



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

عائز رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی وفات ہوئی تو میرے تڑپ خانہ میں کوئی غلڑہ تھوڑی سی جاہلہ کے کمانے کے قابل ہوتا، سو اچھوڑتے سے جو کے جو میرے تڑپ خانہ میں تھے، میں ان میں ہی سے کھاتی رہی آخر آٹا کرب بہت دن ہو گئے تو میں نے انہیں پاپوؤں ختم ہو گئے۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6451)

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Armed forces countered Indian aggression with courage: Khalid Maqbool

MQM Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said after the defeat in Marka-e-Haq, India is nowhere to be seen in the entire region today. In a statement, MQM Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that India had imposed war on 'us, and our armed forces courageously confronted Indian aggression'.



Enemy given befitting response in Marka-e-Haq: KP governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said the Armed Forces of Pakistan strengthened national defence by giving an effective response to the enemy. Faisal Karim Kundi said, "Our forces strengthened national defence by giving an effective response to the enemy. The eyes of the world are on Pakistan's diplomatic and defence strategy today."

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Marka-e-Haq celebration

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Baber Sidhu and Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf on the occasion of the first anniversary of the landmark military operation, Marka-e-Haq, Sunday.



Pakistani nation, armed forces well capable, ready to defend territorial integrity: President



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday appreciating the "calibrated yet shocking" response to the Indian aggression during Marka-e-Haq last year, reaffirmed that the Pakistani nation and armed forces were well capable and always ready to defend the territorial integrity and national interests in the face of any challenge.

The president, addressing the event held at the Pakistan Monument to commemorate the first anniversary of Marka-

e-Haq, recalled that twelve months had passed since one of the most important chapters in Pakistan's national history.

The event was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, federal ministers, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, diplomats, students and people from different walks of life.

"India chose unprovoked aggression on the basis of false flag Pehalgam incident and launched air strikes on Pakistani civilians and worship places without any justification. Indian media misled the nation by projecting fabricated stories and dreams," he recalled.

He said that the Pakistani nation and the armed forces under the leadership of Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir gave a "calibrated yet shocking" response to the Indian aggression.

Future aggression against Pakistan to invite serious consequences: warns Field Marshal

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir while terming the country's defence impregnable against any external aggression, on Sunday warned that any future hostile action against Pakistan would have serious, far-reaching and painful consequences.

"Alhamdulillah! today, Pakistan's defence is fully impregnable against any external aggression, and any future

hostile action against Pakistan will have serious, far-reaching and painful consequences," the COAS vowed while addressing a special ceremony at the General Headquarters (GHQ) to commemorate the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq victory.

He said that Marka-e-Haq was not merely a war between two countries but a decisive clash between "two ideologies" in which truth ultimately prevailed.

The CDF said Pakistan emerged victorious with the support of Allah, while "falsehood faced humiliation and

defeat."

He went on to say said the day was a matter of pride for the entire nation, adding that the success demonstrated the country's strength, unity, and resolve in the face of challenges.

Syed Asim Munir said the events of May 2025 were not isolated, but part of a long pattern of what he described as Indian hostility and propaganda against Pakistan. India's perceived ambition to isolate Pakistan militarily and diplomatically, and alter the regional balance of power, would never



succeed, he reiterated.

The COAS said Pak armed forces and people had never been intimidated in the past and would not be in the future.

He said the confrontation from the night of May 6-7 until May 10 was an unsuccessful attempt by the enemy to test Pakistan's national resolve and dignity.

However, he said Pakistan, its people and the armed forces achieved an unparalleled victory in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos with the blessings of Allah.

PM pays tribute to leadership of armed forces for extraordinary valour during Marka-e-Haq Bunyan un Marsoos

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday paid tribute to the leadership of the armed forces led by Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asif Munir for showing exemplary courage and valour during Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan un Marsoos and defeating the nefarious designs of the enemy in May 2025.

He paid tribute to Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asif Munir, who wrote new chapters of bravery and valour in this battle.

"Field Marshal Syed Asif Munir's wise and courageous leadership will always be remembered in golden letters. Field Marshal Syed Asif Munir, I and the entire nation salute you. This story of bravery will remain incomplete if I do not mention here in glorious words Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar and his falcons who destroyed enemy planes and exposed the claims of the enemy."

"Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar, I also pay tribute to you and congratulate your falcons. I congratulate Admiral Naveed Ashraf and the men and women of the Navy on the glorious victory of Marka-e-Haq.

Pak Navy marks first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq victory in Karachi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi said the Marka-e-Haq was not a military victory but a war for the sanctity of the country.

Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi addressed a solemn ceremony held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard Karachi on completion of one year of glorious victory in the Marka-e-Haq.

Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi warned the response to the attempt to challenge the future sovereignty will be more severe and swift than it thinks.

Faisal Abbasi said there is no compromise on the security and independence of Pakistan.

Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi said the Pakistani people become a lead-lined wall to defend the homeland. The Pakistan Navy ensured the security of the maritime borders, Vice Admiral said.

Meanwhile, Karachi Port Trust organized a magnificent boat rally to pay tribute to the undying bravery, perseverance and great sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

A large number of boats participated with great enthusiasm, which was a strong expression of national solidarity, unity and devotion to the

Continued on Page 7

Heavy rains in KP trip 159 feeders, two killed in rain-related incidents

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Heavy rain and strong winds lashed parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, disrupting electricity supply and causing casualties after roofs and walls collapsed in multiple areas, officials said.

According to a spokesperson for Peshawar Electric Supply Company, at least 159 feeders tripped due to severe weather, suspending electricity supply in several districts. The outages affected multiple regions including Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Khyber and Swat.

The spokesperson said 41 feeders were affected in Peshawar Circle, 21 in Mardan, 13 in Khyber, 53 in Swabi and 31 in Swat. Restoration work was underway, with field teams working to resume supply as weather conditions improve.

PESCO officials said the situation was being monitored through a central control room, while operational teams had been placed on high alert. The company's chief, Akhtar Hameed Khan, directed staff to expedite restoration efforts and ensure safety protocols during repair operations.

According to rescue sources, two people lost their lives while seven others were injured in separate incidents caused by collapsing structures.

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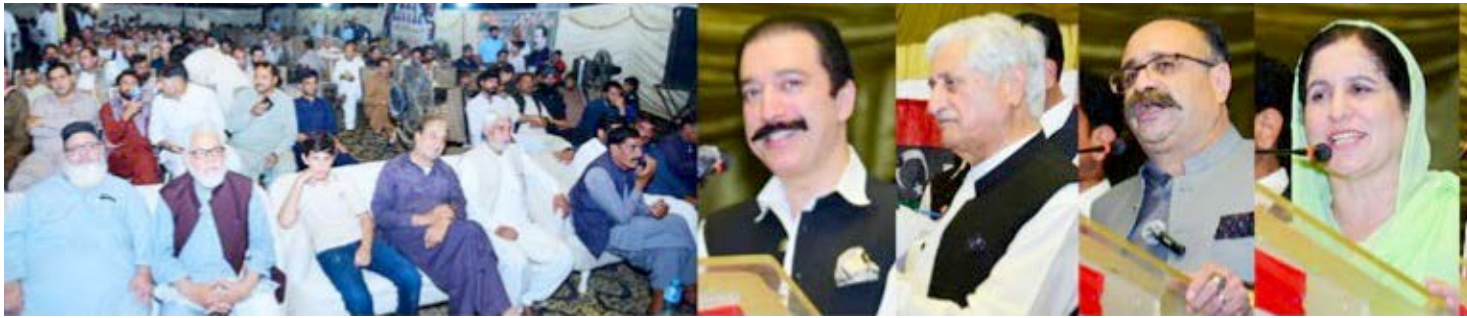
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AJK PM praises Pakistan Army's success in Operation Marka-e-Haq



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the historic success in Mark e Haq proved the Pakistani nation's unwavering resolve and commitment to safeguard the country's ideological and territorial sovereignty.

He expressed these views while addressing a grand convention organized by the Kashmiri community at Chakri Road, Dhamial, to mark the first anniversary of the Bunyan-um-

Marsoos. Speaking on the occasion, the AJK premier lauded the Pakistan army for its professionalism, combat preparedness and patriotism.

"The exemplary courage, professionalism and defense strategy displayed by the armed forces during the Operation Bunyan um Marsoos is being acknowledged both at national and international level", the pm remarked. He also praised the military leadership particularly Field Marshal Gen.

The convention was also addressed by former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob

Khan, former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas and government minister Nabila Ayub and others. Addressing the event they paid glowing tributes to the Pakistan Armed Forces for the historic success in Mark e Haq.

They said that the brave armed forces, through unmatched courage, professionalism and strategic capabilities, foiled the enemy's designs and upheld the country's sovereignty and integrity. They also paid homage to the martyrs and ghazis of Pakistan and said the entire nation takes pride in their sacrifices for the defense of the moth-

erland.

The convention, attended by a large number of members of the Kashmiri community residing in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

On the occasion, several political workers and leaders from different parties announced their decision to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Jammu and Kashmir. They were welcomed by party leaders. The convention was hosted by Central Vice President of PPP Azad Kashmir and party candidate from Baloch constituency Sardar Inayatullah Arif.

AJK Election Commission Warns Staff Over Voter Data Entry Errors

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A press release issued by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has said that NADRA has completed the preparation of the basic electoral rolls in collaboration with the Election Commission team. Now the data entry work is going on under the supervision of the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners. All the registration officers should ensure that the data entry work is done correctly as per the material provided. Now the concerned registration officer and data entry staff will be responsible for any mistake, against whom strict action will be taken by the Election Commission. The press release further said that if any fake identity card is caught, the concerned registration officer should immediately register a case against such a person and bring it to the notice of the Election Commission.



DGPR Muzaffarabad Observes Battle of Haq Victory Day with Ceremony



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A grand ceremony was held at DGPR Muzaffarabad on the occasion of Victory Day of the Battle of Haq, in which Director Public Relations Tariq Jamil Durrani cut a cake along with departmental officers. During the ceremony, tribute was paid to the professional skills, bravery and sacrifices made by the Pakistan Armed Forces for the defense of the country. The participants also offered special prayers for the stability, security and development of the beloved homeland. Speaking on the occasion, Director Public Relations Tariq Jamil Durrani said that the Pakistani Armed Forces are the pride of the nation, and we salute our guardian armed forces of Pakistan for the historic victory in the Battle of Haq. He said that Victory Day of the Battle of Haq is a day of renewal of national unity, determination and patriotism. Deputy Director Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain Shabbir and other officers were present at the ceremony.

Marka-e-Haq Celebration and Organized a Rally on Pakistan Railway Multan Division

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A prestigious ceremony was held on the theme of Marka-e-Haq Haq. Banyan al-Masrus organized by Pakistan Railway Multan Division, in which the professionalism of the Pakistan Army, national defense. The achievements and effective role of Pakistan Railways were highlighted. A large number of officers, employees and children participated in the event. Assistant Traffic Officer Muhammad Rizwan Khalid in the ceremony. Obaid Pal Mechanical Engineer and Medical Officer Dr. Muhammad Sami also participated and at the end a rally was taken out by the participants which started from the venue of the event and ended at the railway station.



Historic ACTIVIT Margalla Triathlon debuts on Marka-e-Haq Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first-ever ACTIVIT Margalla Triathlon 2026 was held in Islamabad on Marka-e-Haq Day, marking Pakistan's debut Olympic and Sprint-style triathlon. The event brought together local and international athletes who competed across swimming, cycling, and running disciplines, showcasing endurance, discipline, and sportsmanship.

In the main results, Shahrez Khan, widely regarded as Pakistan's leading triathlete, won the individual title, further strengthening his reputation as the country's top endurance athlete with growing international recognition. The Pakistan Army team secured victory in the team category.

In other categories, Saltanat Sambina won the women's sprint solo event, Evgenii Yussyuk claimed the Olympic solo title, Enub Khan won the 5-kilometre fun race, while Mona Khan finished second.

Moazzam Khan Klair credited Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, CEO of ACTIVIT and Director National Hospital DHA Lahore, for sponsoring the event. He dedicated the occasion to the martyrs of the nation and to those contributing to Pakistan's progress through courage and service.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, highlighting the successful introduction of triathlon culture in Pakistan.

Lightning

RAWALPINDI: Lightning strikes over a residential area during a thunderstorm, in the city.



Photo: Online

Operation Bunyan Marsoos Resolved Defense Concerns, Unity Vital: Former AJK PM

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. In the current situation, the entire nation should unconditionally stand behind the Pakistani forces.

Pakistan is endowed with natural and defensive capabilities. There

is no difference between opposing the Armed Forces of Pakistan and opposing the sovereignty of God-given Pakistan. The enemy wants to take advantage of our internal division and chaos.

Muqam Credits Unity, Military Prowess for 'War of Truth' Victory Over India

City Desk

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, speaking at a large public meeting in Fatehpur Thakiala marking the first anniversary of the "War of Truth" victory, attributed this success to the civil and military leadership's strategy, the armed forces' professionalism, and national unity.

He asserted that this victory humiliated India and elevated Pakistan's honor. The event, presided over by former AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan, saw massive participation, with attendees showing strong support for Pakistan, the Army, and PML-N. Muqam praised the people living on



the Line of Control (LoC) as "unpaid soldiers" deserving tribute for their steadfast support.

He credited Nawaz Sharif with making Pakistan a nuclear power and emphasized the decisive defeat India suffered

in the conflict, highlighting the capabilities of the Pakistan Air Force against advanced enemy aircraft.

Muqam also acknowledged the current leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for

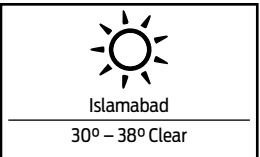
boosting Pakistan's global standing. He announced plans for a passport office, NADRA offices, and upgrading the grade station for Fatehpur Thakiala.

Furthermore, he pointed to record development in Azad Kashmir under

Nawaz Sharif, citing Danish schools, motorways, and laptop schemes as evidence of PML-N's commitment, urging support for the party in upcoming elections to continue development.

Sardar Umair Naeem echoed these

sentiments, affirming the people of Fatehpur Thakiala and Nakial's unwavering loyalty to Pakistan and the Army, and praised PML-N's advocacy for the Kashmir cause and practical measures for the populace.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:37 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 4:56 pm
Maghrib 6:58 pm
Isha 8:33 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864

CM pays tribute to martyrs, celebrates national solidarity

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has congratulated the nation on the victory in operation "Bunyan-un-Marsoos", saying that Pakistan has crushed the arrogance of those who dared to cross its "red line". Addressing the "Maarka-e-Haq Solidarity Ceremony" held at Wagah Border on the completion of one year of Maarka-e-Haq, she said Pakistan's border is not only a geographical line but a commitment deeply rooted in the hearts of its people.

Paying emotional tribute to the families of martyrs, she said mothers

who sent their sons to the battlefield embodied unmatched courage and sacrifice, while the Holy Quran promises that martyrs remain alive in a state of divine mercy. She noted that victory belongs not only to those on the battlefield but also to those who remain awake at night with concern for the country's future.

Paying tribute to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, she said he defied global pressure and made Pakistan a nuclear power, while also highlighting the development of JF-17 Thunder aircraft during his tenure. She further appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for stabilising the national economy and enhancing Paki-



stan's global standing. The CM lauded Field Marshal Asim Munir for safeguarding national trust and delivering a decisive response to threats when required. She said the armed forces, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Rangers, had rendered

unparalleled sacrifices. She added that Pakistan had also achieved a diplomatic victory under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Army Chief, without resorting to conflict, and prevented a potentially dangerous regional escalation.

The ceremony was attended by provincial ministers and a large number of citizens. The Chief Minister laid flowers at the martyrs' memorial, while patriotic songs and slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" echoed throughout the venue.

Security Alert

ISLAMABAD: Ranger's personals stand alert on Zero-Point bridge due to security reasons, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Protest held in Hyderabad over failure to arrest killers of Kashif Baghai



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Despite the passage of two months, Hyderabad police have failed to arrest the killers of PPP Shaheed Bhutto leader Kashif Baghai, triggering strong protest outside the Hyderabad Press Club.

A protest demonstration was organized demanding the immediate arrest of the accused in the murder case. The protest was led by Asif Baghai, Imtiaz Mirani, and others.

Speaking to the media, the protesting political and social activists expressed strong anger over the lack of progress in the case. They said that even after several meetings with SSP Hyderabad Shahzeb Chachar, no tangible results have been achieved, which they described as condemnable.

The protesters stated that the SSP continues to give assurances without any concrete action, while in minor cases such as motorcycle or mobile phone theft, suspects are quickly arrested and punished. However, in a serious murder case, the accused are still roaming freely.

They demanded that the killers of Kashif Baghai be arrested immediately and justice be ensured without further delay.

Junior Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto calls HIV a growing national health challenge

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Junior Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto has said that HIV is no longer only a problem of Sindh but is rapidly becoming a serious issue for the entire country, requiring immediate and serious attention.

Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, he stated that record cases of HIV had also been reported in Adiala Jail and Karachi, highlighting the alarming spread of the disease.

He said the increasing number of HIV cases is a dangerous sign for public health, stressing that the government, healthcare institutions, and social organizations must jointly launch effective awareness campaigns to address the issue.

Junior Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto emphasized that awareness, precautionary measures, timely testing, and proper medical treatment are the only effective ways to prevent



the spread of HIV. He urged the public to rely on authentic medical information instead of rumors and misinformation.

He further stated that the issue is no

longer confined to Sindh but has become a major national challenge, making an immediate and coordinated strategy essential to control the spread of the disease.

Federal Minister inaugurates Rescue 1122 Town Station



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chairman Group donated a modern ambulance to Emergency Rescue 1122 Town Station Chak No. 341 G. B Nanglan in Toba Tek Singh to improve local emergency services. Federal Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry and MPA Colonel (R) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan Gadhi attended the ceremony. The officials inaugurated the Town Station and Qureshi Clinic, commending Chairman Group's philanthropy.

The Federal Minister praised Rescue 1122 as a model institution serving without discrimination. The District Emergency Officer noted the new ambulance would significantly enhance timely medical response for area residents.

Population Welfare Department organizes orientation session for students

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The District Population Welfare Office Toba Tek Singh held an orientation on youth engagement and documentary screenings under the Chief Minister Punjab's Population Management and Family Planning Program. Speakers emphasized youth's crucial role in managing rapid population growth and promoting national development through awareness.

District Population Welfare Officer Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem committed to continuing awareness activities in educational institutions regarding population growth's impacts. Female students found the initiative useful.

Operation "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" Declared a Symbol of National Unity and Defence Commitment

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A graceful ceremony in connection with Operation "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" was organized by the Attock Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Government Graduate College for Women, Attock.

The ceremony was addressed by Member National Assembly and Member Supreme Judicial Commission Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, former Punjab Sports Minister Jahangir Khanzada, Chairman Health Committee Attock and former candidate for Punjab Assembly Malik Hameed Akbar Khan, ADCG Anil Saeed, AC Attock Muhammad Arif Qureshi, Chairperson SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Chairperson National Business Council Hina Mansab Khan, Chairman Standing Committee on Health FPCCI and former President Chamber of Commerce Attock Tariq Mahmood, Senior Vice President Attock Women Chamber Nabeela Shaheen, social worker Mubashar Malik and others.

On this occasion, Deputy Director Colleges Saadia Kanwal, Principal Government Graduate College for Women Dr. Sobia Ishrat, President Attock Women Chamber Erum Khan, Tehsil President PML-N Hazro Malik Anwar Ahmad, Assistant Director Wildlife Rizwana Aziz, Sub Inspector Khadija Manzoor, founder of The Patients Organization Naileen Abbas, female officers, teachers and students from the Education Department under the directions of CEO Education Dr. Muhammad Azhar, as well as nursing staff and female employees of the Health Department under the directions of CEO Health Dr. Asad Ismail also attended the ceremony.

A large number of female officials from Rescue 1122, Attock Police and other departments were also present. The speakers said that Operation "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" is a symbol of national unity, stability and commitment to the defence of the homeland. They paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces for their sacrifices in the defence of the country and in the war against terrorism.

They said the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its armed forces and is fully capable of responding strongly to any aggression. During the ceremony, students presented national songs, speeches and tableaux, paying tribute to patriotism, the sacrifices of martyrs and the bravery of the Pakistan Armed Forces. The ceremony concluded with the national anthem and special prayers for the peace, stability and prosperity of Pakistan.

Aghosh Home celebrates Mother's Day with Shelterless Mothers and Differently-Abled Orphan Girls

News Desk

KARACHI: Aghosh Home Trust celebrated Mother's Day in Karachi with its resident shelterless mothers and differently-abled orphan girls, marking 25 years of service under President Ms. Shugafa Saba. The event honored the mothers' sacrifices, attracting numerous dignitaries including Barrister Shahida Jamil, Ambassador (R) Hasan Habib, and Zaigham Mahmood Rizvi, who praised the home's commitment to vulnerable populations. The ceremony began with a Quran recitation by a blind resident and included emotional testimonies from mothers about finding care and dignity at the home, deeply moving the guests. Speakers commended Ms. Saba and



the management for their humanitarian mission, urging increased public and corporate support for the welfare organization. Guests shared affection

with the residents over a Mother's Day cake. The gathering underscored the societal duty to support neglected elderly women and challenged the community to sustain Aghosh Home's vital role as a symbol of hope and compassion.

The graceful event was attended by several renowned personalities including Barrister Shahida Jamil, Seema Mughal, Ambassador (R) Hasan Habib, Abdul Rauf Tabani, Dr. Nasaka, Zaigham Mahmood Rizvi, Brigadier (R) Karrar Hussain, Saim Junaid Malik, Ali Zeb, Ateeq Ur Rehman, Haji Masood Parekh, Mehvish Parekh, Jimmy Engineer and Noman Ahmed along with many other dignitaries, social workers and members of civil society.

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Courage of Iran, Spineless Muslim World

The most important geopolitical question emerging from the recent Middle East conflict is not merely why Israel continues to act with what many describe as total impunity, but why the broader Muslim world, despite possessing immense economic, military, and strategic power, has remained fragmented, hesitant, and largely ineffective in confronting it. The answer to this question exposes not only the changing balance of power in the Middle East, but also the deep contradictions within the global Muslim political order itself.

The recent war transformed many assumptions that had shaped international politics for decades. For the first time in modern history, Iran demonstrated that even the combined military, diplomatic, and economic pressure of the United States and Israel could be resisted.

Few analysts imagined that Tehran would withstand months of military confrontation, survive economic pressure, absorb attacks on its infrastructure and leadership, and still emerge politically stronger.

Yet that is exactly what happened. Militarily, Iran preserved its command structure, maintained its deterrence capability, and continued projecting power through both direct and indirect means. Diplomatically, Tehran achieved something equally remarkable: it prevented the complete isolation that Washington and Tel Aviv had sought to impose upon it.

In the United Nations and other international forums, the United States failed repeatedly to secure the level of consensus it once commanded effort-

lessly. China and Russia openly resisted Western pressure and challenged American narratives surrounding maritime security, sanctions, and military escalation.

Even many countries traditionally aligned with Washington adopted cautious or neutral positions rather than joining a wider anti-Iran coalition. Instead of appearing isolated, Iran suddenly appeared resilient, composed, and increasingly influential.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi embarked on an aggressive diplomatic campaign across the Middle East and beyond, reassuring neighboring countries that Iran did not seek war against Arab states.

Tehran repeatedly argued that its attacks on military bases in the region were not aimed at host governments themselves, but at facilities being used by the United States to conduct operations against Iran.

From Tehran's perspective, if a country thousands of miles away could claim a "perceived threat" as justification for military action against Iran, then Iran also possessed the right to neutralize launch points and operational hubs being used against it.

This argument, controversial as it may be, resonated with many observers who increasingly viewed the conflict through the lens of double standards.

Iran's leadership emphasized that collateral damage from its strikes was minimal compared to the widespread destruction caused in Gaza, Lebanon,

and elsewhere. Whether one agrees with Tehran or not, the diplomatic effect was undeniable: most Middle Eastern states refused to join the offensive side of the war. They remained defensive, cautious, and unwilling to openly participate in direct confrontation with Iran.

At the same time, the United States suffered a severe erosion of political influence across Europe. Washington's increasingly confrontational posture toward European allies, combined with pressure campaigns and threats of troop withdrawals, accelerated growing resentment inside the European Union.

Germany and other European states began openly discussing strategic autonomy and reducing dependency on American military dominance. What was once framed as a protective alliance increasingly started being viewed by many Europeans as an unequal arrangement driven by American interests rather than mutual respect.

Yet despite this massive geopolitical shift — despite Iran surviving, despite American prestige declining, despite Israel facing unprecedented military and diplomatic pressure — Israel continued its aggressive posture toward Lebanon and Gaza.

This contradiction raises an even deeper question: why did the burden of confronting Israel fall disproportionately upon Iran, a Shia-majority state, while many powerful Sunni-majority countries remained passive?

This is the uncomfortable reality that now confronts the Muslim world. Iran,

despite sectarian differences and historical rivalries, positioned itself as the most aggressive defender of Palestinians and Lebanese civilians.

Meanwhile, many Sunni-majority states possessing enormous wealth, advanced weaponry, and strategic leverage limited themselves largely to statements, summits, condemnations, and symbolic diplomacy.

Saudi Arabia, which has long claimed leadership of the Sunni Muslim world, possessed the economic influence to impose severe pressure through oil policy, trade restrictions, and regional coordination.

Turkey frequently projects military strength and strategic ambition, yet during the height of the crisis it remained largely rhetorical. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan, and other regional powers similarly avoided meaningful confrontation.

Even countries with immense populations and military capabilities — including Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and influential African Muslim states — did not collectively mobilize to impose serious economic or diplomatic costs upon Israel.

Ironically, some European countries and international institutions appeared more vocal in defending Palestinian rights than many Muslim governments themselves. European public opinion increasingly shifted against Israeli military operations.

Humanitarian agencies, civil society groups, and even segments of Western political establishments openly criticized the scale of destruction in Gaza and Lebanon. The United Nations repeatedly warned about humanitarian catastrophe.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Diplomatic missions observe 1st anniversary of Marka-e-Haq

Pakistan's diplomatic missions across the globe observed the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq (The Battle of Truth), paying rich tributes to the valor and professionalism of the Pakistan armed forces and their successful defense of national sovereignty during Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos.

The ceremonies, held in major world capitals, commemorated the events of May 2025, when Pakistani forces delivered a calibrated and decisive response to Indian aggression.

The messages of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir were read out at the ceremonies.

In the United States, Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh addressed a large gathering in Washington DC, noting that the civil-military leadership and the nation had left an indelible mark on the country's honor. He also acknowledged the positive role played by President Trump in facilitating a ceasefire between the two nuclear powers.

In New York, UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad and Consul General Aamer Ahmed Atozai described the anniversary as a "defining moment of national unity." Speakers, including Kashmiri activists and academics, linked lasting regional stability to the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Similarly, the Chicago Consulate brought together the Pakistani-American community to reaffirm their support for the nation's territorial integrity.

In London, Acting High Commissioner Haseeb bin Aziz hosted British Parliamentarians and diaspora members, praising the "swift and precise" response of the armed forces. The participants were briefed on how the armed forces thwarted enemy designs in exemplary unison.

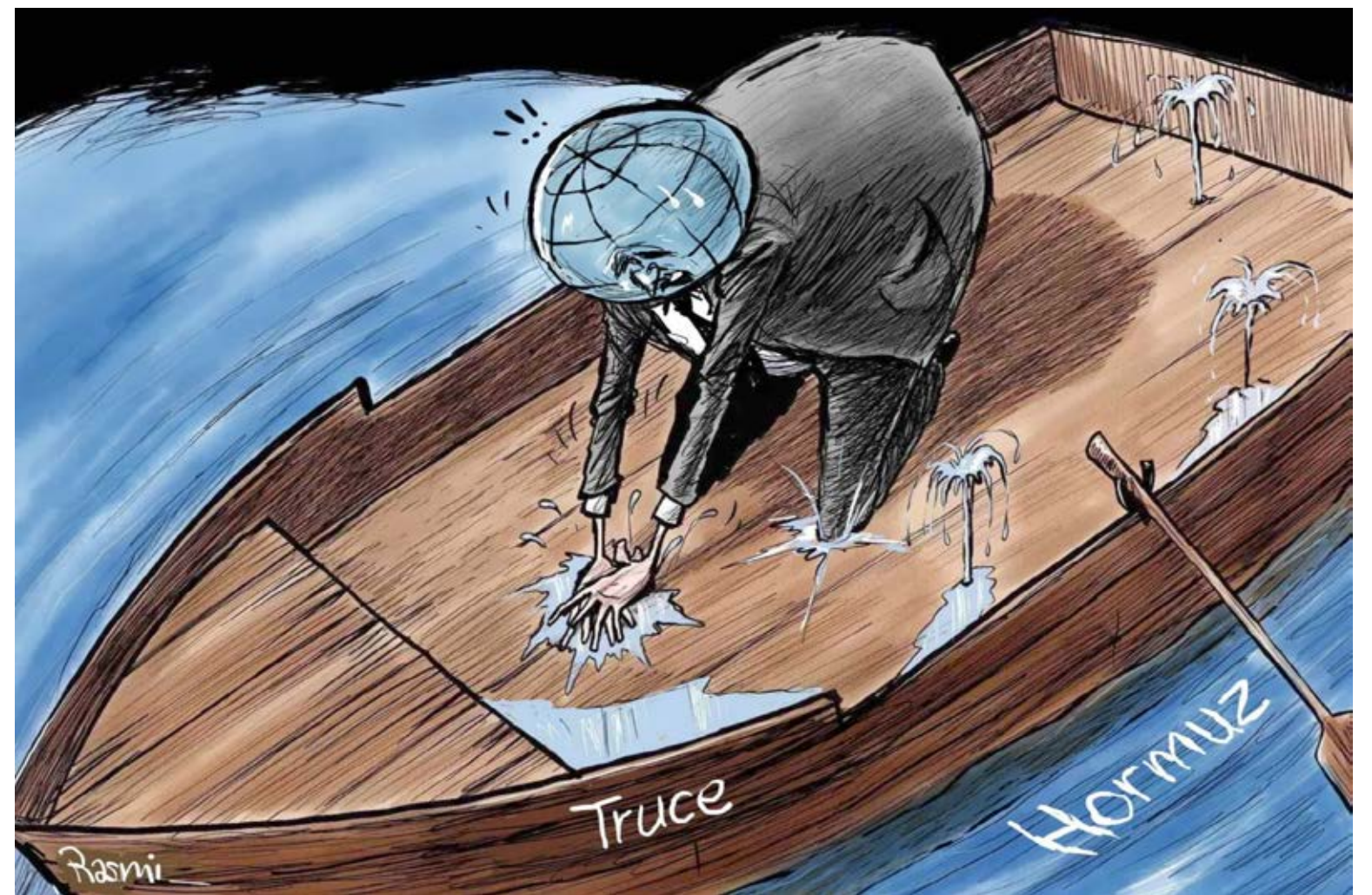
In Moscow, Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi characterized Pakistan's response as "measured and lawful" under international law. In Brussels, Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi paid homage to the martyrs, while the Madrid mission held special prayers for the fallen soldiers.

The embassy in Bucharest, Romania, emphasized diplomacy over confrontation, while the event in Belgrade, Serbia, showcased a documentary on Pakistan's strategic discipline during the 2025 crisis.

In Ankara, Turkish Member of Parliament Burhan Kayatürk joined Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid to reiterate Türkiye's steadfast support, noting that strong defense capabilities are essential deterrents to aggression.

In Baghdad, Ambassador Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed highlighted Pakistan's constructive role in global diplomacy, particularly its efforts in facilitating a ceasefire between the United States, Israel, and Iran, and encouraging a return to the negotiating table after a 47-year hiatus.

In Kabul, Ambassador Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani issued a call for vigilance against emerging regional threats, citing systemic violence against Muslims in West Bengal as a concerning sign of rising instability. He also urged the Afghan regime to take concrete action against terrorist threats emanating from its soil.



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

Unflinching Resolve: The 275th Corps Commanders Conference and Field Marshal's Strategic Blueprint for Pakistan's Stability

The 275th Corps Commanders Conference, led by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, was a meticulously planned and strategically significant gathering that showcased Pakistan's unified military command while reinforcing national confidence. Senior commanders collectively pledged to defend every inch of the homeland, delivering a message of readiness across the nation from the Karakoram to the Arabian Sea. Their commitment was grounded in operational intelligence and planning, reflecting preparedness against conventional and hybrid threats. The Field Marshal's calm and assured demeanor, paired with the commanders' disciplined presence, emphasized a military institution capable of handling all scenarios, from large-scale conflicts to localized security challenges. The conference honored martyrs, highlighting their enduring legacy as a foundation for national resilience, and praised the Armed Forces' counter-terrorism operations, particularly successes in North and South Waziristan and Khyber. Intelligence briefings on borders and the Line of Control reinforced vigilance, while criticisms of the Afghan Taliban's policies clarified Pakistan's defensive stance and rejection of false accusations concerning civilian targeting, signaling transparency and operational credibility.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

external threats, regional geopolitics, and human security, reflecting a comprehensive national security strategy. It rejected the nexus of terrorism with political interests and emphasized "Azm-e-Istehkam" to synchronize counter-terrorism with economic progress. Regional volatility, including US-Iran tensions, was assessed with a focus on restraint, maritime trade security, and sovereignty, underscoring Pakistan's refusal to host proxy conflicts. Strategic messaging targeted India, commemorating the first anniversary of "Marka-i-Haq," reviewing Indian military exercises, and reaffirming support for Kashmiris in IIOJK while condemning human rights violations and directing international advocacy. Field Marshal Munir highlighted technological innovation, hybrid warfare readiness, and adaptability, launching a Cyber Command and emphasizing AI, cyber, and electronic warfare preparedness. The conference stressed indigenization of defense production, local high-tech development, and operational adaptability for emerging threats, linking military action directly to civilian protection, economic stability, and national resilience. By connecting security, innovation, and citizen welfare, the conference projected a vision of a modern, capable, and forward-looking Pakistan Armed Forces that safeguards the nation while preparing for future strategic challenges.

A country cannot be secure if its people are starving or if its youth are unemployed, and the military leadership showed that it is committed to supporting the civilian government in creating conditions for investment and growth. This holistic approach is why the public appreciation is so genuine and widespread; it is an appreciation born of hope, not just fear. Moreover, the conference's emphasis on defending every inch of homeland carries profound symbolic and practical weight, a weight that the people of Pakistan have immediately understood and celebrated. When the Field Marshal and his commanders talk about inches, they mean the territory from Torkham to Gwadar, from Siachen to Rann of Kutch, and everything in between, including the airspace and the maritime exclusive economic zone. But they also mean the non-physical inches of the nation's ideological boundaries, its cultural heritage, and its digital infrastructure. In recent years, Pakistan has faced a sophisticated campaign of disinformation and psychological warfare designed to create wedges between the people and the military. The 275th Corps Commanders Conference directly confronted this threat by vowing to uphold the Constitution and protect the rights of all citizens, irrespective of their political affiliation, ethnicity, or religion. This stance is incredibly reassuring because it signals that the army views itself as the guardian of the state, not of any particular political party or personality. The people appreciate this non-partisan professionalism, which

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Self-Esteem: The Crisis of Traditional Media and Its Solutions

Self-esteem — the way individuals perceive their own worth and abilities — is a cornerstone of psychological well-being and social confidence. In today's fast-changing media environment, traditional media institutions such as newspapers, television, and radio are facing a dual crisis: a decline in public trust and influence, and a growing role in shaping fragile self-perceptions among audiences. In a country like Pakistan, where media continues to play a central role in public opinion formation, this crisis demands urgent attention and thoughtful solutions.



Analysis

Dr. T. M. Malik

Traditionally, media served as a trusted source of information, education, and social cohesion. Newspapers and television channels were regarded as credible platforms that informed citizens, promoted cultural values, and encouraged constructive discourse. However, over time, the landscape has changed dramatically. The rise of digital media and social platforms has disrupted traditional media's authority, leading to increased competition, declining readership, and a race for attention.

In this race, traditional media has often shifted from responsible journalism to sensationalism. To maintain ratings and circulation, many outlets focus on negative news, exaggerated narratives, and celebrity culture. While such content may attract viewers, it also has unintended psychological consequences. Continuous exposure to negative or unrealistic portrayals of success, beauty, and lifestyle can significantly impact individuals' self-esteem. Young people, in particular, are vulnerable to

these influences. When media repeatedly highlights idealized images and unattainable standards, it creates a sense of inadequacy among viewers. Individuals begin to compare themselves with media-generated realities, leading to self-doubt, anxiety, and a diminished sense of self-worth. In Pakistan, where socio-economic disparities are already pronounced, such portrayals can deepen feelings of frustration and exclusion.

Moreover, traditional media's declining credibility further complicates the issue. Audiences increasingly question the authenticity and objectivity of news content. Perceived bias, political influence, and lack of accountability have eroded public trust. When people no longer trust media, its positive role in shaping informed and confident citizens weakens. This not only affects public discourse but also contributes to confusion and insecurity among audiences.

Another dimension of the crisis is the lack of representation and diversity in media content. Traditional media often focuses on urban elites, overlooking the realities of rural populations and marginalized communities. This limited representation can alienate large segments of society, making individuals feel invisible or undervalued. A media system that fails to reflect the diversity of its audience cannot effectively support healthy self-esteem.

Despite these challenges, traditional media still holds immense potential to positively influence society. The key lies in redefining its role and adopting responsible practices. One of the

Continued on Page 7

KSrelief Successfully Concludes 5th and Final Phase of Food Security Support Project Across Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has successfully completed the final phase of the Food Security Support Project 2025-26 in Pakistan, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing humanitarian efforts to combat food insecurity and support vulnerable communities across the country about 195,487 individual were benefited in 31 district across Pakistan.

Under this nationwide initiative, food assistance was delivered across multiple regions, covering a total of 31 districts, including 10 districts in Punjab,

5 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 7 in Balochistan, 6 in Sindh, and 3 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The project aimed to ensure the timely provision of essential food supplies to the most deserving and food-insecure households.

As part of the final phase, KSrelief distributed thousands of food packages among vulnerable families. Each package, weighing 97 kilograms, included essential food items such as 80 kg of flour, 5 liters of cooking oil, 5 kg of sugar, 5 kg daal chana, and 2 kg of dates, providing critical nutritional support to beneficiary households.

The distribution process was carried out in close coordi-



ination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), district administrations, and KSrelief's implementing partners, Hayat Foundation and peace and development organization. The entire operation was conducted in

a transparent, efficient, and well-organized manner to ensure that assistance reached the intended beneficiaries.

This project reflects KSrelief's steadfast commitment to strengthening food security in Pakistan and delivering timely humanitarian assistance to those most in need. It



also underscores the Centre's broader global mission to alleviate human suffering and promote sustainable development in vulnerable communities worldwide.

AKMCCC Marks Mother's Day With Free Health Camp in Hyderabad

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

HYDERABAD: The Aga Khan Maternal and Child Care Centre (AKMCCC), Hyderabad, marked Mother's Day with a free, one-day health camp that blended clinical care with celebration.

Held under the theme, "Caring for Ammi, at Every Stage," the camp drew women from across Hyderabad and nearby districts for screenings, counselling, and expert advice — all at no cost.

Services covered a wide spectrum of women's health: general check-ups with medical counselling, blood pressure screening for hypertension risk, and reproductive health consultations on PCOS, menopause, fertility, and menstrual concerns.

Dietitians offered personalized nutrition and lifestyle guidance. Free screenings also included blood sugar monitoring (RBC Reflo) and bone density assessment. To make advanced diagnostics more accessible, AKMCCC offered special discounts on ultrasound services.

"Mothers are the cornerstone of every household, yet their health is often neglected — even by themselves," said Syed Sohail, COO of Outreach Services and Off-Campus Hospitals at Aga Khan University Hospital. "AKMCCC remains committed to improving maternal and child health in Hyderabad and



Sindh through regular community outreach. The overwhelming response to this camp encourages us to plan more such initiatives." The event went beyond clinical

services. Expert-led sessions on family planning gave women clear, accurate information on contraception methods, benefits, and risks. Games, activities, and giveaways

added a festive touch, with many mothers attending alongside their families — turning a health drive into a community celebration of motherhood.

PSCA Pays Tribute to Mothers on Mother's Day Recognizing Their Endless Love, Strength & Invaluable Role in Shaping Society

News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority paid rich tribute to mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring safety, dignity, and empowerment of women through modern technology and innovative public safety initiatives.

According to the spokesperson of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority, the protection of mothers, sisters, and daughters remains a top priority, and PSCA continues to play a vital role in providing a secure environment through advanced digital facilities and emergency response services.

The spokesperson stated that the Virtual Women Police Station is enabling women to access legal guidance, lodge complaints, and seek emergency assistance from their doorstep. In addition, Women Safety App and Public Safety App are providing women with quick and easy access to immediate support in emergency situations.

The spokesperson further added that women facing harassment, blackmailing, or any emergency situation can instantly contact Safe Cities platforms to receive timely assistance and protection. The spokesperson emphasized that PSCA's state-of-the-art surveillance, monitoring, and emergency response systems are playing a significant role in creating a safer environment for women across Punjab. He reaffirmed that PSCA remains fully committed to taking every possible measure for the protection and welfare of women.

The Nation Stands Shoulder to Shoulder with Its Armed Forces in Marka-e-Haq, Says Khurshid Ahmad Hashmi

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of Pak UK Trade Forum, Khurshid Ahmad Hashmi, said that Pakistan is currently passing through an important phase of "Marka-e-Haq," and the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its brave armed forces. He stated that the enemy's malicious intentions would be defeated through unity, faith, and national solidarity.

In his statement, Khurshid Ahmad Hashmi said that the Pakistan Army has always rendered unforgettable sacrifices for the defense, security, and stability of the homeland, and the nation pays tribute to its martyrs and veterans. He added that the professionalism and sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Pakistan are a source of pride for the nation.

He further said that under the leadership of Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the Pakistan Armed Forces demonstrated remarkable bravery, courage, and professional excellence, leading the nation to victory. He said the entire nation pays tribute to its armed forces for their outstanding performance and sacrifices.

Attock Leader Denounces Public School Privatization as Injustice to the Poor

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Malik Riasat Ali Sadharyal said that the Punjab government's decision to privatize hundreds of public schools in Attock district over the past two years is an injustice to poor people. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the decision so that underprivileged families can continue to provide education to their children easily.

Speaking to journalists, he said that in this era of inflation, people are already struggling to afford even two meals a day, and the government is now trying to deprive poor citizens of their basic right to education. He termed the move another burden on people already suffering from inflation, unemployment, and economic hardship, warning that thousands of low-income families would be severely affected.

Malik Riasat Sadharyal added that the elite already send their children to expensive private institutions, while the privatization of public schools would not only threaten the jobs of thousands of teachers and employees but also increase unemployment. He said that privatization would lead to higher fees and educational expenses, which poor parents would not be able to bear, forcing many children to leave school and work instead.

He strongly urged the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Education Department to reverse the privatization decision immediately, emphasizing that education is a fundamental right of every child and that the government should strengthen public educational institutions instead of eliminating them.

PML-N Ulema and Mashaikh Wing holds rally to mark One Year of 'Banyan Marsus Muarka Haq' Victory

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A rally was held under the leadership of Hafiz Muhammad Anjad, General Secretary of the Ulema and Mashaikh Wing of the Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), on the completion of one year of the Banyan Marsus Muarka Haq.

The rally was taken out from Technical Mosque D Ground. The rally ended with a prayer at the main square through Technical Mosque D Ground. A large number of business leaders, scholars, students and citizens participated in the rally.

Addressing the rally, Sahibzada Hafiz Muhammad Anjad said that the Pakistan



Army had crushed India last year.

The whole world will always remember the historic victory of the Pakistan Army.

We express our gratitude to Allah Almighty who has blessed Pakistan and the Pakistani Armed Forces with a brilliant victory.

The world is acknowledging Pakistan's military prowess and defense strategy. We pay tribute to the Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal

Syed Hafiz Asim Munir and the bravery and valor of the Pakistani Armed Forces for the protection of the homeland.

He said that our great brave warriors defeated Modi's hired terrorists in a few hours. We heartily congratulate the warriors of the Pakistan Air Force and the entire Pakistani nation, including the Pakistani Armed Forces, on the glorious victory of the rightful cause.

He said that Pakistan always talks about peace, but if war becomes necessary, Then we will wage war and then such a war that will become a message of destruction and ruin for the enemy.

CSSPR Marks One-Year Anniversary of Marka-e-Haq Through High-Level Strategic Webinar

News Desk

LAHORE: The Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR) at the University of Lahore organized a high-level webinar titled "Deterrence to Diplomacy: Pakistan's Strategic Repositioning" to commemorate the first anniversary of the May 2025 conflict, widely referred to in Pakistan as Marka-e-Haq.

Moderated by Dr. Rabia Akhtar, Director CSSPR, the webinar brought together distinguished experts

including Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Dr. Adil Sultan, Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dr. Maria Sultan, Air Commodore (R) Khalid Banuri, Dr. Salma Malik, and Sayed Ali Zia Jaffery to assess the conflict's long-term implications for deterrence, military preparedness, diplomacy, and regional stability.

Panelists described May 2025 as a turning point in Pakistan's strategic posture, arguing that the crisis challenged assumptions about India's unilateral escalation domi-

nance and restored deterrence equilibrium. Speakers highlighted Pakistan's conventional military preparedness, integrated air and electronic warfare capabilities, and the growing importance of emerging technologies, including AI, drones, cyber, and space systems in future conflicts.

On the diplomatic front, panelists noted that Pakistan emerged with greater strategic confidence and regional relevance following the crisis. Discussions emphasized shifting regional alignments, Pakistan's

expanding role as a stability provider, and the importance of narrative resilience amid disinformation and geopolitical contestation.

Experts also cautioned against complacency, warning that India is likely to pursue accelerated military and technological recalibration. A consensus emerged that Pakistan's long-term strategic gains can only be sustained through economic resilience, institutional strength, technological innovation, and human capital development.

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

Japan Embassy Official hails Pakistan-Japan Socio-Economic Association's Impact on Skill Development

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Kazumasa Takane Counsellor and Head of Culture and Public Information of Japan Embassy here Sunday said Pakistan Japan Socio-Economic Association (PJSA) is supporting professional skill development through Japan focused training in work ethics discipline, technical

skills and societal values.

Speaking here today as chief guest at a "Sakura Tea Time" celebration 2026 he said PJSA youth empowerment and cultural development initiatives includes promotion of Japanese language education across Pakistan through learning programs and engage with Japanese government bodies, embassies and institutions to build strong

bilateral socioeconomic relations.

Earlier in her welcome address, Ms Sitara Arif President PJSA said we work in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Education, Pakistan, Japan, embassy Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJBF) and Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) to maximize national reach and impact.



Chief Executive Officer Murasaki Japanese Language School Usman Akhtar said now Pakistani students are increasingly inclined toward pursuing Japanese language and later seek admission to Japanese educational institutions ultimately generating job opportunities in Japan.

A numbers of people from different shades of life including Ms Saba Arslan Higher Education Advisor Japan Embassy Air Vice Marshal Sajid Habib, Kyrgyzstan Counsel Meher Kashif Younis, Principal Murasaki Japanese Language School Nouman Akhtar also graced the occasion. Students also sung Japanese song and took part in contests of Japanese photography.

Later chief guest distributed shields and souvenirs among the participants.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Chairman Barrick, Mr. John L. Thornton on Sunday.



Photo: Online

Indus Delta Shrinks Rapidly as Extreme Heat Accelerates Glacial Melt Says Iftikhar Malik

Commerce Desk

LAHORE MAY 10:- SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday cautioned that the Indus Delta is shrinking rapidly in the northern parts of the country as extreme heat is accelerating glacier melting at an alarming pace.

In a statement here today said the Indus Delta, once considered one of the world's richest ecological zones, is facing continuous degradation due to declining freshwater flows, sea intrusion and environmental negligence. He warned shrinking wetlands and loss of mangrove forests are damaging marine life and threatening coastal communities dependent on fishing and agriculture. Rising temperatures in the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges are causing glaciers to melt faster than expected, increasing the risk of floods, water mismanagement and



ecological imbalance. He warned that the unchecked melting of glaciers could ultimately reduce the long-term availability of freshwater, severely affecting agriculture, food security and millions of livelihoods linked with the Indus River system. Pakistan contributes minimally to global carbon emissions but remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate-related disasters. He called upon developed nations and international financial insti-

tutions to extend technical and financial support to developing countries facing severe climate challenges.

Iftikhar Ali Malik urged policymakers, environmental experts and the business community to jointly formulate a comprehensive climate resilience strategy. He emphasized the need for water conservation projects, afforestation campaigns, modern irrigation systems and investment in renewable energy to mitigate environmental damage.

He said climate change has emerged as one of the serious threats to Pakistan's environmental and economic stability, demanding immediate national and regional action. Timely preventive measures, public awareness and regional cooperation are essential to protect natural resources and ensure sustainable economic growth for future generations he concluded.

Auditor General lauds ZTBL reforms, outreach to small farmers

ISLAMABAD: President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited, Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti, called on the Auditor General of Pakistan, Maqbool Ahmad Gondal, and briefed him on the bank's reforms and transformation strategy, which helped strengthen institutional performance and expand financial services for small farmers.

During the meeting, the ZTBL president highlighted the "Reforms and Transformation Strategy" launched in 2023, which, he said, helped the bank overcome financial and administrative challenges and emerge as a financially stable and progressive institution, a news release said.

Tahir Yaqoob said ZTBL had achieved record financial performance in recent years while generating more than 900



employment opportunities for fresh graduates and postgraduates across the country. He said the bank was enhancing outreach to small farmers through digital banking products and services, enabling easier access to agricultural financing and banking facilities.

The ZTBL president further informed that the bank was following a unique busi-

ness model under which branch managers and mobile credit officers visit villages and remote areas to provide agri-financing and other banking services at the doorsteps of farmers.

Auditor General Maqbool Ahmad Gondal appreciated ZTBL's performance and acknowledged its role in improving the livelihoods of small farmers and strengthening the rural economy.

Assuring full support and cooperation from his office, he stressed that accountability, transparency and good governance should remain key priorities for sustaining the bank's financial growth and institutional stability.

Later, the bank's president presented a ZTBL memento to the Auditor General of Pakistan, who also assured that he would visit the ZTBL Head Office in Islamabad.

US-Iran truce unlocks major economic doors for Pakistan, says Tax Official

Commerce Desk

LAHORE MAY 10:- Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday said the US and Iran truce not only underscored Pakistan's growing role on the global stage but also opened new economic opportunities, particularly in energy, trade and industrial growth, besides raising hopes for longer-term stability in the region.

Talking here today to a delegation of industrialists he said Pakistan should capitalize on the emerging opportunities by formulating comprehensive economic and trade policies aimed at boosting investment, regional connectivity and sustainable economic growth while continuing diplomatic efforts for durable peace in the Middle East. He said

improved regional stability will pave the way for progress on key economic initiatives, including energy cooperation, cross-border trade and industrial expansion. He added that easier access to affordable energy resources and raw materials from Iran will reduce production costs for Pakistani industries and strengthen exports in the coming years.

Pakistan's constructive diplomatic engagement in easing tensions between Washington and Tehran had enhanced the country's international standing and projected Islamabad as a credible advocate of peace and dialogue.

He observed that the ceasefire had helped calm fears of a broader regional conflict that could have severely disrupted global oil supplies, trade routes and financial markets.

First Anniversary of "Marka-e-Haq: ICCI Pays Glowing Tribute to Political and Military Leadership

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Muhammad Irfan Chaudhry have paid glowing tribute to the political and military leadership of Pakistan on the first anniversary of "Marka-e-Haq" describing it as a historic symbol of national unity, courage and unwavering commitment to the defence and sovereignty of the country.

In a joint statement issued here on Sunday, the ICCI leadership paid rich homage to President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the top military leadership, particularly Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf for their visionary leadership, strategic wisdom and steadfast dedication to safeguarding the nation's integrity and security.

The ICCI office-bearers stated that "Marka-e-Haq" would always be remembered as a glorious chapter in Pakistan's history that united the entire nation under one flag and demonstrated the unmatched professionalism, bravery and preparedness of the armed forces of Pakistan.

Furniture Council CEO: Economy and Defence are Pillars of Pakistani Stability



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that a sound economy and strong defence are indispensable pillars for ensuring national stability, sovereignty and sustainable development.

Speaking here today as chief guest at "Marka-I-Haq" celebration organised by

PFC and Chenone he said no nation can progress without maintaining a balance between economic growth and defence preparedness. Political harmony, continuity of policies and investor-friendly measures are essential to attract local and foreign investment. He urged the business community, policymakers and institutions to work collectively for economic revival and industrial growth. He said with unity, determination and effective planning, Pakistan can emerge as a strong, stable and prosperous nation capable of meeting future challenges successfully.

Pakistan Proposes "Northern Loop" Tourism Highway for Economic Boost



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan should introduce the concept of the "Northern Loop", a high-altitude circular road journey across the legendary Karakoram Highway and adjoining mountain corridors to promote tourism, regional connectivity and economic growth.

Speaking here Sunday to a delegation of tourists Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food shahid Imran said this scenic route would connect Islamabad, Chilas, Gilgit, Hunza and the breathtaking Khunjerab Pass before looping back to the federal capital through adjoining valleys and highways.

The Northern Loop can emerge as one of the world's most spectacular road adventures, offering tourists unmatched views of snow-covered peaks, glaciers, rivers and historic mountain settlements. The route would also showcase Pakistan's rich cultural diversity, local cuisines, handicrafts and hospitality, creating livelihood opportunities for thousands of people in northern regions.

He said such an initiative can significantly boost domestic and international tourism while strengthening Pakistan's image as a safe and attractive travel destination. Improved road infrastructure, eco-friendly resorts, emergency services and digital connectivity along the route would further enhance visitor experience. The Northern Loop can become Pakistan's signature tourism brand, similar to famous international mountain road circuits, attracting adventure seekers, photographers and nature lovers from across the globe, he concluded.

Bangladesh Acting President, ex-Information Secy watch cricket match at Dhaka stadium

📰 Sports Desk

DHAKA: On the invitation of Bangladesh's Acting President and Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, the former Secretary Information and Broadcasting Syed Anwar Mahmood attended the third day of the test cricket between Pakistan and Bangladesh in Dhaka on Sunday.

Anwar Mehmood, also the Chairman Forum of Information Group Secretaries, watched the live match along with the Bangladesh's Acting President at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, commonly known as Mirpur Stadium. Terming the invitation as a goodwill gesture, Anwar Mehmood said sporting events play an important role in strengthening people-to-people contacts.

Former cricket captain and the recently appointed Chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Board, Tamim Iqbal also joined them at the guests' spectator gallery.



Pakistan exit PSA World Squash Championship in second round

📰 News Desk

Pakistan's journey at the PSA World Squash Championship came to an early end as both national players were eliminated in the second round of the event being held in Egypt.

In the men's draw of the \$71,000 tournament, Pakistan's world number 28 and Under-23 champion Nour Zaman was defeated 3-0 by Egypt's world number 8 and junior world champion Mohamed Zakaria.

Zakaria controlled the match from the start, winning the first game 11-4, followed by 11-5 in the second. He then sealed a straight-games victory with another 11-5 win in the third game, knocking Zaman out of the competition.

In another second-round match, Pakistan's world number 46 Muhammad Ashab Irfan was also eliminated after losing 3-0 to England's Nathan Lake.

Islamabad club, in Collaboration with Sante, Hosts the Final of the 7th Islamabad Club Open Polo Championship



📰 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: ICPG, in collaboration with Sante, proudly hosted the final match of the 7th Islamabad Club Open Polo Championship today at the Islamabad Club. The prestigious sporting event was attended by esteemed members of the Islamabad Club and honored by the presence of distinguished dignitaries and diplomats from Bulgaria, the Chief Guest HE Ambassador Irena Gancheva, Ambassador of Poland Macej Pisarski and Mrs Justyna Pisarki, the Ambassador of Belgium Idesbald van Graft and Mrs Lorraine, newly arrived Ambassador of Spain Carlos Aragon and Mrs Sabine Richter, the Embassy of Argentina Deputy Mrs Erica Lucero, underscoring the championship's international appeal and stature.

The thrilling final saw Team HN/Diamond Paints emerge victorious HAIDER, SHOAI, SAQIB & JALAL against Team BN/SQ BABAR, SHIRAZ, IBRAHIM & ABELANDA in a closely contested and highly competitive match. Displaying exceptional skill, sportsmanship, and teamwork, both sides kept spectators on the edge of their seats, making the final a memorable highlight of the tournament.

The championship featured six coveted teams, bringing together top talent from the polo circuit and delivering a series of exciting matches throughout the tournament. Celebrated for its high standards of play and organization, the event once again reaffirmed the Islamabad Club Open Polo Championship as a key date on the country's sporting calendar.

Islamabad club expressed their appreciation to all participating teams, guests, sponsors, and organizers for contributing to the success of the event, and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting polo and sporting events in Islamabad.

Self-Esteem: The Crisis of Traditional Media and Its Solutions

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most important solutions is the promotion of constructive and solution-oriented journalism. Instead of focusing solely on problems, media should highlight success stories, community initiatives, and examples of resilience. Positive narratives can inspire audiences and reinforce a sense of possibility and self-worth.

Media organizations must also prioritize ethical standards and credibility. Fact-based reporting, balanced perspectives, and editorial independence are essential for rebuilding public trust. When audiences perceive media as reliable and fair, their confidence in both information and themselves increases.

Another critical step is promoting media literacy among the public. Individuals must be equipped with the skills to

critically analyze media content, distinguish between reality and representation, and avoid harmful comparisons. Educational institutions can play a vital role in integrating media literacy into curricula, enabling young people to navigate media influences more effectively.

Diversity and inclusivity should also be central to media reform. By representing different regions, cultures, professions, and social groups, media can create a more accurate and empowering picture of society. When individuals see themselves reflected in media content, it enhances their sense of belonging and self-esteem.

Collaboration between traditional and digital media can further strengthen impact. Rather than viewing digital platforms as competitors, traditional media can use them to expand reach and engage

audiences more interactively. Responsible use of digital tools can help deliver balanced content while maintaining credibility.

Furthermore, mental health awareness must become a priority in media programming. Discussions on self-esteem, stress, and emotional well-being should be encouraged. Expert opinions, educational segments, and awareness campaigns can help audiences understand and manage psychological challenges.

Regulatory bodies and policymakers also have a role to play. Clear guidelines on ethical reporting, content standards, and accountability can ensure that media practices align with societal well-being. At the same time, media organizations must adopt self-regulation to maintain professional integrity.

In conclusion, the crisis of traditional media is not merely about declining viewership or competition with digital platforms; it is deeply connected to its impact on individual and collective self-esteem. In Pakistan, where media influences millions of lives daily, responsible journalism is more important than ever. By promoting positive narratives, ensuring credibility, embracing diversity, and enhancing media literacy, traditional media can transform from a source of insecurity into a platform of empowerment. Strengthening self-esteem through responsible media is not only a psychological necessity but also a step toward building a more confident, informed, and resilient society.

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Pak Navy marks first anniversary of ...

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defenders of the homeland.

The unparalleled courage, steadfastness and effective response of the Armed Forces of Pakistan against Indian aggression will always be etched in

golden letters in the memory of the nation.

Karachi Port Trust paid tribute to those brave soldiers whose sacrifices, determination and sense of duty are still the guarantee of protecting the sovereignty, dignity and security of Pakistan.

Future aggression against Pakistan to invite serious consequences...

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The Field Marshal said that India wanted to isolate Pakistan and alter the balance of power in the region and her dream was to subject Pakistan to military aggression and diplomatic isolation. However, he vowed that Pakistan would never allow India's "dream" to materialize.

He said that India had forgotten that Pakistan's armed forces had never bowed to the dominance of power in the past and would never do so in the future.

Paying tribute to the unarmed women, elderly people, and innocent children martyred during Marka-e-Haq, the COAS said that Pakistan regarded the sacrifices of its martyrs as a sacred trust and viewed its strength as a responsibility.

He said the message from the people and national leadership was clear that no compromise would be accepted on Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national dignity.

He also said the battle was not only won on the battlefield but also at the

national level across all sectors. "The entire nation stood like a solid wall in the defense of the homeland," he said, noting that when Indian missiles fell, a large number of people came out in support of the country's defense.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir said that the false flag operations of 2001, 2008, 2016, and 2019 are a testament to the fact that India has repeatedly made failed attempts to impose an illegitimate war on Pakistan. Each time, Pakistan not only exposed the enemy's miscalculations but also inflicted a decisive defeat on it, he said.

He said the objective of Operation Bunyanum Marsos was to "unravel the enemy's behaviour under which, to divert attention from its internal failures, it creates war hysteria by blaming Pakistan for every self-inflicted incident."

The COAS expressed his gratitude to the president, the prime minister, the federal cabinet, the national and provincial political leadership, and all political parties for their political wisdom, foresight, and leadership that led Pakistan

to success.

"The national leadership, all government institutions, and the Pakistani nation stood united in conveying that any compromise on the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national honour is unacceptable," he said.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir said that the brave "Shaheens" set an example in one of the longest and most decisive aerial engagements of the modern era. The Shaheens shot down the enemy's advanced warplanes and destroyed its installations, he added.

He said India suffered severe human and financial losses during Marka-e-Haq, and the enemy would continue to pay the price for these losses in the times to come.

The COAS said that Pakistan's strategic missiles and Shaheen systems successfully struck more than 26 enemy military targets.

He said future wars would be multi-domain in nature, involving long-range precision weapons, drones, cyber warfare, and artificial intelligence.

Asim Munir said Pakistan had already taken steps to adapt to modern warfare challenges, including establishing a Rocket Force and Defence Forces Headquarters to enhance coordination among the services.

He said Pakistan also achieved success on the diplomatic front, as its leaders and representatives effectively conveyed Pakistan's stance on the global stage.

"Similarly, there is no parallel to the way the Pakistani media, the journalist community, and especially our youth thwarted the enemy's propaganda, cyber warfare, and psychological tactics," he added.

He also praised diplomatic efforts, saying Pakistan's global engagement had improved its international standing.

The COAS said Pakistan's national prestige had grown, earning global recognition, and that the country now has more friends than ever before.

He said a strategic mutual defence agreement with Saudi Arabia is a historic step towards advancing mutual security and diplomatic cooperation.

Regarding Pakistan's efforts to bring the United States and Iran to the negotiating table, the COAS said Pakistan is currently hosting historic peace talks, demonstrating effective, responsible, and neutral diplomacy on the global stage.

He said Pakistan has earned the gratitude of the leadership of the United States and Iran, particularly the US president, for its role in facilitating sensitive diplomatic efforts.

"Pakistan continues to strive diligently to honour this trust through sincere efforts. Both countries have placed their trust in Pakistan for this challenging task," he said.

Field Marshal Asim Munir said that India, having ruled out conventional warfare against Pakistan, is now resorting to terrorism. He urged Afghanistan to eliminate terrorist camps and safe havens within its territory.

He also paid tribute to the bravery of Pakistani citizens, the armed forces, and law enforcement agencies, and commended personnel in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. "We will avenge the blood of every innocent Pakistani," he said, vowing that Pakistan's fight against terrorism would continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.

While reaffirming Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, the COAS said that no story of Pakistan is complete without Kashmir.

He said Pakistan would continue to extend political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people on all fronts.

He said Pakistan also made all-out efforts for a ceasefire in Lebanon and Palestine.

Earlier, COAS Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu, and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf laid floral wreaths at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada (Martyrs' Monument), offered Fataha, while contingents from the three armed forces presented a ceremonial salute.

Meanwhile, smartly turned out contingents of the three armed services presented salute to the chief guest.

Unflinching Resolve: The 275th Corps Commanders Conference and Field Marshal's Strategic Blueprint for Pakistan's Stability

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stands in stark contrast to the chaotic and self-serving behavior often observed in the political arena. They see the corps commanders conference as a gathering of serious men who have set aside personal ambition for the collective good, men who have sworn an oath to the nation and have repeated that oath publicly in the most emphatic manner possible. This public reaffirmation of the oath is what turns institutional loyalty into national love. The strategic blueprint unveiled during the conference covers not only immediate kinetic threats but also the long-term challenges of climate change, population displacement, and regional connectivity, further explaining why the public holds the Field Marshal in such high regard. The forum discussed how melting glaciers in the north could lead to new water disputes and how the army's engineering corps is already working on mitigation strategies, including dam building and disaster response frameworks.

They also deliberated on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and how the army's special security divisions are ensuring that this economic lifeline remains untouched

by hostile actors, both foreign and domestic. This forward-looking vision assures the people that the army is not just a reactive force, waiting for a war to break out, but a proactive institution that is shaping the future of the country. The people of Pakistan love this quality because it transforms the army from a mere defender into a builder of national prosperity. Field Marshal Munir's leadership, characterized by a blend of iron discipline and strategic empathy, has managed to convey that every soldier, from a young sepoy to a corps commander, understands the value of a single Pakistani life. The conference's directive to prioritize the safety of civilians during counter-terrorism operations, to minimize collateral damage, and to provide humanitarian aid to displaced populations, all speak to a military culture that has evolved to be even more people-centric.

The 275th Corps Commanders Conference under Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir was a masterclass in leadership communication, strategic planning, and national reassurance, leaving an indelible mark on the public psyche. The forum's vow to defend every inch of the homeland was not a distant thunder but a clear,

warm light shining on a nation that has navigated stormy seas for decades. The clear stance taken by the Field Marshal and his corps commanders on issues ranging from terrorism and economic sabotage to Indian aggression and Afghan sanctuaries has been met with a wave of authentic appreciation from the people of Pakistan, an appreciation that cuts across class, creed, and region. Through that single conference, the military leadership conveyed an invaluable impression: the country is in safe hands, guided by a doctrine of unflinching resolve and comprehensive stability. The people of Pakistan love their army, and they have found in Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir a leader who not only commands the battlefield but also commands the heart of the nation. This love is the ultimate strategic asset, for a nation that loves its defenders is a nation that cannot be conquered, divided, or intimidated. The 275th Corps Commanders Conference, therefore, was more than a meeting; it was a reaffirmation of the sacred covenant between the people of Pakistan and their armed forces, a covenant sealed with courage, clarity, and an unbreakable will to protect every single inch of the beloved homeland.

Courage of Iran, Spineless Muslim World

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Yet the Muslim world, despite possessing the strongest emotional, religious, and historical connection to the issue, remained deeply divided and strategically paralyzed.

If Israel justifies its actions in southern Lebanon by claiming it seeks a "buffer zone" for security, then the logic becomes limitless and dangerous. By that reasoning, any powerful state could justify occupying neighboring territory indefinitely under the pretext of future threats.

Security concerns cannot become a permanent license for territorial expansion, demographic displacement, or endless military operations.

Critics increasingly argue that what is unfolding reflects not merely defensive policy, but a broader strategic ambition to dominate surrounding regions politically and militarily.

The tragedy is that the Muslim world still possesses immense leverage if it chooses to act collectively. It controls critical trade routes, energy supplies, air corridors, ports, and markets.

Coordinated restrictions on airspace access, shipping routes, commercial cooperation, and strategic logistics could dramatically alter the regional

balance without requiring direct military confrontation. Economic isolation, diplomatic unity, and strategic pressure could impose significant costs while avoiding catastrophic war.

Instead, many governments continue offering rhetorical solidarity while avoiding meaningful sacrifice or risk. This gap between public emotion and state policy has created widespread frustration across Muslim societies.

The lesson emerging from the Iran confrontation is not necessarily about ideology or sectarianism, but about political will. Iran demonstrated that a nation prepared to absorb pressure, endure hardship, and act with strategic determination can challenge even vastly superior powers.

Whether one supports or opposes Tehran's policies, the symbolism of its resilience has transformed regional psychology. It shattered the belief that resistance is impossible. It exposed the limitations of overwhelming military superiority when confronted by national resolve and strategic patience. Most importantly, it revealed the weakness of states that possess wealth and power but lack collective courage and unity.

The broader lesson for the Muslim world is stark. Fear of retaliation,

and political caution may preserve short-term stability, but they also perpetuate long-term humiliation and strategic irrelevance.

Nations that continuously avoid risk eventually lose both influence and dignity. Courage alone does not guarantee victory, but the absence of courage guarantees submission.

The crisis in Gaza and Lebanon has therefore become more than a regional conflict. It has become a mirror reflecting the political fragmentation, contradictions, and moral paralysis of the Muslim world itself.

Until Muslim nations move beyond symbolic rhetoric and develop coordinated, principled, and strategic policies, Israel will continue acting with confidence and impunity. The future balance of power in the Middle East will ultimately not be determined only by weapons or technology, but by which nations possess the unity, resilience, and political courage to stand firmly behind their convictions.

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

Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Members of United Council of Churches hold national flag and placards during a rally to mark one year since the India-Pakistan conflict, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Marka-e Haq unwavering commitment to safeguard the country, Faisal Rathore

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the historic success in Mark e Haq proved the Pakistani nation's unwavering resolve and commitment to safeguard the country's ideological and territorial sovereignty.

He expressed these views while addressing a grand convention organized by the Kashmiri community at Chakri Road, Dhamial, to mark the first anniversary of the Bunyan-um-Marsoos.

Speaking on the occasion,

the AJK premier lauded the Pakistan army for its professionalism, combat preparedness and patriotism. "The exemplary courage, professionalism and defense strategy displayed by the armed forces during the Operation Bunyan um Marsoos is being acknowledged both at national and international level", the pm remarked.

He also praised the military leadership, particularly Field Marshal Gen Syed Asim Munir, for the successful implementation and execution of the operation Bunyan um Marsoos that forced India to retreat in humilia-



tion. Paying tributes to the martyrs, ghazis and soldiers of the Pakistan army, he said that the armed forces had foiled every conspiracy of the enemy through courage and

professionalism. He further stated that the government was taking concrete steps for the welfare and prosperity of the people. The convention was also

addressed by former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas and government minister Nabila Ayub and others.

On the occasion, several political workers and leaders from different parties announced their decision to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir. They were welcomed by party leaders. The convention was hosted by Central Vice President of PPP Azad Kashmir and party candidate from Baloch constituency, Sardar Inayatullah Arif.

Marka-e-Haq' coverage boosts global credibility of Pakistani media; says Secretary Information

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil said Marka-e-Haq serves as a lasting beacon for posterity, underscoring that victory comes through courage and resolve, while congratulating the nation and commending Pakistani media for its balanced coverage.

During a special Radio Pakistan podcast on the occasion of Marka-e-Haq's first anniversary on Sunday, the Federal Information Secretary lauded

the Armed Forces and national leadership, highlighting Pakistan's strengthened media credibility and narrative resilience during the landmark event.

He also paid tribute to the leadership and the armed forces for their decisive role and unwavering commitment.

The Secretary Information further lauded the Pakistani mainstream media for building strong global credibility through accurate, factual and responsible dissemination of information. He said that national media effectively countered hostile narratives



by responding with verified, evidence-

based reporting.

He noted that widespread disinformation propagated through Indian media was systematically exposed and neutralized through Pakistan's credible journalistic response, ensuring factual clarity at the international level.

The Secretary also highlighted the close coordination between the ISPR and the Ministry of Information, stating that a strict verification process was followed and no news was released without full authentication to maintain accuracy and trust.

No power can match Pakistan armed forces, says Murad Ali Shah

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that no power in the world can match the capabilities of Pakistan's armed forces, highlighting their professionalism, courage, and dedication to national defence.

A special ceremony was held at the Karachi Naval Dockyard to mark the completion of one year since the success of Marka-e-Haq.

The event was attended by senior government and military officials. The Sindh chief minister laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs' Monument to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the country.



Speaking on the occasion, Murad Ali Shah said the success of "Bunyan-um-Marsoos" sent a clear message

that any aggression against Pakistan would be met with a strong response. He added that the nation, along

with all political forces, stands shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces.

He said the world witnessed the strength and professionalism of Pakistan's military during last year's events, adding that "no power can compete with Pakistan's armed forces."

Reaffirming Pakistan's position, he said sovereignty remains the country's top priority and the nation will always defend it firmly if challenged. He also paid tribute to martyrs and veterans, calling them the pride of the nation.

The chief minister further stated that Pakistan is a peaceful country, but any threat to its sovereignty would be responded to decisively.

PM Shehbaz Sharif, Qatari prime minister discuss regional situation, peace efforts



City Desk

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday morning received a telephone call from Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Jassim Al Thani, during which the two leaders discussed the evolving regional situation and ongoing peace efforts in the region.

During their warm and cordial conversation, both leaders exchanged views on recent developments and reviewed progress regarding peace initiatives aimed at promoting regional stability.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's sincere appre-

ciation for Qatar's continued and steadfast support for Pakistan's peace initiatives, reaffirming the strong brotherly relations between the two countries.

Both sides underscored the importance of constructive engagement by all parties to ensure the success of ongoing peace efforts and maintain regional harmony.

The Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards to Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and said he was looking forward to the Amir's upcoming visit to Pakistan.

He said the visit of the Qatari Amir would further strengthen and expand the enduring partnership and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar.

PM contacts KPK's CM, condemns Bannu terror attack, reaffirms resolve against terrorism

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday telephoned Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi and strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack on a police checkpoint in Bannu.

During the conversation, the Prime Minister expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack and prayed for the elevation of ranks of the police personnel martyred. He also extended heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the attack.

Reaffirming the federal government's commitment to eliminating terrorism, Shehbaz Sharif said the Center would continue working closely with provincial governments to ensure complete eradication of



terrorism from the country.

"We will provide every possible assistance to the provincial government in the fight against terrorism," the Prime Minister said.

Both leaders paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, security forces, and police personnel for their sacrifices and efforts in combating terrorism.

The Prime Minister reiterated that the government remains fully determined to eliminate all forms of terrorism from the country.

ECP releases priority list of technocrats in GB Assembly Elections 2026



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has released priority list for technocrat seats in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Elections 2026.

According to details, out of 27 nomination papers, only 19 candidates' papers were approved for technocrats which include 4 candidates from Muslim League, 3 candidates from PPP, 1 from Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen, 1 from Gilgit-Baltistan Democratic Party, 5 from Islamic Movement and 1 from Pakistan Muslim League. The nomination papers of 3 candidates from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam 1 and Utsaqat Pakistan Party were accepted by the ECP. The papers of all 4 PML-N candidates Sultan Muhammad Advocate and

Sultan Muhammad Advocate were declared valid.

The nominations of Syed Akbar Shah, Sherzad and Ahmed Hussain Turabi were rejected. The nominations of three Istikham-e-Pakistan Party candidates Muhammad Ali, Maulana Fazl Rahim and Hazrat Khan were accepted. The nominations of Majlis-e-Wahdat Muslimeen candidate Muhammad Saeed were also approved. Gilgit-Baltistan Democratic Party's candidate Qaim Ali Shah's papers were accepted. Pakistan Muslim League's Ghazanfar Akram Khan's papers were also approved. The papers of PML's Muhammad Sharif and Imran Shah were rejected. JI's Muhammad Dildar's papers were approved while the papers of JI's Bashir Ahmed and Ijlal Hussain's papers rejected. The final lists were displayed after scrutiny of papers.