



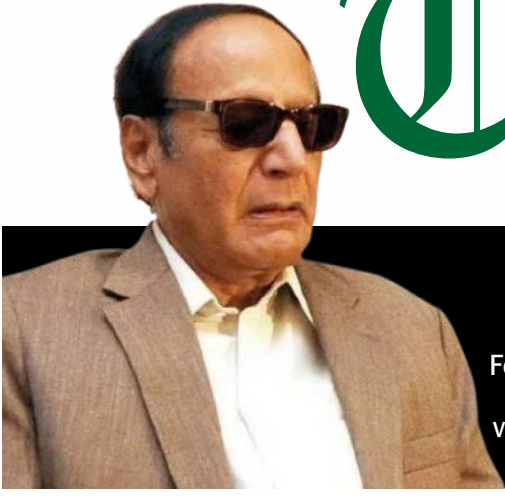
Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے بڑھ کر عالم نے بیان کیا انہوں نے
کہا ہم سے محمد بن جعفر نے بیان کیا ان سے
شعبہ نے بیان کیا ان سے سلیمان نے ان
سے ابو اکی نے اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن مسعود
رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ
و سلم نے فرمایا ان اس کے ساتھ ہے جس
سے وہ جیت رہا تھا۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6168)

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Chaudhry Shujaat hails 'Marka-e-Haq' as proud chapter in Pakistan's history

Former prime minister and PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain congratulated the nation and Pakistan Armed Forces on the first anniversary of "Marka-e-Haq," saying that it is a bright and proud chapter in Pakistan's history.



PPP laid the foundation of Pakistan's invincible defence: Sindh CM

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has said that Marka-e-Haq is proof of Pakistan's bravery and invincibility as one year ago on the same Pakistan Armed Forces defeated India, which is seven times bigger than our country. Addressing a ceremony arranged on the eve of Marka-e-Haq anniversary at Seaview Karachi on Saturday

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Congratulations to the entire nation

The Chief of Defence Forces Chief of Army Staff and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu extended congratulations to the nation and members of the armed forces on the first anniversary of "Marka-e-Haq".



GHQ to hold 'Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq' ceremony today

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will attend a special ceremony at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of Pakistan's "Marka-e-Haq" operation launched in response to India's "Operation Sindoor."

The ceremony will begin at 8:40 a.m. at GHQ, where preparations have been completed, according to official details.

Field Marshal Munir will be accompanied by Chief of Air Staff Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Chief of Naval Staff Naveed Ashraf.

The chiefs of the three armed forces will visit the martyrs' memorial and lay floral wreaths to pay tribute



to fallen soldiers. Smartly turned-out contingents of the armed forces will present a guard of honour to the chief guest during the ceremony. Field Marshal Munir is also expected to address participants and highlight the significance of "Marka-e-Haq" as well as the professional capabilities of Pakistan's armed forces. Officials said the observance of "Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq" reflects the nation's resolve to defend the country's territorial integrity and respond firmly to any aggression against Pakistan.

Armed forces reaffirm resolve on first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu on Saturday extended congratulations to the nation and members of the armed forces on the first anniversary of "Marka-e-Haq," describing it as a symbol of national unity,

military professionalism and strategic resolve.

In a message issued on the occasion, the military leadership said the anniversary was being observed with "deep reverence, gratitude and national fervour" to honour the sacrifices of martyrs and veterans.

Ceremonies are being held across Pakistan to commemorate the occasion, with floral wreaths being laid at martyrs' memorials and special prayers

offered for fallen soldiers.

According to the statement, "Marka-e-Haq" has emerged as a defining milestone in Pakistan's history, reflecting the country's national resolve, military capability and strategic maturity.

The military leadership said Pakistan's response during the conflict exposed what it described as adversarial conspiracies, false-flag narratives and disinformation campaigns at the international level.

Despite facing conventional and hybrid threats, including proxy terrorism, the armed forces demonstrated operational capability across land, air, sea, cyber and information domains, the statement added.

The armed forces said the events following "Marka-e-Haq" had further strengthened Pakistan's defensive preparedness and full-spectrum deterrence despite resource constraints.

The statement also reiterated Pakistan's commitment

to regional peace and stability, stressing that sustainable peace in South Asia could only be achieved through meaningful dialogue, mutual respect and adherence to international law and justice.

The military leadership said the armed forces, backed by the support of the nation, remained vigilant and fully prepared to confront all internal and external challenges to ensure Pakistan's security, stability and territorial integrity.

Pakistan, Bangladesh sign anti-drug pact in Dhaka

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi and Bangladeshi Interior Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Saturday signed a landmark agreement in Dhaka to strengthen cooperation against drug trafficking and narcotics abuse.

The agreement was signed during a meeting between the two interior ministers aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation in internal security and law enforcement.

Under the memorandum of understanding (MoU), Pakistan and Bangladesh agreed to jointly combat the illegal transportation, smuggling and sale of narcotics. Both sides also pledged to develop coordinated strategies to dismantle drug supply networks and address the growing social



impact of drug abuse.

The two countries will exchange timely intelligence on drug traffickers and criminal networks, while also cooperating in personnel training, modern technology

and sharing best practices in anti-narcotics operations.

The ministers also agreed to establish a secretary-level joint working group between the two interior ministries to coordinate

future cooperation.

During the talks, Naqvi offered Pakistan's full support for Bangladesh's Safe City Project and assured cooperation at all levels.

Both sides discussed expanding collaboration in counterterrorism, internal security, cybercrime, organised crime and financial fraud investigations. They also explored cooperation in the training of civil armed forces and police academy officers.

Naqvi invited the Bangladeshi home minister to visit Pakistan, while Salahuddin Ahmed thanked Pakistan for offering assistance on the Safe City Project.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam, Cabinet Secretary Naseem Al Ghani, Home Secretary Manzoor Chaudhry and Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider also attended the meeting.

DPM highlights importance of enhancing regional connectivity



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammd Ishaq Dar Saturday held a meeting on the sidelines of the South Asia Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Conference.

DPM/FM highlighted the importance of enhancing regional connectivity, expanding economic partnerships, and strengthening cooperation among professional bodies to unlock the region's full potential.

He reiterated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting

stability, harmony, and sustainable development, stating that greater collaboration among regional institutions can pave the way for shared growth, innovation, and stronger people-to-people connectivity across South Asia.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, economic cooperation, and deeper engagement among South Asian institutions and professionals to build a more integrated and prosperous region.

Attendees included: Humayun Kabeer - President SAFA, Prabhin Jah - VP SAFA, Ashfaq Tola - Advisor SAFA, Azeem Siddiqui - President ICMAP, N K Mobin - President ICAB, Kauser Alam - President ICMAB, Zeeshan Ijaz - Former VP ICAP, and Tishan Subhasinghe - President ICASL, and other office bearers of the professional bodies of South Asia.

New economic partnership era starts in Pak-China friendship: Haroon Akhtar

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan

aid on Saturday that Pakistan-China friendship has entered a new era of economic partnership and cooperation, emphasizing that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is steadily moving toward economic stability and industrial development.

He expressed these views while delivering the welcome address at the Pakistan-China Business-to-Business Conference held at a local hotel.

The conference was attended by 106 representa-

tives from 74 Chinese companies, representatives of 136 Pakistani companies, and 252 business delegates, along with investors, industrialists, and members of the business community from both countries.

Haroon Akhtar Khan said that Pakistan-China relations are based on trust, consistency, and a shared vision, adding that business-to-business engagements between the two countries are opening new economic avenues.

He noted that the positive outcomes of the Prime Minister's visit to China last year are now beginning to materialize, while the confidence of Chinese investors in Pakistan continues to strengthen.

Pakistan Armed Forces gave historic defeat to India: Tariq Fazal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Saturday said Pakistan's armed forces gave a "clear and historic defeat" to India during the Marka-e-Haq and Bunyan-un-Marsoos operations, while the entire nation stood united

behind the military leadership.

Addressing an event held to commemorate Marka-e-Haq, he said a "new Pakistan" emerged before the world after the operation, describing May 9 and 10, 2025, as a historic turning point in the country's history.

He said the enemy had underestimated Pakistan's strength

but received a strong and decisive response. He added that under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, hostile designs against Pakistan were successfully foiled.

Dr. Tariq said the armed forces had made it clear that the blood of every martyr would be avenged, adding that the Pakistan Air Force demonstrated

exceptional professionalism by shooting down six enemy fighter jets.

He also referred to remarks by Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, saying the "6-0 score" statement became symbolic of Pakistan's success during the conflict.

He praised the "Shaheens" of the Pakistan Air Force for

shattering the enemy's claim of aerial superiority, saying the opposing side's air defence system even failed to protect its own aircraft.

He further said that due to the professional performance of the Pakistan Air Force during the conflict, the failure of the Rafale aircraft became a subject of global discussion.

AJK PM marks anniversary of historic victory, hails nation's resolve

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir State Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that May 10 would always be remembered as a historic day reflecting the nation's courage, steadfastness, unity and unwavering resolve to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a special message issued on the first anniversary of the Mark e Haq, the Prime Minister said that no power on earth can defeat a nation which stands united like an iron wall for the defense of its homeland.

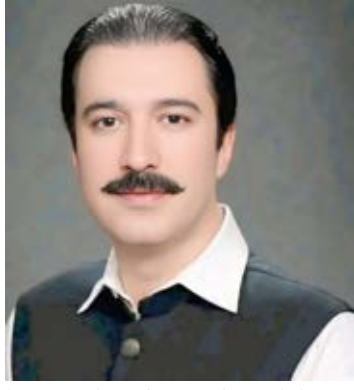
He paid eulogizing tributes to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and

the brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy for successful implementation and execution of the operation that forced the enemy to retreat in humiliation.

Delivering a crushing defeat to an enemy five times larger in strength and size had filled the entire nation with pride", he added.

He also lauded the armed forces for the exceptional courage, unmatched professionalism and supreme sacrifices they displayed during the historic battle.

"The Pak army had scripted a new chapter in history through their unmatched bravery, strategic excel-



lence and professional capabilities", the PM said, adding that the Pakistan's decisive victory in the Operation

Bunyan um Marsoos demonstrated to the world that Pakistan's unmatched defense capabilities, combat preparedness and unwavering commitment to defend the motherland.

The Prime Minister said the Kashmiri people salute the sacrifices, unwavering resolve and indomitable spirit of the nation's brave defenders.

Terming the martyrs and Ghazis as the pride of the nation, he said that their supreme sacrifices would continue to inspire future generations. Paying rich tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives in defense of the homeland, he said their sacrifices would always be remembered with honor and gratitude.

AJK Minister Marks Operation Banyan Marsoos Anniversary as Victory for National Dignity

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Information Minister of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar said in his special message on the occasion of the first anniversary of the success of Operation "Banyan Marsoos" that today is a day of pride, dignity and renewal of commitment for the entire nation. This historic battle is a clear proof of the fact that Pakistan is fully capable of protecting its security, sovereignty and national dignity and Pakistan's defense is invincible. A year ago, Pakistan Armed Forces, by displaying exceptional professionalism, courage and strategy, thwarted the evil intentions of the enemy and further strengthened the confidence of the nation. We pay tribute to Field General Syed Asim Munir, the brave officers and men of the Pakistan Army and the national security institutions for this great success. Operation "Banyan Marsoos" is not only a military success but also a symbol of national unity, public confidence and patriotism.



Technical Education Boost: Minister Inaugurates New Labs at Kotli TEVTA Center



Bureau Report

KOTLI: Minister for Food, TEVTA and KDA, Chaudhry Javed Iqbal Budhanvi, paid a detailed visit to the TEVTA Vocational Training Center Kotli, where he inspected various technical departments and inaugurated key initiatives aimed at promoting modern training facilities.

During the visit, the Minister formally inaugurated laboratories for solar panel technology, mobile phone repairing, and CCTV camera systems. He also reviewed different sections of the vocational center and interacted with trainees, showing keen interest in their learning process and practical skills development.

While addressing students, teachers, staff, and media representatives, Chaudhry Javed Iqbal Budhanvi stated that the promotion of technical education under TEVTA remains one of the government's top priorities. He highlighted that modern, market-oriented training programs are being introduced to equip youth with employable skills, enabling them to earn a dignified livelihood and contribute positively to national development.

On the occasion, the institution's principal, DFC Munawar Chauhan, Food Inspector Rizwan Budhanvi, Arsalan Budhanvi, president PC Shah Nawaz Butt and others were also present.

Azad Kashmir Leader praises Pakistan Military for Operation Bunyan Marsoos success

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Rawalpindi Islamabad organized the Muarka e Haq and Bunyan Marsus Convention. President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan addressed the Muarka e Haq and Bunyan Marsus Convention.

Addressing the convention Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Muarka e Haq and Buysn Marsoos has resolved all concerns related to the defense of Pakistan. We highly pay tribute to the sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. We pay tribute to the Chief of Army Staff of the Armed Forces of Pakistan Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the entire military leadership for the success of Operation Bunyan Marsoos. The success of Operation Bunyan Marsoos has increased the respect of Pakistan all over the world.

KICS UET Lahore Hosts "Marka-e-Haq" Session for NAVTTC Trainees



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, successfully organized a special session titled "Marka-e-Haq (مِرکَاہِ حَق)" under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme for the trainees of NAVTTC PMYSDP Batch III on 8th May 2026 at the KICS Seminar Hall. The event aimed to inspire youth, promote skill-based education, and highlight the importance of digital technologies in national development.

The session was attended by distinguished guests including Mr. Rizwan Anwar, Special Representative to the Prime Minister, Youth Programme, Mr. Asfand Yar Naseer, Special Representative to the Prime Minister, and Ms. Maha Jamil, Special Representative to the Prime Minister. The guests were warmly received by Prof. Dr. Shahzad Asif, Director KICS UET Lahore, along with Mr. Kashif Bashir, Senior Manager Trainings, who played a leading role in organizing and coordinating the event.

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the National Anthem, followed by welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. Shahzad Asif, who appreciated the role of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and NAVTTC in empowering youth through technical and digital skills training.

Media Talk

MUZAFFARABAD: Spokesman to Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Shaukat Javed Mir talking to media persons during the Bunyan Marsoos rally organized by APHC.



AJK PM Attends Funeral of Major General Gilani's Mother-in-Law



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Saturday attended the funeral prayers of the mother-in-law of Major

General Intiaz Gilani, Commandant FCNA, hailing from Haveli.

The funeral prayers, held at Race Course Ground, were attended by a large number of people, including former President and Prime Minister

of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, ex PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, as well as senior military and civil officials. On the occasion, Prime Minister Rathore expressed heartfelt con-

lences to Major General Intiaz Gilani and prayed that Allah Almighty grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss with patience and fortitude.

University Events Highlight Patriotism and Support for Pakistan Armed Forces

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the completion of one year of the Muarka Haq Bunyan Marsoos, various events were organized at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in the spirit of love for the homeland, national solidarity and devotion to the Pakistani armed forces.

The event was attended by Director Students Affairs Dr. Rehana Kausar, Director Institute of Kashmir Studies Dr. Sameera Shafiq, teachers, students and people from different walks of life. During the ceremony, the hall echoed with slogans of Pakistan Zindabad and Pak Army Zindabad, while the students expressed their love and loyalty to the home-



land through national songs. In her address, Dr. Sameera Shafiq said that the young generation is a valuable asset of any nation and attracting them towards positive, creative and constructive activities is the need of the hour.

Dedicating the competition to the

martyrs and ghazis of the Pakistan Army, she said that the services of the Pakistani Armed Forces for the survival, security and stability of the beloved homeland are unforgettable.

He said that the younger generation should learn from the sacrifices of their protectors and play a role in

the development and prosperity of the country and nation.

Dr. Sameera Shafiq also appreciated the active and dynamic role of Director Students Affairs Dr. Rehana Kausar in organizing the ceremony and said that under her leadership, the positive activities of the students are being promoted in the university.

The national songs presented at the ceremony created excitement among the participants and the atmosphere was fragrant with feelings of patriotism.

Qasim Bukhari and Noor Sher performed the duties of judges for the competition. The judges based their results on the students' performance, voice, presentation style and collective spirit.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:38 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:56 pm
Maghrib	6:57 pm
Isha	8:32 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cannt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Balochistan Police Officers Visit PSCA

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Police Officers of Balochistan Police visited Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) as part of a specialized study tour aimed at enhancing modern policing capabilities through advanced digital technologies. During the visit, 35 DSPs of Balochistan Police participated in an extensive training program focused on AI-based digital policing, smart surveillance systems, modern investigation techniques, and technology-driven law enforcement practices.

According to the spokesperson of PSCA, the training sessions provided detailed briefings on smart policing strategies, advanced surveillance technologies, artificial intelligence-based monitoring systems, and use of modern digital tools for crime prevention and effective policing. The visiting officers toured various operational units of PSCA, including state-of-the-art Command and Control Center, where they observed digital monitoring operations, emergency response mechanisms, and smart policing systems in real-time.

The trainee officers appreciated PSCA's specialized training initiatives and termed its efforts for promoting AI-based technology, smart monitoring, and digital policing highly commendable. They stated that the practical exposure and professional learning gained during the study tour would significantly contribute to strengthening modern policing and crime prevention mechanisms in Balochistan.

The spokesperson of Punjab Safe Cities Authority stated that PSCA remains committed to promoting smart policing through advanced AI-based systems and innovative digital technologies to ensure a safer, smarter, and more secure environment for citizens across Punjab.

CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz pays tribute to Armed Forces on completion of 'Maarka-e-Haq' year

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Saturday expressed gratitude on the completion of one year of "Maarka-e-Haq", paying tribute to its heroes and saying the people, government and armed forces of Pakistan stood united like "Bunyan-un-Marsoos".

The chief minister paid tribute to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir, Air Marshal Babar Zaheer and Admiral Naveed Ashraf for their leadership and services.

In her message, she said the "8-0 victory" in Maarka-e-Haq would never be forgotten by the enemy, adding that the world had witnessed Pakistan's victory and India's defeat.

She said the operation had left a lasting impression of Pakistan's strength on the

enemy and proved that while Pakistan was peace-loving, it could also respond with unity and resolve whenever required.

Calling Maarka-e-Haq a glorious chapter in Pakistan's history, the chief minister said the world saw the entire nation standing united against the enemy. She added that the unity between the armed forces and the people forced the enemy to bow before Pakistan's resolve.

CM Punjab further added that bold leadership laid the foundation for the historic success in Maarka-e-Haq. She said that patriotic Pakistanis across the world were celebrating the victory, while celebrations were being held in every city, village and street of Punjab.

The chief minister said students, teachers, traders, lawyers, politicians and farmers, along with people from all walks of life, were celebrating the success



of Maarka-e-Haq. She also praised the professional capabilities of Pakistan's armed forces, saying the country's "Shaheens" demonstrated their superiority over the enemy through exceptional military skills.

Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: A youngster taking bath in Angoori waterfall during a hot summer day in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FESCO to mark the first anniversary of Mark-e-Haq

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A grand rally was organized by the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) to mark the first anniversary of Mark-e-Haq (Bunyan Marsoos) and to express solidarity with the brave Pakistani armed forces while paying tribute to their unparalleled sacrifices. Participants in the rally carried national flags and placards inscribed with slogans in support of the Pakistan Armed Forces and Mark-e-Haq (Bunyan Marsoos). The participants also wore commemorative badges representing the campaign. Earlier, FESCO Chief Executive Officer Engr. Muhammad Amer inaugurated the rally by releasing green



and white balloons into the air. Speaking on the occasion, CEO FESCO Engr. Muhammad Amer congratulated the nation on the completion of one year of Mark-e-Haq (Bunyan Marsoos) and paid rich tribute to the courageous

armed forces of Pakistan. He expressed unwavering solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces and stated that their courage, bravery, and professional excellence are a matter of pride for the entire nation. The rally was attended by

all FESCO General Managers, the Company Secretary, Chief Engineers, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Internal Auditor, Chief Legal Officer, Directors General, Directors, Superintending Engineers, SO to CEO, and a large number of FESCO officers and employees.

Faisalabad: CEO FESCO Engr. Muhammad Amir is leading a rally organized to express solidarity with the armed forces on the occasion of the first anniversary of Maarka-e-Haq (Bunyan Marsoos).

Faisalabad: CEO FESCO Engr. Muhammad Amir is speaking to the media before the rally organized to express solidarity with the armed forces on the occasion of the first anniversary of Maarka-e-Haq (Bunyan Marsoos).

'Bunyan-un-Marsoos' symbolizes national unity, Abrar Ahmad Khan

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A grand rally was organized on Murree Road, Rawalpindi, by the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APSMSA) District Rawalpindi to mark one year of the success of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos, Marka-e-Haq." The rally, led by APSMA North Punjab President Abrar Ahmad Khan, was attended by teachers, students, and private school owners.

APSMSA office bearers and participants including Aamir Anwar, Abrar Ahmad Advocate, Sakina Taj, Asma Shahid, Farzana Tabassum, Raja Nauman Qamar, Shahid Yousaf, Amjad Hussain, Mustafeen, Yasir Arafat, Iftikhar Ahmad, Muhammad Kamran, Rehan Saeed, Farukh Mahmood and Sobia



participated enthusiastically. The rally marched from the Rawalpindi Press Club to Murree Road, expressing solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Addressing the rally, Abrar Ahmad Khan said that Marka-e-Haq "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" symbolizes national unity, determination, and collective consciousness.

He paid tribute to Syed Asim Munir and the Pakistan Armed Forces, stating that the nation stands united for the country's defense and security. He added that the teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal continue to inspire the youth toward unity, selfhood, and practical struggle.

He emphasized the need to equip the younger generation

with modern scientific and technological education alongside strong Islamic values. He also urged the government to take immediate reforms in the education sector, ensure access to education for every child, abolish Friday and Saturday holidays, and limit summer vacations to one month to overcome educational losses.



AJK Ministers Ch. Yasir Sultan and Ch. Akhlaq Ahmed called on senior PPP leader in charge of party affairs of AJK PPP Ch. Riaz Ahmed in Islamabad and exchanged mutual interest matters particularly in the elections scenario.

Christian Study Centre Organizes Training on Composite Heritage and Peacebuilding in Sindh



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Christian Study Centre successfully organized a two-day training programme on Composite Heritage and Peacebuilding on May 8-9, 2026, at Indus Hotel. The training brought together representatives of civil society organizations, youth leaders, peace practitioners, and social activists from different districts of Sindh to strengthen collaborative efforts for peace, harmony, and social cohesion.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the Christian Study Centre emphasized that Sindh possesses a rich tradition of pluralism, coexistence, and shared cultural identity rooted in Sufi traditions, indigenous heritage, and intercommunal harmony. They noted that promoting these shared values is essential for strengthening social cohesion and countering narratives of division and extremism.

Citizen Council reorganized Mian Tahir Ayub as new president



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The city's well-known social organization Citizen Council has been reorganized. Former Chairman CC 28 Gulistan Colony Mian Tahir Ayub will be the president, while Mian Tajammul Hussain Senior Vice President, Mian Nasir Mahmood Vice President, Saqib Farooq Butt General Secretary, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry Media Organizer, Deputy Secretary Zaheer Ahmed, Mian Zahid Ayub Chief Organizer, Sajid Kambho Deputy Chief Organizer, Zahid Islam Finance Secretary will be the members. Mian Tahir Ayub said that the organization will work hard to solve the problems of the citizens and act as a bridge between the citizens and the relevant institutions. At present, the biggest problem facing the citizens is parking, due to which the citizens are suffering severely. Efforts will be made to solve these by reviewing the facilities in street lights, encroachments, green belts and parks. Liaison with FDA, WASA, FESCO, Municipal Corporation, PHA and other institutions and the district administration to solve public problems. And assistance will be provided.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone: +92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
 Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Punjab Is Coming Alive

Across 52 cities of Punjab, the streets are finally beginning to tell a different story. Roads that once crumbled under heavy traffic are being rebuilt. Decades-old drainage lines are being replaced. Sewerage systems are being modernized, public spaces restored and neglected neighborhoods brought back into the development map. Under the Punjab Development Plan, the provincial government has committed Rs.305 billion to what is rapidly becoming one of the largest urban renewal programmes in South Asia.

The ambition is not merely cosmetic. It is structural. And unlike many public-sector announcements in the south asian region, the machinery is already on the ground.

Nearly 40 percent of priority infrastructure work across 51 cities has already been completed, with drainage, sewerage and road reconstruction moving at an unusual speed. In Lahore alone, more than 16,400 streets are under reconstruction, with close to 60 streets being upgraded every day. Phase One of the Lahore Development Plan has been completed, while Phase Two has crossed 76 percent completion. Planning for the third phase is already underway.

For a province where rapid urbanization has long outpaced infrastructure capacity, the significance extends beyond construction statistics. Punjab's cities absorb millions of commuters, traders, students and workers every day, yet many urban centers have struggled for years with broken roads, stagnant rainwater, collapsing sewerage systems and unmanaged expansion. The economic

cost of dysfunction has been enormous, measured not only in damaged infrastructure but also in lost productivity, rising health risks and declining quality of life.

The government's strategy increasingly resembles models adopted by globally successful cities that treated infrastructure not as isolated engineering projects but as long-term investments in economic growth and social stability.

When Seoul restored the Cheonggyecheon stream corridor in the early 2000s, the project transformed a deteriorated urban zone into one of Asia's most celebrated public spaces. Property values increased sharply; business activity expanded and temperatures in surrounding districts dropped measurably. Singapore spent decades modernizing drainage and flood management systems, turning a flood-prone trading port into one of the world's most resilient urban economies. Copenhagen redesigned its public spaces and transport networks around people rather than vehicles, reducing congestion while improving public health and urban mobility.

Punjab's urban programme is rooted in a similar understanding; cities function better when infrastructure works predictably for ordinary citizens.

That impact becomes visible in everyday life almost immediately. Better drainage means fewer flooded streets during monsoon rains and fewer outbreaks of waterborne diseases that disproportionately affect children and elderly residents. Reconstructed roads

reduce vehicle damage, fuel consumption and commuting time for millions of workers and small traders. Cleaner and more organized commercial districts improve foot traffic for businesses. Functional public spaces create safer environments for women, children and families while encouraging healthier outdoor activity.

retaining their architectural and social identity.

Perhaps the most consequential transformation, however, is administrative rather than physical.

Public infrastructure projects have often been undermined by delayed execution, weak monitoring and short-lived construction quality. Punjab's current programme attempts to reverse that pattern through measurable benchmarks, centralized monitoring and stricter accountability mechanisms. District administrations are evaluated against delivery targets, timelines and quality standards, while the provincial leadership has repeatedly emphasized durability over symbolic announcements.

That shift matters because infrastructure ultimately shapes public trust in governance itself. Citizens judge governments less by speeches than by whether roads remain intact after rainfall, whether drainage systems function during storms and whether municipal services improve daily life in visible ways.

Cities remain the engines of modern economies and Punjab, home to nearly 60 percent of Pakistan's urban population, increasingly appears to recognize that economic growth, climate resilience and social stability all begin at the street level. With a Rs. 305 billion budget and construction already advancing across dozens of urban centres, the province is attempting something larger than beautification alone.

It is attempting to rebuild the relationship between citizens and the cities they live in.

(The writer is a Lahore-based public policy analyst and can be reached at qudratu@gmail.com)



Analysis

Qudrat Ullah

First Anniversary of Maarka-e-Haq

One year ago, Pakistan was put to the test, and it did not blink.

The events of April and May last year were not simply a military episode. They were a moment of national reckoning. When India, under the guise of the Pahalgam false flag operation, launched unprovoked strikes on our soil, targeting mainly civilian areas besides military installations, Pakistan responded with discipline, precision, courage and unity. Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, the decisive centrepiece of Maarka-e-Haq, demonstrated what our armed forces are capable of when the country stands behind them as one. Our response was calibrated, measured, precise and proportionate. Our message was unambiguous.

Maarka-e-Haq showed the world that Pakistan's deterrence is not a slogan. It rests on professional competence, tri-service coordination and the resolve of a people who shall not accept aggression lying down. We salute our men and women in uniform and we bow our heads in honour of every martyr who gave their life so that this nation could stand tall. It is part of our DNA that when a war is imposed on us, every Pakistani becomes a soldier, some in uniform and most without.

Pakistan today is recognised as a state that not only knows how to defend itself but also serves as a guarantor of peace and stability. In the context of recent tensions in West Asia, Pakistan, through responsible and balanced diplomacy, played a key role in facilitating a ceasefire between the United States and Iran and bringing both sides to the negotiating table. Our efforts helped avoid further bloodshed and contributed to stabilising the broader regional environment. Pakistan will continue its efforts to promote peace, dialogue and stability wherever it can make a difference.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the Kashmir dispute remains the root cause of instability in this region. No honest account of South Asia's security challenges can avoid that truth. The aspirations of the Kashmiri people, enshrined in United Nations Security Council resolutions, have not been extinguished by decades of occupation. They shall not be. Pakistan's commitment to a just and lawful resolution remains unchanged.

India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty is tantamount to weaponisation of water. The Treaty, brokered by the World Bank and signed in 1960, has survived four wars and sixty-five years of bitter rivalry between two nuclear-armed neighbours. It was designed to be beyond the reach of political crises. India's decision to put it in abeyance, without any legal basis for unilateral suspension, is a threat to the livelihoods of millions. Water is not a bargaining chip. Pakistan shall defend its water rights with the same resolve it has shown in defence of its territory.



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

Teaching: A Quiet Privilege We Forget

Long before my transition into education, reading foreign media—especially English-language newspapers from the UK and the USA—was part of my professional routine. During those days, I came across an article in The Guardian that spoke about growing discontent within the teaching community and a sense of ingratitude towards the profession. I remember being genuinely surprised—how could a teacher feel ungrateful? At the time, I could not fully understand it.

Years later, standing in a public school classroom myself, I understand it all too well.

In the modest staffroom of a public school in rural Punjab, I often hear colleagues voicing their frustrations—concerns about salary adjustments, privatisation drives, indiscipline among students, overcrowded classrooms, and limited opportunities for meaningful capacity building. Many of these concerns carry weight and deserve attention. Yet, at times, the reasoning behind them appears either weak or altogether absent.

I try to persuade my colleagues—though not always successfully—that a persistent focus on limitations can quietly undermine our own effectiveness.

One of the most troubling aspects is the deepening trust deficit. A culture of suspicion has taken root, where even constructive policy measures are often viewed through a lens of doubt. Consider, for instance, the public-private partnership initiatives introduced for struggling educational institutions. Designed to revive underperforming schools without displacing teachers, such efforts had the potential to be genuinely transformative. Yet, despite assurances and

safeguards, they struggled to gain acceptance within segments of the teaching community.

Capacity building, too, occupies an important place in our narrative of victimhood. There is a frequent call for more training, more opportunities, and more institutional support—and rightly so. However, a quieter contradiction often follows. When the government facilitates and invests in our professional growth—through higher education opportunities such as MPhil and PhD programmes, along with financial incentives—some among us begin to distance themselves from the very classrooms we are meant to serve.

Teaching in public schools, particularly those serving underprivileged communities, is sometimes perceived as less aligned with newly acquired academic status. Yet it is precisely these classrooms—filled with students who rely most on dedicated instruction—that justify such investments in the first place.

This is not merely an inconsistency; it raises a deeper question of responsibility. If public resources enable our growth, then public classrooms must remain at the centre of our commitment.

At the same time, not all concerns raised by teachers are misplaced. Many warrant serious attention, thoughtful remedies, and meaningful reform. Beneath the surface of routine complaints lie genuine struggles—rising living costs, limited institutional support, and a gradual erosion of professional respect—that cannot be dismissed lightly. A system that expects excellence must also listen with sincerity and respond with fairness.

One practical step could be the development of structured medical facilities for teachers—similar, in spirit, to those available to the armed forces and other essential services. Access to reliable healthcare, along with improved working conditions and targeted professional development would not only address legitimate concerns but also help restore confidence within the profession.

Teaching remains an extraordinary profession. It may not always bring recognition, reward, applause, or public acknowledgment. Yet it consistently offers something far rarer and deeper—the opportunity to shape a life in ways that may never be fully seen or measured. A teacher often works in silence, planting seeds of thought, character, and confidence that may take years to bloom. The impact is not always immediate, nor always visible, but it is enduring. In this sense, teaching is not merely a profession of instruction; it is a quiet act of transformation that extends far beyond the classroom walls.

The call, therefore, is simple yet demanding. We must not allow frustration to overshadow meaning. Let constructive critique refine us rather than harden us. Let reform inspire growth rather than lead to exhaustion or disillusionment. And above all, let us return—again and again—to the quiet conviction that what we do in classrooms is not routine work. It is transformative work, shaping minds, strengthening character, and influencing futures in ways we may never fully witness, but will always matter.

The author is an educator, social awareness advocate, and the voice behind several impactful online campaigns aimed at reviving empathy and moral consciousness among youth. He regularly writes on issues of social decay, educational reform, and the urgent need for character-building in modern societies. He tweets at @ToleranceAdvocate.



Analysis

Muhammad Rabnawaz Awan

Pakistan's Resolute Defence and Diplomatic Poise: A Testament to National Strength

In an increasingly volatile regional and global environment, Pakistan continues to demonstrate a judicious blend of military preparedness and diplomatic maturity. Recent developments have once again underscored the country's unwavering resolve to safeguard its sovereignty while simultaneously advancing peace, stability, and constructive international engagement. Pakistan's armed forces, renowned for their professionalism, operational readiness, and strategic acumen, remain a formidable pillar of national security. Their steadfast vigilance, coupled with

its perspective with clarity, confidence, and credibility.

Pakistan's diplomacy has effectively highlighted the imperative of peaceful conflict resolution, regional cooperation, and respect for sovereign equality among nations. The country's representatives across world capitals and multilateral forums have projected Pakistan as a responsible state committed to peace yet fully prepared to defend its national interests. The convergence of military strength and diplomatic sophistication has enhanced Pakistan's stature internationally. It has reaffirmed that national power in the contemporary era is not measured solely by defence capability, but also by the ability to shape narratives, build strategic partnerships, and pursue peace through dialogue and statesmanship.

Furthermore, the resilience and unity displayed by the Pakistani nation during challenging times deserve profound recognitions. The collective confidence of the people in their institutions remains an invaluable source of strength that fortifies the country's national resolve. As Pakistan advances on the path of stability and progress, its calibrated approach, anchored in strategic deterrence, diplomatic engagement, and responsible statecraft will continue to serve as a source of confidence for its citizens and a stabilizing factor for the broader region.

Pakistan today stands not only as a militarily capable nation, but also as a diplomatically astute and responsible actor, determined to contribute constructively toward regional peace, international cooperation, and a more secure future for all.



Analysis

Nadeem Ahmed Shah

Alkhidmat Honors New Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association President, Stresses Welfare Synergy

Anwar Chohan

GUJRAT: A dignified ceremony was organized by the Secretary General of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Syed Waqar Jafri, in honor of the newly elected President of the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association, Haji Amjad Farooq. The event was attended by prominent personalities from welfare, social, and business circles.

The purpose of the ceremony was to appreciate the efforts of organizations and individuals working with the spirit of serving humanity and to promote mutual cooperation among welfare institutions. On this occasion, Haji Amjad Farooq was paid tribute for his valuable services in the treatment and rehabilitation of underprivileged children, especially those affected by cleft lip and palate condi-

tions. The ceremony was also attended by the President of the Pak International Business Forum, Dr. Mushtaq Mangat, who emphasized in his speech that collaboration and coordination among charitable organizations are the need of the hour for serving the deprived segments of society. He stated that when welfare organizations driven by the spirit of service benefit from



each other's experiences and capabilities, the positive impact directly reaches deserving individuals.

During the event, the guests were given a detailed briefing on the various welfare projects and public service programs of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan. Participants

were informed about the organization's ongoing services in the fields of disaster management, healthcare, education, clean water, orphan care, Islamic microfinance, and the Bano Qabil Program, along with several other social welfare initiatives.

On this occasion, Syed Waqar

Jafri thanked Haji Amjad Farooq, Nadeem Manzoor Bega, and Azizur-Rehman Mujahid, and said that through mutual cooperation, sincerity, and collective efforts, their mission of serving humanity and bringing ease to the lives of underprivileged communities would continue.

Punjab Governor Honored at Lavish Dinner Hosted by Business Leader Alhaj Amjad Farooq

Anwar Chohan

LAHORE: In honor of the Governor of Punjab, a grand dinner was hosted at his residence by Pakistan's renowned businessman and social personality, and President of the, Alhaj Amjad Farooq. The event was attended by distinguished personalities from political, social, business, and welfare circles.

Among the notable guests were Abid Farooq of NM Furnishers, Mr. Adeel of Jamal Pipe, Ali Ashraf of Super Asia Gujranwala, President of Tanzeem-e-Mughlia Pakistan Rauf Mughal, prominent Islamabad social figure Yasir Iqbal, along with several other respected guests.

The guests were warmly received by Alhaj Amjad Farooq and his sons, Luqman Amjad, Rizwan Amjad, and Ahmad Farooq. The gathering was held in a pleasant and dignified atmosphere, where participants exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, social services, welfare activities, and various aspects of business cooperation.



On this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan praised the social and welfare contributions of Alhaj Amjad Farooq and said that

such individuals are valuable assets to society, dedicating themselves to humanitarian service and public welfare.

At the conclusion of the event, special prayers were offered for the peace, progress, and prosperity of Pakistan.

Marka-e-Haq 10 May Paid Tribute to the Field Marshal General Asim Munir and Pakistani Armed Forces

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Member of National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, Member of Provincial Assembly Syed Ali Haider Gillani and President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Industrial Estate Board of Management Multan Mian Baktawar Tanveer Sheikh Talking To Media on the occasion He Said Marka-e-Haq 10 May Paid Tribute to the Field Marshal General Asim Munir and Pakistani Armed Forces. 10 of May paid tribute to the eternal sacrifices and professional capabilities of the Pakistani armed forces for the defense security and sovereignty of the beloved homeland and said that last year, Pakistan gave a full effective and decisive response to India's aggression and efforts to create tension in the region destroying the enemy's evil intentions.



People's Lawyers Forum South Punjab Celebration First Anniversary Of Marka-e-Haq in Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the completion of one year of the glorious victory of the People's Lawyers Forum South Punjab, a celebration and cake cutting ceremony held at the District Bar Hall Multan. Addressing the ceremony, People's Lawyers Forum South Punjab President Sheikh Ghayas-ul-Haq, District President Barrister Faiz Rasool Labar, Feroza Faiz, Nagina Muzaffar Hiraj, Safdar Sarsana, Nafees Ansari, Syed Arif Shah, Wajid Rizvi, Ayesha Ali, Fayyaz Bhutta, and Adnan Haideri said that India once again attacked Pakistan a year ago by making baseless allegations against it. The Pakistani armed forces responded befittingly. The immortal leadership of Field Marshal Hafiz Asim Munir forced India to kneel and destroyed its evil intentions and taught them a lesson for the rest of the world and reminded them of the times by shooting down India's aircraft.

Our military leadership has proved that Pakistan is a peace-loving and the best mediator country in the world today. Not only did Pakistan win a war with its powerful country a year ago, but it also saved the world from destruction by preventing a major war.

Multan-Sheikh Ghayasul Haq, Barrister Faiz Rasool Labar, Feroza Faiz, Nagina Muzaffar Hiraj, Safdar Sarsana, Nafees Ansari, Syed Arif Shah, Wajid Rizvi, Ayesha Ali, Fayyaz Bhutta, and Adnan Haideri are cutting the cake on the completion of one glorious year of the Muarka Haq success organized by PLF.

Four New Water Filtration Plants Inaugurated, Boosting Total to 183

Anwar Chohan

GUJRAT: The inauguration ceremony of all four filtration plants was jointly performed by President of Rasheeda Shafi Foundation, Imtiaz Kausar, Patron-in-Chief of Falah Insaan Society Piro Shah, Mehr Muhammad Yaqoob, along with Chaudhry Tauseef Abdullah, Dr. Nusrat Riaz, Chaudhry Waheeduddin, Amjad Majeed Butt, Ikhlaj Ahmed, Seth Qamar Khurshid, and other members and office-bearers of the Falah Insaan Society.

With the inauguration of these four new filtration plants, the total number of filtration plants established has now reached 183. Upon the arrival of President Imtiaz Kausar and his team in Piro Shah, the local residents gave them an extraordinary and



memorable welcome. Children and elders stood holding flower garlands and flower petals, and as the guests arrived, petals were showered upon them. A special prayer was also offered

after the inauguration ceremony.

On this occasion, members of the Executive Council of Falah Insaan Society Piro Shah, including Asjad Mahmood, Amjad Ali, Yasir Nomi,

Chaudhry Shahid Arif, Ghufuran Asad, Yaseen, Dr. Pervez Iqbal, village guests Asif Aziz Advocate, Dr. Abu Bakar Farooqi, Dr. Nusrat Riaz, Mehr Sajjad Hussain, Irfan Akram Chauhan, Malik Mehdi, Ansar Butt, Captain (R) Muhammad Aslam, former Chairman Haji Irfan Mukhtar, former Nazim Mustansar Imtiaz, Nadeem Afzal, Muhammad Asif Zaman, Abrar Farooq, Muhammad Riaz, Malik Afzal, Usman Ali, Muhammad Ali, Ammar Afzal, Mirza Hasnain, Lala Mubashir, Malik Anwar, Muhammad Boota Bahawal, Mehr Waqas, Naeem Bakhsha, Mehr Muhammad Ayub, Qaiser Hameed, Mehr Jameel, Qari Umar, Muhammad Riaz, Akhtar Sahi, and many others were also present.

Following the inauguration ceremony, a high tea was arranged in honor of all the distinguished guests.

IRS Seminar Highlights Growing Food Crisis in Pakistan amid Geopolitical Tensions

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, organized a seminar titled "Harvesting Hunger: A Looming Food Crisis in Pakistan" to assess the growing risks of food insecurity in the country, driven by fertilizer shortages and ongoing geopolitical instability in the region.

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, cautioned that the global community is not paying adequate attention to the rapidly intensifying food crisis. He highlighted the strategic importance of the Gulf region, noting that it accounts for 30-35% of global urea trade, while nearly 30% of the world's fertilizer trade passes

through the Strait of Hormuz, making it a critical chokepoint with far-reaching implications for global food supply chains.

Ms. Isabel Bogorinsky, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Head of Program in Pakistan, emphasized the vital role of international non-governmental organizations in strengthening food security in Pakistan. She noted that WHH, established in 1962, is one of Germany's largest private non-profit aid organizations and is currently operating in over 22 districts across Pakistan. She outlined the organization's approach, which focuses on enhancing community resilience and transforming food systems

rather than relying on short-term interventions. In 2025 alone, WHH reached approximately 4.72 million people through its initiatives.

Mr. Omer Bangash, Food and Nutrition Security Advisor at WHH, presented key findings from the Global Hunger Index 2025, under which Pakistan ranks 106th out of 123 countries with a score of 26.0, indicating a "serious" level of hunger. He further shared that the IPC Technical Working Group assessed that in 2025, around 11 million people in Pakistan faced acute food insecurity, including 1.7 million in IPC Phase 4, representing extreme levels of crisis.

Projections for 2026 indicate a sharp escalation, with up to 20 million people expected to face acute food insecurity and malnutrition between April and September.

Moderating the session, Mr. Talha Tufail Bhatti, Lead Climate Governance, Policy and Food Security Program at IRS, underscored that Pakistan is entering its 2026 heatwave season, warning that "extreme heat" is emerging as a critical risk multiplier. He stressed the need for a whole-of-society approach to effectively address the intensifying climate crisis and its cascading impacts on food security.

Inflation May Force People onto the Streets if Govt Fails to Provide Relief: Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Member of Provincial Assembly from Attock, Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari, has warned that continuous increases in fuel prices, electricity, gas, and taxes have made life extremely difficult for the common people, and if immediate relief is not provided, the public may be forced to come out onto the streets in protest.

While talking to the media, Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari Advocate said that the victory of "Bunyan-e-Marsous Marka-e-Haq" should certainly be celebrated, but the government must also show mercy towards the poor economic condition of the people and reduce its luxurious expenditures to focus on solving public problems.

He stated that although a few countries in the world may have increased petroleum prices, neighboring countries including India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan have not raised fuel prices, whereas in Pakistan, the public is burdened with new price hikes almost every week.

He further said that the middle class has now reached the poverty line, while low-grade government employees are struggling to run their households on limited salaries. Addressing the finance minister, he challenged him to prepare a monthly budget for an ordinary government employee to see how survival is possible under current economic conditions.

The PTI lawmaker added that rising fuel prices have also increased public and goods transport fares by five to ten percent, directly affecting ordinary citizens. He expressed concern that educated youth, despite holding degrees, are wandering in search of jobs, while overseas Pakistanis are also being expelled from different countries, worsening unemployment and the economic crisis. Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari claimed that reports have emerged regarding the confiscation of the savings of thousands of Pakistanis, calling the situation alarming. He urged the government to provide immediate relief in electricity, gas, and other essential utilities and formulate policies that genuinely benefit the people.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
171,115.82	172,894.27	
Day's High	Day's Low	
172,287.45	170,393.12	
Index Value	Change	
24,163,399,291	-1778.45	
Percentage	Time	
-1.03%	8 May, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,233.07	-43.88	
Percentage	Time	
-0.43%	8 May, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
49,605.42	+8.45	
Percentage	Time	
+0.017%	8 May, 1:54 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
62,713.65	-120.19	
Percentage	Time	
-0.19%	8 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200.06	207.40
Bahrain Dinar	722.95	733.44
Canadian Dollar	203.02	207.25
China Yuan	40	40.65
Danish Krone	43.30	43.70
Euro	327.82	331.83
Hong Kong Dollar	35.06	36.06
Indian Rupee	2.50	2.70
Japanese Yen	1.7659	1.8674
Kuwaiti Dinar	880.44	891.24
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.80
New Zealand \$	163.75	167.70
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	722	733.05
Qatari Riyal	74.75	76.75
Saudi Riyal	74.30	75
Singapore Dollar	218.32	222.85
Swedish Korona	30.30	30.60
Swiss Franc	355.92	360.65
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	76	77
UK Pound Sterling	379.19	383.70
US Dollar	279	279.75

Aurangzeb says economic recovery intact amid regional conflict, assures uninterrupted fuel supply

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Saturday said Pakistan's economy continued to show signs of recovery despite ongoing regional tensions, citing strong growth in large-scale manufacturing, exports, remittances and foreign investment inflows.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, the finance minister said the country's large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector recorded an 11 per cent year-on-year growth in April, while cumulative growth during the first nine months of the current fiscal year stood at 6.5 per cent.

He said the government expected the GDP growth rate to remain close to four per cent during the current fiscal year, compared to 3.1 per cent last year.

"Exports have grown by nine per cent month-on-month and 14 per cent year-on-year, driven by value-added textiles, IT and other sectors," he said, adding that export growth was broad-based.



Highlighting overseas inflows, Aurangzeb said remittances reached \$3.5 billion in April after touching \$3.8 billion in March during Ramazan, describing the sustained inflows as a strong vote of confidence by overseas Pakistanis.

He said inflows under the Roshan Digital Account (RDA) also rose sharply to \$320 million in April, the highest monthly volume in the scheme's history.

"This is an investment-led discussion. Overseas Pakistanis are investing in New Pakistan Certificates, real estate and the stock market," he remarked.

The minister said Pakistan had also re-entered international capital markets

after four years and recently raised \$750 million through a Eurobond issuance during the ongoing regional conflict.

He added that Pakistan was set to access Chinese capital markets for the first time through a Panda Bond next week. "Inshallah, next week you will hear good news that for the first time, we will be accessing Chinese capital markets through Panda Bond," he said.

Aurangzeb said the country's foreign exchange reserves were projected to reach a level equivalent to around three months of import cover by the end of June.

He said macroeconomic stability was aimed at ensuring industrial continuity, opening letters of credit, facilitating the repatriation of profits and dividends, and generating employment opportunities.

Commending the Petroleum Ministry for maintaining uninterrupted fuel supplies during the past two months, the finance minister said no shortages or supply chain disruptions had occurred in the country despite challenges faced across the region.

TallyMarks Consulting Demystifies AI Adoption for Pakistani SMEs

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A session aimed at helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) adopt artificial intelligence was hosted by TallyMarks Consulting (TMC) at the Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex in Lahore.

The "AI Now Simplified for SMEs" programme attracted SME owners, department heads, business leaders, and members of academia from across the city. Organisers said the initiative directly addresses Pakistan's AI adoption gap, where the use of artificial intelligence has largely remained limited to large enterprises and tech-focused startups.

"AI is not your competition. The businesses using AI are," event materials stated, underscoring the urgency for SMEs to act.

The keynote address was

delivered by Dr. Syed Sohail H. Naqvi, Director EdTech at TallyMarks Consulting (TMC) and Chairman of Knowledge Streams, who described AI adoption as a national competitiveness imperative. Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh, Senior Vice President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), also highlighted the growing need for AI adoption to address real-world challenges related to productivity, costs, and market competition. Anas Wahab, Chief AI Officer at TallyMarks Consulting, presented a practical roadmap for immediate AI adoption. The hands-on training sessions were led by Trainer Shahmeer Maqbool and Co-Trainer Ammaw Ahmad, who guided participants through live demonstrations of tools such as Gemini, ChatGPT, Canva AI, and Google Vids.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq hails success of Bunyan-ul-Marsoos Operation

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chairman of the Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq congratulated the entire nation on the success of Marka-e-Haq/Bunyan-ul-Marsoos and said that this great achievement would be written in golden words in history and remembered for generations to come. He stated that the brave Armed Forces of Pakistan foiled the evil designs of the enemy and raised the nation's head with pride.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that the people of Pakistan are immensely proud of their armed forces, who have rendered countless sacrifices for the defense of the country and the nation. He paid tribute to the martyrs and veterans, saying that the nation



would never forget their sacrifices. Mian Kashif Ashfaq stated that the success of Marka-e-Haq/Bunyan-ul-Marsoos has boosted the morale of the entire nation and proved that Pakistan is a strong, united and unconquerable country. He prayed that Allah Almighty may bless Pakistan with lasting peace, stability and prosperity and grant continued success to the Armed Forces of Pakistan in every field.

Rally on Marka-e-Haq

CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Investment Board Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh leading a rally to commemorate the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq.



Photo: Online

Service Long March Tyres IPO Opens New Investment Avenue in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Service Long March Tyres Limited (SLM Tyres), Pakistan's first and largest truck and bus radial (TBR) tyre manufacturer and exporter, shared key details of its upcoming Initial Public Offering (IPO) during a roadshow held in Karachi, positioning the company as a major investment opportunity linked to Pakistan's growing manufacturing and export economy.

Based on the IPO pricing range, the company is currently being evaluated at approximately USD 550 million, with the management targeting to transform SLM Tyres into a USD 1 billion company within the next two years through expansion, exports, and capacity enhancement initiatives said Omar Saeed, CEO of Service LongMarch Tyres Limited while briefing

the investors at a pre-IPO road show in Karachi.

Backed by its market leadership, nationwide footprint, strategic China joint venture partnership, and expansion-driven growth strategy, the company aims to further strengthen its position in Pakistan's tyre industry through the IPO process scheduled later this month. Senior management, investors, brokerage houses, and capital market participants attended the roadshow where the company outlined its future expansion plans, market outlook, and long-term growth strategy.

According to the offering details shared during the session, the IPO will be offered at a price band ranging between PKR 14.25 and PKR 19.95 per share.

The registration period for investors will run from May 13 to May 15, 2026, while the book building process is sched-

uled for May 18 and 19, 2026. The offering size is expected to range between PKR 5.5 billion and PKR 7.8 billion, representing 5 per cent of the company's post-issue capital.

The IPO is being managed by Arif Habib Limited.

SLM Tyres also highlighted its strategic joint venture partnership with a leading Chinese tyre manufacturer, enabling technology transfer and strengthening local manufacturing capabilities in Pakistan.

Commenting during the roadshow, Omar Saeed said the offering represents more than just a capital market transaction, describing it as a long-term commitment towards building Pakistan's largest globally competitive tyre manufacturing platform and leading way forward for setting up JVs with Chinese companies in Pakistan and get listed on PSX.

Commerce Minister emphasizes financing reforms, better implementation to unlock dairy sector growth

ISLAMABAD: Representatives of the Corporate Dairy Farmers Association called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and briefed him on the progress, investment potential, and future expansion plans of Pakistan's dairy and livestock sector, while appreciating the government's continued engagement with the formal dairy industry.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the transformation taking place in Pakistan's corporate dairy sector through modern breeding, artificial insemination, scientific herd management, and advanced milk handling systems, said a release issued here on Saturday.

The participants informed the Minister that commercial dairy farms are now producing high-quality milk under international standards, enabling the production and export of value-added dairy products, including cheese and processed dairy items.

Experts and Trade Leaders Demand Measures to Curb Retail Inflation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: To combat rising market manipulation and arbitrary grocery inflation, Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) today hosted a high-level consultative meeting in Islamabad, drawing participation from the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI), prominent traders, and major industry stakeholders. Besides Muhammad Anwar, CEO, FGP, and Sheikh Tayyab Saeed, President ICSTSI, Sardar Zaheer Ahmad, Senior Vice President and senior representatives from both organizations were present on the occasion.

Muhammad Anwar, CEO of FGP, highlighted the urgent need for a structural pivot to protect the public. He states, "Expanding the Third Schedule is not a plea for corporate tax exemptions; it is a vital structural reform."

Representing the trading community, Sheikh Tayyab Saeed, President of ICSTSI, emphasized how the current regulatory approach is distorting the market. He said, "The government's attempt to force retail documentation through punitive 6.5% taxes have completely missed the mark."

The meeting concluded with a joint resolution calling upon the Ministry of Finance, the FBR, and



the provincial Chief Ministers to recognize on-pack price printing as a fundamental consumer right.

The coalition plans to formally submit its policy briefs to the Senate and National Assembly

Committees on Finance ahead of the finalization of the 2026-27 budget.

Development work under "Maryam Nawaz's Sohna Punjab" program progressing rapidly, says Zeeshan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique has said that development work is progressing rapidly in 52 cities under the "Maryam Nawaz's Sohna Punjab" program. The provincial minister was briefed on the development work under the supervision of the Local Government Department in 52 cities.

during a review meeting of the Punjab Development Program (PDP) held at the Program Management Unit Office Garden Town. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian and Special Secretary also attended the meeting. The provincial minister was briefed on the development work under the supervision of the Local Government Department in 52 cities.

Ibrahim Hasan Murad Pays Tribute to Military Leadership and National Unity on Historic Success in Marka-e-Haq

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chairman and President of the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Ibrahim Hasan Murad, paid rich tribute to the leadership of the Pakistan Armed Forces, their unwavering resolve and the unity of the nation on the historic success of Marka-e-Haq. He stated that this remarkable achievement reflects Pakistan's national dignity, defense strength and growing recognition at the global level.

Ibrahim Hasan Murad said that under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the Pakistan Armed Forces demonstrated exceptional courage, strategic wisdom and professional excellence in delivering a strong and effective response to the enemy's

hostile intentions. He remarked that Marka-e-Haq further strengthened the spirit of unity, patriotism, sacrifice and defense of the homeland among the entire nation.

Murad emphasized that any compromise on Pakistan's national security, sovereignty and defense is unacceptable, adding that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its armed forces. He stated that every malicious attempt against the homeland would be countered through national unity, strong defense and collective determination.

The Chairman UMT further stressed that the foundation of a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan lies in national cohesion, internal stability and mutual trust. He said that every citizen must



fulfill their national responsibilities with commitment and dedication to uphold national dignity and ensure the triumph of truth and justice.

Highlighting the role of youth, Ibrahim Murad urged the younger generation to actively contribute towards national development, intellectual awareness, positive thinking and the promotion of constructive values so that Pakistan may emerge as a stronger and more progressive state in the future.

Murad also paid tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs, describing them as a source of pride for the nation. He said that the families of the martyrs deserve the utmost respect and honor and the nation will always remember their sacrifices with gratitude and reverence.

Zone IV, Zone VI and Zone Zone II win in Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Brilliant batting by Aibaad Khan 97 and Deadly bowling by Slow left arm spinner Muhammad Umar Ejaz 5/41, Medium Pacer Asadullah Hamza 4/19, slow left arm spinner Afnan Khan 4/25 highlights of the 3rd and Last day of the 5th round of the three day Matches of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament. Zone-IV, Zone-VI and Zone-II defeated their opponents in these Matches played at various Grounds. The Tournament is being Organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

The Following are the results of the Matches.

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-IV beat Zone-VII by 135 runs. Zone-IV 1st Innings 311 and 2nd Innings 222.

Zone-VII 295 and 2nd Innings 103 37 all out in 37 overs. Sabeh Siddiqui 47 7x4 not out. Asadullah Hamza (mf) 4/19, Afnan Khan (sla) 4/25, Hamza Shah Afridi 2/17. Asadullah



Hamza got 8/72 in the Match. Zone-IV got 9 points in the match.

At KCCA Stadium Zone-VI beat Zone-I by 135 runs.

Zone-VI 1st Innings 238/9 and 2nd Innings 276/7 in 68.5 overs Declared. Aibaad Khan 97 12x4 1x6, Ghulam

Ashraf 67 7x4 2x6, Kashif Ali 40 4x4, S. M. Tahami 27, Rehman Ghani 2/31, Muhammad Mubashir 2/38, M. Taha Mehmood 2/39.

Zone-I 1st Innings 163 and 2nd Innings 216 all out in 59.2 overs. Farman ullah 70 9x4 Muhammad

Taha Mehmood 43 7x4 2x6, Muhammad Raza 28, Malik Zainul Abideen 25, Rehman Ghani 22, Saifullah (ob) 4/53, Muhammad Makki 2/31, Muhammad Asad 2/33. Zone-VI got 9 points and after 4 Matches Zone-VI Total Points 29.

At Baqai Cricket Ground Zone-II beat Zone-V by 12 runs. Zone-II 1st Innings 242/8 and after concede first Innings lead of 27 runs Zone-II 2nd Innings 241 all out in 64.4 overs Wahaj Riaz 60 5x4 1x6, Muhammad Moazam 35, Ali Hassan 35, Asad Akhtar 30, M. Shahryar Ashar Usmani 22. Muhammad Abiss 3/29, Arif Shah 3/38, Muhammad Ali Butt 2/48.

In reply Zone-V 1st innings 269 and Chasing 214 for Victory all for 2nd Innings 202 in 42 overs. Shah Raza Naqvi 61 8x4 3x6, Muhammad Abiss 32, Waton Dost 29, Fawad Shah 27. Muhammad Umar Ejaz (sla) 5/41 in the Match 9/98. Rehan Ali Shah 2/36, Asad Akhtar 2/41. Zone-II got 6 points in the match.

PDSA Pakistan Pays Tribute to Pakistan Armed Forces on Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq

Bureau Report

KARACHI: On the occasion of Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq, the Pakistan Down Syndrome Association (PDSA Pakistan) paid rich tribute to the bravery, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment of the Pakistan Armed Forces for defending the sovereignty, dignity, and integrity of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Abid Lashari, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, CEO of PDSA Pakistan, stated that Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq reminds the nation of the courage, resilience, and unity demon-

strated by the people of Pakistan and its armed forces during challenging times in the country's history.

He said that the sacrifices rendered by the martyrs and defenders of Pakistan will always be remembered with respect and gratitude. "The Pakistan Armed Forces have played a vital role in safeguarding the nation and protecting the future of coming generations," he added.

Mr. Lashari emphasized that national strength lies not only in defense capabilities but also in unity, inclusion, peace, and equal opportunities for all citizens, including persons with disabilities. He



called upon all segments of society to promote harmony, tolerance, and collective responsibility for a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan.

PDSA Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to continue working for an inclusive society where every citizen, regardless of ability, can contribute positively towards national development and social cohesion.

The organization also prayed for the prosperity, peace, and stability of Pakistan and expressed solidarity with the families of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country.

Thalassemia Awareness Ceremony observed in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On World Thalassemia Day, an awareness ceremony was held in Attock to highlight the importance of preventing and managing Thalassemia and to show support for affected children and their families.

Rao Atif Raza attended as chief guest along with health officials, doctors, nurses, welfare representatives, patients, and parents. Speakers emphasized that thalassemia is a hereditary disease that can largely be prevented through timely screening and precautionary measures, especially pre-marital testing.

Officials including Sohail Ahmed Hilal, Dr Asad Ismail, and Dr Jawad Elahi stressed the need for public awareness, regular blood donations, and improved healthcare support for patients.

The event also included distribution of gifts to children suffering from thalassemia, awareness briefings for participants, and special prayers for the well-being of patients and national prosperity. #

Bahrain and US circulate Security Council resolution on reopening Strait of Hormuz

UNITED NATIONS: Bahrain and the United States have distributed a draft Security Council resolution calling for Iran to cease attacks in the Strait of Hormuz, according to the ambassadors of the two countries.

The text is supported by Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), whose representatives also took part in the media stakeout. Iran dismisses the draft as "one-sided."

But there were no indications as to when the draft resolution would be brought to a vote.

The development comes a day after the UN Security Council met in closed session following Monday's missile and drone attacks on the UAE, which the Iranian military categorically denied carrying out.

The Strait of Hormuz is critical not only to the stability and the prosperity of the Gulf region, but also to the global economy, Bahraini Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaieci told reporters.

"Recent developments have underscored the importance of keeping this strategic waterway safe, secure and fully open. They have also shown the need for collective action," he said.

He explained that the Bahrain-US text builds on the "historic" Council resolution 2817 (2026). Adopted in March, it condemned in the strongest terms "egregious attacks" by Iran against seven neighbouring countries.

The draft resolution calls for Iran to immediately cease all attacks and threats against merchant and commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. It also addresses the placement of mines and illegal tolling in the critical maritime channel.

"Allowing such action to become normalized is unacceptable. In addition, the draft addresses participation in the United Nations efforts to establish a humanitarian corridor in the Strait," he added.

US Ambassador Mike Waltz underscored that the freedom of navigation for the entire global economy is "what's at stake here - nothing less than a cornerstone of worldwide stability and commerce."

He warned that "those who abuse it, or seek to throw it out, are setting a very, very dangerous precedent - and frankly setting the stage to doom global trade."

Waltz said the draft resolution "requires Iran to do some very simple, straightforward things," however he noted Tehran's announcement earlier this week of the Persian Gulf Straits Authority which requires international ship captains to pay a toll when transiting the waterway. "So that doesn't just affect this region. It affects the entire world," he said.

PM Shehbaz says Pakistan emerged stronger after Marka-e-Haq

Continued from Page 8

The premier paid tribute to the officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces, who, with support of the Pakistani nation, "inscribed a new chapter in Pakistan-India context".

"Pakistan clearly manifested its desire for peace, while re-establishing deterrence and safeguarding its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Let there be no doubt that any aggression to undermine Pakistan will be met with an immediate, befitting and full-spectrum response. We stand determined and vigilant to ensure security along our frontiers.

"We also remain steadfast in our efforts to root out Fitna al-Kha-

warij and Fitna al-Hindustan and take the fight against terrorism to its logical conclusion," PM Shehbaz said.

The premier further said no story of Pakistan was complete without Kashmir, which he said remained the "unfinished agenda of the subcontinent's partition."

"Strategic stability in South Asia, without the resolution of Kashmir issue, would remain a distant dream which needs to be resolved in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan shall continue to stand by the fundamental right of freedom and self-determination of Kashmiri people," the prime minister said.

How Qatar Turned Social Media into a Battlefield of Public Diplomacy during the FIFA World Cup

Muniba Saeed

In the modern world, diplomacy is no longer limited to official meetings or carefully written statements. It has moved into a fast and competitive digital space where opinions are formed in seconds. Social media has become a powerful tool for countries to influence how they are seen globally. In the Middle East, one of the clearest examples of this shift is Qatar, especially during the FIFA World Cup 2022. This event was not just about football; it became a global stage where Qatar fought to shape its image in front of billions.

Public diplomacy is simply the way a country communicates with people in other countries to build trust and improve its reputation. For a small state like Qatar, this is very important. It cannot compete with

larger countries through military or size, so it uses communication, media, and global events to increase its influence. Social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube have allowed Qatar to directly connect with millions of people worldwide without relying only on traditional news channels.

Qatar has one of the highest internet usage rates in the world, with more than 99% of its population online. This means that digital communication is a major part of everyday life. The government and its institutions use social media not only to share news but also to promote culture, tourism, and national achievements. However, the real test of this digital strategy came during the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Hosting the World Cup brought massive global attention. The tournament attracted around five billion viewers worldwide, making it one of the most

watched events in history. At the same time, Qatar faced strong criticism from international media and human rights organizations. Issues such as the treatment of migrant workers, labor laws, and social policies were widely discussed. These concerns quickly spread on social media, turning platforms into spaces of debate and criticism.

Instead of staying silent, Qatar actively used social media to respond. Official accounts shared updates about reforms, including improvements in labor laws and working conditions. They also highlighted the country's rapid development, modern stadiums, and cultural heritage. Videos showing fans enjoying the event, exploring traditional markets, and interacting with locals were widely shared. This helped Qatar present a more human and welcoming image to the world.

One of the most effective strat-

egies was the use of influencers and digital creators. Qatar invited people from different countries to attend the World Cup and share their experiences online. These influencers posted content showing positive aspects of life in Qatar, reaching millions of followers. This approach made the country's message feel more personal and less official, which is important in today's digital environment.

At the same time, social media became a battlefield of competing narratives. While Qatar promoted its achievements, critics continued to highlight problems. Hashtags related to human rights and labor issues trended globally. News clips, personal stories, and opinion posts circulated widely, creating a mix of positive and negative views. This showed that social media is not fully controllable. Once a topic becomes global, different voices shape the conver-

sation.

Another important part of Qatar's public diplomacy is Al Jazeera. With millions of followers across different platforms, it played a major role in covering the World Cup and presenting Qatar's perspective. Its strong digital presence allowed Qatar to remain visible in global discussions and influence how stories were told.

Despite all efforts, it is important to ask: was Qatar fully successful? The answer is mixed. On one hand, the country managed to host a successful tournament, impress visitors, and showcase its development. Many fans shared positive experiences online, which improved Qatar's image. On the other hand, criticism did not disappear. In fact, social media kept these issues alive throughout the event. This shows that while social media can help manage a country's image, it cannot completely

control global opinion.

There are also risks in using social media for diplomacy. One major issue is misinformation. During the World Cup, false claims and misleading content spread quickly, making it difficult for people to know the truth. Another challenge is trust. Modern audiences are more aware and critical. If they feel that a country is only showing one side of the story, they may not believe it. This means that honesty and transparency are very important in digital diplomacy.

Still, Qatar's experience highlights an important reality. In today's world, influence is not only about power or size. It is also about communication. Social media allows even small countries to compete on a global level by sharing their stories and engaging with audiences directly. Qatar used this opportunity to stay active in global conversations

rather than letting others define its image.

In conclusion, the FIFA World Cup 2022 showed how social media has become a new battlefield for public diplomacy in the Middle East. Qatar used digital platforms to promote its identity, respond to criticism, and influence global opinion. While it achieved some success, it also faced challenges that show the limits of digital control. In this new era, winning the battle of perception is not just about speaking louder, but about being more honest, responsive, and connected to the audience.

As Joseph Nye famously said: "Soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion."

Qatar showed this during the World Cup by using social media to win global attention through culture, hospitality, and storytelling instead of pressure or control.

Illuminations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Office building illuminated with green lights to commemorate the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PM Shehbaz says Pakistan emerged stronger after Marka-e-Haq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said Pakistan had emerged stronger, more resilient, and united after Marka-e-Haq (Battle of Truth), as the nation marks the first anniversary of the event with tributes to martyrs, armed forces personnel, and military leadership for defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity against neighbouring India.

Marka-e-Haq is the official name given to the broader conflict with India that began



after the Pahalgam incident on April 22, 2025, and ended with the ceasefire on May 10, 2025, resulting in a convincing victory for Pakistan.

"Marka-e-Haq is a day to

bow in gratitude before Allah Almighty for His countless blessings upon us. Today, we commemorate Pakistan's valiant stand in adversity and the crushing defeat

we inflicted on the enemy. The nation pays tribute to its martyrs, their families and the ghazis who stood like a steel wall to defend their homeland. The well-coordinated and synchronised response of our forces across land, sea, air and cyber domains established Pakistan as an invincible nation," PM Shehbaz said in his message on the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq.

He paid tribute to Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for his leadership and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber and

Admiral Naveed Ashraf for their strategic prudence.

"Marka-e-Haq bears testimony that Pakistanis are a peace-loving, yet courageous, resilient, and dignified nation who can neither be intimidated nor subdued by any aggressor. Marka-e-Haq is etched in history as an epic feat of achieving overwhelming dominance over an enemy, bent on unprovoked aggression.

"The enemy was administered a heavy dose of reality serum to dispel its illusion of invincibility."

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Marka-e-Haq elevated Pakistan's global standing: Rubina Khalid

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid has said that the victory of Marka-e-Haq has elevated Pakistan's image across the world.

Senator Rubina Khalid said that the positive image Pakistan enjoyed across the world today was entirely owed to Marka-e-Haq. "The professionalism, bravery and strategic brilliance with which our armed forces confronted India during Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos is a matter of immense



pride for the entire nation," she stated.

She said that every patriotic Pakistani was walking with their head held high today.

She said that the hosting of peace talks in Islamabad was a major diplomatic triumph for Pakistan, further cementing the country's standing on the global stage.

The BISP Chairperson paid rich tribute to the mothers, sisters, and sons who sacrificed their loved ones for the homeland.

"The entire nation is proud of its martyrs and heroes," she said.

Nation Proud of Armed Forces; Abdul Aleem Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the completion of one year of the "Mark-e-Haq Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos,"

President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan paid glowing tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, the Field Marshal and all heroes who participated in the operation.

In his special message, Abdul Aleem Khan said that May 10 is a memorable day in Pakistan's military history when the Armed Forces, through courage, strategic brilliance and unmatched professionalism, crushed the enemy's arrogance.

Abdul Aleem Khan praised the bravery of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Army



and Pakistan Navy, stating that the entire nation held its head high with pride during the "Mark-e-Haq". He also commended Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu and Chief

of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf for their outstanding leadership and professional excellence.

Federal Minister for Communications stated that the falcons of the

Pakistan Air Force established such dominance deep inside enemy territory that the entire world now acknowledges their strength.

Central General Secretary Mian Khalid Mahmood, Central Secretary Information Syed Samsam Bukhari, Provincial President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan, General Secretary and MPA Muhammad Shoaib Siddiqui, Malik Zaman Naseeb, Mian Junaid Zulfikar, Rana Javed Iqbal, Taskeen Khakwani and Dr. Javeria Soharwardi, in their messages, paid rich tribute to the combat capabilities of the Pakistan Army and the leadership of Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir. They also congratulated the entire nation on the successful completion of one year of Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos.

President Zardari felicitates Russian leadership on Victory Day



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday extended felicitations to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and the people of Russia on the occasion of Victory Day.

"In a message, conveyed on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan, the President noted that victory in the Great Patriotic War remains a solemn and enduring reminder of the immense sacrifices made by the Russian people in the defence of their homeland and in the

global struggle against fascism," President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release issued in Islamabad.

The president further remarked that the historic triumph stood as a symbol of the resilience, courage and determination of the Russian nation as well as its enduring contribution to international peace, security and stability.

Zardari also paid tribute to the memory of all those who laid down their lives in the fight against Nazism, including the soldiers from the region of the Indus Valley who served as part of the Allied Forces.

Khawaja Asif lays foundation of 300-bed hospital in Sialkot



Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a new 300-bed teaching hospital at Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital Sialkot which will be constructed at a cost of Rs 9 billion.

The ceremony was attended by Provincial Minister for Labour and Human Resources Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Member Punjab Assembly (MPA) Chaudhry Faisal Ikram, and Deputy Commissioner Saba Asghar Ali.

Addressing the participants of the ceremony, Khawaja Asif said no other province could match the pace of development projects in Punjab.

He thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for approving funds for the new teaching hospital.

He said that during the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had approved the project in 2016, but the past governments delayed it for nearly a decade. Due to the delay, the project cost increased from Rs 3-4 billion to around Rs 9 billion, causing a loss of billions of rupees to the national exchequer. He termed the delay "criminal negligence."

Khawaja Asif said several development projects were underway in Sialkot, including the redesigning of Nullah Bhed, from where around 7,000 tons of waste had already been removed.

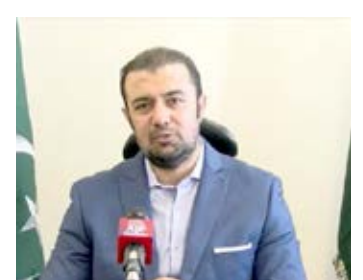
Govt creating new opportunities for economic growth through digital economy: Khurram Shehzad

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Advisor to the Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad has said that the government is creating new opportunities for economic growth through digitization of the economy, improvement in the tax system, financial transparency and investor-friendly policies. He said accounts can play an important role in improving institutional performance, enhancing transparency and supporting policymaking in line with modern economic requirements.

He expressed these views while addressing the two-day SAFA International Summit 2026, organized jointly by the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMA Pakistan) at a local hotel on Saturday.

The summit was attended by SAFA President Humayun Kabir, ICMA President Azeem Hussain Siddiqui, ICMA Vice President and Chairman Organizing Committee SAFA Inter-



national Summit Muhammad Yaseen, along with renowned financial experts, policymakers, regulators and corporate leaders from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and other member countries.

Khurram Shehzad said the world is currently passing through a period of rapid economic, technological and geopolitical changes where artificial intelligence, the digital economy, global political shifts and changing social priorities are reshaping the global financial system. In such circumstances, the role of the accounting and finance profession has become more important than ever.