



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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چارہ صحتی اللہ عزوجل نے بیان کیا کہ ہم میں سے ایک شخص کے یہاں بچہ پیدا ہو تو انہوں نے اس کا نام قاسم رکھا۔ صحابہ نے ان سے کہا کہ جب تک ہم نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے نہ پوچھیں ہم اس نام پر تمہاری کنت نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ پھر نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ میرے نام پر نام رکھو لیکن میری کنت نہ اختیار کرو۔  
(بخاری ص 187)

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## PM lauds security forces for successful operations against terrorists in Tank, DI Khan

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful operations against Indian-backed Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts. The prime minister praised the security forces for eliminating five terrorists during the operations and termed the actions a major success in the ongoing fight against terrorism.



## Security forces kill five terrorists in KP: ISPR

Five terrorists belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij were killed in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the military's media wing, the operations were carried out during the night of May 7 and 8 in the districts of Tank and D I Khan following reports regarding the presence of militants in the areas.

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## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Parliament House, on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Gilani, Finance Minister discuss austerity measures, institutional reforms

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan Yousaf Raza Gilani and Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday discussed matters related to financial discipline, institutional reforms, and the government's austerity measures.

During a meeting, Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani informed the finance minister about the austerity and cost-cutting measures adopted by the Senate Secretariat, stating that the initiative had resulted in substantial savings.

The finance minister appre-

ciated the austerity drive undertaken by the Senate Secretariat and described the savings as a positive example of responsible governance, institutional efficiency, and financial discipline.

Chairman of the Senate Gilani observed that public institutions must adopt practical measures to reduce unnecessary expenditures and ensure the efficient utilization of national resources.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of institutional cooperation and coordinated efforts to effectively address economic challenges and promote national development.

## Pakistan seeks Singapore support in repatriation of Pakistanis, Iranians aboard seized vessels



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Saturday spoke with Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and requested Singapore's support in facilitating the welfare and repatriation of 11 Pakistani and 20 Iranian seafarers.

The said individuals were aboard the vessels seized by US authorities and were currently near Singaporean waters, Deputy Prime Minister Dar wrote on his X timeline.

Dar said that he also spoke

with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as both countries remained in close coordination on the said matter.

He said that Pakistan also stood ready to facilitate the safe repatriation of Iranian nationals to Iran via Pakistan.

Appreciating the cooperation and support being extended by Singapore, DPM Dar said that Pakistan, through its Foreign Office and relevant authorities, was closely coordinating with US authorities and others to ensure the safety, welfare, and earliest possible return of its nationals.

## Iran creates agency to collect Strait of Hormuz tolls, US says 'unacceptable'

AFP

Iranian media reported fresh "sporadic clashes" with US naval forces in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday, following a flare-up the night before, despite the ceasefire in the Gulf. "For the last hour, sporadic clashes have taken place between the Iranian armed forces and American vessels in the Strait of Hormuz," the Fars news agency said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday slammed Iranian efforts to control the Strait of Hormuz, following a report that Tehran has created an authority to approve transit through the vital waterway.

"Iran now claims that they own, that they have a right to control, an international



waterway... That's an unacceptable thing that they're trying to normalise," Rubio told reporters during a visit to Rome.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington was expecting a response from Iran on Friday to US proposals for a

deal to end the conflict. "We're expecting a response from them today at some point... I hope it's a serious offer, I really do," Rubio

told reporters during a visit to Rome.

Meanwhile, Iran has created an authority to approve transit through the Strait of Hormuz and to collect tolls from vessels, a shipping journal has said, AFP reports.

"The Persian Gulf Strait Authority has already introduced a new framework requiring ships to obtain transit authorisation and pay tolls before sailing," said Lloyd's List, the industry journal which provides news and intelligence on shipping and maritime trade. It added that "ships are required to submit detailed records of ownership, insurance, crew details and intended transit route", citing a form sent by the authority.

Continued on Page 7

## Political divide vanished as nation united during Marka-e-Haq: Tarar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the entire nation stood united alongside the armed forces during Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos and "Marka-e-Haq", adding that Pakistan achieved success on military, diplomatic and narrative fronts through national cohesion, responsible media conduct and the bravery of the armed forces.

Addressing a ceremony organized by the Press Association of

Supreme Court on completion of one year of the victory in Marka-e-Haq, the minister said the operation had become a symbol of national unity, resilience and collective national spirit where every segment of society played its role.

He thanked the organizers, including senior journalists and the entire Supreme Court Reporters Association, for inviting him to the ceremony and said his relationship with journalists was not linked to power or the current government tenure, but



had evolved during years of interaction in the corridors of courts

and politics, particularly during the opposition days.

The minister said the ceremony itself reflected the unity demonstrated by the nation during Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, adding that the entire country stood shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces.

He recalled that during his speech in parliament he had said there was neither opposition nor government when it came to defending the country, as the entire political divide disappeared in the face of external aggression.

"Success only comes when a nation is united," he remarked.

## Minister stresses unity in conflicts as key to victory

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal praised Pakistan forces for defeating a country six times larger than it during Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, emphasizing that the operation not only highlighted the operational readiness of Pakistan's

armed forces but also demonstrated the collective spirit of the nation during the critical time.

"Those six days united people under one umbrella, overcoming divisions of caste, sect, religion, province, and other differences," he said.

While talking to media, he said that during May 2025, all

hostile designs that the enemy had long been plotting against the beloved homeland were decisively thwarted, sending a clear message to all those seeking to undermine the country.

"The unity shown during the conflict boosted people's morale, overcame fear, and sent a clear message of victory," he said,

adding, "No one can defeat the nation with this passion."

Minister hailed the role of leaders, especially Chief of Defense Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the success of "Marka-e-Haq" (the Battle for Truth), saying the political and military leadership remained

united throughout the situation, ensuring stability, discipline and effective communication.

"Strong leadership helped maintain public confidence, reflecting the trust of people during tense moments," he said.

He also paid every personnel of the Pakistani forces, deployed to defend Pakistan.

## Dr. Tariq Fazal pays tribute to martyrs, ghazis of 'Marka-e-Haq'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Friday paid tribute to all the martyrs and ghazis of "Marka-e-Haq," saying their sacrifices led Pakistan to a historic victory against a much larger enemy.

In a video message on the first anniversary of "Marka-e-Haq," he said the bravery and sacrifices of the martyrs and ghazis would always be remembered with pride.

He said the nation achieved unforgettable success because of its courage and dedication.

Dr Tariq Fazal said the way the Pakistan Armed Forces defended the country was a matter of great pride for the nation.

He added that the entire world acknowledged the professional capabilities of the falcons of the Pakistan Air Force for downing enemy aircraft.



He said the examples of courage and bravery displayed during "Bunyan-um-Marsoos" would be remembered forever, adding that "Marka-e-Haq" changed the course of Pakistan's history and brought honour to the nation that would be remembered for generations.

The Minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir played an important role in the victory through wise leadership and effective coordination.

He said the planning and coordination witnessed during the operation were commendable and reflected the strength and professionalism of the country's armed forces.

# Faisal Rathore launches PM Gold Cup, hailing sports as catalyst for positive change

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, officially unveiled the trophy for the "PM Gold Cup" cricket tournament at a ceremony held here today at the Prime Minister's House.

Addressing the ceremony, he appreciated organizers for hosting the tournament and termed it an excellent sporting initiative aimed at engaging youth in healthy activities and providing them an opportunity to showcase their talent.

He said teams from all ten districts of Azad Kashmir would be seen in action in Muzaffarabad and urged the public to actively participate in the event to encourage young players.

The prime minister said that the promotion of sports and cultural activities helps to bring positive change in society and channelize the energies of youth in the right



direction.

Referring to the growing enthusiasm for sports among young people, he said the large crowds witnessed even at low-profile matches reflected the immense passion for games across the region.

The ceremony was attended by government ministers including Sardar Javed Ayub and Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi; former minister Salim Butt; government secretaries Sardar Zafar, Chaudhry Tayyab, Irshad Qureshi, Ansar Yaqoob,

and Chaudhry Raqeeb; Sector Commander SCO; and organizers of the PM Gold Cup.

It is worth mentioning here that the tournament, featuring cricket teams from all across Azad Kashmir, will begin on May 15.

## DFP felicitates Pakistan on first anniversary of Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos

**Abdul Majeed Tahir.**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has extended its heartfelt felicitations to the people and government of Pakistan on the first anniversary of the successful Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, terming it a defining moment in Pakistan's history that not only altered the strategic dynamics of the region but also forced an aggressive and bullying neighbour to retreat after suffering a crushing defeat.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, DFP spokesman Arshad Iqbal said the strategic victory, which significantly enhanced Pakistan's prestige and standing at the global level, was a classic example of national unity, military strength, and resilience in the face of aggression.

He said Pakistan's measured yet decisive response to Indian aggression under Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos served as a powerful reminder that the Pakistani nation stands united, resilient, and fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## Kashmir leader hails Pakistan's 'Battle of Truth' victory over Indian aggression

**City Desk**



MUZAFFARABAD: Central Chairperson of Muslim Conference Women Wing, former candidate for Assembly Valley 6, and Chairperson of Kashmir Women Alert Forum, Madam Samia Sajid while paying tribute on the completion of one year of the great success of the "Battle of Truth," expressed deep appreciation for the Pakistan Armed Forces, military leadership, political leadership, and especially Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. She stated that the way Pakistan responded to the aggression imposed by India—with courage, strategy, and professional excellence—made it clear to the world that Pakistan is an invincible, dignified, and responsible nuclear power.

## AJK former PM Attique Accepts Invitation to Key Khaigula Rally



**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan met with Dr. Irfan Ashraf, candidate for assembly from Khaigula Rawalakot constituency, at Mujahid Manzil. Discussion on political affairs, Dr. Irfan Ashraf invited Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan to participate in the Haq Bunyan Marsus rally and convention in Khaigula on May 11, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan accepted the invitation and decided to participate. While talking on the occasion, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Haq Bunyan Marsus battle has determined the destination of Pakistan's development and Kashmir's freedom. We are proud of our Pakistan Army commander who proved that the command of the forces of any region should be with such a person who is fearless and brave. Taking some decisions at the right time changes the fate of a person. Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir also responded to the enemy's heinous intentions in a timely manner and told the world that Pakistan is not only a nuclear country but also has its naval, land and air forces.

## SSG Hero Colonel Qamar Ijaz Promoted to Brigadier in Recognition of Courage and Service

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALAKOT: The son of Martyrs and Ghazis District Poonch, Rawalakot, Drake and the distinguished SSG Commando Officer of the Pakistan Army, Colonel Qamar Ijaz, Medal of Honor, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier. This great honor is a recognition of his unparalleled courage, exceptional professional skills, steely determination, brilliant leadership and undying services rendered to defend the beloved homeland. Brigadier Qamar Ijaz is among those fortunate soldiers who have dedicated every moment of their lives to the security, dignity and protection of the motherland. Brigadier Qamar Ijaz received his primary education from his native village Dreek. Rising from a small area and gaining access to the SSG Commandos, which is considered one of the most prestigious and toughest military sectors of the Pakistan Army and one of the world's most difficult military sectors, is a testament to his extraordinary hard work, determination and capabilities. He carried out every responsibility in his professional life with great bravery, honesty and high military skills, in recognition of which he was also awarded the great military honor like Tamgha-e-Bisalat.



## 1st Anniversary of Marka-e-Haq

KARACHI: MQM-P convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and others cutting the cake during the ceremony to commemorate 1st Anniversary of Marka-e-Haq hosted by former governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Amb Masood Khan urged students to prepare themselves for future leadership roles

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stated that Pakistan has emerged as a credible regional power, a trusted diplomatic mediator, and a symbol of resilience following the success of Marqa-e-Haq and its subsequent diplomatic achievements.

He expressed these views while addressing students and faculty members at the National University of Modern Languages. The event was attended by Rector Major General



Shahid Mahmood Kayani, Director General Brigadier Mahmood Ali Khan,

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Dr. Riaz Shah, faculty members, and a large number of students.

Sardar Masood Khan paid tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan and the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the country during the conflict of May 2025, stating that Pakistan emerged triumphant against all odds and disproved the perception that it was a weak or divided state. He remarked that Marqa-e-Haq became a watershed moment in the military and diplomatic history of South Asia, demonstrating Pakistan's credible deterrence, coordinated military capability, technological strength, and national unity.

## CASS Holds Ceremony to Commemorate Pakistan's Victory and Resilience, One Year after Marka-e-Haq

**News Desk**

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) organised a ceremony on 7 May 2026 to commemorate Pakistan's resolute response to unprovoked Indian aggression and PAF's measured yet effective retaliation against the Indian Air Force (IAF) starting the night of 6-7 to 10th May 2025 under the banner of Marka-e-Haq. As an independent think tank, CASS regularly convenes such forums to advance informed policy discourse among academia and practitioners.

Senior Research Associate Muhammad Faizan Fakhur highlighted the rise of Hindutva

ideology under Narendra Modi and its destabilising impact on peace. Referring to the abrogation of Article 370, LoC violations and India's attempts to isolate Pakistan diplomatically, he stated that Pakistan debunked the myth of Indian military supremacy in 2019 and again in 2025 by successfully countering unprovoked aggression. He reaffirmed that Pakistan seeks peace but remains prepared to defend its sovereignty without compromise.

Speaking at the occasion, Director CASS, Air Marshal Hamid Rashid Randhawa (Retd), reflected on the history and evolution of the PAF since independence. He highlighted

the enduring legacy of PAF personnel in the 1965 and 1971 wars, as well as during the Afghan conflict, which, he noted, was reaffirmed during Operation Swift Retort and the May 2025 PAF-IAF confrontation.

In his concluding remarks, President CASS, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), paid tribute to the martyrs of the four-day conflict and the PAF personnel who sacrificed their lives. He underscored the importance of self-reliance in modern warfare, referring to lessons emerging from the recent Iran-Israel conflict. He remarked that Pakistan's growing indigenous capabilities



enabled it to effectively counter the numerically superior IAF, the fourth largest air force in the world.

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**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:39 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:55 pm
Maghrib	6:56 pm
Isha	8:31 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**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
DHO	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
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
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

**Science Minister Offers Condolences at PEC Headquarters Following Chairman's Loss**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi, visited the headquarters of the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and expressed his deep condolences on the passing of the mother of the Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council, Engr Waseem Nazir.

A prayer ceremony was held at the Pakistan Engineering Council headquarters, where the Rector of NUTECH, Lieutenant General (R) Moazzam Ijaz, Registrar of PEC, Engr. Khadim Hussain Bhatti, along with the representatives of the Constructors Association of Pakistan (CAP), Engineering Community Representatives, Heads of Different Departments of PEC, and staff members, participated. Heartfelt condolences and sympathy were extended to the Chairman PEC and his grieving family. Prayers were offered for the soul of the deceased, and all attendees expressed their unwavering support and solidarity with Engr. Waseem Nazir and his family during this challenging time.

# Maryam Nawaz salutes Red Crescent volunteers, pledges strong disaster response system

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In her message on World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif saluted volunteers and all stakeholders of the Red Crescent, and extended her heartfelt congratulations to the movement's partners in Pakistan and around the world for their selfless services. She said that the Red Crescent Day, themed "United in Humanity," inspires us to unity and a belief in humanity, as this theme highlights the importance of enduring power of humanity, compassion, and solidarity. She added that in the face of climate change and natural disasters, the role of organizations like Red Crescent is of great importance, and underscored that the government is committed to establishing a strong, organized, and comprehensive system to solve public problems, as practical steps are being taken to ensure special protection of vulnerable segments of society.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, also in a special message on World Thalassaemia Day, paid tribute to blood

donors helping children suffering from thalassaemia and expressed solidarity with patients and their families.

She stressed the importance of timely diagnosis and prevention to combat thalassaemia, saying that pre-marital blood screening could help prevent the disease, while blood donations could give a new lease of life to affected children.

The chief minister said creating public awareness regarding prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of thalassaemia was essential. She added that the Punjab government was taking significant and revolutionary measures for the prevention and treatment of the disease.

She said the "Punjab Thalassaemia Prevention Act 2025" had been passed by the Punjab Assembly to help prevent thalassaemia. She further stated that thalassaemia testing had been made mandatory for students at the time of admission to educational institutions.

She appealed for a widespread awareness campaign on thalassaemia and reiterated the government's commitment to supporting patients and their families.



## Solidarity

LAHORE: Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan, Khateeb and Imam of Badshahi Mosque addressing the "Marka-e-Haq Bunyan-um-Marsoos and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Conference" at Badshahi Mosque, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Rawalpindi honors Armed Forces on one-year anniversary of 'Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos'

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A dignified ceremony was held at the Awaam Pakistan Public Secretariat, Waris Khan, Rawalpindi, to mark the completion of one year of "Marqa e Haq - Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos" and to pay tribute to Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir and the Pakistan Armed Forces for their courage and sacrifices. The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by chants of "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Pak Army Paindabad" that echoed throughout



the hall. The event was hosted by Ms. Samina Shuaib. Chaudhry Inam Zafar, Central Vice President of Awaam Pakistan, and Hafiz Usman Abbasi, Additional General Secretary, attended as guests of honour. Sardar Nazir Ahmed Kash-

miri welcomed the guests. A large number of members from the Christian community also participated, while Azhar Ali Qadri and Pastor Naser Gill offered special prayers for Pakistan and its armed forces. Representing the Christian community, Mumtaz Bhatti praised Chaudhry Inam Zafar and the party leadership, and paid tribute to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Hafiz Usman Abbasi described "Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos" as a shining example of the sacrifices and bravery of the armed forces.

## PML-N Leader hails 'Maarka-e-Haq' as Triumph of Unity and Leadership

City Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi has said that Pakistan's success in the "Maarka-e-Haq" reflects national unity, visionary political leadership, and the professional excellence of the armed forces. He stated that the prudent leadership of PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the tireless efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the active diplomacy of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, the people-centric governance of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and the courageous military leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir have strengthened Pakistan's stature as a dignified and responsible state on the global stage.

Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi remarked that "Maarka-e-Haq" is not merely a military achievement but a manifestation of national sovereignty, strategic stability, and political wisdom. He said Pakistan has demonstrated to the world that it possesses the capability, resolve, and unity to defend its national interests while simultaneously promoting peace and regional stability through balanced diplomacy and responsible statecraft. He particularly appreciated Pakistan's constructive diplomatic role in easing regional tensions, including efforts aimed at promoting peace amid the US-Iran crisis.

## Journalists Across Sindh Protest PECA Case Against Senior Journalist Gulzar Sargani

Abdul Ghafoor Saroqi

TANDO JAM: Journalists across Sindh have strongly protested the registration of a case under the PECA Act against senior journalist and General Secretary of the Tando Jam Press Club, Gulzar Sargani.



Leaders of the Sindh Journalists Council, including Qazi Zulfiqar and others, stated that Gulzar Sargani had published reports exposing the drug mafia, and registering a PECA case against him on the complaint of a government employee was unjust and unacceptable.

The leaders described the action as a tactic against working journalists and alleged that efforts were being made to suppress the voices of independent media professionals.

They demanded that the IG Sindh conduct a thorough investigation into the background of the complainant who filed the case and ensure justice for journalist Gulzar Sargani.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the Tando Jam Press Club was held under the chairmanship of President Azhar Lochi. The meeting was attended by Sarfraz Shahani, Nawab Ahmed, Shafqat Qadri, Nazakat Rajput, Mudassar Lochi, Zakir Khokhar, and others.

The participants termed the police action and the swift registration of the case against Gulzar Sargani as unfair, alleging that the FIR had been lodged under pressure and influence from the drug mafia. The meeting also announced that a formal protest movement would be launched against the case.

## Inverwell Leader Ayesha Mazhar Recognized for Excellent Performance



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Chairman and District Trainer of Inverwell Club District 343 Mrs. Ayesha Mazhar was awarded an award for excellent leadership and high performance at the annual conference by the special guest NR Mrs. Shahida Tahir and Chairman Mrs. Jina Ijaz. On this occasion, she said that Mrs. Ayesha Mazhar is a highly educated and loving woman who loves the suffering humanity. She gave useful advice to the officials of all the Inverwell clubs of District 343 and offered her services. She is a sincere, religious, hardworking and a woman who brings everyone together. The officials of all the clubs should follow in her footsteps and serve the suffering humanity to the fullest. We are proud of her. On this occasion, Mrs. Ayesha Mazhar said that this award is a great honor for me.

# One year after 'Marka-e-Haq': PAF's decisive aerial victory examined at CASS Seminar

News Desk

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Marka-e-Haq: A Turning Point in South Asian Skies" to commemorate one year of the Pakistan-India War of May 2025. The event was attended by academics, intellectuals, senior officers, and domain experts. Mr Azhar Zeeshan, Research Assistant, CASS Lahore, delivered the opening remarks.

Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd) recalled the events of the night of 6-7 May 2025 and stated that during the longest Beyond Visual Range (BVR) battle in the history of aerial warfare, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) outclassed the Indian Air Force



(IAF) by downing eight of its aircraft, including the advanced Rafales. He attributed the success of the PAF to the full-spectrum multidomain operation orchestrated by the Chief of the

Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu.

Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Jalil Abbas Jilani, highlighted Pakistan's diplomatic gains in the

aftermath of Marka-e-Haq, noting that the country remained diplomatically prepared following the Pahalgam false-flag operation. He praised the coordinated national response during the war, describing it as a turning point that shattered India's perceived superiority.

Dr Khurram Iqbal discussed India's trajectory of military modernisation in the aftermath of Marka-e-Haq. In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President, CASS Lahore, stated that Marka-e-Haq had emerged as a defining turning point in South Asian aerial warfare. It demonstrated that victory in modern war is determined not by numerical superiority but by leadership, doctrine, technological integration, and operational excellence. He highlighted that under

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# Iran Shattered the Dream of Greater Israel

**A**t the beginning of the Iran war, many observers believed that the greatest beneficiary would ultimately be Israel. The war was projected as the final chapter in a long strategic campaign to neutralize Iran, dismantle its regional influence, and reshape the Middle East under a new geopolitical order favorable to Tel Aviv and Washington. Israeli intelligence circles, supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and their allies in Washington, appeared convinced that the Iranian state was fragile, internally collapsing, economically exhausted, and politically isolated. According to that narrative, all that Iran needed was one decisive kinetic push from the United States and Israel for the entire regime to collapse like a house of cards.

The assumption was that once Tehran fell, a pro-Western puppet regime would emerge, Iranian resources would come under indirect American-Israeli influence, and the strategic dream of uncontested Israeli dominance in the Middle East would finally become reality. This was not merely about defeating Iran militarily; it was about transforming the entire political map of the region.

But history often humiliates those who confuse ambition with reality. Instead of collapsing, Iran resisted. Instead of surrendering, it retaliated. Instead of fragmenting, it unified. And in doing so, it may have fundamentally damaged Israel's long-term strategic position more severely than any battlefield loss.

The first and perhaps most devastating consequence for Israel has been the erosion of its unquestioned political influence inside the United States. For decades, support for Israel in Wash-

ington operated almost as an untouchable doctrine. Congressional appropriations for Israel passed without scrutiny. Military aid flowed uninterrupted. Politicians from both parties competed to prove their loyalty to Israeli security interests. Criticizing Israel was politically dangerous, and opposing Israeli military actions was often portrayed as unpatriotic.

But the Iran war changed the atmosphere dramatically. For the first time in years, large segments of the American public, independent journalists, political commentators, and even lawmakers began openly questioning whether the United States had entered the conflict to defend America or merely to protect Israeli strategic ambitions.

Earlier congressional efforts to restrict presidential authority for war against Iran had failed overwhelmingly. Yet when a similar bipartisan initiative reappeared later, it was defeated by only a single vote. That shift was historically significant. It demonstrated that many lawmakers who once unquestioningly aligned with Israeli demands were now beginning to recognize the political cost of appearing subordinate to foreign strategic interests.

The second major failure for Israel was strategic miscalculation. Iran absorbed the initial attacks, maintained command cohesion, preserved national unity, and launched retaliatory strikes that shocked both Israel and the United States.

Instead of showcasing Israeli supremacy, the war exposed vulnerabil-

ities. Iranian missile and drone operations damaged sensitive Israeli infrastructure and demonstrated that Israel could no longer operate with total impunity. The myth of invulnerability was shattered. When the United States entered directly to support Israel, American bases themselves became targets, expanding the conflict beyond Israel's borders and increasing the risks for Washington.

The broader geopolitical consequences may prove even more damaging for Israel. One of the hidden strategic goals behind pressure on Iran was to accelerate normalization between Israel and major Sunni Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia. Israeli strategists believed that weakening Iran would frighten Gulf monarchies into deeper dependence on Israeli military and intelligence cooperation. Once Saudi Arabia fully normalized relations with Israel, Tel Aviv hoped to cement its hegemony across the Middle East.

Yet the opposite occurred. Most Middle Eastern states avoided direct participation in the war. Rather than joining a regional offensive against Iran, Gulf countries emphasized diplomacy, negotiation, coexistence, and regional stability. Their leaders repeatedly signaled that they understood how to manage relations with Iran through political engagement, religious ties, and pragmatic diplomacy rather than total confrontation.

More importantly, Iran's military and strategic resilience has now altered the balance of power in the region. Instead

of being weakened into submission, Iran has emerged as what many analysts increasingly describe as the new strategic sheriff of the Middle East. Its demonstrated offensive and defensive capabilities have created a new deterrence equation. For decades, Israel relied on the doctrine of absolute military superiority and total impunity. That doctrine has now been challenged openly and visibly.

With Iran's strategic credibility strengthened, its allied movements and ideological partners across the region are also expected to gain renewed confidence and momentum. Hamas, Hezbollah, and other Iran-aligned groups are likely to receive a psychological and political boost from Tehran's survival and resistance. The perception that Iran successfully stood against both Israel and the United States will energize many of its supporters throughout the region. At the same time, the broader influence of Shiite political and religious movements may expand significantly across the Middle East. This could gradually reshape the religious and political balance of power in the region.

Ironically, the very war designed to establish "Greater Israel" may now accelerate the opposite outcome. Instead of expanding Israeli influence from the Euphrates to the Nile, the conflict has exposed the limits of Israeli and American power. The dream of uncontested territorial and military expansion has collided with the reality of regional resistance and shifting geopolitical dynamics. As a consequence, the future may increasingly move not toward a greater Israel, but toward an Israel forced back within more internationally recognized and defensible boundaries.

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## At UN, Pakistan proposes series of steps for medical safety in armed conflicts

**P**akistan has called for peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes in accordance with the U. N. Charter as part of the measures to protect medical care in situations of armed conflict.

"Hospitals must heal, not become targets; doctors and nurses must be enrolled to save lives, not lose their own; and the wounded and sick must be protected, not deliberately attacked," Pakistan delegate Saima Saleem told the UN Security Council meeting held under Arria-Formula format named after a former Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN, Diego Arriva.

Thursday's meeting mark the tenth anniversary of the 15-member Council's resolution 2286, which addressed the protection of the wounded and sick, medical and humanitarian personnel, and hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict.

A decade later, Ms. Saleem, a counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said the reality remained deeply alarming, adding, "In conflict situations, and in situations of foreign occupation, repeated attacks can push health systems towards collapse."

Arria-Formula meetings are informal that enable Security Council members to have a frank and private exchange of views on relevant subjects.

Denmark, together with New Zealand and Spain, convened the meeting.

Ms. Saleem reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to International Law, saying Islamabad was convinced that protecting medical care requires not only legal reaffirmation, but practical implementation.

In this regard, the Pakistani delegate called on all parties to armed conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law, including the obligation to protect medical personnel, humanitarian personnel, transport, equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities.

"Prevention must be ensured before violations occur, including through rules of engagement, safe access protocols, risk assessments, operational planning and post-incident review," she said.

The Pakistani delegate also underscored the need to strengthen accountability through credible documentation, independent investigations and effective measures against violations, consistent with international law.

"The deliberate targeting of hospitals and medical facilities is a grave crime and must never be met with silence or impunity."

Cyber operations against hospitals and misuse of medical data, she said, can endanger civilian lives and undermine the protection owed to medical care.

"The best protection for civilians is the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, as recently reaffirmed in resolution 2788 (2025) unanimously adopted by the Council," Ms. Saleem added.

"Protecting medical care is a legal obligation, a humanitarian necessity and a test of our shared humanity."



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

## Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos: When Narrative Beat Firepower

M Rashid Tabassum

**W**ar no longer begins with tanks crossing borders or fighter jets entering the sky. In today's world, the first strike often appears on television screens, social media feeds, and mobile notifications. Before missiles are fired, narratives are set in motion. Before troops advance, public perception is carefully shaped. This is the new reality of modern warfare: weapons matter, but narrative often matters more.

The Pakistan-India military confrontation in May 2025, particularly during Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, made this reality impossible to ignore. The conflict was not fought only through air strikes, defense systems, and military movement. It was fought just as aggressively through headlines, hashtags, breaking news alerts, viral videos, and psychological messaging.

During Operation Bunyan Marsoos, India reportedly sustained notable military and economic losses. At least five Indian Air Force aircraft—including Rafale jets—were said to have been downed. In addition, several military installations, including brigade headquarters, border outposts, missile systems and logistics hubs, were reportedly damaged, impacting operational capacity and denting troops morale. The financial impact was also immediate. Investor confidence weakened, markets showed sharp volatility, and diplomatic circles quickly began pressing for de-escalation. But these physical losses were only one side of the picture.

The bigger battle was unfolding elsewhere—in the information space.

Modern warfare is no longer decided by firepower alone. It now depends equally on communication, speed, perception, and the ability to control credibility. A missile can hit a target, but a narrative can

hit millions of minds within minutes. In many cases, public opinion now moves faster than military facts.

This was clearly visible during the crisis. Several Indian tv channels and digital platforms began pushing dramatic claims that often sounded more like war fiction than verified reporting. On the night of May 9, stories of a "military coup in Pakistan" and a "collapse of government control in Islamabad" spread rapidly across tv tickers and online posts. Other claims suggested that Pakistan's defense chain had broken down and Indian forces had made deep advances.

For several hours, these reports dominated screens and social media conversations despite the absence of solid evidence. Rumor was presented as breaking news, and speculation was sold as fact. In the race for attention, verification disappeared.

The confusion did not stop at television studios. Social media turned into a battlefield of its own. Old videos from unrelated conflicts, gaming footage, edited explosions, fake government notifications, and manufactured international headlines began circulating as real-time war updates. Many users shared them without checking. The purpose was simple: create panic, confusion, and a sense of psychological superiority.

This is how narrative warfare works today. You do not always need a military breakthrough; sometimes you only need a believable lie delivered at high speed.

But this time, the digital response created an unexpected shift.

Pakistani users did not remain silent consumers of information. A large number of journalists, researchers, digital activists, and ordinary social media users began checking claims in real time. Videos were reverse searched. Timestamps were matched. Locations were verified. Fake graphics were exposed. Deleted posts and tweets were screenshotted and recirculated.

When reports of a coup in Islamabad began circulating, videos showing routine government

activity were quickly shared online. When war footage was presented as fresh, users located the original clips from older conflicts and posted side-by-side comparisons. One false claim after another began collapsing under public scrutiny.

In many cases, the most effective counter did not come from official briefings but from public ridicule. Exaggerated claims by some Indian anchors were turned into memes within hours. Predictions of rapid military advances became material for satire. This changed the emotional temperature of the information war. Fear was replaced by ridicule. Panic was replaced by public mockery. And once a propaganda claim becomes a joke, it loses much of its power.

Hashtags in Urdu and English helped this counter-message travel beyond Pakistan. Corrected facts, exposed visuals, and clipped broadcasts moved quickly across international audiences. The result was significant: misinformation no longer enjoyed a free run.

That is the central lesson from Bunyan-um-Marsoos. In earlier wars, battlefield updates shaped public perception. In modern wars, public perception often starts shaping the battlefield itself.

A false report can create panic. A viral video can shape diplomatic pressure. A trending hashtag can pressure governments. In this environment, information has become almost as influential as ammunition.

The world is entering an era where military strength alone does not guarantee advantage. States now need credible communication, fast fact-checking, and digital preparedness. Media institutions need responsibility. Citizens need caution.

In modern conflict, the side that controls the narrative often shapes the outcome. And sometimes, one unverified headline can travel farther than a missile.

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## Multi-Domain Integration in Modern Warfare: Lessons from Operation Bunyan un Marsoos

**O**n 10 May 2025, Pakistan launched Operation Bunyan un Marsoos in response to India's Operation Sindoor. What followed was not a conventional retaliatory strike. It was a coordinated, multi-domain military campaign that fused missile systems, drone swarms, electronic warfare and offensive cyber operations into a single integrated operational tempo. The operation lasted hours. Its doctrinal lessons will be studied considerably longer.

The name derives from Surah As-Saff 61:4 of the Quran, meaning a wall cemented with molten lead, a structure that does not yield. It was an accurate description of both the operation's philosophy and its execution. According to statements by Pakistan's DG ISPR and analyses by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, Operation Bunyan un Marsoos represented the first major combat demonstration of Pakistan's evolved multi-domain operations doctrine, integrating kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities across all service branches under a unified command structure in real time.

Military doctrine has moved decisively away from the platform-centric model of previous decades, in which the superiority of a single weapons system determined battlefield outcomes. The emerging framework, refined through observations of conflicts in Ukraine, Syria and the South China Sea, holds that modern warfare is decided by the speed and coherence with

which effects across multiple domains are fused into a single operational tempo. A missile strike coordinated with simultaneous radar jamming, drone engagement and cyber disruption produces effects that no single platform, however advanced, can replicate independently. Operation Bunyan un Marsoos was Pakistan's demonstration that it has operationalised this framework.

Indian authorities maintain that Operation Sindoor, conducted using Rafale jets equipped with SCALP-EG cruise missiles

and AASM HAMMER precision-guided munitions, was a focused and non-escalatory counter-terrorism action, and that damage from Pakistan's retaliatory strikes was limited and effectively contained through air defense systems. That position requires engagement with the operational record.

Pakistan deployed Fatah-1 and Fatah-2 precision-guided ballistic missiles against hardened military targets, marking their first combat use. JF-17 Block 3 and J-10C fighters equipped with PL-15 beyond-visual-range missiles operated in the air domain. Armed drone swarms and loitering munitions extended operational reach beyond what conventional strike aircraft could access without triggering broader escalation thresholds. Electronic warfare assets jammed Indian radar installations and early warning systems, degrading the situational awareness on which air defense coordination depends. Simultaneously, offensive cyber operations targeted command systems and

*Continued on Page 7*

# Malaysian HC Visits Aghosh College Murree to Strengthen Educational, Humanitarian and People-to-People ties

On 7 May 2026, H. E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, undertook a working visit to Aghosh College Murree as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen educational, humanitarian and people-to-people relations between Malaysia and Pakistan, particularly with welfare institutions and non-governmental organisations engaged in youth and community development.

Upon arrival, the High Commissioner was warmly received by Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman, President of Al Khidmat Foundation Pakistan, together with the management and senior administration of the College. During the visit, H. E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan was given a comprehensive briefing on the facilities, academic environment and development initiatives of the institution, followed by a tour of the College campus and its various facilities.

During the discussions, both sides exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the fields of education, youth empowerment and capacity building. Particular emphasis was



placed on enhancing linkages through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), including opportunities for academic exchanges, training initiatives and scholarship programmes for students between Malaysia and Pakistan. The discussions also highlighted the importance of expanding institutional collaboration to provide greater educational exposure

and professional development opportunities for young people from both countries.

A key highlight of the visit was the High Commissioner's interactive engagement session with the students of the College. H. E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan shared insights on Malaysia's history, multicultural society, economic development and the coun-



try's education system, while also highlighting the longstanding bilateral relations between Malaysia and Pakistan. The session was followed by an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively posed questions on Malaysia's culture, higher education opportunities,

technological advancement, tourism

sector and regional role within ASEAN. As part of the programme, H. E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan distributed 300 packs of Malaysian delicacies, namely Nasi Lemak and Mee Goreng, to the students and staff of Aghosh College Murree as a gesture

of goodwill from Malaysia. In conjunction with the visit, the High Commissioner was also accorded the honour of planting a sapling within the College grounds, symbolising the enduring bonds, shared prosperity and growing relations between Malaysia and Pakistan.

## Pakistan records major decline in child stunting under Benazir Nashonuma Programme

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has achieved a significant breakthrough in the fight against child malnutrition, as the Endline Impact Evaluation of BNP conducted by Aga Khan University (AKU) revealed substantial reductions in child stunting and improvements in maternal and newborn health outcomes.

Speaking at the event, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Mr. Syed Imran Ahmed Shah, termed the results a major achievement for Pakistan's social protection sector.

Addressing participants, Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid said the BNP holds special significance because healthy mothers and children are essential for building a strong and prosperous nation.

During the session, Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq from the National Commission on the Rights of Child also shared her



views and emphasized the importance of investing in children's well-being.

Earlier, renowned global health expert Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta of Aga Khan University presented the findings of the Endline Impact Evaluation and highlighted that the BNP is making clear progress in reducing stunting and

improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Ms. Anita Zaidi, President of the Gender Equality Division at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, termed the Benazir Nashonuma Programme a powerful model of social protection and appreciated the Government of

Pakistan's leadership in improving the lives of millions, especially women and children.

Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad along with BISP team and representatives of partner organizations including the WHO, WFP and UNICEF also participated in the session.

## Ottawa Event Highlights Pakistan's Culture, Seeks Deeper Canada Ties



Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: The High Commission participated in the "Pakistan" event organized by Hon. Senator Salma Attaullahjan in the Senators Chamber, Senate of Canada building, in Ottawa on May 6, 2026 as part of the month-long "Asian Heritage Month" celebrations in Canada.

Around 80 guests including Hon'ble Senators, Hon'ble Members of House of Commons, other Canadian dignitaries, representatives of diplomatic corps, Pakistani community and local media attended the special event. The High Commission presented publicity material and video-clip highlighting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, art, tourism, adventure sports and cuisine.

High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem extended gratitude to Hon. Senator Salma Attaullahjan for organizing the "Pakistan" event in the most prestigious premises of the Senate of Canada. He sought inter-parliamentary exchanges between the bicameral Parliaments of Pakistan and Canada through the existing Parliamentary Friendship Groups. He also highlighted the immense opportunities for increasing Pakistan-Canada economic, trade, investment and tourism ties for mutual benefit.

## DHPWO TT Singh Ch. Naeem Pays Tribute to Pakistan Armed Forces

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Health and Population Welfare Officer Toba Tek Singh, Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem has paid glowing tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces on the completion of one year of Marka-e-Haq/Bunyan-ul-Marsoos and congratulated the nation on this occasion. He said that the bravery, courage and professional excellence demonstrated by Pakistan's Army, Navy and Air Force are a matter of great pride for the entire nation.

He stated that the Pakistan Armed Forces gave a strong and befitting response to Indian aggression, proving that the entire nation and its armed forces stand united for the defense of the motherland. He added that the armed forces crushed the enemy's malicious intentions and made the defense of Pakistan impregnable. Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem said that the success of Marka-e-Haq/Bunyan-ul-Marsoos is a shining chapter in Pakistan's military history that will always be remembered. He further said that the nation salutes its martyrs and war heroes who sacrificed their lives for the security, integrity, and survival of the country.

In the end, he prayed that Allah Almighty may bless Pakistan with lasting peace, progress and prosperity and grant continued success to the Pakistan Armed Forces on every front.

## Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira visits Sundas Foundation, praises welfare services for orphaned children

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira visited Sundas Foundation, where he was warmly received by the foundation's management and office bearers.

During the visit, the RPO met orphaned and underprivileged children being supported by the foundation and reviewed in detail the educational, residential, and welfare facilities being provided to them. He spent quality time with the children, encouraged them, and expressed his best wishes for their bright future.

Speaking on the occasion, RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira appreciated the services of Sundas Foundation for the care and support of orphaned and deserving children. He stated that welfare organizations are playing a vital role in the development, stability, and service of humanity in society. RPO paid tribute to the foundation's commitment to social welfare and humanitarian service, adding that such institutions promote hope, compassion, and harmony within society.

Later, the RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira also participated in an awareness walk organized by Sundas Foundation.

## Secretary Auqaf Chairs High-Level Meeting Ahead of Data Ganj Bakhsh Urs

News Desk

LAHORE: "The annual Urs of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) stands as a magnificent manifestation of spirituality, peace, love, and humanity, drawing millions of devotees seeking divine blessings and inner tranquillity," said Dr. Ehsan Bhutta while presiding over a high-level meeting regarding the arrangements for the Ghul Mubarak and annual Urs of Data Darbar.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Auqaf Nabeela Javed, Director General Religious Affairs Punjab Hafiz Anees ur Rehman, Administrator Data Darbar Muhammad Ali Khan, Khateeb Data Darbar Ramzan Sialvi, Assistant Director Religious Affairs Israr Shah, Executive Engineer Auqaf Qasair



Munir, SDO Rana Zohaib, Auqaf Managers Hassan Rizwan, Gohar

Mustafa, Zahid Butt, Assistant Auqaf Muhammad Asif and others.

Dr. Ehsan Bhutta directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the peaceful, dignified, and well-organised conduct of the sacred occasion. He emphasized that providing maximum comfort, safety, and convenience to devotees remains the foremost priority of the Punjab Auqaf Department.

During the meeting, it was decided that the Ghul Mubarak ceremony would be held on the 9th of Muharram-ul-Haram with traditional reverence and devotion, while the annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) would be observed from 18th to 20th Safar-ul-Muzaffar with great religious fervour and spiritual enthusiasm. Millions of devotees from across the country and abroad are expected to participate in the sacred celebrations.

## Mian Zahid Hussain Welcomes Federal Constitutional Court's Landmark Verdict

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, 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 expressed profound satisfaction with the Federal Constitutional Court's landmark judgement delivered on May 07, 2026, regarding declaring Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance ultravires to the constitution. This long-awaited verdict addresses the business community's persistent concerns over the tax on "deemed income" from immovable properties, which has significantly hampered economic activity.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that the business community has consistently maintained that Section 7E violates fundamental principles of income tax by taxing hypothetical earnings rather than actual income. The imposition of this tax has led to a massive stagnation in the real estate sector, which serves as a critical engine for the economy. With Pakistan currently facing a staggering housing shortage of approximately 12 million units—a deficit that grows by 450,000 units every year—the discouragement of investment in property has been counterproductive to national development goals.



The veteran business leader highlighted that the real estate sector's slump has directly impacted over 40 to 70 allied and supply chain industries, including cement, steel, and transport. He noted that the cement sector, despite having limestone reserves

sufficient to supply the world, and the steel sector, which holds a potential for USD 1 billion in import substitution through ship-breaking, have both felt the secondary effects of this tax. Mian Zahid Hussain emphasized that the revenue generated from such coercive measures is negligible compared to the economic cost of stifling the real estate sector, which is vital for employment and GDP growth.

Mian Zahid Hussain further urged the government to use this judicial clarity to completely abolish Section

7E and Section 7F in the upcoming federal budget. He pointed out that while the tax-to-GDP ratio remains at a low 10.6%, revenue should be driven by economic growth rather than penalizing capital. He argued that instead of relying on deemed income taxes, the Federal Board of Revenue should focus on broadening the tax base through digitalization and bringing the retail sector, which has a potential of billions of rupees, into the tax net.

The Chairman of the Policy Advisory Board of FPCCI concluded by stating that the removal of Section 7E would restore investor confidence and trigger a revival in the construction industry. He called for a shift toward a business-friendly environment where tax is charged on actual income, ensuring that the liquidity of the formal sector is preserved for reinvestment and modernization.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
171,115.82	172,894.27
Day's High	Day's Low
172,287.45	170,393.12
Index Value	Change
24,163,399,291	-1778.45
Percentage	Time
-1.03%	8 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,233.07	-43.88
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	8 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,605.42	+8.45
Percentage	Time
+0.017%	8 May, 1:54 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
62,713.65	-120.19
Percentage	Time
-0.19%	8 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200.06	207.40
Bahrain Dinar	722.95	733.44
Canadian Dollar	203.02	207.25
China Yuan	40	40.65
Danish Krone	43.30	43.70
Euro	327.82	331.83
Hong Kong Dollar	35.06	36.06
Indian Rupee	2.50	2.70
Japanese Yen	1.7659	1.8674
Kuwaiti Dinar	880.44	891.24
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.80
New Zealand \$	163.75	167.70
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	722	733.05
Qatari Riyal	74.75	76.75
Saudi Riyal	74.30	75
Singapore Dollar	218.32	222.85
Swedish Korona	30.30	30.60
Swiss Franc	355.92	360.65
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	76	77
UK Pound Sterling	379.19	383.70
US Dollar	279	279.75

# Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited listed on Pakistan Stock Exchange

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) today hosted a landmark Gong Ceremony to commemorate the official listing of Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited on the PSX Main Board. The ceremony, held at the PSX Trading Hall in Karachi, following the successful completion of its Initial Public Offering (IPO). The company raised PKR 956 million through the book-building and public subscription process, with the strike price settled at PKR 18 per share, reflecting a 50% increase from the floor price of PKR 12.

Speaking about the listing, Mr. Ruhail Muhammad, Chairman Pakistan Stock Exchange, stated: "The listing of Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited is a proud moment for the Pakistan Stock Exchange and a



strong signal to the food and agriculture sector that the capital markets are open for business.

Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, CEO Pakistan Stock Exchange, added: "We are delighted to welcome Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited to the PSX Main Board. This listing is a testament to the robust momentum we are witnessing across Pakistan's capital market. The KSE-100 Index has delivered a 1-year USD return of

58.09%, ranking second among regional markets, as well as the highest 3-year and 5-year annualized returns of 63.21% and 16.28% respectively, demonstrating long-term return potential of the Pakistani market.

Mr. Mohammed Sohail, CEO of Topline Securities Limited, commented: Topline Securities is proud to have served as the advisor and lead manager for Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited's IPO.

Air Marshal (Retd) Aurangzeb Khan, CEO of Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited, remarked: "This listing marks a transformative chapter for Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited. By accessing the capital markets, we are not only strengthening our financial foundation but also committing ourselves to the highest standards of transparency and corporate governance."

# PSW and TDAP sign MoU for export growth



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) have officially entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the TDAP Headquarters in Karachi. This strategic partnership aims to accelerate the digitalization of Pakistan's trade ecosystem, focusing on enhancing regulatory efficiency and providing integrated, modern services to the country's export and import community.

A significant component of the MoU is the focus on gender responsive

trade facilitation. PSW and TDAP will coordinate efforts to enhance the export readiness and digital inclusion of women led enterprises. This includes encouraging entrepreneurs from the WTO Award-winning Khadijah Women Entrepreneurship Program to participate in international exhibitions and delegations managed under TDAP's annual business plan.

Mr. Aftab Haider, Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Single Window, highlighted the impact of this partnership, "Our collaboration with TDAP is another step towards creating a unified, inclusive, and equitable trade ecosystem."

## Daily wagers

RAWALPINDI: Labourers along with their tools sitting on roadside at Hathi Chowk area, waiting for clients to be hired for work, in the city.



Photo: Online

# Atif Ikram Sheikh proposes special visa sticker for ECO Member Countries Business Community

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Economic Cooperation Organization Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh, while proposing a special visa sticker for the business community of ECO member countries, said that promoting mutual trade and economic relations among ECO member states is the need of the hour.

ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad Majeed called on President FPCCI & ECO-CCI Atif Ikram Sheikh. During the meeting held at President Secretariat Islamabad, cooperation between ECO and its business body was discussed.

Secretary General Asad Majeed emphasized that mutual trade among ECO member countries is far below its potential, and the business community of ECO member states needs to focus on improving mutual linkages.



The meeting was attended by Chairman United Group Tariq Sadiq, Vice President Tariq Jadoon, Chairman Capital Office Kareem Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail Hussain, Mian Akram Farid, Umar Rehan Sheikh, Omais Khattak, and other business leaders.

# Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan and Bank Alfalah Partner to Launch PKR 66 million

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, in partnership with Bank Alfalah, one of the leading commercial banks in Pakistan, has launched a rehabilitation programme to restore critical infrastructure and strengthen resilience in flood-affected communities across Gilgit-Baltistan. The initiative will be implemented in collaboration with Aga

Khan Agency for Habitat, Focus Humanitarian Assistance, and Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.

The event was attended by His Excellency Salem Mohammed Alzaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, alongside senior leadership from Bank Alfalah and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Atif Bajwa, the President and CEO of Bank Alfalah Limited,



emphasised the commitment of Bank to contribute to the development of communities in Pakistan and shared, "We are proud to partner with the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan in launching this vital rehabilitation initiative, reflecting our enduring commitment to responsible banking and driving meaningful community investment."

Akhtar Iqbal, the Chief Executive Officer of Aga Khan Founda-

tion, Pakistan noted that, "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to not only rebuild what has been lost but to strengthen the resilience of communities against future shocks."

## PPL commences production from Faiz X-1 Deep at Gambat South Block, Sindh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has successfully commissioned Faiz X-1 Deep (Basal Sand) at its operated Gambat South Block in District Sanghar, Sindh. Production from Faiz X-1 Deep was ramped up in stages since its commissioning on February 25, 2026, gaining a current flow of approximately 3.6 MMscfd gas and 750 bpd condensate, following optimization of operational parameters.

Drilled in 2014, Faiz X-1 discovery could not be developed due to absence of nearby pipeline infrastructure, leaving the project uneconomical. Following the pipeline connectivity and technical and economic re-evaluation, Basal Sand interval was determined to be commercially viable to bring the well into production with installation of surface facilities and construction of ~ 4.5 km feeder line to connect the output to Gambat South Gas Processing facilities.

The increase in condensate supplies demonstrates PPL's commitment to monetizing discoveries in a cost-effective manner, while contributing to meeting the country's energy requirements.

## Gold prices decline by Rs 2,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold decreased in the local market on Friday, with 24 karat gold per tola falling by Rs 2,700 to settle at Rs 494,062 compared to Rs 496,762 on the previous trading day, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold declined by Rs 2,315 to Rs 423,578 from Rs 425,893, whereas 10 grams of 22 karat gold went down by Rs 2,123 to Rs 388,293 against Rs 390,416.

In the international market, the price of gold decreased by \$27 to \$4,717 per ounce from \$4,744.

# Month of May has great significance in the history of Pakistan: Secretary Sports

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Sports Department organized Marka-e-Haq Karate competition at the Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on Thursday evening.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman was the chief guest on this occasion. Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Additional Secretary Sports Shabbir Hussain Cheema, Director Sports Chand Perveen, Director Admin Abid Shaikat, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed, Hafeez Bhatti and other officials were also present on this occasion.

More than 300 children from U-8 to U-18 age groups participated in the Marka-e-Haq Karate competition. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman and other distinguished guests witnessed the exciting karate skills of young children.

While talking to media, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman said that Punjab Sports Department is celebrating this magnificent success in a befitting manner by organizing four sports events in a successful manner. "Marka-e-Haq Games will conclude on May 9 (Saturday) with a mega event of Sher-e-Lahore Dargal at the Punjab Stadium".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman revealed that he was in Home Department last year and actively participated in Marka-e-Haq mission. "Showing great unity, our armed



forces, all departments and the whole nation were on same page on that crucial time".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman said that the month of May has great significance in the history of Pakistan. "Pakistan attained

the status of an atomic power on May 28 in 1998 and last year Pakistan armed forces handed India a humiliating defeat in Operation 'Bunyan-un-Marsoos'."

It may be noted here that Punjab Sports Department, on the direction of Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth

Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar, is organizing different sports competitions under the title of 'Marka-e-Haq Games 2026' to commemorate Pakistan's historic victory in last year's Operation 'Bunyan-un-Marsoos' against arch rivals India.

## Noor Zaman through to PSA World Championships round two

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Noor Zaman made a confident start to the CIB Palm Hills PSA World Championships 2026, grinding out a hard-fought five-game victory over Egypt's Adam Hawal in the first round to advance to the last 32 in Cairo on Friday.

The World No. 28 Pakistani showed tremendous grit and resilience on the Egyptian courts, edging a closely contested 55-minute battle 11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8 to claim a memorable win.

Despite Hawal pushing him to five games, Zaman kept his composure in the deciding set to seal a commanding 3-2



triumph and secure his place in the second round. Zaman will next face either Marwan Mahmoud Assal of Muhammad Zakaria or Egypt in the second round, in

what promises to be another stern test on home soil for both Egyptian challengers.

Meanwhile, fellow Pakistani Asim Khan found the going tough against one of the tournament's leading contenders. The World No. 69 put up a brave fight against fifth seed Joel Makin of Wales but ultimately fell in straight games 11-1, 11-3, 11-2 in just 23 minutes, as the top-ranked Welshman demonstrated clinical dominance from start to finish.

All eyes will now turn to Muhammad Ashab Irfan, who is set to open his campaign in the first round against Switzerland's Nicolas Mueller, ranked World No. 29, in what is expected to be a highly competitive encounter.

## Iran Shattered the Dream of Greater Israel

Continued from Page 4

Equally significant is the perception that the United States itself no longer possesses unlimited willingness or capacity to impose Israeli strategic objectives across the region. The costs of war, domestic political backlash, economic strain, and military overstretch have all weakened Washington's appetite for open-ended confrontation. That realization alone changes the calculations of every regional power.

Perhaps most importantly, the war transformed global narratives surrounding Israel itself. Around the

world, criticism of Israeli policies intensified dramatically. Independent media, social platforms, academics, and even former Western officials increasingly challenged long-standing assumptions about Israeli exceptionalism and impunity. Questions once considered taboo entered mainstream political discourse: Was Israel manipulating American foreign policy? Were American soldiers and taxpayers paying the price for another nation's ambitions? Had exaggerated intelligence assessments pushed Washington into unnecessary confrontation?

These questions would have been

politically unthinkable only a few years ago. Today, they dominate public debate across many societies.

In the end, the greatest lesson of the Iran war may be that military superiority alone cannot guarantee geopolitical victory. Nations endure through legitimacy, resilience, diplomacy, and the ability to command genuine trust among allies and populations. Israel entered the conflict hoping to reshape the Middle East in its favor. Instead, it may have triggered a historic reassessment of its role in the region and its relationship with the United States itself.

The war that was meant to establish

permanent Israeli dominance instead exposed strategic overreach, weakened political consensus in Washington, strengthened Iran's regional standing, and revived resistance movements across the Middle East. Far from inaugurating a new age of "Greater Israel," the conflict may ultimately be remembered as the moment when the limits of Israeli power were finally exposed before the entire world.

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

## Multi-Domain Integration in Modern Warfare: Lessons from Operation Bunyan un Marsoos

Continued from Page 4

digital infrastructure. Pakistan claimed significant disruption to power grid supply in affected areas, though independent verification of the full extent remains contested given the information environment typical of active conflict.

What separated Operation Bunyan un Marsoos from a conventional retaliatory strike was not the individual capability of any platform but the network-centric architecture connecting them. Real-time data sharing across army, air force, navy and cyber command compressed decision cycles and enabled synchronized effects at multiple target sets simultaneously. This sensor-to-shooter loop, the ability to move from detection to engagement across domains faster than an adversary can respond, is the defining characteristic of mature multi-domain operations doctrine.

India acknowledged limited damage to four airbases, Udhampur, Pathankot,

Adampur and Bhuj, and confirmed one soldier killed at Udhampur. The Stimson Center's post-crisis report "Four Days in May" noted that both sides suffered damage and that the operation exposed gaps in air defense resilience and electronic warfare preparedness that carry significant implications for future force planning. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace observed that the confrontation demonstrated the growing capacity of both states to impose meaningful costs through integrated conventional strikes while managing escalation below the nuclear threshold.

The operational lesson of Bunyan un Marsoos is precise. Technological investment in isolated platforms, however advanced, does not produce the battlefield coherence that integrated multi-domain doctrine achieves. The fusion of Fatah ballistic missiles with drone swarms, electronic warfare and cyber operations created compounding effects that no single domain could

have generated independently. Pakistan's DG ISPR described the operation as a milestone in what analysts have termed the new art of war, combining restraint with resolve, delivering calibrated effects without crossing into full-scale conflict.

For military strategists and defence planners across the region, the four days of May 2025 produced a body of operational evidence that cannot be dismissed. The age of single-domain warfare in South Asia is over. The state that integrates fastest, coordinates most coherently and compresses its decision cycles most effectively will define the terms of any future limited conventional conflict. Operation Bunyan un Marsoos established, with combat-verified evidence, where Pakistan now stands in that competition.

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## Iran creates agency to collect Strait of Hormuz tolls

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire with Iran was still in place despite an Iranian attack on three American destroyers in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, which he dismissed as "a trifle."

In a statement on X, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that, "every time a diplomatic solution is on the table, the US opts for a reckless military adventure." "Is it a crude pressure tactic? Or the result of a spoiler once again duping POTUS (President of the United States) into another quagmire?" he asks. Araghchi adds that Iranians will not bow to pressure, but diplomacy "remains the victim". "Also, the CIA is wrong. Our missile inventory and launcher capacity are not at 75 per cent compared to Feb 28. The correct figure is 120pc," he adds, citing an excerpt from a media report. "As for our readiness to defend our people: 1,000pc."

Earlier, the US military said it carried

out strikes on Iranian military targets in response, although Tehran charged that it was Washington that had initiated the exchange of fire.

The violence threatened to unravel a fragile truce in effect since April 8 that brought an end to weeks of US-Israeli attacks on the Islamic republic, which has retaliated with strikes across the Middle East and by blocking the strait, a vital route for oil and gas shipments.

Asked in Washington if the Iran ceasefire was still on, Trump said: "Yeah it is. They trifled with us today. We blew them away. They trifled. I call that a trifle."

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a post on X that Iranian forces launched "multiple missiles, drones and small boats" at the three US warships, but none were hit, and that it "eliminated inbound threats and targeted Iranian military facilities responsibly." "CENTCOM does not seek escalation but remains positioned and ready to protect American forces," it said.

For its part, Iran's central military

command accused the United States of violating the ceasefire by attacking an oil tanker and another ship, saying Tehran's forces "immediately and in retaliation attacked American military vessels."

Trump had fuelled hopes of a deal just the day before, saying an agreement could be near, even as he again threatened to return to bombing if Tehran refused to back down.

He doubled down on that stance after Thursday's clash, posting on his Truth Social platform: "We'll knock them out a lot harder, and a lot more violently, in the future, if they don't get their Deal signed, FAST!" he said.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Tehran would communicate its position to mediator Pakistan "after finalizing its views."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had struck an optimistic tone prior to the exchanges of fire on Thursday, saying in televised remarks: "I firmly believe that this ceasefire will turn into a long-term ceasefire."

## Zeeshan Naqvi Elected CFP President

ISLAMABAD: Former Deputy Mayor of Islamabad Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi has been elected President of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) for the 2026-2030 term following the completion of the federation's official elections.



The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has issued a formal notification confirming the results, marking the successful conclusion of the electoral process conducted under national sports regulations.

According to the Election Commission notification, the elections were held in accordance with the Constitution of the Pakistan Sports Board 2022, Revised National Sports Policy 2005, National Sports Federations (Tenure) Rules 2025, Sports Election Regulations 2024, and the constitution of the federation.

Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi has been elected President of the Chess Federation of Pakistan, while Raja Muhammad Gauhar Iqbal has been elected Secretary General. Muhammad Musawar Khan and Muhammad Wasif Nisar have been elected as Finance Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively.

Other office-bearers include Anwar Saleem Kasi as Senior Vice President, and Agha Waseem Ahmad, Muhammad Nadeem Khaldi, and Inamullah Awan as Vice Presidents.

## Aibaad, Umar Ejaz, Asadullah Hamza, Afnan Khan, Saifullah Shine in Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

KARACHI: Brilliant batting by Aibaad Khan 97 and Deadly bowling by Slow left arm spinner Muhammad Umar Ejaz 5/41, Medium Pacer Asadullah Hamza 4/19, slow left arm spinner Afnan Khan 4/25 highlights of the 3rd and Last day of the 5th round of the three day Matches of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament. Zone-IV, Zone-VI and Zone-II defeated there opponents in these Matches played at various Grounds. The Tournament is being Organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

The Following are the results of the Matches. At UBL Sports Complex Zone-IV beat Zone-VII by 135 runs. Zone-IV 1st Innings 311 and 2nd Innings 222.

Zone-VII 295 and 2nd Innings 103 37allout in 37 overs. Sabeh Siddiqui 47 7x4 not out. Asadullah Hamza (mf) 4/19, Afnan Khan (sla) 4/25, Hamza Shah Afridi 2/17. Asadullah Hamza got 8/72 in the Match. Zone-IV got 9 points in the match.

At KCCA Stadium Zone-VI beat Zone-I by 135 runs. Zone-VI 1st Innings 238/9 and 2nd Innings 276/7 in 68.5 overs Declared. Aibaad Khan 97 12x4 1x6, Ghulam Ashraf 67 7x4 2x6, Kashif Ali 40 4x4, S. M. Tahami 27, Rehman Ghani 2/31, Muhammad Mubashir 2/38, M. Taha Mehmood 2/39.

Zone-I 1st Innings 163 and 2nd Innings 216 allout in 59.2 overs. Farman ullah 70 9x4 Muhammad Taha Mehmood 43 7x4 2x6, Muhammad Raza 28, Malik Zainul Abideen 25, Rehman Ghani 22. Saifullah (ob) 4/53, Muhammad Makki 2/31, Muhammad Asad 2/33. Zone-VI got 9 points and after 4 Matches Zone-VI Total Points 29.

At Baqai Cricket Ground Zone-II beat Zone-V by 12 runs. Zone-II 1st Innings 242/8 and after concede first Innings lead of 27 runs Zone-II 2nd Innings 241 allout in 64.4 overs Wahaj Riaz 60 5x4 1x6, Muhammad Moazam 35, Ali Hassan 35, Asad Akhtar 30, M. Shahryar Ashar Usmani 22. Muhammad Abiss 3/29, Arif Shah 3/38, Muhammad Ali Butt 2/48.

In reply Zone-V 1st Innings 269 and Chasing 214 for Victory all for 2nd Innings 202 in 42 overs. Shah Raza Naqvi 61 8x4 3x6, Muhammad Abiss 32, Waton Dost 29, Fawad Shah 27. Muhammad Umar Ejaz (sla) 5/41in the Match 9/98. Rehan Ali Shah 2/36, Asad Akhtar 2/41. Zone-II got 6 points in the match.

## Pakistan Women gear up in Karachi ahead of final ODI against Zimbabwe

News Desk

The Pakistan women's national cricket team and Zimbabwe held training sessions at the National Bank Stadium, Karachi, ahead of the third and final ODI on Friday.



Pakistan's squad trained under the supervision of mentor Wahab Riaz along with the coaching staff.

Players took part in warm-up drills and also focused on batting, bowling, and fielding practice during the session.

The third ODI between the two sides will be played tomorrow, completing the three-match series.

Pakistan already won both of the opening matches against Zimbabwe.

## Marka-e-Haq celebrations

RAWALPINDI: A man walks past a government electric passenger bus displayed a portraits poster of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. Pakistan is commemorating the first anniversary of Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos (The Solid Structure), also known as Marka-e-Haq (Battle of Truth), which concluded successfully in May 2025. Digital screens and billboards have been prominently featured in the federal capital and across the country to showcase the achievements of this military operation and promote national unity.



Photo: Online

## CCRA briefs tribal leadership on National Cannabis Policy; Delegation invites DG to Tirah Valley

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority (CCRA) hosted a high-level engagement and policy briefing for a distinguished delegation of tribal elders, Masharan, Maliks, and community representatives from Tirah Valley at the CCRA Headquarters, Islamabad, aimed at bringing traditional cannabis cultivation under a formal legal, regulated, and economically beneficial framework.

The delegation was warmly received by the Director General, Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority, Major General (Retd.) Zafar Ullah Khan, HI(M), accompanied by senior officials of the CCRA. The tribal delegation comprised the representa-



tives including Malik Shahzad Khan, Shaharyar Khan Orakzai, Asfand Yaar Khan Orakzai, Haji Aamil Rehman, Ismail Khan, Khawaja Manat Khan, Haji Adam Khan, Rafeeq Haji, Maroof Haji,

Gulam Habbib, Zarmala Khan, Meer Haji, Musaiyat Haji, Tariq Khan, Yaseen, Hashim Khan, and Munsif Haji, representing the Sultan Zai, StorKhel, Sheikhan, AtmanKhel, BerazZaai, and

FareozKhel tribes.

Addressing the gathering, the DG CCRA stated that the National Cannabis Policy was the culmination of nearly one and a half years of painstaking efforts, extensive deliberations,

institutional coordination, and alignment with Pakistan's international obligations and national economic priorities.

He emphasized that the policy seeks to transform a historically unregulated sector into a transparent, lawful, and economically productive industry capable of benefitting local communities as well as the national economy.

The DG informed the delegation that under the newly introduced licensing regime/Frame work, tribal growers would receive legal protection, direct market access, transparent pricing mechanisms, and freedom from exploitative middlemen. He assured the participants that the policy had been designed to safeguard the rights of cultivators while ensuring full transparency and regulatory oversight.

## Marka-e-Haq proved Pakistan a respected and unshakable power, says Danyal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said on Friday that Operation Banyan al-Marsous and the victory in Marka-e-Haq established Pakistan as a formidable

power on military, diplomatic and narrative fronts, while demonstrating the unity of the nation and the professional excellence of the armed forces.

Addressing the first commemorative ceremony of Marka-e-Haq 2025 at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Danyal Chaudhry said Pakistan had delivered a decisive response to Indian aggression and state sponsored propaganda.

He alleged that India, under the pretext of targeting militant hideouts, attacked innocent civilians, including women and children, in viola-



tion of Pakistan's sovereignty. The ceremony was attended by Usman Shaukat,

Muhammad Abdullah Hameed Gul, Sohail Altaf and other prominent figures.

## Australia designates BLA as terrorist organisation, imposes sanctions

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Australia has officially designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a terrorist organisation and imposed targeted financial sanctions on the group and three of its senior leaders, Australian media reported.

The announcement was made by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who said the decision was taken because of the group's involvement in violent attacks in Pakistan.

According to the Australian government, the BLA has carried out multiple attacks targeting civilians, security forces, infrastructure and foreign nationals in Pakistan. Authorities also linked the group to a surge



in violence in early 2025 that reportedly caused hundreds of deaths across

several districts.

Australian media reports said the banned outfit had been involved in multiple suicide bombings and attacks.

Under the sanctions, Australian authorities will freeze assets linked to the organisation and the designated individuals, while any financial dealings with them will become a criminal offence.

Officials said violations of the sanctions could result in severe penalties, including heavy fines and prison sentences.

Wong said the measures were aimed at disrupting terrorist financing networks and limiting the ability of extremist groups to recruit members and spread militant influence.

## IMF approves over \$1.2bn tranche for Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund has approved the release of more than \$1.2 billion for Pakistan under its ongoing loan programme following a key Executive Board meeting in Washington on Friday.

According to finance ministry officials, the board reviewed Pakistan's economic performance and reform measures before approving the next tranche under the country's IMF programme.

The approval follows a staff-level agreement reached between Pakistan and the IMF on March 27, after negotiations on economic reforms and fiscal targets.

Officials said the funding falls under the broader \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) programmes.

Authorities stated that Pakistan



had completed most IMF conditions and fulfilled all prior actions required before the board review.

Officials added that the successful completion of the third review is expected to lead to the release of around \$1 billion, while an additional \$210 million would become available after the second review under the RSF arrangement.

Finance ministry officials said the latest disbursement would help strengthen Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and support economic stability as the government continues implementing IMF-backed reforms.

## Quaid PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chairs PML-N's Parliamentary Board Meeting



Bureau Report

LAHORE: President Pakistan Muslim League-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chaired a meeting of Pakistan Muslim League-N's Parliamentary Board. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif also attended the meeting to decide on PML-N's candidates for Azad Kashmir elections. Other members of the Parliamentary Board include

Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Pervaiz Rashid, Rana Sanaullah, Engineer Amir Muqam, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Anusha Rahman, Captain (R) Muhammad Safdar, and Barjees Tahir; besides Shah Ghulam Qadir, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider, Mush-taq Minhas, Chaudhry Muhammad Saeed, and Chaudhry Tariq Farooq. Dr. Najeeb Naqi Khan, Barrister Iftekhar Gillani, and Chaudhry Abdul Rehman also attended the board meeting.

## Public circles hail development policies: Minister Maritime Affairs

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Citizens and social circles have highly appreciated the development projects initiated by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs and Member National Assembly from NA-106 Toba Tek Singh, Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry. They said that through practical measures for the development of Toba Tek Singh and public welfare, he has won the hearts of the people. Personalities from different walks of life stated that Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry is not only an active political leader but also takes special interest in resolving the problems of his constituency.

District Chairman of Real Estate Toba Tek Singh, Abdul

Sattar Wains, in his statement said that Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry has launched numerous development projects in Toba Tek Singh, ushering in a new era of progress in the area. Abdul Sattar Wains further said that the biggest and most important project for Toba Tek Singh is the one-way road project which will start from Jhang Road Motorway and extend to the Rajana Motorway Interchange.

Haji Muhammad Afzal Gujjar said that Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry has been elected several times as Member National Assembly from Toba Tek Singh and his continuous success reflects public satisfaction with his performance and good conduct.

## Ministry of interior rejects reports of targeted expulsions of Pakistanis from UAE

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Interior on Friday rejected reports circulating on social media about the specific expulsion of Pakistanis from the United Arab Emirates, calling them propaganda and part of a malicious and fake campaign.

The ministry said Pakistanis from any specific country or reli-

gion were not being targeted and that deportations were only routine actions taken for violations of the host country's laws.

It said Pakistani citizens were continuing to obtain visas from the UAE and other friendly countries.

The ministry added that action against overstaying and illegal documents was a routine part of the process and urged the public to remain cautious about fake news.