



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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بیان کیا کہ ان سے زہری نے ان سے ابو سلمہ
نے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے
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King Charles congratulates President Zardari on Pakistan Day

On Pakistan Day, British King Charles sent a message to President Asif Ali Zardari, congratulating him on the occasion. In his message, King Charles highlighted the shared heritage between Pakistan and Britain and made reference to the mountains, valleys, and fields of Pakistan.



97th birth anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto observed

The 97th birth anniversary of former first lady Begum Nusrat Bhutto was observed on Monday. President Asif Ali Zardari in his message paid rich tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto who was a great political figure in Pakistan's history. He said the life of Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto was marked by grace, resilience and a firm commitment to democratic values.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal 4, Tuesday, March 24, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 336 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Flag Hoisting

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hoisted the National Flag in Lahore to mark the celebrations of Pakistan Day, 23rd March 2026.



Photo: PID

Shehbaz Sharif hoists national flag to mark Pakistan Day

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hoisted the national flag to mark the Pakistan Day during a simple but a dignified ceremony held here.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was also present at the ceremony along with other officials.

This year, the government observed the Pakistan Day under austerity and energy-saving measures, canceling the traditional military parade and all major ceremonies scheduled for the 23 March 2026.

The government had directed all public departments to keep celebrations limited, while the customary national civil awards investiture ceremony was also postponed.

The officials said the awards ceremony will now be held on 28 April 2026.

The prime minister also instructed Pakistani embassies abroad to observe the Pakistan Day with simplicity and avoid large-scale events.

President Xi sends congratulatory message to Zardari on eve of Pakistan Day



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory message to President Asif Ali Zardari on the occasion of Pakistan Day, saying he is ready to work with the president to build an even closer Sino-Pak community with a shared future in the new era.

President Xi highlighted the start of China's 15th Five-Year Plan this year, as well as the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

He expressed hope that both sides would carry forward their traditional friendship, enhance strategic communication and alignment of development strategies, and move

forward together on their respective paths to modernisation.

He lauded the Pakistani government on steadfastly safeguarding national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national dignity, overcoming various risks and challenges, and advancing national development, as well as making contributions to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity. As a close friend, China is sincerely pleased with Pakistan's development achievements, Xi added.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on also extended his congratulations on Pakistan Day in a message to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Xinhua News reported.

Pakistan's Quiet Diplomacy Facilitates Trump's De-escalation with Iran

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A significant diplomatic opening has emerged amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, with Donald Trump announcing a temporary halt to potential military strikes on Iranian power infrastructure, a move widely interpreted as a signal of de-escalation.

The development comes as Pakistan's quiet but active diplomacy, in coordination with Türkiye and Egypt, gains recognition for helping reduce the risk of a broader regional conflict.

According to diplomatic sources, Pakistan played a



central role in backchannel communications over the past 48 hours, working closely with Ankara and Cairo to facilitate indirect exchanges between

Washington and Tehran. The objective of these efforts was to prevent further military escalation and create space for dialogue at a time when hostil-

ities had entered a critical phase.

Pakistan's leadership remained actively engaged throughout the process. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif maintained high-level diplomatic outreach, while Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir held strategic engagements with regional and international stakeholders. Officials familiar with the discussions said the focus extended beyond immediate de-escalation towards laying the groundwork for sustained regional stability.

Diplomatic observers noted that Pakistan adopted a balanced approach, maintaining communication channels with both the United States and Iran.

This positioning allowed Islamabad to act as a credible intermediary at a time when direct engagement between the two sides remained limited.

In Washington, Trump said he had ordered a five-day postponement of any strikes targeting Iranian power plants, just hours before a self-imposed deadline that had raised fears of further escalation. Writing on his Truth Social platform, he described recent engagements with Iran as "very good and productive", adding that discussions had centred on a "complete and total resolution of hostilities in the Middle East".

Continued on Page 7

PM Shehbaz Sharif holds telephone conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday extended Eid-ul-Fitr and Nowruz greetings to the Iranian President, and the brotherly people of Iran.

The feelings were warmly reciprocated by the Iranian President, who also conveyed his best wishes for the people of Pakistan.

As a neighbouring brotherly country of Iran, the Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's solidarity with the brave Iranian people in the wake of the ongoing hostilities. He expressed deep condolences over the loss of precious lives

and prayed for early recovery and safety of those injured and displaced.

The Prime Minister also conveyed his serious concern over the dangerous ongoing hostilities in the Gulf region. In view of this grave situation, the Prime Minister underscored the urgent need to work collectively for de-escalation and a return to dialogue and diplomacy amongst all the neighbouring countries to settle their differences. He stressed upon the critical importance of unity in the ranks of the Ummah, that was required more than ever before.

While sharing with the Iranian President the diplomatic outreach efforts of Pakistan's leadership, the Prime Minister assured the Iranian leadership that Pakistan would continue to play a constructive role in facilitating peace in the region.

March 23 is unforgettable story of resolve, loyalty and national unity: Mohsin Naqvi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that Pakistan is a priceless blessing of Almighty Allah and the result of a great ideology and everlasting sacrifices, adding even today the country needs the spirit, unity

and solidarity of Pakistan Day to overcome internal and external challenges.

Extending greetings to the nation on the occasion of Pakistan Day, Mohsin Naqvi said that March 23 is an unforgettable story of resolve and loyalty and a symbol of national unity and

steadfastness.

He paid glowing tribute to the founders of Pakistan and the martyrs of the Pakistan Movement.

He said that March 23, 1940, is a golden chapter in history when our forefathers laid the foundation of a separate homeland,

adding that the promise made at the historic gathering in Lahore was fulfilled in the form of Pakistan just seven years later.

He stated that Pakistan is a great blessing of Allah Almighty and the outcome of an ideology and unparalleled sacrifices, adding that the Lahore Reso-

lution conveyed a clear message that Muslims are a separate nation and require political, economic and geographical independence.

He said Pakistan Day reminds us that nations survive through ideology, unity and continuous struggle.

DPM, Iraqi counterpart discuss regional situation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday held a telephon-

ic conversation with Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Iraq, Fuad Hussein on the prevailing regional situation.

Both leaders expressed deep concern over the ongoing

regional escalation and its wider implications.

DPM/FM underscored the need for collective efforts to de-escalate tensions and prevent further instability, emphasizing

that dialogue and adherence to international law remain essential for ensuring peace, security,

and stability in the region and beyond. The two leaders also exchanged Eid greetings.



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday spoke with Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan on the evolving regional situation.

Both leaders reviewed the latest developments in the region, including the recent announcement by the US President regarding a temporary halt in hostilities.



DPM/FM stressed the importance of continued diplomatic engagement to ensure peace and stability in the region and beyond.

They agreed to remain in close contact on the evolving situation.

Azad Kashmir PM hails Lahore Resolution as Foundation for Pakistan and Kashmir's Destiny

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister AJK Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said in separate messages on the eve of Pakistan Day, they said the Lahore Resolution of March 23, 1940, had changed the course of history by laying the foundation for a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent.

He said the day was being celebrated with zeal and enthusiasm to commemorate the adoption of the historic reso-

lution under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

He said the resolution materialised the long-cherished dream of Muslims despite stiff opposition. He said the day held special significance for the Muslims of the subcontinent as it marked the beginning of their struggle for an independent state, adding that Kashmiri leadership had also played a leading role by participating in the historic Lahore session, thereby laying



the foundation of an everlasting bond between Kashmir and Pakistan.

The prime minister described the ongoing movement in Indian-held Kashmir as a continuation of the Pakistan Movement, asserting that Kashmiris had kept it alive through their sacrifices. "Kashmiris are Pakistanis by choice and consider Pakistan the centre

of their hopes and aspirations," he said.

He added that Kashmiris had aligned themselves with Pakistan even before its creation and had decided in favour of accession prior to August 14, 1947. "No country in the world stands closer to Kashmiris than Pakistan," he said, expressing confidence that their sacrifices would ultimately bear fruit.

AJK Minister Information Links Pakistan Day to Kashmir's Freedom Struggle

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the occasion of Pakistan Day Information Minister AJK Rafique Nayyar termed March 23 a historic and memorable day for Muslims of the subcontinent and called for renewed efforts to strengthen Pakistan in line with the spirit of the Lahore Resolution.

He reiterated that a stable Pakistan was essential for the freedom of Kashmir and pledged continued political, diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiris in their struggle for the right to self-determination.

He said the ultimate objective of this struggle was the accession of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan, adding that Kashmiris would continue their efforts until achieving their goal.



Azad Kashmir PM Extends Eid Greetings at Health Minister's Residence



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore visited the house of Health Minister Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi on the second day of Eid. On his arrival in Miani Bandi, Health Minister Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi and PP workers welcomed the Prime Minister. At the residence of Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, PP workers and the people of the area met the Prime Minister and congratulated him on Eid. Government Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, PP leader Ali Naqvi, Sheikh Azhar, Shaukat Khaksar and others were also present on the occasion.

Kashmir's Link to Pakistan Day Stressed by AJK Muslim Conference Chief



Abdul Majid Tahir

GHAZIABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that March 23, Pakistan Day, is of great importance. On March 23, 1940, the Muslims of the subcontinent were blessed with an independent state of Pakistan due to the Pakistan Resolution. Kashmiris not only participated with the Muslims of India in the struggle for the establishment of Pakistan, but also associated themselves with Pakistan even before the establishment of Pakistan. Meanwhile, a sea of Muslim Conference leaders and workers came to meet former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, on the auspicious occasion of Eid in Ghaziabad. They spent three very busy days. During the Eid days, workers of Muslim Conference and other political parties from all over Azad Kashmir met at Mujahid Aul House, Ghaziabad, and congratulated those who performed Umrah and celebrated Eid. Among those who met, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan was also present on this occasion.

APHC-AJK Information Secretary greets country's leadership, armed forces, nation on Pakistan Day

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt extended heartfelt Pakistan Day greetings to the country's leadership, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and the patriotic citizens.

In his statement, Butt highlighted that March 23, 1940, marks a historic milestone in the collective history of the Muslims of the subcontinent, when the Lahore Resolution was passed, demanding a separate state for Muslims. He added that the resolution transformed a dream into reality and noted that it was not merely a political document but a declaration of intellectual, ideological, and cultural awakening.

Under the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the unwavering determination of Muslims, and extraordinary sacrifices, the dream of Pakistan was realized within seven years, resulting in the creation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and firmly establishing it on the world map.

Butt emphasized that Pakistan Day is not only a time to revisit the memories of the past but also an opportunity to renew the nation's commitment to the ideals on which the country was founded.

Solidarity

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister of AJK addressed a rally organized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in solidarity with the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



Acting President Links Strong Pakistan to Kashmir's Freedom on Pakistan Day

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Acting President Chaudhry Latif Akbar said in his message "Muslims of the subcontinent had united to demand a separate homeland where they could live in accordance with their religious, cultural and social values, including justice, equality and freedom".

He said a strong and stable Pakistan was a guarantor of Kashmir's freedom, adding that despite worst human rights violations in Indian-held Kashmir, people there continued to express their commitment to Pakistan.

He noted that March 23, 1940, was a milestone not only for Pakistan but also for the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir, whose representatives



had attended the Lahore gathering and determined their political future under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam, inspired by the vision of Allama Iqbal.

Paying tribute to the founding leaders, he urged unity, discipline and hard work to make Pakistan stronger and more prosperous.

RPO Usman Akram Gondal Leads Multan Range Toward Crime Reduction and Restoring Public Trust

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Since his appointment as Regional Police Officer (RPO) of the Multan Range, Usman Akram Gondal has prioritized the elimination of crime and the establishment of law and order across the entire range. His agenda focuses on modernizing patrolling systems in all districts, paying special attention to crime hotspots, and strengthening crime control through advanced technology. He aims to ensure impartial action against drug dealers, illegal arms holders, and other criminal elements through coordinated teamwork, active field officers, and robust community engagement.

Ensuring transparent, impartial, and timely investigations of ongoing cases, enhancing security in public spaces and marketplaces, and utilizing all avail-

able resources to consolidate peace across the range are also among his top priorities. The overarching goal of this agenda is not only crime prevention but also the restoration of public confidence and the establishment of a transparent and accountable policing system throughout Multan Range.

While generic directives are often repeated by many officers, Gondal's leadership stands out for its practical approach, which goes beyond statements to focus on the real-time resolution of public grievances. Notably, he has redefined the concept of "open courts" (Khuli Kachahri) as platforms for effective accountability and swift justice, rather than mere formalities. His clear position is that requests submitted during these sessions should not simply be marked and sent back to relevant offices—a practice he considers inappropriate as it undermines the

forum's purpose. Instead, he insists on immediate hearings, responsibility assignment, and prompt implementation to restore public trust and demonstrate tangible improvements in the police system.

Since his posting as RPO Multan on February 24, Gondal has visited various districts in the range and started listening to public grievances directly through open courts. A senior officer personally hearing citizens' complaints reflects an effective grievance redressal mechanism and strengthens public confidence in the police, aligning with the current government's citizen-friendly policies. For those unable to access CPO, DPO, or RPO offices due to constraints, these

open courts provide an effective platform to present complaints freely and expect prompt attention.

Another distinctive aspect of Gondal's leadership is his direct supervision of police development and construction projects, typically handled by the building department. The RPO personally inspects these projects, showing keen interest down to the selection of materials. His priorities are timely completion, cost efficiency, and high quality. His hands-on oversight ensures optimal use of resources and plays a key role in preventing corruption or kickbacks, thereby enhancing institutional credibility and performance.

Under Gondal's leadership, the

complaint redressal system has transformed from a procedural formality into an effective, accountable mechanism. Complaints received via the 1787 helpline or through mail are promptly reviewed according to legal standards, and timely actions are taken for relief. Even when a complaint is referred to a lower level, its progress is continuously monitored to ensure full resolution. This approach not only reflects effective supervision but also strengthens public trust.

Some critics argue that Gondal's direct oversight might indicate a lack of trust in his team. In reality, this leadership style reflects an active, accountability, and transparent system where senior officers ensure quality and identify ground-level issues promptly. The strategy aims to strengthen the system, prevent corruption, curb misuse of authority, and eliminate unnecessary

delays. This approach integrates guidance, improvement, and accountability, elevating institutional performance.

Currently, citizens of Multan, especially in the city, express deep frustration over unresolved theft and robbery cases. Complaints indicate minimal progress in recovering valuables or cash, affecting public trust, including among journalists. Often, complainants referred from the CPO office to police stations receive no effective response, further undermining confidence.

This team reports directly to RPO Multan and executes any assigned inquiries or tasks with complete integrity and transparency, ensuring immediate resolution of internal issues. This initiative strengthens accountability and transparency, improves ethical standards within the police force, and restores public trust.





Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:45 am
Zohr 12:15 pm
Asr 4:37 pm
Maghrib 6:21 pm
Isha 7:45 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
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Asim Malik visited in SOS Children's Villages



Tahir Amin Malik

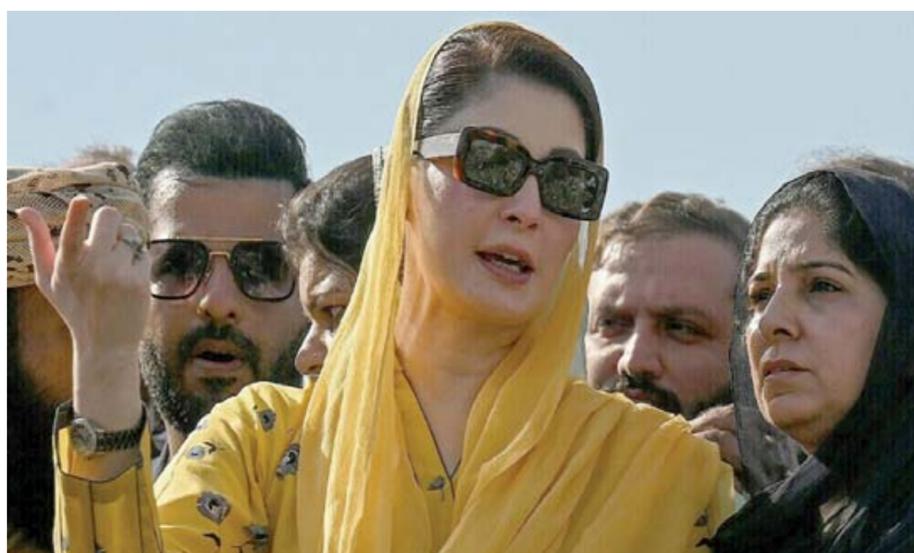
The CEO Branded Cut Piece Asim Malik visited in SOS Children's Villages on the Eid day where Founder and President Souriya Anwar welcome to him. On this occasion Asim Malik met the childrens and enjoyed the Eid Celebration with them. He said its most memorable moments for me to celebrate the Eid with SOS Children's. He distributed the Eidi and gifted among the childrens and all the childrens were very happy and they thanked to Asim Malik to spend the time with them. Asim Malik said in future he will continue visit for SOS Children's Villages such kind of events. On this occasion founder and president Souriya Anwar also thanked to Asim Malik to visit on the eid day and she appreciated to Asim Malik to give the Eidi and gifted to the childrens.

CM Punjab: Record low prices of fruits and vegetables achieved for the first time, public relief efforts praised

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab

Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed gratitude and commended her team after a historic achievement in maintaining



the lowest-ever prices of fruits, vegetables, and essential commodities across the province.

During Ramadan, facilitation markets witnessed an unprecedented turnout, with millions of citizens purchasing over 36.9 million kilograms of food items at rates up to 40 percent lower than the open market.

The initiative enabled citizens to save billions of rupees collectively, including significant reductions in flour prices, where consumers benefited from both

DC rates and further market comparisons.

A total of 80 facilitation markets, including permanent, mobile, and temporary setups, were established under the Punjab Sahulat Bazaars Authority, serving over 40 million visitors.

In addition to physical markets, a digital home delivery system processed over 37,000 orders, allowing citizens to save more through free delivery services.

For the first time, a direct feedback mechanism was introduced to address

public complaints instantly, alongside strict digital monitoring to ensure quality and price control.

She appreciated the efforts of the PSBA team, including Chairman Afzal Khokhar, for working tirelessly to provide affordable and quality food items.

She emphasized that the government remains committed to ensuring public relief and maintaining price stability, stating that the Ramadan 2026 operation has emerged as a model of effective public service delivery.

Enjoyment closed

ISLAMABAD: Public return back due to door closed of Lake View Park at 6pm, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

March 23: A Historic Day for Pakistan's Freedom and Democracy

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: On the occasion of March 23, prominent industrialist and Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, stated that today marks a historic day etched in golden letters in Pakistan's political and constitutional history.

The member of the National Export Development Board recalled that on March 23, 1940, a significant session of the All India Muslim League was held at Minto Park in Lahore (now Iqbal Park), during which the famous Lahore Resolution was passed. This resolution, later known as the Pakistan Resolution, laid the foundation for a separate homeland for Muslims and paved the way for their political future. This historic step set the course toward an independent Pakistan and remains a shining example for future generations.

Chairman Anjum further highlighted that March 23, 1956, marked another milestone in Pakistan's history, when the country's first constitution was enacted,



making Pakistan the world's first Islamic Republic. For this reason, the day is also celebrated as Republic Day. This landmark event not only ensured Pakistan's constitutional independence but also provided its citizens with a strong political and legal

identity. Concluding his remarks, the Chairman urged every Pakistani to recognize the historical significance of March 23 and to contribute wholeheartedly to the country's progress and stability.

Sir Richie Richardson to make his HBL PSL debut as match referee

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has today announced the match officials for the HBL PSL 11, which will be played in Lahore and Karachi from 26 March to 3 May with 44 matches slated to take place.

Sir Richard Richardson, member of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, is set to make his HBL PSL debut as match referee. Previously Sir Richardson has officiated four Tests and three T20Is in Pakistan between 2017 and 2024 including the three-match T20I series between Pakistan and World XI at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

Four members of ICC Elite Panel of Umpires Ahsan Raza from Pakistan, Christopher Gaffaney from New Zealand, Allahudien Palekar from



South Africa and Alexander Wharf from England will be joined by Sharfuddoula Saikat and Chris Brown in a strong overseas contingent of Umpires.

Palekar and Saikat will be making their HBL PSL debuts. Among others Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz, Faisal Khan

Aafreedi, Nasir Hussain, Zulfiqar Jan, Abdul Muqet, Alay Haider, Imran Jawed and Tariq Rasheed will perform umpiring duties in the tournament.

Roshan Mahanama, who has been a regular match referee in the HBL PSL since 2017, will return to extend his

tally of 71 HBL PSL matches as head of playing control team starting with the opening match between Lahore Qalandars and Hyderabad Kingsmen.

In the first match Wharf and Ahsan will be on-field umpires, while Asif Yaqoob will perform duties as TV Umpire. Tariq Rasheed will be the fourth umpire.

Umpires Ahsan Raza, Chris Gaffaney, Sharfuddoula Saikat, Allahudien Palekar, Alex Wharf, Chris Brown, Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz, Faisal Khan Aafreedi, Nasir Hussain, Zulfiqar Jan, Abdul Muqet, Alay Haider, Imran Jawed and Tariq Rasheed Match Referees Roshan Mahanama, Sir Richard Richardson, Ali Naqvi, Kamran Chaudhary, Bilal Khilji, Iftikhar Ahmed, Aleem Moosa, Sohail Idrees

Message from Ambassador Albert P. Khorev on the Occasion of Pakistan Day

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on their national holiday - Pakistan Day!

This year marks the 86th anniversary of the adoption in 1940 of the Lahore Resolution, which paved the way for the emergence seven years later on the Indian subcontinent of a new state independent of British colonial oppression - the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Pakistani people have overcome with dignity all the difficulties of Pakistan's early years, preserving and enriching their national and traditional values.

On this momentous occasion, I wish all Pakistanis good health, well-being, and good fortune, as well as success in their work for the development and prosperity of their country!



Aqadat Foundation Society enriches orphans with Eid Gifts



Iram Asim

MULTAN: Aqadat Foundation Society enriched orphans with Eid gifts. On Eid, orphans were also taken on a tour of different places. Aqadat Foundation Society founder Iftikhar Chauhan and President Humaira Iftikhar, while addressing the ceremony of giving Eid gifts to orphans, said, "These orphans are our own children. Their education and training is being provided free of cost. With the support of philanthropists, orphans are being given higher education. In addition, projects are also being worked on for their better future. Aqadat Foundation Society has made special arrangements for the support of orphans. They said, "These orphans were given gifts on Eid. They were also given new clothes and new shoes." Iftikhar Chauhan and President Humaira Iftikhar said, "Orphans are our future. If the lamps are lit by their breath, there will be light. Come and nurture these orphans. Support us."

Following Sufia Karam's Teachings, Pakistan Resolution Goals Can Be Achieved: Dr. Ehsan Bhutta

Bnews Desk

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta while highlighting the significance of 23rd March (Pakistan Day), stated that this historic day reminds us of unity, faith, discipline, and the collective struggle of our forefathers for an independent homeland.

He expressed these views while addressing a flag hoisting ceremony at the shrine of Hazrat Ali Hijveri (Data Ganj Bakhsh) RA. Administrator Muhammad Ali Khan, khateeb Molana Riaz Silavi and management of Data Darbar and large number of people were present at this occasion. He emphasized that the spirit of the Pakistan Resolution should continue to guide us in fulfilling our professional and national responsibilities.

Dr. Ehsan Bhutta further stated that following the teachings of Sufia Karam is essential to promote love, peace, tolerance, and humanity in society. He added that their teachings foster brotherhood and harmony, which are vital for national cohesion and sustainable development.

He urged the officers and staff to continue serving devotees with sincerity and dedication, ensuring the provision of the best possible facilities at the shrine. He also stressed the importance of maintaining discipline, improving service delivery, and upholding the true values of Islam and Sufism.



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The challenge of the oppressed and the responsibility of the Muslim Ummah

For the past twenty-one days, a wave of power, brutality, and oppression has continued, leaving the streets of Tehran in tears. Yet within these tears lies not despair, but a deep anger and determination that no force in the world can suppress. Today, Iran has laid to rest three of its most significant and powerful sons. Immediately after their funerals, a besieged and oppressed nation surrounded on all sides by aggressors issued a final warning that has shaken the global economy and disturbed the peace of the Gulf: "If this state-sponsored terrorism against us does not stop, the entire Gulf will turn into ashes!"

The spokesperson of the Iranian armed forces, Ebrahim Zolfaghari, has clearly warned that if attacks on Iran's energy installations continue, then the refineries of Saudi Aramco, the ports of the UAE, and Qatar's North Field will be reduced to ashes. Consider the timing of this warning: when millions in Tehran are mourning at the funerals of Ali Larjani and Basij commander Gholam Raza Soleimani; when the martyrdom of Intelligence Minister Ismail Khatib has been officially confirmed; and when, due to the bombing of Kharg Island, 65% of Iran's gas production has been shut down. A nation that has lost 65% of its gas production and is burying its key leaders within a single week is not issuing such warnings out of arrogance, but from a point where it feels it has nothing left to lose. History bears

witness that when a dignified nation is pushed to such extremes, it becomes the most dangerous.

The enemy believed that by eliminating leaders, destroying infrastructure, and weakening the military, this nation could be subdued. However, they failed to understand the strength of Iran's "Mosaic Doctrine." Iran's 31 provincial commands do not rely on central directives or Kharg's gas supply to fight; they only need radio handsets and the "sealed orders" prepared by their martyrs for such critical times. By targeting leadership, the enemy has in fact removed the institutional restraint these leaders exercised. Now the commanders are free, and the threat of turning everything into ashes reflects that very freedom.

There is also the fear of a strike that could burn the Gulf's economy. Although Gulf countries currently intercept 90-96% of missiles and drones, the strategy is not to defeat the defense system but to overwhelm it. If the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) redirects its remaining arsenal from military targets to energy infrastructure, then even the 4-10% of missiles and drones that penetrate defenses could cause catastrophic damage. The result would not merely be airport closures, but massive refinery fires, destruction of LNG terminals, and the collapse of

petrochemical industries—damage that would take years to repair. Saudi pipelines might remain intact, but the refineries feeding them would not be safe, while the gas fields of the UAE and Qatar remain potential targets. Satellite images of key sites such as Jubail and Ras Laffan have already been released, suggesting these are not just psychological threats but part of a calculated target list.

According to Citibank, oil prices (Brent) could rise to \$110-120, and if further infrastructure is destroyed, they may reach as high as \$150-200. Iran has effectively signaled that infrastructure is at risk.

At the same time, strict warnings from Iranian officials regarding energy centers have heightened concerns across the Gulf. It is important to note that these statements are emerging at a time when the country itself is suffering significant internal losses, including damage to its energy sector and the loss of key figures. Under such circumstances, an emotional and forceful response is not unexpected. However, these statements also create fear and uncertainty globally, as the Gulf region is a major hub of energy supply, and any instability here affects the entire world.

Another important dimension of this situation is military strategy. Modern defense systems are designed so they do not rely solely on central leadership.

Multi-layered command and control structures ensure rapid response in emergencies. While this reflects strength, it also increases the risk of unpredictable reactions, as individuals at different levels are empowered to make immediate decisions.

Will other countries of the Muslim Ummah wake up after this oppression of Iran and this open cruelty of the usurpers, or will they continue to watch this spectacle silently to save their own economy, i.e. refineries, which feed the Zionists? The time has come for the Muslim Ummah to unite and get rid of the US, which protects Israel and provides strength to its real enemy, Israel, in the region with the money of these same Gulf Muslim states. The Gulf Muslim countries should solve their problems through dialogue and negotiations and unite to break the power of the real enemy, Israel. Trade and transact with each other, but do not make a mistake in recognizing the enemy. This enemy is implementing its plans by eliminating your generations. The Muslim Ummah is being targeted everywhere. Think about how our Muslim rulers will answer the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the grave tomorrow. Be careful for God's sake. It is time now; everyone has seen the reality closely. May Allah grant the rulers of our Muslim countries understanding, insight and the ability to unite against the Zionist enemy.

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Analysis

Muhammad Asif

Celebrating Eid Amidst Global Devastation

The night before Eid is usually filled with a particular kind of happiness that Muslims everywhere recognize instantly. Tailors rush to finish the last alterations, kitchens fill with the scent of cardamom and roasted vermicelli, and children lay out their new clothes beside their beds as if placing treasures on display. In many homes, alarms are set earlier than usual, not out of obligation, but excitement. It is the one morning in the year when children wake before their parents. Yet in recent years, the approach of Eid has felt different. Between the cheerful greetings and preparations, another reality presses quietly into our consciousness. On the television screen or the phone in our hands appear images from Gaza, apartment blocks flattened into dust, hospitals overwhelmed, families searching for loved ones beneath concrete. News from Iran brings similar images of explosions, sirens, and mourning. This contrast forces an uncomfortable question into the heart of Eid, how do we celebrate joy while others endure devastation? For Muslims, Eid ul Fitr marks the completion of Ramadan, a month of fasting, discipline, and spiritual renewal. It is meant to be a day of gratitude and community. Mosques overflow with worshippers. Strangers greet one another with warm embraces. Children clutch envelopes of Eidi with triumphant smiles.

However, the world beyond our neighborhoods has intruded into our celebrations in a way that is difficult to ignore. There are those who argue that Eid should be celebrated fully, without hesitation or restraint. Their argument is not merely cultural but theological. Eid is not optional; it is a sacred day prescribed as a reward for the completion of Ramadan. To suppress it, they argue, risks allowing oppression and tragedy to steal even our moments of gratitude. History offers many examples that support this view. Muslims throughout history have celebrated their religious festivals even during times of war, displacement, and hardship. Faith does not pause because circumstances are difficult. In fact, celebration itself can become an act of resilience.

A humanitarian worker once told the story of an Eid gathering in a refugee camp. Families had almost nothing. Their "feast" consisted of simple bread, dates, and tea. Yet after the prayer, someone began reciting poetry. Children ran between the tents laughing, their faces bright despite the harsh surroundings. One elderly woman reportedly said, "If we cannot laugh today, then they have taken everything from us." Her words captured something profound. Joy, even modest joy, can be a form of resistance.

There is also a deeply practical dimension to this perspective. Communities need moments of hope to sustain themselves. Children especially need the magic of Eid. One father recently described watching his young son prepare for the holiday. The boy carefully counted the coins he had saved during Ramadan and proudly showed them to his parents. "I'm going to buy sweets for everyone on Eid," he said. Moments like these remind us that celebrations are not merely indulgences. They are the threads that bind families and communities together.



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

Srinagar's Jamia Masjid Shut on Ramadan's Most Sacred Friday

The closure of Jamia Masjid in Srinagar on March 13, the last Friday of Ramadan (Jumatu-l-Vida) marks yet another event in the ongoing struggle of Kashmiri people for religious freedom in Indian-occupied Kashmir (IOK). It was a significant day when Muslims around the Kashmir come together every year on such an important day to commemorate the most religious and spiritual day of Ramadan but for the seventh consecutive year, the Indian forces closed down Jamia Masjid, the centre of religious life and spirituality in Srinagar. The incident has elicited widespread condemnation in Pakistan, as well as international community demands for justice, because the people of Kashmir are continually deprived of their basic human rights to practice their religion peacefully.

Jamia Masjid, which is situated at the centre of Srinagar, is not only a historic architectural site but also the religious centre of thousands of Kashmiris. This mosque is very significant to the population of Kashmir, particularly during Ramadan. The final Friday of Ramadan is referred to as Jumatu-l-Vida, which is the day of unity and devotion and all the members of the community come out in full force to pray. But this sacred Friday has never been celebrated in Kashmir because the Indian occupation forces have repeatedly shut down this place of worship, cementing the already oppressive environment.

The Indian government, in the name of security measures, is still imposing restrictions on religious sites. This year, the closure

of Jamia Masjid came along with the house arrest of the famous religious leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. This is not the first time Mirwaiz has defended the rights of the Kashmiri people and criticized the policies of the Indian government in the state. The fact that he could not lead the Friday prayers this year as he did in the past years is a pointer to how much freedom the religion is suffocated under the Indian occupation.

India justifies its activities in Jammu and Kashmir as a way of maintaining law and order. However, a lot of people believe that this is one of the means to suppress the Kashmiris. The frequent shutdown of Jamia Masjid and placing religious leaders under house arrest are not considered as security measures but to prevent any opposition or resistance against Indian rule. Apparently, Indian officials argue that it is required to close the mosque to maintain peace and safety, but it does not consider the level of human rights violations Kashmiris have been experiencing over years.

According to NDTV and the Times of India, the closures of the mosques are included in a bigger security plan which according to India is to prevent insurgency. However, when the police are involved in serious policing of places of worship and religious leaders the real motive behind this is brought into serious question.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq made a comparison of the restrictions imposed on Jamia Masjid Srinagar to the restrictions imposed on religious activities in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is also under occupation by the Israeli forces. The Kashmiri Muslim were mentally

and spiritually harmed by these closures. Another particularly strong example is the one comparing it to Al-Aqsa, which serves to remind us of the global struggle of religious freedom, regardless of the underlying geopolitical context.

It resonated with the Kashmiri people who perceive these closures as a greater effort to suppress their culture and religion. The Indian authorities have long discriminated against the Kashmiris, and this new limitation demonstrates how the religious freedoms are being actively restrained in the region.

Pakistan has been critic of the activities of Indian forces in IOK and the way they treat Muslims in Kashmir. The government of Pakistan also expressed a sharp criticism of the shutting down of Jamia Masjid and mentions that it is an evident disrespect to the religion. This move by Indian troops demonstrates how the religious freedom of Kashmiri Muslims is being gradually being denied. Such closures were the seventh consecutive year, and Pakistan continues to point this out. The Foreign Ministry of Pakistan reported that the closure contravenes international rules on human rights and the freedom of practice of religion by the Kashmiris.

The international community should not remain silent on these violations. The Kashmiris situation must be brought into the attention of the international community through action to ensure that their rights to religious freedom, identity and self-determination are not violated in the region.

The author is a 7th-semester student of International Relations at the International Islamic University, Islamabad. Currently, he is serving as an intern at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations Islamabad.



Analysis

Amir Mushtaq

Ten Laws to Finish a PhD: When Brilliance Fails, and Discipline Succeeds

Completing a PhD is often portrayed as a journey of pure intellect, creativity, and groundbreaking discoveries. While brilliance and curiosity are essential, they are rarely enough to guarantee success. The following ten Laws to Finish a PhD offer practical wisdom for navigating the doctoral journey.

1. **Kidlin's Law: If You Can't Explain It, You Don't Understand It** Kidlin's Law states that if you cannot clearly state your research problem in one paragraph, your research is not ready. Many PhD students begin with vague ideas, broad topics, and unclear objectives. This leads to confusion, wasted time, and endless revisions.

A clear research problem acts like a compass. When you can explain your topic simply to a colleague, a supervisor, or even a non-expert, you demonstrate true understanding. Clear questions also make supervision more effective, reduce misunderstandings, and speed up writing. Before diving deep into experiments or data collection, invest time in refining and articulating your problem statement.

2. **Parkinson's Law: Work Expands to Fill the Time Available** Parkinson's Law warns that tasks will take as long as you allow them to. If you give yourself unlimited time to write a chapter or analyze data, it may take months. But with strict deadlines, you often finish faster and more efficiently. In a PhD, there is no daily boss or fixed schedule. You must become your own manager. Set realistic but firm deadlines for reading, writing, and analysis. Use tools like calendars, to-do lists, and project management apps. Treat your PhD like a professional job with working

hours and milestones.

3. **The Exit Law: A Thesis Only Matters When Submitted** Many students aim for perfection and keep improving their work indefinitely. The Exit Law reminds us that a thesis only matters once it is submitted. Unsubmitted research, no matter how brilliant, has no academic impact. Finishing is a skill. Knowing when to stop refining and start submitting is crucial. Academic work is always imperfect; there is always more to read, more data to collect, and more sentences to polish. But academic success requires closure. Learn to accept "good enough" and move forward. Submission is the gateway to graduation, publication, and career opportunities.

4. **The Visibility Law: Unshared Work Does Not Exist** Research hidden in your computer or mind has no value to the academic community. The Visibility Law states that frequent drafts and sharing beat silent perfectionism. Supervisors, peers, and reviewers can only help you if they see your work. Share early and often. Present drafts in meetings, seminars, and conferences. Ask for feedback, even if your work feels unfinished. Visibility builds academic presence, improves your research through critique, and reduces anxiety about criticism. Remember, feedback is a tool for growth, not a judgment of your worth.

5. **The Advisor Variability Principle: Supervision Quality Shapes Progress** Not all supervisors are the same. Some are highly supportive, others are busy or hands-off. This principle emphasizes that managing your relationship with your advisor is part of doctoral work.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu

Senate Chairman Gilani Offers Condolences to Kanju Family in Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, visited the farmhouse of Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju in Karor Pakka to offer condolences and Fateha on the demise of his mother. Sajjadah Nasheen of the shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, Syed Abu-ul-Hassan Gilani, was also present on the occasion.

Expressing profound grief and sorrow over the passing of Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju's mother, the Chairman Senate remarked that a mother's love, affection, and prayers serve as a strong support, and her absence leaves a deep emotional impact on the heart.

He offered Fateha for the departed soul and prayed to Almighty Allah to grant her the highest place in Jannatul-Firdous and bestow patience and fortitude upon the bereaved family to bear this loss with resilience.

The Chairman Senate spent some time with Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju and his family, expressing



his heartfelt sympathy and condolences.

On the occasion, a large number of political and social personalities, including MNA Lodhran Sadiq Baloch, were also present.

Pakistan National Day Commemorated with Flag Hoisting in Dhaka

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: On the occasion of Pakistan National Day a solemn flag hoisting ceremony was held in the Pakistan High Commission, Dhaka. High Commissioner Imran Haider raised the flag in the presence of members of Pakistani community, students, representatives of civil society and local media.

The occasion marked historic day of 23 March 1940 when visionary leaders of Pakistan Movement, under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, passed the Pakistan Resolution laying the foundation for an independent homeland for the Muslims.

Messages from the President of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Mr Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar were read out, emphasizing the significance of the day and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to progress and unity.

It was reiterated that Pakistan is a proponent of global peace; however, sustainable peace in South Asia is linked to the just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. We will continue to extend moral, political,



and diplomatic support to our brothers and sisters in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Solidarity with the people of Palestine was also expressed. It was highlighted that operation Ghazab-lill- Haq is a symbol of national resolve against terrorism and unprovoked aggression. The High Commissioner extended

felicitations to Pakistani diaspora in Bangladesh. He paid rich tributes to the founding fathers for the sacrifices made for the creation of Pakistan. He underscored the importance of reflecting on this legacy and renewing collective resolve to build a strong and prosperous Pakistan in line with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad

Ali Jinnah. A pictorial exhibition was also organized to pay homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his glorious struggle and leadership for the independence of Muslims in South Asia. The ceremony concluded with dua for prosperity and progress of Pakistan.

The Strait of Hormuz Blockade: Challenges for Gulf Trade, Environmental Risks, and Opportunities for Gwadar Port



Author Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik
Co-Author Rabail Zareen

The recent blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in 2026 has emerged as one of the most significant geopolitical and economic crises of the decade. As a critical maritime chokepoint, the strait handles nearly one-fifth of global oil trade, substantial liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments, and key commodities such as fertilizers. The ongoing disruption, driven by escalating conflict involving Iran, the United States, and regional actors, has not only constrained trade flows of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries—including the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia—but has also generated serious environmental concerns. At the same time, this crisis presents a strategic opportunity for Pakistan's Gwadar Port to emerge as a regional transshipment hub.

The blockade has severely limited maritime trade across the Gulf. Countries such as the UAE and Qatar rely heavily on uninterrupted sea routes for exporting hydrocarbons and importing essential goods. However, maritime traffic through the strait has declined sharply, with some reports indicating an 80% drop in shipping activity and suspension of operations

by major shipping companies. This has disrupted supply chains, stranded cargo, and increased shipping costs globally. Furthermore, Gulf ports like Jebel Ali and Ras Laffan have experienced congestion and operational challenges due to diverted or halted vessels.

The economic implications are profound. The blockade has triggered a surge in oil prices, in some cases exceeding \$100 per barrel, contributing to inflation and economic instability worldwide. Additionally, the disruption extends beyond energy markets. Fertilizer exports—of which up to 30% pass through the Gulf—have been significantly affected, raising concerns about global food security. Countries dependent on Gulf energy and commodities, particularly in Asia, are experiencing industrial slowdowns and increased production costs. Thus, the blockade underscores the vulnerability of global trade to geopolitical chokepoints.

Beyond economic consequences, the environmental impact of the blockade is equally alarming. Military confrontations, including missile strikes and attacks on oil tankers, have heightened the risk of oil spills and marine pollution in the Persian Gulf. Such incidents can devastate fragile marine ecosystems, including coral reefs and fisheries that support regional livelihoods. Moreover, the rerouting of ships to longer alternative routes, such as around the Cape of Good Hope, increases fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating climate change. The concentration of stranded vessels in limited areas also raises the likelihood of accidents, further compounding environmental risks.

Amid these challenges, the crisis creates a strategic opening for Gwadar

Port in Pakistan. Located outside the Strait of Hormuz on the Arabian Sea, Gwadar offers a geographically advantageous alternative for regional trade. As part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the port is designed to serve as a gateway connecting Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. Its deep-sea capabilities and proximity to major shipping lanes position it as a viable transshipment hub in times of crisis.

Gwadar can play a critical role in mitigating the impact of the blockade by facilitating the diversion of cargo destined for Gulf countries. Goods can be offloaded at Gwadar and transported via land routes to regional markets, reducing dependence on the strait. This model is particularly relevant given the current trend of offloading cargo at secondary ports and using overland transport to reach final destinations. Furthermore, Gwadar's development aligns with the broader need for diversified supply chains, as highlighted by the current crisis.

In addition to economic benefits, Gwadar offers potential environmental advantages. By serving as a regional logistics hub, it can reduce the need for long-distance rerouting of vessels, thereby lowering emissions. Moreover, modern port infrastructure can incorporate environmentally sustainable practices, such as green energy use and efficient cargo handling systems, minimizing ecological impact compared to congested and conflict-prone Gulf routes.

Uptill now 20 to 30 ports in Persian Gulf have been adversely affected due to recent blocked of Strait of Hormuz which notably includes UAE's Jebel Ali, Khalifa Port and Sharjah, Saudi Arabia's

Dammam, Jubail and Ras Tanura, Qatar's Hamad Port and Ras Laffan, Bahrain's Khalifa Bin Salman Port, Kuwait's Shuwaikh and Iraq's Umm Qasr. All this is resulting into reduced ship arrivals, cargo delays and rising insurance and freight cost.

Closure of Hormuz has sternly disrupted Gulf's trade, with ship traffic dropping by 97%, impacting worth \$ U.S 15 billion in energy revenue losses, cargo delays, WAR risk surcharges. Persian Gulf port calls plummeted 47.3% within two weeks of the disruption, with daily vessel arrivals falling from 1,065 to 261. Approximately 140 container vessels were reported trapped or seeking shelter within the Gulf. Major carriers (Maersk, MSC, CMA and CGM) have suspended or severely restricted new bookings to ports in the UAE, KSA, Qatar, and Bahrain. Total shipping costs have spiked 125%-180% depending on the route and cargo type. A strike incident temporarily suspended oil loading at the UAE's key port of Fujairah.

In conclusion, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has exposed the fragility of global maritime trade and highlighted the interconnected nature of economic and environmental risks. While Gulf countries face immediate challenges in sustaining trade and protecting their ecosystems, the crisis also presents an opportunity for alternative routes and hubs to emerge. Gwadar Port, with its strategic location and development potential, stands out as a promising candidate to reshape regional trade dynamics. By capitalizing on this opportunity, Pakistan can not only enhance its economic prospects but also contribute to a more resilient and diversified global trade network.

86th National Day of Pakistan Celebrated in Singapore



Spokesman Report

SINGAPORE: A flag-hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan House, Singapore, to commemorate the 86th National Day of Pakistan. In view of the prevailing situation in the Middle East region, the ceremony was held in a simple and dignified manner. Members of the Pakistani community, officials of the High Commission and their families attended the ceremony.

High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq hoisted the national flag to the tune of the National Anthem. Messages from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion.

In her remarks, the High Commissioner stated that March 23 serves as a powerful reminder of the struggle and sacrifices made by the Muslims of the subcontinent for the creation of a separate homeland. She also paid homage to struggle and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and conveyed that the government is celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Jinnah this year with a number of planned commemorative activities. She emphasized the collective responsibility to uphold the ideals of the nation and to keep the Pakistani flag flying high, particularly in these testing times.

She noted that Pakistanis are a resilient nation, capable of overcoming challenges with unity and determination. The High Commissioner also commended the overseas Pakistani community for their vital role as ambassadors of Pakistan's culture and for their significant contributions to the national economy through remittances.

The ceremony concluded with prayers for global peace as well as for the security, stability, and economic prosperity of Pakistan, in line with the vision of the country's founding fathers.

Pakistan Day Celebrated with Ceremony at Moscow Embassy



Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow held a formal ceremony today to mark Pakistan Day.

The event commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran followed by flag-hoisting ceremony.

A special commemorative cake was also cut on the auspicious occasion.

During the proceedings, special messages from the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, and Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, were read out to the gathering. The ceremony was attended by Embassy officials, members of the Pakistani diaspora living in Russia, and friends of Pakistan.

Oman: Muscat sees moderate to heavy rainfall; authorities urge caution

MUSCAT: The Muscat Governorate witnessed moderate to heavy rainfall today due to ongoing weather conditions affecting the Sultanate of Oman.



The rainfall led to overflowing valleys and streams across several areas.

Amid continued rain, the National Emergency Management Committee has urged the public to exercise extreme caution, particularly around water channels, sewage systems, and electrical facilities. Residents are also advised to avoid going to sea or engaging in marine activities and to strictly follow safety instructions to prevent accidents.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
152,740.37	154,292.25
Day's High	Day's Low
153,322.96	150,728.17
Index Value	Change
16,413,821,816	-1551.88
Percentage	Time
-1.01%	19 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,059.55	-245.74
Percentage	Time
-2.39%	19 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
45,872.39	-352.76
Percentage	Time
-0.76%	19 Mar, 11:22 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
53,372.53	-1,866.87
Percentage	Time
-3.38%	19 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.97	198
Bahrain Dinar	731.80	741.80
Canadian Dollar	200.01	205.15
China Yuan	36.60	37.65
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	319.98	324.05
Hong Kong Dollar	34.90	35.90
Indian Rupee	2.15	2.45
Japanese Yen	1.7253	1.8245
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.55	896.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.50
New Zealand \$	160.71	165.25
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	716.00	726.10
Qatari Riyal	73.19	74.35
Saudi Riyal	73.80	74.75
Singapore Dollar	213.84	218.25
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8.10	8.25
U.A.E Dirham	75.55	76.90
UK Pound Sterling	370.36	374.25
US Dollar	279.25	280.30

PM bans use of high-octane fuel in government vehicles

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday imposed an immediate ban on the use of high-octane fuel in government vehicles.

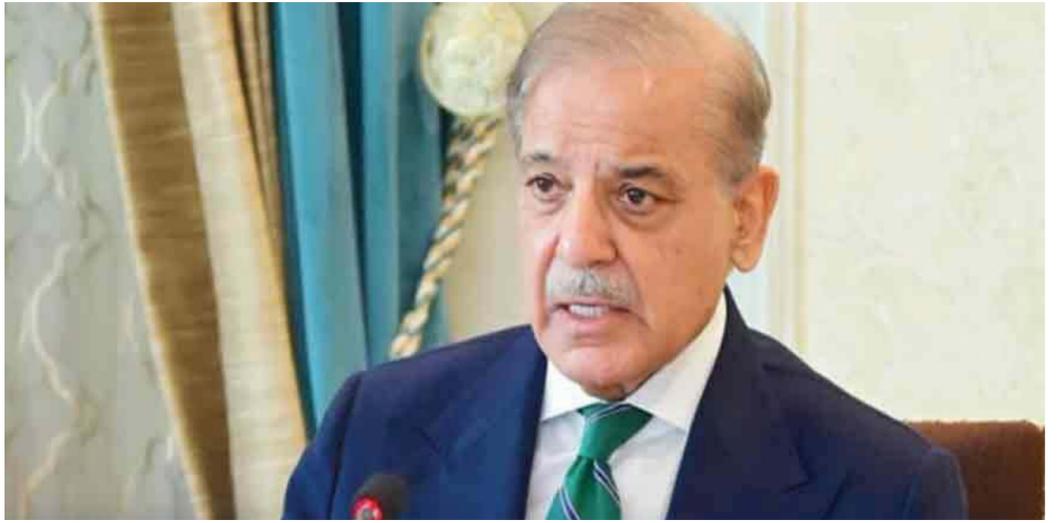
The decision comes in continuation of the recent increase in petroleum levy on high-octane fuel and is aimed at reducing unnecessary government expenditures.

According to the directive, all federal ministries, departments, authorities and subordinate institutions have been instructed to implement the decision immediately and ensure full compliance.

The prime minister stated that if the use of high-octane fuel becomes unavoidable for any official vehicle, the concerned officer or user will have to bear the expense personally, as the use of high-octane at government expense has been strictly prohibited.

The move is part of a broader cost-cutting policy already in force, under which fuel consumption for government vehicles has been reduced by 50 percent, while nearly 60 percent of official vehicles have already been grounded.

The government said savings generated through these measures are being utilized to provide relief to the public and support the availability of cheaper fuel.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that strict adherence to austerity measures and reduction in avoidable expenditures is essential under current economic conditions. He also directed relevant authorities to establish an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation of the order and warned that strict action would be taken against any violation.

Daily routine

ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam at Murree Road, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

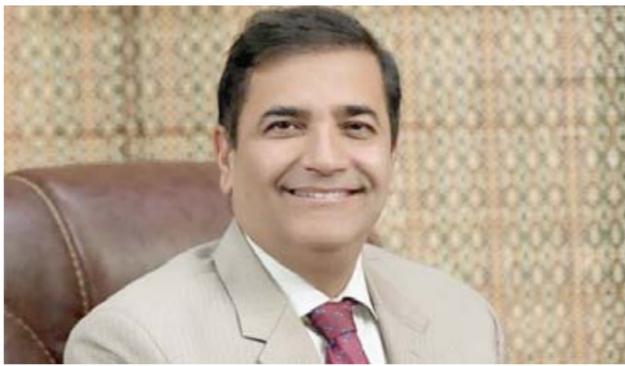
Population Bomb and Climate Crisis Threaten Pakistan's Economy, Warns Tax Ombudsman Official

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Monday cautioned that ever-growing population explosion coupled with hovering climate changes has posed severe and multifaceted threats to Pakistan's economy.

Addressing here today at a seminar on "Impact of Climate Change and Growing Population on Pak Economy" he said rapid population growth continues to exert immense pressure on the country's limited resources, aggravating unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity.

This unchecked rise in population dilutes the benefits of economic progress, strains social services, and hinders efforts toward human development. At the same time, the growing impact of climate change—manifested through floods, droughts, heatwaves, and declining agricultural productivity—further weakens the economic fabric and disrupts livelihoods, particularly in rural areas, he added.



To ensure sustainable economic growth, immediate and coordinated measures are imperative. The government must adopt effective population management strategies through education, awareness campaigns, and family planning programs. Simultaneously, climate-resilient policies should be prioritized to mitigate environmental degradation and promote the use of renewable energy, efficient water management, and green technologies.

Industrial Productivity: The Engine Fueling Sustainable Economic Growth

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran Monday said industrial productivity is the engine of sustainable economic growth.

Chairing here today a round table workshop on "Industrial Production Key to Sustainable Economic Growth" held under the aegis of Family Foods Products, he said Industrial productivity—achieving greater output with fewer resources—is fundamental to "sustainable" economic growth. It acts as the core engine driving efficiency, innovation, and long-term prosperity. He said when industries boost productivity through better technology, streamlined processes, and workforce skills, it generates more goods and services without proportionally increasing inputs of raw materials, energy, or labour. This "doing more with less" directly enhances "economic sustainability" by lowering production costs, increasing competitiveness, and freeing up capital and resources for investment elsewhere. Higher productivity fuels profits and wages, stimulating buyers spending and overall economic expansion, he

added. He said the economic surplus generated investment in vital areas of renewable energy, education, and infrastructure—the foundations of a resilient future. Without continuous productivity improvements, growth becomes resource-intensive and ultimately unsustainable, straining ecosystems and limiting opportunities. Therefore, fostering results oriented industrial productivity isn't just about economic output; it's about creating the efficiency and surplus needed to build an economy that thrives long-term, balances environmental responsibility, and supports societal well-being. It is the indispensable key, he concluded.

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Unity, Faith, Discipline: Keys to Pakistan's Prosperity, Mian Kashif Ashfaq



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chen-One CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq in his special message on Pakistan Day (March 23) stated that this day marks a golden and decisive chapter in the history of the nation, when the Muslims of the subcontinent set a clear direction for achieving an independent, sovereign homeland. The Pakistan Resolution, he said was a revolutionary vision that guided a suppressed nation towards freedom and transformed a dream into reality.

He emphasized that this day reminds us of the unparalleled sacrifices, unwavering determination and

resilience of our forefathers. They laid down their lives, wealth and honor to bless us with the great gift of an independent country like Pakistan. Honoring and preserving this legacy, he noted is both our national and moral responsibility. Mian Kashif Ashfaq further added that Pakistan Day is not just a moment of celebration, but also a time for self-reflection and renewal of our commitment. We must pledge to play our full role in ensuring the progress, prosperity and stability of our beloved country, and to face all challenges with unity and determination.

He highlighted that the golden principles of the Founder of Pakistan Unity, Faith and Discipline remain the cornerstone of our success. By adopting these principles in our individual and collective lives, Pakistan can emerge as a strong and developed nation among the world's leading countries.

BingX Unveils BingX AI Claw, the World's First AI-Powered Multi-Asset Trading Analyst

Commerce Desk

PAKISTAN: BingX, a leading cryptocurrency exchange and Web3-AI company, today announced the launch of BingX AI Claw, a world-first AI trading analyst designed to provide users with clarity and confidence. BingX AI Claw is designed to deliver users actionable, real-time, and tailored signals for high-potential trading opportunities.

AI Master, BingX AI Bingo, and BingX AI Skills Hub. Consistent with the broader BingX AI suite, BingX AI Claw will be available to traders in-app free of charge, supporting BingX's commitment to making digital asset trading more accessible while equipping users with the insights and tools needed to navigate markets with greater confidence.



BingX AI Claw is the latest addition to the BingX AI suite of intelligence, joining BingX

ment to making digital asset trading more accessible while equipping users with the insights and tools needed to navigate markets with greater confidence.

Attack honors Pakistan Day with Dignified Flag Hoisting Ceremony



Raza Naqvi Attock

ATTOCK: On the occasion of Pakistan Day, a simple yet dignified flag hoisting ceremony was held at District Council Attock. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Attock, Waqas Aslam Marth, was the chief guest on the occasion and hoisted the national flag. The national anthem was played, while the participants attended the ceremony with great patriotic spirit.

Among those present at the ceremony were Assistant Commissioner Attock Arif Qureshi, Admin Officer to Deputy Commissioner Attock Zaheer Ahmed, DSP Sardar Azhar Shabbir Khan, officers and personnel of Rescue 1122, Para Force, Municipal Committee Attock, and all employees of District Council Attock.

Addressing the ceremony, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Waqas Aslam Marth said that March 23 is a golden chapter in the freedom struggle of the Muslims of the subcontinent, the day when the resolve for a separate homeland was made. He said that by understanding the significance and demands of this day, we must play our full role in the progress, prosperity, and stability of the country.

He further said that by adhering to the principles of national unity, solidarity, and discipline, Pakistan can be made a strong and developed country. The officers and personnel present at the ceremony also highlighted the importance of Pakistan Day and renewed their pledge to serve the nation with dedication.

Special prayers were offered at the end of the ceremony for the security, stability, and prosperity of the country.

Flag hoisting ceremony on Pakistan Day at Pakistan House, London



Muhammad Tabraiz

LAONDAN: In a simple and dignified ceremony held at Pakistan House, London, the High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK Dr. Mohammad Faisal raised the Pakistan Flag on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

The ceremony was attended by Officials of the High Commission, British-Pakistanis and Media representatives.

Messages of the President, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister /

Foreign Minister were read out.

In his keynote address, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan Day was a tribute to our founding fathers who united the Muslims of Indian sub-continent where they could live independently as a Nation and live according to their customs & traditions.

Dr. Faisal stated that Pakistan had always professed peace and stability in the region. However, Pakistan will not tolerate any aggression from neighbouring countries.



The High Commissioner said that Pakistani nation, despite the difficulties, remains resilient and demonstrates courage & perseverance.

Dr. Mohammad Faisal stated that, in line with the instructions of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister and the Federal Cabinet, Pakistan High Commission London is implementing strict austerity measures. However, these measures will not affect the performance & working of the High Commission.

He acknowledged the remarkable contributions of Pakistani diaspora in UK and their extraordinary performance in various fields. He said that their achievements are a source of immense pride for Pakistan.

The High Commissioner expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and committed to continue diplomatic, moral and political support for their right to self determination under UN Resolutions.

Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi Marks 86th National Day with Patriotic Ceremony

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi organized a flag-hoisting ceremony at its premises today to commemorate the 86th National Day of Pakistan with national zeal and fervor.

The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan, accompanied by the rendition of Pakistan's National Anthem. Special messages from the President, the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day were then read out.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan recalled the long and heroic struggle and immense sacrifices made by the Muslims of the Subcontinent that led to the creation of Pakistan. He



emphasized the importance of unity, toler-

ance, and harmony to overcome current challenges and build a stable and prosperous nation.

He also reiterated Pakistan's principled position in support of the right to self-determination for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Ambassador Khan highlighted the significance of the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UAE. He thanked the government and people of the UAE for the warmth, hospitality, and opportunities extended to the Pakistani community. Lauding the valuable contribution of Pakistani community to the progress and prosperity of the UAE, he urged community members to respect local laws and customs and to strictly adhere to the instructions issued by the UAE authorities amid the evolving situation.

Pakistan National Day Celebrated at the Consulate

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai commemorated Pakistan's National Day with a dignified ceremony attended by members of the Pakistani community and Consulate officials. H. E. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan, hoisted the national flag to mark the commencement of the proceedings. Messages from the President, Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan were read on the occasion.

In his address, the Consul General extended warm felicitations on Pakistan Day, recalling the historic significance of March 23, 1940, when the Muslims of the subcontinent adopted the Pakistan Resolution, laying the foundation for an independent homeland. He noted that this defining moment ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Paying tribute to the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the sacrifices of countless leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement, he stated, "The creation of Pakistan through a peaceful and democratic struggle remains an unparalleled milestone in the human history".

Highlighting the role of the Pakistani diaspora in the United Arab Emirates, he described the community as a vital



bridge between Pakistan and the UAE, contributing significantly to the progress of both countries. He highlighted that the highest foreign remittances to Pakistan in February 2026 were received from the UAE and commended the community for this achievement.

While appreciating the responsible conduct demonstrated by the community amid the current regional security situation, he urged continued adherence to local laws and awareness of local laws and sensitivities, particularly in the use of social and digital media platforms.

The Consul General encouraged Pakistanis in Dubai and the Northern Emirates to continue playing a constructive role in Pakistan's development. He emphasized the importance of upholding the values of hard work, honesty, and integrity, and reaffirmed that adherence to Quaid-e-Azam's guiding principles of Unity, Faith, and Discipline would lead to a stronger and more prosperous Pakistan.

Pakistan Day Celebrated With Patriotic Zeal And Fervour At Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi

Spokesman Report

NEW DELHI: The Pakistan Day was celebrated with patriotic zeal and fervour at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, today.

Mr. Saad Ahmad Warraich, Chargé d' Affaires of Pakistan to India hoisted the national flag at an impressive ceremony held at the Chancery Lawns. Officers and Staff of the High Commission along with their families attended the event. Messages of the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister were read out on the occasion.

In his remarks, the Chargé d' Affaires said that the Lahore Resolution of 23 March 1940 served as a touchstone for the Muslims of the subcontinent to strive for a separate homeland of their own. He said that under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, this collective aspiration found expression in the establishment of Pakistan within a short span of seven years.

Paying homage to the martyrs of the freedom movement, Mr. Warraich emphasized that their exalted sacrifice serves as a living inspiration for the nation to uphold the precious gift of freedom and to make tireless efforts for the progress and prosperity of the



country.

The Charge d' Affaires underscored that the abiding lesson of history was that only those nations were truly free who were strong enough to defend their freedom. The entire world is witness to Pakistan's unwavering resolve to preserve and protect its sovereignty and independence. Hailing the role of the valiant armed forces in the defence of the motherland, Mr. Warraich said that Pakistan's established deterrence was not only a factor of stability in South Asia, but was also an assurance for regional peace.

The Chargé d' Affaires said that peaceful relations between Pakistan and India can only be established based on equality, mutual respect and peaceful settlement of all disputes. He added that a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people was intrinsic to this end.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony On Pakistan Day Held In Paris

Spokesman Report

PARIS: A simple and dignified flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Paris to commemorate the Pakistan Day. The event was attended by a large number of Pakistani diaspora and officials of the Embassy. In view of the ongoing regional situation, and in line with government's directions, the ceremony was modest and simple. Messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were read out on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan Mumtaz Zahra Baloch recalled the visionary leadership of the Father of The Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the enormous sacrifices and multiple odds that made the vision of Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal a reality.

The Ambassador lauded the resilient nature of Pakistani nation which, throughout its history, has overcome multiple challenges and demonstrated a remarkable spirit of perseverance and national unity. She recalled the determination and strength exhibited by Pakistan during the Marka-e-Haq in May last year, the Operations Bunyan-um-Marsoos and Ghazab-Lil-Haq in protecting its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Ms. Mumtaz Baloch said that as we celebrate Pakistan Day, we should not forget peoples living under repression and foreign occupation. She recalled Pakistan's steadfast and consistent diplomatic and political support for the peoples of Palestine and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) as they continued to suffer the worst forms of repression and colonial domination.

Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch also underlined the importance of Pakistan-France relations and the strong commitment by both sides to strengthen bilateral engagement and dialogue and to promote trade and investment. She appreciated the Pakistani community living in France for its contributions in strengthening Pakistan-France ties particularly people to people relationships.

Pakistan Embassy in Bucharest Marks National Day with Flag Hoisting Ceremony

Spokesman Report

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA: The Embassy of Pakistan, Bucharest, organised a flag-hoisting ceremony, today, to observe the National Day of Pakistan. The event was attended by a large number of Pakistani expatriates in Romania.

The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Ambassador Ilyas Mehmood Nizami, accompanied by the rendition of Pakistan's National Anthem. Subsequently, the special messages of the President, the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister for the occasion were read out.

Addressing the participants, Ambassador Ilyas Mehmood Nizami congratulated the community members on the occasion of National Day. He paid rich tribute to the leadership of Pakistan movement, especially Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He underscored that Pakistan came into existence through a peaceful political struggle and democratic means. He added that the creation of Pakistan was an embodiment of the popular aspirations of the Muslims of the Subcontinent. He also recalled different facets of Pakistan's developmental journey during last 79 years, which carried special significance in the backdrop of the country's modest resource base at the time of its creation in 1947.



Pakistan's Quiet...

Continued from Page 1

Trump also confirmed that his special envoy Steve Witkoff and adviser Jared Kushner had held talks with Iranian officials and would continue negotiations. While he declined to name his counterparts in Tehran, he indicated that discussions were taking place with senior figures. Iran's Foreign Ministry, led by Abbas Araqchi, acknowledged that "initiatives" were underway to reduce tensions, while insisting that Washington, as a party to the conflict, must be directly involved in any meaningful resolution.

The conflict, which began on February 28, has resulted in more than 2,000 reported deaths and triggered widespread instability across global markets. Trump's remarks had an immediate impact, with Brent crude prices briefly falling by around 13 per cent to below \$100 a barrel before stabilising near \$101.66. Global equities also rebounded, reflecting cautious optimism over a potential diplomatic breakthrough.

Despite the pause, the situation on the ground remains vola-

tile. Israeli forces launched a fresh wave of strikes on infrastructure in Tehran, while Iranian authorities reported casualties in multiple cities, including Khorramabad and Bushehr. Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned of retaliation, including potential strikes on Israeli infrastructure and facilities linked to US bases in the Gulf.

The strategic Strait of Hormuz remains a focal point of concern. Iran has effectively restricted passage through the waterway, which accounts for roughly one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows. Tehran has also threatened to mine Gulf routes if hostilities escalate further, raising fears of severe disruption to global energy supplies.

Energy experts warn that targeting power infrastructure could have catastrophic consequences for Gulf states, where electricity is critical for desalination systems that supply the majority of drinking water. Countries such as Bahrain and Qatar rely entirely on desalinated water, while the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia depend heavily on similar systems.

Ten Laws to Finish a PhD: When Brilliance Fails, and Discipline Succeeds

Continued from Page 4

Communicate clearly, schedule regular meetings, and document agreements. If your supervisor is unavailable, seek co-supervisors, mentors, or peer support. Take responsibility for your progress rather than waiting for perfect guidance. Successful PhD students actively manage academic relationships and expectations.

6. Goodhart's Law: When a

Measure Becomes a Target, It Stops Being Useful Goodhart's Law warns that metrics can distort behavior. In academia, metrics like publication counts, impact factors, and citations can pressure students to prioritize quantity over quality. While publishing is important, publishing with purpose matters more. Focus on meaningful research questions and solid methods. Avoid rushing

low-quality papers just to increase numbers. Balanced productivity driven by curiosity and integrity leads to long-term academic success and credibility.

7. The Law of Diminishing Returns: More Effort Does Not Always Mean More Value Extra effort produces minimal improvement. Spending weeks polishing a paragraph or re-running minor analyses may not enhance your

thesis. Learn to recognize when your work has reached sufficient quality. Prioritize tasks with the highest impact. This law encourages strategic effort rather than endless perfectionism. Smart effort beats hard effort when time and energy are limited.

8. Falkland's Law: Delay Decisions When Evidence Is Insufficient Falkland's Law suggests postponing decisions when you lack sufficient data or under-

standing. Take time to read, collect data, and consult experts before committing to major methodological choices. The goal is informed decision-making, not endless hesitation.

9. Gilbert's Law: Responsibility Cannot Be Outsourced You cannot delegate your PhD to your supervisor, collaborators, or AI tools. Ultimately, you are responsible for your research, writing, and deadlines. Initiative matters

more than permission. Seek guidance, but do not wait for others to push you. Take ownership of your learning, problem-solving, and career planning. A proactive mindset distinguishes successful PhD candidates from those who struggle.

10. Murphy's Law (Psychological Form): Anxiety Increases Error Rates

Stress, burnout, and anxiety can harm even the most bril-

liant researchers. When you are overwhelmed, mistakes increase, creativity decreases, and motivation collapses. Emotional regulation is a research skill. Practice self-care, time management, and stress-reduction techniques such as exercise, mindfulness, and social connection. Seek support from peers, mentors, or counseling services when needed. A healthy mind is essential for sustained academic performance.

Meeting

LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with the Interior, Finance and Petroleum Ministers to review security, economic, and energy challenges at Bhutto House on Monday.



Photo: PID

President Zardari directs ministers to prioritise public relief

Bureau Report

LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the government to prioritise public relief, minimise the burden of petroleum prices and ease economic pressure on citizens during a high-level meeting at Bhutto House, according to the press release.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, along with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Faryal Talpur and Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir

Hussain Shah. According to officials, the participants reviewed the overall law and order situation, the country's economic outlook, and developments in the energy sector, including petroleum product pricing.

The interior minister briefed the president on ongoing counterterrorism

operations and border security. The meeting also discussed tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as a detailed overview of broader regional security challenges.

The finance and petroleum ministers apprised the president of key economic indicators, the state of the energy

sector and steps being taken by the government regarding prices of petroleum products.

President Zardari emphasised that economic policies must focus on providing relief to the public, directing authorities to ensure that rising fuel costs do not disproportionately impact the common man.

Services Chiefs vow to eradicate threats to Pakistan's security

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Armed Forces of Pakistan have reaffirmed their commitment to defence, internal security and national sovereignty on the occasion of Pakistan Day, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

A press release issued by the military's media wing said that the Army remained "united and unwavering" in its resolve to eradicate threats to Pakistan's security in the face of ongoing terrorist threats.

The Armed Forces remain committed to protecting national sovereignty, and maintaining internal security against "all forms of aggression and terrorism", the ISPR statement said.

According to the state-



ment, Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chief of Naval Staff Naveed Ashraf and Chief of Air Staff Zaheer Ahmed

Baber Sidhu extended their heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the 86th anniversary of Pakistan Day on March 23.

"The 23rd of March 1940

stands out as a defining moment in our history as the day that crystallised our collective vision and set the course for the creation of an independent homeland.

Rooted in faith, guided by hope, and strengthened by resilience, this day epitomises the unwavering resolve of the people of Pakistan," the ISPR statement said.

"With steadfast determination and divine guidance, Pakistan remains resolute in strengthening its democratic institutions, ensuring national security, and safeguarding the well-being of its citizens," it added.

According to the ISPR, Pakistan stands today as a responsible and principled member of the global community, advocating peace, stability, and cooperation across the globe.

"As one united nation, we move forward with eternal hope, unmatched resilience, and an unshakeable commitment to enduring prosperity," the statement concluded.

PM Shehbaz reviews food stocks in meeting with Minister Rana Tanveer

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met Federal Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, where the overall food stock situation in the country was reviewed.

During the meeting, the PM extended Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the federal minister.

Rana Tanveer briefed the prime minister on national food reserves and informed him that essential food commodities are available in sufficient quantity across the country. The minister also updated the Prime Minister on progress regarding exports of food items to Gulf countries.

Govt adopting collective austerity, shared responsibility approach: Musadik Malik

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik on Monday said the government is pursuing a coordinated austerity strategy to reduce expenditure, conserve national resources, and protect vulnerable segments of society while encouraging contributions from all tiers of the state and public.

Talking to the media here, he said the measures approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reflect a broader policy shift toward efficiency, restraint, and equitable burden-sharing amid rising global economic uncertainties. He said the government had curtailed 50 per cent of fuel expenses borne by the federal exchequer and suspended all non-essential official functions to limit avoidable spending. He added that official travel, both domestic and international, had been significantly restricted, with exceptions



limited to critical engagements linked to foreign policy and strategic requirements. In such cases, he said, many interactions are now being conducted through digital platforms to minimise costs.

Dr. Musadik Malik said federal minist-

ters, advisers and special assistants to the prime minister have contributed two months' salaries to a relief fund, while the prime minister has also canceled several official visits as part of the austerity drive, underscoring leadership by example.

PAF marks Pakistan Day with Ceremonies and Tributes to Allama Iqbal



Spokesman Report

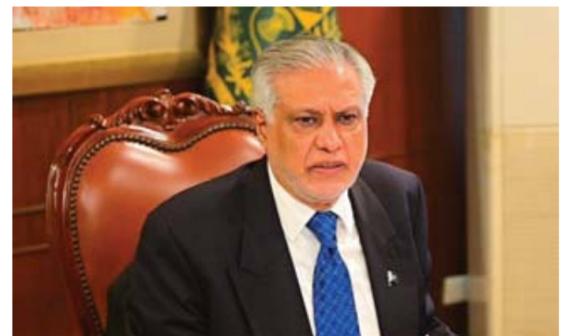
LAHORE: Pakistan Day was celebrated at all PAF Bases and installations with traditional zeal and fervor. The day-long celebrations started with special prayers after Fajar for the solidarity, progress and prosperity of Pakistan and the Muslim World.

To commemorate this auspicious day in a befitting manner, a guard mounting and wreath laying ceremony was held at the Mausoleum of great poet and philosopher Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal. A smartly

turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force took over guard duties from Satluj Rangers. The Chief Guest Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Shahid Afzaal, Air Officer Commanding, PAF Airmen Academy, Korangi Creek laid a floral wreath and offered Fateha at the grave of Allama Iqbal on behalf of Chief of the Air Staff, Officers, Airmen and Civilians of PAF.

The ceremony symbolized deep respect and tribute to the national poet and visionary whose thoughts continue to inspire the ideological foundation and progress of Pakistan.

DPM/FM hopes nation to successfully navigate recent challenges



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Monday, expressed the hope that amid the austerity measures adopted by the Government in view of the recent ongoing regional conflicts, the nation while sticking

to the values of unity, faith and discipline would be steadfast and together they would successfully navigate this challenge as well.

He said they were celebrating the 'National Day' at a time when the region was engulfed in conflicts and the economic and political repercussions of the ongoing conflict had affected them as well.

In a message on Pakistan Day, the DPM/FM extended his warm greetings to the fellow Pakistani citizens on the momentous occasion of the day.

"Today we honour the 'Pakistan Resolution' adopted on 23 March 1940, under which the Muslims of the Subcontinent demanded a separate homeland where they could live according to the principles of Islam," a press release quoted the DPM/FM as saying.

As they proudly commemorate March, he said they paid homage to the unwavering and courageous efforts, vision, and determination of their ancestors that resulted in the establishment of an independent Pakistan.

Attaullah Tarar meets family of stray dog attack victim



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday visited the family of eight-year-old Mehr, who died after a stray dog attack in Township, and announced financial assistance of Rs 500,000 along with employment for the child's father.

Accompanied by senior political figure Sajida Farooq Tarar, the minister visited the family's residence in Lahore and offered condolences to the victim's father, Qaiser Siddiq Masih, and other relatives.

Expressing deep sorrow over the incident, Attaullah Tarar handed over a cheque worth Rs500,000

to the bereaved family and directed authorities to arrange immediate employment for the girl's father.

The minister also announced the formation of a two-member committee comprising Razaqat Dogar and Mary Gill to examine the stray dog issue and recommend preventive measures.

He said the committee would appear before the court to clarify the legal position regarding the stay order against killing stray dogs and would also request the court to withdraw the injunction.

Attaullah Tarar said the tragic death had caused deep sorrow and assured that all possible steps would be taken to prevent similar incidents in future.