



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ تم سب سے محبوبی بات ہے۔ آپس میں ایک دوسرے کی برائی کی تلاش میں نہ لگے ہونا ایک دوسرے سے بغض رکھنا اور پیچھے پیچھے کی برائی کروانا اللہ کے بندے بھائی بھائی بن کر رہو۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6724)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Marka-e-Haq victory sends clear and strong message to India: Khawaja Asif

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has said that the great victory of Marka-e-Haq delivered a clear and decisive message to India about Pakistan's defense capabilities and national unity. In a statement, he said that Marka-e-Haq is not just a historic event but a defining line that has been drawn permanently.



## PSX surges nearly 7,000 points amid US-Iran deal hopes

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday jumped 7000 points as easing geopolitical tensions ignited a strong revival in investor confidence, fueling a market rebound. The market opened on a vibrant note and rejoiced in the news that the US President signalled a temporary pause in operations to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, citing progress towards a broader agreement with Iran.

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## Funeral prayer

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, COAS & CDF, Federal Ministers of Interior and Information, senior serving and retired civil and military officers, relatives and a large number of citizens offering funeral prayer of Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hussain Shaheed (resident of District Sargodha) at Chaklala Garrison.



Photo: Online

## PM, CDF offer funeral of Lt Col Khalid Hussain Shaheed, reaffirm resolve against terrorism

City Desk

at Chaklala Garrison.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday offered the funeral prayer, along with Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, federal ministers for interior and information, senior serving and retired military officials, as well as a large number of civilians and relatives of the martyr.

The funeral prayer of Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hussain, who embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan, was offered here

including the government that the conservations or austerity measures be followed in true letter and spirit. He said that for tasks of very important and urgent nature which were hit by the austerity measures, the cases may be brought for consideration of the Cabinet Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures so that essential functions of government are not compromised.

## DPM Dar reviews federal govt's austerity, conservative measures



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures.

The deputy prime minister reviewed the current status of different austerity measures as announced by the government earlier.

He stressed that since international fuel prices were still very high therefore, it was a national duty of everyone

## Pakistan earns global trust through peace efforts, says PM Shehbaz Sharif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said Pakistan had emerged as a key force for peace and stability in the region, crediting the country's diplomatic efforts for facilitating unprecedented talks between Iran and the United States.

Addressing the 6th International Paigham-e-Islam Conference here, the prime minister said the gathering at the conference reflected the unity of the Muslim Ummah and acknowledged the valuable contributions of religious scholars in promoting harmony.

He revoealed that Pakistan



successfully persuaded the leadership of Iran and the United States to engage in dialogue for the first time since 1979, with talks held in Islamabad on April 11 and 12. He expressed gratitude to both countries for accepting Pakistan's invitation and agreeing

to a ceasefire.

"This reflects the trust the international community places in Pakistan," he said, adding that the country had delivered a significant service aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region.

Advisor to the President of Palestine on Religious Affairs and Islamic Relations and the Supreme Judge (Qazi ul Qaza) of Palestine Dr. Mahmoud Al-Habbash, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmon Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad

Al-Malkiy were also present on the occasion.

The prime minister expressed optimism that Pakistan's continued efforts would lead to sustainable peace in the region.

He also paid tribute to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his key role in maintaining regional peace. He also acknowledged the support of China and Turkey, along with other friendly nations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their efforts in bringing both sides to the negotiating table.

## Pakistan pursuing green bonds, Sukuk to mobilize climate finance



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Wednesday Pakistan currently has access to around \$600 to \$700 million in climate finance and is actively pursuing diversified funding avenues, including green bonds and innovative instruments, to support its climate resilience and energy transition goals.

Addressing the Dawn-Media Breathe Pakistan International Climate Change Conference 2026, the minister said Pakistan expected to get approximately \$200 million from International Monetary

Fund (IMF), while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was also extending assistance.

He said, the government was working to go for the inaugural Panda bond this month, which is expected to be around \$250 million equivalent in RMB.

Emphasizing the importance of green financing, the minister said the government was focusing on diversifying its funding base through instruments such as green bonds and locally issued green sukuk. Aurangzeb stressed the need for a pragmatic approach, urging stakeholders to effectively utilize currently available resources instead of focusing on large, theoretical financing gaps.

## Pakistan, US hold constructive virtual talks to advance trade cooperation



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday held a virtual meeting with Deputy U. S. Trade Representative (USTR) Rick Switzer and discussed bilateral trade ties, advancing ongoing negotiations and exploring new avenues of economic cooperation between the two countries.

At the outset, Rick Switzer appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional stability and acknowledged its efforts in facilitating dialogue during recent regional developments, a news

release said. He noted that such contributions supported a conducive environment for global trade and economic cooperation.

Responding to these remarks, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan appreciated US recognition of Pakistan's constructive role in regional peace efforts and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to responsible global engagement and mediation.

He emphasized that Pakistan remains focused on promoting stability in the region, which is essential for global trade, investment flows, and economic connectivity.

During the meeting, both sides held discussions on enhancing bilateral trade, with particular focus on achieving a balanced and mutually beneficial trade agreement.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's interest in expanding trade with the United States across key sectors.

"Pakistan is committed to strengthening its trade relationship with the United States through a balanced, forward-looking framework that benefits both economies," Jam Kamal said, adding "We see significant potential in diversifying trade and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest."

## Marka-e-Haq redefined Pakistan's military deterrence in 21st-century warfare, says Dr. Tariq Fazal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Marking the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has hailed Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos as a defining moment in Pakistan's modern military history, saying that its success not only neutralized imminent threats but also reaffirmed Pakistan's unmatched defensive preparedness.

In an exclusive interview with APP, the minister said the operation demonstrated Pakistan's resolve to safeguard its sovereignty while maintaining a principled commitment to peace.

"Pakistan has never desired war, but when challenged, our response is decisive and proportionate," he said, adding that Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos effectively thwarted hostile designs and exposed the limitations of the adversary's strategy. Paying tribute to the national leadership, Dr Tariq credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their "clear vision and decisive leadership," which he believed played a pivotal role in securing success during Marka-e-Haq.



Warning against any future aggression, the minister said Pakistan remained vigilant and fully prepared. "Any attempt to impose war will be met with a response as forceful and crushing as Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos," he remarked.

# Rathore stresses peace and justice in address at Bunyan um Marsoos Conference

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Wednesday emphasized unity within the Muslim Ummah, promotion of peace, and the need for practical steps to address global challenges facing Muslim Ummah.

Addressing the sixth Bunyan um Marsoos Conference, organized under the banner of Paigam e Pakistan, prime minister Rathore said Islam is a religion of moderation, mercy, and tolerance, meant to guide humanity towards the goal of establishing a society deeply rooted in justice, compassion, and unity.

Quoting the Holy Quran, he said, "Allah loves those who fight in His cause, stand united like a solid structure". Referring to last year's war and successful execution of the operation Bunyan um Marsoos, he said the Pakistani nation and its brave armed forces demonstrated a highest degree of unity and resilience in the face of external aggression, and delivered a crushing response to the enemy.

PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore appreciated the leadership of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz



Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, saying that their efforts in bringing economic stability, defence modernization, and diplomacy have not only led to peace and stability in the region but enhanced Pakistan's prestige and its standing in the Muslim world and beyond.

Highlighting the Kashmir issue, the AJK premier reiterated that the

Kashmiri people have been waging a peaceful struggle for their right to self-determination.

He condemned ongoing human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including brutal suppression of Kashmiris' political and religious rights.

Calling for cession of state violence in the Indian held territory, he said that it

was high time that the UN should play its due role to help Kashmiris secure their promised right guaranteed to them under multiple UNSC resolutions.

He also strongly condemned atrocities in Palestine, including violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and expressed complete solidarity with the Palestinian people.

## Nawaz Sharif Calls PML-N Parliamentary Board Meeting for AJK Ticket Finalization

Abdul Majeed Tahir/Agencies

LAHORE: President of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, has convened a meeting of the party's Parliamentary Board on May 8 in Lahore to finalize candidates for the upcoming elections in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting will deliberate on prospective nominees, after which final decisions regarding party tickets will be announced.

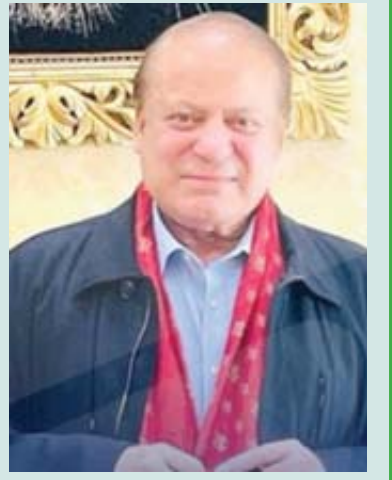
According to PMLN sources following the meeting, Nawaz Sharif is also expected to meet the candidates and address them.

The Parliamentary Board comprises 23 members, including seven representatives from Azad Jammu & Kashmir, while the remaining members consisted of senior leaders of Pakistan Muslim League (N).

For the 45 constituencies in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and refugees settled in various parts of Pakistan, more than 200 candidates have submitted applications seeking party tickets. The highest number of applicants has emerged from the Sehnsa constituency, where 26 candidates are in contention.

Meanwhile, prospective candidates of PML-N AJK have gathered in Lahore, staying in various high-end hotels as they await the party's decision.

The meeting was initially scheduled to be held in Muzaffarabad; however, due to concerns over adverse weather conditions, the venue was shifted to Lahore said Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi former member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council.



## Pakistan emerged as a regional stability provider after Markah-i-Haq Victory: Masood Khan

City Desk.



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has stated that Pakistan's resolute response during India's aggression last

year marked a defining moment in the country's history, reinforcing its position as a strong, resilient, and responsible regional power.

Addressing a distinguished gathering at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Ambassador Khan paid tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan for their "precise, proportionate, and decisive" response to Indian aggression. He noted that the conflict served as a real-time test of Pakistan's deterrence capability, which was not only validated but elevated to a position of clear superiority.

Recalling the events of May 6 last year, Ambassador Khan described Pakistan retaliation as a "proud moment" for the nation, emphasizing that it successfully defended its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence in the face of external aggression. He underscored that the coordinated and integrated military response demonstrated doctrinal clarity, operational excellence, and technological competence.

## AJK Election Commission Vows Free, Impartial 2026 Polls Amid Voter List Concerns

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal has said in a video message to the voters regarding the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections 2026 that the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission is committed to holding free, transparent and impartial elections as per the law. The total number of such votes was about 27 thousand. Similar problems were reported in Neelum, Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Mang, Khari Sharif, Chakswari, Bagh, Dhirkot and various other areas. As soon as the Election Commission came to know about this situation, we immediately formed a committee of experts and called a meeting of all the Deputy Commissioners, while an online meeting was also held with the Election Commissioners of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Election Commissioner further said that a detailed meeting was also held with the Chairman NADRA regarding the accuracy of the voter lists and he was directed to correct the errors as per the agreement and ensure the preparation of the voter list. On which NADRA provided full cooperation and work started immediately.



Restoration of Nawabshah Airport: Hope for regional development and opening new doors of employment

## Restoration of Nawabshah Airport: Hope for regional development and opening new doors of employment

Anwar Adil Khanzada

NAWABSHAH: The demand for restoration of domestic and international flights at Nawabshah Airport has once again started gaining momentum, where local social and business circles say that restoration of air service will not only increase public convenience but can also give a new direction to the regional economy. According to sources, Nawabshah Airport has lost its full utility due to limited or closed air activities for the past several years, as a result of which residents and business people of districts like Shaheed Benazirabad, Noushero Feroze, Sanghar and Matiari are facing travel difficulties. Experts say that the lack of air connectivity not only affects investment but also slows down local industry and trade. Regional representatives are of the opinion that in the current administrative structure, Shaheed Benazirabad Division has significantly increased in population and importance, has increased, in view of which it seems inevitable to restore the functionality of the airport. According to them, the restoration of air services is expected to increase tourism, trade and employment opportunities. According to political observers, if Asif Ali Zardari pays attention to this project, it can not only boost regional development but also create a positive impression at the public level. However, experts emphasize that before implementing any restoration project, a comprehensive assessment of factors such as feasibility, passenger demand, and financial sustainability is necessary so that this initiative proves to be long-lasting and effective.

## Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Children enjoying on monkey bar at local park in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# PML-N Leader joins Muslim Conference ahead of Azad Kashmir Polls

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) central leader Sardar Akhlaq Abbasi along with his family announced their support for the Muslim Conference in the upcoming elections.

President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan thanked Sardar Akhlaq Abbasi for his support and while addressing the ceremony said that I thank Allah Almighty who has once again started turning the hearts of the people towards the



Muslim Conference. In this election, those people who were in other parties in the last three or four elections are also supporting the Muslim Conference.

The general elections of Azad Kashmir are of great importance. Wherever the Muslim Conference candidate is participating in the elections in Azad Kashmir, it is an argu-

ment that the Muslim Conference is the guarantor of the ideology of Pakistan accession, the ideology of the independence movement, and the state identity.

# NTU Holds Rally to Mark One-Year Anniversary of Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos Victory

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: National Textile University (NTU) Faisalabad organized a special solidarity rally on Tuesday to mark one year since the Pakistan Armed Forces' victory in Operation Markah-e-Haq (Bunyan-ul-Marsoos) and to pay tribute to their valor.

The rally was led by Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood, Rector/Vice Chancellor of NTU. Addressing students and faculty, Dr. Masood said the remarkable victory achieved by the armed forces under Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos remains a matter of pride for the entire nation.

The Pakistan Armed Forces have once again proven, through their



unparalleled bravery, sacrifices, and professionalism, that they are always

prepared to defend the country's soil and borders against any threat," he said.

"This victory is not merely a military operation, but an ideological and moral triumph that has crushed the designs of terrorism."

Dr. Masood urged students and teachers to sustain this spirit of solidarity with defense institutions and to give top priority to national security. Paying homage to the martyrs and their families, he said Pakistan's prosperity and security are indebted to their great sacrifices.

The rally was also attended by Dean Dr. Zafar Javed, Rao Saqib, Madam Tobassum Latif, Madam Nida Ramadan, Madam Nadiya Shameem, Amjad Ali Naz, Malik Umair, Shahab Ali, and Others.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:41 am  
Zohr ..... 12:05 pm  
Asr ..... 4:55 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:55 pm  
Isha ..... 8:28 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 921334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**Top Clerics and Officials Mark One Year of Haq Bunyan Marsus Victory in Faisalabad**

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The conference on the theme of paying tribute to the brave armed forces on the completion of one year of the victory of the Haq Bunyan Marsus, Pakistan's great role in ending the Middle East tension, establishing peace in the country, stability of Pakistan, national unity, harmony and promotion of the message of Pakistan was presided over by Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan / Khatib and Imam of Badshahi Mosque Lahore, Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad. Commissioner Faisalabad Musrat Jabeen, Deputy Commissioner Captain (Rtd) Nadeem Nasir, CPO Sahibzada Bilal Umar, Additional Commissioner Coordination Tanveer Murtaza, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anwar Ali, Admin Officer Riaz Hussain Anjum and other administrative officers were present. Among them were Mufti Zia Madani, Pir Qazi Abdul Ghaffar Qadri, Mufti Fateh Muhammad Rashidi, Allama Muhammad Riaz Khair, Pir Saadat Ali Shah, Mufti Abdul Moeed Asad, Ludhianvi, Bishop of Faisalabad Andreas Rehmat, Father Khalid Rashid, Father Yaqub Yousuf, Maulana Muhammad Yousuf, Maulana Aslam Saqi, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar, Maulana Sikandar Hayat Zaki, Dr. Abdul Hafeez, Qari Khalil Ahmed Salik, Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi, Allama Sajjad Hussain Jawadi, Allama Arshad Abidi, Allama Haider Ali Najafi, Mufti Muhammad Ahmed, Maulana Obaidullah Qadri, Sahibzada Syed Muhammad Abdul Basir Azad, Pir Muhammad Shah Hussain Muhammadi and other scholars participated. Addressing the participants of the conference, Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad said that the beloved homeland Pakistan is a great blessing of Allah Almighty.

# Naval Chief says Pakistan Navy committed to ensure regional maritime security

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. The conference was chaired by Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff, and attended by Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders.

During the conference, Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on maintaining perpetual combat readiness against traditional & non-traditional challenges in the maritime domain. In the backdrop of ongoing situation in the Middle East, he noted emerging threats in the maritime domain including freedom of navigation, potential disruption to vital Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) and volatile maritime security situation across strategic choke-points. Admiral Naveed Ashraf stressed on acquiring niche and cutting-edge technologies as an absolute strategic necessity for Pakistan Navy.

The Naval Chief further underscored Pakistan Navy's pivotal role in



ensuring peace, stability and regional maritime security. He highlighted that PN is providing assurance to maritime community through its presence in GOO.

The forum also commemorated the first anniversary of MARKA-E-HAQ,

paying tribute to the sacrifices made during the May 2025 conflict. The Naval Chief remarked the historic triumph as an enduring testament to national unity and unwavering resolve to defeat any external aggression with iron fist.

The forum undertook a comprehensive

review of the operational preparedness, ongoing initiatives and upcoming events. Discussions remained focused on aligning naval priorities with evolving regional maritime security imperatives to chart a clear course for Operations preparedness across multiple domains

of naval warfare.

The Command and Staff Conference is the apex decision-making forum of Pakistan Navy where Chief of the Naval Staff, Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders deliberate on strategic priorities and policies.

## Growing poverty

ISLAMABAD: People having free food distributed by volunteers in Sector G-8 of the Federal Capital.

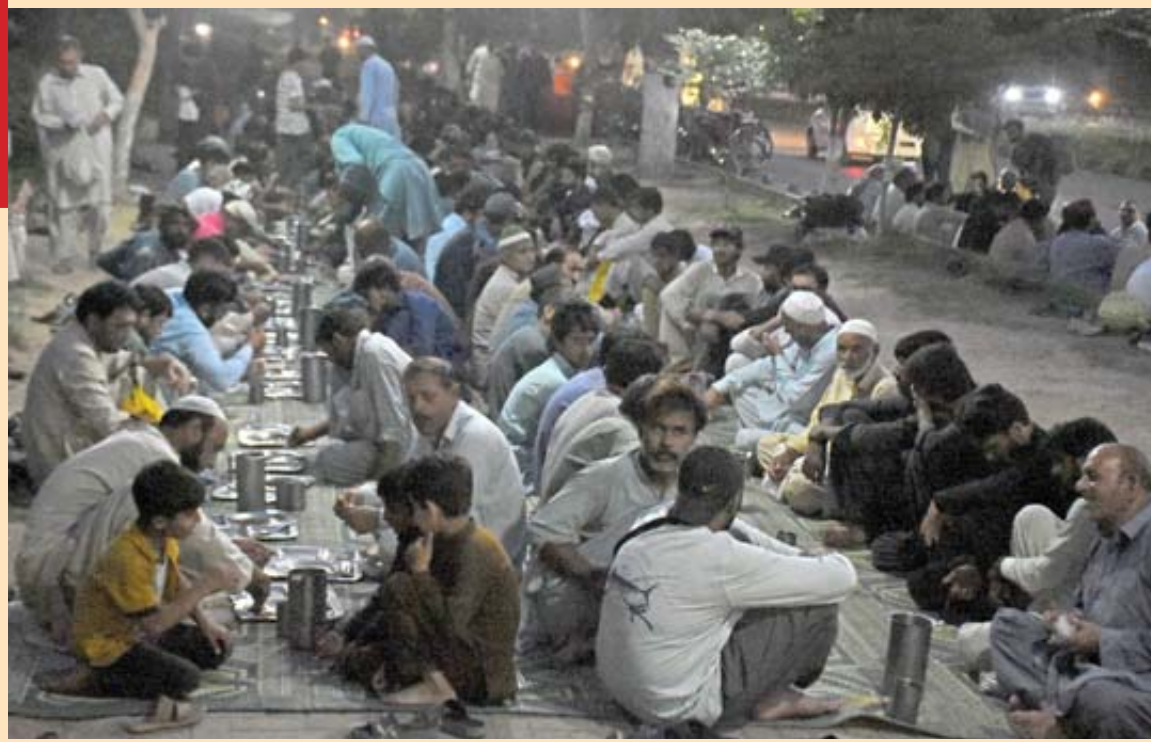


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Pak Media Forum Hosts Virtual Event on Free Press Imperatives



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, observed every year on the 3rd of May, Pak Media Journalist Forum International proudly organized a virtual meeting that brought together journalists, media professionals, analysts, Ambassadors of different countries and advocates from different parts of the world.

The session served as an important platform to highlight the vital role of a free, independent, and responsible media in strengthening democratic values, ensuring transparency, and holding power accountable.

Participants discussed the current global landscape of journalism, shedding light on the increasing challenges faced by media professionals, including censorship, mis-

formation, safety risks, and restrictions on freedom of expression.

The forum also emphasized the importance of unity among journalists and the need to collectively safeguard the principles of ethical journalism in an ever-evolving digital age.

World Press Freedom Day is not just a date, it is a powerful reminder of the fundamental right to freedom of expression and the crucial role of jour-

nalism in shaping informed societies.

During this insightful virtual meeting, speakers shared their perspectives on responsible reporting, the impact of digital media, and the urgent need to combat fake news and disinformation.

The discussion also addressed the safety and protection of journalists, highlighting the risks many face while bringing truth to light.

## Hamdard Shura meeting highlights Islam as a Universal Religion of Peace and Love

CityDesk

RAWALPINDI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan organized a monthly meeting of Hamdard Shura on the theme "Islam... A religion of peace and love" at Hamdard Markaz Rawalpindi. In her message, National President Hamdard Shura Sadia Rashid said that Islam is a universal religion. The word Islam carries the message of peace, tranquility and security. It is a source of mercy and goodness for all humanity. Allah Almighty sent the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a mercy to the worlds. He (PBUH) set a practical example of love, compassion and forgiveness through-



out his life.

Guests of the meeting Special distinguished scholar Dr. Shahzad Iqbal Sham and Speaker Hamdard Shura Intiaz Haider while addressing said that Islam, is a religion of peace

and love. Islam is the name of spreading peace and ruling the hearts of people through love. Islam teaches tolerance and love towards other religions. If the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are followed, hatred

will end and peace will be established in the world. It is a matter of great honor that Pakistan has achieved the honor of stopping the war between two big countries. Islam teaches all nations and societies the lesson of mutual brotherhood and love. Other intellectuals present on the occasion also expressed their views, including Professor Niaz Muhammad Irfan, Professor Zahid Ali Qureshi, Tariq Shaheen, Tanveer Nusrat, Dr. Farhat Abbas, Naem Akram Qureshi, Hakeem Bashir Bhairavi, Dr. Mahmood Ur Rehman. These intellectuals said that the religion of Islam is a natural act of love. Islam is a complete code of life.

## Provided high-quality education to students top priority: Dr. Rao Siddique

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Principal of Divisional Public School Toba Tek Singh, Dr. Rao Muhammad Siddique said that providing high-quality education to students is his top priority and that the school administration is utilizing all available resources to achieve this goal.



Talking to our correspondent, he said that the teaching staff of Divisional Public School is working with dedication, commitment and professional expertise to provide students with quality education in line with modern educational requirements.

Dr. Rao Muhammad Siddique further stated that the school administration is ensuring a conducive environment for the educational and moral development of students so that they may excel not only academically but also in practical life. He urged parents to take an active interest in their children's education and maintain regular contact with the school for better guidance and support. He reaffirmed his commitment that all possible measures will continue to be taken to keep Divisional Public School Toba Tek Singh among the leading educational institutions of the district.

## Zahid Bakhtawari announces rally in support of martyrs

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Zahid Bakhtawari, Group Leader of Central Traders Organization Cantonment Registered Rawalpindi and Chairman Anjuman Shehriyan, addressing a press conference, announced a strong rally in support of martyrs in connection with Operation "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" and "Marka-e-Haq".

The press conference was attended by Sheikh Inayatullah, Rafiq Bhatti, Nazim Yaqoob Butt, Muhammad Rehan, Malik Ahmad Awan, Rao Irfan Shahid, Malik Munir, Farooq Awan, Zahid Khan, Mateen Khan, Sheikh Muhammad Bakhsh, Saadat Khattak, Raja Ibrahim, Naseer Chaudhry, and other trader representatives.

Zahid Bakhtawari said that on May 9 last year, the Pakistan Army gave a strong response to India's cowardly night attack. He added that "the incompetent disciple of Chanakya, Modi, does not even know how to fight a war."

He said the nation is proud of its martyrs and announced a rally on Saturday, May 9. All cantonment trader organizations will gather at Al-Amin Plaza at 4:00 PM, from where the rally led by Zahid Bakhtawari will proceed via Mall Road and GPO, concluding at Ghari Chowk, Bank Road, where trader leaders will address the participants.

He urged maximum participation from traders and citizens.

## ISA and Institute of Regional Studies Host Webinar on "Narrative of Truth"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Information Service Academy (ISA), in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, organized a webinar titled "Narrative of Truth: Media's Role in Building National Resolve" to commemorate Marka-e-Haq and highlight the critical role of media in shaping informed public discourse, promoting national unity, and strengthening collective resolve.

The webinar brought together officers of the 43rd Specialized Training Program\* along with distinguished panelists Maj Gen. Saad Khattak, Mr. Qamar Cheema, General Shahid Mahmood Kiyani, and Ambassador Jauhar Saleem.

The panelists shared insightful perspectives on the importance of truthful narration, responsible journalism, strategic communication, and the media's contribution to national cohesion in the face of contemporary challenges.

The session concluded with remarks by Samina Farzin, Executive Director General, who appreciated the thoughtful contributions of the panelists and participants. She reiterated the importance of such dialogues in building awareness, strengthening institutional understanding, and promoting a narrative rooted in truth, responsibility, and national commitment.

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# Trump's Failed Epic Fury and Triumph of Iran's Resilience

What began as "Epic Fury," a forceful and ambitious operation aimed at reshaping Iran's strategic capabilities, has now transitioned into "Project Freedom," a mission focused on safeguarding maritime routes and restoring the flow of energy through the Strait of Hormuz. Yet this shift reveals a striking contradiction at the heart of the entire conflict. The very waterway now being secured at enormous cost was open and functioning before the war began, exposing a troubling paradox in both purpose and execution.

In modern warfare, such redefinitions of success often reveal the admission of defeat rather than its victory.

Yet the true consequences of this conflict extend far beyond strategy and rhetoric. They are economic, immediate, and global in scope. The war has triggered a chain reaction across energy markets, supply chains, and financial systems, transforming a regional conflict into a worldwide economic shock.

Before the war, many American consumers, including drivers in Michigan, were paying around \$2.40 per gallon for gasoline. Today, the same drivers are paying nearly \$4.60 per gallon. That is an increase of \$2.20 per gallon, or almost 92 percent—a near doubling of the fuel burden on ordinary families. This is not a minor fluctuation or a routine market adjustment. For a 15-gallon tank, the cost has jumped from about \$36 to \$69, meaning one fill-up now costs roughly \$33 more than before.

For millions of families, this is not an abstract economic indicator—it is a daily reality. Every gallon of fuel purchased carries the weight of geopolitical decisions. Transportation costs rise, and with them the price of food, healthcare, clothing, and essential services. Inflation spreads across the economy, eroding purchasing power and increasing the cost of living. Analysts estimate that households are paying thousands of dollars

more annually, not just in fuel but through the cascading effects of inflation that ripple through every sector.

But the cost is not confined to the United States; it is global, systemic, and staggering in scale. Current estimates suggest that the 2026 U. S.—The Iran war has already inflicted a direct loss of around \$3.5 trillion, wiping out over 3 percent of global economic output. Financial markets have reacted even more sharply, with nearly \$12 trillion in global market capitalization erased, reflecting deep uncertainty and loss of investor confidence. At the same time, the International Monetary Fund has downgraded global growth by 0.3 to 1.4 percentage points, warning that the world is approaching

the threshold of a synchronized recession, with worst-case scenarios pushing growth down to nearly 2 percent. The regional toll is equally severe: Arab economies alone have lost between \$120 billion and \$194 billion within a single month, while Asian economies face losses ranging from \$97 billion to \$300 billion as they struggle to absorb energy shocks.

The aviation industry alone has suffered unprecedented losses, with over \$53 billion wiped out in airline market value within weeks, while jet fuel prices have more than doubled from roughly \$830 to over \$1,800 per tonne, adding nearly \$11 billion in additional global operating costs. This has forced massive operational cutbacks, including over

60,000 flight cancellations, and even led to the collapse of major carriers, marking the industry's worst crisis since the pandemic.

At the same time, the global tourism sector—valued at over \$11.7 trillion—is bleeding heavily, with losses of up to \$600 million per day in visitor spending and projected annual declines of \$34 to \$56 billion in the Middle East alone. These disruptions extend far beyond travel, affecting logistics, trade, and essential supply chains worldwide. What began as a regional conflict has thus evolved into a systemic global economic shock, shaking industries, markets, and livelihoods far removed from the battlefield.

The United States and its allies, particularly Israel, initiated a conflict whose consequences have borne not only by the adversary but by the entire world. Ideally, the total cost of such a war should be calculated by an independent international body—quantifying the damage to global GDP, supply chains, and living standards. Those responsible for initiating the conflict should, in principle, be held accountable for the economic consequences imposed on others. Such accountability may never be enforced in practical terms, particularly when it involves global powers, but its acknowledgment remains essential for the credibility of international norms.

The United States, as the world's dominant economic and military power, is unlikely to compensate for these losses. The scale of the damage itself is so vast

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Preparations for Pilgrims' Stay in Mina Enter Final Stages

Preparations in Mina, recognized as the world's largest temporary tent city, have entered their final phase for the upcoming Hajj 2026. Makkah Coordinator Zulfiqar Khan, while media representatives on a tour of model camps, stated that lodging, catering, and other facilities have been arranged according to international standards.

The goal is to ensure that pilgrims can perform their sacred rituals with complete peace of mind and focus.

During the detailed briefing, Zulfiqar Khan highlighted several key upgrades designed for the comfort of the pilgrims.

For the first time, 'sofa-cum-beds' have been introduced in the camps to significantly improve the living experience. To resolve the common issue of pilgrims struggling to find their assigned spots, every tent will feature displayed lists of bed counts, numbering, and the names of the respective pilgrims.

Furthermore, all data has been integrated with the 'Pak Hajj App,' allowing each pilgrim to easily locate their specific camp and bed via their mobile device.

In response to the intense heat, special attention has been given to the air conditioning and ventilation systems within the tents.

High-efficiency air conditioners have been installed for every block of 32 beds, and their performance is being checked on a daily basis.

Additionally, the tents have been equipped with hangers and optimized storage space for luggage to prevent overcrowding and ensure a more spacious environment for the residents.

Regarding healthcare, Khan noted that dedicated dispensaries and medical clinics have been established directly within the camp premises.

These clinics will be staffed around the clock by a doctor and two paramedics, and are fully equipped with oxygen cylinders and essential first-aid medicines for any emergencies.

He credited the close cooperation between the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and Pakistani authorities for completing these comprehensive arrangements well in advance of the pilgrimage.

Zulfiqar Khan emphasized that the entire Ministry of Religious Affairs team is on the ground and ready to serve. He advised pilgrims to focus their energies solely on their worship, as the Government of Pakistan and relevant institutions have taken full responsibility for their stay, health, and comfort.

Deputy Coordinator operations MAKKAH Sadaqat Ali Awan further reinforced this commitment, stating that the mission's priority extends beyond just providing shelter.

He emphasized the goal of providing an environment where Pakistani pilgrims can perform their rituals without any distress.

Awan confirmed that the "Pak Hajj Mission" staff will be available in the field 24/7 to immediately resolve any issues regarding facilities. He reaffirmed that serving Pakistani pilgrims is a religious duty and that no negligence in this regard will be tolerated.



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

## Maarka-e-Haq Reflects National Muscle

History rarely unfolds as a simple chain of events rather, it is shaped in defining moments when nations are compelled to confront existential questions of identity, sovereignty, and destiny. These moments transcend the ordinary—they become epochs of struggle where ideas, conviction, and power converge. Pakistan's history is marked by such decisive phases: from the ideological struggle that led to its creation, to the unresolved Kashmir dispute, from the tragedy of Dhaka to the protracted war against

exchange. Among the speakers, Dr. Yousaf Alamgirian, Editor of Hilal, offered a compelling analysis of contemporary warfare. His central argument—that modern conflict extends far beyond conventional battlefields into the domains of perception, information, and narrative—captures the essence of the strategic shift defining the 21st century.

This observation is critical. In an era shaped by digital media, cyber influence, and psychological operations, the ability to control narratives has become as consequential as the ability to deploy force. Dr. Alamgirian emphasized that without a coherent and credible national narrative, even the most significant military victories risk losing their strategic value. Maarka-e-Haq, in this sense, emerges as an effort to consolidate that narrative—to provide clarity in a space often clouded by distortion and competing interpretations.

Mujtaba Haider Imran's remarks added another dimension to this discussion. He highlighted the book's reliance on evidence-based analysis, a feature that distinguishes it in a landscape often dominated by emotive rhetoric. By grounding its arguments in historical continuity and verifiable facts, the book not only strengthens its intellectual credibility but also positions itself as a reference text for serious readers.

At the core of this exploration lies the Kashmir dispute. Hussain traces its historical evolution with precision, beginning with the political awakening of the 1930s, reflected in the 1934 elections and the establishment of the Praja Sabha. He follows this trajectory through the critical junctures of 1947, including the June 3 Partition Plan and the July 19 resolution advocating accession to Pakistan. This continuity is essential in understanding Kashmir not as a transient political issue, but as a question rooted in the will of its people. The persistent denial of this will, alongside India's departure from United Nations resolutions, is presented as a central factor in the region's enduring instability.

The book also brings into focus the strategic

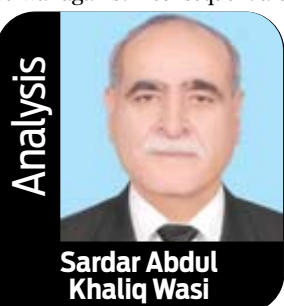
dimension of water—a subject often underestimated in public discourse. By revisiting the origins of the Indus Waters dispute and examining subsequent developments, Maarka-e-Haq highlights how water has evolved into a tool of geopolitical leverage. In a country where agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, the control and flow of river systems originating in Kashmir are not merely technical concerns but matters of national survival.

Equally significant is the book's examination of India's internal contradictions. By shedding light on separatist movements, governance challenges, and the widening gap between projected global image and domestic realities, it presents a nuanced critique of India's position. This analysis is further strengthened by its exploration of media warfare, where misinformation, propaganda, and psychological manipulation are used to construct narratives that often diverge sharply from ground realities.

On the military front, Maarka-e-Haq offers a detailed account of operational synergy across Pakistan's armed forces. It highlights how coordination between the army, navy, and air force has evolved into a defining strength, enabling effective responses to complex challenges. From ground operations to maritime vigilance and aerial superiority, the concept of bunyan al-marsūs finds concrete expression in institutional cohesion and professional excellence.

Brigadier Saulat Raza's characterization of bunyan al-marsūs as the embodiment of national unity captures the spirit that runs through the book. It is a vision of a nation standing as a cohesive whole, where institutional strength and public resolve converge. Such unity, the book suggests, is not incidental; it is cultivated through shared purpose, disciplined organization, and a clear sense of direction.

Ultimately, Maarka-e-Haq is more than a narrative of past and present conflicts. It is an invitation to think critically about the future. It challenges readers to move beyond passive consumption of information and engage with the deeper forces shaping national and regional dynamics. Its central message is both timely and enduring: that the battles defining our era are fought not only on physical frontiers but within the realms of thought, perception, and belief.



Analysis

Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi

## Marka Huq: The Magical Catalyst Behind Pakistan's Rise

Pakistan's trajectory shifts from a reactive and constrained state to one that is confident, assertive, and strategically influential, driven by Marka Huq. Despite longstanding military strength, including nuclear capability, earlier efforts struggled to convert that power into consistent global influence and often remained defensive, particularly toward India. Marka Huq marks a decisive change by enabling rapid, precise, and coordinated responses across multiple

domains, moving beyond deterrence toward actively shaping security outcomes. This transformation strengthens Pakistan's credibility and amplifies its voice internationally, allowing it to engage major powers such as the United States and Iran with greater autonomy and contribute to de-escalation efforts, signaling a broader role in regional and global stability.

This rise in confidence extends into diplomacy, moral positioning, and economic opportunity. Pakistan's advocacy for oppressed groups gains greater attention as its global standing improves, strengthening its influence within the Islamic world and among developing nations seeking independent paths. At the same time, its defense capabilities gain international recognition, turning

previously overlooked military products into highly sought-after assets after demonstrated effectiveness. Strategic partnerships, particularly with countries like Saudi Arabia and others in the Gulf, expand into full-spectrum security cooperation, while interest grows across regions including Southeast Asia and Africa. This momentum transforms the defense sector into a major economic driver, increasing exports, boosting innovation, and reinforcing Pakistan's position as both a security provider and an emerging force in global affairs.

This economic prosperity, however, is only one part of the equation. The deepest and most profound impact of Marka Huq is on the psyche of the Pakistani people. For a nation that has endured so much—decades of political instability, the trauma of the 1971 separation, the horror of the war on terror, the constant threat of terrorism, and the humiliation of being labeled an international pariah—Marka Huq is a spiritual and psychological liberation that continues to unfold. The people of Pakistan, from the bustling streets of Karachi to the serene valleys of Hunza, from the industrial hubs of Faisalabad to the ancient alleys of Lahore, feel a surge of pride unlike anything they have experienced in their lifetimes. This is not the hollow pride of

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Poland's National Day marked

# Pakistan playing constructive diplomatic role, says Polish Envoy

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan, H.E. Maciej Pisarski, has praised Pakistan's diplomatic role in addressing tensions in the Middle East, saying Islamabad has emerged as a constructive mediator in efforts aimed at regional de-escalation.

"We have witnessed yet another conflict reverberating through the Middle East with global consequences. In this case, Pakistan has stepped in as a mediator, working with the concerned parties to find a solution to the conflict through diplomacy and dialogue," Ambassador Pisarski said.

"The Islamabad Process has already contributed to de-escalation. We sincerely keep our fingers crossed for the success of the mediation effort led by Pakistan," he added while addressing a gathering at a reception hosted by the Polish Embassy in Islamabad to mark Poland's National Day.

Federal Minister for Water Resources Mian Muhammad Mueen Wattoo attended the event as chief guest, while Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik was the guest of honour.

Among other distinguished participants were Ayesha Ali, Additional Secretary (Europe) at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamo, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad; diplomats from the European Union



and other missions, business leaders, and media representatives.

In his address, Ambassador Pisarski delivered a reflective and forward-looking speech, highlighting the enduring significance of Poland's Third May Constitution of 1791 and the strengthening partnership between Poland and Pakistan.

He described the 1791 Constitution as a symbol of Poland's historic commitment to freedom, self-determination, and civic empowerment, values that have inspired generations of Poles for more than two centuries.

Possibly delivering his final National Day address in Islamabad after more than four and

a half years in Pakistan, Ambassador Pisarski adopted a personal tone, reflecting on his diplomatic journey and experiences in the country.

"There has never been a dull moment in Islamabad," he remarked, adding that his tenure was marked by "unique moments, exceptional encounters and unforeseen experiences" that transformed his understanding of Pakistan and its people.

Placing his remarks within an increasingly complex global environment, the ambassador voiced concern over ongoing international crises, including the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

He reiterated Poland's firm

support for international law, sovereignty, and the principles of justice and self-determination.

Referring again to developments in the Middle East, he noted that Pakistan's diplomatic engagement had offered hope for peaceful conflict resolution through dialogue.

On bilateral relations, Ambassador Pisarski said Poland-Pakistan ties were on an upward trajectory, particularly after the October 2025 visit of Poland's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski to Islamabad.

He said high-level engagements with Pakistan's leadership, including President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister



Shehbaz Sharif, and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, had opened a "new chapter" in bilateral cooperation.

The ambassador also highlighted growing security cooperation, referring to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's February visit to Poland, which strengthened joint efforts against transnational threats.

On the economic front, he noted that bilateral trade had crossed \$1.3 billion, calling it a "GSP Plus success story," and expressed optimism about further growth, particularly in Polish exports and investment.

He also acknowledged the role of the Orlen Group in Pakistan's energy sector, citing its investment in gas exploration projects in Sindh that have contributed to local energy production and capacity building.

Beyond diplomacy and trade, Ambassador Pisarski emphasized people-to-people connections as the most meaningful legacy of his tenure.

He highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the embassy, including educational projects in



Islamabad and northern areas, vocational training programmes, and partnerships with women's organisations in Hunza to promote empowerment and safe working spaces.

Cultural diplomacy also featured prominently, with initiatives promoting Polish music, arts, and mountaineering heritage in Pakistan.

Ambassador Pisarski recalled the legacy of renowned Polish climber Wanda Rutkiewicz, the first woman to summit K2, as a symbol of the long-standing bond between Polish and Paki-

stani climbing communities. In his concluding remarks, he expressed gratitude to his wife, embassy staff, local partners, and the people of Pakistan for their support and friendship throughout his tenure.

He fondly recalled visits to Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Skardu, and Hunza, describing Pakistan as a country whose "vivid and authentic image" would remain with him.

Closing his speech in Urdu, he said: "Hamari Pakistani dostou - bohut shukria aur Pak-Poland dosti zindabad."

Hamdard Shura Meeting

## Islamic Doctrine: Deterrence, Peace, and Ethical Limits of Conflict

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The most important Islamic principle for a Muslim state is that its neighbours should feel safe from it. At the same time, the state must be strong enough in defence to discourage any aggression. In modern terms, this is called deterrence. The Holy Qur'an also instructs Muslims to maintain strength and preparedness so that other states are kept in check.

Renowned writer and historian Prof. Dr. Nigar Sajjad Zaheer expressed these views yesterday as the chief guest during a meeting of the Hamdard Shura Karachi chapter, titled: "Islam is a Religion of Peace and Love," at the



Hamdard Corporate Head Office. The former Governor of Sindh and Speaker Shura, Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider, presided over the proceedings. Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard

Foundation Pakistan, was also present.

Brig (r) Tariq Khalil highlighted that the younger generation is increasingly drifting away from Islamic values in practical life. Neglect of moral educa-

tion, history, and language in academic institutions has distanced students from their cultural and intellectual roots.

Dr. Amjad Jafri stated that many people neither fully understand Islamic teachings nor implement them in their daily lives. As a result, the true message of peace, love, and tolerance remains absent in society, and minor differences escalate into conflicts.

Gen. (r) Moinuddin Haider, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Cdre (r) Sadeed Anwar Malik, Engineer Ibn-ul-Hassan, Prof. Dr. Aamir Tauseen, Brig (r) Dr. Riaz-ul-Haq, and Deputy Speaker Shura, Col (r) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt also expressed their views.

## EU Backs Push for Gender-Responsive Budgets in KP and Balochistan Justice Systems

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Through European Union financing and support, UN Women Pakistan convened a high-level policy dialogue on gender-responsive budgeting in justice sector institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, bringing together key stakeholders to strengthen equitable, accountable and evidence-based public finance systems.

The dialogue focused on translating fiscal evidence into actionable reforms by examining how provincial budget allocations shape women's access to justice and protection services. Insights from the Gender Analysis of Provincial Budgets FY 2025-26 underscored a critical gap between increased overall spending and limited targeted investment in gender-responsive services



within the justice sector.

In his keynote remarks, Jeroen Willems, Head of Cooperation to the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, underscored the importance of aligning financial systems with justice sector reform and said, "Gender-responsive budgeting is not merely a technical exercise.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Fahmida

Iqbal Khan, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan, emphasized the need to translate investments into justice outcomes and stated,

In his remarks, Mr. Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, highlighted the importance of institutional accountability within justice systems and said,

The event concluded with a shared commitment to advance gender-responsive public finance reforms within the justice sector, ensuring that future provincial budget allocations translate into improved access to justice, protection services, and institutional responsiveness for women and girls in KP and Balochistan.

The dialogue was convened under the European Union-funded programme "Promoting Rule of Law and Enhancing the Criminal Justice System in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Newly Merged Districts and Balochistan," with a total value of approximately USD 20 million, implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNODC to strengthen rule of law and expand equitable access to justice, particularly for women and marginalized groups.

### BZU Accounting & Finance Students Go Beyond Books, Dive into Social Welfare Operations



Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: Bachelor of Science Accounting & Finance Students of BZU Multan Visit Social Welfare Institute to Study Social Operations Students of BS Accounting & Finance Department of Commerce, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, visited Social Complex on as part of their academic fieldwork to gain practical insight into the social services of welfare organizations.

The educational visit was supervised by the chairman department of commerce prof Dr asif yaseen Prof. Dr. Sadiq Shahid, Mam Shazia Hanif, and Mr. Muhammad Ashraf from the Department of Commerce, BZU Multan. The objective was to bridge classroom learning with real-world practices of social accountability in the non-profit sector.

During the visit, the management of Institutes briefed the students on their operational models challenges in delivering sustainable welfare services. The students also toured the facility and interacted with residents and staff to understand daily administrative.

### DSP Ch Razaqat Ali Visits SLS College; Emphasizes Road Safety at Traffic Awareness Seminar

News Desk

JHELUM: District Officer, Punjab Highway Patrol, DSP Chaudhry Razaqat Ali Gujjar, visited SLS College Jhelum and delivered a comprehensive address at a traffic awareness seminar, underscoring the critical importance of adherence to road safety regulations among students.



In his address, the DSP advised motorists to ensure the use of protective helmets, refrain from over-speeding and one-wheeling, and maintain their vehicles through regular inspection of brakes and tyres.

The seminar was also attended by Mubashir Nazeer Qureshi, President Punjab Youth Council, who highlighted the significance of responsible driving and strict observance of traffic rules. A student, Rehan, also expressed appreciation for the informative session and acknowledged the efforts of the chief guest.

## IIUI Conference calls for policy action on AI and decolonial education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad concluded its two-day international conference Caliban Speaks on Wednesday with a call to move decolonial thought out of academic halls and into policy chambers, warning that artificial intelligence has emerged as the newest frontier of epistemic extraction and that Indigenous knowledge systems must be defended within it as urgently

as anywhere else.

The closing session, presided over by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Vice President for Research and Enterprise at IIUI, brought together the conference's central intellectual threads into a set of formal recommendations that organisers said would be submitted to relevant policy forums for a concrete action plan.

The recommendations were presented by Co-Convenor Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz Dasti. They were pointed: humani-

ties curricula must incorporate economic literacy so that decoloniality engages the material structures of power rather than remaining symbolic. On artificial intelligence, the conference was direct.

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, in his closing address, reoriented the two days of proceedings around the individual as the irreducible starting point of any decolonial project. He proposed a three-circle framework: at the centre stands the human being;

the second circle encompasses society and the universe; the third reaches beyond the universe entirely. Indigenous thought, he argued, is the organising principle holding all three in relation.

Dr. Asma Mansoor, convener of the conference, reiterated the conviction that had framed its opening: decoloniality must break free of its discursive strait-jacket and become a lived, material practice. Theory without praxis, she said, is performance. IIUI's own archive of Persian,

Arabic, and Islamic scholarship.

The second panel discussion on decolonising technologies brought together scholars and technologists including Dr. Muneera Bano of CSIRO's Data61 laboratory in Australia, examining the tensions that emerge when decolonial aspiration meets technological infrastructure.

Dr. Saiyima Aslam, Chairperson of the Department of English and Co-Convenor, delivered the vote of thanks,



expressing gratitude to IIUI's Acting Rector and President Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed for his patronage, to the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan for

its support, and to the organising committee and faculty for their tireless efforts. Certificates were distributed and formal proceedings concluded.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
171,704.75	164,742.47
Day's High	Day's Low
172,088.58	167,354.44
Index Value	Change
48,679,490,492	+6962.28
Percentage	Time
+4.23%	6 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,438.66	+219.55
Percentage	Time
+2.15%	6 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,801.01	+502.76
Percentage	Time
+1.02%	6 May, 1:46 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	200.06	207.47
Bahrain Dinar	732.45	747.44
Canadian Dollar	203.83	209.85
China Yuan	40.05	40.30
Danish Krone	43.30	43.70
Euro	326.93	332.21
Hong Kong Dollar	35.10	36.05
Indian Rupee	2.40	2.60
Japanese Yen	1.7559	1.8568
Kuwaiti Dinar	880.45	890.28
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.75
New Zealand \$	161.85	166.70
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	722.95	738.05
Qatari Riyal	74.40	75.20
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	76	77
UK Pound Sterling	378.79	383.90
US Dollar	279.00	279.75

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif introduces first-ever Provincial General & Life Insurance Companies

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE, 06 MAY 2026: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted while chairing a meeting on the establishment of Punjab General Insurance Company that Punjab has once again exceeded other provinces by becoming first in the country to introduce a general insurance company, a jsummary for which has been sent to the provincial cabinet for seeking approval. She noted that Punjab Life Insurance Company has also earned an honor of getting the fastest registration from SECP in the history of Pakistan. She said that Punjab Life Insurance Company will provide protection to citizens of every class and income level

in Punjab by introducing specialized insurance plans for dependents, family members, women, transgender persons, farmers, students, and overseas Pakistanis. She added that through natural disaster coverage, pension products, health insurance for the deserving, and Sharia-compliant Takaful, financial protection will be provided to every segment of society. She underscored that recruitment of 17 professional experts for Punjab Life Insurance Company, and its financial backing has been completed; and operations have commenced.

Chief Minister Punjab said that CEO of Punjab Life Insurance Company will also serve as the CEO of Punjab General Insurance Company. Authorities convened gave her

a detailed briefing on matters related to Punjab Life Insurance Company and Punjab General Insurance Company.

Chief Minister Punjab formed a special committee for Punjab General Insurance Company; which will be responsible for the non-life insurance of all government institutions under the supervision of Finance Department, besides also including private sector in the insurance plan. She directed the relevant authorities to present a comprehensive health insurance policy plan, and said that a board for Punjab General Insurance Company, comprising Chairman P&D, Secretary Finance, and President of Punjab Bank will be constituted.



## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Bolormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director of the World Bank, calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Cheema on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Fauji Fertilizer Company holds Second Corporate Briefing for Year 2026

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) held its second Corporate Briefing for year 2026, reinforcing its commitment to transparency, investor engagement and strong corporate governance practices.

The virtual session, conducted from FFC's Corporate Head Office in Rawalpindi, covered the Company's financial and operational performance for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. Participation from leading analysts and institutional investors reflected continued stakeholder interest. Access details had been shared in advance through an official intimation dated April 28, 2026.

Opening the session, Brigadier Khuram Shahzada, SI(M) (Retd), Company Secretary, highlighted the importance of such briefings in enhancing transparency, strengthening investor confidence and enabling informed decision-making.



Chief Financial Officer Syed Atif Ali presented a comprehensive overview of first-quarter 2026 performance, highlighting key achievements, operational efficiencies and resilience amid evolving market conditions. He also shared insights on financial indicators, strategic priorities and the Company's outlook.

An interactive Q&A session followed, where the CFO addressed participants' queries, reflecting FFC's open engagement approach. He reiterated the Company's focus on operational excellence, sustained financial performance, efficient resource utilization and long-term value creation for stakeholders.

## Moving from Revenue Extraction to Growth-Driven Prosperity, Stressed Mian Zahid

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: As the Government of Pakistan finalizes the federal budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman Budget Advisory Council of FPCCI, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum & All Karachi Industrial Alliance, Chairman National Business Group Pakistan, Chairman Policy Advisory Board FPCCI, and Former Provincial Minister Information Technology, has called for a fundamental shift in national economic policymaking. He emphasized that the country's long-term sustainability relies on fostering an economy-driven revenue model rather than continuing with a revenue-driven economy.

Speaking on the current macroeconomic landscape, Mian Zahid Hussain highlighted that Pakistan's economy has reached a critical juncture with the nominal GDP approaching Rs 110 trillion



to Rs 115 trillion (\$411 billion), and initial targets for the next fiscal year propose an economic growth target of 5.1 percent. Despite this potential, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has faced a shortfall of over Rs 680 billion in the current fiscal year due to regional supply chain disruptions and import constraints. This shortfall, he noted, is a

direct result of relying on heavy taxation on a small base instead of facilitating broader economic expansion.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that a revenue-driven economic policy attempts to bridge fiscal deficits through aggressive enforcement and higher levies on existing taxpayers. This approach ultimately stifles industrial growth, hurts domestic commerce, and encourages capital flight. He stressed that burdening the formal sector creates an unsustainable environment where revenue collection targets are persistently missed, even as the tax targets are escalated to over Rs 15.5 trillion for the next period.

Mian Zahid Hussain urged the Govt to prioritize pro-growth reforms in the upcoming budget. He added that the prosperity of Pakistan's vital SME sector and industries will naturally increase government revenues and resolve long-standing fiscal imbalances.

## TECNO Launches SPARK 50 in Pakistan with 7000mAh Battery and Durable Design



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: TECNO has launched the SPARK 50 in Pakistan, a value-driven smartphone designed for long-lasting battery performance, durability, and reliable connectivity. Available at an accessible price segment, the device combines a 7000mAh battery, 120Hz display, and modern design to support everyday usage.

The SPARK 50 features a 7000mAh long-lasting battery with AI intelligent charging for improved efficiency and long-term battery health. With up to 1200

charge cycles and bypass charging technology, it is built for extended usage while managing heat during intensive tasks. The device delivers up to 44 hours of WhatsApp calling and 29 hours of YouTube playback.

Built for durability, the smartphone comes with SGS Five-Star Drop Resistance Certification and IP64-rated dust and splash resistance, ensuring reliability in daily use. Connectivity is enhanced through advanced antenna optimization and AI-powered call noise cancellation for clearer communication.

## Tashkent to host 5th CIS Islamic Banking & Finance Forum

**Commerce Desk**

DUBAI, UAE: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE), a globally recognized Advisory, Consultancy, and Capacity-Building Organization in Islamic finance, has announced the organization of the 5th CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum, scheduled to take place on July 09, 2026, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The forum will be held under the theme "Advancing Islamic Finance for Sustainable Growth Across CIS," bringing together Regulators, Central Banks, Financial Institutions, Investors, Shariah Scholars, and Industry Experts from across

the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and beyond. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE), stated: "The CIS region is emerging as a strategic frontier for Islamic finance, with Uzbekistan playing a pivotal role in this transformation."

Zaib-un-Nisa, Regional Lead - Islamic Finance Development Division (CIS) at AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE), added: "Our focus is on Bridging Knowledge Gaps and Building Local Capacity to support the development of a strong and resilient Islamic Finance Ecosystem."

## HubSalt signs agreement with China's LIVOLTEK for Hybrid Solar-Battery System

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: In a significant move towards industrial energy independence, local industry leader HubSalt has signed a landmark agreement with China's LIVOLTEK to deploy a hybrid solar and battery storage system at its facility.

The engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract has been awarded to Optimisen Pvt Ltd, which is spearheading the project in collaboration with its Chinese technology partner, LIVOLTEK. The agreement was formalized by LIVOLTEK's Asia

Pacific Director, Max Ma, and HubSalt CEO Ismail Suttar. Yasir Mehdi Khan, CEO of OPTIMISEN, was also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, HubSalt Chief Executive Officer Ismail Suttar termed the project a "transformative step" for the company and a benchmark for the wider industrial sector.

LIVOLTEK's Asia Pacific Director Max Ma and the CEO of Optimisen also underscored the significance of the green energy project and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring its completion ahead of schedule.

### PIDE seminar stresses urgent industrial transformation for global competitiveness

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on Wednesday highlighted the urgent need for industrial transformation to enhance Pakistan's global competitiveness at a seminar titled "Industrial Competitiveness in Pakistan."

Speaking as keynote speaker, Usman Khan, Deputy Team Lead - REMIT and Director of the Technology for People Initiative (TPI) at LUMS, said manufacturing remained central to economic growth, employment and export competitiveness despite the global shift toward services.

He said Pakistan, once ahead of countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and South Korea in GDP per capita and exports, has gradually lost its edge, with the industrial sector stagnating over the decades.

He said labour has shifted directly from agriculture to low-productivity informal services instead of manufacturing - a trend he termed "premature deindustrialization," adversely affecting youth employment, export diversification and long-term productivity.

He stressed that modern exports were increasingly driven by capabilities and innovation, underscoring the need for human capital development and technical skills.

He emphasized that industrial policy must move beyond short-term subsidies to focus on productivity, technological upgrading, workforce training, strategic sector support and integration into global value chains.

Earlier, Dr Amjad Masood, Chief of Research and Director CEI at PIDE, said sustainable growth depends on a competitive industrial base aligned with global standards and supply chains.

The seminar concluded with an interactive discussion on industrial policy, technology adoption and pathways to a more competitive and diversified economy.

# DG Sports Punjab announces 16 free sports academies across the province

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Taking a major step for the promotion of sports, Sports Board Punjab has announced to open 16 free sports academies across the province. Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi made this revolutionary announcement while presiding over an important meeting of coaches at the National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday.

Director Sports Chand Perveen, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi informed that all the sports academies will be free for players. "It is for the first time in the country's history that 16 sports academies are being opened for free for male and female athletes across



the province."

Sharing more details of academies, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that these sports academies will be established in all divisions and districts of

Punjab province. "These academies will play a major role in identifying highly talented male and female athletes from grassroots level".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi stated that

all the sports academies will be inaugurated soon. The free academies include boxing, athletics, swimming, table tennis, badminton, football, hockey, archery, wushu, karate, judo, taekwondo, tennis, squash, cricket and laser run.

# Livoltek Strengthens Market Leadership with Landmark 2.35MWh BESS Deployment at Hub Salt Refinery

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Reinforcing its position as a global leader in advanced energy storage and solar solutions, Livoltek has announced the signing of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), alongside the EPC agreement between Hub Salt and Optimisen, for the deployment of a 2.35MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) integrated with a 1.44MW solar PV system at the Hub Salt Refinery in Sindh. Powered by Livoltek's advanced technology, this milestone marks the company's first high-capacity BESS deployment in Pakistan and underscores its growing footprint in South Asia.

The project will be executed by Optimisen as the EPC partner, combining advanced engineering expertise with Livoltek's cutting-edge energy storage solutions. Representing a transformative step in Hub Salt's operational evolution, the initiative will transition the facility from a fully diesel-dependent, off-grid setup to a clean, efficient hybrid solar-plus-storage energy system—driving sustainability, energy independence, and long-term cost efficiency.

Designed as a sophisticated off-grid hybrid energy system, the solution integrates high-efficiency lithium-based storage with optimized charge-discharge cycles and intelligent Energy Management Systems (EMS) for real-time monitoring and predictive control. The system enables peak shaving, load shifting, and rapid response for backup and grid stabilization. Its modular and scalable architecture supports future expansion, while robust safety features and advanced thermal management ensure reliable

performance in demanding industrial environments.

Beyond technological advancement, the project delivers significant economic and environmental impact. It is expected to displace approximately 360,000 liters of diesel annually, reducing reliance on imported fuel and directly contributing to import substitution and easing pressure on Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves. Additionally, the system will offset over 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year—equivalent to planting more than 90,000 trees—reinforcing commitments to climate action and sustainable development. The initiative also positions Hub Salt to participate in global carbon markets, with the potential to generate verified carbon credits under internationally recognized standards such as Verra and Gold Standard.

This project marks a defining milestone for Pakistan's industrial energy transition. It demonstrates how forward-looking companies can align operational efficiency with environmental responsibility while strengthening industrial competitiveness and national energy resilience. For Livoltek, it establishes a strong market entry for high-performance BESS solutions. For Optimisen, it represents one of its most technically advanced and largest EPC undertakings to date. For Hub Salt, it reinforces leadership in sustainable manufacturing and innovation-driven growth.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Max Ma, Director Sales, Livoltek, stated: "We are proud to see Livoltek's BESS technology serving as the backbone of this landmark project at Hub Salt. This deployment demonstrates that renew-



able energy, supported by advanced storage, can serve as a primary power source for industrial operations in Pakistan. Building on this momentum, we are committed to executing additional BESS projects across the country, with a target to deploy approximately 20 MW of BESS-related capacity this year—supporting Pakistan's transition toward more efficient, reliable, and sustainable energy systems."

Mr. Ismail Suttar, CEO, Hub Salt, added: "This project marks a transformative shift in our operational strategy as we move away from diesel dependency toward a cleaner and more sustainable energy model. By integrating advanced renewable technologies, we are not only improving our operational resilience but also setting a benchmark for clean energy adoption in Pakistan's industrial sector. This initiative reflects our long-term vision to lead through sustainable industrial practices while contributing to national priorities such as energy security and reduced fuel imports."

Mr. Faisal Mehdi Khan, Director Technical, Optimisen, concluded: "Optimisen is proud to deliver this flagship project

as the EPC partner, ensuring seamless integration of solar PV and advanced BESS technologies with the highest engineering standards. This collaboration sets a new benchmark for industrial energy projects in Pakistan and opens pathways for scaling similar deployments nationwide. We remain committed to supporting the broader adoption of energy storage solutions and building a more resilient, future-ready energy ecosystem."

This strategic collaboration underscores a shared commitment to accelerating renewable energy adoption and redefining industrial power systems in Pakistan. As energy demands continue to rise, the integration of solar PV and BESS at Hub Salt sets a precedent for reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible energy solutions across the industrial sector.

Looking ahead, the next phase of development is expected to further scale energy storage capacity and expand the adoption of advanced Energy Management Systems—setting new standards for intelligent energy management in Pakistan's evolving energy landscape.

## Capacity building, leadership skills and skill development programs to be organized for youth: Secretary Sports Punjab

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman has presided over an important meeting regarding youth policy at the Punjab Stadium on Wednesday. The measures relating to National Youth Policy 2026 were reviewed in detail during the meeting.



Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Admin Abid Shaikat, Director Youth Affairs M Fahad, Deputy Director Shaista Qaiser and other officials were also present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman said that programs like capacity building, leadership skills and skill development will be organized to increase the skills of the youth. "Career counseling of youth is essential for their true growth and in this regard, all colleges and universities will have to focus on relevant initiatives".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman further said that all necessary measures will be taken for registration and organization of youth so that they can lead a respectable life. "Punjab Youth Affairs and Sports Department is fully focusing on youth development and in this regard several initiatives are being taken for the welfare of youth".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman further said that Nishtar Park Sports Complex will be made state-of-the-art. "Besides, several other modifications, a jogging track will also be constructed at Nishtar Park Sports Complex".

## Anas Ali Shah Clinches PSA Satellite Men's Singles Title; Damia Khan Shine in National Junior Squash Championship

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan's Anas Ali Shah emerged victorious in the men's singles category of the PSA Satellite Men's Squash Championship, while several young talents claimed top honours in the 2nd Public School Hyderabad National Junior Squash Championship across multiple categories.



In the women's event, Sindh's Damia Khan secured the title, while Punjab's Abdullah Nadeem triumphed in the Boys Under-19 category. Huzaifa Shahid of SNGPL claimed the Boys Under-15 crown, and Sindh's M Bin Naseem won the Boys Under-11 title.

The closing ceremony was graced by Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, who distributed prizes among the winners along with Ghulam Nabi Morai and Iqbal Memon, who also serves as Secretary of the Hyderabad Squash Association. Several other dignitaries, including Naveed Rehman, former secretary Mohammad Amir, Senior Vice President Shabbir Gul, Rehan Sheikh, referees and officials, were also present.

All finals were played at the gymnasium of Public School Hyderabad under the supervision of the Sindh Squash Association.

According to the results, Anas Ali Shah defeated Anas Khan in a thrilling five-set encounter to claim the PSA Satellite title. The match ended 3-2 in Shah's favour, with set scores of 11-2, 11-8, 12-10, 7-11, and 12-10.

In the women's final, Damia Khan dominated Vaishnavi with a straight-sets victory, winning 11-4, 12-10, 11-7.

The Boys Under-19 final saw Abdullah Nadeem overcome Sindh's Abdul Basit in a hard-fought contest. Nadeem clinched the first set 18-16 in a tense battle before sealing the next two sets 11-9 and 11-7 to win the title.

In the Boys Under-15 final, Huzaifa Shahid outclassed Army's Faizan Khan in straight sets, winning 11-8, 12-10, 11-4.

Meanwhile, in the Boys Under-11 final, M Bin Naseem defeated Aban Khan 3-1, with set scores of 11-6, 1-11, 11-8, and 11-4.

It is worth mentioning that the total prize money for the four categories of the National Junior Squash Championship was PKR 100,000, while the PSA Satellite Men's Championship carried a prize purse of \$1,000.

## Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament.

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: The 5th round of the three day matches of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament begins on Wednesday at the various Grounds of the City. The Tournament is being organised by Pakistan Cricket Board.



The highlights of the first day was brilliant Unbeaten Centuries by 118 by Umar Farooq, 106 by Aibaad Khan 106. Afnan Khan 102 and Unbeaten 99 by Shah Raza Naqvi, and Some good bowling by Medium Pacer Bahadur Ali 4/30 Muhammad Raza 4/51 and right arm leg spinner Arif Yaqoob 4/72.

The Following are the Summarised Scores Close of Play First Day:

# Trump's Failed Epic Fury and Triumph of Iran's Resilience

**Continued from Page 4**

that even the largest economy could not fully absorb it. Yet acknowledging responsibility is not merely about financial repayment—it is about recognizing the consequences of decisions that affect billions of lives.

The transition from "Epic Fury" to "Project Freedom" marks the transformation of a conflict from an ambitious attempt at strategic dominance into a complex struggle to manage its own unintended consequences.

Yet this war has revealed something

even more profound. It has demonstrated that power in the 21st century is no longer defined solely by the scale of conventional military strength. A country like Iran—subjected for decades to sanctions, technological isolation, and sustained economic pressure—has shown that resilience, adaptability, and strategic innovation can offset overwhelming conventional disadvantages. By shifting the nature of warfare toward asymmetric, technology-driven, and decentralized systems, it has challenged long-held assumptions about what it means to be powerful.

This is not merely a regional lesson; it is a global inflection point. It signals to middle and emerging powers that sovereignty and strategic independence no longer require matching superpowers in aircraft carriers, fighter jets, or traditional defense systems. Instead, the balance of power is increasingly shaped by resilience, ingenuity, and the ability to adapt to a new model of warfare—one that is less visible, less predictable, and far more difficult to dominate.

Perhaps this moment will stand as a turning point—the last time a superpower enters a war driven by the assumption

that overwhelming military strength alone guarantees decisive outcomes. The failure of "Epic Fury" suggests otherwise. It compels a fundamental recalibration of power, strategy, and consequence, reminding the world that in the 21st century, wars are not won by force alone—and that even the mightiest nations must reckon with the limits of their power.

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.

# Marka Huq: The Magical Catalyst Behind Pakistan's Rise

**Continued from Page 4**

flag-waving nationalism; it is the deep, earned pride of a people who have seen their nation tested by fire and emerge as pure gold.

The name "Marka Huq" has become a shorthand for national rejuvenation. Grandparents tell stories of the event to their grandchildren, not as a tale of war, but as a tale of awakening.

School textbooks have been rewritten to include chapters on the strategic brilliance displayed, not to glorify conflict, but to teach the principles of courage, preparation, and principled response.

The armed forces of Pakistan, which had always been respected, are now revered on a whole new level.

They are not just the protectors of the borders; they are the architects of a new national destiny. The people feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and admiration for the men and women in uniform who brought these proud days to Pakistan.

Parades are held, medals are awarded, and the nation collectively embraces its military as the ultimate expression of its sovereignty and capability. But the pride is not limited to the mili-

tary. Every Pakistani feels a part of the achievement.

The engineer who designs a component for the JF-17, the coder who writes software for the command-and-control systems, the diplomat who negotiates the Iranian-US back-channel, the farmer who pays his taxes, the teacher who instills patriotism in her students—all of them know that they are contributing to the ecosystem that made Marka Huq possible.

This collective pride manifests in tangible ways.

There is a marked decrease in the brain drain; young, educated

Pakistanis who had been planning to emigrate to the West are now reconsidering, seeing a future in a country that is finally on the rise. Investment, both domestic and foreign, continues to pour in. The stock market rallies.

Confidence in the national currency strengthens. The national cricket team plays with a new ferocity, and when a player like Haris Rauf signals 6-0 or mimes a plane crash, the nation erupts not in mere sportive joy but in the reaffirmation of a hard-won national truth. The artists, the poets, the filmmakers

have all turned their gaze inward, producing works that celebrate the new Pakistan.

A cultural renaissance is underway, fueled by the enduring energy of Marka Huq. The people believe, with every fiber of their being, that the day is not far off when this proven strength—this combination of military prowess, diplomatic acumen, and national unity—will pay the country back in full. They believe that the prosperity they dreamed of for seventy years is finally within reach. They see a future where Pakistan is not just secure, but economically vibrant; not just respected, but

admired; not just a player, but a leader.

The nation has been given a gift—the gift of confidence—and it is determined to use that gift to build a better life for every single citizen. The feeling is unanimous: Marka Huq is not an end; it is a beginning. It is the magical catalyst that has unlocked Pakistan's potential, and now, with that potential unleashed, nothing seems impossible. The world has taken notice, the weak have found a champion, the enemy has been put on notice, and the people of Pakistan, for the first time in a long time, look to the

future not with anxiety, but with the unshakable, joyous certainty that their best days are still ahead.

The name Pakistan, once whispered with caution, is now declared with pride across every continent, and the entire nation stands ready every single morning to write the next, even more glorious chapters of its story. From the halls of the United Nations to the cricket grounds of Melbourne, from the mediation tables in Tehran to the defense expos in Riyadh, the message is clear and consistent: Pakistan has arrived, it has proven itself, and it will never go back.

## Paigham e Islam Conference

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani addressing as Chief Guest at 6th International "Paigham-E-Islam" Conference at Jinnah Convention Centre on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

## Aurangzeb calls CMDF launch a 'milestone', stresses reforms to deepen capital markets

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Wednesday, termed the launch of the Capital Market Development Fund (CMDF) a "milestone" and urged coordinated reforms to deepen, broaden and modernize Pakistan's capital markets.

Addressing the CMDF signing ceremony organized by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the finance minister said strong capital markets are essential for sustainable economic growth, mobilizing savings and unlocking long-

term financing for key sectors. Aurangzeb said the initiative reflects a collective resolve across institutions rather than any single entity, emphasizing that "robust capital markets are engines of sustainable growth" that enable capital formation, risk-sharing and financing for infrastructure and startups.

He outlined four key areas of focus, including the broader capital market framework, the balance between equity and debt markets, the regulatory role of SECP, and the importance of partnerships among stakeholders.

Linking economic strategy to recent global and regional developments, the minister



said Pakistan must draw lessons from ongoing challenges. He stressed that commercial reserves alone are insufficient, calling for the creation of strategic reserves

to strengthen economic resilience.

He also underlined the need to accelerate investment in renewable energy, including solar, wind and hydropower, adding that capital markets would play a crucial role in financing this transition.

On regulation, he described SECP's role as a "fine balancing act" between expanding market participation and ensuring investor protection, fiscal discipline and risk management. He called for simplifying processes and strengthening institutional capacity through reforms in people, processes and technology.

## Federal Minister Qaiser Sheikh Honoured by United International Forum UK

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: One of the most distinguished highlights of Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh's recent official visit to the United Kingdom was his recognition at a prestigious ceremony held at the UK Parliament, where he was commended for his outstanding contributions as a philanthropist and parliamentarian.

The honour was conferred during an event organized by the United International Forum UK (UIF-UK), in the presence of British parliamentarians, members of the House of Lords, diplomats, and prominent members of the overseas Pakistani community, including Chairman Overseas Pakistani



Foundation (OPF), Syed Qamar Raza.

On behalf of the United

International Forum UK, the appreciation was presented by the former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Baroness Patricia Scotland, who acknowledged the Minister's remarkable services and his growing recognition both within Pakistan and globally.

Addressing the distinguished gathering, President UIF-UK, Shehzada Hayat, paid glowing tribute to the Federal Minister, describing him as "far more than a politician—a rare parliamentarian whose connection with the people of Pakistan is deeply rooted in trust and admiration." He further remarked that Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh is widely regarded as a "politician-saint," owing to his integrity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to public welfare.

## CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif meets Punjab Assembly Members

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Assembly Members from different areas, who appreciated her ongoing development and beautification projects across Punjab. They also praised the exemplary village projects for the construction and widening of roads and streets, besides the provision of systems for drainage, and clean water. They also expressed joy over introduction of a comprehensive cleanliness system under "Suthra (Clean) Punjab" in villages too, like cities, for the first time. During the meeting, construction, repair, and widening of 13,000 roads in Punjab were also appreciated. Chief Minister Punjab said that by



the grace of Almighty Allah, a golden era of development has started in Punjab, as over 3,000 health centers are being transformed into state-of-the-art health clinics, changing the entire health culture of the province. She added that Punjab's first govern-

ment cancer hospital and Nawaz Sharif Medical City will be completed at the earliest; and highlighted that the first government autism school is a ray of hope for the sick children; and the establishment of Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha has provided ease

and convenience to many patients of the area. Moreover, a project to establish cath labs in every district is enabling prompt and effective treatment of heart diseases.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that stroke management centers are being established in every district for the immediate treatment of strokes. She added that under "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" (Own Roof, Own Home) scheme, nearly 150,000 houses are rapidly nearing completion; and for the unemployed and landless farmers in Punjab, "Apna Khet, Apna Rozgar" (Own Field, Own Employment) project is being launched. She underscored that electric buses are providing comfortable and free travel to people in remote cities of Punjab.

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## PM welcomes Trump's decision to pause Project Freedom at Pakistan's request



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday welcomed the announcement by US President Donald Trump regarding a pause in Project Freedom in the Strait of Hormuz at Pakistan's request.

In a post on X, the prime minister expressed gratitude to President Trump for a courageous leadership and a timely decision to de-escalate tensions in the region.

"I am grateful to President Donald Trump for his courageous leadership and timely announcement regarding

the pause in Project Freedom in the Strait of Hormuz," he wrote.

PM Shehbaz noted that President Trump's response to requests from Pakistan and other countries, particularly the Saudi Arabia and its Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, would contribute positively to regional peace, stability, and reconciliation during a sensitive period.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to supporting efforts aimed at restraint and the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.

## Communication Minister calls on PM Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed matters related to mutual interests.

During the meeting, the communication minister briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on progress of the ongoing projects of public welfare and development initiatives under the ministry.



The overall political situation of the country also came under discussion.

## Unity, resilience key to success of Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos; Barrister Danyal Ch

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Wednesday said that "Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos" had emerged as a symbol of national unity, resilience and defensive strength.

Addressing the "Jashan e Bunyan-um-Marsoos- Pak Fauj Zindabad Conference" as chief guest, he said the success of the operation was driven by the professional capabilities of the armed forces, leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the strategy of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

A large number of citizens from

different walks of life attended the conference, including head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan and Chairman District Peace Committee Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal Rizvi and President Pashan-e-Watan Pakistan Shehzar Dilawar Khan.

Danyal said that Pakistan not only responded effectively on the military front during Marka-e-Haq but also established its superiority in narrative and diplomatic domains.

Referring to the events of May 7 last year, he highlighted that India, contrary to its claims of targeting militant hideouts, had attacked innocent civilians, resulting in the martyrdom of 31 Pakistanis and injuries to 57 others, including women and children.

## Pakistani source says US and Iran closing in on memorandum to end war

News Desk

Pakistani sources confirm that United States and Iran are closing in on an agreement on a one-page memorandum to end the war in Middle East.

A source from Pakistan familiar with the negotiations confirmed that a report earlier by the US media outlet Axios on the proposed memorandum was accurate. The Axios report had cited two US officials and two other sources familiar with the discussions.

"We will close this very soon. We are getting close," the Pakistani source said. Last month, Pakistan hosted the war's only peace talks so far, and it has continued in that role of mediator, ferrying proposals between the sides.

Reports of the possible agreement to end the war caused global oil prices to plunge, with benchmark Brent crude futures falling more than 8%

to around \$100 a barrel.

US news channel CNBC quoted a spokesperson from the Iranian foreign ministry as saying Tehran was evaluating a 14-point US proposal.

Axios reported that the White House believed it was closing in on a one-page memorandum to end the war with Iran. The report came hours after US President Donald Trump paused a three-day-old naval mission to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The Axios report said the US expected Iranian responses on several key points in the next 48 hours.

Among other provisions, Axios said, the deal would involve Iran committing to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment, the US agreeing to lift its sanctions and release billions of dollars in frozen Iranian funds, and both sides lifting restrictions around transit through the Strait of Hormuz.