



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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Fazlur Rehman reaches Karachi on six-day visit

During his visit to Karachi, Maulana Fazlur Rehman will also meet various political leaders, including Pir Pagara and Kamran Tessori. The spokesperson further said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman will participate in a "Meet the Press" session and will also meet party officials, business figures, and political and social personalities.



Gwadar University VC, Pro VC among four 'abducted'

Four people, including the Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor of Gwadar University, have reportedly been abducted after going missing while travelling from Gwadar to Quetta, officials said. Sources suggest the officials may have been intercepted in the Mastung or Qalat areas, where their whereabouts remain unknown.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the progress review meeting on reforms in housing sector on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz calls for comprehensive housing reforms, digitalization of sector

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underscored the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in Pakistan's housing sector as rapid population growth and unplanned urban expansion were increasing pressure on agricultural land and required an effective long-term strategy.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on housing sector reforms here, the prime minister said provision of affordable housing for low-income groups, promotion of low-cost housing schemes, encouragement of private sector participation and improvement in public amenities were among the government's top priorities, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

He directed authorities to digitalize and automate all matters related to the housing sector in order to enhance transparency and improve governance.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said bringing the housing sector under a proper regulatory framework was essential to attract overseas investors and ensure sustainable growth in the real estate and development sectors.

During the meeting, officials presented various proposals aimed at introducing reforms in

the housing sector. Participants were informed that the regulatory framework would be simplified to facilitate credible investors and developers and promote transparency in housing projects.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control

Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, Chairman NAB Lieutenant General (R) Nazir Ahmad Butt, Attorney General Mansoor Awan and senior government officials.

Pakistan aims to raise clean energy share to 90pc: Leghari

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awas Ahmed Khan Leghari on Thursday said the government was working to increase the share of clean energy in Pakistan's energy mix from the current 55 percent to 90 percent in the coming years.

He expressed these views during a meeting with German Ambassador Ina Lepel at the Power Division, where matters relating to ongoing reforms and development initiatives in the energy sector came under discussion, said a press release issued here.



The minister said Pakistan was generating a significant amount of electricity from indigenous energy resources which was strengthening energy self-reliance and sustainability.

He also informed that around 800 megawatts of renewable energy was being planned through a competitive market mechanism. The government would not pursue new power purchases beyond already committed agreements. He added that Pakistan remained close to 70 percent self-sufficiency in the energy sector last year.

The minister also shared progress on the privatization of distribution companies. He said that three out of eleven DISCOs have been selected for initial privatization and more companies would be added in the next phase.

Pakistan to expose coordinated anti-peace disinformation campaign: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar on Thursday said that a coordinated negative information campaign initiated from outside Pakistan was aimed at creating deliberate confusion and misinformation in an attempt to discredit Pakistan's role for sustainable peace in the region.

In a post on X, the minister said the malicious campaign was based on unnamed sources and officials and reflected the frustration of those who were weary of peace.

He said facts and verification by credible domestic media sources, as well as multiple fact-check forums, had already exposed the propaganda.

The minister said it was clearly understood that certain elements, mainly detractors of peace, were behind such stories and were unable to come to terms with Pakistan's role for peace in the region as well as its continued and successful fight against foreign-sponsored and abetted terrorism.

He said elimination of terrorism, resolution of disputes and prevalence of peace perhaps did not suit those behind the malicious campaign.

Pakistan successfully tests indigenously developed Fatah-4 cruise missile

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday successfully conducted a training fire of the indigenously developed Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The successful training fire was organised under the supervision of the Army Rocket Force Command, ISPR said.

The Fatah-4 missile is equipped with an advanced navigation-aided system and is capable of striking targets with high precision over long distances, the ISPR added.

Senior officers from the Army Rocket Force Command witnessed the cruise missile



test, according to the ISPR.

President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chief of the Naval Staff and Chief of the Air Staff commended the successful training fire of Fatah-4.

They appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards the successful training fire of the F-series missile.

In meeting with US Assistant Secy, Dar reiterates issues resolution thru dialogue & diplomacy



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Paul Kapur on Thursday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional developments, according to a Foreign Office statement.

The deputy prime minister appreciated President Trump's vision for peace, the Iran-US ceasefire understanding, and the visit of US Vice President JD Vance to Pakistan on April 11-12 for Islamabad Talks.

He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to resolving

issues through dialogue and diplomacy.

Expressing satisfaction over the current momentum in Pakistan-US relations, DPM Dar welcomed growing engagement between the two countries and the expansion of cooperation across multiple fields.

He also underscored the importance of regular high-level exchanges and sustained structured dialogue.

US Assistant Secretary Kapur appreciated Pakistan's role in regional mediation and noted the positive trajectory in bilateral relations.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen collaboration in trade, investment, and development.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan ties growing stronger consistently: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan were brotherly countries and their bilateral ties were growing stronger with every passing day.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Justice Minister of Azerbaijan Farid Turab Oglu Ahmadov, who called on him here, conveyed his warmest greetings for Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, while fondly recalling their telephone conversation earlier this week.

The prime minister was assisted by Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch.



During their "warm and cordial" meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz welcomed the visiting minister and said that the relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were growing stronger day by day.

While thanking the prime minister for receiving him, the Azerbaijani minister thanked Pakistan for the warmth and hospitality extended to him.

Passport ranking improves; visa facilitation Expands: Talal



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control Talal Chaudhry on Thursday said Pakistan's passport ranking and international travel facilitation have improved in the current period, reflecting the government's performance.

Responding to a point of order in the National Assembly, he said the government fully acknowledges its responsibility to protect citizens living abroad and to address matters related to visas and passports.

He said it had become "fashionable" to take the name of the Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to generate headlines, adding that discussions should instead focus on performance and institutional work.

AJK PM unveils PPP's Welfare-Focused Election Platform

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) will contest the upcoming elections with a comprehensive public welfare agenda focused on development, employment, education, healthcare and resolution of people's problems.

The Prime Minister expressed these views during a meeting with President PPP Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin who called on him here today.

He said that all available resources would be utilized to serve the people and strengthen democratic values.

Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore further said that the PPP would move forward with a clear roadmap aimed at ensuring development, improving basic services and creating employment opportunities for the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, President PPP Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that the PPP has always stood for the rights of the



people. "This is why people from all walks of life continue to associate themselves with the party", he added.

He reiterated the party's commitment to public welfare, youth empow-

erment and the overall development of the region.

During the meeting the two leaders also reviewed the overall political situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir,

party affairs and preparations for the forthcoming elections.

They expressed satisfaction over the growing public trust on the party leadership and its policies.

AJK Election Commission Flags Major Errors in 2026 Voter Rolls; Launches Investigation

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission issued a press release regarding errors found in the electoral rolls being prepared for the 2026 Legislative Assembly general elections. The qualifying date for voter registration was set as April 1, 2026, with the process starting on April 18, 2026, which involved removing the deceased and registering eligible voters. Following the initial review of printed non-final rolls, significant errors were discovered. The Commission received complaints from political parties and the public about under-registration, misplaced votes between districts, and errors in locality listings. Taking suo motu notice, the AJK Election Commission met with Revenue Department officials and formed a high-level committee led by the Deputy Commissioner Bagh to investigate the discrepancies. A meeting between the Chief Election Commission, a Member, and the Secretary Election Commission with the NADRA Chairman confirmed the validity of the complaints. Consequently, the Commission directed revising authorities via letter to correct any omissions or incorrect entries according to the Election Act 2020. Emphasizing the necessity of clean voter lists for fair elections, the Commission decided to send the draft election list in soft form to all registration officers before final publication to verify their entries and address any omissions. Furthermore, the public is advised to contact their respective registration officers to check for mistakes or omissions in their names within the list, which will be available at the registration officer's office.



Kashmiri Rights Group Demands UN Probe into Alleged "False Flag" Killing by Indian Forces

Spokesman Report.



ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Executive Director Sardar Amjad Yousaf urged the UN Secretary-General and High Commissioner for Human Rights to order an independent investigation into the abduction and killing of Kashmiri youth Muhammad Amir by Indian forces near the Line of Control

(LoC). Yousaf alleged the incident was a "false flag operation" intended to defame Pakistan by falsely portraying the innocent civilian as a militant and escalating regional tensions. Amir, a recent groom from Poonch, was reportedly abducted from his village during an ambush and later killed; Indian authorities subsequently tried to label him a terrorist, which his family vehemently denied, stating he had no ties to militant or political groups. KIIR also refuted "misleading and fabricated" Indian media reports claiming firing in the Krishna Ghati sector, asserting there was no exchange of fire on the LoC. Highlighting growing concern over targeted civilian killings by the Indian Army under the guise of counter-terrorism, Yousaf characterized these actions as severe human rights violations that increase fear and instability among LoC residents already enduring continuous tension and ceasefire violations. KIIR demanded immediate international intervention for a transparent, impartial investigation into civilian killings along the LoC, noting the historical toll of Indian army shelling on civilians, including field laborers.

Vehari Rally Backs Army After Alleged Cross-Border Air Strikes



Asim Tanveer

VEHARI: large rally supporting the Pakistan Army and its struggle for justice took place in Vehari district, led by former PPP National Assembly member and Central Additional General Secretary, Mahmood Hayat Tuchi Khan. Khan alleged that India unprovokedly attacked Bahawalpur, Mureed, and Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir on May 7, 2025, martyring madrasa students, and followed this with attacks on Sargodha, Islamabad, and Jacobabad airbases on May 9. He claimed that on May 10, the Pakistan Air Force, acting under the direction of Army Chief General Asim Munir, decisively defeated the Indian Air Force by destroying five French Rafale, six Sukhoi, and Mirage aircraft, along with the 400 S air defense system in Indian airspace, forcing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to request US assistance. Speakers, including MPA candidate Muhammad Nadeem Akhtar Rao and others, voiced support for General Asim Munir, President Asif Ali Zardari, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, raising slogans affirming their readiness to defend the nation. Hundreds participated, including traders and local leaders, affirming their belief that the Pakistan Army guarantees national security and that the nation stands united behind its forces.

Celebration

LAHORE: Consulate General Republic of Liberia to Pakistan and Nepal Faisal Butt, Lt Gen (ret) Ghulam Mustafa and others are cutting the cake in connection with first commemoration of Marka e Haq at Lahore Press Club in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PML-N's Shah Ghulam Qadir Slams PPP, Predicts Landslide Victory in AJK Polls

City Desk.

MIRPUR: Shah Ghulam Qadir, President of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Leader of the Opposition, firmly stated that attacks on the constitutional status of AJK to abolish it will be resisted by his party.

He asserted that AJK is an ideological state founded on the principle of accession to Pakistan, and any attempt to remove this from the electoral process will be thwarted.

Qadir warned the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) members that their current actions, including perceived "air announcements" and fake appointments, would be ineffective as the PML-N is confident of winning the upcoming elections with a two-thirds majority, driven by the people's love for Pakistan and Nawaz Sharif.

He criticized factions acting as a "B-team" for the PPP for speaking against Pakistan and stated they do not deserve concessions, affirming that AJK's freedom, won through sacrifice, will be defended. Qadir expressed full support for the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and the civil-military leadership in their "fight for truth."

He clarified that only his statements as party president represent PML-N policy, warning against internal remarks that weaken relations with state institutions.

Furthermore, he cautioned AJK administration and bureaucracy to act as impartial employees of the state based on merit, not political



patronage, warning consequences for those who align with the current ruling party. Qadir contrasted the perceived failures of the PPP in Sindh, citing poor infrastructure in Larkana and water shortages in Karachi, with the development achieved in Punjab under PML-N.

He expressed AJK's desire for similar advancements, demanding equitable distribution of development, merit-based jobs, quality education, and healthcare, suggesting AJK could flourish with proper management of its significant budget. These remarks were made during a reception for hundreds of defectors joining the PML-N from the PPP.

Wheelchairs Distributed to Persons with Disabilities in Multan

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: High-quality wheelchairs imported from the United States were distributed among persons with disabilities at a ceremony organized by Mainstream Association for Persons with Disabilities in Multan.

The event was arranged in collaboration with Disabled Welfare Association Karachi, Bargad Organization for Youth Development, and Hands Welfare Foundation, under the supervision of the Social Welfare Department and Bait-ul-Mal.

Divisional Director Social Welfare Umm-e-Farwa Hamdani, representing the Commissioner Multan as chief guest, praised the initiative and said that Mainstream Association was playing an

important role in helping persons with disabilities secure a dignified place in society. She appreciated the provision of high-quality wheelchairs and thanked Disabled Welfare Association Karachi for facilitating the import and distribution for South Punjab beneficiaries.

Addressing the ceremony, Mainstream Association President Nadir Khan said the organization's mission was to empower people living with severe disabilities by helping them learn how to lead independent and meaningful lives. He appealed to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to ensure financial support for organizations working for persons with disabilities so they could expand welfare services.

Other speakers, including Saleh

Pasha, Javed Iqbal, Shafiqur Rehman, Asim Zafar, Agha Hasnain Raza, Abdul Mohsin Shaheen, Zain Baloch, Nasir Mahmood Sheikh, Abdul Aziz Khan (Deputy Director Social Welfare), and Shakir Hussain Shakir, highlighted the need to create an inclusive society where persons with disabilities could contribute fully.

The event was hosted by Rizwana Malik and attended by civil society representatives, government officials, families of persons with disabilities, and a large number of special persons. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to making society more accessible and supportive so that no one is left behind. Shields and certificates were also distributed among guests at the end of the ceremony.



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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:32 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:58 pm
Maghrib	7:01 pm
Isha	8:37 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
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CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cannt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
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RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224

'Battle of Truth' Ceremony Held in Karachi on India Defeat Anniversary



News Desk

KARACHI: On the completion of one year of India's humiliating defeat, a ceremony titled "Battle of Truth - Bunyan-un-Mar-soos" was organized by the Pakistan Ghareeb Awam Party at Panipat House. Addressing the gathering, Party Chairman and Head, Syed Arshad Hussain said that the Indian government, considering Pakistan a small and weak country, had been attempting to humiliate it before the international community.

He said that the nation remains grateful to Almighty Allah that the courageous, valiant, and fearless armed forces of Pakistan, under the intelligent, wise, and bold military leadership of Syed Asim Munir, raised the honor and prestige of the country and the nation.

He also strongly condemned the aggressive propaganda of the Indian media, based on lies, deception, and misinformation, which attempted unsuccessfully to mislead the world through false narratives.

On this occasion, Nasir Ali Khan, Abdul Qayyum Khan, Raees Ahmed, Kaleem Siddiqui, Master Muhammad Hanif and others also addressed the ceremony.

CM Maryam Nawaz orders installation of safety nets beneath manhole covers across Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab

Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a second consecutive meeting to review ongoing development projects across the prov-



ince, during which divisional commissioners presented progress reports via video link.

The chief minister directed authorities to install safety nets beneath manhole covers throughout Punjab to enhance public safety.

The polyester-strip safety nets will be fixed inside manholes, gutters and drainage systems. A pilot project has been launched in Gujranwala, where polyester safety nets will be installed

on 30,000 manholes.

The meeting was informed that 31 projects, including roads, parks, flower markets, commercial areas and a zoo, are under completion in Gujranwala Division. Tuff tiles will be laid from Nawab Chowk to Crown Cinema, Pasur Road to Ferozewala Road, and Aslam Butt Road to Hafizabad Road. Traffic signals will also be installed at nine busy points, including Passport Road, Ferozewala Road and Civil Hospital

Road in Gujranwala, while streetlights will be installed on Nowshera Road and Eminabad Road.

The chief minister approved the construction of roads from Bypass Road Kalaska to GT Road and from GT Road to Peep Naki village in Wazirabad. She directed the early completion of the Kamoke Edhi Road Main GT Road to Railway Road project. Family parks will be established in Saroki Eminabad, Kamoke and Nowshera Virkan.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Sharifzoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik on Thursday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PC Hospitality Partners with Asksuite to Elevate Guest Experience Through AI-Powered Automation

Commerce Desk

PC Hospitality signed a strategic partnership with Asksuite, a global leader in AI-driven hotel communication solutions, to implement advanced chatbot automation across its properties. This collaboration marks a significant step in PC Hospitality's commitment to enhancing guest engagement, streamlining operations, and driving direct bookings through intelligent technology.

Through this partnership, PC Hospitality will deploy Asksuite's AI-powered reservation agent, purpose-built for the hospitality industry, enabling real-time, omnichannel communication with guests. The platform will allow PC Hospitality to



respond instantly to inquiries, personalize guest interactions, and convert conversations into direct bookings

more efficiently. "Partnering with Asksuite allows us to redefine how we interact with our guests," said Bastien Blanc, CEO PC Hospitality. "This technology empowers us to provide immediate, accurate responses while freeing our team to focus on delivering exceptional in-person service."

Asksuite's solution has been recognized globally for helping hotels improve operational efficiency, enhance guest satisfaction, and increase direct revenue. By leveraging this platform, PC Hospitality aims to strengthen its digital capabilities and stay ahead in an increasingly competitive and technology-driven hospitality landscape.

NDF Pakistan President Abid Lashari Honored with Prestigious Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for Disability Advocacy



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Abid Lashari, President of NDF Pakistan, received the civil award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz from Governor Sindh Syed Nihal Hashmi for his significant services to persons with disabilities, focusing on rehabilitation, humanitarian response, and community development. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also attended the ceremony. The award recognizes Lashari's dedication to empowering, including, and protecting the rights of disabled individuals nationwide. Under his guidance, NDF Pakistan established rehabilitation centers in several cities, providing vital therapies and support to hundreds of vulnerable children and families. Lashari thanked the government, partners, and the disability community, dedicating the honor to all those working for an inclusive Pakistan, emphasizing it recognizes collective efforts toward dignity and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Maula Jatt Set for Massive China Release in May 2026

News Desk

LAHORE: Another major achievement for the Pakistani film industry as renowned director Bilal Lashari and acclaimed film producer Ammara Hikmat blockbuster film The Legend of Maula Jatt is set to release in cinemas across China on May 21, 2026. Following the announcement of the film's release in China, excitement has spread across Pakistani showbiz circles and among film enthusiasts.



Film producer Ammara Hikmat shared the exciting news on her Instagram page, where she appreciated the efforts of renowned film distributor Nadeem Mandviwalla and thanked him for his contribution. According to details, The Legend of Maula Jatt has already achieved tremendous success in Pakistan and around the world and is regarded as one of the highest-grossing Pakistani films of all time. The film earned international acclaim due to its unique storyline, breathtaking cinematography, modern action sequences, and world-class production quality.

The movie stars some of Pakistan's leading actors, including Fawad Khan, Hamza Ali Abbasi, Mahira Khan, and Humaima Malik in lead roles. The film's characters and dialogues were also highly appreciated by audiences.

Newham Mayor Forhad Hussain Unveils Four-Member Cabinet with Focus on Residents First

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The Mayor of Newham, Forhad Hussain, has announced his first cabinet, pledging to improve public services, deliver more affordable homes and give residents a stronger voice in shaping the borough's future.

Mayor Hussain, elected last week to lead the borough for the next four years, said the new administration would focus on "putting residents first" and rebuilding trust by delivering visible change in local neighbourhoods.

The new four-member cabinet will support the Mayor across key policy areas, while Mayor Hussain himself will retain responsibility for overall political leadership, as well as community safety and regeneration.

New cabinet appointments, John Gray, Statutory Deputy Mayor and

Cabinet Member for Housing, Lakmini Shah, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Communities, Susan Masters Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Environment, Zulfiqar Ali, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Mayor Hussain brings previous experience in local government, having served as a Labour councillor for Plaistow North from 2010 to 2018. During that time, he held senior cabinet roles including Cabinet Member for Commercial Opportunities and later Cabinet Member for Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Announcing the team, Mayor Hussain said: "This is a new chapter for Newham, and I'm proud to be appointing a cabinet rooted in our borough and committed to delivering for local people."



Clr John Gray Clr Lakmini Shah Mayor Forhad Hussain Clr Susan Masters Clr Zulfiqar Ali

He added: "We were elected on a clear promise to put residents first — to build a council that listens, gets the basics right and delivers real change

people can see in their neighbourhoods." "This team has the experience and local knowledge to help us make

Newham cleaner, safer and fairer, strengthen our communities, and rebuild trust by showing we can deliver."

Full details of each cabinet portfolio are expected to be announced at the Annual Meeting of the new administration on 20 May.

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Israel's Campaign Against Pakistan's Neutrality in Iran War

The latest political storm surrounding Pakistan and its mediation role between the United States and Iran did not emerge in isolation. It erupted after Lindsey Graham openly questioned senior American military leadership during congressional hearings over reports that Iranian aircraft had temporarily used Pakistani facilities after the April 7 ceasefire.

Addressing Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and senior military officials, Graham insinuated that Pakistan could no longer be trusted as a neutral mediator if it maintained cooperative understandings with Iran. The implication behind his remarks was unmistakable: Pakistan's sovereign foreign-policy decisions should somehow require approval from Washington or Tel Aviv before Islamabad could legitimately maintain relations with Tehran.

Soon afterward, Benjamin Netanyahu intensified the campaign by accusing Pakistan of running "bot farms" and social-media influence operations designed to weaken relations between the United States and Israel. Netanyahu claimed anti-Israel sentiment among younger Americans was being amplified by coordinated foreign manipulation rather than emerging organically within American society itself.

Yet the timing of these accusations reveals something far deeper. The real crisis today is not Pakistan's diplomacy with Iran. The real crisis is the growing

political and intellectual rebellion inside the United States itself against the long-standing assumption that Israel should receive unconditional military, diplomatic, and financial backing regardless of consequences.

One of the most extraordinary developments came from Jonathan Pollard — the former American intelligence analyst imprisoned for spying for Israel. In a dramatic interview with i24NEWS, Pollard declared that the U.S.-Israel alliance was "finished" and described President Donald Trump as "dangerous." Pollard accused both American and Israeli leadership of strategic failure after October 7 and argued that Israel no longer possessed dependable allies in Washington. Coming from a figure long associated with pro-Israel advocacy, the remarks reflected the growing fractures within the alliance itself.

At the same time, voices across the American political spectrum are increasingly demanding that the United States begin treating Israel like any other sovereign state rather than granting it exceptional status beyond normal scrutiny. Tucker Carlson has repeatedly argued that America must detach itself from endless Middle Eastern wars fought in the name of Israeli security.

Jeffrey Sachs has warned that uncon-

ditional support for Israel is damaging America's global credibility and strategic interests. Mehdi Hasan, Jeremy Scahill, Chris Hedges, and Norman Finkelstein have all criticized what they view as extraordinary protection and political privilege granted to Israel within American politics and media.

Even more remarkable is that this reassessment is no longer confined to progressive circles. Figures such as Douglas Macgregor and Scott Ritter from anti-interventionist and conservative circles increasingly argue that American foreign policy has become excessively shaped by Israeli strategic calculations.

On the progressive side, Ana Kasparian and Cenk Uygur have openly questioned whether the United States is sacrificing its own sovereignty and reputation in pursuit of policies benefiting another state.

Simultaneously, lawmakers such as Peter Welch and Chris Van Hollen have demanded greater scrutiny of military aid to Israel, including discussions surrounding the Leahy Law and NSM-20 reviews over alleged human-rights violations. What was politically unimaginable in Washington a decade ago is now openly debated in Congress, universities, mainstream media, podcasts, and digital platforms.

This is the real context behind Netanyahu's accusations against Pakistan. The erosion of unquestioned support for Israel inside the United States is not created by Pakistan, Iran, or foreign "bot farms." It is increasingly emerging from American citizens themselves — journalists, students, veterans, academics, influencers, religious leaders, podcasters, and ordinary voters questioning decades of war, instability, civilian casualties, and endless military entanglements across the Middle East.

The digital revolution has accelerated this transformation. Traditional gatekeepers no longer control political narratives. Millions of Americans now receive information through podcasts, livestreams, independent media, and social platforms where alternative perspectives circulate freely. Images from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran have profoundly shaped public opinion, especially among younger generations who increasingly reject unconditional support for war.

Against this backdrop, attempts to blame Pakistan for changing American attitudes appear politically convenient but strategically hollow.

At the same time, the controversy over Pakistan's mediation role raises a much larger legal and diplomatic question: the sovereignty of states under international law. The Charter of the United Nations explicitly recognizes the sovereign equality of all member states under

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Salute to Shaheed Liaqat: The Hero Who Became a Beacon of Hope in the Darkness of Terrorism

Pakistan has faced decades of terrorism that caused massive loss of lives and deeply damaged the country's psychological, social, and economic fabric. *Suicide attacks and repeated violence at mosques, imambarahs, markets, schools, military installations, and public places* kept the nation in a prolonged state of fear, uncertainty, and emotional trauma for years.

Yet despite this darkness, one truth has always remained bright: the people of Pakistan have never surrendered to fear. Soldiers, police officers, tribal communities, villagers, laborers, teachers, and young citizens have stood firm against terrorism and paid for the defense of their homeland with their blood.

The recent act of bravery by Shaheed Liaqat from the Jand area of Attock is a continuation of this national history of sacrifice. An ordinary villager, with no official authority, no modern weapons, and no protective shield, stepped forward to stop a suicide bomber and placed his own life at risk.

Similarly, the swift and courageous response of Attock Police at the Khushhal Garh check post highlights a crucial reality: the war against terrorism cannot be won by weapons alone. *Despite immense losses, the country stood resilient.* Markets reopened, educational institutions resumed, cultural life continued, and society moved forward with determination.

From Aitzaz Hasan Shaheed to Liaqat Shaheed, Pakistan continues to produce brave sons of the soil who move forward instead of stepping back in the face of danger. These are the true strength of this nation, and their sacrifices safeguard Pakistan's future.

On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the awarding of Sitara-e-Shujaat to Liaqat Shaheed.

It is worth noting that Liaqat Shaheed sacrificed his life to avert a major loss of life, and his courage, sense of duty, and sacrifice are being hailed as a shining example for the nation.

The approval of this award by the President on the Prime Minister's recommendation reflects official recognition of his extraordinary bravery.

Sitara-e-Shujaat is the second-highest civilian award for bravery in Pakistan. Liaqat Shaheed demonstrated exceptional courage by confronting the suicide attacker and thwarting his malicious intent, symbolizing the nation's unwavering resolve against terrorism. His mother, son, and brother received the Sitara-e-Shujaat from the President.

The family has been provided full official protocol during their travel, accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner of Jand, while an elite force unit has also been deployed for their security and facilitation.



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

Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos and the End of India's "New Kashmir" Illusion

One year after Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos, its importance continues to shape the political and strategic conversation surrounding Kashmir. The operation was not simply a military response during a dangerous regional crisis. It became the moment when India's carefully manufactured Kashmir narrative began collapsing before the international community, while Pakistan forcefully restored its strategic voice on an issue many believed had been diplomatically sidelined.

For years after the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, India sought to project Kashmir as a success story of peace, stability, and integration. Tourism became the centerpiece of this narrative. In 2024, Indian officials celebrated more than 3.5 million tourists visiting Indian-administered Kashmir, presenting crowded hotels, tourism campaigns, and images of Pahalgam and Gulmarg as proof that the dispute had effectively been resolved and that Kashmiris had accepted the post-370 order.

However, the events of 2025 exposed the weakness of this carefully constructed narrative. The April 22 Pahalgam attack, which killed twenty-six civilians, shattered the image India had promoted for years. Within weeks, hotel occupancy dropped sharply, while the famous Baisaran meadow, once promoted as a symbol of "New Kashmir," was closed. The crisis demonstrated that economic activity and tourism could not erase the deeper political realities of the region.

India's response further deepened international concern. More than 1,500 Kashmiris were reportedly detained without charge,

civilian homes were demolished in actions criticized as collective punishment under Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the Indus Waters Treaty was suspended, turning water into a tool of political pressure during an already volatile situation.

These were not the actions of a state confident in its claim that Kashmir's dispute had ended. They were the actions of a power attempting to tighten control over a population whose political aspirations remained unresolved.

On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, targeting locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Three days later, Pakistan responded with Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos, striking multiple Indian military installations, including airbases at Udhampur, Pathankot, and Adampur. The confrontation quickly became one of the most dangerous military escalations in South Asia in recent years.

Yet the true significance of Bunyan Al Marsoos was not confined to military retaliation alone. Its deeper importance lay in the political message it delivered to India, the international community, and the people of Kashmir.

For years, many international observers assumed Pakistan had gradually shifted Kashmir into the background because of economic pressures, diplomatic fatigue, and changing regional priorities. Bunyan Al Marsoos decisively ended that perception. Pakistan's civilian and military leadership spoke with unusual clarity and unity, reaffirming that Kashmir remains central to Pakistan's national identity, regional security concerns, and foreign policy vision.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared

before both domestic and international audiences that Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people was neither symbolic nor negotiable. He reminded the world that United Nations Security Council resolutions guaranteeing Kashmiris the right to self-determination through a plebiscite remain legally valid despite decades of political neglect. Pakistan's restraint, he argued, had been misunderstood internationally as weakness or retreat. Bunyan Al Marsoos corrected that misunderstanding.

Equally significant was the statement delivered by the Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations, who linked the Kashmir dispute directly with the question of water security. By suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, India attempted to exploit Pakistan's hydrological vulnerability as strategic pressure. Pakistan's response rejected the idea that Kashmir's territory and the rivers flowing from it could be treated separately. The message was clear: a people's political future and their natural resources cannot be held hostage simultaneously.

Field Marshal Asim Munir reinforced this shift by warning that any future aggression against Pakistan would receive an immediate and comprehensive response from the outset. This statement carried enormous strategic significance because it challenged a long-standing assumption within Indian strategic thinking that Pakistan would always remain constrained by escalation concerns.

The international reaction to the crisis further weakened India's position. The United Nations Security Council reconvened under the formal India-Pakistan agenda. UN Secretary-General António Guterres publicly warned against military confrontation between two nuclear powers. Diplomatic engagement intensified from Washington, Beijing, Riyadh,

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Bunyan al Marsoos: Decoding the Strategic Logic of Contemporary Conflict

The phrase Bunyan al Marsoos, meaning "a solidly constructed wall," carries profound strategic symbolism. It reflects the notion of unity, cohesion, and collective defense principles central to Pakistan's security doctrine amid an increasingly hostile regional environment. In contemporary security studies, states confronted with asymmetrical threats often adopt strategies that blend conventional deterrence with hybrid warfare capabilities. Pakistan's evolving defense posture demonstrates this adaptation, particularly in response to India's increasingly assertive regional behaviour and hegemonic ambitions under its current strategic outlook.

India's growing military modernization, aggressive rhetoric, and unilateral actions in disputed territories have significantly altered the strategic equilibrium of South Asia. The revocation of Article 370 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), recurring ceasefire violations, and the adoption of offensive military doctrines such as the so-called "Cold Start Doctrine" have amplified security anxieties across the region. Within this framework, Operation Bunyan al Marsoos can be interpreted as a manifestation of strategic signaling a calculated demonstration intended to reinforce deterrence while communicating Pakistan's readiness to defend its sovereignty against any form of coercion or aggression.

In International Relations (IR) theory, particularly within the realist paradigm, states prioritize survival within an anarchic international system. Consequently, military prepar-

edness and credible deterrence become essential instruments of national security. Pakistan's strategic behavior under Bunyan al Marsoos aligns closely with defensive realism, which posits that states seek sufficient power to ensure survival rather than expansionist dominance. Unlike India's increasingly assertive regional posture, Pakistan's security orientation remains fundamentally reactive and deterrence-driven. The operation therefore reflects an effort to preserve strategic stability rather than undermine it.

Furthermore, contemporary conflicts increasingly involve hybrid dimensions in which psychological operations, media narratives, and information dominance play decisive roles. During Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, sections of the Indian media circulated exaggerated and, at times, misleading claims, including reports alleging that the Indian Army had destroyed Pakistan's Multan port. India's extensive use of media-driven nationalism and disinformation campaigns has sought to portray Pakistan as a destabilizing actor despite Islamabad's consistent calls for dialogue and regional peace. In contrast, Pakistan's strategic communication surrounding Bunyan al Marsoos emphasizes defensive preparedness, regional balance, and responsible state behaviour. This distinction is critical in understanding the broader geopolitical narrative contest unfolding in South Asia.

Another important dimension of Bunyan al Marsoos is its role in reinforcing deterrence credibility. Deterrence in modern strategic

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Analysis

Muhammad Ibrahim Bhatti



Analysis

Jaffar Sadiq

Azerbaijan Independence Day Marked

Senate Chairman Highlights Strong Religious and Cultural Bonds with Azerbaijan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are not merely diplomatic in nature, but are rooted in deep religious, cultural, historical, and people-to-people bonds that unite the two brotherly nations. He addressing a ceremony held at a local hotel in Islamabad to mark the Independence Day of Azerbaijan hosted by Azerbaijan Embassy to Pakistan.

Earlier, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov and his spouse welcome to guests. The event was attended by the Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan, Azam Nazeer Tarar Law & Justice and Human Rights, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik Minister of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Shaza Fatima Khawaja Information Technology and Telecommunication, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, members of parliament, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and other distinguished guests.

Extending heartfelt congratulations to the leadership and people of Azerbaijan on their Independence Day, the Chairman Senate boted that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have always stood by each other in times of joy and adversity. He noted that when Pakistan achieved success against Indian aggression, the people of Azerbaijan celebrated with the same enthusiasm and spirit as if it were their own victory.

Chairman Senate Gilani said that he had the opportunity to hold several meetings with the President of Azerbaijan and parliamentary leaders, during which bilateral relations, parli-



mentary cooperation, and coordination at international forums were discussed in detail. He added that the two countries share close understanding and common values at international platforms such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

He further stated that Pakistan is pleased to see Azerbaijan introducing modern architectural vision and development initiatives in Islamabad. He appreciated the decision of the President of Azerbaijan to declare the

current year as the "Year of Architecture."

Highlighting the importance of enhancing public and trade relations, the Chairman Senate said that the President of Azerbaijan had informed him that 11 weekly flights for Pakistan had already been launched for Islamabad and Lahore. He noted that the fares have been kept comparatively lower than those of other destinations to facilitate Pakistani travelers. He added that Azerbaijan can now be reached from Pakistan in less than three hours and that the number of flights will further increase in the future to promote tourism and people-to-people connectivity.

Chairman Senate Gilani also referred to the historic "Multani Caravanserai" in Baku, which, according to him, carries a history spanning over 700 years. He said the site stands as a symbol of the long-standing historical ties between the regions, reflecting how traders from the subcontinent, particularly from Multan, used the Silk Route to travel to Azerbaijan. He further noted that UNESCO has also recognized the historical significance of the site,

and its original name has been preserved to this day.

Concluding his address, the Chairman Senate raised the slogan of "Long Live Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship" and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the enduring ties between the two brotherly countries.

In his speech, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, said Azerbaijan proudly celebrates the 108th anniversary of its independence and the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on May 28, 1918, the first secular republic in the Muslim East.

He said that within a remarkably short period, Azerbaijan succeeded in establishing its first parliament and government, determining national borders, adopting state symbols, and implementing fundamental state-building reforms, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Ambassador Farhadov stated that significant achievements were also made in strengthening the republic's position in international relations and safeguarding national interests.

He noted that although the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic existed for only 23 months, it played a crucial role in shaping democratic values and traditions of national statehood, while laying a strong foundation for Azerbaijan's future independence by fostering the ideals of freedom and sovereignty.

The ambassador said the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991 and preserved its sovereignty under the visionary leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev.

He added that today, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan continues to uphold and strengthen the legacy



of Heydar Aliyev.

Referring to regional developments, Ambassador Farhadov said that in 2020, under President Ilham Aliyev's leadership as Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, Azerbaijan liberated its internationally recognized territories

from what he termed nearly 30 years of Armenian occupation, implementing four UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993.

He further said that on September 19, 2023, the Azerbaijani Army conducted an anti-terror operation in the Karabakh economic region to prevent further provocations and restore constitutional order.

According to the ambassador, the operation lasted 23 hours and restored Azerbaijan's sovereignty across all its territories.

The envoy highlighted that large-scale urbanization and reconstruction projects are underway in the Karabakh and East Zangazur regions, aimed at creating modern, sustainable, and smart communities to facilitate the return of formerly displaced persons to their ancestral lands.

Ambassador Farhadov also

announced that 2026 has been declared the "Year of Urban Planning and Architecture" in Azerbaijan, reflecting the country's commitment to sustainable urban development, environmental harmony, and smart cities.

In this regard, he informed participants that Azerbaijan will host the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in the coming days.

The ambassador further noted that Azerbaijan has successfully chaired several major international organizations and events over recent years, including the UN Security Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Turkic States, ECO, and COP29.

Welcoming guests to the reception, Ambassador Farhadov said the event was dedicated to celebrating the Independence Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Photos by Sultan bashir



First Lady Aseefa Zardari Inaugurates Begum Nusrat Bhutto Library at Pakistan Red Crescent HQ

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's First Lady, Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, inaugurated the newly named "Begum Nusrat Bhutto Library" at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) National Headquarters.

The event honored the humanitarian legacy of Begum Nusrat Bhutto. Ms. Shazia Marri, MNA, accompanied the Chief Guest. Attendees included PRCS Chairperson Mrs. Farzana Naek, Secre-

tary General Mr. Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, and representatives from the ICRC, IFRC, and partner National Societies (Turkish, Norwegian, German Red Cross).

The ceremony began with a ribbon-cutting, followed by a tour of the PRCS Disaster Response display and a photo exhibition detailing the PRCS Humanitarian Journey. Mrs. Farzana Naek briefed Ms. Zardari on PRCS's humanitarian services and historical contributions. Ms. Aseefa

Bhutto Zardari praised PRCS's services, symbolically wearing a PRCS Red Jacket representing volunteerism and encouraging Pakistani youth to join the PRCS volunteer network to strengthen humanitarian work and community resilience.

The First Lady later unveiled the library's commemorative plaque, offered prayers, and wrote in the Visitors' Book, commending the initiative for preserving humanitarian values, learning, and volunteerism for future generations.

Chairperson Mrs. Farzana Naek stated the library inauguration honors Begum Nusrat Bhutto's legacy of compassion and public service, noting her significant role in promoting PRCS's mission.

She expressed gratitude to Ms. Zardari, viewing her presence as a continuation of a humanitarian legacy devoted to service. The event concluded with a group photograph of the Chief Guest with PRCS leadership and international delegates.

Book Launch 'Geopolitical Conflict in the Wolf World'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the book launch for Marc Saxer's 'Geopolitical Conflict in the Wolf World, Great Power Competition and the Illiberal Revolt against the Liberal Order' on May 14, 2026. Reviewers included Ms. Aiza Azam and Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, with Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and Dr. Amina Khan also speaking. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood praised the book for its insightful analysis of the intensifying great power competition, geoeconomic rivalry,

and the gradual decay of the liberal international order. He stressed the relevance of its discussion on a multipolar world and the need for pragmatic engagement for nations like Pakistan.

Dr. Amina Khan noted the book's focus on how geopolitical and geo-economic tensions are reshaping global alignments amid the decline of the liberal order. Felix Kolbitz emphasized that the book offers a crucial framework for understanding the forces shaping the contemporary world order, which is vital for Pakistan situated at the nexus of global shifts.

Marc Saxer presented his core arguments: the decline of the

liberal order, the rise of great power competition, and the emergence of a multipolar "Wolf World." He detailed the shift from a globalization-centric era to one driven by strategic competition, economic security, and competing visions of global order, noting intensifying geopolitical rivalries in theaters like Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. Saxer concluded that since no single power can dictate a new order, dialogue, compromise, and new international cooperation are essential for managing instability.

Ms. Aiza Azam found the book a timely and objective analysis, noting that the "Wolf World" concept accurately reflects

growing great power competition and multipolarity. She highlighted the increasing role of non-Western and middle powers and the book's call for a more inclusive international order.

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed focused on the book's valuable insights regarding middle-power partnerships and the future of the international monetary system.

He argued that strategic autonomy demands broad partnerships, not just defense spending.

For Pakistan, he stressed the importance of achieving macro-economic stability, deepening multiple strategic alliances, and maintaining an active voice as



global rules erode, which disproportionately affects smaller and

middle powers. The event drew diplomats, academics, students,

practitioners, and civil society members.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
166,498.83	167,451.13
Day's High	Day's Low
168,528.87	166,398.90
Index Value	Change
12,645,893,676	-952.30
Percentage	Time
-0.57%	14 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,372.93	+47.58
Percentage	Time
+47.58	14 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
50,026.82	+333.62
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	4 May, 1:32 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
62,654.05	-618.06
Percentage	Time
-0.98%	14 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200.76	205.35
Bahrain Dinar	731.47	741.75
Canadian Dollar	202.20	207.46
China Yuan	40	41.05
Danish Krone	43.35	43.75
Euro	326.19	330.87
Hong Kong Dollar	35.06	36.03
Indian Rupee	2.55	2.80
Japanese Yen	1.7580	1.8590
Kuwaiti Dinar	879.28	890.06
Malaysian Ringgit	65.35	66.30
New Zealand \$	163.90	167.25
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	722.00	732.79
Qatari Riyal	74.66	75.56
Saudi Riyal	74.30	75.30
Singapore Dollar	217.39	221.95
Swedish Korona	30.35	30.65
Swiss Franc	355.95	360.68
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.90	77.00
UK Pound Sterling	376.60	381.78
US Dollar	279.00	279.65

Lahore Business Chamber hosts Ambassador Dr. Oumer for Business Dialogue

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: H. E. Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, has visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and engaged with the business community of Lahore to strengthen trade and investment relations

between the two countries.

Upon arrival, a warm welcome was accorded to the Ambassador by Mr. Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, LCCI President, along with Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh and Executive Committee Members of the Chamber.

The Ambassador while briefing the LCCI members about Ethiopia's economy, investment



landscape and incentives for investors, urged them to visit Ethiopia and explore the country which is a gateway for Africa.

Whatever you produce in Ethiopia, it can easily be sold across Africa and beyond, he remarked.

Highlighting a direct connectivity established by the Ethiopian Airlines between Ethiopia and Pakistan, he said it is high time for Pakistani investors to explore investment opportunities

across various sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT.

President LCCI Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol said that African markets offer immense opportunities for Pakistani products and emphasized that exchange of trade delegations can significantly enhance bilateral trade.

He assured the Ambassador of his full support in strengthening economic linkages between the two countries.

Meeting

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Petroleum Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Ali bin Mubarak Al-Khater on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan Enters Top 10 TBR Tyre Exporters to US, Brazil as Service Long March Drives Export Surge

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan has emerged among the top 10 exporters of truck and bus radial (TBR) tyres to key global markets including the United States and Brazil, marking a significant shift in the country's industrial and export landscape.

Industry data indicates that Pakistani tyre exports have gained traction in recent years, with the United States and Brazil now among the largest destinations.

At the centre of this momentum is Service Long March Tyres Limited (SLM), the country's largest tyre manufacturer and exporter, which has rapidly expanded its international footprint since commencing operations in 2022. The company has recorded strong export

growth across the United States, Brazil, as well as emerging markets such as South Africa and Egypt.

The export push has been supported by compliance with stringent international standards, including certifications required for entry into regulated markets such as the US and Brazil, where quality and performance benchmarks remain critical for market access.

Service Long March Tyres (SLM) is leveraging state-of-the-art Chinese technology to maintain one of the lowest production cost structures among tyre manufacturers in Pakistan, providing the company a strong competitive advantage in international markets and enabling it to export nearly 40% of its truck and bus radial (TBR) tyre production.

L'Oréal Pakistan Advances Local Capability Through Strategic Raw Material Localization

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: L'Oréal Pakistan announced a significant milestone in its journey toward domestic capability building: the successful localization of Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES), a critical raw material for shampoo production.

This strategic onboarding of Tufail Chemical Industries Ltd. as a qualified local supplier marks a pivotal shift in L'Oréal's operational footprint in Pakistan, reinforcing the company's long-term investment mindset and commitment to the country's industrial growth.

A milestone in the Strategic Localization initiative, this will significantly reduce dependency on imports while maintaining L'Oréal's stringent global qualification standards.

"This achievement demonstrates our unwavering trust in Pakistani industry and its technical capability," said Rehan Saeed, Executive General Manager at L'Oréal Pakistan. "For us, localization is a strategic enabler for future growth. By developing local supplier capability to global standards, we are not only strengthening our own supply chain resilience and agility but also contributing to the broader development of the Pakistani manufacturing ecosystem."



ment ecosystem."

This milestone reflects L'Oréal Pakistan's commitment to building a more resilient and future-ready supply chain through strong local partnerships. By investing in

Pakistani manufacturing capability and collaborating with trusted suppliers such as Tufail Chemical Industries Ltd., the company continues to drive long-term growth, sustainability, and industrial development in the country.

IP violations costing Pakistan Rs. 860bn a year, OICCI IPR Survey reveals

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) released its latest IPR Survey during the visit of IPO-Pakistan Director General Nauman Aslam to the Chamber. The survey, covering eight sectors, found that intellectual property violations are costing the country an estimated Rs. 860 billion annually in lost revenue and taxes.

Every six in 10 OICCI member companies participating in the survey said IP rights are partially protected and have further room for improvement under Pakistan's current laws. Trademark violations were rated the most prevalent form of infringement. On enforcement, the picture is equally stark: most IP

disputes take more than three years to resolve, with the survey revealing that cases rarely reach conclusion in the early stages of the process.

Members rated support from law enforcement agencies including Customs, Police, and the FIA as limited. The survey recommends legal reforms aligned with TRIPS and WIPO standards, stronger inter-agency coordination, IP watch-lists at border crossings, and intelligence-led action in high-risk sectors.

Speaking at the launch, Nauman Aslam, Director-General, IPO-Pakistan said: "Strong IPR protection is an economic imperative. These findings reinforce the need for robust institutions, effective inter-agency coordination, and stronger service delivery across the IPR enforcement



ment ecosystem. IPO-Pakistan is committed to bridging the enforcement gap and positioning Pakistan as a jurisdiction that values innova-

tion." "The survey findings are a useful reminder of the work that still needs to be done on IPR in Pakistan.

Foreign investors want to operate in an environment where their brands, products, and innovations are protected and where disputes can be resolved in a reasonable timeframe. An annual loss of Rs. 860 billion in revenue and taxes is a matter that warrants close attention. We hope the government and relevant agencies will take these findings in the constructive spirit in which they are shared, and work with the private sector towards improvements," added M. Abdul Aleem, Secretary General, OICCI.

The Chamber expressed hope that the findings of the survey will serve as a practical reference point for policy action and contribute to building a more secure and innovation-friendly business environment in Pakistan.

RCCI Demands Immediate End to Smart Lockdowns Ahead of Eid Amid Sweltering Heat



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has strongly urged the government to withdraw the current smart lockdown restrictions and extend business operating hours, particularly with Eid approaching and due to severe summer heat.

During an RCCI Members Night, attendees unanimously supported calls for relaxed timings. RCCI President Usman Shaukat requested the abolition of the smart lockdown, proposing markets stay open until 10:00 PM and hotels/restaurants until midnight.

He argued the current limits disregard summer weather making daytime shopping hard, negatively affecting business and governmental tax revenue, and called for policymaker consultation with the business community.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf echoed these concerns, stressing that daytime shopping inconvenience due to heat warrants later closing times.

He suggested reducing non-essential public spending instead of restricting business, reinforcing the demand for shops to close at 10:00 PM for Eid shopping, and allowing restaurants until midnight or exemption from restrictions.

The event, which hosted traders' associations and business representatives, aimed to foster networking and explore new opportunities. Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and former presidents also attended.

Mohsin Nawaz becomes first shooting sports athlete to receive Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in Pakistan

Mohsin Nawaz, Pakistan's leading F-Class long-range shooter, made history by becoming the first athlete from shooting sports to receive the prestigious Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, awarded by President Asif Ali Zardari on May 13th in Islamabad. Nawaz views this honor as a milestone for the entire Pakistani shooting community, dedicating it to young athletes in less-publicized sports and thanking his supporters and coaches. He credited the development of the sport's infrastructure to Syed Asim Munir and the Pakistan Long Range Rifle Association, which connected Pakistani shooters internationally. Currently preparing for the 2026 F-Class World Championship in the UK, Nawaz advocates for sports reforms, including better training facilities and reduced import duties on equipment, aiming to secure future opportunities for Pakistani shooters.

Nawaz, born in 1986 in Faisalabad, began competing in 2004 and has built an acclaimed career over two decades despite limited institutional support, relying on personal commitment and private sponsorships for international campaigns. He holds the national record with 10 international individual F-Class medals, achieving podium finishes in the US, South Africa, and Europe, including at the European Long Range Shooting Championship, where he equaled a European record in 2023. Domestically, he has consistently won numerous national championships and set records. Beyond competition, Nawaz actively promotes shooting sports, serving as a brand ambassador for Hawksmith Gun & Shooting Club, KAHLES Sports Optics, and Peregrine Bullets to foster improved training and precision shooting facilities in Pakistan.



Australia Celebrates 10 Years Supporting Girls' Cricket In Pakistan

The Australian High Commission (AHC), in partnership with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Serena Hotels, hosted the Islamabad leg of the AHC-PCB Girls' Cricket Cup on 14 May — marking 10 years of Australia's support for girls' cricket in Pakistan.

The tournament brought together young players from government schools and community institutions across Islamabad, using cricket as a platform to build confidence, develop skills, and expand opportunities for girls.

Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Timothy Kane, congratulated the participants and highlighted the significance of sustained investment in women's sport.

"Cricket is a powerful force for connection between Australia and Pakistan. But just as importantly, it creates opportunity — giving girls the confidence, skills and pathways to shape their own futures."

"As Australia's ODI men's team prepares to return to Pakistan later this month, the Girls' Cricket Cup underscores the depth and breadth of our cricket part-



nership — from grassroots development through to elite competition."

The initiative, launched in Islamabad in 2016 to foster opportunities for underprivileged girls through cricket, has since expanded to Lahore and Karachi and contributed to increased participation of girls in cricket across Pakistan.

Participants were supported through pre-tournament coaching delivered by PCB coaches, helping to develop technical skills and cultivate leadership.

PCB representatives noted the importance of sustained partnerships in building the future of women's cricket in Pakistan. Serena Hotels, a long-standing partner of the initiative, reaf-



firmed commitment to supporting inclusive sport and youth development.

Serena Hotels, a long-standing partner of the initiative, reaffirmed its commitment to supporting women's empowerment, inclusive sport and youth development in Pakistan.

The tournament featured teams from Islamabad Model School for Girls F-6/1,

Islamabad Model School for Girls I-9/1, Sky School System Islamabad and SOS Children's Village H-11.

The event reflects Australia's broader commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusion through sport, in line with its international development and sports diplomacy priorities.

Photo by Sultan Bashir

Selection Crisis

As Pakistan prepares for the upcoming ODI series against Australia, the debate surrounding team selection continues to grow stronger among cricket fans and experts. The possible return of experienced players such as Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan has raised serious questions about whether Pakistan cricket is truly committed to supporting and developing its young bowling talent.

Many supporters believe the national team management should focus more on rewarding players who have consistently performed well in domestic cricket and the Pakistan Super League. According to fans, Pakistan has always produced world-class fast bowlers and spinners when young players were

trusted, backed, and given enough opportunities to grow at the international level. However, many now fear that emerging talent is once again being overlooked in favor of established names.

Questions have especially been raised regarding Haris Rauf's inclusion in the ODI training camp despite his absence from the previous ODI series and inconsistent performances in the format. Fans are asking what recent achievements justified his return ahead of younger fast bowlers who have shown strong form and impressive performances in domestic competitions.



Analysis

Tahmeed Sadiq

The criticism is not directed personally at Haris Rauf but rather at a selection process many feel lacks transparency and fairness.

Similarly, the presence of Shadab Khan in the squad could directly affect the opportunities available to promising spinner Sufyan Muqeem, who has been regarded as one of the standout young

bowlers in recent PSL seasons. Many cricket followers believe that sacrificing an in-form youngster for an experienced player struggling to deliver consistently sends a negative message to emerging cricketers trying to earn their place in the national side.

The concerns extend beyond just a few players. Young pacers such as Hunain Shah, Ali Raza, Akif Javed,

and Shahnawaz Dahani have all shown significant promise but continue to struggle for consistent opportunities at the highest level. Many fans believe the current environment does not provide enough confidence or stability for young players to properly establish themselves.

Another point of debate is the leadership structure, with some critics arguing that Shaheen Afridi's strong presence in ODI cricket as a captain may also be limiting opportunities for younger fast bowlers. While Shaheen remains one of Pakistan's leading pacers, concerns have been raised about balancing senior experience with the development of fresh talent.

If the same selection patterns continue and deserving young players are repeatedly overlooked, public frustration will only grow stronger. Supporters want a team that represents performance, fairness, and the future of Pakistan cricket.

Israel's Campaign Against Pakistan's Neutrality in Iran War

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Article 2(1). Article 2(4) further prohibits coercion or threats against the political independence of states.

Beyond the Charter itself, UN General Assembly Resolution 2131 on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States clearly declares that no country has the right to intervene directly or indirectly in the political, economic, or external affairs of another sovereign state. Likewise, Resolution 36/103 reaffirmed that every nation possesses the right to freely develop political, economic, diplomatic, and strategic relations according to its own national interests without outside interference.

Under these principles, Pakistan has every legal right to maintain relations simultaneously with Iran, the United States, China, Gulf countries, or any other nation. If Islamabad chose under bilateral understanding to temporarily facilitate Iranian aircraft during a ceasefire period, that falls within sovereign bilateral relations between two independent UN member states. No third country possesses automatic authority to interfere with or dictate those relationships unless binding international sanctions exist.

Therefore, Pakistan should not appear apologetic, nervous, or defensive if it has

allowed Iranian aircraft temporary logistical arrangements under bilateral understandings. Sovereign states act according to national interests, geography, strategic necessity, diplomacy, and regional realities. Pakistan's historic, cultural, religious, and geographic ties with Iran are well known and entirely legitimate under international law.

Nor should Pakistan become intimidated by the insinuations of Israeli-aligned political figures in the U. S. Senate or Congress who now appear determined to downgrade Islamabad's status as a mediator. Much of this criticism reflects frustration that Pakistan succeeded where many others failed: helping facilitate the April 7 ceasefire that prevented a potentially catastrophic regional war.

That ceasefire, now indefinitely extended, likely saved the global economy trillions of dollars in losses, prevented massive disruptions to oil supplies and maritime trade, and protected countless civilian lives across the Middle East and beyond.

Instead of acknowledging Pakistan's diplomatic contribution, sections of the Israeli political establishment and its supporters continue attempting to poison perceptions of Pakistan in Washington. Their objective increasingly appears not

merely to criticize Pakistan, but to create suspicion around Islamabad's neutrality and undermine the confidence that President Trump himself has repeatedly expressed toward Pakistan's leadership.

Yet despite these pressure campaigns, Trump has publicly praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir for facilitating diplomacy and helping reduce regional tensions. His administration clearly recognizes that Pakistan's communication channels with all sides made meaningful mediation possible.

Ultimately, this controversy reflects a larger geopolitical transformation underway across the world. The debate is no longer simply about Pakistan, Iran, or Israel alone. It is about sovereignty, international law, independent foreign policy, and whether powerful lobbying networks can continue dictating global narratives indefinitely despite changing political realities inside the United States itself. And increasingly, that debate is being driven not by outsiders, but by Americans themselves.

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

Bunyan al Marsoos: Decoding the Strategic Logic of Contemporary Conflict

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studies is not solely dependent upon military capability; it also requires political will, institutional coherence, and the capacity for calibrated response. Pakistan's military and diplomatic institutions have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to maintain strategic restraint while preserving credible retaliatory capacity. This balance between restraint and readiness remains essential in a nuclearized regional environment where miscalculation could produce catastrophic consequences.

From a geopolitical perspective, South Asia today represents one of the most volatile regions in the international system. The absence of sustained dialogue between Pakistan and India, combined with rising militarization and nationalist politics, continues to erode prospects for long-term stability. India's pursuit of regional dominance, supported by expanding defense partnerships and military acquisitions, has intensified the regional security dilemma. In IR theory, the security dilemma

PCB announces Match Officials for Pakistan VS Australia Three One Day Int'l Cricket Match Series

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: The PCB has announced the match officials for the three-match One Day International Match series between Pakistan and Australia, set to take place in Rawalpindi and Lahore from 30 May to 4 June. Sri Lanka's Graeme La Brooy, who played nine Tests and 44 One Day International Matches from 1986 to 1992, will lead the playing control team as match referee in all three One Day International Matches



Pakistan's Ahsan Raza, England's Richard Kettleborough and Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena — all part of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires will perform duties as on-field umpires during the series. In the first One Day International Match set to take place at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on 30 May, Dharmasena will be joined by Pakistan's Asif Yaqoob (ICC Emerging Umpires Panel) as on-field umpire.

In the second One Day International Match at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on 2 June, Pakistan's Faisal Khan Aafreedi (ICC International Panel of Umpires) will join Kettleborough as on-field umpire, while Ahsan and Dharmasena will serve as on-field umpires for the third One Day International Match at the same venue on 4 June. Pakistan's Nasir Hussain — member of the ICC International Panel of Umpires will perform duties as fourth umpire in the third One Day International Match

1st One Day International Match
30 May — Kumar Dharmasena and Asif Yaqoob — on-field umpires, Richard Kettleborough — third umpire, Faisal Khan Aafreedi — fourth umpire, Graeme La Brooy — match referee

2nd One Day International Match
2nd June — Richard Kettleborough and Faisal Khan Aafreedi — on-field umpires, Kumar Dharmasena — third umpire, Asif Yaqoob — fourth umpire, Graeme La Brooy — match referee

3rd One Day International Match
4 June — Kumar Dharmasena and Ahsan Raza — on-field umpires, Richard Kettleborough — third umpire, Nasir Hussain — fourth umpire, Graeme La Brooy — match referee

Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Deadly Bowling by Abdul Hadi 6/40, Sameed Amir Khan 4/17, Uzair Ali Khan 4/25

KARACHI: The 7th and last round of Three day matches of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) begins at various Grounds of the City on Thursday.

The Tournament is being organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

The highlights of the first days play was deadly bowling by Off Spinner Abdul Hadi 6/40, right arm leg spinner, Sameed Amir Khan 4/17, Muhammad Uzair Ali Khan slow left arm spinner 4/25.

The Following are the Summarized Scores of Close of play on first day.

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-V 1st innings 164 all-out in 46.4 overs. Muhammad Shoaib Khan 57 7x4 2x6, Muhammad Ali Butt 43 2x4 1x6, Muhammad Hassan Iqbal 37, Muhammad Hussain 20. Nadir Shah (sla) 3/30, Aarish Ali Khan 2/24, Muhammad Makkhi 2/37.

Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos and the End of India's "New Kashmir" Illusion

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Ankara, and London before a ceasefire was eventually secured.

That response alone dismantled the central claim of India's post-2019 narrative. The world does not urgently mobilise diplomatic pressure over ordinary domestic administrative matters. It mobilises when unresolved international disputes threaten regional and global stability.

One year later, Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos remains far more than a military anniversary. It marks the moment India's Kashmir narrative lost

credibility and Pakistan restored strategic clarity on the dispute. It reminded the world that Kashmir cannot be erased through tourism campaigns, demographic changes, or political slogans. Most importantly, it reassured Kashmiris that Pakistan has neither forgotten their struggle nor abandoned its historic commitment to their right of self-determination envisioned by Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

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occurs when one state's pursuit of security generates insecurity for others, leading to arms competition and strategic mistrust. Pakistan's strategic responses, including initiatives symbolized through Bunyan al Marsoos, must therefore be understood within this broader structural context rather than through simplistic or reductionist narratives.

Importantly, Pakistan's strategic posture reflects the principle of strategic patience. Despite repeated provocations and diplomatic pressures, Pakistan has consistently chosen the path of diplomacy, not merely in pursuit of its national interest but also for the promotion of peace and stability in South Asia. Pakistan's diplomatic efforts during periods of regional and international tensions involving Iran and the United States further demonstrate its emphasis on dialogue, regional stability, and peaceful conflict resolution in accordance with international law.

Pakistan does not need to assert its peaceful disposition; rather, its conduct and actions are widely

recognized and acknowledged by the international community. However, in contemporary geopolitics, diplomacy is often complemented by credible deterrence. In this context, Bunyan al Marsoos is interpreted as reflecting a balance between deterrence and diplomacy aimed at maintaining peace through preparedness rather than escalation.

The operation symbolizes national unity, strategic resilience, and the determination to preserve sovereignty amid external pressures and regional asymmetries. As South Asia navigates an increasingly uncertain geopolitical future, the imperative for strategic stability, responsible statecraft, and balanced deterrence will remain central to regional peace. In this regard, Bunyan al Marsoos serves not merely as a military concept, but as a broader strategic framework through which Pakistan seeks to navigate the complexities of twenty-first century conflict.

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Recognition

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferred Sitara-e-Basalat upon the families of Lt Col Muhammad Ali Shaukat (Shaheed) and Sepoy Soban Majeed Baloch (Shaheed), along with SSG Sepoy Israr Muhammad, who recovered after sustaining serious injuries in a terrorist attack, during an investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Photo: Online

Pakistan issues first Panda Bond in China's onshore capital market

Commerce Desk

Pakistan issued on Thursday its first Panda Bond in China's onshore capital market, Advisor to the Finance Minister Khuram Schehzad announced. "The inaugural Panda Bond is a 3-year fixed-rate instrument, making it Pakistan's first-ever RMB-denominated sovereign issuance in China's onshore capital market," Schehzad wrote in a post on X.

"The landmark Panda Bond issuance of RMB 1.75 billion (equivalent to US\$250 million) attracted overwhelming investor demand of over RMB 8.8 billion (approximately US\$1.26 billion), resulting in



an oversubscription of more than 5 times," he added. Schehzad said demand for the inaugural tranche alone exceeded Pakistan's entire planned Panda Bond

programme size of RMB 7.2 billion (US\$1 billion equivalent). He termed the development "a powerful reflection of growing international investor confidence in Paki-

stan's economic outlook and reform trajectory."

"The strong order book enabled highly competitive pricing (2.5% coupon), demonstrating the market's positive assessment of Pakistan's improving macroeconomic fundamentals, external stability, disciplined fiscal management, and sovereign repayment capacity."

According to the advisor, the issuance was more than a financing transaction as it marked Pakistan's entry into China's capital market and strengthened of Pakistan-China financial cooperation.

"The success of the Panda

Bond sends a powerful signal to global investors that Pakistan's economic recovery is gaining international recognition. It reflects confidence in the country's reform agenda, improving fiscal and external indicators, successful debt management, and commitment to sustainable growth," he said. "This milestone marks the beginning of a new chapter in Pakistan's economic and financial engagement with the world."

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday left for China to participate in the issuance ceremony of Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond in Beijing.

Pakistan meets most IMF conditions ahead of delegation visit

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has fully or partially implemented most of the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ahead of the lender's upcoming visit to the country, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Officials said Pakistan partially fulfilled the IMF's condition of aligning electricity and gas tariffs with actual costs after increasing utility prices in recent months.

Sources added that the government has largely met the IMF's demand for a market-based exchange rate by reducing artificial controls on the rupee's value.

Pakistan has also implemented reforms related to the autonomy of the State Bank of Pakistan, addressing another major IMF requirement.

Authorities have attempted to satisfy the lender through additional taxation measures, increased revenue collection efforts and crackdowns on



non-filers and undocumented economic activity. However, officials acknowl-

edged that several reform targets remain incomplete. Sources said amendments

related to agricultural income tax laws had been introduced, but effective implementation was still lacking.

The government has initiated work on digitising the Federal Board of Revenue and expanding the point-of-sale system, though the desired increase in the tax net has yet to be achieved.

Officials admitted the government has not been fully successful in reducing circular debt, while the energy sector remains one of the IMF's primary concerns.

PM approves task force to develop waste to energy policy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday approved the formation of a task force on waste-to-energy production.

This task force will review the existing waste-to-energy framework and work on developing a new national policy in this regard.

The task force will formulate a national waste-to-energy policy aimed at promoting waste-to-energy projects in Pakistan through private sector encouragement, a clear strategy, institutional mechanisms, and a comprehensive roadmap, a statement issued by the PM House said.

Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Leghari will serve as the convener of the task force.

Naqvi visits Peshawar to meet martyred families, monitors Safe Cities Project

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Police Headquarters in Peshawar to meet families of 15 police personnel martyred in Bannu.

During the meeting, Interior Minister paid tribute to the great sacrifice of the martyred police personnel.

Naqvi expressed condolences with the mothers of the martyred police personnel. Talking to them, Naqvi said, "seeing the courage of courageous mothers like you, our resolve has become stronger". Naqvi said, "Your brave sons have set a high example of bravery and attained the great status of martyrdom".

Later Interior Minister chaired special briefing on anti-terror actions taken by CTD Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Interior Minister directed that



there was need to improve coordination and harmony between federal and provincial law enforcement agencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "CTD Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has carried out

successful operations against Khawarij", said Mohsin Naqvi. He assured that the federal government will provide full support to enhance the capacity of CTD Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Foreign-Sponsored Misinformation Campaign Targets Pakistan's Peace Efforts Exposed

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: For the past few days, a coordinated negative information campaign is being being observed, initiated from outside Pakistan, with malicious intent. The objective of this is to create deliberate confusion and misinformation, quoting unnamed sources and officials. This unprofessional intent to discredit Pakistan's role for sustainable peace in the region speaks of the frustration of those who are weary of peace.

Facts and verification by credible domestic media sources as well as multiple fact check forums have already called out the propaganda.

We understand quite clearly that behind such stories are certain elements, mainly the detractors of peace, who are unable to come to terms with Pakistan's role for



peace in the region as well as Pakistan's continued and successful fight against foreign sponsored and abetted terrorism. Elimination of terrorism, resolution of disputes and prevalence of peace perhaps does not suit those behind this malicious campaign.

However, Pakistan and its responsible media will continue to expose the nefarious designs of those behind this coordinated campaign. The effort and role of Pakistani media and influencers to unmask this malicious campaign is most commendable.

Pakistan moves to new heights of progress and stability under PM leadership: Engineer Amir Muqam

News Desk

HUNZA: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, said here Thursday that under the prudent leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan is advancing toward new milestones of development, stability, and national dignity.

He added that providing youth with opportunities in modern education, digital technology, and research is among the government's top priorities.

He expressed these views while addressing a prestigious ceremony organized under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme at the Karakoram International University (KIU) Hunza Campus.

The event was attended by the Vice Chancellor, faculty members, university administration, students, and a large number of local dignitaries.

Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision is to equip Pakistan's youth with modern education, research, artificial intelligence, digital skills, and innovative thinking so they can bring honour to the country at the global level.

Pakistan hails voices sounding within India for talks as positive development

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan remains firmly committed to the principles of diplomacy, respect for sovereignty, and meaningful international engagement as the pathway toward regional stability and global harmony.

This was stated by Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tahir Andrabi at his weekly media briefing in Islamabad this afternoon.

He said Pakistan continues to believe that constructive partnerships and sincere dialogue are essential to advancing peace, security, and shared prosperity for all.

Replying to a question regarding the voices sounding within India for talks with Pakistan, Tahir Andrabi

said the voices in India calling for dialogue are positive development and we hope that sanity will prevail in India.

He said the war mongering and the belligerence which has been emanating from India for the past many years several will fade away and pave the way for more such voices for come up. He said Pakistan will look forward to an official reaction of India to those voices.

Answering yet another question about CBS News report on presence of Iranian Aircraft in Pakistan, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said Pakistan categorically rejects the CBS News report regarding the presence of Iranian aircraft at Nur Khan Airbase as misleading and sensationalized.