



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے آدم بن ابی ایاس نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے شہباز نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے سلیمان بن کبیل نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے شیعی سے سنا، انہوں نے علی رضی اللہ عنہ سے بیان کیا کہ جب انہوں نے جمعہ کے دن گورنر کو رجم کیا تو کہا کہ میں نے اس کا رجم رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی سنت کے مطابق کیا ہے۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6812)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Sindh gov takes major measures to conserve fuel

The Sindh Government has announced multiple key austerity measures, emphasizing full compliance with any federal decisions to curb fuel shortages. Provincial Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon said the Sindh government is implementing federal directives and taking additional steps to manage the current situation effectively.



Ayaz Shaukat resigns as Islamabad advocate general

Ayaz Shaukat has resigned from his position as Advocate General Islamabad. He has submitted his resignation to President Asif Ali Zardari. Ayaz Shaukat stated that the government has appointed a Chairman of the Social Media Authority. He added that he made sincere efforts to fulfill the responsibilities of Advocate General Islamabad with honesty and dedication.

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Review Meeting on Exports

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on exports of essential food items to the Gulf countries and Pakistanis Maritime Operations in wake of current regional situation on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

MBS lauds Pakistan's peace efforts as PM Shehbaz briefs him on diplomatic outreach



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held a telephone conversation with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and briefed him on Pakistan's constructive diplomatic outreach to all parties, urging de-escalation and resolution of differences through dialogue and diplomacy.

During the "warm and cordial" conversation held early Wednesday morning, the crown prince deeply appreci-

ated Pakistan's peace efforts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for an immediate end to hostilities and a return to normalcy so that the regional situation could be stabilized, besides calling for unity and harmony in the ranks of the Ummah, which was needed more than ever before.

The prime minister conveyed heartfelt Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to the crown prince, and the Saudi people. The crown prince also reciprocated the sentiments.

PM Shehbaz directs swift steps to boost food exports to Gulf states

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed authorities to accelerate exports of surplus food items to Gulf countries while ensuring an uninterrupted domestic supply, and called for a comprehensive plan to expand flight operations and enhance port efficiency in view of the evolving regional situation.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Prime Minister's House on the supply of food commodities to Gulf states and Pakistan's maritime and logistics preparedness, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the strategy formulated and progress achieved so far to support the region's food security needs, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

He appreciated the perfor-

mance of relevant ministries and officials and instructed all departments concerned to remain in close coordination with Gulf countries regarding their food requirements.

Referring to disruptions in global supply chains amid the current regional situation, the prime minister said Pakistan had a responsibility to help meet the food needs of friendly Gulf nations, adding that exports should be expedited without affecting

domestic availability of essential commodities.

He emphasized strict monitoring of demand and supply of food items within the country and warned that delays in decision-making at the institutional level would not be tolerated, directing authorities to ensure accountability in case of negligence.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja

Muhammad Asif, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, National Food Security Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Maritime Affairs Minister Chaudhry Junaid Anwar, SAPM Haroon Akhtar and senior officials attended the meeting.

Propaganda campaign against PM, Field Marshal unacceptable: Tahir Ashrafi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Ulama Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said that propaganda campaign against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir is unacceptable.

Addressing the Istikhkam-e-Pakistan Ulama-o-Mashaikh Convention in Islamabad, Tahir Ashrafi backed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir, appreciating their efforts to promote peace and prevent escalation amid ongoing tensions in



the Muslim world.

He said that Pakistan's current civil and military leadership had played a key role in

promoting unity within the Muslim Ummah and advancing efforts for peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

He said Pakistan's diplomatic engagement had helped de-escalate tensions arising from the Iran-Israel-US conflict and related regional developments adding that Pakistan's role was being widely acknowledged at the international level.

He condemned attempts by hostile elements to spread misinformation and create divisions within Pakistani society through propaganda, particularly on social media.

LHC moved against Rs200 per litre hike in high-octane price

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court challenging the notification of a Rs200 per litre increase in high-octane fuel prices.

The miscellaneous application names the Federal Government of Pakistan and OGRA as respondents.

It argues that the levy on high-octane fuel used in luxury vehicles has been increased from Rs100 to Rs300 per litre.

The petitioner stated that the price hike does not align with international market trends and warned that the increase would trigger a new wave of inflation.

The plea requested the court to seek details of the petroleum pricing formula and taxes, and to direct the government to stop further arbitrary increases in fuel prices.

It may be noted that some petrol stations are selling high-octane for Rs590 a litre and some at Rs610 per litre.

DPM Dar, EU vice-president discuss regional, int'l developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar spoke with the European Union's High Representative and Vice President Kaja Kallas on Tuesday night.

During the conversation, the two leaders exchanged views

on recent regional and international developments.

The deputy prime minister emphasized the importance of de-escalation, underscoring that dialogue and diplomacy remained essential for maintaining peace and stability.

Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact on the evolving situation.

Temporary pause in Operation Ghazab lil Haq against Afghanistan likely to continue, say sources

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The temporary halt in Pakistan's Operation Ghazab lil Haq against Afghanistan ended at midnight last night, though Islamabad has signalled that the suspension of operations against Kabul could be extended.

The source clarified that the pause will continue only as long as there are no attacks originating from Afghanistan. If terrorist activities from Afghan territory cease, Pakistan will

refrain from taking any action. However, any act of terrorism against Pakistan from Afghan soil will be met with a strong response.

He further stated that another condition for maintaining the temporary ceasefire is the cessation of the formation of terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan.

He emphasized that Pakistan's operations against Afghanistan are purely defensive and are conducted in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

"When groups like TTP (Tehrik Taliban Pakistan) and other militant organisation carry out activities from inside Afghanistan, Pakistan targets their safe hideouts, shelters, and training centers. Therefore as long as there is no action against Pakistan from inside Afghanistan no attack will be carried out," he said.

Pakistan had announced a temporary pause in operations against terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr which lasted until midnight of March 24.

MQM urges national unity as Middle East conflict impacts Pakistan



Bureau Report

KARACHI: MQM Pakistan leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said Wednesday that the effects of the Middle East war have reached Pakistan, urging the nation to remain united and mentally prepared for any eventuality.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Siddiqui said the impact of the conflict on the region is still uncertain.

He praised the Pakistan Army and government for their efforts, stating that the army is capable of handling any situation and has the full support of the nation.

He called for unity among

citizens, emphasised Pakistan's commitment to mediation and negotiations, and suggested strict measures, including potential lockdowns, to manage the economic impact.

Siddiqui also demanded the immediate passage of the 28th Constitutional Amendment to empower the people and stressed the implementation of Article 140-A to strengthen local governance across cities, including Karachi.

MQM leader Farooq Sattar added that a strong local government system is essential for urban development, criticising the feudal style of democracy.

Another MQM leader, Mustafa Kamal, said the country's system is concentrated in the hands of a few chief ministers and urged a coordinated strategy to address the ongoing crisis, warning that the government must thwart the intentions of adversaries.

Rathore stresses modernization for agricultural transformation in Azad Kashmir

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, while terming agriculture and livestock as the backbone of the state's economy, has said that development of these crucial sectors remains among key priorities of his government.

He expressed these views while chairing an important meeting here today.

He said that the agricultural conference scheduled to be held in mid-April aims to make farmers self-reliant and to transform agriculture into a profitable sector.

He, however, stressed the need for adopting modern practices to bring revolutionary changes in both sectors.

The prime minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure that



arrangements for the conference are completed on time.

He said the conference would serve as an effective platform for experts, policymakers, and farmers to share expertise and formulate a roadmap to address challenges faced by farmers.

The government, he said, is utilizing all available resources to improve

the agriculture and livestock sectors to ensure farmers' prosperity and strengthen the state's economy.

The participants of the meeting received a detailed briefing about the objectives of the conference and arrangements being made to make it a success.

The meeting was attended by Prin-

cipal Secretary Zafar Khan; Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation, and Small Dams Wajahat Rashid Baig; Director of Animal Health Dr. Zafar Iqbal; Director of Livestock Dr. M. Shabbir Sheikh; Director of Agriculture Aamir Malik; Director of Horticulture Zafar Jahangir; and others.

Rafique Nayyar slams Delhi Court sentence for Hurriyat leaders as injustice

Bureau Report.

MUZAFFARABAD: Minister for Information and Religious Affairs of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar, has strongly condemned the sentence given to Hurriyat leaders Asiya Andrabi, Fahmida Sufi and Nahida Nasreen by the Delhi court, calling it a miscarriage of justice. In his response, he said that this decision of the Delhi court is against the basic principles of justice and a continuous violation of human rights. This move by India is actually another attempt to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri leadership and the right to self-determination. He said that India has failed to cool the spirit of freedom of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir even through the worst atrocities in human history and infamous black laws. Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar urged the international community to take notice of this situation and play its effective role in protecting the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.



Kashmiri leader urges Global action to free political prisoners from Indian detention

City Desk.

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker, Ms. Mehar-un-Nisa, has drawn the attention of the world community to the prisoners of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and demanded that the international community play its role in rescuing and releasing freedom fighters, women political activists and innocent citizens from Indian oppression and barbarity. Ms. Mehar-un-Nisa said that the release of the great freedom fighter, Mr. Shabbir Ahmed Shah, after thirty-five years of long imprisonment, oppression, barbarity and confinement in various torture cells is the truth of his mission and the victory of his cause. She said that thousands of men and women freedom fighters, innocent innocent citizens and youth, including Asiya Andrabi, Fahmida Sufi, Nahida Nasreen, are being punished by putting them in remote jails of India to crush their spirit of freedom and struggle for the right to self-determination. Ms. Mehar-un-Nisa said that by sentencing women prisoners to life imprisonment and long sentences, the Indian judiciary has tried in vain to crush the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris. Despite the order to release Shabbir Shah from Indian jails after thirty-five years, he is still not being released.

Double life sentence for asiya andrabi condemned as attack on free speech

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson of the Muslim Conference Women Wing, former candidate for Assembly Valley 6, and Chairperson of the Kashmir Women Alert Forum, Samia Sajid, has strongly condemned the sentences handed down by an Indian court to brave Kashmiri women leaders who raised the Pakistani flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

In her statement, Samia Sajid denounced the decision to sentence senior Hurriyat leader Asiya Andrabi to double life imprisonment, while her close associates Fahmida Sofi and Naheeda Nasreen were each awarded 30 years in prison. She termed the verdict a severe violation of freedom of expression as well as the fundamental human and political rights of the Kashmiri people.

Samia Sajid stated that these punishments reflect India's growing intolerance and are an attempt to suppress dissent through force rather than dialogue. She emphasized that penalizing individuals for peaceful expression and political beliefs is a clear breach of internationally recognized human rights standards.

Kashmiri activists' life sentences deemed "politically motivated" by DFP

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has strongly denounced an Indian court ruling that sentenced three Kashmiri women including Asiya Andrabi to life imprisonment.

Calling it a politically motivated decision, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal in a statement issued here today, said that the judgment was political in nature and intended to suppress legitimate political voices that have refused to follow Indian diktats.

He maintained that the ruling amounts to a serious breach of international law as well as core principles of justice.

He noted that the life sentences handed down to Asiya Andrabi, Nahida Nasreen, and Fahmeeda Sofi reveal a fundamentally compromised judicial system of India that ignores globally accepted human rights standards, including the right to a fair trial, due process, and safeguards against arbitrary detention.

He said that depriving the accused of the right to present a proper defense has rendered the entire legal process deeply flawed and unjust.



Condolence

MIRPUR: Chief Justice of AJK Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, Senior Judge Supreme Court Justice Raza Ali Khan and Judge Supreme Court Chaudhry Khalid Yousuf, visited the residence of former Additional Advocate and Senior Advocate Chaudhry Ashraf Ayaz Advocate, and offered Fateha for his father and praying for the eternal peace and elevation of the deceased's ranks.



Lipa Valley Celebrates Pakistan Day with Flag Hoisting, AJK Spokesperson Attends

Bureau Report

LIPA VALLEY: On the occasion of the historic day of Pakistan Day in Lipa Valley/Line of Control Lipa Valley, the flag hoisting ceremony organized by the Pakistan Army and the Tehsil Administration was attended by the special participation of the Spokesperson of the Azad Kashmir Government, Shaukat Javed Mir. He extended Eid Mubarak to the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army and, at the invitation of the Commanding Officer of the local police station, participated in the grand ceremony held in honor of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army. Member of District Council Bashir Alam Awan, Tehsil President Khawaja Farooq Ahmed Muqaddas Iqbal, Prince Uzair Mir Faizi Qureshi were also present. Later, the Spokesperson of the Prime Minister, Shaukat Javed Mir, paid tribute to the sacrifices made for the defense of the homeland and the elimination of terrorism in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir, Corps Commander Tenth Corps General Commanding Officer Twelve Dub Commander Lipa Guard, praised the humanitarian and Islamic services of the people of the area and assured unconditional cooperation and expressed deep gratitude for the



sincerity, sacrifice, high-handedness, hospitality and trust-building of the Commander 651 Unit, while including the brutal India. Reaffirmed commitment to play a role like a platoon against hostile forces.

Exclusive Report

Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders Asia Andrabi and others receive life sentences in landmark separatism case

Abdul Majeed Tahir.

MUZAFFARABAD: Additional Sessions Judge Chandrajit Singh of Delhi's Karkardooma Court sentenced Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders Asia Andrabi, Nahida Nasreen and Sufi Fahmida in a landmark and controversial case.

The decision was based on a National Investigation Agency investigation, which alleged that the accused were promoting separatist ideologies and advocating Kashmir's separation from India. (LawBeat)

• Asia Andrabi:
• Life imprisonment under UAPA

Section 18 and IPC 120-B
• 10, 10 years under UAPA Sections 38, 39

• 5, 5 years under IPC 153-A, 153-B, 505
• Another life imprisonment under IPC 121-A (muslimnetwork.tv)
• Nahida Nasreen and Sufi Fahmida:
• 30, 30 years imprisonment (LawBeat)

The court ordered:
• All sentences will run concurrently
• Approximately 8 years imprisonment under CrPC Section 428 will be added to the sentence (muslimnetwork.tv)
According to the court:
• The accused were associated with a banned organisation "Dukhtar-an-e-

Millat"
• Their activities were "against the integrity of India" and related to the promotion of separatism
• Digital content, speeches and social Media posts were presented as evidence (LawBeat)

Furthermore, the court said:
• These measures promote the idea of separating Kashmir from India
• And this narrative can influence the youth (Bar and Bench-Indian Legal news)

(Indian Bias Debate):
Interestingly, the judgment began with a reference to the principles of the

Supreme Court of India:
The purpose of punishment is not only to punish but also to reform

But:
• The court imposed life sentences despite no direct evidence of violence
• The case was mostly based on speeches, ideas and ideologies
• The "lack of remorse" of the accused was used as a justification for harsher sentences (muslimnetwork.tv)

According to legal experts:
• Long prison terms and low conviction rates are a major problem in cases under UAPA
• In many cases, the accused are



acquitted after years
Key questions:
• Is it right to categorize political views and expressions of opinion as terrorism?
• Is it in accordance with the principles of justice to make "lack of remorse" the basis for increasing the sentence?
• Is this decision truly legal or is it dominated by the state narrative?



Islamabad

30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:42 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 4:38 pm
Maghrib 6:23 pm
Isha 7:47 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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

Rapid Development Projects work Underway in Toba Tek Singh. MPA Ayub Gadhi

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: PP-122 Rajana Toba Tek Singh, Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Sardar Ayub Khan Gadhi said that development projects are being implemented at a fast pace in district Toba Tek Singh in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif with concrete steps being taken to provide basic facilities to the public. In a detailed statement, he said that the current provincial government is prioritizing public welfare and special focus is being given to the improvement of roads, sewerage, drainage and other infrastructure. He added that the pace of development work has been further accelerated across the district, including constituency PP-122, to ensure that citizens receive essential facilities as soon as possible. Sardar Ayub Khan Gadhi stated that the construction of one-way roads from Rajana Motorway to Jhang Road Motorway is progressing rapidly. He noted that this project will not only improve traffic flow but also help reduce the rate of accidents. He termed the project highly significant for the area, as it will provide safe, fast and convenient travel facilities to the public.

CM Punjab: Farmer-Friendly Vision Transforms Agriculture Through Modern Mechanization

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The farmer-friendly and visionary initiatives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif are beginning to transform the fortunes of farmers across the province. Under her directives, farmers are being supported through the distribution of green tractors, wheat and rice combine harvesters, super seeders, and other modern agricultural machinery.

In a record achievement, 30,000 tractors have been distributed within just two years, with over 20,000 green tractors already delivered and the process underway to provide an additional 10,000 tractors.

Through the CM High-Tech Mechanization Financing Program, farmers now have access to advanced machinery including combine harvesters and high-power tractors, supported by a loan allocation of Rs. 30 billion for farmers and service providers.

Additionally, 5,000 super seeders



have been distributed at a cost of Rs. 4 billion, significantly improving the wheat sowing process while also contributing to a gradual reduction

in smog through the use of rice super seeders.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized that mechanization is steering

Punjab's agriculture towards modern farming practices, reducing costs and increasing productivity.

She urged farmers to move away

from outdated traditional methods and adopt modern machinery to enhance agricultural output and sustainability.

Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying pleasant weather at Pakistan Monument, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PSCA's advanced surveillance system apprehends robbery culprits in Hasan Abdal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority has achieved another major success through its province-wide Smart Safe Cities Integrated System, leading to the arrest of suspects involved in multiple robbery incidents. The suspects were traced and apprehended using advanced surveillance technology, data analysis, and an integrated camera network. According to details, the suspects were fleeing from Islamabad towards Taxila after committing robbery incidents and repeatedly changed their vehicle's registration number in an attempt to avoid arrest. A Virtual Patrolling Officer



at Smart Safe City Taxila took immediate action and blacklisted suspicious vehicle in their system, initiating continuous monitoring through the Safe City camera network.

According to PSCA's spokesperson, during tracking, the vehicle's movement was detected towards Hasan Abdal. Safe City Taxila immediately shared information with Smart Safe City Hasan Abdal, where AI based advanced surveillance system successfully traced suspicious vehicle. Following the alert issued by the Virtual Patrolling Officer, field police units were informed without delay. Police teams from Taxila and Hasan Abdal carried out effective picketing and immediately stopped suspicious vehicle. The suspects involved in robbery were arrested on the spot, and a case has been registered against them. Further legal proceedings are underway.

Shah Ghulam Qadir: Muslim League-N is Party of the People's Hearts

Bureau Report

NEELAM: President of Pakistan Muslim League-N and Opposition Leader in Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that the Muslim League-N is the party of the hearts of the people. Insha Allah, with the help of Allah, we will form a government in Azad Kashmir with a two-thirds majority. The workers of the Muslim League-N will proudly present the work done during their rule in front of the people. The people also know that the Muslim League-N is the only party that will provide facilities to the people. The people received health facilities during the rule of the Muslim League-N. Insha Allah, we will restore the same service.



The foundation stone of the Danish School in Sharda will soon be laid by Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif. Mian Nawaz Sharif will also take Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to visit the Neelum Valley. The Muslim League-N is the other name for development and prosperity. He said that the Muslim League is revengeful. I don't believe in the actions, but I will definitely bring justice to the victims of the current government's injustice.

AC Kamalia Erum reviews sanitation, orders immediate safety measures

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Erum Shahzadi chaired a meeting with officers of the Suthra Punjab initiative and Secretaries of Union Councils. During the meeting, a detailed review of overall sanitation arrangements and ongoing activities was conducted.



On this occasion, Assistant Commissioner Erum Shahzadi directed the participants to further improve and strengthen the sanitation system and ensure uninterrupted cleanliness in all areas. She specifically instructed that all uncovered manholes be immediately identified and reported to prevent any untoward incidents. She emphasized that providing a clean and safe environment to citizens is the administration's top priority and no negligence in this regard will be tolerated. At the conclusion of the meeting, a detailed discussion was also held on the future course of action.

Faisalabad Commissioner pledges full support for model park transformation



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Prem Union Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry met Commissioner Faisalabad Raja Jahangir Anwar and thanked him for taking immediate action on his attention and for ordering the cleaning, upgradation, restoration of lights and fountains of Gulistan Irum Park People's Colony and making it a model park. Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry invited Commissioner Faisalabad to join the collective Quran recitation ceremony to be held at Irum Park People's Colony on March 29, on which he promised to attend the ceremony. On this occasion, the Commissioner also issued orders to the relevant institutions for further renovation and upgradation of the park.

Missing 3-year-old girl recovered in Sujawal after 13 days

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL: A three-year-old girl who had gone missing around 13 days ago from outside Civil Hospital Sujawal was recovered by police on Wednesday. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sujawal, Alina Rajpar, mentioned during a press conference held at her office that the police team had successfully recovered the three-year-old Shahida Baran after resolute efforts and with the cooperation of the civil society.



"A team comprising members of civil society and Sujawal police was constituted to recover the missing girl," said Aleena, adding that the team mounted a search in nearby villages with the help of local villagers and successfully recovered the girl from village Fida Baran. A

report of the missing girl was registered at the local police station.

The family that had given shelter to the minor girl revealed that they

had gone to Sujawal to obtain money through the Benazir Income Support Program; there they had found three-year-old Shahida outside the BISP

Centre and started searching for her parents but could not find them. Instead of abandoning her, they considered it appropriate to keep the girl with them, and the family did not have access to social media, hence they could not connect with the parents of the missing girl.

The SSP said that the family that had given shelter to the girl was thoroughly investigated; hence, all kinds of speculation regarding abduction had been ruled out by the police.

Dr. Qamar Baran, chieftain of the local Baran tribe, expressed his gratitude to the SSP and Sujawal police for the timely steps taken for the recovery of the missing girl. He further said that the recovery had brought relief and joy for the parents facing misery for the past two weeks.

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Pakistan Takes Lead in U. S.-Iran Peace Push

As the Middle East trembles under the roar of fighter jets, the flash of missiles, and the collapse of cities into dust, a parallel story is unfolding—quieter, more complex, yet potentially far more consequential. While destruction dominates the headlines, Pakistan has stepped into a role that is both extraordinary and perilous: that of a mediator between the United States and Iran, two adversaries locked in confrontation but searching, however cautiously, for a path out of escalation.

This moment reflects not just diplomacy, but a test of credibility, trust, and survival. Iran has endured sustained pressure, repeated strikes, and targeted elimination of leadership, yet it continues to stand—resilient, adaptive, and determined. It has demonstrated that even under the combined weight of Israel and the United States, it retains the capacity to defend its sovereignty with courage, resourcefulness, and strategic depth. This transformation—from a perceived vulnerable state to a formidable resisting power—has altered the balance of the conflict.

It is in this altered reality that Pakistan has entered the stage.

The sequence of events is critical. Field Marshal Asim Munir engaged in direct and substantive discussions with President Donald J. Trump, reviewing the evolving battlefield dynamics, the risks of prolonged conflict, and the urgent need for de-escalation. Immediately thereafter, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, conveying the essence of these discussions and emphasizing the necessity of dialogue, ceasefire, and a dignified resolution. This carefully cali-

brated diplomatic relay—Washington to Islamabad, Islamabad to Tehran—has positioned Pakistan as a central conduit in a highly fragile process.

Yet, Pakistan's role must be understood through a very precise lens.

When the confrontation is between Iran and Israel, Pakistan's position is clear and principled. It extends diplomatic, political, and, where expedient, material support to Iran, recognizing its right to defend itself against aggression. In such a context, Pakistan does not adopt neutrality; it aligns itself with the principle of sovereignty and resistance.

However, when tensions arise between Iran and the Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman—Pakistan assumes a different role altogether. It does not take sides. Instead, it becomes a balancer, working to reduce friction, discourage escalation, and bring all parties toward diplomatic resolution. This distinction is not merely tactical; it reflects deep strategic understanding. Pakistan recognizes that division within the Muslim world weakens the region collectively and invites external manipulation. Therefore, its objective in such cases is unity, not alignment.

This dual posture—supportive where principle demands, balanced where unity requires—is the essence of Pakistan's diplomatic maturity.

But today's mediation carries an added layer of danger—one that makes Pakistan's role not only critical, but extremely sensitive and precarious.

Recent history has created a deep trust deficit. On more than one occasion, diplomatic engagement between the United States and Iran has coincided with or been followed by military escalation. During earlier negotiations, including those in the previous year, Iran was attacked even while diplomatic channels were active. Now, for the third time, a mediation process involving a third party—this time Pakistan—is underway. This pattern has made Iran extremely cautious.

From Tehran's perspective, diplomacy has at times appeared less as a path to peace and more as a prelude to pressure or even attack. This perception fundamentally shapes Iran's current approach. It fears that under the cover of dialogue, strategic positioning may continue—potentially culminating not just in aerial strikes, but in a more direct confrontation. With tens of thousands of U. S. personnel already positioned in the region and military assets significantly reinforced, concerns about escalation into ground engagement cannot be entirely dismissed.

This is what makes Pakistan's role extraordinarily delicate. It is not merely facilitating communication; it is navigating a minefield of distrust, suspicion, and historical experience. Any misstep, any perceived imbalance, or any repetition of past patterns could collapse the entire process. Pakistan must therefore ensure that this round of diplomacy does not become another episode of "talk and strike," but instead evolves into a genuine pathway toward resolution.

At the same time, the broader dynamics of the war continue to reinforce the urgency of mediation. Massive arms flows into the region, including tens of billions of dollars in recent U. S. approvals, have intensified militarization. While these are presented as defensive measures for regional allies, they form part of a larger strategic framework that supports U. S. interests and ensures Israel's security. Middle Eastern countries finance these systems, yet their operational integration often aligns with broader strategic objectives beyond their immediate national defense.

This deepens the paradox of the conflict. The region pays for its own militarization, while remaining locked in a cycle of dependency and insecurity.

Iran, on the other hand, continues to rely on indigenous capabilities—missiles, drones, and asymmetric strategies—to offset this imbalance. Its resilience has demonstrated that even under sustained attack, it retains the ability to respond and endure. Leadership losses have not dismantled its system; instead, new layers continue to emerge, ensuring continuity.

For the United States, this creates a strategic dilemma. A prolonged war is costly, complex, and increasingly unsustainable. Yet, disengagement without a structured settlement risks reputational damage. Pakistan's mediation offers a path that allows both sides to recalibrate without humiliation—providing Iran with dignity and recognition, and the United States with a viable exit from escalation.

But if the war is halted, if a ceasefire is established, and if negotiations—particularly on Iran's nuclear program—reach a

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Belt and Road Ambassador Scholarship Award Ceremony

Pakistan's envoy to China, Mr. Khalil Hashmi, today attended and spoke at the Belt and Road Ambassador Scholarship Award Ceremony in Beijing.

Ambassador Hashmi commended the Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China for establishing the Belt and Road Ambassador Scholarship programme and the award ceremony to recognize the outstanding students. He noted that the program provided students from BRI countries valuable opportunities to pursue advanced studies in China, gain global exposure, and develop critical skills. He emphasized that the scholarship programme was a key initiative promoting people-to-people connectivity, reflecting the core values of the Belt and Road Initiative.

While congratulating the award recipients, including Pakistani and Malaysian students, the Ambassador underscored that their academic achievements signified talent, skills and a reflection of the shared promise of youth across the region. He extended special congratulations to the five Pakistani students receiving the prestigious scholarship: Khalid Atia, Asad Muhammad, Qaisar Irfan, Jamil Muhammad Fawad, and Risalat Amina, commending their hard work and dedication.

Highlighting Pakistan's demographic strength, Ambassador Hashmi noting the country's large and dynamic youth population served a key driver of innovation and growth, adding that Pakistani youth were increasingly gaining global recognition in fields such as technology and entrepreneurship.

The Ambassador further observed that as China set out on the path of implementing its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), with a strong focus on high-quality development, technological innovation, green transition, and sustainability, it would present new avenues of cooperation for Pakistan and other countries. He emphasized that students could play an important role in next-generation collaboration between Pakistan and China, particularly in areas such as technology, green energy, and artificial intelligence.

Reaffirming the enduring Pakistan–China relationship, Ambassador Hashmi described the two countries as "Iron Brothers" and All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners. He noted that educational cooperation remains a cornerstone of this partnership and encouraged students to make the most of their time in China by pursuing academic excellence and deepening their understanding of Chinese culture.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Hashmi expressed confidence that the Belt and Road Ambassadorial Scholarship Program will continue to grow, benefiting more students from Pakistan and other partner countries while further strengthening Pakistan–China friendship.

The ceremony was hosted by the Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China, the Science & Technology Department of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, Tsinghua University, and People's Daily Haiwainet.



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

Pakistan Day: Celebrating Military Strength, Unity and National Pride

Pakistan Day, observed on 23 March, represents the spirit and unity of the nation and connects Pakistan's past, present, and future from the Karakoram to the Arabian Sea. It renews the collective pledge of about 250 million citizens to the idea of Pakistan first expressed in the poetry and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and later realized as a sovereign state through the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The 2026 celebration carries a strong sense of pride following recent geopolitical tensions and confrontations after which Pakistan emerged stronger and more prominent internationally, reinforcing confidence that a nation founded on faith and unity stands secure and continues to fulfill the vision of its founders. The historical foundation of the day lies in 23 March 1940 when Muslims of the Indian subcontinent gathered at Lahore's Minto Park and passed the Lahore Resolution, which evolved from a demand for autonomous regions into a call for a separate sovereign homeland where Muslim cultural, religious, and political identity could flourish. Iqbal had earlier provided the intellectual inspiration by envisioning a consolidated Muslim state in Northwest India rooted in Islamic ideals of social justice, equality, and human dignity, while Jinnah transformed that vision into political reality through determined leadership and a constitutional framework that allowed citizens to develop their traditions and live according to their faith.

Confidence in Pakistan's security and sovereignty is strengthened by the performance of its armed forces during tensions with India,

where calibrated and decisive actions such as surgical strikes and aerial engagements demonstrated readiness and professionalism, reassured citizens, justified defense spending as an investment in peace, and reinforced the belief that the military safeguards the nation's ideals while strengthening deterrence and regional respect. This military strength supports the broader objective of realizing Iqbal's vision of a society where Muslims live with honor and Jinnah's goal of a democratic, progressive, and just state that serves as a beacon for the Muslim Ummah. Pakistan's integrated defense—from strategic planning at GHQ and vigilance at the LOC to advanced air defense systems and naval protection of sea lanes—has increased its diplomatic weight, leading to greater consultation on regional peace, the Afghan peace process, trade and energy opportunities, and principled positions such as Kashmir while also expanding economic diplomacy. At the same time, escalating tensions between Iran and the US-Israel axis create risks for the region, highlighting the need for Pakistan to strengthen internal unity and preparedness because instability in the Middle East affects border security, strategic assets, energy supplies, and the expatriate community in the Gulf. The situation underscores that national security depends on self-reliance and cohesion, making Pakistan Day a reminder that internal divisions, political chaos, and social fragmentation weaken national resilience, while unity among the country's 250 million citizens—demonstrated during conflicts with India when the public supported the armed forces across political and ethnic lines—remains

the country's greatest strength and reflects Quaid-e-Azam's assertion that Muslims of the subcontinent constitute a distinct nation with their own culture, traditions, laws, values, and outlook on life.

Allama Iqbal, the dreamer of Pakistan, envisioned a destination where the Muslims would find their destiny. Quaid-e-Azam, the architect, gave that dream a map and a constitution. Today, the people of Pakistan, the inheritors of this dream, are its guardians. The recent years have proven that this guardianship is in safe hands. The nation has faced the challenges of war and peace with equal fortitude. The valor of the armed forces, the resilience of the civil society, the vibrancy of the media, and the unwavering faith of the masses have all contributed to making Pakistan a bastion of strength in a turbulent world. As the sun sets on another Pakistan Day, it leaves behind not just the memories of a parade, but a renewed sense of purpose. It leaves a nation more convinced than ever that its foundations are deep, its defenses are robust, and its future is bright. The conflicts with India have been a crucible, and from that fire, Pakistan has emerged not as burnt metal, but as refined steel. The regional wars are a stark backdrop, but against that dark horizon, the silhouette of Pakistan is that of a sentinel—watchful, strong, and unyielding. This Pakistan Day is, therefore, more than a celebration; it is a declaration. A declaration to the world and to ourselves: that the dream of Allama Iqbal and the vision of Quaid-e-Azam is not just safe, it is sovereign; it is not just alive, it is thriving; and it is not just strong, it is unbreakable. The pride of today is the foundation of tomorrow's glory, and on this day, every Pakistani stands a little taller, knowing that they belong to a nation that has proven its mettle and is destined for greatness.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Climate Change and its impact on Pakistan

Pakistan ranks among the top ten countries most affected by climate change and natural disasters. Climate change refers to long-term alterations in global climate patterns caused by both natural processes and human activities. The global climate system, which includes the sun, Earth, oceans, wind, precipitation, and ecosystems, is being disrupted due to rising greenhouse gas emissions. These changes are creating serious consequences for both human societies and natural environments around the world. Climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges of the modern era. It is affecting economies, ecosystems, and communities globally. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, floods, droughts, and hurricanes demand immediate action from governments and international stakeholders. Without strong and coordinated efforts, climate-related disasters could cause irreversible environmental and economic damage. Therefore, collective global action is necessary to reduce emissions and support communities already facing severe climate impacts.

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to climate change because of its geographical and climatic conditions. The country has a predominantly warm climate, with large arid and semi-arid regions, and temperature increases that exceed global averages. As a result, extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, cyclones, and wildfires have intensified in recent years. These disasters significantly damage ecosystems, settlements, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

According to the World Bank Group, climate-related disasters caused economic losses

of \$29.3 billion between 1992 and 2021, which is equivalent to 11.1% of Pakistan's 2020 GDP. The devastating 2022 floods alone caused damages exceeding \$14.9 billion and total economic losses of over \$30 billion. Subsequent floods in 2025 also caused significant destruction. Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, reported in October 2025 that recent floods caused damages of about \$2.9 billion. Experts at the 4th Pakistan Climate Conference also revealed that Pakistan loses nearly one percent of its GDP every year due to climate-related damages. Similarly, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates that the country faces average annual losses of over \$2 billion from climate disasters, which further intensify poverty and economic instability.

Agriculture, one of Pakistan's most important economic sectors, is highly vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures, irregular rainfall patterns, and extreme weather conditions are reducing crop yields of key food and cash crops such as wheat, cotton, rice, maize, and sugarcane. Livestock production is also affected due to heat stress and water shortages. These agricultural challenges increase food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty, making economic development more difficult for the country.

Climate change also poses serious threats to public health in Pakistan. Higher temperatures and worsening air quality contribute to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Unseasonal rains and smog create favorable conditions for the spread of vector-borne and waterborne diseases such as malaria, dengue, and typhoid. Combined with food shortages and extreme heat,

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PM Shehbaz, Qatar Amir discuss regional situation in phone call

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, on Wednesday, during which the two leaders exchanged Eid-ul-Fitr greetings and discussed the evolving regional situation.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister conveyed his warm wishes to the Qatari leadership and people, which were reciprocated by the Amir.

During the call, Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed deep concern over the ongoing conflict in the region and strongly condemned attacks against Qatar and other brotherly Gulf countries.

He also expressed sorrow over the loss of lives and prayed for the recovery of those injured.

The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's complete solidarity and support with Qatar and its people during this difficult time.

He also appreciated Qatar's restraint



amid the current situation.

He briefed the Qatar Amir on Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and peace efforts, emphasising that Islamabad

has consistently urged all parties to de-escalate tensions and resolve differences through dialogue and diplomacy. The Amir of Qatar appreciated

Pakistan's sincere diplomatic efforts for regional peace, the statement said. Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact in the coming days.

Pearl-Continental Attabad Lake soft opening planned for May 2026

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: PC Hospitality is set to introduce a new benchmark in luxury hospitality with the planned soft opening of Pearl-Continental Hotel Attabad Lake, Hunza, in May 2026, in collaboration with Road & Story, its strategic development partner.

Nestled along the pristine banks of Attabad Lake, the hotel offers a rare combination of

natural beauty and refined comfort. Surrounded by towering mountains and crystal-clear turquoise waters, the property offers panoramic views from its rooms, dining venues, and public spaces, positioning it among Pakistan's most scenic hospitality destinations.

The hotel will commence operations with an initial inventory of 35 well-appointed rooms and one signature restaurant, offering guests a curated experience of comfort, cuisine, and personalized service. Upon full completion, the property will feature a total



of 117 rooms, several dining outlets, versatile banquet and event spaces.

Designed to cater to both leisure and corporate travelers, Pearl-Continental Attabad Lake blends contemporary architecture with the region's natural landscape. The property aims to deliver

five-star hospitality standards, complemented by immersive experiences that celebrate the unique culture and beauty of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Speaking on the upcoming opening, Mr. Bastien Blanc, CEO PC Hospitality shared "Pearl-Continental

Attabad Lake represents our continued commitment to expanding premium hospitality experiences in Pakistan's most breathtaking destinations. This property is not only a hotel, but a destination that offers guests an opportunity to connect with nature while enjoying world-class service and comfort."

Sharing the developmental perspective, Mr. Yasar Rashid, CEO, Road & Story added, "The property has been developed in line with modern international sustainability and environmental standards and incorporates accessible design principals. The collaboration with PC Hospitality reflects a shared commitment to make Pearl Continental Hotel & Resort at Attabad Lake a defining addition to the country's hospitality sector."

With its strategic location and exceptional offerings, the hotel is expected to attract both domestic and international travelers seeking luxury, tranquility, and adventure in Northern Pakistan.

At UN rights body, Pakistan says Kashmir not a narrative but legal reality

Spokesman Report

GENEVA: Pakistan on Wednesday told the United Nations Human Rights Council that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized disputed territory, as reflected in relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and no unilateral action could erase that.



"Let me reiterate a simple and undeniable fact: Jammu and Kashmir remains an internationally recognized disputed territory, as reflected in relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This is not a narrative. This is a legal reality that no unilateral action can erase," Pakistan's First Secretary Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar said, exercising the right of reply at the UN Human Rights Council here.

Rejecting India's false assertions, he said that Pakistan had raised a fundamental issue that under the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA), any denial of the right to self-determination constituted a violation of human rights.

"India, as a member of the international community, and a State that arrogantly projects itself as a Vishwa Guru, is therefore obliged to create an enabling environment for the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It is thus not surprising that Pakistan's reminder of India's fundamental obligations under the UN Charter appears to have rattled this rogue State, causing it to descend into name-calling and baseless attacks against my country," Khokhar added.

He said that in IIOJK, India's brutal actions had led to the systematic curtailment of fundamental freedoms as mainstream Kashmiri leaders remained detained, peaceful assembly was suppressed, and even religious freedoms were restricted, including severe restrictions on Friday prayers and Eid gatherings.

"Let us be clear: a State that fears prayers, fears its people," he remarked. He told the House that the Indian government had been involved in cross-border terrorist actions that extended beyond its territory, as the capture of a serving Indian naval officer, Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was involved in perpetrating terrorist acts on Pakistani soil, was a living testament to this reality.

The first secretary maintained that India's illegal campaign was not restricted to its neighbors but extended far beyond to North America and Europe.

Prime Minister Appoints Noreen Bano Lehri as Acting Chairperson, NCSW

Abdul Waheed Khan.

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Pakistan has appointed Ms. Noreen Bano Lehri, Member from Balochistan, as the Acting Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). Ms. Noreen Bano's appointment reflects the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional leadership for the promotion and protection of women's rights across Pakistan. The Commission looks forward to her leadership in advancing its mandate for gender equality, dignity, and empowerment of women. The Commission acknowledges with appreciation the dedicated services of the outgoing Acting Chairperson, Ms. Ume Laila Azhar, who served in this role for around seventeen months. Her tenure has been marked by significant contributions towards strengthening NCSW's advocacy and institutional work.



Ms. Ume Laila Azhar will continue to serve the Commission as Member, Punjab, ensuring continuity in its important work.

The position of Chairperson had been vacant following the retirement of former Chairperson Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar on 28 July 2024.

NCSW remains committed to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women in Pakistan.

Indian Court Verdict Against Three Kashmiri Women: A Politically Motivated, Travesty of Justice

The recent judgment delivered by an Indian court sentencing three Kashmiri women to life imprisonment after they had already endured nearly eight years in custody is not merely a legal decision; it is a blatant act of political repression designed to appease the extremist RSS-BJP constituency that has long sought to crush any semblance of Kashmiri dissent against Indian state. As a Kashmiri activist who has devoted his life to the peaceful pursuit of self-determination, I feel compelled to denounce this verdict in the strongest possible terms and to call upon the international community to intervene before the stain of injustice spreads further.

The Facts as They Stand

The three women—chairperson of Dukhtaran-e-Millat, a prominent Kashmiri women's organization, and two of her close associates Ms. Fahimeeda Sofi and Ms. Nahida Nasreen were arrested in 2017 amid a sweeping crackdown on alleged separatist activity in the Kashmir Valley. After spending close to eight years behind bars without a conclusive trial, they were finally convicted on charges that include "waging war against the State," "conspiring to disturb public order," and "providing logistical support to militants." The court handed each a life sentence, a penalty that, under Indian law, can be commuted only after a minimum of fourteen years of incarceration, however we have seen in Dr. Qasim Fakto, s case Supreme Court pronounced the life sentence till life ends.

The prosecution's case rested largely on intercepted communications, vague allegations of protest organization, and the assertion that the women's political activities amounted to terrorism. No concrete forensic evidence, no credible eyewitness testimony, and no transparent chain of custody for the purported digital evidence were presented in open court. The defence was repeatedly hampered by restricted access to legal counsel, the denial of

key witnesses, and reliance on classified intelligence reports that could not be scrutinized.

A Verdict Motivated by Politics, Not Law

Let there be no doubt: this judgment, like the one earlier in Yasin Malik's case is politically motivated instrument. The timing—coinciding with heightened electoral rhetoric in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and a renewed push by the RSS-BJP to showcase a "zero-tolerance" policy toward Kashmiri activism—leaves little room for interpretation. The verdict serves two purposes for the ruling establishment:

- To Appease Extremist Constituents – The RSS and its political arm, the BJP, have long framed Kashmiri dissent as an existential threat to the Indian nation. By delivering a harsh sentence to women who have merely exercised their right to political expression, the state signals to its hard-line base that it will not tolerate any form of Kashmiri resistance, however peaceful.
- To Legitimize Repressive Laws – The case provides a convenient precedent for the continued use of draconian statutes such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Public Safety Act (PSA) to silence non-violent political activity. By securing a life sentence on the basis of flimsy evidence, the judiciary effectively endorses the criminalization of dissent, setting a dangerous benchmark for future prosecutions.

In my view, the court has abandoned its constitutional duty to act as an impartial arbiter and has instead become an extension of the executive's political agenda. This is not justice; it is state-sanctioned intimidation.

Violations of International Human Rights Norms

The treatment of these women contravenes a raft of international obligations to which India is a signatory:

- Right to a Fair Trial (ICCPR Art. 14)

– The prolonged pre-trial detention, the reliance on secret evidence, and the curtailment of the defence's ability to challenge the prosecution's case violate the guarantee of a fair and public hearing.

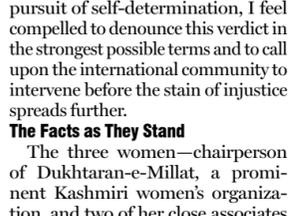
- Prohibition of Arbitrary Detention (ICCPR Art. 9) – Eight years of incarceration without a substantive trial constitutes arbitrary detention, a clear breach of international law.

- Freedom of Expression and Association (ICCPR Arts. 19 & 22) – The women's alleged "crime" was their participation in a peaceful political struggle—a right protected under international law. Criminalizing such activity is a direct assault on democratic freedoms.
- Protection Against Torture and Ill-Treatment (UNCAT) – Numerous credible reports from former detainees and human-rights monitors indicate that women in Kashmiri detention facilities are routinely subjected to psychological pressure, solitary confinement, and, in some cases, physical abuse. The lack of an independent medical examination raises serious concerns about their well-being.

These violations are not abstract; they have real, devastating consequences for the women involved, their families, and the broader Kashmiri populace who see the state's actions as a confirmation that their voices will be silenced by force rather than heard through dialogue.

The Human Cost

Beyond the legal abstractions, consider the human tragedy. These women are mothers, daughters, and sisters who have spent the better part of a decade away from their children, their ageing parents, and their communities. Their incarceration has inflicted psychological trauma, economic hardship, and social stigmatization on families already living under the shadow of militarization. The life sentence effectively



Altaf Hussain Wani



condemns them to die behind bars for the "crime" of advocating for their people's right to self-determination—a right recognized by numerous UN resolutions and affirmed by the international community's own principles of self-governance.

The message sent to Kashmiri youth is chilling: peaceful political engagement will be met with the harshest punitive measures the state can muster. This breeds resentment, radicalization, and a deepening mistrust of any institution that claims to uphold the rule of law.

A Call to the International Community

I appeal to the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Working group on arbitrary detentions, Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of Human rights while countering terrorism, Special rapporteur on human rights defenders Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and all conscientious states and NGOs to:

- Demand the Immediate Release of the three women pending a fair, transparent retrial that complies with inter-

national due-process standards.

- Order an Independent Investigation into allegations of torture, ill-treatment, and procedural violations during their detention and trial.

- Urge the Repeal or Amendment of overly broad anti-terror laws that enable the prosecution of non-violent political activity, ensuring that such statutes are applied only in cases of genuine, violent threat.

- Establish an International Monitoring Mechanism for trials involving political dissenters in Jammu and Kashmir, with the mandate to observe proceedings, review evidence, and report violations to the global community.

- Support Initiatives that promote dialogue between the people of Jammu and Kashmir other stakeholders, Indian and Pakistan grounded in respect for human rights and the right to self-determination.

The international community cannot remain silent while a judicial system is weaponized to suppress legitimate political expression. Silence will be interpreted as complicity, and the credibility of global human rights norms will erode further.

Conclusion

The life sentences imposed on these three Kashmiri women are not the outcome of a neutral legal process; they are a calculated act of state repression aimed at placating extremist elements and cementing a narrative that equates Kashmiri political activism with terrorism. As a Kashmiri rights activist I am committed to peaceful struggle, I condemn this verdict in the strongest possible terms and urge every lover of justice, every defender of human rights, and every believer in the dignity of the individual to stand with these women.

Justice delayed is justice denied; justice perverted is a threat to the very fabric of civilization. Let us not allow the courts of India to become instruments of fear. Let us demand that the rule of law prevail, that the rights of the Kashmiri people be respected, and that the path forward be paved not with prison bars, but with dialogue, accountability, and genuine peace.

The writetr is Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations Islamabad and Can be reached at: @sultani1913

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
158,313.44	153,966.36
Day's High	Day's Low
158,586.09	155,199.71
Index Value	Change
28,930,744,588	+4347.08
Percentage	Time
+2.82%	25 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,087.75	+122.59
Percentage	Time
+1.25%	25 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
46,422.35	+298.29
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	25 Mar, 12:30 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
53,749.62	+1,497.34
Percentage	Time
+2.87%	25 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Australian Dollar	195.05	198.10
Australian Dollar	191.93	195.10
Bahrain Dinar	731.05	741.75
Canadian Dollar	200.10	205.25
China Yuan	36.65	37.6
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	323.83	327.85
Hong Kong Dollar	34.97	35.97
Indian Rupee	2.1	2.36
Japanese Yen	1.7253	1.8245
Kuwaiti Dinar	888.30	898.35
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.45
New Zealand \$	160.81	165.35
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	718.20	728.45
Qatari Riyal	73.33	74.3
Saudi Riyal	74.10	75.20
Singapore Dollar	215.32	220.32
Swedish Korona	30.20	30.50
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8.05	8.2
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	77.10
UK Pound Sterling	374.33	378.25
US Dollar	279.45	280.2

BYD-MMC delivers 100 Atto 2 vehicles across Pakistan in a single day

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mega Motor Company (MMC), the official partner of BYD in Pakistan, marked another milestone in the country's growing New Energy Vehicle (NEV) market by delivering 100 Atto 2 vehicles to customers nationwide in a single day.

Building on the momentum of BYD's earlier

launches and deliveries in Pakistan, this nationwide delivery milestone reflects the increasing adoption of electric mobility and the growing presence of BYD vehicles on roads across the country.

The deliveries were carried out simultaneously across multiple cities through BYD experience centers and dealerships, highlighting the expanding footprint of BYD's customer and



retail network in Pakistan.

Commenting on the milestone, Lei Jian, Country Head, BYD Pakistan, said "Pakistan represents an important market in BYD's global vision for new energy mobility. As we continue to expand our portfolio here, our focus remains on making advanced electric vehicle technology accessible to more customers while supporting the country's transition toward cleaner and more sustainable transportation."

Danish Khaliq, Vice President Sales & Strategy at BYD Pakistan-Mega Motor

Company, added:

"Reliability and customer trust are central to the BYD experience. As more BYD vehicles take to the roads across Pakistan, our priority is to ensure that customers receive not only advanced electric vehicles, but also a seamless ownership journey supported by strong service and customer care. The encouraging pace of EV adoption and the growing number of BYD vehicles already on the road reflect the increasing confidence Pakistani consumers have in electric mobility."

Mismanagement

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Islamabad Expressway, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Tensions in West Asia Signal Economic Alarm for Pakistan: Syed Aman Shah

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of Awam Pakistan Party Balochistan, has expressed deep concern over the ongoing tensions and military escalation in West Asia and the Middle East. He warned that if the crisis prolongs and disruption in the Strait of Hormuz continues, Pakistan could face a serious balance of payments crisis.

He stated that Pakistan's economy is already under pressure, and any disruption in energy supply chains could prove extremely dangerous. According to him, nearly 80% of Pakistan's crude oil imports and 25% of LNG supplies pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Therefore,



any blockage in this critical maritime route would directly impact foreign exchange reserves, industrial output, and inflation. Syed Aman Shah further noted that the rising geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region are already having global repercussions. International logistics are being affected, maritime trade costs are increasing, and uncertainty is growing around key shipping routes.

10 Pakistani Companies to Showcasing at Techtexil & Texprocess 2026 in Frankfurt

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The global textile community will come together this April in Frankfurt at Techtexil 2026 and Texprocess 2026, two of the world's leading exhibitions for technical textiles and garment processing. They will feature more than 1,700 exhibitors from 49 countries, including over 1,500 at Techtexil and around 200 at Texprocess.

This year's exhibitions will focus on practical innovations, showcasing new materials for workwear, protective clothing, smart fashion, and sportswear. Companies will also highlight how they are adapting to industry challenges through sustainable solutions, new technologies, and smarter production methods.

Pakistan will have a notable presence at the exhibitions, with 4 companies participating through the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), including Sadaqat Limited, Haroon Fabrics, J. K. Spinning, and Ahmed Fine Weaving. Moreover, 6 independent exhibitors



from Pakistan include Artistic Milliners, H. Nizam Din & Sons, Master Textile, Sapphire Finishing, Nishat, and Pakwinz International.

The exhibitions are also expected to attract a large number of international visitors. In the previous edition held in 2024, Techtexil and Texprocess together welcomed over 63,000 visitors from

across the globe, underlining their importance as key sourcing and networking platforms for the textiles industry.

For Pakistan, this provides a strong opportunity to boost exports, connect directly with international buyers, and build long-term business relationships while staying aligned with global market trends.

SAARC body hails PM Shehbaz, Gen Munir for Diplomatic Outreach to US and Iran

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Ifkhar Ali Malik Wednesday highly lauded the visionary and proactive diplomatic efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir for offering to host parleys between the United States and Iran.

In a statement here today he termed this initiative a timely and constructive step aimed at facilitating result-oriented and conclusive dialogue for a comprehensive settlement of the ongoing Middle East



conflict. Pakistan, owing to its balanced foreign policy and credible international standing, is well-positioned to play the role of a neutral mediator. He said such peace efforts would not only help defuse

escalating tensions but also contribute significantly towards ensuring long-term stability and economic prosperity in the region and beyond.

He further added that conflicts in the Middle East have far-reaching implications on global trade, energy markets, and economic growth, directly affecting developing countries. The initiatives promoting dialogue over confrontation must be encouraged. He hoped that pak diplomatic offer would be positively received by all stakeholders, paving the way for sustainable peace, mutual understanding, and strengthened international cooperation.

Faisalabad Business Leader Praises Pakistan's Middle East Diplomacy

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Former President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rehan Naseem Bharara has termed Pakistan's active, responsible and effective diplomatic efforts in the context of the current tense situation in the Middle East as highly commendable, especially paying great tribute to Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Field Marshal of the Pak Army General Asim Munir. He has



further said that Pakistan's economy can improve only with peace in the region and this honor can be a guarantee of Pakistan's development.

Spotify Launches SongDNA

Commerce Desk

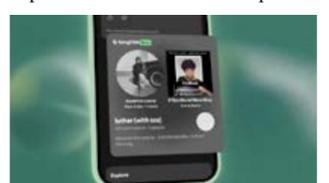
ISLAMABAD: Spotify has introduced SongDNA, a new immersive feature designed to transform how listeners discover and engage with the music they love.

Rolling out in beta to Premium users, SongDNA brings the stories behind songs to the forefront of the listening experience, allowing listeners to explore the writers, producers, and collaborators behind a track, as well as the samples and interpolations that shaped its sound, and the covers it inspired.

Integrated directly into the Now Playing view

on mobile, SongDNA enables users to move beyond passive listening and dive deeper into the music they love through an interactive, discovery-led experience.

SongDNA complements existing features like About the Song, offering listeners a deeper understanding of the music they love. Where About the Song helps you understand the story behind a specific track, SongDNA turns a song into an immersive, exploratory experience: a world fans can step into.



OGRA provided with Rs 27b to settle claims due to price differential

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of the Prime Minister, OGRA has been provided the first tranche amounting to Rs. 27 billion, from Prime Minister's Austerity Fund, to settle the Price Differential Claims arising from the Government's decision to shield the consumers from the impact of rising oil prices in the international market.

The funds have been arranged through various expenditure reduction measures implemented within the federal government & deposited in the PM Austerity Fund.

Government is also considering additional cost-cutting measures to ensure that the relief to the public is provided while staying within the budget and identifying additional savings.

Gold prices surge sharply by Rs.15,200 per tola; reaches Rs 479,262

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a significant increase in the local market on Wednesday, with the rate of 24 karat per tola gold rising by Rs 15,200 to settle at Rs 479,262 compared to its sale at Rs 464,062 on the previous trading day.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 13,031 to Rs 410,889 from Rs 397,858, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs 11,945 to Rs 376,661 against Rs 364,716.

The rates of silver also recorded an upward trend, as per tola silver increased by Rs 370 to Rs 7,824, while the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs 317 to Rs 6,707.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by \$152 to \$4,565, whereas silver prices gained \$3.70 to settle at \$73.40, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

HBL Pakistan Super League 11 to begin today with Lahore Qalandars VS Hyderabad Kingsmen clash

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Shaheen Shah Afridi will lead Lahore Qalandars in their title defence beginning on Thursday, 26 March against the new comers Hyderabad Kingsmen as the 11th edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League gets underway at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

Qalandars, who have played in the final four of the last six HBL PSL editions, are paired with arch rivals Karachi Kings, Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi. Each team in their set will play the other twice and face teams out of this set once.

The other set of four teams is Hyderabad Kingsmen, Multan Sultans, Islamabad United and Rawalpindiz. In this format each team will play 10 matches after which a Qualifier followed by two eliminators will decide the finalists for the HBL PSL 11.

Among the 44 matches, 22 fixtures each are split between Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore and National Bank Stadium, Karachi. The night matches will begin at 7pm PKT, while the first match in 12 double headers will start at 2.30pm PKT.

For the first time in the history of the HBL PSL, a separate reward has been set for the franchises with the winning franchise getting USD 500,000, runners up will get USD 300,000, while the franchise with the best player development efforts will bag USD 200,000. The tournament winning prize for players will comprise of USD 500,000.

Rawalpindiz and Hyderabad Kingsmen are set to make their



debut in the HBL PSL as the league enters new era after historic team auctions in January and February earlier this year.

Babar Azam, the only player so far to feature in 100 matches in the league, leads the run-scoring charts with 3,792 runs, followed by Fakhar Zaman (2,964), Mohammad Rizwan (2,770), Shoaib Malik (2,350) and Rilee Rossouw (2,287).

On the bowling front, Hasan Ali (125), Shaheen Shah Afridi (122), Wahab Riaz (113) and Shadab Khan (105) are the only four bowlers with the 100 or more wickets in the history of the tournament.

Among the teams, Islamabad United and Lahore Qalandars have won the tournament thrice each, while Multan Sultans,

Peshawar Zalmi, Quetta Gladiators and Karachi Kings have won the HBL PSL title once each.

Pre-tournament captains' press conference

Shaheen Shah Afridi, Lahore Qalandars

We have prepared well at our High-Performance Centre in Islamabad. Our focus is on playing good cricket and giving our best to defend the title.

It is a proud moment for the PCB and all the players that the HBL PSL has completed 10 years. The league has produced outstanding talent over the years and we hope it continues to provide quality players for Pakistan cricket.

Shadab Khan, Islamabad United

We have a balanced squad with a good mix of experience and

youth. Our preparations have gone well and the aim is to play an aggressive and smart brand of cricket throughout the tournament.

HBL PSL has played a massive role in the growth of Pakistan cricket. It has given young players a platform to perform under pressure and as a team we are looking forward to putting in strong performances for our fans."

Babar Azam, Peshawar Zalmi

We will certainly miss the fans in the stadiums and I am sure they will also miss watching the action live. Wherever we play, we receive tremendous support and we will try to play an exciting brand of cricket to make our fans proud while they follow us on TV and social media.

We felt our bowling lacked

consistency last season, but this time we have a strong bowling line-up. Our focus is on executing our plans well and delivering better results.

Mohammad Rizwan, Rawalpindiz

The PCB has made tremendous efforts for the growth of the HBL PSL and credit also goes to Najam Sethi for taking the initiative to launch the league. The franchise values reaching into the billions reflect how successful and significant the HBL PSL has become.

With eight teams in the competition, there is now a bigger pool of players and more opportunities for talent to emerge. I hope the tournament helps players perform well, form strong combinations for the national side and deliver positive results for Pakistan in the future.

Saud Shakeel, Quetta Gladiators

We have had productive preparations and the players are eager to begin the tournament on a strong note. Our aim is to play quality cricket, stay consistent and give Quetta Gladiators' fans plenty to cheer about.

HBL PSL remains one of the most important platforms for young cricketers in Pakistan. Every season new players come through and we hope this edition continues that tradition while also helping us achieve success as a team."

David Warner, Karachi Kings

It is great to have such an experienced group of players in our squad. For us, it is about building on what we achieved last year, adapting quickly to conditions and giving ourselves the best chance to progress further in the tournament.



We have assembled a strong group at the Player Auction and there is a lot of quality in the squad. Personally, I feel fit and ready, and I hope I can contribute with runs and help put the team in strong positions.

Marnus Labuschagne, Hyderabad Kingsmen

For us, it is important that every individual remains true to themselves. I want to lead this side the same way I lead my state team back home — by empowering players, backing their abilities and encouraging them to play their natural game.

There is always pressure whenever you represent a team in any league or at international level, but that is also what makes it exciting.

This is a new chapter for Kingsmen in the HBL PSL and it is a great opportunity for us to showcase our talent.

Ashton Turner, Multan Sultans

Australian players who get the chance to feature in the HBL PSL are very fortunate because we are looked after so well here. The HBL PSL is becoming one of the best franchise tournaments in the world and it is always exciting to be part of it.

With new ownership, a new squad and a new coaching staff, it feels like the start of a fresh chapter for us. There is so much talent in Pakistan and it is a great opportunity to play alongside these players and grow together as a team."

DC Multan assigned a special task to the price control magistrates to control inflation

Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: administration has become active in Multan to control inflation. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Noman Siddique has assigned a special task to the Price Control Magistrates. In this regard, an important meeting was held under his chairmanship in which a detailed review of the performance of the magistrates was taken and a future strategy was formulated.

The Deputy Commissioner, while issuing clear instructions, said that strict checking of prices of essential commodities in the markets should be ensured and implementation of the official price lists should be made possible at all costs.

He ordered to further intensify the crackdown against illegal profiteers and directed to adopt a zero tolerance policy. It was informed in the meeting that heavy fines, arrests and legal action will



be taken against those involved in price gouging, while indiscriminate action will also be taken against hoarders so that those who create artificial inflation can be brought to justice.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Noman Siddique directed all Price Control Magistrates to remain active in the field and submit their performance reports on a daily basis so that maximum relief can be provided to the citizens through effective monitoring.

President's Cup Aims to Elevate Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket to New Heights

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Organizing the "President's Cup" and displaying the trophy at the Quaid-e-Azam Shrine is a great way to encourage the players and the game. The details of this event are as follows: Tournament Highlights: Scale: 8 best regional teams will participate in it, making it the biggest domestic platform for wheelchair cricketers in Pakistan. Format: A total of 15 T-20 (T20) matches will be played. This format is the most preferred in wheelchair cricket due to its pace and excitement. Host City: Karachi, known as the "City of



Lights", has been the hub of sporting activities. The choice of Mazar-e-Quaid for the trophy display will make this event a center of national prestige and attention. Why is this event important? Feature Impact Local Development This tournament will be helpful in bringing out new talent for Pakistan's National Wheelchair Cricket Team. Inclusivity This event will help break down social barriers and spread the message that "Disability, not Compulsion". Public Attention Displaying the trophy at a historical place like Mazar-e-Quaid will draw the attention of fans and sponsors towards this sport.

Murder suspects arrested in Takht Bhai following Eid altercation

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: In Takht Bhai, Saro Shah Police have arrested five suspects wanted in various murder cases. One of the suspects had escaped from police custody a few days ago.

SHO Sub-Inspector Humayun Khan of Saro Shah Police Station conducted an operation and arrested two suspects involved in the murder, who was stabbed to death following a previous dispute and altercation on Chand Raat. The arrested suspects are Rahimullah alias Bacha, son of Ghulam Sakhi, and Nauman, son of Sherzada, residents of Bismillah Colony. A case

has been registered against them, and further legal action is underway. In another operation, Saro Shah Police arrested a proclaimed offender, Babar, son of Ismat, a resident of Mahmoodabad, who was wanted by Police Station Umarzai in District Charsadda in a serious case. The accused was handed over to the concerned police.

Additionally, Saro Shah Police carried out another operation and re-arrested a father and son, Shahzad, son of Hakim Khan, and Hakim Khan, residents of Afzal Imam Colony, Pat Baba, who had previously escaped from police custody and were wanted in a double murder case.

Tickets refund policy announced for HBL PSL 11

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has today announced the tickets refund policy for HBL Pakistan Super League 11.

Following are the important points regarding the refund policy for the ticket holders:

- All ticket holders who purchased tickets online for HBL PSL 11 will receive refunds automatically through the original payment method used at the time of booking.
- This includes payments made via debit cards, credit cards, Jazz-Cash, and Easypaisa.
- The refund process is scheduled to commence on 30th March 2026 and is expected to be completed within 15 working days.
- Please note that timelines may vary slightly depending on your respective bank or payment service provider.
- No action is required from ticket holders to initiate the refund.
- However, in case of any delays beyond the stated timeframe, customers are advised to contact their respective bank or payment platform for further assistance.

The Pakistan Cricket Board and HBL PSL appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming you back to the stadiums for an even more exciting cricketing experience in future. For any ticket refund related queries get in touch at Ticketing.psl@pcb.com.pk.

Attock Police Arrest Four Drug Peddlers, Recover 2.2 kilo Grams of Hashish

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock Police, in separate operations against drug trafficking and liquor smuggling, arrested four accused and recovered 2,200 grams of hashish and 30 litres of liquor from their possession.

According to police sources, Assistant Sub-Inspector Fazal Abbas of City Attock Police Station, along with his team, recovered 1,400 grams of hashish from accused Nauman Yousaf son of Muhammad Yousaf, a resident of Mohallah Aminabad, Attock.

Climate Change and its impact on Pakistan

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these environmental changes increase health risks and highlight the need for strong climate adaptation strategies.

Between 1998 and 2018, Pakistan experienced more than 150 extreme weather events, showing the growing instability of its climate system. One of the most catastrophic disasters occurred in 2022, when unprecedented floods submerged nearly one-third of the country. Millions of people were displaced, and infrastructure, agriculture, and housing suffered massive damage. These floods were largely driven by unusually heavy rainfall and accelerated glacier melting, both linked to global warming.

Several human activities are major contributors to climate change. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas for energy production releases large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Deforestation reduces the Earth's ability to absorb carbon dioxide. Industrial activities emit harmful gases like methane and nitrous oxide, while transportation systems powered by fossil fuels increase carbon emissions. Agricultural practices, including livestock farming and excessive fertilizer use, also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, unsustainable consumption patterns and overuse of natural resources accelerate environmental degradation.

Forest conservation and affores-

tation are equally important. Pakistan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami initiative aims to restore forests, reduce soil erosion, absorb carbon dioxide, and protect biodiversity. Sustainable water management through rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, and flood-resistant infrastructure is also necessary to ensure water security.

Pakistan has taken several policy initiatives to address climate challenges. The National Climate Change Policy (2012) and its implementation framework introduced in 2014 provide guidelines for climate resilience and sustainable development. Additionally, Pakistan Vision 2025 emphasizes environmental sustainability and climate action.

Despite these efforts, climate

change remains a serious threat to Pakistan's future. Studies suggest that climate-related disasters could reduce the country's GDP by 18-20% by 2050. Addressing this challenge requires strong government policies, international cooperation, and financial support through global climate funds and technology transfer.

Pakistan stands at a critical crossroads in its fight against climate change. Effective policies, investment in green infrastructure, and public awareness can help the country build resilience against climate impacts. Immediate and coordinated climate action is essential not only for economic stability but also for the survival and well-being of future generations.

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balanced and dignified conclusion, then the equation changes dramatically. In such a scenario, Israel risks becoming the biggest loser. Its strategy of sustained escalation would fail, its ability to keep the region in perpetual tension would diminish, and it could find itself increasingly isolated—not only globally, but potentially even in its strategic alignment with the United States.

This is why the success of mediation carries consequences far beyond the immediate ceasefire. It determines who shapes the future of the region: those who thrive on conflict, or those who seek stability.

In this context, one additional and essential element must be considered. For lasting peace, there must be accountability. A high-level international commission—under the United Nations or a similarly credible global framework—should be established to examine the origins of the conflict. It must determine whether there was

a genuine and imminent threat from Iran that justified the scale of military action.

If such a threat is established, then responsibility must be acknowledged accordingly. But if no imminent threat existed, then justice demands a different outcome. Those responsible for initiating and sustaining the conflict must be held accountable, and Iran must be compensated for the destruction inflicted upon its infrastructure, economy, and people. Reconstruction, restitution, and accountability are not optional—they are essential for restoring trust and preventing future conflicts built on contested narratives.

This is where Pakistan's mediation must evolve beyond ceasefire into structured resolution.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan

Participation

Chinese Navy Ship arrived at Karachi to participate in bilateral exercise Sea Guardian IV.



Chinese ship arrives in Pakistan for bilateral naval drills

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has extended a warm welcome to People's Liberation Army (Navy) Ship DAQING for its participation in the 4th iteration of bilateral exercise SEA GUARDIAN, scheduled from March 25 to April 2.

Upon arrival, PLA(N) Ship DAQING was accorded a ceremonial welcome and escorted into port by Pakistan Navy ships with traditional zeal, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

The SEA GUARDIAN exercise aims to further strengthen bilateral relations through the mutual exchange of maritime expertise and enhanced interoperability between

the two friendly navies, reflecting their shared commitment to regional peace.

The exercise will feature a range of harbour and sea-phase activities, including subject matter expert engagements, a young officers' seminar on contemporary topics, gunnery firings, coordinated patrols, and other maritime security operations.

The SEA GUARDIAN series of exercises reflects the strong bond and shared commitment of Pakistan and China to regional peace and stability.

It is expected to further enhance their strategic partnership and contribute to a stable maritime environment in the region.

Amir Muqam meets Caretaker CM Gilgit-Baltistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Engr Amir Muqam, met with Caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Justice (R) Yar Mohammad Khan, on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on the law and order situation and development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, said a statement issued here.

Muqam stated that the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, prioritizes the

development and prosperity of all regions, particularly Gilgit-Baltistan.

He emphasized that a peaceful environment is essential for sustainable development and tourism promotion.

Yar Mohammad Khan appreciated the minister's efforts in maintaining peace in Gilgit-Baltistan and thanked the federal government for its support.

Federal Secretary for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions, Zafar Hassan, and Additional Secretary Kamran Al Rahman also attended the meeting.

PM Shehbaz briefs Bilawal on Pakistan's peace diplomacy amid Gulf tensions

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday underscored Pakistan's active diplomatic outreach for global peace, as he met Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party here along with a delegation.

During the meeting, the prime minister briefed Bilawal Bhutto on Pakistan's ongoing diplomatic efforts in light of the evolving situation in the Gulf, emphasizing Islamabad's commitment to promoting stability, dialogue, and conflict resolution on the international stage, a Prime Minister's Office



news release said.

PM Sharif highlighted that Pakistan is actively engaged in addressing emerging regional

challenges through a balanced strategy that integrates foreign policy, internal security preparedness, and economic

resilience. He stressed that safeguarding national interests while contributing to global peace remained a key priority of his government.

The two leaders also exchanged views on political developments and issues of national importance. Discussions included Pakistan's internal and external security environment, and preparedness to tackle potential challenges arising from escalating tensions in the Gulf region.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari commended the prime minister's leadership and policy direction, particularly in navigating the country through a complex and uncertain

regional environment. He expressed support for the federal government's approach to dealing with potential risks stemming from the conflict scenario.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing federal development projects in Sindh, reflecting continued coordination between the federal government and provincial leadership on economic and infrastructure priorities.

Senior officials present at the meeting included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, and other key cabinet members and advisers.

Naqvi emphasises swift passport issuance to overseas Pakistanis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that issuing passports to overseas Pakistanis remained a top priority.

A special meeting chaired by Naqvi and Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Salik Hussain, reviewed progress on securing Spanish resident cards for Pakistanis.

Before the launch of Spain's registration program to legalize undocumented



immigrants, Pakistani citizens will have their passports and other documents issued within a week.

Around 15,000 Pakistanis are expected to benefit from the scheme.

Ministers directed embassies to provide extra staff to passport sections, ensure character certificates are issued swiftly, and block issuance to criminals or wanted individuals.

Pakistani diplomats in Spain provided detailed briefings to support the initiative.

Life sentence for Asiya Andrabi is an attempt to Silence Kashmiri leadership, says Mushaal Mullick

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Mullick, wife of Yasin Malik, has said that awarding life imprisonment to Asiya Andrabi is an attempt to silence the voice of Kashmiri leadership.

Reacting to the recent decision of an Indian court in her video message, Mushaal Mullick stated that the verdict is not justice but a well-planned conspiracy.

She said sentencing Asiya Andrabi to life imprisonment is aimed at suppressing Kashmiri leadership and such decisions are against the principles of justice.

She further said that the freedom struggle is being crushed through controversial laws, adding that this is not just punishment of a few individuals but an attack on the entire nation's right to self-determination.



She warned that the silence of the international community will also be considered part of oppression.

According to her, this is not a decision but an act of strangling the voice of a nation.

She said the Indian court has not delivered justice but announced oppression, adding that it is not just Asiya Andrabi being punished but the hopes of Kashmir that have been imprisoned.

She questioned how speaking the truth has become a crime and what kind of system this is.

She added that the conspiracy to silence Kashmiri leadership is at its peak and every voice behind bars has turned into a cry for freedom.

Mushaal Mullick further said these are not punishments but stains on the face of humanity. She added that the pain of Kashmir is increasing and questioned why the world remains silent.

She said justice has been killed and only silence remains, warning that if the world does not speak today, history will remember it as complicit.

Pakistan condemns life sentence awarded by Indian court to Kashmiri leader Aasiya Andrabi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday categorically rejected the awarding of a life imprisonment sentence to Aasiya Andrabi, a prominent Kashmiri political leader, along with the harsh 30-year prison sentences imposed on her two associates, Fehmeeda Sofi and Nahida Nasreen, by a Delhi court under the draconian law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The verdict constitutes a grave miscarriage of justice and reflects the continuing suppression of fundamental rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"Pakistan views this decision as part of a broader pattern of politically motivated prosecutions aimed at silencing dissenting voices and intimidating those advocating the legitimate



rights of the Kashmiri people. The sentencing raises serious concerns regarding due process, judicial independence, and adherence to international human rights obligations."

Aasiya Andrabi has long been a vocal advocate for the Kashmir cause. Her conviction and harsh sentencing underscore the shrinking space for political expression and civil liberties in IIOJK.

The FO said Pakistan believed that such actions further exacerbate tensions and undermined prospects for peace and stability in South Asia.

DPM Dar, Malaysian counterpart stress de-escalation, dialogue, diplomacy to tackle ongoing challenges

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Mohamad Hasan on Wednesday emphasized the importance of de-escalation, dialogue, and diplomacy to address ongoing challenges.

The deputy prime minister held a telephone conversation with the foreign minister of Malaysia,

where the two leaders discussed recent regional & international developments of mutual interest, a DPM's Office news release said.

