

Reality of Kashmir: A call for global awareness

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that India is not the world's largest democracy but a ruthless dictatorship, where Modi's Hindutva regime not only persecutes minorities but also commits crimes against Kashmiris in the illegally occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed these views while talking to an APMC delegation that called on him here today. Led by Hurriyat leader Abdul Hameed Lone, the delegation included Raja Khadim Hussain, Syed Ijaz Rahmani, and Zahid Safi. The President said that the Hindutva-driven policies of the Modi government have made India unsafe for religious minorities, including Muslims,



Sikhs, and Christians, who are treated as second-class citizens.

He added that India is not only committing state terrorism in occu-

piated Kashmir but is also engaged in terrorist activities worldwide, including in Pakistan.

Recalling that the Canadian Prime

Minister had presented clear and unequivocal evidence in his parliament exposing India as a global terrorist state, Barrister Chaudhry urged the international community to use its influence to halt India's nefarious designs.

He said that today, Kashmiri people across the globe observed India's Independence Day as a Black Day in protest against India's illegal and forcible occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Since August 5, 2019, he noted, India has intensified its attempts to impose demographic changes in occupied Kashmir through unilateral measures.

However, he maintained, the Kashmiri people will never accept India's occupation and will continue their struggle until the territory is liberated from Indian control.

Information Minister leads rescue effort, ensures tourists' comfort

Bureau Report

NEELUM VALLEY: Minister for Information, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah has said that the government's top priority is the safety of the people. The ongoing rescue operation to evacuate more than 700 tourists from the Ratti Gali camp near the Ratti Gali camp in the Neelum Valley due to the road being affected by a cloudburst has been completed by the grace of Allah. He was present with the tourists trapped in the Ratti Gali camp at night and free accommodation and food were arranged for the tourists with the cooperation of the camp organizers. The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir himself supervised the rescue operation. I also pay tribute to all the institutions participating in the rescue operation, especially the administration, SDMA, Pakistan Army, police, highways, health and local people. The administration and DDMA have fed the tourists and sent them to their respective areas. The people of Neelum have once again proven that they are very hospitable. The sentiments expressed by the tourists are a source of pride for our government, institutions and the people. We appeal to tourists and the public to travel in accordance with the government instructions, keeping in mind the weather conditions. They expressed these views while talking to the media after the rescue operation to evacuate the tourists stranded due to the Rattigali cloudburst was completed. Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah was present with more than 700 tourists stranded in the Rattigali camp last night and arranged free food and accommodation for them. The Information Minister first evacuated the tourists stranded in the Rattigali camp and himself left last.

Monsoon Alert: AJK authorities urge citizens to exercise caution, avoid unnecessary travel

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD : The details released by the State Disaster Management Authority regarding the current weather situation has said that in the last 24 hours, due to heavy rains in various districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, there have been incidents of flooding in rivers and canals, damage to bridges, shops and roads, and vehicles being swept away. In Sudhnoti district, a young girl died due to being swept away. In Bagh district, a tourist vehicle was swept away in the "Sunni Kass" canal (fortunately, there was no loss of life). Three youths were trapped in the river in Tatta Pani, who were shifted to a safe place by rescue personnel in a timely manner. In Abbaspur tehsil, people trapped in the canal were also rescued by local people and Rescue 1122 with joint efforts. In Hattian Bala, a person trapped in a ditch on the banks of the Jhelum River was safely rescued by Rescue Hattian Bala. Tourists stranded due to road washout in Ratti Gali Neelum have been safely evacuated and no casualties have been reported. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), in its advisory/guideline for the public and tourists regarding the ongoing rainy season/monsoon, has appealed to the citizens to avoid unnecessary travel during the monsoon, especially on hilly or riverine routes, and not to stay near rivers, bridges and landslide prone areas.

DFP condemns raids on houses of Yasin Malik, other Hurriyat activists



Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has strongly condemned the Srinagar Investigation Agency's (SIA) raid on the house of illegally incarcerated JKLF Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik, and other Hurriyat activists, terming it an attempt to terrorize their families.

In a statement issued today, DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal said the Indian government has unleashed its so-called investigation agencies to harass and humiliate pro-freedom leaders and activists as part of a broader strategy to suppress dissent in the region.

Referring to the raids carried out in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley, he said the harassment of families, vandalism, and contemptuous conduct of the agency's personnel during search operations reflect the depths to which the Indian government can stoop to achieve its nefarious designs. On the reopening of old and fictitious cases against pro-freedom leaders, including Yasin Malik, the spokesman said it was deeply unfortunate that the Indian authorities continue to victimise the Kashmiri leadership solely for representing the true aspirations of the people and advancing their just cause.

Freedom is a great blessing: Rehana Khan

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Women Commission, Ms. Rehana Khan, said that freedom is a great blessing. If it were not for the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the establishment of Pakistan would not have been possible. This day demands a renewal of commitment as well as accountability. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah proved that Muslims are a separate nation in every respect. Quaid-e-Azam led a peaceful democratic and political struggle and achieved a separate homeland for Muslims. She said that on Independence Day, we should also remember the brothers and sisters of occupied Jammu and Kashmir who are constantly struggling against Indian occupation and atrocities. It is important to remind our new generation that the freedom of the Indian subcontinent includes the sacrifices of our great men. Freedom is a great blessing from Allah Almighty and it is our responsibility to maintain it. Let us all come together to celebrate our freedom, unity and the unwavering spirit of Pakistan. It is our duty to put aside our differences and build a strong, moderate and progressive Pakistan. Let us pledge to respect differences of opinion, tolerance and promote the trend of sustainable economic development to secure a bright future for ourselves and future generations. May Allah Almighty grant us the ability to serve our country and nation.

Rescue

NEELAM VALLEY: Rescue Workers rescuing the tourists from speedy rainy water after massive rain in the region.



Photo: Online

Prime Minister's Commitment to Strengthening Police Forces

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, has handed over 33 newly purchased 4x4 single-cabin 2025 model vehicles to police stations across AJK to enhance the force's operational capacity.

At a ceremony held here today, the Prime Minister formally presented the vehicle keys to DIG Police Irfan Masood Kashfi, who also briefed him on the anticipated improvements in policing efficiency following the addition of the vehicles to the fleet.

Senior Minister Colonel (R) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Secretary Information Sardar Adnan Khurshid, senior police officials, and other dignitaries



attended the event.

Speaking to the media, the Prime Minister said that the police are putting their lives at risk to safe-

guard the lives, honor, and property of citizens.

"It is the state's responsibility to provide a conducive work envi-

ronment and basic resources to the force," he stated, noting that during the past two years, 56 police stations have been equipped with new 4x4 vehicles and 1,300 new posts have been created in the department.

He emphasized that transparency in recruitment would be ensured and that the vehicles must be properly maintained.

"The police are our pride. Their efficiency will increase with the provision of these vehicles," he said.

Highlighting recent rescue operations, the Prime Minister lauded the joint efforts of the police, SDMA, rescue agencies, and Pakistan's Armed Forces in saving over 700 tourists trapped during a cloudburst in Ratagali last night.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan's participation in the magnificent Independence Day

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD / KOHALA: A magnificent flag hoisting ceremony was organized by the Armed Forces of Pakistan at Kohala, the gate way of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, in which former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan specially participated. On this occasion, high military and civil officials, representatives of the district administration, political leaders, scholars, teachers, students, social figures and a large number of people were present. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, after which the national anthem of Pakistan resonated in the air.



A smart and agile contingent of the armed forces salute the

national flag, while the participants stood and watched the flag hoisting process with great

devotion and enthusiasm. The picturesque mountain views of Kohala and the sight of the hoisting of the green crescent flag further highlighted the patriotic sentiment in the hearts of the participants.

On this occasion, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said in his address that August 14 is not just a date but a day of a great revolution, when the Muslims of the subcontinent achieves freedom through sacrifices, determination and the power of faith. He said that the fight for truth continues even today, and the Kashmiri people stand by Pakistan in this war. Paying tribute to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army, he said that the Pakistan Army is not only the protector of the borders but it is

a strong wall that thwarts every evil intention of the enemy.

Referring to the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the Indian army has unleashed mountains of cruelty on unarmed civilians and the occupied territory has been practically turned into a "prison". Sardar Attique said that the Indian army and Hindutva goons entered the houses of Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik and other leaders in Srinagar, damaged their properties and harassed their families. He strongly condemned this move of the Indian government and urged the United Nations and the OIC to take notice of this violation of human rights and stop this barbarity, he added.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:59 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:58 pm
Maghrib 6:54 pm
Isha 8:25 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 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 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249

Disaster Response:
NDMA launches large-scale relief operation in KP amidst heavy rains

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is working closely with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to mitigate the impact of floods, landslides, and lightning strikes, in response to severe weather conditions.

NDMA is actively coordinating the prompt dispatch of relief goods and providing operational support to PDMA for rescue efforts in the affected districts under the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Over the past 24 hours, these severe weather events have claimed 180 lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including 152 men, 15 women, and 13 children. In addition, five fatalities were reported in Gilgit and nine in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Torrential rains in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also left 23 people injured.

Relief and rescue operations are being actively carried out by PDMA, Pakistan Army, district administrations, Rescue 1122, and local volunteers. NDMA is maintaining round-the-clock monitoring of all ongoing operations and coordinating with relevant institutions to ensure effective emergency response.

Senate Chief expresses deep sorrow over flood-related losses

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of life and property due to cloudburst in Azad Kashmir Muzaffarabad and Bajaur Agency and the tragedies that have occurred in different parts of the country due to recent rains.

Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of five crew members including two pilots in a rescue helicopter crash in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that he expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of more than 100 people due to floods due to cloudburst in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expressed condolences to the deceased.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has directed the relief agencies of the Government of Pakistan, including the National Disaster Management Authority, to immediately start relief operations in the flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ensure the provision of relief materials to the flood victims on an emergency basis and the best possible medical assistance, including medicines, to the sick.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani further said that the losses in the flood-affected areas of Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be estimated so that the federal government can provide all possible help and assistance to the flood victims.

On this occasion, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani appealed to the government as well as non-governmental organizations to generously provide financial assistance to the flood victims like in the 2010 Flood. In his condolence statement, the Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that natural disasters are a severe test and on such occasions, we as a nation should show solidarity, compassion and cooperation.

He said that the entire nation shares in the sorrow of the affected families and we are ready to provide all possible help for them.



Rainy season

ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Express Way during rain fall from last 12 hours as the recent monsoon spell increases the Natural beauty of Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Children with disabilities showcase talent at national independence day celebrations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (M/o FE&PT), celebrated Pakistan's 78th Independence Day with great zeal and patriotic spirit. The day began with a dignified flag-hoisting ceremony at the National Centre for Physically Challenged Students where all enrolled students and staff of the directorate assembled for pay homage to the motherland. The day was followed by a vibrant and devoted programme at the National Institute of Special Education (NISE), H-8/4, Islamabad.



The event, themed "Atfaal-e-Baham Mazoori Ka Roshan, Jaam-e-Rasai Ke Saath Mazboot Aur Mehakta Pakistan" reflected the deep emotional bond that children with disabilities share with

their motherland. The ceremony was graced by the Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mrs. Wajihah Qamar, as the Chief Guest. Director General DGSE Capt. (R) Asif Iqbal Asif, repre-

senting Federal Secretary M/o FE&PT Mr. Nadeem Mahbub, extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and participants. In his remarks, the DG highlighted a series of rehabilitative initiatives undertaken by the M/o FE&PT in recent months. These include the renovation of the physiotherapy and cerebral palsy units along with the restoration and operationalization of the orthopaedic workshop at the National Centre for Physically Challenged Students, and the creation of four sensory rooms at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Developmental Disorders aligning special education centres with international best practices.

Sheikh Aftab Ahmed pays tribute to sacrifices, vows continued development in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Addressing the Independence Day ceremony, MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said Pakistan is the result of the great sacrifices of the martyrs, for which we can never be thankful enough. He urged the younger generation to study the history of Pakistan and Islam to understand the value of these sacrifices. Paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's struggle and the services of the PML-N leadership, he said that on May 28, 1998, Pakistan became a nuclear power, earning a distinguished place in the world. Sheikh Aftab Ahmed reaffirmed his commitment to continue development projects in Attock, including electricity, gas, water, roads, and sewerage, so that no area remains deprived.

University is committed to providing every possible facility to students. Regional Director AIOU

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Nasreen Mirza, Regional Director of Rawalpindi Region, Allama Iqbal Open University, stated that the university is committed to providing every possible facility to its students. "We want no individual to remain illiterate," The deadline for admissions to Matric, Intermediate, Teacher Training Programs, and Diploma/Certificate courses has been extended until August 25 without any late fee charges. However, there is no extension for admissions in other programs. Students are encouraged to send in their admissions on time to pursue higher education.

She further informed that in the Autumn 2025 semester, the admission deadline for Matric, Intermediate, Teacher Training Programs, and Diploma/Certificate courses has been extended until August 25 without late fees.



Jamhori Watan Party celebrated Independence Day

News Desk

KARACHI: Defeating India in the war is a matter of national pride and has increased enthusiasm and zeal among the nation. The unity of the nation, the strength of the Pakistan Army, and the people's love for their homeland are the greatest strengths of the Pakistani armed forces. These thoughts were expressed by Irtafa Shah, President of Jamhori Watan Party Karachi and Parliamentary Secretary, during a ceremony held on August 14 at North Karachi town on the occasion of the "78th Independence Day."

He said that he congratulated Field Marshal General Asim Muneeb on winning the war against India. We are proud of the Pakistan Army of our beloved homeland, which always stands at the forefront in defending Pakistan. Once again, I assure complete solidarity with the Pakistan Army for the security and defence of the country. At the same time, I appeal to all Pakistanis to stand firmly with the institutions responsible for the defence of the homeland.

PM, Sindh CM call KP Governor, assure full support amid rain, cloudburst devastation

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi to express deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by heavy rains and cloudbursts in Buner, Bajaur, and other districts of the province.

According to Hand Out issued by Governor's Secretariat, during the call, the Prime Minister assured the Governor of the federal government's full support for the province in this difficult time.

He said the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had been directed to take all possible emergency measures to address the situation.

"We will not leave the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone in this hour of grief," the Prime Minister and Governor reaffirmed.

Governor Kundi also received a call from Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who expressed his condolences over the large-scale human and material losses in the province due to the cloudburst.

The Sindh Chief Minister offered every possible assistance from the Sindh government to help the affected areas, assuring that the government and people of Sindh stood firmly with the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"The Sindh government is fully prepared to extend all forms of support to the flood-affected communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," Murad Ali Shah told Governor Kundi.

Pakistan to remain forever, says SP Cantt Kainat Azhar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Superintendent of Police SP Cantt Kainat Azhar has said that Pakistan came into existence to remain forever and by the grace of Allah it will remain forever.

Whenever anyone looked at Pakistan with a malicious eye, the entire nation stood by the side of the Pakistani army and shattered their dreams. The most recent example of this is the Battle of Haq, in which the Pakistani army crushed the evil intentions of the enemy. He further said that Pakistan is a gift from God. Independence Day is actually a day of renewal of commitment.

This day reminds us of the

millions of sacrifices due to which we have been blessed with Pakistan. The new generation has a heavy responsibility to play a key role in the country's development and take Pakistan to the ranks of developed countries because they are the future of Pakistan, he expressed these views while addressing the Independence Day ceremony at Pakistan International School yesterday.

On this occasion, Principal Mrs. Nazish Urooj said that we have to tell today's new generation about Pakistan's independence so that the coming generations also love Pakistan and are aware of its value and worth. She said that we can take Pakistan towards development only through higher education.



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UAE harnesses AI to boost Arabic language global reach

The UAE has set a model in leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to integrate the Arabic language and its cultural heritage into the digital sphere, boosting its regional and global presence as a language capable of meeting future demands.

Various state institutions are rolling out AI-driven initiatives in sectors such as publishing, education, lexicography and creative content.

One of the leading projects is the Historical Dictionary of Arabic Language, a monumental scientific achievement completed last year by Sharjah, the “Capital of Arab Culture”. The project documents the evolution of the Arabic language throughout history.

This was followed by the launch of the “GPT Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language” project, which utilises modern innovations to serve and disseminate the language globally. Linked to AI, the dictionary offers researchers and enthusiasts with over 20 million Arabic words. It also enables them to write and read texts, convert them into videos, and continuously feed the dictionary with new information through a collaboration between the Arabic Language Academy in Sharjah and the Emirates Scholar Research Centre.

Meanwhile, the Mohammed bin Rashid AI Maktoum Knowledge Foundation is advancing digital culture and knowledge in the Arab world and globally through initiatives including the “Digital Knowledge Hub,” an Arabic platform for producing, collecting and organising digital content. Last year, it surpassed 800,000 titles and 8.5 million digital items across more than 18 specialised libraries.

The Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre, part of the Department of Culture and Tourism, has launched several AI-based publishing projects, including a specialised digital dictionary to support digital Arabic content. It is the first comprehensive Arabic-English dictionary employing AI and computational linguistics.

The dictionary covers over 7,000 core modern terms, offering automated pronunciation, simplified definitions, examples, images, and precise grammatical and semantic classifications.

In collaboration with a team from New York University Abu Dhabi and Zayed University, the centre launched the Balanced Arabic Readability Corpus project “BAREC”, which aims to collect a linguistic corpus of 10 million words encompassing a wide range of literary genres and topics.

The most recent edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair saw the launch of the “Digital Square” initiative, a technical space that provided a platform to enhance the use of AI in publishing and books.

Furthermore, many educational institutions have been keen to launch diverse initiatives to promote the use of AI and modern technologies in teaching the Arabic language.

Emergence of Pakistan: Testimony of Two- Nation Truth

Under the dynamic and determined leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the creation of Pakistan was nothing short of a miracle. It was the first state in the world to be founded on the basis of the Two-Nation Theory — a political philosophy which held that the Muslims and Hindus of the subcontinent were two distinct nations, with their own religions, cultures, and destinies. Pakistan did not emerge through adventurism or military conquest, but as the outcome of a constitutional, political, and democratic struggle, marked by mass movements, constitutional negotiations, and the unwavering determination of a leader who never compromised on the principles of justice and equality.

Yet, barely had this dream taken shape when challenges arose. India refused to accept Pakistan's existence wholeheartedly and sought to undermine it at every turn — withholding financial assets, creating territorial disputes, and even using military force in the early days of independence.

Even after attaining nuclear status, hostile designs did not cease. India persisted through conventional warfare, border violations, and a proxy war of terrorism. Pakistan, however, responded resolutely each time. The recent Battle of Truth and Operation Bunyan al-Marsus stand as living proof of the skill, courage, and professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces. These were not just military victories; they were precise and decisive operations that dismantled enemy

networks, restored stability in volatile regions, and demonstrated that Pakistan's defensive shield extends beyond borders when necessary.

Such successes enhanced Pakistan's stature globally. The historic meeting between Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the U. S. President, the deepening of strategic ties with China, and renewed engagements with Middle Eastern partners have reinforced the perception that Pakistan is not only a regional player but an influential global power. The country's proactive role in promoting regional peace, countering terrorism, and safeguarding sea lanes has been recognized by major powers and international organizations alike.

By 2025, Pakistan has made notable strides not only in defence but also in economic, diplomatic, and developmental arenas. Sound economic policies, coupled with political-military harmony, have stabilized the economy, strengthened foreign exchange reserves, and improved the value of the rupee. Industrial and agricultural output has risen, and global financial institutions have acknowledged Pakistan's economic direction. Inflationary pressures have eased, employment opportunities have expanded, and social development indicators are on an upward trajectory.

New investment opportunities have expanded Pakistan's role as an economic

hub in the region. Active diplomacy has further strengthened ties with friendly nations, paving the way for significant economic and defence agreements. Finance Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's energetic diplomacy has positioned Pakistan as a credible,

serious, and influential state in the eyes of the international community — an emerging economic power as well as a responsible nuclear state. Pakistan's successful mediation in regional disputes and its role in humanitarian assistance during global crises have further strengthened its image as a constructive global player.

India's failures are not confined to the battlefield. The hearts of the Kashmiri people continue to beat in sync with Pakistan. Despite decades of occupation and oppression, the spirit of resistance in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains unbroken. Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic, moral, and political support has kept the Kashmir issue alive on the world stage. International human rights organizations and several global leaders have acknowledged the region as a potential flashpoint for nuclear conflict, underlining the urgency of a just resolution in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and UN resolutions.

These triumphs are the result of both visionary political leadership and bold

military strategy. Credit, without doubt, goes to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which made Pakistan a nuclear power, equipped it with missile technology, and modernized its armed forces. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision and historic decisions on May 28, 1998, etched Pakistan's name into history as the seventh nuclear power, ensuring a permanent deterrent against aggression.

Today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's pragmatic leadership, in sync with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's coherent military strategy, has enabled Pakistan to defeat terrorism, restore law and order, and set the economy back on track. PML-N's governance record in overcoming crippling energy shortages and ending load-shedding stands as a testament to its delivery-oriented approach. Together, political resolve and military professionalism have built a foundation of stability that allows Pakistan to look to the future with confidence.

The resounding success of the Battle of Truth and Operation Bunyan al-Marsus proves that when political vision and military strategy are united, Pakistan not only thwarts its enemies but rises with honour among the comity of nations. This harmony is the true safeguard of our freedom and the foundation of enduring national stability — a lesson from history, and a promise for the future.

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Analysis



Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi



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

Human Rights and the Palestinian Issue

In every part of the world, the protection of human rights, the provision of justice, and the respect for basic freedoms are considered a global responsibility. The Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) clearly state that every human being, without any discrimination, has the right to life, liberty, education, health, religion, and freedom of expression. Unfortunately, the Palestinian issue has, for the past seven decades, remained a heartbreaking story of open violations of human rights. Generation after generation, the Palestinian people have been subjected to oppression, forced occupation, displacement, and the denial of their basic rights. The Palestinian issue is no longer merely a regional conflict but has become a test for the conscience of humanity as a whole.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli bombings, targeting of women and children, and attacks on hospitals, schools, and places of worship are blatant violations of international law. By blocking access to essentials like water, electricity, food, and medicine, Israel is attempting to wipe out Palestinians through hunger and disease. All of this is taking place before the eyes of the international community, yet powerful nations remain silent for the sake of their political and economic interests.

Genocide is not only about physically killing people but also about erasing a nation's culture, heritage, and future. Israel demolishes Palestinian towns and replaces them with illegal Jewish settlements, restricts Palestinian children's access to education, and imprisons or kills the youth to weaken future generations. This oppression is not confined to Pales-

tine alone; it is a stain on the conscience of humanity. If the international community does not take immediate and decisive action, future generations will remember this era as one of the darkest chapters in human history. The Qur'an explicitly commands, “Do not kill any soul unjustly” (Al-An'am: 151), and according to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, killing one innocent person is akin to killing all of humanity. In this light, the atrocities committed against Palestinians are both a moral and legal challenge for the entire world, and urgent, practical measures are essential to stop them.

According to international law, all these actions are illegal. The Geneva Convention (1949) states that an occupying power cannot transfer its own population into occupied territory, yet Israel openly violates this law. Attacks on civilian populations, collective punishment, and depriving people of basic necessities are classified as war crimes. The United Nations has passed several resolutions urging Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian territories, but due to the double standards of world powers, these resolutions have not been implemented.

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and UN agencies have released reports highlighting human rights violations in Palestine. These reports have labeled Israel as an apartheid state, but such declarations rarely lead to practical measures. Western media often associates the Palestinian struggle with terrorism, yet social media has enabled Palestinians to convey their message to the world, raising global awareness.

Pakistan has consistently supported the Palestinian right to self-determination. Every

Pakistani government has maintained a clear stance of not recognizing Israel. Pakistan raises its voice for Palestine at the United Nations and other international forums, providing humanitarian, diplomatic, and relief support. The people of Pakistan share deep sympathy with the Palestinians and express solidarity on every occasion.

The Palestinian issue is a test of the global conscience. On matters like Ukraine, immediate responses and practical measures are seen, but on Palestine, reactions are often limited to verbal statements and formal resolutions. If the international community truly believes in human rights, it must apply the same standards to Palestine as it does elsewhere.

For a sustainable solution, certain steps are necessary. First, the two-state solution must be implemented, granting Palestinians the right to an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. International pressure must compel Israel to adhere to international law and stop the construction of illegal settlements. Economic and trade sanctions should be imposed on Israel for human rights violations. Immediate humanitarian aid must be provided to Palestinians, and the truth about their situation must be shared with the world through media.

The Palestinian issue is not just a geographical conflict but a question of justice, human dignity, and the future of international law. Until Palestinians are granted freedom, equality, and basic human rights, peace in the Middle East will remain elusive. The global community, especially Muslim countries, must take joint, practical steps, because the freedom of Palestine is, in essence, a guarantee for the survival of humanity.

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Analysis



Muhammad Asif

Analysis



Khizar Abbas

78 years of Pakistan: What we achieved and what we lost

Seventy-eight years have passed since Pakistan came into being. In August 1947, our elders made huge sacrifices to create a homeland where we could live with freedom, dignity, and justice. Millions left their homes, wealth, and loved ones behind in pursuit of the dream of a fair society. As Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said in his first address to the Constituent Assembly in Karachi, “You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or any other place of worship... You may belong to any religion or caste or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the State.”

Today, as we look back, we must honestly ask ourselves: what have we gained, and what have we lost in these 78 years?

Over the years, Pakistan has faced many losses. One of the biggest was the separation of East Pakistan in 1971, which became Bangladesh. We have also lost many great leaders and personalities who shaped our nation. These include Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan; Liaquat Ali Khan, our first Prime Minister; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto, the first woman Prime Minister; and renowned scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the “father” of Pakistan's nuclear program.

Our agriculture sector, once a strength, is now collapsing, with a growth rate of only about 0.56% last year—the lowest in nine years—due to poor policies. Education has also suffered as private school mafias have monopolized the system, lowering quality and turning learning into a money-making business. Public institutions have lost their prestige.

Economically, Pakistan has struggled for stability, seeking help from the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) 24 times since 1950. These loans aim to bring economic stability and growth, but our system still faces serious challenges.

Indeed, Pakistan's journey has not been easy. We have faced wars, floods, earthquakes, and a very complex geopolitical situation. Our location in the region has brought both opportunities and problems. Despite all this, ordinary Pakistanis have shown courage and generosity in the hardest times. Whenever disaster strikes, our people come forward to help, even if they have little to give.

But we cannot use challenges as an excuse to remain stuck. Many countries started with fewer resources than us and have moved ahead because of honest leadership, strong institutions, and responsible citizens. The last 78 years are not only a record of what we have done; they are also a lesson for the future.

The achievements show what we can do when we are united, while the failures warn us about what happens when we forget our responsibilities. The way forward is clear: we must invest in education so no child is left behind, protect the environment for the next generation, fight corruption and strengthen institutions, create jobs and support small businesses, and bring back the values of honesty, tolerance, and service to others.

This is not just the work of the government; it is the duty of every Pakistani. Teachers, farmers, workers, businessmen, and students all have a role to play.

When we celebrate Pakistan's 100th year, will we tell the story of a country that wasted its potential, or a nation that learned from its past and built a better future? The choice is ours, and the time to act is now.

Pakistan Navy launches third hangor class submarine in China

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The launching ceremony of submarine PNS/M MANGRO (Desig) was held at Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group Company Ltd, Shuangliu Base, Wuhan, China. Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Project-2, Vice Admiral Abdul Samad graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief Guest stressed the significance of maritime security amid the region's

current geo-strategic dynamics. He reaffirmed that the Pakistan Navy remains fully committed to defend national interests while fostering a secure and cooperative maritime environment. Referring to HANGOR Class Submarines, he highlighted that their cutting-edge weaponry and advanced sensors would be instrumental in sustaining regional power equilibrium and ensuring maritime stability. Commending the dedicated work of China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Company



Ltd (CSOC), he expressed satisfaction over steady progress of the project and remarked that the HANGOR Class Submarine initiative would bring a fresh dimension to the enduring, time-honoured partnership between

Pakistan and China.

The Government of Pakistan signed an agreement with CSOC to acquire eight HANGOR Class submarines. Under the contract, four submarines are being built in China, while the

remaining four will be constructed in Pakistan at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works Ltd (KS&EW) under Transfer of Technology (ToT) program.

The launching ceremony was

attended by high-ranking officials from Pakistan and China, including representatives from Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group Company Ltd and China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Company Ltd.

Commissioner Multan’s Glorious Recognition of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum’s Services

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The scene at this dignified ceremony, held in the spirited and joyous atmosphere of Independence Day, was truly a sight to behold. It was a gathering where the fervor of patriotism, the spirit of national unity, and the colors of pure admiration were all vividly present.

On this memorable occasion, the Commissioner of Multan, Mr. Amir Kareem Khan, presented a commemorative shield to the renowned industrialist, social leader, and benefactor of Multan, Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, in recognition of his exceptional welfare, developmental, and humanitarian services.

This honor is, in fact, an acknowledgment of a personality whose longstanding efforts have been devoted to the betterment of society, alleviation of poverty, promotion of education, and elevation of human dignity. The services of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum are not only a beacon of hope, light, and progress



for Multan but for the entire region.

Commissioner Multan, Mr. Amir Kareem Khan, while expressing his sentiments on the occasion, said: "Such benefactors of the nation are the shining lights of our society,

whose character and sacrifices are a source of pride in our collective history. Their presence in this land is nothing short of a priceless blessing."

He further stated that the people of Multan are truly fortunate to

have a determined, service-oriented, and high-minded leader like Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, who has the courage and resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder with his nation in every era.

Muhadsa Naqvi Earns Pride of Pakistan on Independence Day

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Syeda Muhadsa Naqvi, a distinguished social activist, advocate, and founder of the non-profit organization Leading Visionaries, has been conferred with the prestigious Pride of Pakistan Award by the Government of Pakistan.

The honor was bestowed during the Maarq-e-Haq and Independence Day celebrations at Jinnah Stadium, Islamabad, in the esteemed presence of the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir.

This year's other Pride of Pakistan recipients included Ali Fareed Khawaja, Nadia Patel, Dr. Fazal

Wahid, Shahida Abassi, and Sabra Gul, along with several other luminaries recognized for their remarkable contributions to the nation.

Since founding Leading Visionaries in 2020 to promote youth leadership and awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Muhadsa has emerged as a powerful voice for empowerment and social change.

She represented Pakistan in the 2022 Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD) in the United States, received a Gold Medal from the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir in 2023 for her volunteer work in National Youth Empowerment, was named among Pakistan's 100 Young Influencers in 2024, and in 2025 was selected



from over 183 countries for the UPG Sustainability Leadership Program,

where she topped her cohort and earned a fully funded return trip to Hurricane Island, USA.

An LLB Gold Medalist from the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), she has consistently demonstrated academic excellence alongside her dedication to youth development, leadership training, gender equality, and raising Pakistan's profile on the global stage.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhadsa Naqvi expressed gratitude to Allah (SWT) for the honor and dedicated the award to all those who have ever supported her, no matter how briefly, in her life.

She offered a heartfelt tribute to her late mother, acknowledging her prayers and guidance as the greatest strength behind her journey.

Applications open for the Scotland Pakistan Scholarships for Young Women and Girls 2025-26

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The applications for the British Council-administered Scotland Pakistan Scholarship for Young Women and Girls are now open.

This scholarship funds Bachelor's and Master's/MPhil studies for Pakistani women in any HEC-recognised university across Pakistan. Funded by the Scottish Government, these grants aim to make higher education more accessible to women, supporting them in achieving their potential and ambition. The British Council administers the scheme in Pakistan and coordinates with selected scholars and universities either directly or through nominated university focal persons.

The scholarship covers a two-year Master's/MPhil or four-year Bachelor's degree in one of the following subject areas only:

- Education
- Sustainable Energy
- Food Security and Agriculture
- Health Sciences
- STEM
- Climate

The recently published impact evaluation report highlights the transformative nature of this programme. The scholarships have significantly increased enrolment and retention rates for women, especially from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. Beneficiaries reported improved career prospects, greater confidence, and a stronger voice in their families and communities. Many have gone on to contribute to education, health, agriculture, and other critical sectors in Pakistan — creating a ripple effect of empowerment and development.

“Markah Haq” Gives New Dimension to Pakistan’s History: FCCI President

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The business community of Faisalabad observed Independence Day with added rejoicing of success in “Markah Haq” with full enthusiasm and fervour. Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) inaugurated the day by unfurling the national flag in FCCI Complex. The participants of the event chanted slogans of Pakistan Zindabad and Pak Army Zindabad. President FCCI in his speech paid glowing tribute to the martyrs who had laid their lives for the creation of a new homeland for Muslims and those who vigilantly defended the hard earned independence. He said that “Markah Haq” has given a new dimension to the history of Pakistan. He particularly congratulated Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Hafiz Asim Munir, Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf for successfully defending the sovereignty of Pakistan and said that as usual India attacked Pakistan during the wee hours.

Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara planted a sapling in the front lawn of FCCI and also led a ceremonial walk. He also cut a cake to mark the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. He also distributed gifts among the children who were specially invited to participate in this event. Later Haji Muhammad Abid offered prayers for the success of Pakistan and FCCI. Rana Sikandar Azam, Chaudhary Muhammad Nawaz, Haji Attaullah, Mr. Jawad Shafique, Muhammad Tayyab, Mirza Muhammad Afzal, Haji Abdul Rauf, Muhammad Naveed, other members and staff of FCCI also participated in the event.

Annual Urs of Pir Syed Naseeruddin Naseer Gilani Astana Alia Golra Sharif concluded

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: The two-day annual Urs ceremony of Hazrat Pir Syed Naseeruddin Naseer Gilani's 17th annual Urs has begun at Dargah Alia Ghausia Mehria Golra Sharif.

According to the details, the annual Urs ceremony of Pir Syed Naseeruddin Naseer Gilani at Astana Alia Golra Sharif began with the veiling and gathering. The first session, on the 17th of Safar, was held at Dargah Alia Golra Sharif, in which eminent scholars, great scholars, and Sana Khwan Mustafa from all over the country participated in large numbers.

Astana Alia Ghausia Mehria Naseeriya was decorated with electric

lights. Every hundred colors were scattered in the venue. Beautifully shining entrance doors and decorative lights were placed on all the paths.

The sky was filled with colors and spring. The gathering was presided over by the successor of Naseer Millat, Pir Syed Nizamuddin Jami Gilani Qadri, the Sajjad-e-Nashin of Dargah Ghausia Mehria Golra Sharif, while the head priest was Pir Syed Ghulam Hussamuddin Jami Gilani Qadri.

In addition, the successor of Naseer Millat, Pir Syed Najmuddin Gilani, and the successor of Naseer Millat, Pir Syed Shamsuddin Gilani, participated. In his address, the eminent scholars said that Golra Sharif is such a place where the fountains of knowledge and wisdom

spring up. This is the place where the lovers of unity are always tied to achieve spiritual bliss.

Golra Sharif has the honor that here the deniers of the finality of the Prophethood have been challenged and the word of truth and justice has been raised. The second session of the two-day event will be held today, 18 Safar.

The closing prayer was held before the Zuhri prayer, and a flower-pouring ceremony was held on Mirza Sharif after the Asr prayer.

The district administration, Islamabad, has also made strict security arrangements on the occasion of the Urs. The caravans of Anjuman Mehria Naseeria will also arrive from all over



Punjab for the second session. The chairman of Anjuman Mehria Naseeria and other officials have completed all the arrangements.

At the end of the first session, the successor of Naseer Millat, Pir Syed Ghulam Nizamuddin Jami Gilani Qadri, Sajjada Nashin, Dargah Ghausia

Mehria Golra Sharif, offered a special prayer. Extensive arrangements were also made for langar for the visiting pilgrims...

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
146,491.63	146,529.30
Day's High	Day's Low
147,534.41	146,269.59
Index Value	Change
22,246,417,957	−37.67
Percentage	Time
−0.03%	15 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,138.90	−38.34
Percentage	Time
−0.42%	15 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT +1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
45,030.23	+118.97
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	15 Aug, 12:49 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
43,378.31	+729.05
Percentage	Time
+1.71%	15 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

CCP's order
against GCC
Medical Centres
upheld

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has upheld the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) order against 20 medical centers and laboratories and their five associations for collusive price fixing, territorial allocation of customers, and other anti-competitive practices in mandatory pre-departure medical examinations for Pakistani workers bound for Gulf countries.

The Tribunal upheld CCP's findings of competition law violations but reduced the penalties from PKR 20 million per medical center and PKR 10 million per Gulf Approved Medical Centres Administrative Offices (GAMCAs) to PKR 2 million per center and PKR 1 million per GAMCA.

The case concerns a captive market of low-income Pakistani laborers — many securing manual jobs in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and Kuwait — who must undergo medical tests at GCC-approved centers before departure.

The CCP's inquiry found that GAMCAs in five regions — Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, and Multan — allocated customers on a rotational basis. This eliminated competition on price and service quality. Workers were bound to a specific center, charged a uniform fee, and in some cases subjected to unnecessary repeat tests for additional payments.

The CCP initiated its inquiry on a complaint by the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA). The CCP's investigation concluded that fee fixation, territorial division, and equal allocation of customers by GAMCAs violated Sections 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Dr. Kabir Sidhu, Chairman CCP, warned business associations against facilitating collusive practices, price fixing, or allocation of business quotas. He stressed that such platforms should be used to promote sectoral growth, enhancing competition, and to benefit consumers. Any anti-competitive conduct will be dealt with strictly under the competition law.

Onic celebrates two years of
Redefining Pakistan's Digital
Telecom Experience

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Onic proudly marks its second anniversary, celebrating two years of transforming Pakistan's telecommunications landscape through a fully digital, end-to-end customer experience.

As the country's first fully digital telecom brand, Onic empowers users with complete control over their mobile journey, free from the limitations of traditional telecom. Built for digital natives, the brand champions freedom, flexibility, and transparency, fostering a loyal community that views Onic as a partner in their connected lifestyle.

Since launch, Onic has eliminated the need for physical interactions, enabling customers to activate SIMs, manage accounts, recharge, and access support entirely through intuitive mobile and web platforms. This frictionless approach has set new standards for telecom convenience in Pakistan.



Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said: "Onic's rapid rise is a testament to our Group's vision to lead Pakistan's digital transformation. In just two

years, Onic has redefined the mobile experience with unmatched convenience, transparency, and control, setting a new benchmark for the industry and inspiring the future of telecom in Pakistan."

Omer Bin Tariq, Country Head-Onic Pakistan, added: "As we celebrate this milestone, I am humbled by how far we've come in redefining telecom for Pakistan. In just two years, we have built a best-in-class app experience, achieved complete digital payment adoption, and proudly served an entirely app-based user base. This is only the beginning, we will continue to push boundaries, set new benchmarks, and build a more connected, digital future for the country."

With a seamless digital ecosystem at its core, Onic remains committed to expanding innovation, enhancing accessibility, and supporting Pakistan's journey towards a fully connected and digitally empowered society.

Call on

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: PID

National Awards
symbolize unity and
trust between the nation
and the armed forces

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of Tourism for Interfaith Peace & Development and President of Lake Shore Club, Syed Sadat Hussain Shah, paid rich tribute to Field Marshal General Asim Munir, military officers, and politicians upon receiving national awards, stating that these honors are a recognition of the Pakistan Army's sacrifices, bravery, and unwavering role in the defense of the country.

He said that defeating an enemy many times greater in strength on May 9, establishing Pakistan's pres-

tige globally, and ensuring national security and stability are services of the Pakistan Army that can never be forgotten. These awards, he noted, are not only an honor for the Armed Forces of Pakistan but also for the entire nation.

Shah further said that after India's defeat, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, along with his team took charge of the diplomatic front and successfully drew the world's attention towards Pakistan an achievement duly acknowledged with the conferment of a national award, which is a matter of pride.

Zong Celebrates
Pakistan's 78th
Independence Day with
Nationwide Campaign
and Special Offers



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, marked the country's 78th Independence Day with vibrant celebrations in its offices across Pakistan, followed by the launch of its nationwide digital campaign "Pak Sar Zameen Shaad Baad."

The anthem-inspired theme reflects the nation's collective pride, resilience, and hope, while also embracing the power of cross-cultural harmony as Pakistani and Chinese employees came together to honor shared values of unity and progress.

Highlighting the importance of the day, Mannan

Shabbir, Head of Human Resources, remarked: "Independence Day is a time to celebrate our nation's courage and the values that bind us. This year, with the nation still feeling the resonance of Marka-e-Haq, our celebrations take on deeper meaning; they honour the sacrifices that protect our freedom and remind us of the unity that sustains Pakistan."

At Zong, we believe being a responsible business means standing by our people and communities: we celebrate together; we support those in need, and we keep the country connected so every citizen can join the conversation about our future."

More than 70%of companies rely on
multi-vendor ecosystems to manage
cybersecurity

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The majority of companies (72%) rely on multi-vendor ecosystems despite the fact that such fragmented security solutions lead to operational and financial strains. Such findings were revealed in the recent Kaspersky's research.

A study titled "Improving resilience: cybersecurity through system immunity," conducted by Kaspersky, examined how organizations manage cybersecurity today, focusing on vendor fragmentation, operational inefficiencies and future consolidation plans. The survey was conducted across the META (the Middle East, Turkiye and Africa) region, as well as Europe, Russia, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific region.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state of cybersecurity management across organizations, highlighting significant challenges associated with multi-vendor security environments. The findings reveal that nearly half of security professionals (43%) find their security stacks to be overly complex and time-consuming to maintain, which



hampers their ability to respond swiftly to emerging threats. This complexity often results from the use of multiple security solutions from different vendors, each with its own management interface and operational requirements.

Furthermore, 42% of organizations experience budget overruns attributable to overlapping solutions. Compatibility issues exacerbate these difficulties as 41% of

respondents indicate that they cannot automate security processes effectively because their tools lack proper integration, leading to manual interventions and increased chances of human error. Additionally, 39% struggle with inconsistent threat visibility, as data collected from various vendors often fails to correlate seamlessly, creating blind spots and reducing overall situational awareness.

JazzCash and EFU Life launch Pakistan's first fully
digital insurance journey

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: JazzCash, Pakistan's leading digital wallet, and EFU Life, one of the country's premier life and health insurers, have partnered to launch a first-of-its-kind, end-to-end digital insurance journey set to reshape the way millions of Pakistanis access insurance.

Speaking at the ceremony, Murtaza Ali, President of JazzCash, commented: "With

insurance penetration at just 0.87% in Pakistan, there's a clear gap in both access and awareness. Through this partnership with EFU Life, we're using technology to close that gap, delivering affordable coverage at scale and enabling millions to safeguard their futures with insurance that is tailored to their needs."

Mohammed Ali Ahmed, CEO of EFU Life, added to this: "This launch marks a

major step forward in EFU Life's mission to democratize insurance access in Pakistan. For too long, protection products have been seen as complex, slow, and out of reach for many. By combining our product innovation and underwriting expertise with JazzCash's unmatched digital reach, we are creating an experience that is fast, fair, and frictionless.

By combining JazzCash's national scale of over 20



million active users and EFU Life's product and actuarial expertise, this collaboration is poised to deliver transform-

ative impact across Pakistan. From urban centers to remote communities, it opens the door to secure, digital-first

protection for underserved populations who have long been excluded from traditional insurance channels.

Shehzad Rafique brings Punjabi culture to global stage with ‘Welcome to Punjab’ movie

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The international premiere of the “Welcome to Punjab” movie took place in Central London, celebrating love, culture, and Punjabi heritage. The film introduces newcomers Aadi Khan and Zara Hayat, while marking the return of legendary actress Mumtaz Begum to the big screen after 25 years.

The ensemble cast includes Javed Sheikh, Adnan Siddiqui, Sajid Hasan, Iftikhar Thakur, Qaiser Piya, Bushra Ansari, and Mumtaz herself.

The premiere attracted a large audience, including producer Raheel Malik and UK distributors and CEOs of Famous Video, Aftab Fayyaz and Ruby Fayyaz, along with numerous film enthusiasts.

Producer Raheel Malik told Daily The Spokesman that the film reflects “international harmony” and repre-



sents Pakistan as a whole. “We have made the film — now it’s up to the

viewers to come to cinemas and watch it. This is a Made in Pakistan production, presented in the finest way possible,” he said.

UK distributors and CEOs of Famous Video, Aftab Fayyaz and Ruby Fayyaz, confirmed that the film will be released across UK cinemas from August 22. They praised director Shehzad Rafique as “a visionary filmmaker whose storytelling, cultural authenticity, and cinematic expertise will resonate deeply with overseas Pakistanis and impress audiences worldwide.”

Early viewers lauded the film for its strong performances, captivating locations, engaging dialogues, and vivid depiction of Punjabi culture, calling it a “must-watch” for audiences. With “Welcome to Punjab”, Shehzad Rafique has successfully brought the essence of Pakistani culture to the global stage, creating a highly anticipated cinematic experience.

PEC marks Independence Day with Nationwide Tree Plantation Drive

BNP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) commemorated the country’s Independence with a nationwide tree plantation drive, urging engineers across Pakistan to contribute towards a greener and healthier environment. The initiative sought to celebrate the national occasion with a powerful message of environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

As part of the event, Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir, along with Vice Chairman Punjab PEC Engr. Dr. Sohail Aftab Qureshi, PEC GB Members, and PEC officials, planted a tree at the PEC regional office in Lahore. Similarly, at PEC HQs Islamabad, Vice Chairman Sindh Engr. Mukhtar Sheikh, along with Registrar PEC Engr. Khadim Hussain Bhatti, members of the governing body, and PEC officials, planted a tree during the flag-hoisting ceremony.

In regional offices across Pakistan, PEC officials planted trees under the directions of Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir. These activities took place at PEC Regional Offices in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Multan, Sukkur, Abbottabad, Loralai, and



Muzaffarabad, where engineers joined hands to contribute to a greener future.

Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir, in his message, said, “Let’s make Pakistan greener – one tree at a time. Our engineers have the expertise, vision, and dedication to drive change, and

planting a tree today is a gift that will serve generations to come.” He emphasized that the engineering fraternity must lead the charge in safeguarding natural resources and fostering sustainability.

The PEC tree plantation drive aligns

with the council’s vision of “Leading Engineering Forward,” integrating environmental awareness into national celebrations. By linking Independence Day with a climate-positive initiative, PEC aspires to inspire long-term commitment to a cleaner, greener Pakistan.

Beaconhouse Signs MoU with Pakistan Olympic Association

City Desk

LAHORE: Beaconhouse and the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote sports integrity, technical excellence in school sports, and international recognition of school sports efforts, through integration of Olympic values and globally aligned sports practices. The signing took place on 13th August 2025 at the Olympic House, Lahore.

This collaboration presents opportunities for students of Beaconhouse School System, TNS Beaconhouse, and Beaconhouse-Newlands to participate in international youth engagement forums and campaigns under the IOC and Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Joint initiatives will include seminars on sports integrity and athlete well-being, training for the school’s physical education staff, and the documentation of success stories for global platforms.

The MoU was signed by Kasim Kasuri,



CEO Beaconhouse and Arif Saeed, President POA. Speaking at the ceremony, CEO Beaconhouse said, “This partnership is a milestone in our commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence but also the values of integrity, respect,

and perseverance that define true sportsmanship. It will inspire students to aim higher, challenge themselves, and carry these values into every aspect of their lives.”

This collaboration marks a signifi-

cant step towards further enriching the educational experience at Beaconhouse through world-class sports education, equipping students with the skills, discipline, and mindset to succeed both on and off the field.

‘Cheezious holds Independence Day Rally honoring Pakistan’s Armed Forces’



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Cheezious, Pakistan’s leading food brand, organized a spirited Independence Day rally starting from Cheezious Gulberg to Liberty Roundabout. The event celebrated Pakistan’s 78th Independence Day while paying tribute to the brave armed forces of the nation.

Employees, customers, and community members joined the rally, waving flags and chanting patriotic slogans, reflecting unity, pride, and gratitude towards the defenders of Pakistan.

“Independence Day is a time to honor our heroes — both those who fought for our freedom and those who protect it today,” said Imran Ijaz, CEO of Cheezious. “This rally was our way of showing appreciation for the armed forces and sharing the spirit of patriotism with our community.”

Earlier, on the occasion of Pakistan’s 78th Independence Day, a special ceremony was held at the Cheezious Head Office under the theme “Dil Se Cheezious – Dil Se Pakistani.” The event was graced by notable personalities, including Chief Executive Officer Cheezious Imran Ijaz. Speakers celebrated Pakistan’s rich cultural heritage, honored the countless sacrifices made for the nation’s freedom, and reflected on the country’s enduring journey of resilience and unity. As a proudly Pakistani brand, Cheezious marked the occasion by highlighting its successes and reaffirming its dedication to playing an active role in the nation’s progress.

Through such initiatives, Cheezious continues to strengthen its bond with the people of Pakistan, promoting unity, national pride, and the values that define the nation.

Infinix HOT 60 Pro: Unmatched clarity backed by 5-Year XOS Updates

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Infinix, a leading smart-phone brand in Pakistan known for empowering youth with innovative technology, has officially launched the HOT



60 Pro, featuring a 1.5K Super AMOLED display for vibrant, true-to-life visuals and 5 years of Android updates for sustained performance and security. Hot 60 Pro is now available for PKR 45,999/- offline at outlets nationwide and online via Xpark.pk.

The 1.5K Super AMOLED display exhibits exceptional color accuracy, deep blacks, and superior contrast, thereby enhancing the visual experience by presenting images and videos with remarkable clarity. The 5-year XOS update commitment provides sustained performance, enhanced features, and robust security over time. Advanced anti-theft features protect both data and device, even in unforeseen circumstances, while the innovative 1.5km no-signal communication capability allows seamless connectivity with nearby contacts without relying on mobile networks—ideal for emergencies, outdoor excursions, or remote environments.

Speaking about the launch of the HOT 60 Pro, Simon Feng, CEO of Infinix, said “The HOT 60 Pro represents a leap forward in how smartphones can serve as both a lifestyle companion and a reliable tool for the future. We’ve integrated cutting-edge display technology, long-term software support, and innovative safety and connectivity features to empower our users in every scenario.”

CM’s Japan visit a milestone for Punjab’s global cooperation: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz’s historic and strategic visit to Japan marks a significant milestone in the province’s journey towards international development and cooperation.

In a statement issued on Friday, she noted that Maryam Nawaz is the first Chief Minister to actively engage with friendly nations to secure investment, explore technological collaboration, and establish partnerships in education, health, and other vital sectors for Punjab’s growth.

“Her vision is to build a self-reliant, prosperous, and progressive Punjab,” Azma Bokhari said, adding that the Japan visit will not only strengthen bilateral ties but also unlock new opportunities for joint ventures, scholarships, and technology transfer.

She reiterated that the Punjab government is committed to learning from global experiences and best practices to uplift the province. “Under Maryam Nawaz’s visionary leadership, Punjab is rising as an active, forward-looking region on the international stage,” she concluded.

Cloudburst, flash floods devastate KP

Continued from Page 1

The worst-hit districts are Buner, Bajaur, and Battagram, where rescue operations continue. Two helicopters have been dispatched to Buner and Bajaur.

The KPK government has released PKR 500 million for relief, allocating Rs150 million to Buner, Rs100 million each to Bajaur, Battagram, and Mansehra, and Rs50 million to Swat.

Buner

DC Buner Kashif Qayyum reported severe flooding in Pir Baba and other areas, forcing residents onto rooftops awaiting rescue.

He confirmed 91 deaths —

88 men, two women, and one child. Local youth risked their lives to save a visiting family from Punjab.

A mosque in Gokand collapsed, livestock were swept away, and Pir Baba Police Station was submerged. Rescue 1122 spokesman Bilal Faizi said 2,800 stranded people were rescued, though 17 remain missing.

Bajaur

In Salarzai Tehsil, Bajaur, a cloudburst and lightning strike killed 21 people and injured eight. Nineteen bodies have been recovered, while two remain missing.

The disaster destroyed four houses in Jabrai village.

DC Bajaur Shahid Ali said

the dead include 11 men, eight children, and two women. One family lost eight members, while two other families lost five members each.

Rescuers faced challenges due to fast-flowing water, landslides, and blocked routes.

Mansehra and Battagram

Cloudbursts and floods killed 23 people each in Mansehra and Shalaga, and 15 in Battagram. In Dheri Haleem near the Mansehra-Battagram border, lightning killed 22 people, including women and a child.

In Balakot, two men drowned when their car was swept away. In Khairabad, Garhi Habibullah, a woman and her 15-year-old daughter died when their house

collapsed. Section 144 has been imposed in Siran Valley, banning tourist entry.

Lower Dir

In Suri Pao village, Lal Qila Maidan Tehsil, five people — including two boys, two girls, and a woman — died when a house roof collapsed. Four others were injured.

In Pir Baba, torrential rains swelled local streams, sweeping away eight children, including a schoolteacher in Gokand, and two children in Kalil. Schools have been closed due to flooding.

Swat

Flooding, lightning, and building collapses killed nine people, with three missing. Dozens of homes were damaged,

five bridges destroyed, and electricity, mobile, and gas supplies disrupted.

Army flood relief operations

The Pakistan Army is carrying out relief operations in Swat and Bajaur, airlifting stranded residents, and delivering rations and medicines by helicopter. Locals praised the Army’s timely response.

AJK and GB destruction

In AJK, 18 people died in multiple incidents. In Nasirabad Tehsil, Muzaffarabad, a cloudburst triggered flash floods that killed eight people from the same family.

In Bagh, a tourist vehicle was swept away, though occupants survived.

Landslides blocked roads to Jhelum Valley, Leepa Valley, and other areas. All schools have been closed for two days.

In GB, 10 people died in Ghizer and Diamer. Roads to Shandur, Deosai, and several valleys are blocked.

Flash floods destroyed houses, crops, orchards, and power infrastructure in Skardu, Khar-mang, and Shigar. Rescue efforts are ongoing with Army assistance.

Government response

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed NDMA to intensify relief efforts and coordinate with the KPK government.

Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin

Gandapur has declared a day of mourning tomorrow, with the national flag at half-mast.

Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi expressed condolences and instructed rescue agencies to accelerate operations.

Other regions and weather alerts

Heavy rains are forecast for Islamabad, Kashmir, upper Punjab, KPK, and GB. Sindh, including Karachi, may see intense rainfall from August 18–23.

Punjab PDMA reported low-level flooding in the Indus River at Kalabagh, Tarbela, and Taunsa, and medium-level flooding at Chashma. Mangla Dam is 67% full, and Tarbela Dam is 96% full.



Chehlum processions held across country

Bureaus /Correspondents

ISLAMABAD: Processions and majalis were held across the country on Friday to mark the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala with reverence. Security was heightened, with roads sealed and events monitored closely.

Punjab Police have been placed on high alert for the Chehlum of Imam Hussain to ensure the peaceful and secure conduct of processions, gatherings, and ceremonies.

Inspector General of Punjab

Police Dr. Usman Anwar said all sects should promote religious harmony and interfaith unity. He said 644 gatherings and 392 processions are taking place across the province, with 37,000 police personnel deployed for security duties.

In Karachi, the main procession of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) was brought out at 1 pm from Nishtar Park. The procession will conclude at Hussania Iranian Imambargah.

Large number of Rescue 1122 personnel are deployed alongside the routes of the procession.

In Lahore, 12,000 personnel

have been assigned to secure 44 gatherings and 14 processions, assisted by special police, traffic police, and volunteers.

The police have installed 926 walk-through gates and deployed 6,753 metal detectors for security checks. Safe City cameras are also being used for monitoring.

In Lahore, over 12,000 police personnel were deployed for the Chehlum and the Urs of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA). Circular Road and Lower Mall Road were closed to traffic, and more than 600 cameras were used for live monitoring.

In Quetta, the main proces-

sion began from Alamdar Road Imambargah Nichari, led by Balochistan Shia Conference President Ashiq Hussain Hazara. Over 2,000 police personnel were stationed, with CCTV coverage along sealed routes.

In Hunza, Gilgit, Nagar, and Skardu, foolproof security was ensured for Chehlum processions. Water stalls and medical camps were set up, while law enforcement officials remained on high alert.

In Hyderabad, the central mourning procession began from Karbala Dadan Shah and concluded at Qadam Gah

Mola Ali. Roads were closed with barbed wire and barricades, and over 100 cameras monitored the route.

In Sialkot, the procession started from Imambargah Dar Batool, while in Sukkur, the Arbaeen walk began from Military Road and ended at Karbala Maidan in Rohri. Large numbers of women mourners also participated.

In Rawalpindi, the procession from Imambargah Ashiq Hussain in Teli Mohalla followed a route that was scanned and sealed beforehand. Police sniper shooters were posted on high alert.

Minister vows uninterrupted fertilizer supply ahead of sowing season

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, held an extensive meeting today with Mr. Ali Rathore, Chief Executive Officer of Engro Fertilizers.. The discussion centered on ensuring uninterrupted fertilizer supply across the country, stabilizing prices for farmers, and introducing forward-looking measures to strengthen the agriculture sector's resilience.

The Minister underscored that timely and affordable access to fertilizer is not merely a commercial matter but a critical pillar of Pakistan's food security and economic stability. He reaffirmed the government's commitment



to protecting farmers from market manipulation by eliminating hoarding, curbing black marketing, and maintaining

strict adherence to national quality standards. He emphasized that any disruption in the supply of fertilizer directly

impacts crop yields and can jeopardize the livelihoods of millions of farming households.

Rana Tanveer Hussain called upon Engro Fertilizers to expand its distribution reach, particularly in remote rural areas, and to align its supply schedules with the agricultural calendar to avoid shortages during peak sowing periods. He also highlighted the need for innovation in delivery systems, including farmer facilitation centers and mobile supply networks, so that small-scale farmers have equal access to quality inputs.

Mr. Ali Rathore welcomed the government's initiatives and assured full cooperation, pledging that Engro Fertilizers will continue to supply quality fertilizers at fair prices, while also supporting farmer training programs to improve efficient and responsible fertilizer use.

Punjab CM Maryam leaves on Japan visit

Bureau Report

LAHORE: On the special invitation of Japanese government, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday left for Tokyo on a five-day official visit.

Senior officials of the Punjab government bid farewell to CM Maryam Nawaz. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Heritage Azma Zahid Bokhari, Minister Malik Zohaib Bherth, Zeeshan Rafiq, Special Advisor Sania Asiq, and other officials accompanied the chief minister.

It is necessary to mention here that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is the first chief minister who is invited to visit Japan officially.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will attend the World Expo in Osaka.

During her stay, the chief minister will visit the cities of Yokohama, Osaka, and Tokyo, where she is scheduled to hold high-level meetings with Japanese business leaders, representatives of major corporations, and government



officials. The agenda includes discussions

on investment opportunities, bilateral trade, and the promotion of economic

ties between Japan and Pakistan, particularly in the Punjab province.

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Details of pension, benefits received by CJP after retirement come to light



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Details of the pension and benefits received by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court after retirement have come to light.

In a written reply to the Senate session, the Law Ministry said that in 2010, the pension of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court after his retirement was Rs560,000, which gradually increased to Rs2.39 million in 2024.

In 2011, this amount was Rs644,000 while in 2012 it was Rs773,000 and in 2013 it was

Rs850,000.

In 2014 it was Rs935,000, in 2015 it was Rs105,000 while in 2016 it was Rs115,000 and in 2017 it was Rs1217,000.

In 2018 pension was Rs1338,000 while in 2021 it was Rs1452,000, and in 2023 it was Rs1657,000.

The Law Ministry also outlined incentives for the widow of the Chief Justice, including a driver, a maid, Rs3,000 per month for local telephone calls, Rs2,000 per month for electricity, free water, 300 liters of petrol per month and exemption from income tax.

Naqvi lauds KP police, CTD for foiling 14 terror attacks on 14 August



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday lauded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) for foiling 14 terrorist attacks by Indian-sponsored terrorists on August 14.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that due to the timely and professional operation, highly wanted terrorists involved in 19 cases were eliminated. These terrorists were reportedly backed by India and were plotting sabotage against Pakistan's security.

He emphasized that by foiling

the enemy's malicious plans, the KP Police and CTD have demonstrated that Pakistan's security forces are fully capable of countering any threat.

The Interior Minister further said that the elimination of these terrorists, referred to as agents of "Fitna al-Hindustan," marks a major achievement for the country's peace and stability. He added that the entire nation stands united with the security forces in this mission.

Mohsin Naqvi also praised the professionalism, courage, and dedication of all personnel involved in the operation, declaring them national heroes.

OGRA increases LNG prices by 1.46 percent for August



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has announced an increase in liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices for August, notifying a 1.46 percent hike across different gas systems in Pakistan.

According to the notification, the price of LNG has been revised for both the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) systems.

LNG prices on the SSGC system have been increased by \$0.15 per MMBTU, setting the new rate at \$10.73 per MMBTU.

Meanwhile, on the SNGPL system, the price of LNG has risen by \$0.14 per MMBTU, with the revised rate fixed at \$11.73 per MMBTU.

The revision comes as part of OGRA's monthly price adjustment mechanism, which directly affects consumers and industries relying on imported LNG for energy needs.