituting a horizontal agreement with an anti-competitive object.

After hearing arguments from both sides and examining the record, the Tribunal upheld CCP's findings but reduced the penalty to PKR 35 million.

Reaffirming CCP's commitment to ensuring fair competition, Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu cautioned business associations against using their platforms to share sensitive pricing information or engage in collusive practices to maximize profits.

Announcement of the 2nd International Boxing Championship in Lahore

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The opening press conference for this major event was held in Lahore in the presence of internationally acclaimed Pakistani boxer Muhammad Waseem. The event was also attended by Muhammad Khizar Afzal, Director General of Punjab Sports Board, and Irfan Younis, General Secretary of the Pakistan Boxing Federation.

Previously, the first International Boxing Championship was successfully held in Quetta

in May 2025. The second International Boxing Championship will be held with great enthusiasm in Lahore in November 2025.

The mega-event will be organized and run smoothly over 2 to 3 days, according to the organizers.

In this championship, Boxer Muhammad Waseem will defend his WBA World Title.

Lahore, the heart of Pakistan and the country's cultural and historical centre, is known for its lively and sports-loving people. The city will warmly welcome

renowned boxers, distinguished officials, and sports fans from around the world who will be participating in the championship.

Organizers stated that thorough and efficient arrangements are being made to conduct the championship in a highly organized and effective manner.

They expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Punjab for taking responsibility for the arrangements of this unprecedented championship.

This championship is not just



a competition but a demonstration of the players' determination, hard work, endurance, and will-power, the organizers said.

The mega sports event reflects the vision of the "Khelta Punjab" programme, said the DG of Punjab Sports Board.

Boxing is rapidly gaining popularity among Pakistan's youth, and this championship will promote this important international sport and ignite new passion and talent in the younger generation, the DG added.

Champions like Muhammad Waseem are Pakistan's global ambassadors, and the grand event will highlight Pakistan's image of peace and progress internationally, according to experts.

"I'm proud to represent my homeland around the world," said Boxer Muhammad Waseem.

Thanks to such major sports events, many more young boxers like Waseem will emerge from Pakistan and bring honour to the country, the champion concluded.

Karachi Youth clean sweeps Sukkur in the three-match hockey series

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The third match of the three-match hockey series between Karachi Youth and Sukkur at the Olympian Hanif Khan and Dr. Junaid Ali Shah Sports Complex organized by the Karachi Hockey Association was full of thrilling moments.

Karachi Youth, which won the first two matches, could not present its traditional game in the first two quarters, due to which Sukkur had a 2-5 goal lead at the end of the second quarter, while in the third quarter, Sukkur preferred defense instead of attack, due to which neither team could score any more goals.

In the fourth and last quarter, Karachi Youth demonstrated a fast and



aggressive game, due to which Sukkur's defense was shattered and the match was tied 5-5 goals at the end of the stipulated time, due to which the match was decided through a penalty shootout. Karachi Youth won by 9 goals to 5.

At the end of the final, former national hockey team captain Olympian Hanif Khan, along with KHA Senior Vice Presidents Ejazur Rehman, Dr. S. Majid and Saghir Ahmed, distributed prizes among the players. For the winning

team, Shahzeb Khan and Shahzeb Haider scored two goals each, while Ali Afridi, Ali Abbas, Arbaaz Ayaz and Faheem Khan scored one goal each. For Sukkur, Ali Haider scored one goal while Fahad and M. Israr scored two goals each.

Sabalenka edges Raducanu in Cincinnati thriller

World number one Aryna Sabalenka survived a nail-biting battle to beat Emma Raducanu in the Cincinnati Open, winning a match that went the distance with two tense tiebreaks.

The world number one needed more than three hours to overcome the Briton in a clash packed with drama, power, and grit and kept her Cincinnati Open title defence alive by claiming a 7-6(3) 4-6 7-6(5) victory over Raducanu in a marathon third-round clash on Monday.

In another clash of the tournament, Taylor Fritz advanced with a straight-sets win over Lorenzo Sonego.

Fresh off their third-round clash at Wimbledon last month, Sabalenka and Raducanu produced another epic contest, featuring a 13-deuce game in the third set, before the Belarusian sealed victory in three hours and nine minutes.

Sabalenka relied on her trademark powerful serve to hold firm in the key moments, winning two tiebreaks to take her tally to 18 for the season, the most by any women's singles player in the professional era.

Despite the defeat, Raducanu seems to be finding her best form just in time



for this month's US Open at Flushing Meadows, where she triumphed in 2021. The Briton outscored Sabalenka in total points won, 125-123.

"I'm really happy to see her healthy. I can see she's improving," Sabalenka said of Raducanu.

"Happy to get through this match. I really hope tomorrow I have a day off."

Sabalenka next faces Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in the last 16.

Elsewhere, Anna Kalinskaya stunned American fifth seed Amanda Anisimova 7-5 6-4 for her third win against a Top 10 opponent in the season. She

will face fellow Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova in the next round.

After a one-hour delay caused by a power outage, fourth seed Taylor Fritz defeated Italy's Sonego 7-6(4) 7-5.

The 27-year-old American did not face a break point and capitalised on his lone break opportunity before serving out the match, sealing the win in two hours and eight minutes.

Former champion Madison Keys booked her place in the last 16 with a 6-4 6-0 win over Japan's Aoi Ito, edging a tight first set before storming through the second in just 20 minutes.

CBD Punjab to Celebrate Pakistan's 78th Independence Day with Patriotic Zeal

News Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), is set to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with unmatched patriotic fervour. This year's celebrations will be held under the theme "Marqa-e-Haq" in line with CBD Punjab's annual slogan, "Raho

Sar Buland", which inspires pride and unwavering commitment to the nation's progress.

The festivities reflect CBD Punjab's pledge that there will be no compromise on the sovereignty and development of Pakistan, and every effort will be made for the defence of the motherland. The celebration plan demonstrates the authority's dedication to fostering national pride and unity among citizens.

In preparation for this national occasion, CBD Punjab has adorned the city's key landmarks in the vibrant green and white colours of independence. The Kalma Underpass and CBD Route 47 have been illuminated to create a spectacular visual display, embodying the true spirit of freedom. At CBD Lake, the fountains will operate at full capacity, offering residents and visitors a captivating view throughout the celebrations.

Adding to the patriotic atmosphere, a

special Motorbike and Bicycle Ride for Unity has been organised, welcoming people of all ages to participate and ride together in the spirit of harmony. In collaboration with CBD Punjab, the local administration will arrange a bike rally on 14th August in the evening, starting from Kalma and ending at Walton, with CBD Route open on both sides to facilitate participants.

The highlight of the day will be a grand flag-hoisting ceremony, to be

graced by the Chief Guest, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Chief Operating Officer of CBD Punjab.

Speaking about the celebrations, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua said "Independence Day is not just a date on the calendar — it is a reminder of the sacrifices that built this great nation and a call to action for all Pakistanis to protect and strengthen it. At CBD Punjab, we are committed to contributing to the progress, prosperity, and unity of our

country. This year's celebrations reaffirm our dedication to the sovereignty and development of Pakistan, in the true spirit of 'Raho Sar Buland'."

CBD Punjab warmly invites all residents of Lahore to join the festivities, experience the vibrant atmosphere, and share in the pride of being part of a free and sovereign Pakistan. The events promise to be memorable celebration of our national identity and a testament to the enduring Pakistani spirit.

KOICA & UN Women Empower Young Women Entrepreneurs at Digital Startup Roundtable Workshop in Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: With the support of KOICA and UN Women Pakistan Host Digital Startup Roundtable Workshop to Empower Young Women in Multan

UN Women Pakistan, with the valuable support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), convened the district-level session of its Digital Startup Roundtable Series – Women Leading Innovation in Multan, Punjab. The roundtable brought together a diverse group of stakeholders including policy-makers, tech innovators, private sector leaders, development partners, and aspiring young women entrepreneurs to highlight the role of women in driving Pakistan's digital transformation.

Part of the Digitalization for Women's Economic Empowerment (D4WEE) project, the roundtable provided a collaborative space for sharing ideas, extending partnerships, and developing practical solutions to enhance women's access to digital tools, skills, and entrepreneurial opportunities across the province. The first session of the series was held in Islamabad

in July 2025.

The event featured two key thematic discussions. The first focused on policy and infrastructure, encouraging dialogue on gender-responsive digital governance, improved digital infrastructure, and expanding internet access in underserved areas. Government officials, academic institutes, and tech experts explored policy-level solutions to ensure equitable digital access for women across Punjab.

The second session addressed mentorship and market access, spotlighting the support structures needed to help women-led startups grow and thrive. Participants stressed the importance of mentorship programs, financial inclusion, access to business development services, and the need for more inclusive procurement practices to enable women entrepreneurs to compete in both local and global markets.

The Multan roundtable reaffirmed KOICA and UN Women's Pakistan shared vision of promoting gender equality through technology, innovation, and inclusive development. By empowering women between the ages of 18 and 35

with digital skills and entrepreneurial support, the D4WEE project is working to narrow the gender digital divide in Pakistan and create more inclusive economic growth.

The Digital Startup Roundtable Series is part of the wider KOICA-funded D4WEE initiative, which is being implemented in Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Mardan, Peshawar, and Swabi. Through targeted training, mentorship, and engagement with the private sector, the project aims to equip young women with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to actively participate in Pakistan's evolving digital landscape.

Multan Hosts Digital Startup Roundtable Series – Women Leading Innovation. More than 18 emerging digital women entrepreneurs from Multan district gathered for the Digital Startup Roundtable Series–Women Leading Innovation, a dynamic platform designed to foster dialogue, collaboration, and growth opportunities for women in Pakistan's rapidly evolving digital entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The roundtable brought



together a diverse network of leaders, policymakers, educators, and industry experts committed to advancing women's participation in the digital economy. Key attendees included Madam Farah Saqib, President, and Madam Nadia Wasim, Vice President of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Multan

WCCI); senior officials from the District Social Welfare Department; and leadership from Sanatzar. From the academic sector, The Women University Multan was represented by Dr. Kalsoom Paracha, Vice Chancellor; Madam Malika Rani, Registrar; and Dr. Khadija Kanwal, Head of the Computer

Sciences Department.

Contributions also came from engineers and mentors at the NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology (NFC IET), representatives of STEM Pakistan and MNS University of Engineering and Technology (MNS UET), the District Director of TEVTA, IT mentors, and students success-

fully managing their own software houses.

The event served as a forum for participants to share real-world experiences, explore challenges facing women-led digital startups, and discuss actionable strategies to boost innovation, expand market access, and ensure long-term sustainability. Discussions emphasized the importance of academic-industry linkages, mentorship networks, and enabling policy environments to unlock the full potential of women entrepreneurs in Pakistan's tech-driven economy.

Moderated by Ms. Sidra Humayun, Coordinator Punjab, UN Women Pakistan; Ms. Mehnaz Perveen, Public Policy Analyst; and Ms. Sofia, the sessions delved into the tools, resources, and business strategies needed to strengthen both digital and traditional women-led enterprises in Multan.

This initiative marks a step forward in empowering women innovators, connecting them with resources, and creating pathways for their active participation in the country's digital transformation.

Celebrations of Independence day

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Pakistan Monument illuminated with Green color during the celebrations of Independence Day, as the red color on the top of the Shakarparian attracting the people, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Field Marshal Asim Munir's US visit exposes India's backing of terror groups

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's recent visit to the United States has significantly contributed to the global recognition of Pakistan's stance on regional security and has once again exposed India's involvement in state-sponsored terrorism, security sources said on Tuesday.

According to the sources, India's covert support for terrorism has been brought to light through Field Marshal Munir's successful military diplomacy.

"The US designation of Fitna Al Hindustan (BLA) and the Majeed Brigade as terrorist organisations is a direct outcome of the Field

Marshal's efforts," they stated.

The sources emphasised that the US move to blacklist the Indian-backed group Fitna Al Hindustan as a global terrorist organisation represents international validation of Pakistan's position.

The sources further revealed that India's premier intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), has maintained direct contact with Fitna Al Hindustan and has provided financial and logistical support for its terrorist activities targeting Pakistan.

They added that India has also offered medical treatment to injured members of the group on its soil.

Meanwhile, Indian mainstream media, referred to as



"Godi Media," has consistently attempted to justify and downplay the group's terrorist actions.

The sources also pointed out that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval have openly acknowledged links with Fitna Al Hindustan in Balochistan.

The arrest of Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, they said, remains undeniable proof of India's involvement in state-sponsored terrorism.

Security sources concluded by warning that India's terrorist designs pose a serious threat not only to regional stability but also to global peace.

FM Aurangzeb calls on CJP Justice Yahya Afridi



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb called on Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi in Islamabad on Tuesday to discuss proposed legal reforms.

According to a statement issued by apex court's registrar office, Chief Justice said that Alternative Dispute

Resolution System has been introduced for timely resolution of tax-related disputes.

On the occasion, CJP reiterates importance of government's support for further legal reforms. Federal Finance Minister appreciated judiciary's reform agenda and assured government's support in timely provision of resources for legal and constitutional reforms.

Other countries may also declare BLA, Majeed Brigade as terror outfits: Bilawal

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has said that after the United States, other countries may also declare the BLA and Majeed Brigade as terrorist organisations.

Speaking at an event in Hyderabad, Bilawal said that the US decision to designate the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Majeed Brigade (also known as Fitna Al Hindustan) as terrorist organisations is a major success for Pakistan.

"These groups, like the BLA, target innocent civilians," Bilawal said, adding that during the recent clashes with India the BLA and



Majeed Brigade supported Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bilawal maintained that the United States has recognised and endorsed Pakistan's position, and following this development, it is expected that other countries may also declare these outfits as terrorist organisations.

Bajaur operation aims to target 800 Afghan terrorists

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The decision to launch an operation against militants in the Bajaur and Khyber districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was taken after talks between a Jirga comprising tribal elders and militants sources said on Tuesday.

The sources also confirmed the presence of around 800 terrorists in the area.

The jirga had made three main demands, including that the militants vacate the area. However, the Fitna Al Khawarij (TTP) flatly refused to leave the area.

According to the official sources, about 300 terrorists

are present in two areas of Mamond tehsil of Bajaur, while more than 350 militants are active in Khyber.

Over 80 per cent of these militants are Afghan nationals.

Mamond has a population of over 300,000, and so far, more than 40,000 people have fled their homes to avoid clashes.

Malakand Division Commissioner Abid Wazir told Aaj News that arrangements to provide shelter to the displaced people have been completed.

Displaced people are being accommodated in 107 government buildings in Khar, and a tent village is being set up in the Khar Sports Complex.

He stated that all basic facilities will be provided to displaced families. People displaced from the affected area. Photo: Alkhidmat

Several families have already moved to safer places before the operation begins, while others are being relocated to government-run camps.

Three more Indian-backed terrorists killed near Pak-Afghan border

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces have killed three more terrorists of Fitna Al Hindustan were killed. Security forces also recovered a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives from killed khawarij.

The ISPR emphasised that these operations are part of continued efforts to ensure the security of Pakistan's borders, maintain internal peace, and uphold national stability.

"The armed forces remain resolute and committed to thwarting the nefarious designs of the enemy at any cost," the statement added.

operation was carried out near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, in which three more terrorists of Fitna Al Hindustan were killed.

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اے دشمن وطن!
یہ سرزمین حق ہے، تجھے مٹانے کا عزم اہل ہے

"بانی پاکستان کے فرمایا"
"پاکستان ایک نگر ہے، جسے گمراہ کی بنیاد پر"
"ماتر کیا جیسا اس کی حفاظت ایران کا قاتل ہے"

معرکہ فتح
4
پاکستان زندہ باد

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ اور صنعتی محنت کش معرکہ حق میں عظیم فتح حاصل
کرنے پہ فیملی مارشل اور افواج پاکستان کو سلام پیش کرتے ہیں

اہل وطن کو یوم آزادی کے موقع پر معرکہ حق کی فتح مبارک
ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ اور غیور صنعتی محنت کش اپنے قومی ہیروز اور شہداء کو زبردست خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں۔
"پاکستان ہمیشہ زندہ باد"

مزدوروں اور ان کی فیملی کیلئے مفت علاج کی سہولت

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ کی کارکردگی

F-6 میں ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ پرنس منور کا قیام

83,462 سے زائد فائبرس اور مکانات کی تکمیل

330,936 طلباء کلاس روم سے مستفید

1647 ڈاکٹرز، انجینئرز اور دیگر پیشہ ورانہ کلاس روم

30,739 ڈیڑھ کمرہ

211,622 محنت کشوں کی بیٹیوں کو میرج گرانٹ کی ادائیگی

85 محنت کشوں کیلئے سالانہ چھٹی

معرکہ حق نے دشمن کو باور کرایا پھر ایک بار
دفاع وطن کیلئے ہم سب ہیں سب سے بلائی دیوار

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