



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم کو صبر سے نری، تمہاری ہر ایک بات کو  
عروے اور انہیں ماٹھر میں اللہ عزوجل سے کہ  
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جاتی تو وہ بھی (سنت کماست) پڑھتے۔  
اس کے بعد آپ ﷺ پہلا بیت جاتے آخر  
مؤذن آتا اور نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو  
اطلاع دیتا تو آپ فجر کی نماز پڑھتے۔  
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## PML-N Chief's Two-Day Azad Kashmir Visit Set for May 6

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will pay a two-day visit to Azad Kashmir on Tuesday, May 6, where he will chair a meeting of the parliamentary board of the PML-N Azad Kashmir and announce party tickets for the 2026 elections in Azad Kashmir. This was announced by the party's Secretary General Chaudhry Tariq Farooq in a statement issued yesterday.



## Sacrifices of martyrs guarantee nation's dignity: Rana Sanaulah

Advisor to the Prime Minister, Rana Sanaulah, visited the residence of martyred Havaladar Muhammad Naveed Ansari in Faisalabad and met with his family. He offered prayers for the elevation of the martyr's ranks and expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, paying tribute to their patience and courage.

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## View of dark clouds

ISLAMABAD: A view of dark clouds hovering over the sky of Federal Capital during.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# PM's committee holds first meeting on One Constitution Avenue

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The committee constituted by the prime minister to review matters related to One Constitution Avenue held its first meeting on Monday, chaired by Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry also attended the session, along with senior officials including Chairman Capital Development Authority Sohail Ashraf and Member State Zaman Voto.

During the meeting, the committee sought detailed information on the One Constitution Avenue project from the CDA. According to sources, the

CDA chairman presented key facts regarding the project, while the committee also requested a comprehensive briefing from the authority in its next session.

Speaking on the occasion, Azam Nazir Tarar said that after hearing from the CDA, the committee would also listen to affected parties of the project through their representatives. He added that all legal and technical aspects would be thoroughly reviewed before submitting a report to the prime minister.

The law minister noted that the committee was fully aware of the written decision issued by the Islamabad High Court regarding the matter.



The meeting was also attended by the Secretary Cabinet Division and Secretary Commerce, who are members

of the committee.

The committee resolved to complete its review and compile its report at the earliest possible time.

Earlier in its written decision, the IHC upheld the cancellation of the lease for the One Constitution Avenue project, rejecting a petition filed by BNP Private Limited against the decision.

In a written verdict issued by Chief Justice Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar, the court declared that the lease cancellation order issued by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on March 8, 2023, was lawful and in accordance with legal provisions.

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## Railways to organize nationwide Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq Celebrations; Abbasi

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Railways, Mohammad Hanif Abbasi, announced on Monday that Pakistan Railways will organize grand and dignified ceremonies across the country, including Rawalpindi, to observe "Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq" on May 10.

These celebrations are designed to pay a glowing tribute to the martyrs of the motherland while specifically honoring the sacrifices, bravery, and national services rendered by the armed forces.

In a statement, the Minister emphasized that Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq stands as a glorious chapter in Pakistan's history, serving as

an occasion to highlight the sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces and the visionary decisions of the national leadership.

He noted that the combined leadership of the Prime Minister and the Field Marshal has secured global dignity and respect for the nation, an achievement that remains a source of immense pride for all citizens.

The central ceremony is scheduled to take place in Rawalpindi at 3:00 PM, where the Federal Minister will deliver a keynote address to the attendees.

During this event, special recognition will be given to the families of the martyrs, saluting their patience and steadfastness in the face of sacrifice.

## Law will prevail in One Constitution Avenue case, says Mohsin Naqvi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said his position on the One Constitution Avenue tower project remained unchanged from day one, stating that the property was sold illegally from the outset.

Speaking informally to journalists in Lahore on Monday, Mohsin Naqvi said the stance of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was also clear on the issue that the project was sold unlawfully.

The interior minister added that a committee has now been constituted on the matter and they will present their stance before it, expressing the confidence that the law will prevail.

Mohsin Naqvi stressed that the law must be applied to all equally, saying it cannot be different for the



poor and the rich. He described the case as one of the biggest seams in Pakistan's history, alleging that politicians, bureaucrats, judges and bankers were all involved. The interior minister claimed that for 21 years money was distributed and received by those linked to the matter. He further said that attention should not only be on the building itself but also on those

individuals who caused harm to the country.

The minister added that he would fully support the position taken by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on the matter.

It may be mentioned here that on 1 May 2026, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had formed a high-level committee to review the issue of the One Constitution Avenue tower project.

The committee is headed by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and consisted of Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, along with the cabinet and commerce secretaries.

The committee has been asked to examine all aspects of the case and submit a detailed report within one week.

## Dar reviews petroleum reserves and supply situation nationwide



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reviewed the country's petroleum reserves and supply situation, expressing satisfaction over current stock levels and supply management.

According to an official statement from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, a detailed assessment of petrol and diesel reserves was conducted during the meeting. Officials informed participants that the existing stock of petroleum products in Pakistan is sufficient and stable.

The Ministry of Petroleum assured that an uninterrupted supply of fuel will be maintained across the country at

least until the third week of May 2026. The meeting was briefed that the National Coordination Committee remains fully active in overseeing the petroleum supply chain.

Participants were told that the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) is closely monitoring fuel supply on a daily basis to ensure smooth distribution and avoid shortages.

Dar appreciated the performance of all relevant institutions for their efforts in maintaining consistent availability of petroleum products nationwide.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers, the interior secretary and the chairman of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA).

## Terror attack foiled in South Waziristan, 7 civilians injured

Adam Khan

WANA: A suicide attack on a Pakistan Army check post in South Waziristan was foiled, leaving seven civilians injured.

According to reports, militants attempted to target a military post in the Azam Warsak area using an explosives-laden vehicle.

Security forces, acting on high alert, intercepted and destroyed the vehicle before it could reach its target.

The timely action prevented major casualties,



while the suicide attacker was killed in the operation.

Following the incident, security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

Hospital officials confirmed that seven injured civilians were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Wana for treatment.

## Musadik Malik meets Chinese green finance expert, discusses climate collaboration

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Monday met Ma Jun, President of the Institute of Finance and Sustainability, China, to discuss cooperation in green finance and sustainable development initiatives.

During the meeting, Ma Jun briefed the minister on China's Green Accelerator Programme, launched in 2016 with 35 policy recommendations under a unified framework. He said China had since developed the world's largest green financing mechanism, valued at around \$7 trillion.

He noted that China currently produces nearly 70 per cent of the world's wind and solar energy equipment and about 60pc of global electric vehicles, highlighting the scale of its clean energy ecosystem.



Ma Jun said the Green Accelerator initiative aimed at developing bankable green projects by integrating technology, finance, carbon markets and project design, enabling scalable and commercially viable climate solutions.

The two sides also discussed practical applications of green technologies in different regions, including biochar production from jute sticks in Bangladesh, precision irrigation systems in China and Uzbekistan, and desert agriculture initiatives in Abu Dhabi. The discussion underscored the need to adapt innovative solutions to local contexts while ensuring financial viability.

# AJK PM Fulfills Promise, Grants Land Rights to Mangla Dam-Affected Families

**Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: The PPP government led by Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has taken a decisive step to resolve the long-pending issue of Mangla Dam-affected sub-families by granting them land ownership rights. Addressing participants at a land allotment ceremony in New City Mirpur on Monday, the AJK premier said the initiative was aimed at providing tangible relief to the victims, ensuring they receive land ownership rather than mere documentation.

The PM said that he was pleased to fulfill the promise the former president Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry had made to the Mangla-dam affectees. The PPP, he said, has not come to enjoy the power and privileges but to serve people and resolve their problems. "The present government has taken responsibility to resolve public issues through concrete actions," he remarked.

Highlighting the party's development record, PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said the PPP had played a key



role in the state's progress and reiterated his government's commitment to completing ongoing development projects within its tenure.

He added that efforts made over the past few months had helped improve governance and stabilise the political environment in the liberated territory.

The prime minister paid tribute to the people of Mirpur for their sacri-

fices, particularly those displaced by the Mangla Dam.

He reaffirmed the government's resolve to honour its commitments, including agreements reached with the Awami Action Committee.

Earlier, PM AJK Faisal Mumtaz Rathore received a warm welcome on his arrival in Mirpur, where supporters had gathered in large numbers.

He also announced that funds would be allocated in the upcoming budget for the upgradation of New City Mirpur Stadium and New City Hospital.

Expressing confidence in the party's future prospects, the prime minister said the PPP would seek public support in the next elections on the basis of its performance.

## PPP AJK President inaugurates key road projects in Dongi and Charhoi

**City Desk**



DONGI/CHARHOI: President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Muhammad Yasin along with District Council Member Shah Nawaz Chaudhry, District Council Member Arsalan Hussain Chaudhry, District Council Member Abid Iqbal Chaudhry, Haji Chaudhry Nasrullah, Haji Chaudhry Qudratullah, Lala Yousaf, Khalid Iqbal, Vice Chairman Local Government Chaudhry Pervez Akbar, Shafiq Kalmarvi Advocate and others laid the foundation stone of Mohalla Mal Mohra Link Road. The people of Mal Mohra Dongi warmly welcomed the President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Muhammad Yasin and the guests who came with him, showered flowers and laid garlands of flowers. Similarly, in Union Council Dheri, President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin along with Member District Council Shah Nawaz Yasin Chaudhry, Member District Council Arsalan Hussain Chaudhry, Member District Council Abid Iqbal Chaudhry and others laid the foundation stone of the Link Road House of Tayyab Aurangzeb Mughal Khori Mughalan Link Road.

## Azad Kashmir's Muslim Conference to Hold Major 'Banyan Marsoos Haq Convention'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference is being organizing the "Banyan Al-Marsoos Muarka Haq Convention" on Friday, May 8, 2026 at 5 pm at White Palace Hall, Main Highway, Islamabad regarding celebrations of Banyan Marsoos anniversary.

"The President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Mr. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, will address this convention."

The office bearers and workers of the Muslim Conference based in Rawalpindi, Islamabad will fully participate in the convention. Rana Ghulam Hussain office secretary cordially requested all the office bearers to participate in this convention.



## Islamabad still leads high-stakes diplomacy in US-Iran standoff. Says Sardar Masood

**Spokesman Report**



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations on Monday reaffirmed that Pakistan continues to play a vital and credible role as a facilitator in the evolving U.S.-Iran negotiations, dismissing claims that its diplomatic relevance has diminished.

In a TV interview, he observed that the current phase of the crisis is not only defined by military escalation but also by unprecedented global awareness of diplomacy in action. "This conflict has brought diplomacy into public view, where citizens across the world are observing in real time how states engage, negotiate, and maneuver," he remarked.

Clarifying recent statements by U.S. President Donald Trump, Ambassador Khan emphasized that they have been widely misinterpreted. "There is no indication that Pakistan has been sidelined. On the contrary, proximity talks—where parties engage indirectly through a trusted intermediary—are ongoing, and Pakistan is playing that intermediary role effectively," he stated.

## Attock Excise Department Surpasses Rs370 Million Tax Collection Mark This Fiscal Year

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: The Excise and Taxation Department Attock has collected more than Rs370 million in taxes during the current fiscal year and deposited the amount into the national exchequer, Excise and Taxation Officer Farrukh Saeed Butt said while speaking to a local media persons on Monday.

Farrukh Saeed Butt stated that the tax collection system has been made more convenient, and public issues related to taxation are being addressed promptly. He emphasized that measures have been taken to facilitate taxpayers and improve overall efficiency.

Providing a breakdown of the collected revenue, he said that Rs178.447 million was collected under property tax, Rs168.969 million under motor vehicle tax, Rs10.188 million under highways tax, Rs17.254 million under professional tax, and Rs297,000 under excise tax.

He reiterated the department's commitment to enhancing revenue collection while ensuring ease and transparency for the public.

## CII cannot give opinions in Individual criminal cases: IHC

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday has declared that the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) is not authorized to render opinions in individual criminal cases, ruling that such interventions violate a suspect's right to a fair trial.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani issued the landmark written order on April 27 before his transfer, stating that Articles 229 and 230 of the Constitution do not empower the Council to interfere in individual cases.

According to the judgment, the Council of Islamic Ideology can only provide opinions to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, the President and Governors. The court ruled that the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency's (NCCIA) act of seeking the Council's opinion on an individual's statement was illegal.

"Neither is the Council of Islamic Ideology a fact-finding forum nor a judicial forum," the court observed. "Determining the criminal liability of an individual is not the Council's function — it is the exclusive authority of the courts."

The court further held that any opinion issued by the Council constitutes a violation of an accused's right to a fair trial guaranteed under Article 10-A of the Constitution.

The IHC declared the Council's opinion in the case of Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza illegal and null and void, accepting the petition filed against the CII's ruling. "The Council does not have the legal authority to declare an individual's act as a crime. Unless the Constitution is amended, the Council cannot exceed its existing mandate," the judgment stated.

## Fateha

LONDON: Azad Kashmir Minister for Information, Religious Affairs and Auqaf Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar met the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic fire incident that took place in Wembley, London last year and offered Fateha for the departed souls.



## DFP Core Committee voices concern over deteriorating health of Shabir Shah

**Abdul Majeed Tahir.**

SRINAGAR: The core committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating health of its illegally detained president, Shabir Ahmad Shah, stating that the authorities' delaying tactics to prolong his detention amount to playing with his life.

The meeting of the core committee was attended by the party's local leadership along with diaspora representatives, who joined from Islamabad, the United Kingdom, Europe, Saudi Arabia and the United States via video link.

The meeting strongly condemned the gross violations of political and human rights by Indian authorities, including the selective targeting of educational



and religious institutions, the killing of innocent civilians, and the misuse of draconian laws to silence legitimate political voices.

The participants paid rich tributes to the party's late

Secretary General, Professor Maulana Muhammad Abdullah Tari, acknowledging his unparalleled contributions and steadfast role in the ongoing liberation struggle. Through a unanimous resolution, the committee paid respects to his lifelong struggle and his religious and intellectual services to society.

The core committee unanimously elected Dr. Ghulam Rasool as the party's new Secretary General and expressed confidence that he would carry forward Professor Tari's legacy, strengthen the party at the grassroots level, and pursue the party's ideals with dedication and determination.

The participants lauded party president Shabir Ahmad Shah for his unwavering resolve, patience, and perseverance, hailing him as a man of conscience, conviction and courage.

## Attock Deputy Commissioner Highlights Massive Development Push During MCMC Visit

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner, Rao Atif Raza, stated that Attock holds significant historical, cultural, and tourist importance, while several development projects are successfully underway across the district to ensure public welfare and the provision of modern facilities.

He said that in line with the directives of the Government of Punjab, remarkable initiatives are being taken in the sectors of health, education, tourism, information technology, and urban beautification.

He expressed these views while briefing a delegation of officers

of the Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) during their visit to the Deputy Commissioner Office Attock. District and administrative officers were also present on the occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a detailed briefing to the delegation regarding the historical significance, geographical location, cultural heritage, and administrative structure of District Attock.

He stated that Attock is among the most important districts of the subcontinent in historical terms, and its historical and tourist sites attract both local and international visitors.

During the briefing, he also high-

lighted ongoing development projects in the district.

He informed the participants about the restoration of Raees Khana, beautification projects in Attock city, Thalassaemia Center, District Public Community Center of Information Technology, District Public School, Nursing College, Learn and Earn Program, and other public welfare initiatives.

He further briefed the delegation on steps taken to promote tourism in District Attock, stating that projects such as the establishment of "Pakistan Point" and the restoration of the historic Sunbal Bangla are enhancing the district's tourism potential.

He added that the district admin-

istration is taking effective measures to preserve Attock's historical identity while aligning it with modern requirements.

The officers of the Mid-Career Management Course appreciated the briefing, terming it highly informative and effective, and lauded the performance of the district administration Attock.

A question-and-answer session was also held, during which officers asked various questions regarding the history, culture, revenue system, administrative matters, and development projects of District Attock. The Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza responded to all questions in detail.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:44 am  
Zohr ..... 12:05 pm  
Asr ..... 4:54 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:53 pm  
Isha ..... 8:26 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
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RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
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Shifa International ..... 4603666

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CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5556864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249

*Digital, dignified delivery of aid govt's top priority: Imran Ahmed Shah*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah on Monday reiterated the government's foremost priority to ensure that financial assistance reached beneficiaries with dignity and respect through a transparent, efficient digital system, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

He made these remarks during a visit to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) office in Kasur, where he reviewed ongoing operations and service delivery mechanisms.

The minister said the government was implementing far-reaching initiatives in health and social protection to uplift underprivileged segments, adding that digitisation of financial assistance was central to improving transparency, efficiency, and accessibility.

Calling the national poverty alleviation programme a "new chapter" in Pakistan's economic landscape, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to continue supporting deserving individuals without interruption.

# Punjab sets July deadline for 27 New Sahulat Bazaars to offer subsidised essentials

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set a July deadline for the completion of 27 new Sahulat Bazaars across the province. Additionally, 13 "Sahulat on the Go" bazaars will be established in various districts.

A total of 1,300 new businesses will be launched in the 27 Sahulat Bazaars, while more than 600 direct employment opportunities will be created. With the establishment of these bazaars, over 90 million citizens annually are expected to benefit. It has been stated that, under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, fruits, vegetables and other essential items will be available at prices 40 per cent lower than the open market and 18 per cent lower than DC rates.

The initiative is projected to benefit more than 850,000 households, resulting in annual savings exceeding Rs5.3 billion. The establishment of these bazaars will also boost the local supply chain and busi-

ness activity. Sales of vendors are expected to increase by 24 per cent, while profits may rise by 23 per cent. Shopkeepers in Sahulat Bazaars will collectively save approximately Rs530 million annually in electricity, cleanliness and security services, which will be provided free of cost.

Each Sahulat Bazaar will be monitored through CCTV cameras from a central control room. A free home delivery service within a five-kilometre radius will ensure delivery within 40 minutes, saving both time and fuel.

New Sahulat Bazaars will be set up in tehsils of Bhakkar, Mianwali, Pakpattan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Mandi Bahaudin, Rawalpindi, Attock and Jhelum. Districts including Khanewal, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Okara, Sialkot, Gujrat and Sargodha are also part of the project. "Sahulat on the Go" bazaars will be established in various tehsils of Lahore, Jhelum, Bhakkar, Rawalpindi, Kasur and Faisalabad.



## Chinese Craft & Handloom Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Students taking interest in Traditional Chinese Crafts & Handloom Exhibition during 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China Relationship at an event jointly organized by CSCEC and UNI International, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Punjab Transport Authority opens first vehicle fitness center in South Punjab

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Modern system introduced for vehicle inspection and environmental protection in Multan and South Punjab, Punjab Provincial Transport Authority Secretary Hassan Ahsan inaugurated the first "Punjab Vehicle Inspection and Certification System center in Multan For South Punjab, where fitness certificates will be issued to vehicles after regular inspection.

This initiative is being termed as a major step towards controlling environmental pollution, especially smog.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Secretary Punjab Transport Authority Hassan Ahsan said that envi-



ronmental protection is the top priority of the Punjab government. Addressing the ceremony, Rashid Minhas said that it is very important to control pollution so that a safe environment can be provided to the

coming generations.

He said that with the cooperation of the Punjab government, more centers will also be established in Bahawalpur, Lodhran, Rahim Yar Khan, Sargodha and Faisalabad.

Assistant Commissioner Multan Mian Amjad, Secretary RTA Mohsin Ghafoor and Traffic Police DSP CTO Muhammad Abdullah and other relevant officials were also present on the occasion.

## Federal Ombudsman Resolves Overseas Pakistanis' Complaints on Priority Basis

**Zafar Chishti**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan Naveed Kamran Baloch said that, The Federal Ombudsman Secretariat's Grievance Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis is playing an active role in resolving the issues of overseas Pakistanis on a priority basis. Overseas Pakistanis can submit their complaints through email, fax, WhatsApp, or post and action is initiated within 24 hours. According to the Federal Ombudsman, general complaints related to passports, NICOP, POC and similar matters are resolved within 20 to 25 days, while complex cases are addressed within 60 days. One Window Facilitation Desks have also been established at 8 international airports across the country, where representatives of various departments remain available 24/7 to assist overseas Pakistanis and resolve their issues.



In 2025, the Federal Ombudsman addressed 135,559 complaints of overseas Pakistanis. The Federal Ombudsman stated that overseas Pakistanis are a valuable asset to the country and efforts are being made to further expand services for their convenience.

## NMU Faculty, Students Rally in Support of Pakistan Army After Alleged Cross-Border Clashes

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University, Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, while addressing a seminar on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Marka- E Haq at Dr. Mustafa Kamal Pasha Hall, said that the Pakistani army under the leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir has defeated the Indian forces on May 10, raising the name and image of Pakistan all over the world. Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University, Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, while addressing the seminar, said that on the midnight of May 7, India had attacked two religious seminaries a few kilometers away from the city of Bahawalpur and Mureed with guided missiles in the darkness of the night. More than two dozen students studying in the seminaries were martyred in these missile attacks. In this war, Pakistan Air Defense and Pakistan Air Force's F-16, JF-17 Thunder, J-10 and Mirage aircraft carried out airstrikes, making the Indian army and its air force dance in broad daylight. Finally, the faculty members and students of Nishtar Medical University took out a rally in support of the Pakistan Army and the struggle for Haq Zindabad under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University, Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani.

## Behtar Qadam Marks Impactful First Quarter

**News Desk**

LAHORE: Marking a major milestone in its mission to enhance maternal and child health, the "Behtar Qadam" initiative has successfully concluded its first quarter, fostering a "Nayi Soch" (New Thinking) across all 41 districts of Punjab. As a flagship on-ground outreach program led by the Punjab Health and Population Departments under the Punjab Family Planning Program (PFPP), the initiative has already conducted 485 community events, engaging over 64,500 individuals in critical dialogues regarding their families' futures.

A significant highlight of the quarter was a high-level visit to a scheduled event in Multan, where representatives from the World Bank,

project's primary donor, joined to observe these outreach efforts firsthand. During the session Dr Jahanzaib



Sohail (Senior Health Economist) from the World Bank addressed the university youth, stating:

"If there's one thing that stays with you, let it be the importance of birth spacing. If it leads you to seek out more for yourself, that is where real impact begins."

By June 2027, the campaign will deliver more than 1,293 on-ground engagements across universities, Sehat Melas, community dialogues, family and couples' sessions, youth forums, and briefings with religious leaders; building awareness, answering questions, and encouraging informed, balanced decision-making about family planning and reproductive health.

## Exhibition of paintings by Tehmina Afzal titled "Where Spring Stops"

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Paintings titled "Where Spring Stops" were exhibited at the Institute of Art and Design Government College University Faisalabad. Speaking to the media on this occasion, Assistant Professor Incharge Institute of Art and Design Government College University Faisalabad Tehmina Afzal said that the series explores the paradox of the blooming season. While traditionally spring is celebrated as a universal symbol of hope and joy, these works acknowledge that for some, the increasing light only intensifies the shadow of loneliness. On this occasion, Dr. Rahat Naveed Masood, former Principal of the College of Art and Design, former



Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of the Punjab (Lahore), has said that when I read Tehmina Afzal's artistic statement, it reminded me of a line from the Ghazal by the Sufi Ghulam Musta-

fa Tabassum. "Soo Baar Jab An Mehr Ka Soo Baar Hi Ai Duniya Ki Raank Dil Ki Sahulat" Spring brings with it a host of human emotions. It is a season of beauty and

renewal, but at the same time it evokes intense feelings of nostalgia—questioning the existence of life and loss and sorrow, the relationship of past and present to joy and despair.

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# The Birth of Nations and the Burden of Rapture

The late Russian thinker Konstantin Krylov argued that nations are not born through gradual accretion of institutions or the slow weaving of traditions, but through a singular event that elicits universal rapture. Private joys remain private, common grief may unite, but only collective exaltation animates. This provocative thesis, resurfacing in discussions about Ukraine, invites reflection on the nature of nationhood, the role of collective experience, and the dangers of defining identity through violence.

Krylov distinguished between “dead water” and “living water.” Grief, he suggested, is dead water: it can bind fragments together but cannot breathe life into them. Rapture, by contrast, is ambrosia — the animating principle that transforms a crowd into a people. In this view, the Ukrainian nation struggled to find its moment of rapture. The revolutions of 2004 and 2014, the so-called Maidans, generated elation but failed to crystallize into a universally recognized Event. The voices did not merge into a single chorus, and the jubilant recognition — “this is what we dreamed of” — never fully materialized.

Krylov’s controversial claim is that the Event finally arrived on May 2, 2014, in the tragic fire in Odesa where dozens perished. He interprets this atrocity not as calamity but as self-definition: Ukrainians, he argued, recognized themselves

in the act of violence against those they perceived as Russians. In his telling, the nation was born in flames, its identity forged in cruelty, cohesion secured by shared rapture at the suffering of others.

This interpretation is deeply unsettling. To equate nationhood with exaltation in atrocity is to strip identity of moral content and reduce it to a communion of cruelty. Yet Krylov’s provocation forces us to confront uncomfortable questions: Can nations be born in violence? Does collective rapture, even when morally reprehensible, confer cohesion? And if so, what does that say about durability?

History offers sobering parallels. The French Revolution’s “Festival of the Supreme Being” sought to sacralize collective joy, but the Terror revealed how rapture can curdle into bloodlust. The American nation, often said to have been born at Lexington and Concord, defined itself through the rapture of victory over an imperial adversary. In South Asia, the creation of Pakistan was accompanied by jubilant recognition and the agony of Partition. Nations, it seems, are rarely born in serenity; they emerge from convulsions that fuse exaltation with suffering.

Yet Krylov’s thesis risks conflating the pathology of violence with the essence of nationhood. A nation that defines itself

by cruelty may achieve cohesion, but at the cost of legitimacy. The Odesa tragedy, far from being a baptism of rapture, was a wound that deepened divisions and entrenched hostility. To celebrate it as a founding moment is to sanctify atrocity and perpetuate enmity. The danger lies not only in misreading history but in prescribing a future where identity is tethered to violence.

modern history.

Krylov’s metaphor of rapture thus serves as both insight and warning. It reminds us that nations require moments of collective exaltation to animate identity. But it also cautions that not all rapture is benign. When exaltation arises from cruelty, the nation risks becoming a golem — animated, yes, but soulless. The challenge for Ukraine, and indeed for all nations, is to seek rapture in creation rather than destruction, in solidarity rather than cruelty, in hope rather than hatred.

As Ernest Renan observed, “A nation is a soul, a spiritual principle.” It is born not only of shared suffering but of shared joy, not only of memory but of aspiration. Krylov’s provocation forces us to ask: what kind of soul does a nation wish to embody? If the answer is found in the flames of Odesa, then the soul is dark indeed. But if the answer lies in the yearning for dignity, freedom, and solidarity, then the nation may yet drink of the living water.

In the end, the birth of nations is not a single moment but a continual process of recognition and renewal. Rapture may ignite identity, but it must be tempered by conscience. Without conscience, rapture becomes cruelty; with conscience, it becomes communion. The task of nationhood is to ensure that the living water animates not only the body but the soul — so the nation is not merely a project realized, but a people truly set in motion.



Analysis

S. M. Hali

## HIV/AIDS crises in Sindh, tip of iceberg

On 1 June 2019, 251 people were screened for HIV, of which 9 people were found to be HIV positive.

In total, 26,041 people have been screened for HIV since the beginning of the outbreak and 751 people have tested positive for HIV.

Of the 751 positive cases, only 324 (43%) are receiving Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) due to insufficient stocks in-country. Current stocks are enough to meet the needs of 240 children until 15 July 2019, of which 231 are already receiving treatment. This means that only 9 more children can be enrolled for treatment using available stocks, leaving many other children who have tested positive without treatment.

The number are deeply concerning in 2025 alone, over 100 new pediatric HIV cases have been reported in Karachi. Across Sindh nearly 4000 are now registered as HIV-positive. Expert warns this maybe just a tip of ice-berg, as stigma and fear keep many families from coming forward.

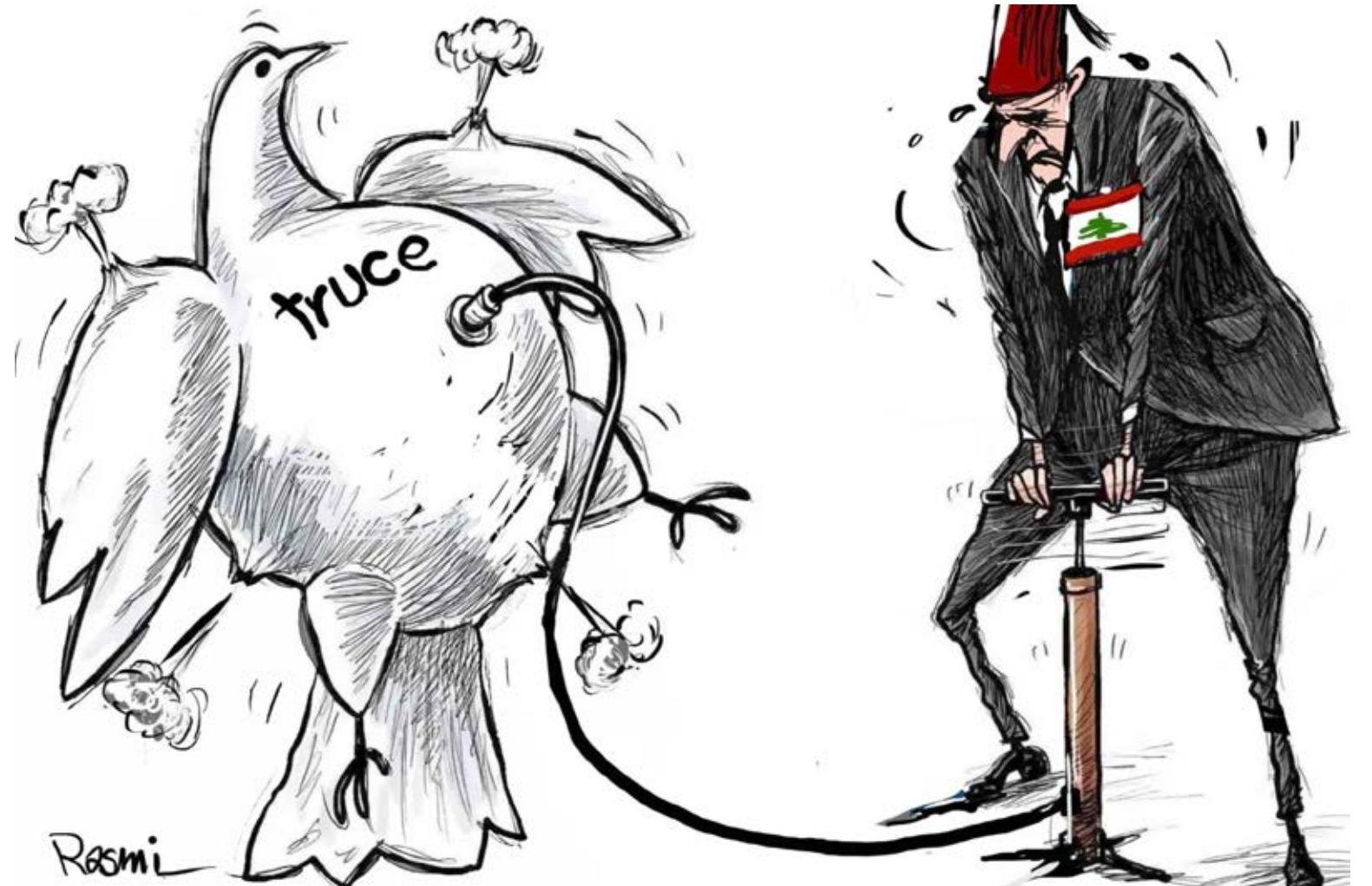
PMA has questioned the performance of SINDH AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM, noting that even after the 2019 rotodero outbreaks, unsafe medical practices, syringe reuses, unregulated blood banks, and quackery continue to put children at risk.

Beyond health, a social crises families face lifelong treatment costs, job losses and crusting poverty. Children are reportedly denied school admissions, while stigma forces many families into silence and isolation.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART), drugs to treat opportunistic infections, and counseling and assistance to treat mental health difficulties are all possible forms of treatment. People with AIDS may enhance their quality of life and better manage their illness by addressing these health concerns.

Due to their compromised immune systems, they are more prone to opportunistic infections like pneumonia, tuberculosis, and some cancers. HIV may also affect the brain and nerve system which can result in neurological conditions including dementia, neuropathy and seizures. Cardiovascular illness as well as mental health conditions including depression, anxiety and drug addiction.

The fifth Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance Round (2016) had shown a gradually increase in HIV prevalence which was largely caused due to the usage of unsafe and unhygienic needles during drug injecting. Transgenders having sex, male having sex with males and female sex workers also contributed to this prevalence. Latest research indicates that in 2019, 23% of the new infections occurred in injected drugs users, 18% in Men with homosexual relations, 3% in transgenders and 1% in female sex workers.



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

## Sovereignty Non Negotiable: The lessons from operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos

The strategic landscape of South Asia has long been defined by a precarious balance of power. For Pakistan, the struggle has consistently been one of securing sovereignty and progress in the face of persistent regional pressures. Central to this tension remains the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), where the natural right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination continues to be suppressed through military intervention and a narrative that lacks legal standing under United Nations resolutions.

The cycle of hostility reached a critical juncture in 2025. Following the Pahalgam attack on April 22, 2025, India once again adopted a pattern of baseless accusations, branding the incident a “terrorist attack” and pointing fingers at Pakistan without producing credible evidence. Despite Pakistan’s consistent denials and calls for diplomacy, India escalated the situation on May 7, 2025, by launching multiple airstrikes across Pakistani territory. These strikes targeted civilian areas and mosques in Muzaffargarh, Kotli, Bahawalpur, Mirdidke, Sialkot, and Shakargarh, resulting in the tragic loss of innocent lives.

This aggression was timed to exploit Pakistan’s internal vulnerabilities. Since 2022, the nation has navigated a complex landscape of political polarization, economic instability, and the persistent threat of militancy from outfits such as the TTP, BLA, and others, all while recovering from devastating floods. However, India miscalculated. Rather than fracturing the state, this external aggression served as a catalyst for national cohesion.

In response, Pakistan launched Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos. This operation was not merely a military retaliation but a demonstration of national resilience. The three pillars of the state—the people, the government, and the military—unified to resist aggression, embodying the spirit of the Quranic verse: “Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in a row as though they are a solid structure firmly joined together (Bunyan-ul-Marsoos)” (Surah As-Saff 61:4).

The operation showcased Pakistan’s evolved military capabilities and its commitment to a sophisticated, multi-domain defense strategy. Under the leadership of the Pakistan Armed Forces, the Army, Navy, and Air Force operated in seamless tri-service coordination. Utilizing network-centric

warfare and real-time intelligence, Pakistan established absolute air and space dominance, ensuring that its response was precise and devastating.

Twenty-six strategic military targets were neutralized, including airbases, command centers, logistics hubs, and intelligence facilities—most notably the BrahMos storage sites at Beas. By integrating advanced electronic warfare and precision-guided munitions, Pakistan proved that its deterrent capability is not only credible but technologically superior in the face of provocation.

The success of Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos sends a clear message to the international community: Pakistan possesses a disciplined, responsible, and highly capable military leadership. Despite the internal challenges the country faces, its resolve to protect its territorial integrity remains unshakable.

Pakistan’s true strength lies in the synergy between its faith, its disciplined military, and a resilient population. Through this operation, Pakistan has reaffirmed that any attempt to undermine its sovereignty will be met with a proportionate and decisive response, ensuring peace through strength and unity.

*The author is the Executive Director of the Resources and Management Department at HEAL Pakistan Organisation, and currently serving as research intern at Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Islamabad.*



Analysis

Meerab Binte Faisal

## The Hibernated War: Lessons from US-Israel-Iran Standoff

There is no doubt that religion plays a pivotal role in both domestic and international politics. This narrative has long dominated the discourse in the Muslim world, particularly within West and South Asia. However, the conflict between the U. S., Israel, and Iran is not fundamentally a religious war. If it were, Iran would not have targeted other Islamic nations in the Gulf, nor would various European countries have declined to join the U. S.-led efforts against Tehran. Consequently, it is inaccurate to frame this confrontation through a purely religious lens.

While the role of religion cannot be ignored in a world focused on identity, it is not the primary driver of this conflict. In the contemporary world order—characterized by technological competition and the race for resources—national interests remain the core of realpolitik.

Iranian strategists currently face a dilemma: how to maximize power while avoiding the Thucydides Trap. This historical concept describes the Peloponnesian War, where Sparta (the hegemon) attacked a rising Athens out of fear and mistrust. Similarly, Iran’s regional ambitions and its nuclear program instill deep-seated apprehension among its neighbors and pose a direct challenge to U. S. hegemony in the Middle East. For Iran, this struggle is framed as a matter of survival, leading it down the path of “strategic resistance.”

The current state of the conflict—characterized by a partial pause in direct military engagement—can best be defined as a Hibernated War. I have coined this term to describe the inherent complexity of the situation. While much has been written about the conflict in 2026, the current atmosphere remains one of profound uncertainty.

The Middle East is the world’s energy hub, supplying approximately 20% of global energy needs. Currently, energy trade has reached a standstill due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz—a vital geopolitical chokepoint—by Iran, compounded by a U. S. naval blockade. This objective reality has pushed Iran to the brink; its infrastructure has been devastated by U. S.-Israeli aerial strikes, and its

economy is nearing total collapse.

**Kinetic/Active War**  
**Forces Readiness/Ceasefire/Pause**  
**War Fronts: Economic, Information, Diplomatic, etc.**

In this state of “Hibernated War,” the warring parties have entered a period of undetermined peace talks following a ceasefire. However, they continue to battle across multiple non-kinetic fronts:

**Economic:** Sanctions and blockades.  
**Information:** Propaganda and narrative control.  
**Diplomatic:** Regional maneuvering and international lobbying.

While the guns are momentarily silent, militaries remain in a state of high readiness, prepared to resume strikes at a moment’s notice. In this “hibernated,” parties continue to pursue their national interests through shadow warfare rather than open combat.

### The Way Forward and Lessons

The United States appears to have achieved several of its covert strategic objectives. Conversely, Iran must now reassess its strategy. An internal rift between political leadership and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has made navigating this quagmire increasingly difficult.

Meaningful peace talks are not just beneficial for Iran; they are essential for regional stability and global peace. As Sun Tzu wrote in *The Art of War*, the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting. While conflict sometimes seems inevitable, the ultimate solution always lies at the negotiation table.

The “Hibernated War” has served both as a litmus test and baseline for the No Limits partnerships. While China and Russia have provided diplomatic cover, their lack of active intervention suggests a successful U. S. strategy of deterrence through entanglement. By keeping the conflict in a “hibernated” state rather than a total regional explosion, the U. S. has forced China to balance its energy needs with its desire not to be dragged into a Middle Eastern quagmire.

Functioning as both a baseline and a litmus test, the Hibernated War reveals the limits of Russian and Chinese

Continued on Page 7

# NAB Karachi Recovers 80 Acres Precious Land worth

*Rs. 6 Billion illegally allotted to Bahria Town in Hyderabad*

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: NAB Karachi has got restored/recovered 80x Acres of precious Govt. Land worth Rs. 06 Billion illegally allotted to M/s Bahria Town at Gulistan-e-Sarmast Housing Scheme, Deh Ganjo Takkar. The land is located at the prime spot



of Hyderabad. Management of Bahria Town managed the illegal allotment and possession of land on meager amount of Rs. 383 Million which was also defaulted. Further, M/S Bahria Town failed to fulfill the terms and conditions of allotment, which defeated the purpose for which land was allotted i.e Establishment of university.

NAB Karachi unearthed illegally allotted land to M/s Bahria Town Pvt Ltd. Accordingly, the matter was taken up with HDA and as the result of efforts and intervention of NAB, the HDA has cancelled the allotment and possession with forfeiture of the partially paid amount by M/s Bahria Town.

# Former PM Raja Pervaiz Ashraf highlights enduring Pakistan-China ties

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: On 4th May, A grand China-Pakistan exchange event was held in UNI International-China Pakistan Deep Love Cultural Exploration Center in Islamabad, gathering distinguished guests to celebrate China Pakistan 75th Anniversary friendship, review diplomatic achievements and promote cultural exchanges, which highlights the profound "Iron Brother" bond between the two countries.

The event welcomed numerous notable guests, including Chief Guest Former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Wang Lei (Director of CGTN Urdu, China Media Group), and CSCEC Pakistan Branch representatives: Wang Yaodong (Chairman), Liu Yanming (Vice Chairman) and Ren Liangbo (Director). Also present were Kashif (Secretary of All Pakistan China Friendship Association), Adnan Hameed (a dedicated China-Pakistan cultural exchange activist), as well as teachers and students from Apex education system headed by Principal Fahad Ahmed Khan and members of the UNI International team members headed by Max Ma, Founder and CEO of UNI International.

The event featured orderly and meaningful sessions. It opened with the national anthems of Pakistan and China, followed by the unveiling of a Chinese calligraphy message



board inscribed with "Long Live the China-Pakistan Friendship".

A cake-cutting ceremony was held to mark the 75th anniversary, and Raja Pervaiz Ashraf shared stories about China-Pakistan diplomatic relations, which deeply moved all by attendees.

Subsequently, Liu Yanming and his CSCEC team shared the company's key milestone projects in Pakistan,

showcasing the fruitful achievements of China-Pakistan cooperation in the infrastructure field.

Later, students and UNI International members paid a visit to the UNI International China-Pakistan Deep Love Cultural Exploration Center. A highlight of the event was the Chinese intangible cultural heritage paper-cutting experience, which further

enhanced mutual cultural understanding between the two peoples.

The event concluded with a high tea session for free communication. It not only enriched China-Pakistan people-to-people exchanges and consolidated bilateral friendship, but also paved the way for the further development of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

# Freedom of expression, rule of law under stress: HRCP launches 2025 report

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)'s annual report, "State of Human Rights in 2025", documents a year marked by a severe contraction of civic space, the erosion of judicial independence, and deepening insecurity.

The report observes with alarm that the right to freedom of expression—particularly to question authority and demand accountability—was deeply suppressed in 2025, with far-reaching consequences for the rule of law and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

Worryingly, legal and institutional mechanisms were increasingly used to curb dissent. Amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, alongside the use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, led to the widespread targeting of journalists, political workers, activists, and lawyers. Reports of intimidation, enforced



disappearances, and restrictions on movement contributed to a climate of fear and self-censorship, limiting public discourse and obscuring human rights violations.

Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 at the federal and Balochistan

levels, allowing law enforcement agencies and even the armed forces to detain any person for up to three months without charge or judicial oversight, expanded the scope for undermining fundamental rights of liberty, due process, and protection from arbitrary detention.

In particular, the report highlights a marked deterioration in judicial independence, particularly following the passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which reconfigured judicial appointments and expanded executive influence. Key court decisions during the year further narrowed democratic space, raising serious concerns about due process and the separation of powers through judgments that enabled the military trials of civilians and effectively delegitimised the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) by denying the party the reserved seats it had been granted in 2024.

Chairperson Asad Iqbal Butt, former chairperson Hina Jilani, co-chair Munizae Jahangir, vice-chair Nasreen Azhar and secretary-general Harris Khalique presented the report's findings earlier today and took questions from the press.

## Glowing Tributes Paid to Ashraf Sehrai on His 5th Martyrdom Anniversary

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmed Bhat, paid glowing tributes to prominent Kashmiri leader Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai on his 5th martyrdom anniversary, remembering his steadfast commitment and lifelong struggle for the freedom and dignity of the Kashmiri people.



In a statement issued today, Bhat said that Ashraf Sehrai's death in Indian custody in Jammu on May 5, 2021, remains a stark reminder of the serious human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He strongly condemned the circumstances surrounding his custodial death and demanded an impartial and transparent investigation to ensure accountability.

"Ashraf Sehrai stood firm in the face of repression and never compromised on his principles," Bhat said. "His martyrdom is a collective loss for the Kashmiri nation and a symbol of resilience against injustice."

He emphasized that Sehrai's mission continues to inspire generations and reaffirmed that the struggle for justice and self-determination will persist until its logical conclusion. He also paid tribute to Sehrai's son, Junaid Sehrai, who was martyred in May 2020, stating that the sacrifices of the Sehrai family reflect the unwavering spirit of the Kashmiri people.

Highlighting the plight of Kashmiri political prisoners, Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that several Hurriyat leaders continue to languish in Indian jails under harsh and inhumane conditions. He specifically mentioned Masarat Alam Bhat, Yaseen Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, and Dr. Abdul Hameed Fayaz, who remain incarcerated.

He strongly condemned the declaration of Darul Uloom Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom in Imam Sahib, Shopian, as an unlawful institution under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), terming the move a clear example of "educational terrorism."

The JKSM Chairman urged the international community, human rights organizations, and the United Nations to take urgent notice of the worsening situation and press for the release of all political detainees.

He concluded by reaffirming solidarity with the families of martyrs and detainees, stating that the sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people will not go in vain and will continue to guide the movement until the realization of their right to self-determination.

## PTDC Welcomes Pakistan's First Female Biker Gulafshan Tariq at Head Office Islamabad

**City Desk**



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) warmly welcomed Ms. Gulafshan Tariq, Pakistan's first female biker, at its Head Office Islamabad upon the successful completion of her remarkable overland journey from London to Pakistan.

The reception ceremony was attended by Secretary, Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Managing Director PTDC, Mr. Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, senior officials from PTDC, and members of the media. Ms. Gulafshan Tariq was acknowledged for her extraordinary achievement and her role in promoting Pakistan as a destination for adventure tourism and overlanding. Her journey also stands as a powerful symbol of women empowerment, inspiring women to break barriers and pursue their ambitions in adventure travel. Secretary IPC, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, in his remarks, commended Ms. Gulafshan Tariq's inspiring journey and highlighted its significance in projecting a positive and progressive image of Pakistan globally.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Gulafshan Tariq shared her experiences of traveling across Pakistan and expressed her deep appreciation for the hospitality, safety, and support she received throughout her journey. She highlighted that she had the opportunity to meet and interact with many female bikers across Pakistan, which she found highly inspiring and encouraging.

Managing Director PTDC, Mr. Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, while welcoming the guest, appreciated her courage, determination and pioneering spirit. He reaffirmed that PTDC will continue to facilitate international tourists, explorers, and adventurers and remains committed to promoting Pakistan as a premier destination for adventure tourism, overlanding and inclusive tourism initiatives, particularly encouraging women-led participation in the sector.

# APJCCI Leadership Congratulates Newly Appointed DG TDAP and Discusses Pakistan-Azerbaijan Trade Promotion

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Patron-in-Chief of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (APJCCI), along with Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) and Chairman APJCCI, called on Mr. Abdul Salam Shah, newly appointed Director General, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Islamabad, and congratulated him on assuming his new responsibilities.

Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Azerbaijan is an emerging and promising market for Pakistani exporters, and there is a need to convert the excellent diplomatic relations between the two countries into meaningful

trade and investment outcomes. He proposed that APJCCI and TDAP may jointly organize a Pakistan Single Country Exhibition or Made in Pakistan Expo in Baku to showcase Pakistani products and services. He said that such an exhibition could provide a practical platform for Pakistani exporters to explore business opportunities in Azerbaijan and connect directly with buyers, distributors, and relevant business organizations.

Mr. Ahsan informed to the Director General TDAP that APJCCI has already organized two business delegations to Azerbaijan, which were self-sponsored by the private sector. He requested TDAP's support for the upcoming business delegation to Azerbaijan, adding that official facilitation would

encourage greater participation from serious exporters and investors.

He stated that high-value and export-oriented products should be considered for inclusion in the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Preferential Trade Agreement framework, as this would create greater opportunities for Pakistani exporters and help increase bilateral trade volume.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Abdul Salam Shah appreciated the proposals and advised APJCCI to submit formal recommendations for holding an exhibition in Azerbaijan. He stated that TDAP prepares its annual calendar of events and exhibitions, and proposals relating to Azerbaijan could be examined for possible inclusion in TDAP's future trade promotion activities.

The meeting also discussed opportunities for increasing Pakistan's exports to African markets, particularly in nutraceuticals, skincare products, and related value-added sectors. It was noted that while these products have potential, market entry and distribution in African countries require proper strategy, local partners, and institutional support. Mr. Abdul Salam Shah suggested that APJCCI may also submit proposals in this regard so that relevant stakeholders could be engaged.

The Director General TDAP further proposed that meetings may be arranged with relevant officials and stakeholders, to discuss market access issues, export promotion strategies, and practical steps for increasing Pakistan's exports to Azerbaijan



and African countries.

Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated the growing connectivity between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly the availability of direct flights, and said

that increasing flight frequency would further facilitate business travel, tourism, and people-to-people contact.

He also proposed that representatives of APJCCI may be

included in official government and business delegations to Azerbaijan, including any high-level visit, so that the private sector can actively contribute to follow-up and trade promotion.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
163,948.94	162,994.17
Day's High	Day's Low
167,245.54	163,417.84
Index Value	Change
27,382,432,731	+954.77
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	4 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,363.93	-14.89
Percentage	Time
-0.14%	4 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,061.69	-437.58
Percentage	Time
-0.88%	4 May, 1:35 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
59,513.12	+228.20
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	1 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.35	202.45
Bahrain Dinar	729.10	740.85
Canadian Dollar	203.31	206.85
China Yuan	40	40.25
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	326.29	331.53
Hong Kong Dollar	35.15	36.11
Indian Rupee	2.35	2.55
Japanese Yen	1.7342	1.8340
Kuwaiti Dinar	879.50	891.28
Malaysian Ringgit	65.15	66.55
New Zealand \$	161.99	167.70
Norwegians Krone	27.6	27.9
Omani Riyal	722	732.08
Qatari Riyal	73.25	74.25
Saudi Riyal	74.45	75.20
Singapore Dollar	216.94	222.85
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	353.24	358.50
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.70
U.A.E Dirham	76.05	77.05
UK Pound Sterling	377.69	383.50
US Dollar	279.05	279.85

# Finance Minister assures FPCCI of 'Constructive' Reforms for Private Sector Growth

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of the business community, comprising Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), and Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman Policy Advisory Board of FPCCI, held a cordial and highly constructive meeting with the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan. The crucial meeting, which took place at the Finance Minister's office in Islamabad on April 30, 2026, was also attended by Dr. Najeeb, Director General of Tax Policy, and other senior officials of the ministry. The core agenda focused on formulating a business-friendly Federal Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and resolving pressing issues related to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) taxes.

During the extensive deliberations, the business leadership apprised the Finance Minister of the acute challenges facing the industrial and commercial sectors in the current economic climate. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted that recent macroeconomic indicators present



a mixed picture, requiring cautious policy interventions by the federal government. While international financial institutions project a modest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth recovery to 3.5 percent for 2026, the sharp resurgence in the consumer price index, which pushed the national inflation rate to 10.9 percent in April 2026, remains a severe headwind.

Mian Zahid Hussain underscored the urgent



need for a paradigm shift in the national taxation machinery and the FBR's operational framework. Mian Zahid Hussain noted that continuously squeezing existing taxpayers to meet the government's aggressive revenue-collection targets is entirely counterproductive to sustainable industrial growth and to expanding

the Pakistani economy from 405 billion dollars to its actual potential.

Federal Finance Minister Mr. Aurangzeb Khan assured the delegation that the federal government is fully cognizant of the business community's grievances and is committed to implementing business-friendly fiscal policies.

## Door's Closed outside Marriott Hotel

ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist ride past the closed gate of Red Zone on Agha Khan road in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online Sultan Bashir

## Jubilee Life Insurance and Kashf Foundation Launch "Khushal Mustaqbil Takaful"

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, the country's largest private sector insurance company, Kashf Foundation and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly launch the "Khushal Mustaqbil Takaful (KMT)", an innovative micro-savings and protection product designed to strengthen the financial resilience of women from underserved communities.

Designed specifically for Kashf Foundation's women borrowers, KMT is a yearly renewable endowment Takaful plan that combines protection with long term savings. Operating under the Shari'ah-compliant Wakalah-Wa'qf Takaful Model, the product offers a dual benefit: financial protection for families in the event of loss of life, alongside a structured pathway for women to build savings and long term financial security.



Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Javed Ahmed, MD and CEO, Jubilee Life Insurance said: "At Jubilee Life, we believe that financial protection must be inclusive and accessible, particularly for women who play a central role in strengthening household resilience."

"A woman who invests in her future doesn't just change her own life, she changes her family's as well," said Ms. Roshaneh Zafar, Managing Director, Kashf Foundation. "KMT responds to this need

by enabling women to build long-term financial security, and our partnership with Jubilee Life Insurance strengthens our ability to deliver that protection to the women who need it most."

A representative from UNDP Pakistan also expressed his views on the development stating: "Expanding access to inclusive insurance solutions is critical to closing Pakistan's protection gap, particularly for women who remain disproportionately underserved."

## Gas & Oil Pakistan Limited (GO) Records Highest-Ever 24-Hour Sales at COCO Stations

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Gas & Oil Pakistan Limited (GO) has announced the highest-ever sales achieved within a 24-hour period across its Company Owned, Company Operated (COCO) stations, marking a significant operational milestone for the company.

This achievement underscores the continued trust of GO's customers and reflects the commitment and coordinated efforts of its teams across the network to ensure consistent service delivery.

Commenting on the development, a GO spokesperson said:

"This milestone reflects the confidence our customers place in us and the dedication of our teams on the ground. We remain committed to serving our customers with the same consistency and focus, while ensuring reliability and adherence to the highest operational standards."

GO will continue to prioritize customer service, operational efficiency, and stakeholder engagement as it strengthens its position in the market.

GO remains fully compliant with all applicable regulatory guidelines and continues to engage with stakeholders in a transparent and responsible manner. The company



is committed to maintaining uninterrupted supply and upholding high standards of operational integrity.

## Sitara Petroleum IPO Book Building hits cap price within 10 minutes, sets PSX record

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Sitara Petroleum Service Limited's initial public offering (IPO) book building has achieved the cap price of PKR 18.90 within just 10 minutes of opening, marking the fastest-ever book building transaction to reach the cap price in the history of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

The exceptional investor response saw the issue fully subscribed in record time, underscoring strong demand from institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals at the upper end of the price band.

The rapid price discovery at the cap level highlights robust investor confidence

in Sitara Petroleum's business fundamentals, scalable fuel station management model, and its expanding logistics and fleet operations supporting Pakistan's oil marketing ecosystem.

The IPO comprises 279.9 million shares, representing 16.66% of the company's capital, with proceeds aimed at expanding the company's retail fuel station network and logistics fleet.

Arif Habib Limited, the lead manager and book runner for the transaction, expressed appreciation for the strong investor participation.

"We sincerely thank all investors for placing their trust in Arif Habib Limited," CEO Shahid Ali Habib stated.

## CCP Approves Acquisition of Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited Shares by Nishat Group

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the proposed acquisition of shareholding in Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited by a consortium of acquirers comprising entities of the Nishat Group and associated individuals, following a Phase-I review conducted under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010.

The transaction involves the acquisition of shares of Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited from Ingredion Incorporated (the majority seller) and other individual shareholders. The acquiring entities include Nishat Hotels and Properties Limited, D. G. Khan Cement Company Limited, Nishat Mills Limited, Lalpir Power Limited, Pakgen Power Limited, Nishat Power Limited, Nishat Churnian Power Limited, and associated individuals.

The Commission assessed the transaction in terms of its potential impact on competition in the relevant markets. Rafhan Maize Products operates in the upstream market for maize derivative products such as starch, liquid glucose, dextrose, dextrin, and gluten meals, while one of the acquiring entities, Nishat Mills Limited, operates downstream in textile production, where starch is used as an input.

Based on the analysis, the Commission determined that the proposed acquisition does not create or strengthen a dominant position in the relevant market and does not raise competition concerns. Accordingly, the transaction has been authorized under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of the Competition Act, 2010.

The approval reflects CCP's commitment to facilitating investment and business growth while ensuring that market structures remain competitive and fair for all stakeholders.

# Star Batsman Babar Azam to Lead HBL Pakistan Super League Edition 11 Team of the Tournament, PCB Official

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE/ MULTAN: Title-winning side Peshawar Zalmi's drought-breaking skipper Babar Azam has also been announced as the captain of the HBL Pakistan Super League 11 Team of the Tournament for his clinical record with the bat and as a leader in the recently concluded edition.

Team of HBL Pakistan Super League Edition 11 consists of three players each from Peshawar Zalmi, Hyderabad Kingsmen, two each from Lahore Qalandars, Islamabad United and one each from Multan Sultans and Quetta Gladiators.

The team was selected by a five-member committee from the esteemed commentary team. The jury also selected an Emerging Team of the Tournament as well comprising of young Pakistan players. The HBL PSL 11 saw a total of 44 matches, which were played from 26 March to 3 May in Lahore and Karachi.

Babar Azam – who has won his third HBL PSL title as a player and first as captain – scored 588 runs in the tournament opening the batting and won Hanif Muhammad cap for being the leading run scorer. He also bagged the record of joint-most runs in a single HBL PSL season matching Fakhar Zaman's heroics in 2022.

Zalmi skipper also registered two centuries in the tournament against Quetta Gladiators and Islamabad United in a space of four games. Two other Peshawar Zalmi players have also made it to the team and they are Kusal Mendis and the Fazal Mehmood cap winner Suyfan Moqim.



Mendis collected 550 runs on the back of four fifties and one century and is also the designated wicket-keeper-batter of the team with eight dismissals to his name as well. His century came against Karachi Kings on 9 April at the National Bank Stadium.

Sufyan picked up 22 scalps with his menacing left-arm wrist-spin at a miserly average of 14.40 and economy of 7.20. He was also declared player of the tournament and best bowler as well for his heroics throughout.

Three players in the HBL PSL 11 Team of the Tournament feature from

the runners-up Hyderabad Kingsmen. Usman Khan, who was fourth on the run charts with 389 runs with the help of a century and three half-centuries is slotted in at no.5 in the team.

Left-arm spinner Hassan Khan and Emerging player of the tournament Hunain Shah are the other two from Kingsmen contingent to make it to the team. Apart from his acrobatic and electric fielding, Hassan picked up six wickets and scored 139 valuable runs at a strike rate of 195 lower down the order.

Hunain collected 17 wickets in the

tournament playing 10 matches and stands as the joint-third leading wicket-taker despite missing a few games at the start. He turned out to be Kingsmen's hero towards the business end of the tournament.

Two players – Fakhar Zaman and Shaheen Shah Afridi – from Lahore Qalandars also feature in the team for their heroics in the tournament. Fakhar, who is the leading run-scorer in the tournament's history, racked up 401 runs off eight matches to finish third in the season, while Shaheen finished the season 16 wickets off 10

matches at an average of 18.18 and 7.86 economy rate.

Shan Masood – the only player from Multan Sultans – is penciled in at no.4 in the team of the tournament which reflects his stellar performance with the bat accumulating 367 runs at average of 45.87 and a strike rate of 158.18.

Islamabad United's captain Shadab Khan and the leading spinner in tournament's history also makes the HBL PSL 11 team due to his all-round performances, which earned him best all-rounder of the tournament award. Shadab scored 173 runs at a strike rate of 141 and picked up 17 wickets at an average of 14.47 and economy of 7.02.

He will be joined by his teammate Richard Gleeson, who proved to be highly effective with the new ball in the tournament picking up 12 wickets in nine matches at 7.13 economy – the best among pacers to have picked up at least 10 scalps.

Quetta Gladiators' Hasan Nawaz was named 12th player of the team for scoring 291 runs in 10 matches hitting two half-centuries.

Emerging Team of the Tournament The Emerging Team of the Tournament is headlined by Sameer Minhas who was the leading run scorer of Islamabad United in with 349 runs at an impressive strike rate of 155.80.

Farhan Yousuf – the best fielder of the tournament and an immediate breakout star after leading Pakistan in the ICC U19 World Cup 2026 – also makes it to the team along with his fiery teammate Ali Raza, who claimed the lone hat-trick in the 11th edition. Momin Qamar is the lead spinner,

while Ubaid Shah of Lahore Qalandars, Hunain Shah of Hyderabad Kingsmen and Multan Sultans' Mohammad Ismail make up a formidable pace attack with Ali. Saad Masood is slotted in at no.6 for his prodigious all-round ability.

Shamyl Hussain, Maaz Sadaqat and wicketkeeper-batter Mirza Saad Baig make up a promising top four for the Emerging team of the tournament.

**HBL PSL 11 – Team of the Tournament** Babar Azam (Peshawar Zalmi) (captain) Fakhar Zaman (Lahore Qalandars) Kusal Mendis (Peshawar Zalmi) (wicket-keeper)

Shan Masood (Multan Sultans) Usman Khan (Hyderabad Kingsmen) Shadab Khan (Islamabad United) Hassan Khan (Hyderabad Kingsmen) Shaheen Shah Afridi (Lahore Qalandars)

Hunain Shah (Hyderabad Kingsmen) Suyfan Moqim (Peshawar Zalmi) Richard Gleeson (Islamabad United) Hasan Nawaz (Quetta Gladiators) (12th player)

**HBL PSL 11 – Emerging Team of the Tournament**

Sameer Minhas (Islamabad United) Shamyl Hussain (Quetta Gladiators) Maaz Sadaqat (Hyderabad Kingsmen) Saad Baig (Karachi Kings) (wicket-keeper)

Farhan Yousuf (Peshawar Zalmi) Hunain Shah (Hyderabad Kingsmen) Ali Raza (Peshawar Zalmi) Mohammad Ismail (Multan Sultans) Ubaid Shah (Lahore Qalandars) Momin Qamar (Multan Sultans) Mohammad Farooq (Lahore Qalandars) (12th player)

## Mohsin Nawaz honored under PSL's 'Hamaray Heroes' initiative, lauds PCB for recognising shooting sports

Tahir Amin Malik

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading F-Class long-range shooter and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz Mohsin Nawaz was recognised under the Pakistan Super League's 'Hamaray Heroes' initiative at the 2026 PSL final closing ceremony held at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

The star-studded event brought together cricket officials, players, and distinguished athletes from various sporting disciplines to mark the conclusion of this year's tournament.

The 'Hamaray Heroes' programme, introduced during the fifth season of the PSL in 2020, honours individuals from sports, education, healthcare, arts, culture, social work, technology, and entrepreneurship who have contributed to promoting a positive image of Pakistan.

A panel formed by the Pakistan Cricket Board reviews nominations and shortlists candidates who are honoured during matches, with recipients receiving cash awards and having documentaries about their achievements broadcast during matches and across the league's digital platforms.

Nawaz thanked PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and the selection panel for choosing him for this recognition and for acknowledging the contributions of shooting sports to Pakistan's sporting achievements. He commended the PCB leadership for organising what he described as a successful tournament that demonstrated Pakistan's capability to host major sporting events.

Nawaz also acknowledged Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her administration's support of sports initiatives in the province, noting that government backing for athletic programs promotes healthy lifestyles and creates pathways for young talent across different disciplines.

Speaking about the honor, Nawaz stated that being selected under the 'Hamaray Heroes' initiative represents meaningful recognition for a sport that has historically operated outside the



mainstream. He expressed hope that this acknowledgment would help draw attention to shooting sports and inspire young athletes to pursue excellence in disciplines beyond cricket.

The 42-year-old shooter from Faisalabad has built a distinguished career in F-Class long-range shooting over two decades. He currently holds 10 international individual medals, the highest tally for any Pakistani shooter in this discipline. His international breakthrough came in 2018 when he became the first Pakistani to win gold at the NRA USA National Long Range Championship, a milestone that established his credentials on the global stage.

Nawaz's competitive record includes a silver medal at the 2023 European Long Range Championship at Bisley, where he competed against elite shooters from across Europe. At the

2022 Western Bisley Long Range Championship, he secured three gold and two silver medals across multiple range categories.

In 2023, he set a Pakistan record at Bisley's 800-yard range with a score of 75.13 V-points, surpassing the previous national mark. His international achievements also include silver at the 2019 CHPRS Championship in Indianapolis and bronze at the 2021 South Africa Long Range Open Championship.

He has been nominated for the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in recognition of his achievements in shooting sports. If conferred at the scheduled investiture ceremony later in May 2026, he will become the first shooter in Pakistan's history to receive this civilian honor. The nomination represents a significant moment for a sport that has

historically operated with limited institutional support compared to mainstream athletics.

At the PSL ceremony, Nawaz emphasised the importance of developing infrastructure for sports beyond cricket. He has advocated for establishing 50-meter shooting ranges in major cities and reforming import policies to make shooting equipment more accessible to aspiring athletes.

He said that with appropriate facilities and government support, Pakistan could produce internationally competitive shooters across various disciplines and provide opportunities for young athletes who show potential in precision sports. He expressed gratitude to the PCB for using its platform to highlight achievements in non-cricket sports and for contributing to broader sports awareness in the country.

## Zone VI and Zone III Win in Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: On the 2nd day of the Three day Matches of the 4th round of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament, Zone-VI defeated Zone-VII by an innings and 97 runs before Tea.

The highlights of the 2nd days play was All-round Performance by Abdul Basit Ghouri first he scored Brilliant Century 122 and then got 4 wickets for 27 runs and deadly bowling by slow left arm leg spinner Rehman Ghani 6/34, off Spinner Saifullah Capturing 5 for 35 in the first Innings and 3.61 in the 2nd Innings Slow left arm spinner also bowled 4/7 in the first Innings and 3/40 in the 2nd Innings, Medium Pacer Muhammad Raza 4/31.

The Tournament is being organized by Pakistan Cricket Board. Summarized Scores Close of Play 2nd Day.

At Baqai Cricket Ground Zone-VI beat Zone-VII by an innings and 97 runs. Zone-VI first Innings 342.

Zone-VII first Innings 81 all out in 31.3 overs. Saifullah (ob) 5/35, Muhammad Tariq Khan (sla) 4/7. After follow on Zone-VII 2nd Innings 164 all out in 40.1 overs. Arif Yaqoob 51 5x4 3x6, Muhammad Abdullah Khan 24, Samiullah 21, Asif Ali Shah 20, Muhammad Makki (mf) 4/29, Muhammad Tariq Khan (sla) 3/40, Saifullah (ob) 3/61

At KCCA Stadium Zone-III beat Zone-II by an innings and 3 runs. Zone-II first Innings 220 and after concede 139 runs Zone-II 2nd Innings all out 136 runs in 40 overs. Asad Akhtar 40 3x4 4x6, Umar Farooq 31, Abdul Basit Ghouri (ob) 4/27, Abdul Hadi 2/24, Muhammad Fahad Ameen 2/26.

Zone-III first Innings 359/8 in 70 overs. Abdul Basit Ghouri 122 14x4 2x6, Waqas Akbar 84 12x4, Abdul Rafay 42 6x4 not out, Fahad Ansari 30, Obaisullah 28, Muhammad Luqman 23 not out. Sameed Amir Khan 3/38, Wahaj Riaz 3/48.

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-IV first Innings 198 and 2nd Innings 109 all out in 37.4 overs. Imran Shah 40 7x4, Rehman Ghani (sla) 6/34, Muhammad Raza (mf) 4/31.

Zone-I first Innings 186 all out in 66.5 overs. Malik Zain ul Abideen 43 7x4, Rehman Ghani 38, Muhammad Raza 34, Asad Ullah Hamza 3/32, Afnan Khan 3/41. Chasing a target of 122 for Victory Zone I 55/1 in 17 overs. Farmanullah 23, Muhammad Jawad 21 at the crease.

## The Hibernated War: Lessons from US-Israel-Iran Standoff

Continued from Page 4

support. Their likely failure to move beyond diplomatic rhetoric into active intervention provides reasoning for success of U.S. efforts to deter adversaries by entangling them in complex regional risks. For Russia, it has its own regional interests, Russia has been unable to project significant power to tip the scales for Tehran, effectively leaving Iran to negotiate from a position of weakness.

The primary lesson is that the Strait of Hormuz remains the world's most sensitive economic and trade jugular. Any state that can weaponize a chokepoint may force the world into a "Hibernated War" posture, affecting global inflation and energy security.

Although Pakistan has been playing key role as a sole strong mediator to end the war. However,

Pakistan needs to revisit its policies not to dependent on Middle Eastern oil that has become its strategic vulnerability. Pakistan must accelerate its transition to alternative energy and secure diverse supply lines. Secondly, Pakistan must refine its neutrality framework. As the neighbor of a "Hibernating" power (Iran) and a partner of the U.S., the cost of choosing sides is higher than ever. Third, the rift between Iran's political and military (IRGC) wings serves as a warning; a state cannot project external power effectively if its internal institutions are at odds regarding war strategy.

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## PM's committee holds first meeting on One Constitution Avenue

Continued from Page 1

The court also dismissed the execution petition filed by BNP Limited and disposed of applications submitted by third-party investors, directing them to approach the relevant legal forum for the protection of their rights.

According to the judgment, the petitioner failed to comply with financial conditions set by the Supreme Court

of Pakistan, including the non-payment of Rs2.916 billion due as the 2022 installment. The court noted that although the company had deposited the 2021 installment, it defaulted on subsequent payments.

The verdict stated that the Supreme Court, in its January 9, 2019 order, had restored the lease and directed the petitioner to pay Rs17.5 billion over a period of eight years. However, BNP

Limited did not fully adhere to these conditions and failed to avail what the court described as a "lifeline opportunity."

The court further observed that after repeated reminders, the CDA issued a notice to the petitioner on February 7, 2023, followed by the lease cancellation order on March 8. It ruled that the CDA's action was consistent with the authority granted by the Supreme

Court. Rejecting the petitioner's objections, the court held that the alleged technical flaw in the 30-day notice did not invalidate the cancellation. It also declared a cheque of Rs500 million submitted by the petitioner as insufficient.

With these observations, the court upheld the CDA's decision and dismissed all related petitions.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani in a meeting with Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Parliament House on Monday.



Photo: Online

## 'Battle of Truth' is a golden chapter in Pakistan's history, says Bilawal

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has described the "Battle of Truth" [Marka-e-Haq and Pakistan's Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos against India's aggressive Operation Sindoor] as a golden chapter in Pakistan's history, saying that the Pakistani nation demonstrated remarkable unity, passion, and determination. He made the remarks while addressing a ceremony held in Karachi to mark the first anniversary of the event.

The ceremony was organised by the Sindh government and attended by senior political leadership, including Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and senior provincial minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

A special documentary showcasing achievements linked to the "Battle of Truth" was also screened during the event.

Bilawal said Pakistan's diplomats had strongly countered the enemy on the diplomatic front, while every Pakistani had played their part effectively in the process. He said the collective national



response reflected unity and resilience.

Earlier, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah told the gathering that India had staged a

false flag incident in Pahalgam and wrongly blamed Pakistan, to which Pakistan responded firmly.

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah

said the events proved that no matter how advanced a system may be, it is the skill of those operating it that determines its effectiveness.

Speaking earlier, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto made the country a nuclear power, which ensured that no adversary could challenge Pakistan easily.

Business leader Arif Habib also addressed the ceremony, saying the success had raised the pride of Pakistanis globally. He expressed hope that the country would soon see positive developments in the economic sphere as well.

## DPM Dar, Araghchi discuss Pakistan's ongoing mediation efforts for regional peace



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday night.

During the conversation, they discussed the regional situation and Pakistan's ongoing diplomatic efforts for peace and stability in the region.

Foreign Minister Araghchi appreciated Pakistan for the constructive role and sincere mediation efforts between Iran and the United States.

DPM Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's continued commitment to promoting constructive engagement and underscored that dialogue and diplomacy remained the only viable path toward peaceful resolution of issues and achieving lasting peace and stability in the region and beyond.

## Mustafa Kamal visits DRAP reviews key reforms and progress toward global regulatory standards

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for health Syed Mustafa Kamal, chaired a high-level meeting here at Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday to review ongoing reforms, regulatory advancements, and strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening Pakistan's pharmaceutical and vaccine landscape.

During the session, detailed briefings were given on the implementation progress of the Track and Trace System, particularly the introduction of 2D barcoding to enhance transparency and curb counterfeit medicines. The Minister also reviewed DRAP's ongoing automation initiatives aimed

at improving efficiency, transparency, and service delivery.

The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary Health, Additional Secretary, Director General and Chief Executive Officer of DRAP, along with other senior officials, said a news release. The meeting assessed the post-approval roadmap following Pakistan's National Vaccine Policy for local manufacturing, including progress on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indonesia. Discussions also covered advancements under the World Health Organization's Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) for National Regulatory Systems, as well as ongoing provincial institutional reforms.

## Pakistan issues key ordinance relating to PIA's restructuring ahead of IMF board meeting

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: An important ordinance concerning the restructuring of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has been issued ahead of a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board, introducing key legal changes to facilitate asset management and compliance requirements.

According to official documents, the PIA Corporation Conversion Gazette Ordinance 2026 has been promulgated, under which the earlier PIA Corporation Conversion Act 2016 has been repealed. However, sub-section one of Section 7 of the repealed law will remain



effective.

The ordinance states that all

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decisions, agreements and measures taken under the previous Act will continue to hold legal validity. Additionally, licences, permits and approvals issued under the repealed framework will be granted legal protection.

Officials said the ordinance introduces significant changes to the legal structure of PIA, particularly in relation to fulfilling legal requirements for the transfer of certain assets of the national carrier.

The move comes a day after the ordinance received approval from the president, and is being viewed as part of broader efforts to align PIA's restructuring process with financial and legal benchmarks ahead of the IMF Executive Board review.

## Pakistan Navy assists Indian crew in Arabian Sea rescue operation



## News Desk

The Pakistan Navy is conducting a humanitarian rescue operation in the Arabian Sea, providing emergency assistance to crew members aboard a distressed Indian vessel.

According to security officials, Pak Naval personnel are providing support to seven crew members including six Indian nationals and one Indonesian, aboard the merchant vessel MV Gautam, which encountered a technical fault during its voyage from Oman to India.

The Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Mumbai contacted Pakistani authorities after

the vessel reported a malfunction and required urgent assistance at sea.

Responding swiftly to the alert, the Pakistan Navy dispatched a ship from the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, identified as Kashmir, to carry out the rescue operation.

The stranded crew is being provided with food, medical care, and technical support as efforts continue to stabilise the vessel and ensure the safety of those on board.

Security sources said the Pakistan Navy remains committed to responding effectively to emergencies at sea and stands ready to assist on humanitarian grounds regardless of nationality.

## Norway's deputy FM meets DPM Dar



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday received the Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, and both sides discussed the evolving regional situation.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar underscored Pakistan's continued efforts to promote engagement and dialogue for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Kravik reiterated Norway's support for Pakistan's constructive role and

its ongoing efforts toward a peaceful and durable resolution of the conflict.

Both sides also explored avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations and deepen engagement across diverse sectors of mutual interest.

Kravik conveyed an invitation from the Norwegian Foreign Minister to DPM Dar to participate in the Oslo Forum scheduled for next month, who expressed appreciation for the invitation.

Both sides agreed to remain in close contact on bilateral matters and issues relating to peace, stability, and development.

## Pakistan facilitates return of 22 Iranian crew from US-seized ship

## Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said Monday it had facilitated the transfer of 22 Iranian crew members from a US-seized vessel, describing the move as a "confidence-building measure" amid fragile diplomatic contacts between Washington and Tehran.

The sailors, who had been held aboard the container ship Tauska, were flown into Islamabad late Sunday and were due to be handed over to Iranian authorities, according to a statement from Pakistan's foreign ministry.

The handover follows a tense maritime standoff in the Gulf of Oman, where US forces intercepted the Iranian-flagged vessel.

President Donald Trump said the ship carried "a gift from China", an allegation Beijing rejected, insisting it opposed "any malicious association and speculation".

Iran has condemned the seizure as "piracy" and a violation of an April ceasefire, urging the United Nations to intervene.

Pakistan has positioned itself as a mediator for the war in the Middle East, hosting talks aimed at reducing friction between the United States and Iran.

The transfer of the crew was coordinated with both sides, Pakistan said, reflecting a rare instance of practical cooperation despite wider tensions over sanctions, shipping



routes and regional security.

The vessel itself is expected to be returned after repairs.

Islamabad said it would continue to facilitate dialogue and diplomacy in pursuit of regional stability, as the Strait of Hormuz remains volatile and indirect US-Iran engagement politically sensitive.