



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
جاری ہے محمد اللہ نے جو رکھی انہوں نے رسول اللہ ﷺ کے لئے فرمایا کہ پھر میرے پاس وہی آئے گا سلسلہ بند ہو گیا۔ ایک دن میں چل رہا تھا کہ میں نے آسمان کی طرف نظر اٹھائی تو میں نے پھر اس فرشتہ کو دیکھا جو میرے پاس نماز خراش آیا تھا وہ آسمان درشن کے درمیان کر رہی ہے بیٹھا ہوا تھا۔ (کنز العمال صفحہ نمبر ۱۵۸)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Peshawar stadium to host Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos anniversary event

A special event will be held on May 7, 2026, at Peshawar Cricket Stadium to mark one year of Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos. The ceremony will feature a concert, special performances, fireworks, and interactive sessions with players of Peshawar Zalmi, along with other entertainment activities.



Passport services resume at Pakistani missions abroad

Pakistani embassies and consulates in the UAE and several other countries have restored passport services as of Tuesday, ending a suspension that had affected thousands of overseas Pakistanis. The disruption was caused by a system-wide technical fault at the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports (DGI&P) headquarters in Islamabad, which had forced missions abroad to halt passport processing since April 29.

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Corps Commanders Conference

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS and CDF addressing the 275th Corps Commanders Conference (CCC) at General Headquarters (GHQ) Rawalpindi.



Photo: ISPR

Field Marshal Chairs Corps Commanders' Conference: Focus on Counter-Terrorism and Regional Stability

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF, presided over the 275th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi.

The Forum paid rich tribute to the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and innocent civilians who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland. Paying profound

tribute to their unmatched sacrifices, the Forum reaffirmed that the enduring legacy of the martyrs continues to serve as the bedrock of Pakistan's national security, unity, and resilience.

The COAS & CDF expressed satisfaction over the high standards of operational preparedness, professionalism, and combat readiness of the Pakistan Armed Forces. He commended commanders and formations for their unwavering commitment, vigilance, and success in

ongoing intelligence-based counter-terrorism operations across the country.

The Forum undertook a comprehensive review of the prevailing internal and external security environment. The Forum resolved to maintain current operational tempo to decisively dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their support infrastructure, and deny them any operational space within Pakistan.

The Forum acknowledged

continued degradation of terrorists and their support infrastructure through operation Ghazb lil Haq. It noted that the irrational and perverted policy of Afghan Taliban regime to provide safe havens to Khawarij and other terrorist organisations, with total disregard to interests of Afghan people, is increasingly backfiring and stands fully exposed. It noted recent pattern of ongoing propaganda campaign by Taliban regime to falsely portray Pakistan as targeting civilians inside

Afghanistan, terming such misleading narratives as part of a coordinated disinformation strategy by the regime to distract attention from their internal failures and play victim card. The Forum categorically rejected these frivolous allegations and reaffirmed that Pakistan's defensive actions remain focused, precise, and directed solely against infiltrators, terrorist hideouts and support infrastructures.

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JUI-F announces nationwide protests over killing of Maulana Sheikh Idrees

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has announced nationwide peaceful protests following the killing of religious scholar Sheikh Muhammad Idrees, who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Mardan earlier today.

Party spokesperson Aslam Ghauri said that protests would be held on Wednesday and Friday on the directives of party chief

Maulana Fazlur Rehman. "He instructed provincial and district organisations to stage demonstrations across all provincial capitals and districts."

Calling the killing "an irreparable loss," Ghauri said the nation had been repeatedly shaken by the deaths of religious scholars.

"We are tired of burying respected scholars. How long will the state continue to test us?" he said.

He blamed both federal and provincial governments for failing to maintain law and order, and urged citizens to join protests against rising insecurity.

Meanwhile, in Peshawar, a delegation led by Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman met Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed to discuss the killing and demand the swift arrest of those responsible.

The meeting was also attended

by senior Counter Terrorism Department officials.

The police chief expressed condolences over the killing and assured the delegation that the perpetrators would be brought to justice. He said special investigation teams had been formed and that work was underway on solid evidence.

According to officials, the attack took place when unidentified motorcyclists opened fire



on Sheikh Idrees, killing him on the spot. Two police personnel assigned to his security were also injured in the incident.

A first information report (FIR) has been registered at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police station on the complaint of injured constable Sher Alam.

MQM tables resolution in Sindh Assembly to nominate Field Marshal Asim Munir for Nobel Peace Prize

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Members of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) have submitted a resolution in the Sindh Assembly paying tribute to the martyrs of the Maarka-e-Haq and recommending the nomination of Field Marshal Asim Munir for

the Nobel Peace Prize.

The resolution, submitted by MQM lawmakers, states that Field Marshal Asim Munir played a significant role in promoting peace and stability in the region. It also credits him with contributing to efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions related to the US-Iran situation.

According to the text of the resolution, Asim Munir's efforts in helping to prevent or ease the Iran-US conflict are "commendable," and it calls for him to be formally considered for a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

MQM member of the Sindh Assembly Anar Siddiqui also supported the resolution, stating

that General Asim Munir has played an important role in ensuring regional peace and stability.

The resolution further included a tribute to the martyrs of what it described as the "struggle for truth," linking historical sacrifices with the broader theme of peace and national stability.



The proposal is expected to be taken up for discussion in the Sindh Assembly in the coming sessions.

PM chairs review meeting on power sector reforms, pushes comprehensive RE strategy



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting on reform measures in the power sector, directing authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy to meet future energy needs through renewable sources.

Chairing the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister emphasized that increased electricity generation from hydropower, solar energy, biogas and other renewable resources would help reduce production costs and positively impact economic growth. He also called for expediting steps to reduce reliance on imported fuels, a news release said.

The prime minister directed that no leniency be shown towards individuals involved in electricity theft. He further ordered strict departmental action against power distribution companies found violating the Economic Merit Order in recent days.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Leghari, Adviser on Privatization Muhammad Ali, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, and senior officials from relevant institutions.

DPM/FM Dar stresses further enhancement of consular services facilitation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Tuesday, emphasized the importance of further enhancing facilitation in consular services, including the efficient issuance of passports, and ensuring timely and effective support for Pakistanis at home and abroad.

He stressed the need for

streamlined, citizen-centric mechanisms to better serve the public, particularly the overseas diaspora.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting to review key consular matters and service delivery for Pakistani nationals, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Secretary Foreign Affairs Ambassador Amna Baloch, Secretary Interior and other senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior.

Dar also appreciated the coordination between the ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of interior.

PM directs nationwide disease screening, accelerates Hepatitis Control Drive

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed comprehensive screening for major infectious diseases in all public hospitals and directed authorities to fast-track a national hepatitis control drive amid reaffirming the government's commitment to safeguarding public health.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the performance of the Ministry of National Health Services, the prime minister said provision of quality healthcare remained among the government's top

priorities. He emphasized that every possible step would be taken to protect human life, stating that "no effort would be spared" in ensuring citizens' well-being, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister directed that screening of all patients for Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS be ensured across government hospitals. He also instructed the health ministry to establish, in coordination with provincial governments, an integrated system for timely reporting of hepatitis, AIDS and other diseases, noting that early detection was essential for effective control.

AJK PM, PPP President meet to review performance ahead of elections

City Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State Faisal Mumtaz Rathore met with President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin.

The meeting discussed the overall political situation, public issues, government performance and upcoming elections. Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik was also present on the occasion.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that the Pakistan Peoples Party has prioritized public service, development and promotion of democratic values during its short period of power.

The Prime Minister said that the people's government has launched several projects for public welfare, the positive effects of which are coming to the fore.

The PPP has always given top priority to solving public issues and



this policy will be continued in the future as well.

He expressed his determination that the party will achieve complete success in the upcoming elections on the basis of its performance and public service and will form the government again.

Speaking on the occasion, President PPP Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that the PPP government in Azad Kashmir

has shown excellent performance, the fruits of which are in front of everyone.

The PPP was given responsibility in difficult circumstances in Azad Kashmir, but the PPP people's government, with a mission of service and determination, not only restored the political system but also resolved many pending issues.

The current short period of PPP in Azad Kashmir has witnessed exem-

plary development and progress. Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin further said that during its tenure, the PPP took practical steps for development projects, provision of basic facilities and resolution of public problems, due to which the confidence of the people has been further strengthened.

He expressed confidence that the Pakistan People's Party will achieve significant success in the upcoming elections as well.

AJK Acting President, PML-N Leader discuss political climate in unrest



City Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: Acting President of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq held a detailed meeting at Aivan-e-Sadr, Muzaffarabad. On this occasion, Acting President of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq discussed the political situation in Azad Kashmir. On this occasion, matters of mutual interest including other matters were also discussed between Acting President of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq and former Senior Minister and General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq.

Historic victories mark new global era for Pakistan: Shaukat Javed Mir

Bureau Report

HATTIAN BALA: The Lord of the Worlds has given the good news of



giving the Islamic nation the reward of devotion to the Intercessor, the Repentant, the Mercy of the Worlds. Under the leadership of Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan's victory in the Battle of Haq Bunyan Marsus and India's disastrous defeat in Operation Sindhur have brought about global changes. These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir's Central Deputy Secretary for Information, Assembly Constituency 7, Lipa Valley, Government Spokesperson Shaukat Javed Mir said this while addressing the grand annual Tahaffuz Khatm-e-Nabuwat conference organized by the Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Jhelum Valley at Hattian Bala Grounds. He said that just as Allah Almighty raised Moses (peace be upon him) in the palace of Pharaoh, similarly, He honored Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir with historic victories against the global imperialist forces by making him a martyr. Meanwhile, on the completion of one year of the battle of Haq Bunyan Marsus, while talking to the media on the third day of the Ashra Yajjehti Armees of Pakistan, initiated by Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Shaukat Javed Mir said that the reason for the intellectual response of unity and solidarity in the political and military leadership of Pakistan is that Pakistan has accepted the iron of decision-making and successful diplomacy.

AJK Election Commission extends deadline for electoral roll claims ahead of 2026 Assembly Polls

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A press release issued by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission, according to the schedule issued for the preparation/revision of electoral rolls for the upcoming elections to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, 2026, for 33 constituencies of Azad Kashmir and 12 constituencies of refugees residing in Pakistan, has added more days to the last date for complaints and objections by the public to the revising authorities in the preliminary electoral rolls. The press release further states that if a voter's name has been entered incorrectly, he can also file a claim on the relevant form with the Revising Authority. The Revising Authorities will hear and decide on these objections/claims from May 08, 2026 to May 09, 2026. The decisions of the Revising Authority will be sent to the concerned Registration Officers on May 10, 2026, according to which the Registration Officers will complete the process of entry, deletion and correction in the electoral rolls from May 11, 2026 to May 13, 2026.

Azad Kashmir Information Minister Hails PPP Strength at Enthusiastic Nottingham Rally

Spokesman Report

NOTTINGHAM: Minister for Information, Religious Affairs and Endowments Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is the political force that strengthened the country both domestically and diplomatically, filled the political vacuum in Azad Kashmir, restored the people's trust in the system and put the state on the path of development once again. He was addressing a rally held in his honor in the UK city of Nottingham. Hundreds of people attended the rally and made the event memorable. The rally was presided over by Chaudhry Shabbir Zaman, while Chaudhry Zaheer Callis and Chaudhry Moin Callis performed the management duties ably. The special guest Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar arrived on horseback. Upon the arrival of the special guest, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar, he was warmly welcomed to the beat of drums, which made the atmosphere of the event resonate with great enthusiasm. This prestigious event was attended by PPP UK President Mohsin Bari, Nadeem Qasmi, Khawaja Kaleem, Waheed Gursi, Riaz Kohumravi, Chaudhry Nisar, Abrar Gursi (Birmingham), Chaudhry Aslam (former Lord Mayor), Haji Saghir Kallis, Chaudhry Zaman, Chaudhry Razaq, Musharrif Nayyar, Ijaz Kallis, Asim Gul, Riyat Tabassum, Mehrban Gujjar, Tahir Hussain, Wajid Ali, Dr. Shahid, Naveed Mughal, Ansar Karamat, Imtiaz Badhanvi, Hafiz Saleem, Master Zafar, Wasim Gursi, Mian Maqbool Ahmed Khan, Dr. Waheed Tufail, Dr. Umar Farid, Javed Kallis, Iqbal Kallis, Shafiq Khatana and other political and social leaders and activists. The meeting lasted for about three hours. During which the speakers expressed their views on the political situation of Azad Kashmir, the role of overseas Kashmiris and the upcoming general elections. In his address, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar, while specifically shedding light on the political situation of Khoi Ratta, said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is getting stronger day by day in Khoi Ratta and the trend of the people is clearly moving towards the party.

Anti encroachment operation

ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in lifting debris at historic Bari Imam Noorpur Shahan area of the Federal Capital after anti encroachment operation. The CDA says the operation has so far reclaimed around 1,000 acres of land. Over the past month, more than 17,000 houses have been demolished across multiple neighborhoods in the wider area.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Kashmiri Leaders Rally Marks Fifth Death Anniversary of Shaheed Ashraf Sehrai

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A rally was organized by the Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of the fifth martyrdom anniversary of freedom-loving Kashmiri leader Shaheed Muhammad Ashraf Khan Sehrai.

The speakers paid tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir in beautiful words and announced to continue the resistance until freedom from India.

The participants of the rally raised slogans of "Sahrai, revolution will come with your martyrdom" and "Long live the martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir", while slogans in favor of Islam, freedom and Pakistan were



also raised. The protesters were holding banners and placards on which tribute was paid to the sacrifices and

struggle of Shaheed Sehrai and his martyred son Junaid Sehrai.

The rally was led by Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Khan, Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders Chaudhry Shaheen, Zahid Ashraf, Sheikh Abdul Majid, and Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Shaukat Javed Mir, Riaz Khan Sehrai, Usman Ali Hashim, Raja Muhammad Aftab, Manzoor Iqbal Butt, Omar Asif, Muhammad Younis Mir, Dr. Muhammad Manzoor, Ishaq Shaheen, Muhammad Aslam Inqilabi and other political and religious leaders.

AJK leader hails Battle of Haq as Pakistan's diplomatic triumph

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Battle of Haq is a golden chapter in the history of Pakistan.

The national leadership of Pakistan took bold decisions, which increased the diplomatic stature of the country. He said that the entire nation stands by its forces.

The people of Azad Kashmir have always made sacrifices for the security of Pakistan. Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan has directed all the office bearers and workers of the Muslim Conference



to ensure timely participation in the Mubarka Haq Convention to be held on May 8 at Islamabad.

The previous day, the Secretary

General of the Muslim Conference, Ms. Mehran-un-Nisa, met Mujahid Manzil and discussed in detail the political situation in Azad Kashmir,

the holding of general elections and the organization of events by the party on the occasion of Mubarka Haq.



SERVICES	
Namaz Timings	
Fajr	3:43 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	4:54 pm
Maghrib	6:54 pm
Isha	8:27 pm

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Bomb Disposal	15
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Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
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MH	561116
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Punjab Launches AI-Driven 'Suthra Punjab' Initiative to ensure smart waste management ahead of Eid

Bureau Report
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif-led government has decided to introduce artificial intelligence (AI)-based monitoring for sanitation across Punjab, marking the launch of a "smart cleanliness" drive under the Suthra Punjab programme.

Chairing a high-level meeting on Tuesday, the chief minister ordered strict action against ghost employees, absentee staff, and workers who mark attendance but leave duty. The meeting reviewed system improvements, AI-based operations, financial matters, and progress on waste-to-value projects.

Officials informed the meeting that around 40,000 vehicles and 176,000 sanitation workers will be monitored through AI systems. The chief minister also issued an alert to the Suthra Punjab teams ahead of Eid al-Adha, directing authorities to increase the number of waste collection centres across the province.

Under the new initiative, AI-equipped motorbikes will be introduced to identify

garbage. These bikes will feature automated cameras capable of live image capturing and real-time field visibility, enabling continuous monitoring. Authorities are also considering on-the-spot fines for negligence and illegal dumping of waste outside designated collection points.

The briefing further revealed that digital mapping and a beat system are being introduced, along with the establishment of an AI-based complaint cell for the first time under the Suthra Punjab programme. Around 70 per cent of employees have undergone physical verification, which is expected to reach 100pc by next week.

The chief minister directed that field monitoring of sanitation staff be conducted using AI, while the Suthra Punjab helpline (1139) has been centralised to ensure 24-hour responsiveness. More than 10,365 points have been cleared through deep cleaning operations, and an additional 2,029 attendance points have been established for workers.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation that Suthra Punjab, now a large-



scale initiative involving billions of rupees, advanced technology, and a massive work-force, must deliver 100pc results.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: UNESCO Culture & Heritage Expert Dr Cristina Menegazzi inaugurates the art exhibition 'The Shape of Home' organized by Satrang Gallery at local hotel in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan plans to climate-proof 75% infrastructure by 2040

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan plans to climate-proof 75% of its major infrastructure and upgrade 70% of critical assets in flood and heat-prone areas by 2040, besides developing 25 Resilient Growth Zones by 2030.

According to a document available with Wealth Pakistan, the country aims to strengthen physical infrastructure against intensifying climate risks and ensure long-term resilience across key sectors through climate-smart systems and early warning mechanisms.

The increasing frequency of climate disasters in Pakistan indicates that its infrastructure is highly vulnerable and unprepared. The document underscores that investing in climate-resilient infrastructure is essential to protect development gains, reduce disaster losses, and ensure sustainable economic growth.

Under the strategy, climate vulnerability screening will be integrated into all public infrastructure and investment decisions at the provincial level by 2027, with mandatory climate risk assessment and adaptation costing for all infrastructure investments.

The document highlights that a significant portion of Pakistan's infrastructure is located in high-hazard areas — such as floodplains and heat-affected districts — where exposure to climate risks remains high. However, this also presents an opportunity to upgrade systems through improved planning and modern standards. Many existing assets were developed under older frameworks without comprehensive climate risk assessments, which has increased their vulnerability to extreme weather events.

Inner Wheel District 343: Full Steam Ahead in Service to Humanity

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Mrs. Jena Ijaz, Chairman of Inner Wheel Club District 343, has said that all my clubs are serving the suffering humanity to the fullest and are earning great rewards by providing medical, educational expenses and ration to the deserving people and their children and this series will continue.

Speaking at the ceremony, District Secretary Sadia Kirmani said that nowadays, in the era of inflation, serving the deserving people is her duty. It is the duty of all of us to take care of the needs and our Chairman Jina Ijaz is working with a heartache and a spirit of serving the suffering humanity.

On this occasion, NR Shahida Tahir, District Former Chairman and Trainer Mrs. Ayesha Mazhar, who came from Lahore, said that under the leadership of Chairman Jina Ijaz, our clubs in the entire



Punjab are performing well. Former Chairman Mrs. Shaheen Moazzam, Secretary Mrs. Shaheen Langrial, Mrs. Shad Masood, Mrs. Saadat Munir, Dr. Shahnaz, Noreen Nishat, Mrs. Shahida Naseem,

Riffat Shahid, Hina Chakhtai, Tahira Najam, Irum Iqbal, Shahida Rehman, Farah Lodhi and Chairman of Enrwell District 340 Rizwana Malik, Secretary Mrs. Saleha Pasha, Apart from Shumaila Shaukat,

officials of all the clubs attended and a cake was cut. In the ceremony, renowned gynecologist Dr. Shazia also gave a full special lecture on the problems and precautions during childbirth.

Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony held at the IIUI Schools G-13 Campus

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The chief guest on the occasion was Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik, Central President of the All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, who distributed prizes, certificates, and shields among students who demonstrated outstanding performance.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik congratulated parents, teachers, and students, stating that it was a dignified and encouraging event where children's academic and co-curricular abilities were being recognized. He remarked that students advancing to higher classes are the architects of the future, and the role of teachers in their training and success is highly commendable. He appreciated the efforts of the school principal, Kanwal Malik, and said her contributions are praiseworthy. He also admired the students for confidently showcasing their talents in an impressive manner.

In her welcome address, Principal Kanwal Malik warmly received the chief guest and thanked parents, teachers, and students for their participation. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik, along with Principal Kanwal Malik, distributed certificates and shields among teachers and students.

Allama Riaz Shah Urges Embrace of Quranic Teachings for Personal and Social Reform

City Desk

A weekly Zikr and Dars-e-Quran gathering was organized by Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia, Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, with participation from students, teachers, scholars, and citizens. The event was presided over by Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, while Deputy Director Sheikh Muhammad Qasim conducted the proceedings.

In his address, Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah highlighted spiritual, moral, and social values, including respect for mothers, the status of Ahl-e-Bait (RA), and character-building in light of Seerat-e-Tayyiba. He reiterated that Quranic teachings provide complete guidance and serve as a foundation for personal and social reform, urging individuals to embrace honesty, responsibility, and collective betterment. The gathering concluded with prayers for national prosperity, unity of the Muslim Ummah, and social welfare.

Newly Appointed Principal Pledges to Transform Women's College into a Model Institution in Multan



Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The newly appointed Principal of Government Graduate Degree College for Women, Shah Rukn-e-Alam Colony, Professor Dr. Zarghoona Kanwal, has expressed her determination to turn the institution into a model college where students and their parents would feel proud to seek admission.

Speaking to a delegation of The Emersonians who visited the college to congratulate her, Dr. Kanwal stated that her top priority is to make the college the number one institution in Multan. She highlighted that the college already has a team of highly qualified teachers, and through their collective efforts, students will achieve outstanding academic results and secure top positions in the education board.

The visiting delegation included Vice Presidents Rukhsana Parveen, Rana Shehbaz, Abdul Khaliq Chaudhry, Joint Secretary M. Farooq Nizami, Finance Secretary, and Professor Aneela Rashid from Government Degree College for Women, Makhdoom Rasheed.

Members of the delegation praised Dr. Kanwal as a highly educated and experienced academic, expressing confidence that under her leadership, the college will witness rapid progress. They noted that visible improvements have already begun within a short period, attributing this to her dynamic leadership and vision.

At the end of the visit, the delegation presented bouquets to Dr. Zarghoona Kanwal and extended their heartfelt congratulations on her new appointment.

LUMS Collaborates with Allied Bank to Advance Robotics Innovation in Banking

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), through its CHISEL Lab, has entered into a strategic research and development collaboration with Allied Bank to explore the potential of robotics and Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) in transforming banking experiences.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Muhammad Zaman, Group Head, Digital Transformation & Innovation, Allied Bank, and Dr. Suleman Shahid,



Associate Professor and Director, CHISEL Lab at LUMS, in the presence of representatives from both institutions. "Partnering with Allied Bank enables

us to translate cutting-edge research into real-world impact. This collaboration will accelerate innovation in human-robot interaction and open new avenues for intelligent, human-centric service design," shared Dr. Suleman Shahid.

"This collaboration reflects Allied Bank's commitment to shaping the future of banking through emerging technologies. By leveraging robotics and human-robot interaction, we aim to deliver more intuitive, efficient, and personalized customer experiences," commented Mr. Muhammad Zaman.

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How Pakistan Outmaneuvered a Superpower

The most striking development in the unfolding U.S.-Iran crisis is not the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, nor the sudden emergence of overland trade corridors—it is the calculated silence of Donald Trump. When directly asked whether he was aware that Pakistan had opened land routes enabling Iran to bypass the naval blockade and continue trade with China and other partners, the President did not deny it, condemn it, or even express concern. Instead, he acknowledged that he knew “everything” about the arrangement and pivoted to praise Pakistan’s leadership. No warning, no sanctions threat, no diplomatic protest—just silence wrapped in approval. In geopolitics, such silence is never accidental; it is policy in its most refined form.

This tacit acceptance has now become the central fact shaping the narrative. Pakistan’s decision to activate six overland trade corridors into Iran on April 25, 2026, is no longer just a regional economic maneuver. It is a move taking place with the full awareness—and arguably the quiet consent—of Washington. The implications are profound. What was initially portrayed as a logistical workaround to clear more than 3,000 stranded containers at Karachi and Port Qasim has evolved into a strategic reconfiguration of global trade flows under the shadow of great-power competition. The corridors, linking Pakistan’s ports of Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar to Iranian border crossings at Gabd and Taftan, have effectively neutralized the immediate economic impact of the U.S. naval blockade. By shifting cargo from sea to land, Pakistan has created a parallel supply chain that cannot be intercepted

by naval forces. Travel time from Gwadar to the Iranian border has been reduced to just a few hours, and transport costs have dropped significantly. In practical terms, the blockade’s ability to strangle Iran’s economy has been diluted, if not outright undermined.

Yet the deeper question is why Washington has chosen not to act against this development. The answer lies in the complex web of interdependencies that define the current global order. At the center of this web is China. As one of the largest consumers of Iranian oil, China’s economic stability is closely tied to uninterrupted energy supplies. Any attempt by the United States to fully enforce the blockade by targeting overland routes through Pakistan would risk triggering a broader confrontation with Beijing.

China’s leverage is not theoretical. Its dominance in the production and export of rare earth minerals—critical components for advanced electronics, defense systems, and renewable technologies—gives it the capacity to inflict significant economic pain on the United States. A disruption in these supply chains would directly impact American industries, particularly at a time when defense production is operating at full capacity. In this context, the U.S. President’s silence can be interpreted as a strategic compromise: allow limited economic flows to continue through Pakistan rather than provoke a retaliatory response from China that could destabilize the global economy.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has emerged as

the pivotal actor in this evolving scenario. Under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif and with the strategic backing of Asim Munir, Islamabad has positioned itself at the intersection of competing interests. It is simultaneously mediating between Washington and Tehran, facilitating trade that sustains Iran’s economy, and enabling energy flows that support China’s growth. This is not a contradiction; it is a deliberate strategy.

Critics have labeled Pakistan’s approach as duplicity, accusing it of playing a “double game.” But such assessments overlook the sophistication of Pakistan’s balancing act. In a world increasingly defined by multipolarity, survival depends on the ability to engage with multiple power centers without becoming subordinate

to any single one. Pakistan’s actions reflect an understanding that rigid alignment is less valuable than strategic flexibility.

Iran’s response to the blockade further underscores this shift. Confronted with maritime restrictions, Tehran has accelerated its pivot toward overland connectivity. The visits of Abbas Araghchi to Islamabad, Moscow, and other regional capitals are part of a broader effort to construct an alternative economic architecture. By integrating with Pakistan’s transport networks and leveraging Chinese infrastructure under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Iran is building resilience against external pressure.

This transformation is not occurring in isolation. Russia’s engagement,

particularly through frameworks like the International North-South Transport Corridor, adds another layer of complexity. Together, these initiatives are creating a lattice of overland routes that challenge the dominance of traditional maritime trade. The Strait of Hormuz, once the uncontested artery of global energy flows, is no longer the sole gateway. Geography is being reimaged, and with it, the balance of power.

The United States, despite its formidable naval capabilities, finds itself constrained by these emerging realities. The blockade, while effective in raising costs and disrupting shipping, cannot fully contain a network that extends across land borders and sovereign territories. Each new corridor, each new partnership, erodes the efficacy of coercive measures. The question is no longer whether the blockade can pressure Iran, but whether it can be sustained in the face of adaptive resistance.

Pakistan’s role in this process has also altered regional dynamics. By providing a direct land bridge to Iran, Islamabad has reduced its reliance on routes through Afghanistan, where relations have deteriorated. This shift not only enhances Pakistan’s strategic autonomy but also redefines its economic geography. It is becoming a conduit not just for trade, but for influence—linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and China in a single, interconnected framework.

At the same time, the risks are significant. Security challenges in Balochistan, tensions along the Afghan border, and the broader volatility of the region could threaten the stability of these corridors. Moreover, the exclusion of Indian-origin goods from transit routes highlights the

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Balochistan Launches Pakistan’s First Dedicated Labour Rights Enforcement Unit with ILO Support

The Government of Balochistan, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), has established a Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) Unit, within the Department of Labour, to strengthen coordination, compliance and enforcement of labour rights across the province. This marks the first dedicated unit of its kind in Pakistan, with a focus on improving oversight and protecting workers in vulnerable sectors. The new unit was inaugurated by Geir T. Tonstol, Director of the ILO Country Office for Pakistan, in the presence of senior officials from the Government of Balochistan.

Many workers in Balochistan continue to face challenges linked to informality, limited access to social protection and unsafe working conditions, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and segments of the cotton supply chain. Strengthening respect for fundamental labour rights is essential to improving working conditions, supporting fair labour markets and advancing inclusive economic growth.

The FPRW unit will support awareness-raising, institutional coordination and application of core labour standards. It will also serve as a platform to enhance engagement among government institutions, employers’ and workers’ organizations, reinforcing social dialogue and supporting compliance.

Geir T. Tonstol emphasized “Fundamental principles and rights at work are central to fair labour markets and sustainable development. Strengthening respect for these principles helps improve working conditions, supports institutions and contributes to more inclusive growth. The establishment of this unit is a timely step to enhance coordination, build capacity and expand awareness, particularly in sectors where workers are most vulnerable.”

The unit will also support the application of core labour standards, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced and child labour, non-discrimination, and promotion of safe and healthy working environments. The establishment of the unit comes at a critical time, as efforts continue to address informality and gaps in working conditions in key sectors, including parts of the cotton supply chain.

Bashir Ahmed Shahwani, Director General, Department of Labour stated, “The establishment of the FPRW unit marks an important step in strengthening labour governance in Balochistan. Through this initiative, the Labour and Manpower Department is committed to promoting fundamental rights at work, strengthening coordination and enhancing protection for workers across the province.”

The inauguration of the new unit was followed by discussions with senior officials from the Government of Balochistan and representatives of employers’ and workers’ organizations to review progress under the Decent Work Country Programme (2024–2027) and identify priority areas for continued collaboration.

Discussions focused on strengthening labour law implementation, advancing social dialogue mechanisms, and reinforcing efforts to promote freedom of association and collective bargaining. Participants also emphasized the importance of building institutional capacity and improving monitoring and enforcement systems.

The Scorching Truth: How Heat Waves Are Reshaping Our World

Zunaira Riaz

Heat waves in Pakistan are becoming a serious concern, with rising temperatures leading to dangerous conditions. These extreme heat events are exacerbated by factors like climate change and urban development, which trap heat and reduce cooling. The impacts are widespread, affecting public health, agriculture, and water resources.

To protect ourselves, it’s crucial to take several precautions. Staying hydrated is key, so drink plenty of water even if you don’t feel thirsty. Avoid strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day, typically between 11 AM and 4 PM. If you must be outside, wear lightweight, light-colored clothing, and a hat. Seek out cool, shaded areas or air-conditioned spaces whenever possible. For those without air conditioning, cool baths or showers can offer relief, and using damp cloths on your skin can also help.

It’s also important to be aware of the signs of heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Symptoms include dizziness, nausea, rapid pulse, and confusion. If you or someone you know experiences these symptoms, move to a cooler place, lie down, and hydrate. Seek medical attention immediately if symptoms are severe, as heatstroke can be life-threatening. Community awareness and preparedness are vital in mitigating the risks associated with these increasingly frequent

and intense heat waves. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of heat waves because their bodies are less efficient at regulating temperature compared to adults. Their smaller body size means they heat up faster, and they may not always recognize or communicate their thirst as effectively.

During extreme heat, children can experience a range of health issues. Dehydration is a primary concern, which can lead to fatigue, headaches, and reduced cognitive function, impacting their ability to concentrate and learn. More severe heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heatstroke can occur. Symptoms in children might include lethargy, irritability, vomiting, and in serious cases, loss of consciousness.

For their breathing and overall respiratory health, prolonged exposure to high temperatures can worsen existing conditions like asthma. The air can become more stagnant during heat waves, potentially leading to higher concentrations of pollutants, which irritates airways. Children with respiratory sensitivities may find it harder to breathe, leading to increased coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath. It’s essential to keep children in cool environments, ensure they are well-hydrated, and monitor them closely for any signs of distress. Heat waves can have a significant impact on the health of both the elderly and the youngest generation.

For older adults, their bodies may have a harder time regulating temperature, making them more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Conditions like

heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory issues can be worsened by extreme heat. They might also be on medications that interfere with their body’s ability to stay cool. Dehydration is a major concern, and they may not always recognize thirst as readily as younger individuals.

During heat waves, conserving water is important while also making sure you stay hydrated.

To hydrate yourself effectively:

* Drink plenty of fluids: Water is the best choice. Sip it regularly throughout the day, even if you don’t feel thirsty.

* Electrolyte drinks: For prolonged exposure to heat or heavy sweating, consider drinks with electrolytes to replenish salts lost.

* Avoid dehydrating beverages: Limit caffeine and alcohol, as they can increase fluid loss. Sugary drinks can also be less effective for hydration.

* Eat water-rich foods: Fruits and vegetables like watermelon, cucumbers, strawberries, and oranges have high water content and can contribute to your hydration.

When using water, try to be mindful of conservation:

* Reuse water where possible: For example, water used to rinse fruits and vegetables can be used to water plants.

* Take shorter showers: While a cool shower can help you cool down, keeping them brief helps conserve water.

* Fix leaks: Dripping faucets waste a surprising amount of water.

By combining smart hydration strategies with conscious water usage, you can better manage the challenges of heat waves.

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The Conceptual Shift: From Nuclear Brinkmanship to Conventional Dominance

Soma Aslam

For decades, a dominant realist orthodoxy in International Relations—echoed by deterrence theorists from Kenneth Waltz to S. Paul Kapur—held that Pakistan, facing a conventional asymmetry with India, would inevitably rely on the “nuclear first-use” doctrine to offset Indian military superiority. This logic underpinned the concept of “sub-conventional warfare” as a tool for India, assuming that Pakistan’s conventional threshold was permanently capped.

The events of May 2025 have categorically falsified that assumption. The successful execution of Operation Bunyaan-ul-Marsoos and the strategic failure of India’s Operation Sindhoor have demonstrated that Pakistan has not only closed the conventional gap but has leapfrogged into a domain of integrated strategic deterrence—blending kinetic, electronic, quantum, and cyber capabilities. This marks a pivotal moment in South Asian strategic history, best understood through the International Relations lens of “Offense-Defense Balance”: when a defender’s technology neutralizes an attacker’s numerical advantage, the stability-instability paradox is resolved in favor of the stable defender.

The Indian False Flag Legacy: From 1971 to Pahalgalam 2025

India has long used false flags to justify aggression in IOJK, to appease the hawkish Indian populace, to mask internal instabilities, and to secure electoral gains: 2000 (staged attack before Clinton’s visit), 2001 (Parliament attack), 2008 (Mumbai), 2016 (Pathankot/Uri), and 2019 (Pulwama). The latter led to Balakot airstrikes, ending with two Indian jets shot down and Abhinandan captured.

22 April 2025: Pahalgalam—The Same Script, A New Chapter

On 22 April 2025, an attack in Pahalgalam killed 26 civilians. India immediately accused Pakistan without evidence, then suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, downgraded ties, shut trade routes, and launched Operation Sindoor—BrahMos missile strikes on six Pakistani cities, killing over 31 people. To date, India has provided zero evidence linking

Pakistan to Pahalgalam. **The Real Threat: India as a Regional Bully**

India has territorial disputes with all neighbors. Its Hindutva-driven aggressive posture—especially “surgical strikes”—threatens regional stability, pushing South Asia dangerously close to the nuclear threshold.

The China-Pakistan Integrated Tech Nexus: A Market-Changing Partnership

Pakistan’s strategic leap comes from high-tech integration with China. From quantum encryption to AI cyber defense, Pakistan neutralized India’s S-400 system using Chinese EW suites and destroyed BrahMos depots via precision strikes. This partnership has shattered India’s hegemonic pretensions.

Three Phases of the 2025 Conflict: A Military-Academic Breakdown

Phase I (May 7-8, 2025): India’s Miscalculated Assault
 India launched 24 missile attacks on six cities. The largest air dogfight since WWII ensued: ~125 jets clashed for 60+ minutes. Pakistan shot down five Indian aircraft (including three Rafales) without losing a single jet. The S-400 system failed entirely.

Phase II (May 8-9, 2025): Drone Saturation & Media Warfare
 India sent drones; 90 were neutralized. Pakistan did not retaliate. India then created a media frenzy, falsely claiming attacks—Pakistan dismissed this as storytelling.

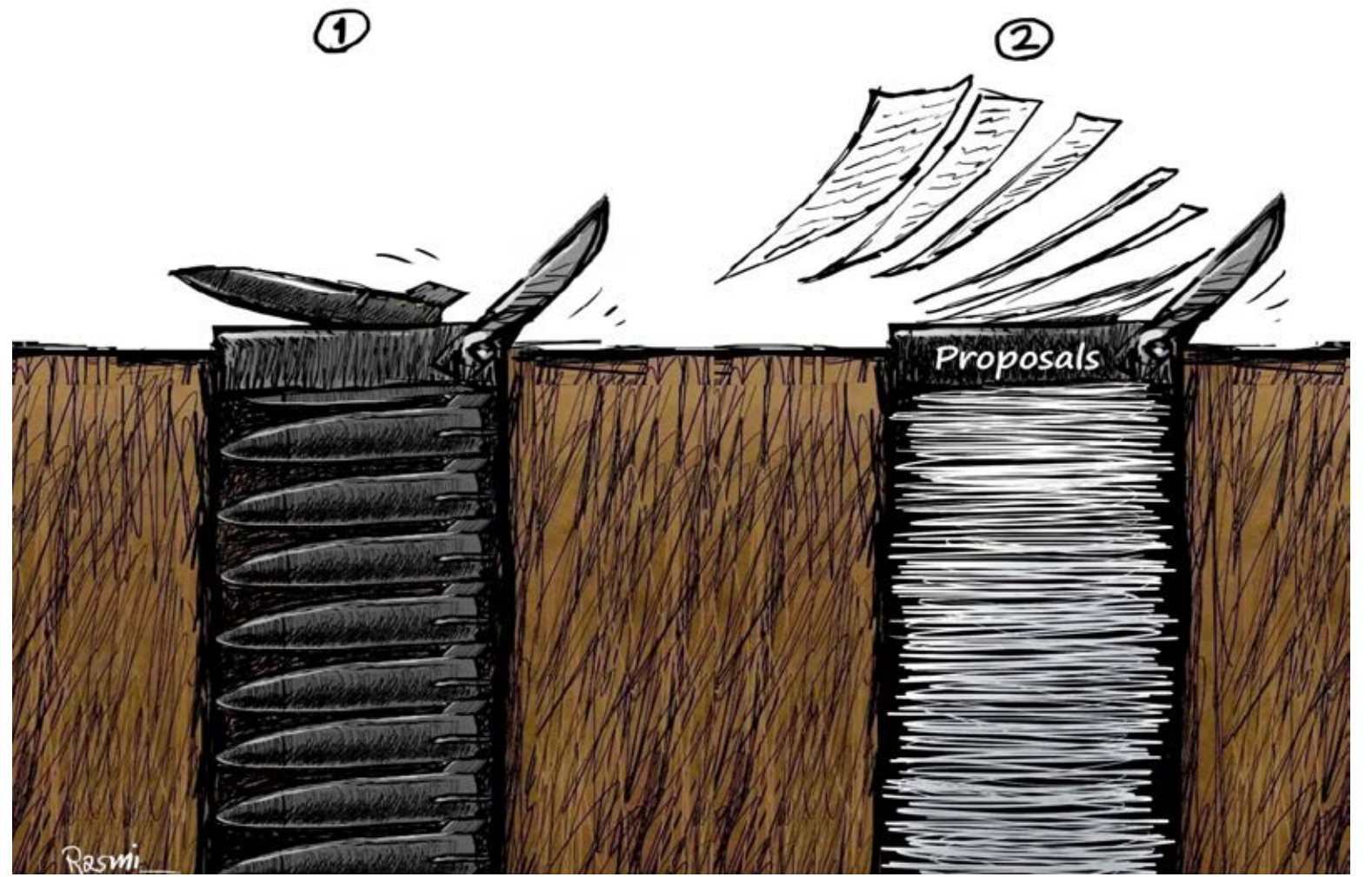
Phase III (May 9-10, 2025): Operation Bunyaan-ul-Marsoos—The Decisive Retaliation

After India targeted three Pakistani bases (all intercepted), Pakistan announced its operation. Within minutes, strikes destroyed: Beas BrahMos depot, Udhampur S-400, Pathankot Airbase, Jalandhar Airbase, Nagrota BrahMos site, Akhnoor Brigade HQ, Uri Supply Depot, Srinagar Northern Command HQ, Chandigarh Weapons Depot, Sirsa Airbase, and Military Intelligence HQ in Rajuri.

Cyber & Electromagnetic Warfare: The Silent Revolution

Pakistan’s integrated cyber component disabled 10% of India’s SCADA network, took 70% of the Northern Grid

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Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Azmat)

Pictorial book 'The Battle of Truth' documents Pakistan's narrative success, says Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said the pictorial book "The Battle of Truth" (Marka-e-Haq) serves as a comprehensive documentation of Pakistan's success on the narrative and diplomatic fronts, highlighting how coordinated efforts across media, diplomacy and national institutions effectively projected the country's position.

Addressing the launch ceremony of the book—organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)—the minister said the publication captures key moments of the "battle of truth" fought across diplomatic, media and strategic domains. A documentary film related to the book was also screened during the ceremony.

The book was formally unveiled by Federal Minister for Defence

Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Parliamentary Secretary for Information Daniyal Aziz, and Federal Secretary Information Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil, in the presence of senior officials, media representatives and stakeholders.

Information Minister Tarar said Pakistan's success in Marka-e-Haq was rooted in truth, legitimacy and unity, adding that effective communication and narrative-building played a decisive role alongside conventional meas-



ures. "We were on the side of truth, and truth cannot be defeated," he remarked, adding that divine support and national resolve contributed to the country's success.

Referring to competing narratives, the minister said India's attempts—based on "deception, falsehood and hypocrisy"—failed to gain interna-

tional acceptance. He said the global community rejected the Indian narrative due to lack of credibility and consistency.

He emphasized that "The Battle of Truth" is not merely a pictorial account but a strategic communication effort documenting how Pakistan presented its case with confidence and credibility

on the global stage.

He concluded by quoting verses of national poet Dr Allama Iqbal emphasizing dignity, resilience, and national pride.

Other speakers at the event included Lt Gen (R) Amir Riaz (HD) Zareen Khan Magsi, Dr Nafisa Shah and Senator Palwasha Khan.

Cigarette Tax Hike in Budget 2026-27 Could Generate Rs. 51 Billion in Additional Revenue

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) has suggested an increase in the Federal Excise Duty (FED) in the upcoming Federal Budget 2026-27, including a minimum adjustment of Rs. 35 per pack on economy brands and Rs. 21 per pack on premium brands, alongside a gradual transition toward a unified tax tier structure, noting that this could generate Rs. 51 billion in additional revenue, prevent around 369,000 youth from initiating smoking, and reduce the number of smokers by approximately 271,000 nationwide.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, stated that smoking continues to impose a significant burden on Pakistan's healthcare system, contributing to approximately 192,000 deaths annually. He noted with concern that cigarette tax rates have remained unchanged since February 2023, leading to a substantial erosion in the



real value of tobacco taxes due to inflation. As a result, cigarettes particularly low-cost brands have become increasingly affordable.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad highlighted that Pakistan remains among the cheapest cigarette markets in the region. A pack of 20 cigarettes costs Int\$3.46 in Pakistan, compared to Int\$6.32 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and Int\$10.91 in South-East Asia (SEA), making cigarettes approximately 83 percent cheaper than EMR and up to 215 percent cheaper than SEA. He warned that this significant

price disparity fuels higher consumption and increases the risk of youth initiation.

Addressing concerns regarding illicit trade, Dr. Khalil Ahmad stated that independent evidence indicates it accounts for approximately 33-34 percent of total cigarette consumption. He further emphasized that, as a signatory to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Pakistan is obligated to strengthen tobacco taxation to safeguard public health. He added that under the MPOWER strategy, increasing tobacco taxes is widely recognized as the most effective measure to reduce tobacco consumption.

He further stated that increasing the Federal Excise Duty by Rs. 35 on economy brands and Rs. 21 on premium brands is aligned with global best practices. It will strengthen national revenue, fulfill Pakistan's international commitments, and most importantly protect children and youth from lifelong addiction

Climate Champions Take the Lead: PRCS Ignites Green Action for a Sustainable Tomorrow

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), through its Climate Change Department, organized a vibrant "Climate Champion" event on Tuesday aimed at promoting environmental awareness and encouraging practical action against climate change. The event brought together students and youth in a series of engaging and creative activities designed to inspire a climate-friendly culture.

The event was attended by Chairperson PRCS Mrs. Farzana Naek, Secretary General PRCS Mr. Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, along with heads of delegations and representatives from Movement partners including IFRC, ICRC, Turkish Red Cres-



cent (Kizilay), Norwegian Red Cross, and German Red Cross. A large number of PRCS staff, volunteers, and students from the twin cities also participated, reflecting a strong collective commitment towards environmental responsibility.

Students showcased powerful messages on climate change through art and painting on PRCS's outer walls, visually high-

lighting environmental challenges and the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions. Awareness sessions focused on minimizing plastic use, while an interactive theatre performance presented simple yet impactful actions for environmental protection in an engaging manner.

Addressing the participants, Chairperson Mrs. Farzana Naek underscored

the collective responsibility to tackle climate change. She emphasized that reducing carbon emissions and eliminating plastic use are critical steps toward safeguarding the environment. She also appreciated the continued support of the German Red Cross in helping PRCS mitigate the sufferings of vulnerable communities and in strengthening its Climate Change Program. She reaffirmed PRCS's commitment to promoting environmental awareness and fostering a culture of sustainability across communities.

The ceremony concluded with a tree plantation drive at the PRCS lawn, where fruit-bearing and shade trees were planted, symbolizing a shared commitment to a greener and healthier future.

Scholars Convene at IIUI to Recentre Indigenous thought in Age of AI & Decolonialism

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Scholars from four continents gathered at the International Islamic University Islamabad on Tuesday to interrogate one of academia's most contested questions: whether decoloniality, as practised in universities today, has become the very thing it set out to dismantle.

The two-day Caliban Speaks: International Conference on Recentring Indigenous Thought in the Age of Decolonialism and Technology, hosted by IIUI's Department of English and supported by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, drew academics,

educators, and intellectuals from Australia, South Africa, Oman, and across Pakistan to the Allama Iqbal Auditorium at the Faisal Campus. In two days, the conference is witnessing four keynote addresses, eight parallel sessions, and two panel discussions unfolded, in a hybrid format that extended the conversation well beyond the auditorium's walls.

The conference took its title from Caliban, a colonised and silenced figure of Shakespeare's The Tempest. Prof. Dr. Najeeba Arif, Chairperson of the Pakistan Academy of Letters and the event's Chief Guest, made that provocation explicit in her opening address. When

expression is denied, she told the assembled scholars, it is tantamount to erasure. Caliban's transformation, she argued, began the moment he chose to speak an act that was not merely communication but the assertion of existence itself. She warned, however, that the old colonial suppression of voice has found a contemporary successor in technological control, where global narratives are increasingly confined within algorithmically determined vocabularies. She urged participants to shift their focus from the language of oppression to the force of their own intellectual resolve.

In a written message delivered by Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz

Dasti, IIUI President Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed described the university as a point of confluence where diverse cultures and intellectual traditions meet, and affirmed that a university must never produce knowledge in ways that marginalise voices outside the mainstream. Dr. Humaira Ashfaq, delivering a message on behalf of Dean Prof. Dr. Fauzia Janjua, reinforced that premise, arguing that knowledge is never neutral and that the academic community must not merely transmit it but critically reshape it.

The conference's intellectual nerve was most visibly exposed by its convener, Dr.

Asma Mansoor, whose opening remarks were as much a confession as an introduction. She told the audience she had conceived the event not from certainty but from unsettlement, a growing discomfort with what decoloniality had become in Pakistan's academic culture. Co-convenor Dr. Saiyma Aslam offered a counterweight, directing her remarks primarily at the students in the room. She grounded the conference's title in a question: what does it mean not just to speak, but to be truly heard? A university, she said, is not a site of knowledge delivery but a space where new voices emerge and those voices carry the obligation of responsibility.



Finding one's voice matters, she concluded; using it wisely matters more.

The keynote addresses ranged across several continents of thought. Dr. Sayan Dey of Bayan College, Oman, opened proceedings with a deliberately unsettling address titled Decolonize? A Propaganda, while Prof. Dr. Aroosa Kanwal of Quaid-i-Azam University

mapped the intersections of Islamic fantasy and decolonial imagination. On the second day, Dr. Ahmar Mahboob of the University of Sydney examined subaltern practice and the politics of World Englishes, and Dr. Veeran Naicker of Stellenbosch University delivered a sharp analysis of racial epistemologies and the social construction of truth.

Marka-e-Haq. Pakistan's Unbreakable Wall of Truth

One year after the flames of aggression were extinguished by the steel of resolve, the memory of Marka-e-Haq still burns bright in the collective soul of Pakistan. What began as a calculated act of deceit in the spring of 2025 ended as Pakistan's finest hour—a 96-hour crucible of courage that the world will remember as Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, the indestructible wall forged in truth and defended with blood.

It started in the dead of night on 7 May 2025. Under the cover of darkness, India launched guided-missile strikes on two religious seminaries located just a few kilometres from the cities of Bahawalpur and Murrudke. More than two dozen young students—talented minds studying in the heart of Pakistan—were martyred in cold blood. The provocation was not born of strength but of desperation, an engineered crisis designed to mask India's own failures. Yet the mask slipped quickly. On 9 May, India's war frenzy reached new heights as its forces struck Pakistan's Sargodha and Jacobabad

airbases. The cup of patience overflowed.

That same night, Pakistan's armed forces moved with lightning precision. Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir, alongside the chiefs of the three services, convened an emergency meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. In a detailed briefing, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir laid bare the full extent of Indian aggression. His calm authority, strategic clarity and unyielding commitment to national honour set the tone for the historic decision that followed. It was Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir's powerful leadership—rooted in the highest traditions of the Pakistan Army—that transformed shock into resolve. He did not merely inform; he inspired. Under his command, the armed forces stood ready not just to defend, but to deliver a message that would echo across continents: Pakistan's sovereignty is not negotiable.

On 10 May, in broad daylight, Paki-

stan delivered that message with devastating effect. The Pakistan Air Force our falcons of the sky—took to the air in a display of professional excellence that stunned the world. F-16 Fighting Falcons, JF-17 Thunder jets, J-10 fighters and Mirage aircraft tore through Indian airspace in wave after wave of precision strikes. Seven of India's most modern fighter jets, including French Rafale aircraft laden with the latest technology and Russian Sukhoi jets, were shot down over their own skies. At Adampur, Pakistan's pilots and air defence crews destroyed India's prized Russia Made S-400 Air Defense Missile System, reducing it to smouldering wreckage. The PAF's role was not merely supportive; it was decisive. In the clear light of day, Pakistan's air warriors made India's vaunted air force dance—a humiliating spectacle of helplessness that will be studied in military academies for decades.

Simultaneously, Pakistani cyber

warriors executed one of the most successful hacking operations in modern warfare. Control of the Indian Air Force systems, railway networks, all major power plants, television channels and critical national installations was seized within minutes. The enemy was left blind, paralysed and exposed. On land, sea and in the air, Pakistan's forces were placed on the highest state of Red Alert. The entire border was sealed with iron discipline. From Gilgit to Karachi, from Punjab's plains to Balochistan's valleys, the nation stood as one.

Faced with this symphony of precision, restraint and raw power, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a desperate phone call to US President Donald Trump, pleading for intervention to stop Pakistan's counter-offensive. President Trump immediately contacted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal

General Syed Asim Munir, requesting that Pakistan cease its strikes. Pakistan, having already restored the balance of deterrence and protected its honour, responded with the dignity of a confident nation. The 96-hour operation concluded exactly as it was designed—measured, successful and conclusive.

On that historic 10 May, the entire world watched as Pakistan's armed forces buried India's war hysteria in the dust of defeat. From the peaks of the Himalayas to the corridors of Washington, tributes poured in. President Trump himself has repeatedly acknowledged in press conferences that it was his personal request to Pakistan's leadership that helped de-escalate the conflict. He praised the professionalism and restraint of Pakistan's response. The global community saw, perhaps for the first time in stark relief, that peace in South Asia rests not on submission but on mutual respect for red lines.

Yet Marka-e-Haq was never about conquest. It was about consequence. It avenged the fallen students of Bahawalpur and Murrudke. It reaffirmed

the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir not by words but by deeds. Most profoundly, it united a diverse nation—soldier and civilian, young and old—in a single heartbeat of resolve. Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir's visionary leadership, the PAF's aerial supremacy, the cyber warriors' brilliance and the unbreakable spirit of every Pakistani forged a wall that no falsehood could breach.

One year on, as Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq approaches, we do not merely remember; we recommit. The echoes of those jets streaking across the dawn sky, the thunder of truth over deceit, and the quiet pride of a nation that refused to bow still resonate in every cantonment, every classroom and every heart. Marka-e-Haq is not a chapter in history books—it is a living covenant. It reminds us that when Haq stands shoulder to shoulder with courage, no fortress of falsehood can endure.

Let the mountains bear witness. Let generations yet unborn read these lines and know: in 2025, when the hour was darkest, Pakistan chose Haq. And Haq, as it always does, chose us back.



Analysis

Asim Tanveer

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
164,742.47	163,948.94
Day's High	Day's Low
164,920.34	162,532.98
Index Value	Change
16,929,425,331	+793.53
Percentage	Time
+0.48%	5 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,219.11	-144.82
Percentage	Time
-1.40%	5 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
49,269.39	+327.49
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	5 May, 1:37 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	197.56	202.75
Bahrain Dinar	731.95	741.85
Canadian Dollar	203.32	207.35
China Yuan	40.05	40.30
Danish Krone	43.30	43.70
Euro	325.24	330.49
Hong Kong Dollar	35.08	36.03
Indian Rupee	2.40	2.60
Japanese Yen	1.7559	1.8568
Kuwaiti Dinar	879.85	890.28
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.75
New Zealand \$	161.85	166.70
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	722.47	733.08
Qatari Riyal	74.71	75.25
Saudi Riyal	74.40	75.15
Singapore Dollar	216.62	223.85
Swedish Korona	30.30	30.60
Swiss Franc	353.25	357.55
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	76.85
UK Pound Sterling	376.58	382.98
US Dollar	279.00	279.8

FPCCI, ICCI to jointly shape 'Shadow Budget'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, has announced that the Federation, in close collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and



Industry, will finalize a comprehensive set of budget proposals to be presented as a "shadow budget" for the upcoming fiscal year.

He shared these views during his visit to ICCI on Tuesday, where he was accompanied by Vice President Tariq Khan Jadoon, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail Hussain and other senior members. Upon arrival, the delegation was warmly received by ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, and executive members.

Atif Ikram Sheikh stated that FPCCI has received a wide range of budget proposals from chambers across the country. He emphasized that through coordinated efforts with ICCI, these recommendations will be refined into a unified shadow budget and presented to policymakers and relevant stakeholders, while also being shared with the media to ensure that the business community's voice is effectively reflected in the national budget-making process.

The FPCCI President also paid rich tribute to Sardar Tahir Mehmood, acknowledging his dynamic leadership and dedicated services,

which he said have significantly elevated the stature and effectiveness of ICCI.

Expressing his gratitude, Irfan Chaudhry thanked the visiting delegation, stating that their presence and support had provided him with strength during this difficult time.

The meeting was attended by prominent ICCI members, including Executive Members Waseem Chaudhry, Mohammad Ali Mirza, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Ishaq Sial, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Rohail Anwar Butt former Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry, senior member Israr ul-Haq Mishwani and others.

Pakistan - China Industrialization Dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Highlights B2B and Export-Led Growth Strategy at Pakistan-China Industrialisation Dialogue on Tuesday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

ABHI Microfinance Bank partners with REDtone Group



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: ABHI Microfinance Bank Ltd. has entered into a strategic partnership with REDtone Group, a multi-country telecom, engineering, and digital transformation firm, to introduce enhanced Employee Banking Services designed to support REDtone's workforce with greater financial convenience and accessibility.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed recently at a formal

signing ceremony, where Asif Iqbal, Chief Financial Officer - REDtone Group, and Muhammad Umer Rauf, Head Transaction & Employee Banking - ABHI Microfinance Bank, signed on behalf of their respective organizations. The ceremony was attended by representatives from both institutions.

Through this collaboration, employees of REDtone Group will gain access to tailored banking solutions from Abhi Microfinance Bank, including salary accounts, digital banking services,

financing facilities, and value-added financial products designed to improve financial well-being.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to empowering employees through smarter financial solutions while supporting workplace productivity and financial wellness. By combining REDtone Group's innovation-driven corporate environment with Abhi MFB's customer-focused banking services, both organizations aim to create meaningful value for employees.

Traders demand extension in shop and food outlet timings

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Central Anjuman Tajran Punjab, Shahid Ghafour Pracha, has demanded that in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, shop closing time should be extended from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM, while food outlets should be allowed to operate from 10:00 PM to 12:00 AM.

He said that the trader community is the backbone of the national economy, and their issues must be resolved on an urgent basis. He

warned that if their peaceful demands are not accepted, protests will be launched not only in Rawalpindi but across the entire province of Punjab.

He expressed these views during a press conference at Rawalpindi Press Club. On this occasion, Chairman Rawalpindi Restaurant Caterers Sweet and Bakers Association, Mumtaz Ahmed, along with Sheikh Hafeez, Raja Tohid, Tariq Khan Gondal, Ahmed Khan, and other representatives of trader organizations were also present.

foodpanda celebrates Labour Day provide free, high-quality meals to delivery riders



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: To commemorate International Labour Day, foodpanda has rolled out a series of impactful initiatives designed to honor and support its delivery partners. These efforts focus on strengthening community bonds, and providing financial support to the riders who serve as the heartbeat of the digital economy.

Bridging the gap between corporate operations and the reality of the field, foodpanda launched its "Rider for a Day" initiative. Members of the corporate staff, including senior leadership and department heads, stepped away from their desks to join the delivery fleet on the front lines. Wearing the signature pink gear and navigating the city streets to complete deliveries, employees gained first-hand insight into the daily experiences of the rider community. This initiative aims to ensure that future platform policies and technological innovations are deeply rooted in the lived experience of delivery partners.

"Our delivery partners are at the heart of everything we do, and Labour Day is a moment to pause and reflect on the immense value they bring to the national economy," said Muntaqa Peracha, CEO, foodpanda Pakistan.

"Whether it's our corporate teams experiencing the journey firsthand or our partners coming together to provide meals and financial support, our goal is to ensure our riders feel seen, respected, and supported in every delivery they make."

FCEPL and SLIC ensure financial security for over 1,500 farmers and their families

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL), a leading multinational in the dairy and nutrition sector, has become the first company in Pakistan's dairy industry to partner with State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), the country's largest life and health insurer, to introduce a dedicated life insurance programme for dairy farmers. The pioneering initiative aims to provide financial security insurance coverage for over 1,500 farmers and their families under the

Dairy Farmers Programme. Speaking on the occasion, Imran Hussain-Deputy Managing Director said: Building a sustainable dairy ecosystem goes beyond milk production, it means investing in the well-being and resilience of our farmers. As the first in the industry to introduce structured life insurance at no cost to the dairy farmers, we are proud to set a new benchmark for farmer welfare and responsible business practices in Pakistan's dairy sector. This initiative further cements our efforts of "Protecting farmer livelihoods".

The initial phase will enroll more than 1,500 dairy farmers, including small scale farmers, across FCEPL's network, marking a significant milestone as the company's first structured farmer protection initiative and setting a new benchmark for social responsibility within Pakistan's dairy sector.

This initiative underscores the joint vision of FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited and State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan to create a lasting impact beyond business, ensuring to build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable



future for the country's agricultural economy.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Seven ships, Brooklyn Bridge, Zhong Gu Kun Ming, Lady of Doria, Fortune Queen, Honor Galaxy, Bao Yue Ling and PM Hayabusa-II scheduled to load/offload Container, Furnace oil, Soya Bean Seed, Chemicals and Coal berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal, Grain Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal, MW-4 and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal on during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile six (06) more ships, Elbella, Roan Teresa, Pramavera-II, Aquaviva Trust, Carrie and Gooby scheduled to load/offload Furnace oil, Chemicals and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage on same period as above mention.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PGA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them bulk cargo carrier 'Thor Magnihild' left the port on Tuesday morning, while four more ships, Zhong Gu Kun Ming, Brooklyn Bridge, Honor Galaxy and GFS Jade are expected to sail on Tuesday.

Cargo volume of 135,771 tones comprising 72,519 tones imports cargo and 63,252 export cargo carried in 4,783 Containers (1,817 TEUs Imports & 2,966 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 12 ships at Outer Anchorage of the Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Raon Teresa and Gooby & another ship 'GFS Jade' carrying Chemicals, Coal and Container expected to take berths EVTL, PQEPT and QICT respectively on Tuesday.

Gold prices decline by Rs 2,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold decreased in the local market on Tuesday, with 24 karat gold per tola falling by Rs 2,100 to settle at Rs 477,862 compared to Rs 479,962 on the previous trading day, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold declined by Rs 1,801 to Rs 409,689 from Rs 411,490, whereas 10 grams of 22 karat gold went down by Rs 1,651 to Rs 375,561 against Rs 377,212.

All PFF stakeholders united for stability in Pakistan football

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: All stakeholders of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) are united in their commitment to ensuring the stability, promotion, and development of football in Pakistan. Through collective efforts, along with the support of FIFA and the AFC, and under the visionary leadership of Mr. Syed Mohsen Gilani, Pakistani football and its players will be given every opportunity and resource they rightfully deserve.

This was stated during a press conference held at the PFF Headquarters in Lahore, jointly addressed by PFF Vice President Hafiz Zaka Ullah, COO Muhammad Shahid Niaz Khokhar, V. P PFF Naveed Aslam Lodhi, and PFF EXCO members Raja Amer Khan, Mohsin Ali Chaudhry and Director PFF Legal Ali Akram.

First of all, the message of PFF President Mr. Syed Mohsen Gilani was shared during the press conference. In his message, PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani said: "The international football community has warmly welcomed Pakistan and shown strong confidence in our vision. Pakistan is increasingly being recognised as a positive and unifying force through football. Our engagements at the FIFA Congress have opened new doors for cooperation, development, and opportunity for our players, coaches, and officials."

He added: "Pakistan's new global identity as 'peacemakers' has significantly enhanced the country's soft image worldwide; it has, in fact, strengthened



our engagements with renowned and established footballing nations."

Chief Operating Officer of PFF, Shahid Niaz Khokhar, said: "We have received clear guidance from both FIFA and the AFC leadership, emphasising the importance of stability in Pakistan football. In response, all stakeholders are united in their commitment to strengthening the game across the country. Together, we are dedicated to promoting, developing, and elevating Pakistan football to new heights, ensuring sustainable growth and a brighter future for the sport."

Vice President of PFF Mr. Zaka Ullah said: "International football authorities, along with all domestic stakeholders, including PFF forums, the football community, government sports bodies, and the corporate sector, strongly desire stability within the PFF," Zaka said and added: "No adventure will be allowed to destabilize PFF."

"Through our discussions with fellow Member Associations (Federations), we have consistently emphasised the need for exchange programs, encompassing youth, women, schools, as well as players and coaches. Such initiatives,

Zaka asserted, will play a pivotal role in transforming and revitalising football in Pakistan."

The other attendees of the press conference including Mr. Naveed Aslam Lodhi, Raja Amer Khan, Mohsin Ali Chaudhry and Ali Akram shared similar sentiments, saying: "We all fully aligned in our vision for promotion and development of Pakistan football. Through collective effort, dedication and a strong sense of purpose, we are committed to elevating Pakistan football to the highest possible level on both regional and international stages."

Sadaf's 98 powers Pakistan to record 168-run win against Zimbabwe

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan women registered a 168-run victory over Zimbabwe women while defending their total of 330-5 in the first ODI of the three-match series at the National Bank Stadium on Monday, opening their account in the bilateral series.

The result is Pakistan Women's second-biggest ODI victory by runs, only behind the 193-run win against the Netherlands in 2011, according to a PCB statement.

The 168-run margin nudges the 157-run win over Ireland in 2013 down to third on the list.

This is the first time Zimbabwe Women are touring Pakistan and the first time the two sides are meeting in a bilateral series.

The win takes Pakistan to four points from four matches in the ICC Women's Championship.

Being put in to bat first, Pakistan posted 330 for five in their 50 overs.

Opening batter Sadaf Shamas top-scored with 98 off 130 balls, featuring 17 boundaries, as she fell two short of a maiden ODI hundred when she was caught off Precious Marange in the 34th over with the scoreboard reading 195 for two.

She had earlier added 162 for the



opening wicket with Gull Feroza, who made a 60-ball 50, hitting five fours before being bowled by Kudzai Chigora.

The 162-run stand is Pakistan Women's second-highest opening-wicket partnership in ODIs and the third-highest for any wicket.

Sidra Amin chipped in with 67 off 59 balls, aided by nine boundaries, while Najiha Alvi remained unbeaten on a quick-fire 30-ball 56 laced with eight fours and a solitary six to power Pakistan past 330.

Najiha broke skipper Fatima Sana's record of the fastest half-century for Pakistan in WODIs by a fair margin.

She reached her maiden ODI fifty off just 24 balls, displacing Fatima's 35-ball record.

This was also the joint-fifth fastest half-century in Women's ODIs.

Meanwhile, Pakistan posted their second-highest total at home in WODIs and their third consecutive in the format.

For Zimbabwe, Marange finished with three for 39 in 10 overs.

In reply, Zimbabwe Women were bundled out for 162 in 36.4 overs.

Beloved Biza top-scored with a run-a-ball 53, while Kelis Ndhlovu made 31 at the top. No other batter managed to cross the 20-run mark.

Tasmia Rubab led the bowling attack with two for 21, while skipper Fatima Sana chipped in with two for 28 from her five overs.

Syedra Aroob Shah returned two for 38 in nine overs, including two maidens.

Debutant Momina Riasat, the left-arm spinner who became the 95th WODI player for Pakistan, picked up the wicket of Michelle Mavunga to end with one for 38 from her eight overs.

The second match of the ODI series will be played on Wednesday.

Scores in brief: Pakistan 330-5, 50 overs (Sadaf Shamas 98, Sidra Amin 67, Najiha Alvi 56 not out, Gull Feroza 50; Precious Marange 3-39)

Zimbabwe 162 all out in 36.4 overs (Beloved Biza 53, Kelis Ndhlovu 31; Tasmia Rubab 2-21, Fatima Sana 2-28, Syedra Aroob Shah 2-38)

Player of the match: Sadaf Shamas (Pakistan)

How Pakistan Outmaneuvered a Superpower

Continued from Page 4

enduring impact of geopolitical rivalries. Connectivity, while transformative, is not immune to conflict.

Nevertheless, the broader trajectory is clear. The opening of overland routes into Iran represents a shift from a unipolar system, where maritime dominance dictated outcomes, to a more complex, multipolar landscape where adaptability and connectivity determine success. Pakistan's actions, far from being a mere logistical adjustment, are emblematic of this transition.

In this context, the silence of the U.S. President takes on even greater significance. It is not simply a lack of

response; it is an acknowledgment of limits. It reflects an understanding that in a world of interdependent powers, absolute control is neither feasible nor desirable. By choosing not to confront Pakistan's initiative, Washington is implicitly accepting a new equilibrium—one in which influence is negotiated rather than imposed.

For Pakistan, this moment represents a culmination of strategic foresight and opportunism. By leveraging its geography, infrastructure, and diplomatic relationships, it has carved out a role that extends beyond its traditional boundaries. It is no longer a peripheral player but a central node in the evolving global order.

The story of these corridors, therefore, is not just about trade or transport. It is about the redefinition of power in the 21st century. It is about how nations adapt to constraints, exploit opportunities, and navigate the complexities of a world where alliances are fluid and interests intersect. And above all, it is about how a single moment of silence—from the most powerful office in the world—can reveal more than a thousand words ever could.

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

The Scorching Truth: How Heat Waves Are Reshaping Our World

Continued from Page 4

If someone suddenly becomes ill due to a heat wave, it's important to act quickly. Here's what you can do:

1. Move them to a cooler place: Get them out of the direct sun and into an air-conditioned building or a shady spot.

2. Cool them down: Loosen their clothing, and apply cool, wet clothes or a cool bath. Spraying them with cool water can also help.

3. Give them fluids (if conscious): If they are alert and able to swallow, offer them cool water or a sports drink to help rehydrate. Avoid giving them liquids if they are disoriented or uncon-

scious.

4. Call for medical help: If symptoms are severe, such as confusion, loss of consciousness, rapid pulse, or a high body temperature (103°F or higher), call emergency services immediately.

Recognizing the signs of heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heatstroke is key. Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and headache. Heatstroke is a more severe condition and is a medical emergency, with symptoms like a high fever, hot, dry skin (or sometimes profuse sweating), confusion, and even seizures.

Preventing heat-related issues involves a multi-faceted approach

centered on staying cool and hydrated. It's crucial to drink an abundance of water consistently, even if thirst isn't a primary sensation, while steering clear of dehydrating beverages like those high in sugar or alcohol, as well as excessive caffeine. Seeking refuge in cool environments, particularly air-conditioned spaces, is paramount; if personal air conditioning isn't available, frequenting public cool zones like libraries or malls offers a viable alternative. Lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing, along with a wide-brimmed hat, aids in managing body temperature and protecting against sun exposure.

The author is write novel articles for long.

The Conceptual Shift: From Nuclear Brinkmanship to Conventional Dominance

Continued from Page 4

offline, shut urban power/wind systems, destroyed Indian Railways' digital network, disabled Delhi's gas supply and HIOJK's electric grid, and wiped BJP/BSF websites. This is South Asia's first combined kinetic-cyber-electromagnetic response.

Outcome: The Strategic

Failure of Operation Sindoor & India's Hegemonic Aspirations India lost 70% of air capability to cyber strikes. BrahMos depots and S-400 destroyed. Six jets lost, including Rafales—26 total sites hit. Modi's aggressive approach failed; Pakistan's transparent narrative earned global respect. The Kashmir Conflict: Re-Internationalized

A final, critical consequence: The Kashmir conflict has been internationalized once again. By staging false flags to justify its illegal occupation and the subjugation of innocent Kashmiris—and then escalating to cross-border missile strikes—India has undone decades of its own diplomatic effort to declare Kashmir a "bilateral issue." Global powers,

watching the S-400's failure and the BrahMos depots burning, are now reassessing the region.

The Lesson of 2019 and 2025 In 2019, India learned the hard way: Pakistan's air defence is impregnable, and false flags end in downed jets and captured pilots. India cannot win wars with lies. False flags may fool the world for a moment—but Paki-

stan's response is always real, precise, and devastating. The Pahalgam operation was not brave. It was a script repeated from a failed playbook. And just like 1971, 2001, 2008, and 2019, the only loser will be India's credibility.

With Pakistan's steadfast, responsible, restraint-based approach combined with

highly integrated modern technology and sensible information warfare—not misinformation propaganda like India—Pakistan achieved a decisive strategic success. In the academic lexicon of deterrence theory, what Pakistan has accomplished is "asymmetric escalation dominance"—the ability to punish an adversary disproportionately in a domain

they believed they controlled. Operation Bunyaan-ul-Marsoos is no longer just a military operation; it is a case study for future war colleges. And for India's so-called hegemonic ambitions, it is a tombstone.

The writer holds bachelor's degree in IR, is a former intern at the KIIR, and currently serves as a researcher at the ISPR

Zone One Secure Victory in Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: On the third day of the Three day Matches of the 4th round of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament. Zone-I defeated Zone-IV by 7 wickets on Monday and got 6 Points. Earlier Zone-VI beat Zone-VII by an innings 97 runs and Zone-III defeated Zone-II by an innings and 3 runs on the 2nd day and both the Teams got 10 Points each.

The Tournament is being organized by Pakistan Cricket Board. Scores in Brief:

At UBL Sports Complex: Zone-I beat Zone-IV by 7 Wickets. Zone-IV First Innings 198 and 2nd Innings 109.

Zone-I first Innings 186 and 2nd Innings 123/3 in 33 overs. Muhammad Jawad 46 7x4, Malik Zain ul Abideen 23 both not out, Farman ullah 23, Muhammad Umair Sheikh 19. Afnan Khan (sla) 2/44, Muhammad Uzair Ali Khan 1/39.

5th Round of the Tournament will be played from 6- 8th May at various Grounds as under: 1) Zone-I vs Zone-VI (KCCA Stadium) 2) Zone-II vs Zone-V (Baqai Cricket Ground) 3) Zone-IV vs Zone-VII at UBL Sports Complex.

Men's U18 Asia Cup Hockey schedule unveiled, Pakistan placed in group B

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Asian

Hockey Federation has officially approved the schedule for the Men's Under-18 Asia Cup 2026, which will take place in Japan from May 29 to June 6.

According to officials, the tournament will feature top junior teams from across Asia competing for the title.

Matches will be played in the Japanese city of Kakamigahara. Teams have been divided into two groups.

Group A includes India, South Korea, host Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Kazakhstan.

Group B consists of Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and China.

Pakistan national under-18 field hockey team will begin its campaign on May 30 against China.

The team will then face Malaysia on May 31 and Bangladesh on June 3 in the group stage.

The semi-finals are scheduled for June 5, while the final of the tournament will be played on June 6.



Pakistan marks one year of...

Continued from page 1

Deliberating on the broader regional security environment, the Forum noted that emerging geopolitical developments carry significant implications for regional stability. While underscoring the importance of restraint and avoidance of escalation, the Forum acknowledged Pakistan's continued responsible role in advocating stability and supporting efforts aimed at preventing further deterioration of the situation. It reiterated that peace and stability in the region are intrinsically linked to collective restraint, responsibility and respect for sovereignty.

The Forum congratulated the Nation and Armed Forces on the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, recognizing it as a defining moment reflecting national unity, collective resolve, and an unyielding commitment to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty at all costs. The Forum underscored that the national commemoration of Marka-e-Haq serves as a clear

message to Indian hubristic political mindset that the Pakistani nation stands united, resilient, and fully prepared. It signifies the unshakable harmony between the People, Government and Armed Forces of Pakistan, which stands together as "Bunniatum Marsoos" against all internal and external challenges.

The Forum strongly condemned ongoing atrocities, extrajudicial killings, and demographic changes in HIOJK, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic, political, and moral support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

In his concluding remarks, the COAS & CDF directed commanders to maintain the highest levels of vigilance, operational readiness, and adaptability in the face of evolving threats. He emphasized the need for unyielding focus on professional excellence, integrated response mechanisms, and proactive measures to counter both conventional and non-conventional challenges.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding reforms in FBR on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Finance Minister reviews insurance sector proposals for upcoming budget

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, here on Tuesday, held a meeting with a delegation of the Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP) to discuss matters relating to the insurance sector in the context of the Federal Budget 2026-27.

The delegation was led by Chairman IAP, Shoaib Javed Hussain, according to press release issued by the Finance Ministry.

The minister appreciated the constructive engagement of the insurance industry in contributing to the budget consultation process and emphasized the need for sustained dialogue with key sectors to ensure that policy measures remain aligned with economic priorities and



contribute to long-term financial stability and growth.

The delegation presented a set of proposals focusing primarily on taxation and regulatory considerations

with respect to the insurance sector. Participants discussed various aspects of the existing taxation framework, including the interaction between federal and provincial levies, and their

implications for the sector. The need for consistency, coherence and predictability in the overall tax structure was highlighted in the context of facilitating sectoral development.

The minister acknowledged the proposals presented by the delegation and noted that these would be carefully reviewed in the context of the upcoming budget. He reiterated the government's commitment to advancing the development of the financial sector, while maintaining a balanced and sustainable approach to fiscal policy.

The meeting was attended by Shoaib Javed Hussain, Chairman IAP; Muhammad Hisham, Senior Vice Chairman IAP; Omer Farooq, Chairman IAP Tax Committee; Asim Nagi, Member IAP Tax Committee, and other IAP officials, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Finance, including the Director General, Tax Policy Office, Member (Inland Revenue Operations), amongst others.

Heatwave in Karachi kills nine as temperatures cross 44°C

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A severe heatwave gripped Karachi on Monday, pushing temperatures to 44.1 degrees Celsius and leaving at least nine people dead from suspected heatstroke, rescue officials said.

The city recorded its hottest day of the year, with the Meteorological Department warning that the intensity of the heat could rise further due to the cessation of sea breezes and hot winds blowing from Balochistan.



According to rescue and intelligence sources, nine bodies were recovered from various parts of the city,

including Clifton, Liaquatabad, Super Highway and Baldia. The victims are suspected to have died from heatstroke.

Separately, a worshipper died while offering prayers at the Osmania Mosque in North Karachi, with the cause of death also believed to be heatstroke.

The extreme heat and humidity disrupted normal life, with lighter-than-usual traffic on roads as residents tried to avoid exposure to the scorching sun. Many were seen covering their heads to protect themselves from the heat.

Medical experts advised citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor movement, particu-

larly during the afternoon, and to increase water intake. They warned that the "feels-like" temperature could reach as high as 50 degrees Celsius.

Rescue officials said the process of identifying several bodies was ongoing and that the deceased had been shifted to cold storage facilities after initial procedures.

Authorities said the heatwave has created a situation of extreme discomfort across the city, raising concerns about further casualties if conditions persist.

Mega Project Launched to Link Margalla Road Directly to Motorway for Citizens' Convenience

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the site of the Margalla Road-Motorway extension project and inspected ongoing construction activities.

During the visit, he was given a detailed briefing on various components of the project.

Work has officially begun on a major infrastructure project aimed at providing citizens with a faster and more convenient route, as Margalla Road is set to be directly linked to the Motorway under a new mega development initiative.

According to officials, the 2.7-kilometre-long project will feature a three-lane road on both sides, along with a two-lane service road. The plan also



includes an interchange on GT Road, two underpasses, and a bridge to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed authorities to ensure that the Sang-

jani Interchange on GT Road—part of the project—is completed by July 31. He emphasised that the new link will provide an alternative, faster, and more accessible route between Islamabad and

the Motorway, significantly reducing traffic congestion and travel time.

"All resources must be utilized to complete the project within the stipulated time," the Interior Minister instructed, adding that quality, transparency, and speed are being ensured in every government project. Providing citizens with improved and faster travel facilities, he said, is the government's top priority.

During the briefing, it was revealed that the project is expected to be completed by December 2026, while the remaining 2.5-kilometre section will be executed by the Punjab government.

Chairman CDA, IG Islamabad Police, DC Islamabad, and other relevant officials were also present during the visit.

PM reviews ongoing FBR reforms, approves action plan to streamline tax litigation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, while emphasizing the need for expeditious resolution of tax disputes, called for further strengthening of the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism, saying it would help reduce the burden on courts and ensure timely settlement of cases.

The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting to review ongoing reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), with a particular focus on resolving tax-related litigation, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed the early establishment of a Centralized Litigation Management System (CLMS), as proposed in a submitted report.

During the meeting, a task force presented its report on tax disputes, outlining a comprehensive reform agenda.

The meeting was attended by ministers, including Azam Nazeer Tarar, Dr Musadik Malik, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, members of the task force, and senior government officials.

Pakistan to respond more forcefully to future threats: Khawaja Asif



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, while lauding the Pakistan armed forces' prompt and decisive response to Indian aggression during Marka-e-Haq on Tuesday, reiterated that Pakistan's response to any future hostility would be even more forceful.

Addressing the launch ceremony of a picture book titled 'The Battle of Truth' (Marka-e-Haq) published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Directorate of Electronic Media and Publi-

cations (DEMP) in collaboration with Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), he said that the entire nation was standing united against any form of enemy aggression.

He said that Pakistan had emerged as a more stable and powerful country and had become a symbol of stability and a guarantor in the region. "We are ready for any kind of Indian proxy war," he added.

The minister said that the Pakistan armed forces foiled India's nefarious designs during Marka-e-Haq and successfully neutralised its S-400 air defence system.

Pakistan's trade deficit tops \$4bn in April 2026

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's trade deficit crossed \$4 billion in April 2026, the highest in 46 months, amid an increase in imports, data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed on Tuesday.

The country's trade deficit stood at \$4.07 billion in April, up nearly 4% against \$3.92 billion recorded in the same period the previous year.

Pakistan's exports clocked in at \$2.48 billion in April 2026, registering an increase of 14% as compared to \$2.17 billion in April 2025.

On the other hand, imports stood at \$6.55 billion in April 2026, up 7.5% against \$6.1 billion recorded in the same period the previous year.

On a monthly basis, Pakistan's trade deficit jumped 43.5% against

\$2.84 billion recorded in March 2026. The significant increase came on the back of an over 28% increase in imports on a monthly basis, while exports grew by just 9.5%.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's trade deficit significantly increased by 20.3% to \$31.98 billion in the first ten months of the current fiscal year (10MFY26), as compared to a deficit of \$26.59 billion in July-April of the previous fiscal year (10MFY25).

The trade deficit expanded year-on-year (YoY) in the said period, driven by higher imports and a decrease in exports.

Exports in 10MFY26 stood at \$25.21 billion, down over 6% against \$26.89 billion recorded in the same period of FY25.

Imports were recorded at \$57.19 billion, up 7% against \$53.48 billion in the same period last year.

More Pakistanis return from Iran via border crossings

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The repatriation of Pakistanis residing in Iran continued for the 66th consecutive day, with more people returning home through border crossings.

According to officials, five individuals arrived in Pakistan today via the Gabd Rimdan Border, bringing the total number of returnees through this route to 3,450.

Meanwhile, a total of 10,619 people have returned via the Taftan Border so far.



Since February 28, a combined total of 14,069 individuals have arrived in Pakistan through the Gabd Rimdan and Taftan border crossings.

Officials stated that those returning include seamen, pilgrims, labourers, businessmen and students.