



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand to arrive today

Pakistan is once again at the centre of international diplomacy as Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand is expected to arrive in Islamabad for talks with the Pakistani leadership on the latest US-Iran situation. The discussions are expected to focus on the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, which is linked to efforts to restore peace and keep dialogue alive over the regional crisis.



5G internet service installed at Islamabad Airport

The installation of an indoor 5G solution at Islamabad International Airport has officially commenced, marking the first comprehensive indoor 5G facility at any airport in Pakistan. A kick-off ceremony for the project was held under the supervision of the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA).

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Visit of new Raja Bazaar

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, senior minister Punjab Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, are visiting at newly constructed new model Raja Bazaar, in the city.



Photo: Online

Govt. committed to addressing Balochistan issues: DPM/FM Dar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Sunday, reiterated that the Federal Government was committed to addressing the challenges being faced by the people of Balochistan province, in achieving their legitimate aspirations for economic prosperity and development, within the confines of the Constitution of Pakistan. The deputy prime minister/foreign minister received President of the National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, along

with parliamentary members of his party, the DPM Office said in a press release.

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah Khan and SAPM Tariq Bajwa also attended the meeting.

Dr. Baloch thanked the DPM /FM and said that the National Party was willing to work together with all for the betterment and welfare of the people of Balochistan, and highlighted that certain elements operating in the province had neither support nor legitimacy in the hearts of the people of Balochistan.

Youm-e-Ilhaq Reaffirms Pakistan's Support for Kashmiris: Atta Tarar

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said Youm-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan (Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day) symbolizes the historic relationship between Pakistan and Kashmir and reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Addressing a gathering during the elections for Kashmir refugee seats, Tarar recalled that on July 19, 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference passed a resolution in Srinagar supporting the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan. He said the day remains signif-



icant for the ongoing Kashmir freedom movement and reiterated that the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination is

recognized under United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The minister emphasized that the bond between Pakistan and Kashmir is unbreakable, stating that Kashmiris living across Pakistan and around the world remain an integral part of the Kashmiri nation. He rejected any attempt to abolish refugee seats, describing such moves as a conspiracy to weaken the historic relationship between Pakistan and Kashmir and undermine the constitutional rights of Kashmiri refugees.

Tarar urged voters to support Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) candidates in the Kashmir refugee seats elections and praised party workers for their commit-

ment. Criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he accused the party of divisive politics and poor governance, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while highlighting the development initiatives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

He also paid tribute to Pakistan's armed forces and the families of martyrs, stressing that national unity remains essential in confronting internal and external challenges. Concluding his address, Tarar said Pakistan's international standing continues to strengthen and reaffirmed the country's diplomatic, political and moral support for the people of Kashmir.



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Interior Minister Dr. Eskandar Momeni is expected to visit Pakistan within the next 48 hours for high-level talks on bilateral cooperation, security

and trade, sources said.

According to sources, Dr. Momeni will be accompanied by a delegation during the visit and is scheduled to hold talks with Pakistan's Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

Continued on Page 7

Dr. Tariq Reaffirms Pakistan's Support for Kashmiris on Youm-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said July 19, 1947 marked a golden chapter when Kashmiris adopted the historic resolution for accession to Pakistan.

In his message, he said the Kashmir-Pakistan relationship is rooted in shared history, culture and religion, not just geography. He noted Kashmiris have kept their struggle for the right to self-determination alive through decades of sacrifices.

Dr Tariq said despite Indian oppression and repression, the resolve and desire for freedom of the Kashmiri people remains unwavering.

The minister reiterated that Pakistan will continue moral, political and diplomatic support for Kashmiris' legitimate right to self-determination. He added Pakistan backs a just and lasting resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Abbasi Reaffirms Pakistan's Unwavering Support for Kashmiris

City Desk

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Sunday reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast political, diplomatic and moral support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Accession to Pakistan Day.

In his message, he said the day symbolizes Pakistan's renewed commitment to Kashmiris' just struggle for freedom and their internationally recognized right to self-determination. "Every citizen of Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters," he said, adding their struggle cannot be suppressed by force.

Abbasi stressed that a just, peaceful resolution in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions is essential for South Asian peace. He urged the international community to take notice of ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK.

He reiterated Pakistan will continue raising the Kashmir issue at every international forum and supporting the legitimate struggle.

Karachi goods carriers reject fuel hike, threaten nationwide strike

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Karachi Goods Carriers Association (KGCA) has rejected the government's recent hike in diesel and petrol prices, warning of a nationwide wheel-jam strike if the decision is not withdrawn within 24 hours.

Addressing a press conference, KGCA President Malik Sher Khan said repeated fuel price increases have pushed the transport sector into a severe financial crisis. He noted global oil prices have declined but benefits have not reached transporters or the public, driving up transportation costs for businesses and consumers.

General Secretary Nadeem Akhtar Arain said current fuel pricing policies are hurting the transport industry and the wider economy. He alleged truckers across Punjab, Balochistan, AJK and other areas face unnecessary inspections, heavy fines, bribery demands and harassment.

KGCA warned that failure to act will suspend goods transport nationwide, disrupting cargo movement from Karachi Port, Port Qasim and Gwadar Port.

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Pakistan Accession Resolution Day Observed in Muzaffarabad with Rally and Ceremony

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell organized a ceremony at the Central Press House to mark Pakistan Accession Resolution Day.

Hurriyat leader Mushtaq Ahmed Butt was chief guest. Other attendees included PM AJK Spokesperson Shaukat Javed Mir, Liberation Cell Director Raja Sajjad Khan, AJK University Neelum Campus Director Dr. Lal Hussain, and civil society members. Earlier, a rally was held outside the Press Club with large Kashmiri participation.

Speakers said that on July 19, 1947, Kashmiri leadership passed the Accession to Pakistan Resolution, linking Kashmir's future with Pakistan 27



days before Pakistan's creation. They noted Pakistan fought 3 wars for occupied Kashmir and has always supported Kashmiris, adding "Kashmiris are Pakistanis before other Pakistanis."

They highlighted that millions have

been martyred since 1947 to implement the accession decision, and arrests and atrocities continue in occupied Kashmir over slogans like "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours." Martyrs are buried under the Pakistani flag, a symbol of Kashmiri devotion.

The speakers vowed to continue the struggle until all of Kashmir is annexed to Pakistan and said they would one day celebrate the day in Srinagar and Jammu. Youth at the event renewed their commitment to the historic resolution.

Beat the heat

RAWALPINDI: An elderly man sips sugarcane juice during hot and humid weather, in the city.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Accession Day marked in Bhimber with rally, prayers and intellectual session

 Bureau Report

BHIMBER: Pakistan Accession Day was observed in Bhimber with a dignified rally, prayer ceremony, and intellectual session led by SSP Bhimber Chaudhry Muhammad Amin and SDM Headquarters Muhammad Sohail Bashir.

Officers from government departments, political and social figures, lawyers, students, civil society members and citizens participated.

The rally began at the Deputy Commissioner Office and concluded at the SP Office. Participants carried banners in favor of Pakistan and Kashmir, chanting slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Kashmir will become



Pakistan". Following the rally, special prayers were offered for Kashmiri martyrs, Pakistan's stability, early liberation of

occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

Addressing the session, speakers including SSP Amin, SDM Bashir, Qaiser Mahmood Shams, and Iqbal Inqilabi said July 19, 1947 was a historic day when Kashmiri representatives passed the accession resolution to Pakistan in Srinagar. They affirmed that Kashmiris remain committed to that resolve, based on faith, history, geography and sacrifices.

Speakers reiterated Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiris until their right to self-determination is achieved. Participants vowed: "Our hearts beat with Pakistan" and prayed for the progress of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

Labor Conference in Multan Calls for Rights and Education for Kiln Workers' Children

 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A Labor Conference on the rights and welfare of kiln workers was organized by social organization SPARK at a local hotel.

The event was chaired by SPARK founder Anees Jilani Advocate. Former Punjab Governor Malik Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana Advocate attended as special guest. Other participants included Samson Salamat of Center for Human Rights Education, Rana Jamshed Ahmed Director Labor, Ume Farwah Hamdani, Umar Imran SPARK Project Director, Rao Abdul Qayyum Shaheen, Amjad Butt EOBI, Adnan Khan Sports Department, Madam Shafaat Child Protection, and Farhan Bhatti Social Security, along with representatives of government and civil society bodies.



Addressing the conference, Rajwana said kiln workers are a hardworking segment and it is the joint responsibility of state and society to provide basic facilities, better working conditions, and legal rights. He stressed effective

implementation of minimum wage laws to solve many of their problems.

Anees Jilani said quality education for kiln workers' children is the need of the hour. SPARK, he added, is providing services to secure a better

future for them.

Participants pledged to strengthen cooperation between government institutions and social organizations for worker welfare and children's education.

Pakistan Accession Day observed in Jhelum Valley with renewed resolve

 Bureau Report

JHELUM VALLEY: Pakistan Accession Day was celebrated across Jhelum Valley with national enthusiasm and a reaffirmed commitment to Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. Tribute to 19 July 1947 Resolution

A grand ceremony at the district headquarters began with Quran recitation and a police salute. DC Faisal Mughal and SP Atta-ur-Rehman said 19 July 1947 was a decisive day when Kashmiri leadership passed the Accession to Pakistan resolution in Srinagar. They termed it a symbol of the Kashmiri people's determination that their future lies with Pakistan, rooted in history, faith, culture and sacrifices. Call for Right to Self-Determination

Speakers said the Kashmiri struggle for freedom has continued for over seven decades despite Indian oppression. They urged the UN and international community to address human rights violations in IIOJK and ensure self-determination per UN resolutions. The event concluded with prayers for Kashmir's independence, martyrs, and Pakistan's stability and prosperity.

Mirpur Observes Pakistan Accession Day, reaffirms commitment to Pakistan

 Bureau Report

MIRPUR: An important meeting was held under DC Chaudhry Sajid Aslam to mark Pakistan Accession Day, paying tribute to Kashmiri leaders who passed the Accession Resolution on 19 July 1947 in Srinagar.

Addressing the meeting, DC Sajid Aslam said the 1947 resolution reflects the long-standing aspirations of Kashmiris. "We are Pakistanis by choice, our life and death is with Pakistan and we will always maintain this eternal bond," he said, adding that the struggle for accession will continue. He thanked President Asif Ali Zardari, PM Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Pakistanis for supporting Kashmir's freedom movement.

He urged the UN to act against Indian atrocities in IIOJK and bring India to justice. "Pakistan and Kashmir are one soul and two bodies," he added. The meeting concluded with prayers for Kashmir's freedom, martyrs, and Pakistan's security and prosperity.

Multan Police Officer Suspended after 7-year-old boy allegedly handcuffed and presented in court

 Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A video showing a 7-year-old boy, Aurangzeb, allegedly brought to court in handcuffs by officials from Basti Malook Police Station has sparked widespread outrage and raised concerns over child rights and police conduct in Pakistan.

According to the child's mother, the case stemmed from a neighborhood dispute and a false criminal case was registered against her son. She said his B-Form confirms he is only seven. The mother alleged the boy was kept at the police station overnight without food, and was seen outside court feeding him homemade porridge. Legal experts and child rights advocates say the incident may violate the Juvenile Justice System Act and other child protection laws.

Following public backlash, Mubashir Gillani, Investigation In-Charge at Basti Malook Police Station, was suspended for allegedly allowing the child to be handcuffed.

Activists are demanding a high-level, transparent investigation to determine if the child's legal and constitutional rights were violated and to ensure accountability. Authorities have not yet issued a detailed statement on the circumstances of the arrest and court presentation.



MD WASA Kamran Kahlon inspects disposal stations, orders 24/7 monsoon readiness in Toba Tek Singh

 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Managing Director WASA Toba Tek Singh Chaudhry Kamran Kahlon inspected key city areas and WASA installations on Sunday to review drainage arrangements during the ongoing monsoon season. During the visit to 328 Disposal Station, he reviewed the performance of pumping machinery, drainage operations, electricity supply, and the readiness of field staff. He was briefed on measures to ensure uninterrupted drainage during heavy rainfall.

Speaking on the occasion, Kahlon directed officers to keep all disposal stations, drains and the sewerage system fully functional to prevent prolonged waterlogging. He emphasized that public service is WASA's top priority and all resources must be utilized.

He ordered field teams to remain on high alert 24/7, monitor vulnerable points, and respond immediately to complaints. He also instructed that all pumps, generators and equipment be kept in working condition.

To ensure emergency response, all field staff leaves have been cancelled for the monsoon season. The WASA Control Room will operate 24 hours to address public complaints and monitor drainage.

Kahlon reaffirmed WASA's commitment to provide maximum relief to citizens and minimize inconvenience from heavy rains.

Four arrested in Toba Tek Singh over alleged substandard construction



 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Four people, including a contractor, were arrested by the Anti-Corruption Establishment over alleged corruption and use of substandard material in the Model Village Project, following a surprise inspection ordered by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The CM Inspection Team, led by Special Assistant Shoaib Mirza, inspected the suburban village project and collected material samples. A lab report allegedly found the material did not meet government quality standards, raising concerns of financial irregularities.

Based on findings, ACE arrested the contractor and three others. Officials said project records, payments, tenders and execution are under review. Authorities added that if government officials or others are found involved, strict legal action will follow. CM Maryam Nawaz reiterated no compromise on quality or transparency and directed continued surprise inspections across Punjab to protect public funds.

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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:31 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:17 pm
Isha 8:56 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883

Lions Leaders Trained on Role in Serving Humanity in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A special training for Lions leaders and chairpersons was held at Serena Hotel to strengthen their role in service and Lionism.

District Governor Line Zafar Mahmood, Council Chairperson Line Abdul Rehman, and First Vice District Governor Line Farooq Yousuf Sheikh attended. Trainers Line Ayaz Alvi, Line Sonia Suri, Dr. Farrukh Hassan, and Line Azhar Chaudhry guided participants on how Lions can actively serve humanity through community projects.

They emphasized leadership, discipline, and organized service as core to Lions' mission in healthcare, education, and welfare.

Participants included former District Governor Line Atif Munir, Zone Chairperson Line Rana Sikandar Azam, Line Zahid Mahmood Butt, Line Zubair Ahmed, Line Hassan Ashraf, Line Malik Farooq, Line Shahid Hameed, Line Ali Murtaza, Line Zeeshan Ahmed, Line Elhtesham Tanveer, Line Shabbir Ahmed, Line Abdul Samad, Line Rehan Abid, and other line leaders.

Farooq Yousuf Sheikh, President FCCL, made the event arrangements. Guests were welcomed with flower bouquets.

Accession to Pakistan reflects that Kashmiris have always remained emotionally attached to Pakistan: CM Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her special message on Kashmir Accession to Pakistan Day, said that on July 19, 1947, the people of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir adopted the historic resolution in favour of accession to Pakistan. She said the Resolution for Accession to Pakistan stands as clear evidence that the hearts of the Kashmiri people have always beat with Pakistan.

The Chief Minister said that a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions remains the only guarantee for protecting the rights of the Kashmiri people and ensuring peace and stability in the region.

Maryam Nawaz said that the

Government and people of Pakistan would continue to extend diplomatic, moral and political support to the people of Kashmir. She added that Pakistan would continue to raise its voice at every forum for securing the legitimate rights of Kashmiris subjected to Indian oppression. She noted that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have been waiting for their internationally recognized right to self-determination for decades.

The Chief Minister paid tribute to the struggle, sacrifices and steadfast courage of the oppressed Kashmiri brothers and sisters, expressing confidence that the day would surely come when the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir would be able to determine their own future in accordance with their aspirations.



Ludo

ISLAMABAD: Children playing Ludo snake game in a summer camp at a local shopping mall in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

LGH treats over 2.5 million patients in emergency & OPD In 12 Months

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Under the vision of CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif "Health for All" and "Patient First" Lahore General Hospital (LGH) has delivered exemplary performance during the past financial year by providing quality healthcare services to more than 2.5 million patients in its Emergency and Out-Patient Departments.

Presiding over a joint meeting of the Academic Council and administrative doctors, Principal Amiruddin Medical College Prof. Dr. Farooq Afzal said that the hospital's primary objective is to deliver timely and high-quality medical care to every patient without



delay. He credited effective coordination and patient-friendly policies for the remarkable improvements seen across all departments. Prof.

MS LGH Prof. Dr. Faryad Hussain presented the hospi-

tal's annual performance briefing, revealing that the facility performed 116,473 major and minor surgeries, 74234 indoor admissions of patients and conducted over 2.45 million laboratory tests during the last

12 months. The diagnostic departments also excelled, carrying out 314,031 X-rays, 135,342 Ultrasounds, 92,641 ECGs, 76,531 CT Scans, 19,144 MRIs, 18,203 Dialysis sessions, and 6,746 Gastro procedures.

Bilawal woos AJK voters, promises rights protection and jobs ahead of July 27 polls

MIRPUR:

Pakistan

Peoples Party (PPP)

Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari on

Sunday urged the

people of Azad Jammu

and Kashmir (AJK)

to vote for the PPP

in the July 27 Legislative

Assembly elections,

pledging that a party-led government would protect public rights, natural

resources and expand economic opportunities across the region. Addressing

a large election rally at Sikandar Hayat Stadium, he expressed confidence

that the PPP would secure a strong electoral mandate.

Bilawal paid tribute to PPP Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry

Muhammad Yasin for his leadership and commitment, saying the party

had prioritized loyal workers in awarding election tickets. He said the

PPP's workers had always remained steadfast despite political pressure

and legal cases, adding that the party's history was rooted in sacrifices for

democracy and constitutional rights.

Highlighting the party's election agenda, Bilawal pledged to safeguard

the rights, land and resources of the people of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan

while continuing to raise the Kashmir issue at international forums. He also

called for greater representation of Azad Kashmir in national institutions,

including the Council of Common Interests (CCI) and the National Finance

Commission (NFC), to ensure a greater role in decisions concerning

resources and development.



Dr. Essa Laboratory Hosts Women Empowerment Summit in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Dr. Essa Laboratory & Diagnostic Centre organized a Women Empowerment Summit at its Abul Hassan Isphahani Branch to highlight women's education, leadership, and role in national development. Representatives from healthcare, education, public service, civil society, media, sports, and the corporate sector attended.

Speakers emphasized that

empowering women is key to a stronger Pakistan. Discussions covered women's contributions to leadership, entrepreneurship, healthcare, education, and community development. Global data shows organizations with more women in leadership achieve better performance and inclusive growth.

The summit stressed girls' education, citing UNESCO figures that nearly two-thirds of adults lacking basic literacy are women. Educating

women, participants noted, leads to healthier families, higher incomes, and stronger economic development.

WHO data shared at the event noted 260,000 women died in 2023 from pregnancy-related causes, most of which are preventable. Speakers linked women's empowerment to national unity, economic growth, and institutional strength, in line with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's vision.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
(jaffrani@adpluse.pk
Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone:+92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
Karachi Phone:021-33399390
Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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A New Hope in Pakistan’s Fight Against Hepatitis Delta

Pakistan’s healthcare system stands at an important crossroads as the government moves to introduce an innovative treatment for Hepatitis Delta (HDV), one of the most severe forms of viral hepatitis. The progress made during the Pakistan-China B2B Health Conference represents more than a regulatory milestone; it reflects a growing commitment to ensuring that Pakistani patients have timely access to life-saving medical innovations.

Hepatitis Delta is a neglected yet highly dangerous disease that can rapidly progress to liver cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer if left untreated. Medical experts estimate that more than one million people in Pakistan may be living with suspected HDV infection, while many remain undiagnosed due to limited awareness and inadequate screening. This makes early diagnosis and access to effective treatment a national public health priority.

The efforts led by Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal, together with leading hepatologist Prof. Dr. Saeed Hamid, clinical research expert Syed Munawar Ali, DRAP and other stakeholders, deserve appreciation. Their sustained engagement has helped pave the way for bringing a promising breakthrough therapy to Pakistan through the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) pathway while maintaining scientific and regulatory standards.

Equally encouraging is the strengthening of Pakistan-China cooperation in the healthcare sector. Beyond trade and infrastructure, collaboration in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and medical research has the potential to transform healthcare delivery in Pakistan. The participation of a leading Chinese biotechnology company in advancing Phase III clinical development and regulatory discussions demonstrates growing international confidence in Pakistan’s clinical research capabilities.

However, introducing a new therapy should be viewed as only one component of a broader national strategy. Effective disease control requires large-scale screening programmes, public awareness campaigns, improved vaccination coverage against Hepatitis B, stronger infection prevention measures, safe blood transfusion practices and affordable diagnostic facilities. Rural and underserved communities, where access to healthcare remains limited, must receive special attention to ensure that treatment reaches those who need it most.

The role of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) is equally critical. While expediting the approval process for promising therapies is important, regulatory decisions must continue to be guided by rigorous scientific evidence, patient safety and transparency. Emergency authorization should never compromise established standards but should instead facilitate faster access where clear benefits exist.

Pakistan’s participation in international clinical research also deserves recognition. It not only provides local patients with access to advanced therapies but also enhances the country’s scientific reputation and builds research capacity for future innovations.

Xi Jinping’s Vision and the China-Pakistan Journey of 75 Years - I

S Qamar Bashir
eventy-five years ago, on May 21, 1951, Pakistan became one of the earliest coquntries to establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China. Few could have imagined then that this bilateral relationship would evolve into one of the world’s most enduring strategic partnerships—surviving changing geopolitical landscapes, economic transformations, regional conflicts, and shifting global alliances.

Today, as both nations celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the friendship stands not merely as a testament to diplomatic continuity but as a remarkable example of mutual trust, shared respect, unwavering support, and common aspirations for peace and development.

Yet, the celebration of this milestone coincides with another extraordinary story—the unprecedented rise of modern China. Within the span of a few decades, China has transformed itself from one of the world’s poorest nations into the second-largest economy, the world’s largest manufacturing nation, the world’s largest trading country in goods, the global leader in high-speed rail, renewable energy, electric vehicles, digital commerce, and advanced infrastructure.

According to the World Bank, China has averaged annual economic growth of around 9 percent for more than four

decades and lifted nearly 800 million people out of extreme poverty, accounting for more than three-quarters of global poverty reduction during that period. Few achievements in modern economic history rival this transformation.

As someone who has spent decades serving Pakistan in public communication, diplomacy, and strategic affairs—including as Press Secretary to the President of Pakistan and Press Minister at Pakistan’s Embassy in France—I have had the privilege of witnessing many societies at different stages of development. During my diplomatic assignment in Malaysia, I observed firsthand how visionary leadership transformed that country into one of Southeast Asia’s fastest-growing economies. Later, while serving in Europe, I travelled extensively across France and many other European nations and also visited Canada and the United States. Each represented different models of prosperity, governance, and technological advancement.

Here’s a stronger and more historically connected version of the paragraph. It naturally links your personal observation to Xi Jinping’s leadership in Fujian and sets up the rest of the article. (One factual refinement: Xi Jinping served in Fujian from 1985 to 2002, including as Governor of Fujian Province (1999–

2002), before becoming Party Secretary of Zhejiang and later China’s top leader.)

However, my visits to China left an altogether different impression. In 2012, I was part of an official delegation that visited Fujian Province. China was already advancing rapidly, yet

Fujian stood out even among China’s most dynamic provinces. We witnessed world-class highways, meticulously planned cities, modern ports, thriving industrial parks, advanced research institutions, efficient governance, and an impressive level of economic vitality. What struck me even more was the discipline of the people, the cleanliness of public spaces, and the remarkable harmony between rapid urbanization and environmental stewardship. Having just completed four years in Malaysia, itself regarded as a development success story, I found Fujian’s pace and scale of transformation truly exceptional.

Only later did I fully appreciate that much of what I had witnessed bore the imprint of Xi Jinping’s leadership. President Xi spent nearly eighteen formative years in Fujian, serving in a succession of senior leadership positions before becoming Governor of Fujian Province from 1999 to 2002.

During this period, he championed export-oriented growth, moderniza-

tion of ports, improvement of transport infrastructure, ecological conservation, private-sector development, administrative efficiency, and greater openness to international investment.

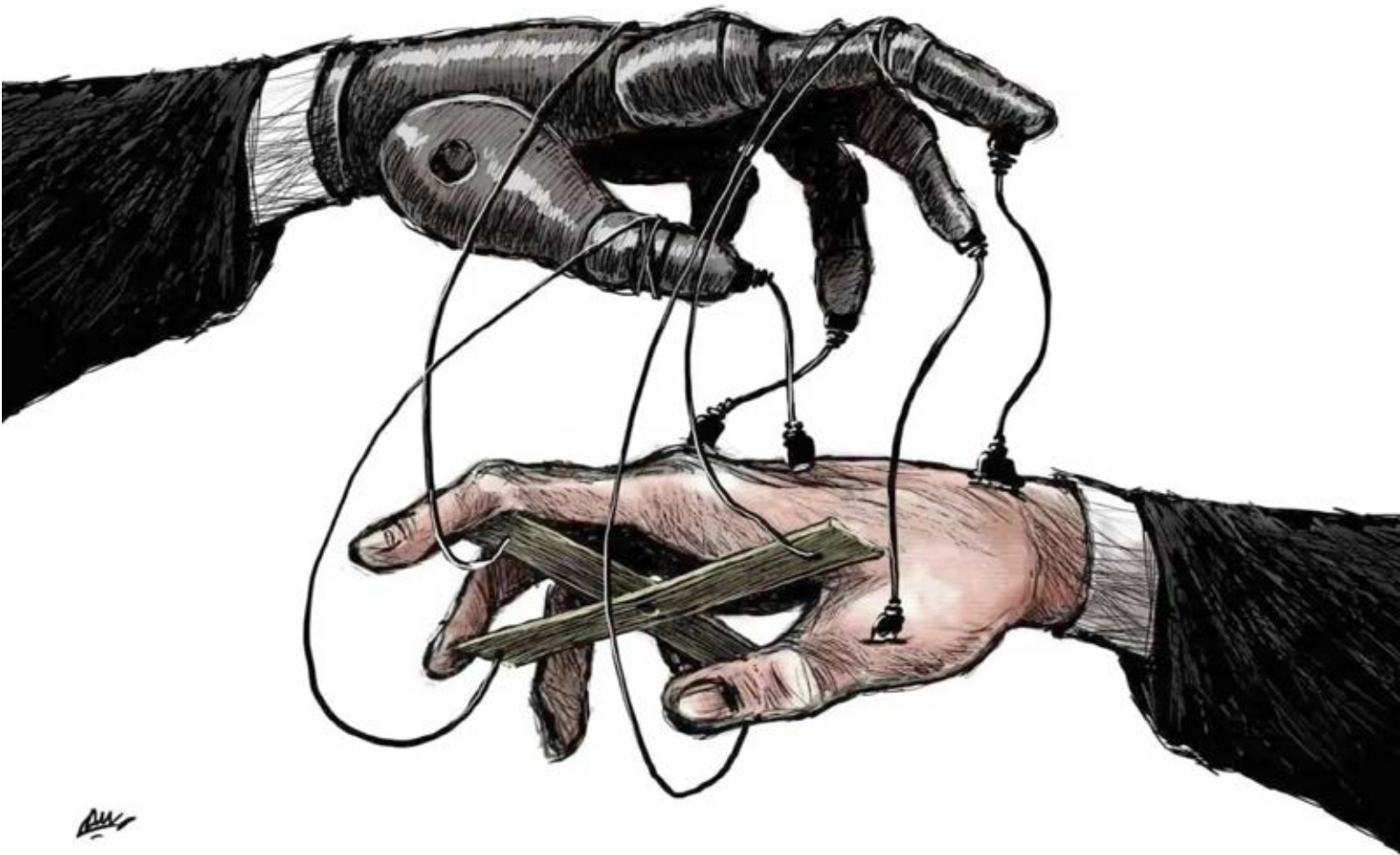
Equally important, he emphasized balanced development, insisting that economic progress should advance alongside environmental protection and improvements in people’s quality of life. Many of the policies, governance practices, and development concepts he pioneered in Fujian would later reappear on the national stage after he assumed China’s highest leadership.

Looking back, my visit to Fujian was more than an opportunity to observe one of China’s most prosperous provinces; it was, in many respects, an early glimpse of the governing philosophy that President Xi would subsequently apply across the country.

The disciplined administration, integrated infrastructure, technological advancement, environmental consciousness, and people-centred development model that I observed in Fujian later became defining features of China’s broader modernization under his leadership. Understanding Fujian, therefore, provides an important window into understanding Xi Jinping’s vision for China’s national rejuvenation.

When I returned to China in 2024, the transformation was even more striking. The China I encountered was more technologically sophisticated, more environ

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

Condemnable Remarks About Pak Army Martyrs Draw Strong Reactions

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), sparked widespread controversy after remarks made during a political gathering were widely interpreted as comparing the sacrifices of Pakistan’s martyrs to a monthly salary. The comments triggered nationwide backlash, with many Pakistanis viewing them as disrespectful to those who sacrificed their lives for the country’s sovereignty and security. The controversy expanded beyond politics into a broader debate over patriotism, sacrifice, honor, and the nation’s responsibility to remember its fallen soldiers.

Leaders from rival parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), condemned the remarks, stressing that martyrdom represents devotion, duty, and an unbreakable bond with the nation rather than financial compensation. Intellectuals, retired bureaucrats, academics, and artists also criticized the statement, arguing that it offended the collective memory of the nation, hurt the families of martyrs from the wars of 1948, 1965, 1971, and the fight against terrorism, and undermined the moral and national significance of their sacrifices. Critics further argued that soldiers embrace martyrdom out of duty, faith, honor, and love for their country, not for money, and that reducing their sacrifice to a salary ignored both its cultural and religious importance, particularly as martyrs hold a revered status in Islam.

The remarks drew condemnation from political and social circles as well as ordinary citizens across villages, towns, and cities, who

expressed their anger through protests, social media campaigns, and public discussions. Many viewed the statement as an insult to the nation’s heroes, a violation of the respect owed to martyrs and their families, and a breach of the trust expected from public leaders. The widespread reaction was portrayed as a collective defense of Pakistan’s national identity, which is closely associated with sacrifice and the honor of those who gave their lives for the country. Public sentiment emphasized that martyrs should remain above political rhetoric and that any attempt to diminish their legacy would face strong resistance. The public has deep appreciation for the Pakistan Army, crediting its personnel with defending the country’s borders, combating terrorism, maintaining internal security, and assisting citizens during natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. The respect enjoyed by the armed forces stems from decades of sacrifice and service, and that the people’s gratitude toward the army is inseparable from their reverence for the martyrs whose sacrifices are regarded as the foundation of Pakistan’s peace, security, and freedom.

The nation is acutely aware that the Pakistan Army has ensured our peace by giving their very blood, and this fundamental truth has been the bedrock of the civil-military relationship throughout the country’s history. Every inch of Pakistani soil is soaked with the sweat and blood of its soldiers, who have fought valiantly to repel invaders, crush insurgencies, and maintain law and order in the face of overwhelming odds. The war against terrorism, which spanned over two decades, was a particularly brutal chapter in this history, where the

army bore the brunt of the enemy’s fury, losing thousands of its personnel in the process. These brave individuals did not fight for a paycheck; they fought for an idea, an idea of Pakistan as a peaceful, stable, and prosperous nation where future generations could live without fear. Their sacrifices have created a buffer of safety that allows the rest of the nation to sleep peacefully at night, to pursue their livelihoods, to educate their children, and to dream of a better future. To attempt to reduce this colossal contribution to a mere economic transaction is not only factually incorrect but also incredibly disrespectful to the memory of the fallen and the enduring grief of their families. The people of Pakistan understand this reality with absolute clarity, and they have forcefully rejected the Maulana’s narrative, deeming it a deliberate attempt to sow discord and undermine the morale of the armed forces. This rejection is a testament to the national maturity and the collective wisdom of the populace, who refuse to be swayed by divisive rhetoric and remain steadfast in their support for their defenders.

Given the gravity of the offense, the nation has strongly rejected the remarks and issued a resounding call for immediate apologies from the elements who have so carelessly hurt the families of the martyrs and the sentiments of the entire nation. The demand for an apology is not rooted in a desire for political vengeance but in the simple and just expectation that those in positions of influence should adhere to a certain standard of decency and respect. An apology is seen as the minimum possible reparation that can be offered to mend the emotional damage that has been inflicted, and it would serve as a public acknowledgment that the remarks were a grave error in judgment. The people believe that a sincere and unconditional apology would go a long way in restoring some measure of

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Analysis of Environmental Pollution and Its Impact on Society

E nvironmental pollution has emerged as one of the most serious challenges facing humanity in the twenty-first century. Rapid industrialization, urbanization, population growth, and unsustainable consumption patterns have significantly increased the level of pollution worldwide. For developing countries such as Pakistan, environmental pollution poses a direct threat to public health, economic development, biodiversity, and overall quality of life. The issue is no longer confined to environmentalists and policymakers; it has become a matter of collective concern affecting every segment of society.

Environmental pollution refers to the contamination of air, water, land, and other natural resources through harmful substances and human activities. These pollutants disturb ecological balance and negatively affect living organisms. While technological and industrial development have contributed to economic growth, they have also accelerated environmental degradation, creating challenges that require urgent attention.

Air pollution is among the most visible and dangerous forms of environmental pollution. In major cities of Pakistan, increasing numbers of vehicles, industrial emissions, construction activities, and the burning of fossil fuels have significantly deteriorated air quality. Seasonal smog in cities such as Lahore has become a recurring environmental crisis. Exposure to polluted air causes respiratory diseases, asthma,

lung infections, cardiovascular problems, and other serious health complications. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable.

Water pollution is another major environmental concern. Rivers, lakes, canals, and groundwater sources are increasingly contaminated by untreated industrial waste, sewage discharge, agricultural chemicals, and plastic waste. Access to clean drinking water remains a challenge in many parts of Pakistan. Polluted water contributes to the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, and diarrhea. The contamination of water resources also affects agriculture, fisheries, and food security, creating wider socio-economic consequences.

Land pollution, often overlooked, has equally serious implications. Improper disposal of solid waste, excessive use of chemical fertilizers, plastic products, and industrial waste has degraded soil quality in many areas. Landfills continue to expand around urban centers, while plastic waste accumulates in streets, parks, and waterways. Soil contamination reduces agricultural productivity and threatens food safety, directly affecting farmers and consumers alike.

The impact of environmental pollution extends beyond physical health. It also affects mental well-being and social stability. Living in polluted environments can increase anxiety, stress, and psychological discomfort. Poor environmental conditions often reduce recreational

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Tourism Association of Pakistan President Naveed Ahmad Khan Visits Nathia Gali, Highlights Tourism Potential

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President of the Tourism Association of Pakistan, Naveed Ahmad Khan, visited the picturesque hill station of Nathia Gali in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where he praised its breathtaking natural beauty, pleasant weather and immense tourism potential.

During his visit, Naveed Ahmad Khan toured various scenic locations and interacted with local stakeholders, tourism operators and visitors. He appreciated the lush green forests, cool climate and peaceful environment, describing Nathia Gali as one of Pakistan's premier tourist destinations.

Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the importance of promoting domestic tourism as a key driver of economic growth, employment generation and regional development. He said Pakistan is blessed with world-class natural attractions that deserve greater promotion at both national and international levels.



The Tourism Association president stressed the need to further improve tourism infrastructure, road connectivity, hospitality services and visitor facilities while ensuring environmental conservation and sustainable tourism practices. He said preserving the region's natural beauty is essential for attracting more tourists and safeguarding the area's ecological balance.

Naveed Ahmad Khan also commended the efforts of the local administration in facilitating tourists during the peak summer season and called for stronger collaboration between

the public and private sectors to enhance Pakistan's tourism industry.

He encouraged families, travel enthusiasts and international visitors to explore the scenic destinations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying tourism not only contributes to economic prosperity but also promotes Pakistan's positive image, cultural heritage and natural diversity.

Local tourism stakeholders welcomed his visit and expressed optimism that continued support from the Tourism Association of Pakistan would help further develop Nathia Gali and other



scenic destinations, boosting investment and strengthening the country's tourism sector.

Karachi Editors Club Welcomes Appointment of Raisa Adil as Principal Information Officer

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Executive Committee of the Karachi Editors Club (KEC) has welcomed the Government of Pakistan's appointment of Mrs. Raisa Adil as Principal Information Officer (PIO), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

At a special meeting chaired by KEC President Mubasher Mir, the committee also congratulated Federal Minister for Information Attaulah Tarar for what it called a merit-based and well-deserved appointment.

Mubasher Mir said the PIO office is the vital bridge between government and media and expressed hope that under Adil's leadership, the Press Information Department would promote transparency, timely dissemination of information, and trust-based engagement with journalists.

Secretary General Manzar Naqvi highlighted the media industry's



financial crisis, noting job losses and uncertainty. He urged the new PIO to adopt an open-door policy and consult media bodies on key issues.

The committee stressed timely release of government advertisements, clearance of outstanding payments, and a fair advertising policy to support



media sustainability. It also called for a framework for laid-off journalists including training, employment facilitation, and welfare measures.

KEC reaffirmed full cooperation with the Ministry and PID to promote responsible journalism, media freedom and institutional harmony.

PAAPAM Reaffirms Importance of Pakistan's Auto Parts Manufacturing Sector

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Pakistan's auto parts manufacturing industry, describing it as a key contributor to industrial development, employment generation, import substitution and export growth.

PAAPAM Chairman Mr. Usman Malik said the local auto parts industry has invested billions of rupees over the past several decades in manufacturing facilities, tooling, engineering capabilities, localisation and quality systems. He noted that the

sector supports thousands of direct and indirect jobs and continues to play a significant role in the country's economy.

He said Pakistan's auto parts manufacturers possess the capability to produce internationally competitive products. However, unlocking the sector's full potential requires consistent industrial policies, competitive energy tariffs, affordable financing, export facilitation and a stable investment environment.

Former Chairman Mr. Aamir Allawala said that recent comparisons between Pakistan's auto industry and the JF-17 Thunder programme overlook the fundamen-

tally different nature of the two sectors. He explained that the JF-17 was a strategic national programme supported by long-term government commitment, sustained public investment and assured institutional demand, whereas the auto parts industry operates on private investment, market-driven demand and evolving fiscal and regulatory policies. The comparison, he said, highlights the importance of policy continuity, long-term planning and a supportive business environment for the sustainable growth of any manufacturing sector.

Mr. Allawala further said that addressing structural challenges such as high

energy costs, expensive financing, taxation, logistics constraints and limited market access would significantly enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's auto parts industry and enable it to integrate more effectively into global value chains.

PAAPAM called upon the government, policymakers, media and all relevant stakeholders to work together to strengthen Pakistan's manufacturing base, encourage investment and promote evidence-based dialogue on industrial development. The Association reiterated its commitment to innovation, quality and global competitiveness while contributing to Pakistan's long-term economic growth.

Pakistan Urged to Strengthen Religious Freedom, Equal Citizenship to Retain GSP+ Status

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Participants at a three-day National Consultative Workshop on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) called on Pakistan to strengthen legal safeguards, promote equal citizenship, and ensure zero tolerance for religious hate speech and mob violence to retain its GSP+ trade status with the European Union.

The workshop, organized by the Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM) in collaboration with Government College University Faisalabad and Social Sciences Baha Services under the EU-funded Asia Action for Freedom of Religion or Belief project, brought together academics, parliamentarians, journalists, civil society representatives, human rights experts, and members of reli-



gious minority communities.

Speakers stressed that Pakistan must translate its commitments under the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) into concrete legal and institutional reforms to strengthen human rights, improve democratic governance, and maintain international credibility.

Punjab lawmakers Ijaz Alam Augustine and Qudsia Zia Batool acknowledged gradual progress in expanding political space for minorities and pledged to present the workshop's recommendations before the Pakistan Muslim League-N's central leadership.

Human rights experts and academics highlighted persistent challenges, including discrimination against religious minorities, forced conversions, child marriages involving minority girls, and barriers to equal political and

economic participation. They emphasized that meaningful reforms require strong political commitment and effective implementation of existing laws.

Participants also called for reforms to align Pakistan's legal framework with international human rights obligations under the GSP+ scheme, stronger protection against online hate campaigns, enhanced digital security for human rights defenders, and improved data protection laws.

The workshop concluded that protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief, promoting equality, combating hate speech and mob violence, and fully implementing international commitments are essential for building an inclusive society, safeguarding minority rights, and preserving Pakistan's GSP+ trade benefits with the European Union.

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Trade Reaches \$100 Million, Envoy Lauds Strong Bilateral Ties

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, JULY 20: Outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H. E. Khazar Farhadov, has said bilateral trade between Pakistan and Azerbaijan has increased tenfold—from US\$10 million to US\$100 million—while a simplified visa regime has significantly boosted people-to-people contacts and tourism.

Speaking at a farewell dinner hosted by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Patron-in-Chief of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (APJCCI), in honour of Ambassador Farhadov and

outgoing Ambassador of Kazakhstan H. E. Yerzhan Kistafin, the Azerbaijani envoy described Pakistan as his "second home" and expressed gratitude for the affection and support he received during his diplomatic tenure.

Ambassador Farhadov said the easy visa policy increased the number of Pakistani visitors to Azerbaijan from 20,000 to 90,000, while nearly 2,000 Pakistani students are currently pursuing education there. He also highlighted expanding defence cooperation, including Azerbaijan's acquisition of JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, joint military exercises and high-level bilateral exchanges.

Kazakhstan's Ambassador Yerzhan

Kistafin described Pakistan as a key strategic partner in Central Asia, emphasizing vast opportunities for cooperation in trade, transport, logistics and investment. He praised Pakistan's hospitality and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh commended both ambassadors for their significant role in promoting economic cooperation and people-to-people relations, stressing the importance of joint ventures in agriculture, information technology, energy, tourism and logistics.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hamid

Asghar Khan appreciated the ambassadors' contributions to strengthening Pakistan's relations with Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and called for greater regional connectivity and investment.

Speaking on the occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG), highlighted Ambassador Farhadov's role in establishing direct air connectivity between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and revealed that efforts are underway to launch direct flights between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

Host Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari praised both envoys for expanding bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and diplomacy, expressing confi-



dence they would continue serving as ambassadors of goodwill for Pakistan in their future assignments.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, commemorative shields were presented to the outgoing ambassa-

dors in recognition of their services.

Separately, UBG Patron-in-Chief S. M. Tanveer announced that a nationwide Traders' Convention will be held in Islamabad on July 29 to discuss proposals aimed

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
175,802.78	178,123.56
Day's High	Day's Low
178,694.48	175,790.62
Index Value	Change
20,493,839,828	-2320.78
Percentage	Time
-1.3%	17 Jul, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,600.37	+28.13
Percentage	Time
+0.27%	17 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,335.25	-217.72
Percentage	Time
-0.41%	17 Jul, 1:42 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
64,141.12	-2,694.42
Percentage	Time
-4.03%	17 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.48	205.17
Bahrain Dinar	741.05	751.95
Canadian Dollar	197.72	201.65
China Yuan	38.05	38.80
Danish Krone	42.56	43.25
Euro	321.04	324.40
Hong Kong Dollar	35.24	36.25
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.7114	1.8100
Kuwaiti Dinar	890.02	900.95
Malaysian Ringgit	67.00	68.05
NewZealand \$	161.20	163.75
Norwegians Krone	27.99	28.29
Omani Riyal	725.81	735.65
Qatari Riyal	75.45	76.47
Saudi Riyal	74.65	75.30
Singapore Dollar	214.85	217.85
Swedish Korona	28.25	28.90
Swiss Franc	343.59	348.25
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.80
U.A.E Dirham	76.30	77.00
UK Pound Sterling	376.31	379.15
US Dollar	278.95	279.15

Hyderabad
Chamber urges
Sindh Govt to
adopt long-term
wheat policy

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry President Muhammad Saleem Memon has called on the Sindh government to formulate a comprehensive, transparent and long-term wheat policy to protect farmers, ensure affordable flour for consumers, and safeguard food security.

Memon said wheat is a strategic commodity and its procurement, storage, transportation and distribution must be modernized. He stressed reforms should be permanent, not ad-hoc, to prevent future crises.

He reiterated earlier proposals for private sector involvement in procurement, modern storage, and transparent procedures. The Chamber urged introduction of a digital wheat tracking and stock monitoring system linking government warehouses, flour mills, private warehouses, and purchase data to a central platform.

Memon said real-time data would help prevent artificial shortages, illegal hoarding and irregularities, while enabling better supply decisions across the province.

Several B2B deals
signed during 11th
Colour & Chem
Expo 2026

LAHORE: Pakistan's premier exhibition for the dyes, chemicals and allied industries, the 11th Colour & Chem Expo 2026, successfully concluded at the Lahore Expo Centre on Sunday.

Business to business (B2B) deals worth millions of rupees were signed on the occasion.

Event and Conference International organised the event in collaboration with Rainbow Group and the Punjab Dyes and Chemicals Merchants Association.

Pakistan can earn billions annually
by exploiting tourism potential, say
industry leaders

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said Pakistan can earn billions of dollars in foreign exchange annually by fully exploiting its tourism potential and rich historical-cultural heritage, and by properly projecting religious sites to attract local and foreign tourists.

Speaking to Chairman Discover Pakistan HD Dr. Kaiser Rafiq, he said tourism can become a multi-billion dollar industry if top destinations are promoted globally, including Hunza, Skardu, Swat, Naran, Kaghan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Harappa, Taxila, Panja Sahib, Baba Guru Nanak and Darbar Kartarpur. He noted Pakistan was ranked the best holiday destination for 2020 and the third-highest potential adventure destination in the world.



Malik added Pakistan offers some of the world's cheapest and best tourist spots. With online visas for 175 countries and visa on arrival for 50 countries, visits have been made easier, and tourism has grown over 300% in the last couple of years.

He stressed the need for training of tour operators, hotel staff, clean rooms, hygienic food, and foolproof security. He also cited the World Economic Forum ranking Pakistan in the top 25% globally for heritage sites, from Indus Delta mangroves to Mohenjo Daro.

Dr. Kaiser Rafiq said if China and India can earn \$30 billion and European countries hundreds of billions from tourism, Pakistan can too. He urged the government to take practical steps to build a culture of tourism, noting Discover Pakistan is already promoting Pakistan's culture and tourism resources globally, especially in China.

Souvenir

LAHORE: President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Faheem ur Rehman Saigol, presenting a souvenir to Federal Minister of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives and Inter Provincial Coordination Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary during 3rd IT Freelancing Awards ceremony at LCCI, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

FTO Coordinator calls for reforms to
strengthen Pakistan's Capital Market

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman said Pakistan has immense economic potential but needs sustained reforms to deepen the capital market and attract local and foreign investors.

Speaking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Ms Sana Abdullah, he said a robust capital market reduces reliance on bank financing and supports infrastructure through long-term capital formation. He termed a developed capital market indispensable for sustainable growth, investment and a stronger financial system.

Rehman called for policy consistency, simplified regulations, digital transformation of financial services, and greater financial literacy to broaden participation. He noted efficient markets mobilize savings,



fund business expansion, encourage entrepreneurship, improve governance and enhance transparency.

He urged policymakers, regulators,

financial institutions and the private sector to build a resilient, transparent and inclusive capital market to support long-term prosperity and global competitiveness.

Pakistan can earn billions from
untapped blue economy, says Mian
Kashif Ashfaq



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq, Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, has said Pakistan can

earn billions of dollars in foreign exchange from the untapped potential of its blue economy.

Chairing a Board of Directors meeting, he noted Pakistan's 1,000 km coastline along

the Arabian Sea, and three major ports — Karachi Port, Port Qasim and Gwadar Port — remain among the country's most underutilised economic assets despite its strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East.

He said sectors including fisheries, shipping, logistics, shipbuilding, port services, coastal tourism, offshore energy, marine biotechnology and maritime services have vast potential to boost exports, employment and industrial growth with consistent policies and investment.

Ashfaq stressed the need for structural reforms, value addition and greater private-sector participation. He added that Gwadar's location near international sea lanes, Karachi's role as the main commercial gateway, and Port Qasim's industrial linkages can help Pakistan become a regional logistics and transshipment hub, especially as trade corridors to Central Asia, western China and the Gulf evolve.

PSO and Law
Enforcement Foil
Major Oil Theft on
Sihala-ARL Pipeline

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan State Oil (PSO), in coordination with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), foiled a major organized oil theft on the Sihala-ARL pipeline during a midnight operation on the night of 15-16 July 2026.

The operation began at 2345 hours after a sudden pressure drop was detected. Acting on prior intelligence and surveillance of a suspected site on Kahuta Road, PSO alerted LEAs.

In a joint response, security teams apprehended suspects red-handed at 0215 hours while illegally extracting petroleum from the pipeline.

Key recoveries included:

- 2 vehicles seized: Shahzore / Hyundai trucks used in the theft
- 800 litres of High-Speed



Diesel (HSD) loaded in vehicles

- 1,000 litres of HSD recovered from storage tanks
- 200 litres of HSD found in drums and 20/50-litre cans
- Illegal tapping equipment also confiscated

All suspects, vehicles, recovered product, and equipment have been handed over to Sihala Police for further investigation and legal action.

PSO termed the operation a reflection of its zero-tolerance policy toward fuel theft and reaffirmed its commitment to protecting national energy infrastructure through real-time monitoring and cooperation with LEAs.

Residents of Federal
B Area Block 14
Demand Gas Supply
Restoration

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Hundreds of households in Federal B Area's Block 14, Naseerabad have been without gas for over a month, with residents accusing SSGC of favoring commercial consumers and urging Federal Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik to intervene.

Residents said the suspension has made cooking at home impossible. Many are forced to buy meals three times a day amid rising costs, while low-income families are skipping meals. "Should we pay bills

or spend our income on cooked food?" they asked.

Complainants said SSGC's 1199 helpline gave assurances but no relief. They alleged complaints were marked "resolved" and closed without any staff visiting Block 14, raising concerns over SSGC's transparency and customer service.

Residents urged the minister to order immediate restoration of gas, and to hold officials of the Ayesha Manzil Customer Service Centre and technical staff accountable for failing to resolve complaints.

FPCCI Food Exporters
Delegation Departs for
Dubai to Tap Gulf Market

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A high-level delegation of South Punjab food exporters, led by FPCCI Regional Committee on Food Convener Shahid Imran, left for Dubai on Sunday to explore new opportunities and boost Pakistan's food exports to Gulf states.

Speaking to women entrepreneurs led by Ms Amna Abdullah Arain before departure, Imran said the visit aims to expand Pakistan's footprint by building direct links with leading importers, distributors and retail chains in the Gulf.

He noted that recent regional tensions following the US-Israel-Iran war have disrupted traditional supply chains, creating fresh demand for quality Pakistani products in Gulf countries.

During the visit, the delegation will meet business leaders and trade bodies to promote Pakistani rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, processed foods, and other value-added agricultural products.

Imran said the mission will help increase food exports, strengthen bilateral trade and generate foreign exchange for the economy.



Boxer Amir Khan meets Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: World-Renowned British-Pakistani Boxer Amir Khan who is also Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani met with Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at his official Resi-

dence in Islamabad today. During the meeting positive activities of youth, promotion of sports, positive image of Pakistan at the international level, role of overseas Pakistanis, overall political situation of the country and other matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail.



Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, while appreciating Amir Khan's outstanding achievements at the international level, said that through his hard work, ability and determination, he has made the name of the Pakistani nation not only Pakistan but also the whole world famous. He said that sports are an effective means of promoting discipline, tolerance, teamwork and positive

thinking among the youth, therefore, patronage of sports and encouragement of young talent is the need of the hour. The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani paid tribute to the services of overseas Pakistanis and said that overseas Pakistanis are highlighting the positive image of the country with their skills in various fields and are playing an important role in national development.

Al-Andalus: The Rise of Knowledge and the Decline of Thought

Walking through the cities of Granada, Córdoba, and Seville in Al-Andalus is not merely an act of visiting historical sites; rather, it is an encounter with the remnants of a grand civilizational narrative that once reshaped human thought. The silent minarets, stone arches, and vast courtyards of these cities are not only symbols of a glorious past, but also carry within them profound questions that compel every thoughtful mind. These questions are not limited to why a magnificent Muslim civilization that lasted eight centuries eventually vanished; more importantly, they ask how such a civilization came into being in the first place. To understand the decline of any civilization, one must first comprehend the foundations of its rise for history's greatest lesson is that both greatness and decline are rooted in human thought and behavior.

The history of Muslim Spain stands as a vivid example of this truth. When Muslims arrived in Al-Andalus in the 8th century, they did not come merely as a new political force; they brought with them an intellectual tradition grounded in knowledge, inquiry, and exploration. Within a few centuries, Al-Andalus transformed into a vibrant civilizational laboratory where science, philosophy, literature, medicine, mathematics, and the arts flourished remarkably.

Under the Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba particularly during the reign of Abd al-Ra m n III it became a center of intellectual and cultural brilliance unmatched in contemporary Europe. Tenth-century Córdoba was not only a highly developed urban center in terms of population and planning, but also a hub of extraordinary scholarly activity. It

featured paved roads, illuminated streets at night, public baths, hospitals, and grand libraries. The library of Caliph al- akam II housed hundreds of thousands of books an almost unimaginable reality for Europe at that time.

This intellectual awakening in Al-Andalus was not merely the result of royal patronage; it was driven by a deeper intellectual impulse. For Muslims, the pursuit of knowledge was not only a means of worldly advancement but also a spiritual quest. The study of the universe was seen as a path to understanding the Creator. This very perspective inspired advancements in astronomy, medicine, chemistry, mathematics, and philosophy. The educational institutions and libraries of Al-Andalus were extensions of this intellectual ethos.

This is why, in early Muslim societies, knowledge was regarded as a sacred value. Education, research, and scholarly discourse were integral parts of social life. Muslim scholars engaged with Greek philosophy, Persian wisdom, and Indian mathematics, reinterpreting and advancing them within a new intellectual framework. Al-Andalus was a shining example of this cross-cultural synthesis, where scholars from diverse backgrounds collaborated to explore new horizons of knowledge.

However, this luminous tradition did not endure indefinitely. Over time, in certain parts of the Muslim world, the intellectual vitality that had once been its greatest strength began to decline. Inquiry and creativity were gradually replaced by

imitation; the tradition of questioning weakened; and intellectual institutions began to lose their innovative spirit. When intellectual stagnation sets in, the political and economic structures of a society also begin to weaken. The story of Al-Andalus is a symbolic illustration of this process.

To explain the fall of Al-Andalus solely in terms of military or political factors is to adopt a superficial view of history. The real decline begins when the intellectual foundations of a civilization start to erode. When inquiry is replaced by dogmatism, when the pursuit of knowledge gives way to indulgence, and when societies lose their creative capacity, then political defeat becomes only a matter of time. The great civilization of Al-Andalus ultimately fell victim to this very process.

An important question arises here: if the teachings of the Qur'an once inspired Muslims toward intellectual inquiry, why do those same teachings no longer inspire us in the same way today? The answer lies not in the Qur'an, but in our own intellectual approach. We have largely reduced the Qur'an from a living intellectual guide to a mere ritual text. Instead of engaging with its intellectual invitation and spirit of inquiry, we have confined it to the pursuit of reward. As a result, the creative impulse that once energized the Muslim mind has gradually weakened.

In this sense, the ruins of Al-Andalus are not merely relics of the past; they are also an intellectual mirror. They remind us that civilizations are not built solely on military power or economic resources their true foundation lies in knowledge and thought.



Analysis

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan Singhanvi

As long as societies sustain traditions of inquiry, questioning, and creativity, they continue to progress. But when these traditions weaken, even the greatest empires fade into the pages of history.

This same truth was expressed eloquently by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who argued that the dignity and vitality of Muslims were rooted in the intellectual spirit of the Qur'an a spirit that calls for reflection and exploration. For Iqbal, the Qur'an is not merely a book of rituals but a dynamic intellectual document that inspires humanity to uncover the mysteries of the universe and to actualize its creative potential.

Today, as the Muslim world once again faces intellectual and scholarly challenges, the history of Al-Andalus offers a crucial lesson: the true strength of civilizations lies in their educational and intellectual systems. If societies place knowledge at the center of their development, make research an integral part of their culture, and harmonize faith with reason, a new intellectual renaissance becomes possible.

The silent walls of Al-Andalus still seem to convey this message: the journey of history has not ended. Nations that learn from their past can shape their future. The same tradition of knowledge, inquiry, and creativity that once made Córdoba and Granada centers of global learning if revived can give rise to a new civilizational awakening. This is the message preserved in the very stones and bricks of Al-Andalus, calling upon every thoughtful mind not merely to remember history, but to learn from it.

(The author is a Ph. D. scholar, columnist, and currently serves as the General Secretary of the Pakistan Federal Union of Columnists and Creators (Sindh).

Marriyum Aurangzeb Highlights PML-N Development Agenda, Campaigns for AĴK Elections

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday highlighted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s development agenda while campaigning for the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections during a visit to Raja Bazaar in Rawalpindi.



Accompanied by Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, MNA Tahira Aurangzeb, Daniyal Chaudhry and other party leaders, she reviewed ongoing development projects and newly completed works. She was warmly received by party workers and supporters during a public rally.

Addressing the gathering, Marriyum Aurangzeb said major infrastructure projects in Rawalpindi, including the hospital, Kutchery Chowk development, Metro Bus system and the Rawalpindi Ring Road, reflected the vision of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. She also highlighted initiatives such as the Clean Punjab campaign, green buses, Safe City projects, model villages, student laptop distribution and housing schemes for homeless families.

Iranian Interior Minister to visit Pakistan to discuss security, trade

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The discussions will focus on promoting bilateral trade and enhancing cooperation on key security issues between the two neighbouring countries. The two sides are also expected to review the prevailing regional situation in light of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding and explore ways to strengthen coordination on matters of mutual interest.

Sources said the visit aims to

deepen cooperation between the interior ministries of Pakistan and Iran. The meeting will cover a wide range of issues, including security cooperation, counter-terrorism, cyber security, immigration and border management.

The visit is expected to reinforce bilateral coordination and contribute to stronger institutional collaboration between the two countries in addressing shared security challenges and expanding economic cooperation.

Condemnable Remarks About Pak Army Martyrs Draw Strong Reactions

Continued from Page 4

trust and in reaffirming the national consensus that the martyrs are sacred. The outrage has been so overwhelming that the Maulana's own political allies have found themselves in a difficult position, forced to either defend the indefensible or to distance themselves from the controversy to protect their own political futures. This isolation further underscores the strength of the public sentiment, which has effectively cornered the JUI-F chief and forced the nation to confront the broader issue of how the sacrifices of its heroes are discussed in public discourse. The controversy has thus served as a critical moment of national introspection, a reminder

that the language of politics must be tempered with the language of respect, especially when it concerns those who have given their lives for the country. Ultimately, the entire episode has reaffirmed the unshakable and durable bond between the people of Pakistan and their armed forces, a bond that is built on a foundation of mutual sacrifice, unwavering respect, and a shared vision for a secure and sovereign Pakistan. The collective voice of the nation, speaking in a thunderous chorus of unity, has defended the honor of its martyrs and has sent a powerful and enduring message that their sacrifices will never be forgotten, nor will they ever be trivialized by any political expediency or rhetorical misstep.

Analysis of Environmental Pollution and Its Impact on Society

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opportunities, limit social interaction, and lower overall quality of life. Communities affected by pollution may experience frustration and a sense of helplessness regarding their living conditions.

Environmental pollution also imposes a significant economic burden on society. Healthcare expenditures increase as pollution-related illnesses become more common. Governments spend substantial resources addressing environmental crises, while businesses face productivity losses due to worker illness

and environmental damage. Agricultural losses caused by contaminated soil, water shortages, and climate-related disruptions further weaken economic stability.

Climate change is closely linked to environmental pollution. The excessive emission of greenhouse gases from industrial activities, transportation, and energy production contributes to global warming. Pakistan, despite contributing a relatively small share of global emissions, remains highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Floods, heatwaves, droughts,

and unpredictable weather patterns increasingly threaten communities, agriculture, and infrastructure. The devastating floods witnessed in recent years demonstrate the far-reaching consequences of environmental neglect.

Education and public awareness play a crucial role in addressing environmental challenges. Many environmental problems persist because of limited awareness regarding their causes and consequences. Schools, colleges, universities, and media organizations should actively promote environ-

mental education and encourage sustainable practices. When citizens understand the importance of environmental protection, they are more likely to adopt responsible behaviors.

The media has a significant responsibility in highlighting environmental issues. Through investigative reporting, awareness campaigns, documentaries, and public discussions, media outlets can inform citizens about pollution-related challenges and encourage collective action. Social media platforms can also serve as effective tools for environmental advocacy and public

engagement.

Government policies and regulations remain essential for environmental protection. Strict enforcement of environmental laws, monitoring of industrial emissions, promotion of renewable energy, and investment in waste management systems are necessary steps. Urban planning should prioritize green spaces, sustainable transportation, and environmentally friendly infrastructure. At the same time, industries must adopt cleaner technologies and environmentally responsible practices.

Individual actions are equally

important. Simple measures such as reducing plastic use, conserving water, planting trees, recycling waste, and using public transportation can collectively make a significant difference. Environmental protection is not solely the responsibility of governments; it requires active participation from every citizen.

In conclusion, environmental pollution represents one of the greatest challenges confronting modern society. Its effects extend beyond ecological damage to influence public health, economic development, social well-being, and

national progress. For Pakistan, addressing environmental pollution is critical for ensuring a sustainable future. Through effective policies, public awareness, responsible industrial practices, and community participation, it is possible to reduce pollution and protect natural resources. The health of society and the future of coming generations depend upon the actions we take today to preserve and restore our environment.

The writer holds a PhD in Media Sciences, Rawalpindi. Email: maliktariq.media@gmail.com

Xi Jinping's Vision and the China-Pakistan Journey of 75 Years - I

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mentally conscious, and more confident than before. High-speed rail seamlessly connected distant cities. Electric buses and new-energy vehicles had become commonplace. Mobile payments had virtually replaced cash. Artificial intelligence, robotics, and digital technologies were integrated into daily life. Modern airports, innovation parks, smart manufacturing zones, and clean urban landscapes reflected not only economic prosperity but also a society embracing the future with confidence.

Such a transformation did not occur by chance. It was the outcome of long-term strategic planning, institutional continuity, disciplined governance, sustained

investment in human capital, technological innovation, and above all, visionary leadership.

Under General Secretary Xi Jinping, China's modernization entered a new phase—one focused not simply on rapid growth but on high-quality development, technological self-reliance, ecological sustainability, common prosperity, disciplined governance, and a more active role in global affairs.

To understand this transformation, one must read President Xi's remarkable works—Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, Up and Out of Poverty, and Xi Jinping on the Belt and Road Initiative. Together, these books explain not merely policies but a comprehensive philosophy of governance.

In Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, President Xi repeatedly emphasizes that "the people are at the center" of national development. Economic growth is meaningful only when it improves people's lives, strengthens social harmony, protects the environment, advances innovation, and ensures that prosperity is broadly shared.

The volumes discuss governance reform, Party discipline, ecological civilization, modernization, technological innovation, national rejuvenation, and China's vision for international cooperation. Rather than presenting abstract theories, the books demonstrate how long-term planning, institutional discipline, and implementation can translate policy into measurable

national progress.

The roots of this philosophy are deeply personal. Xi Jinping was born in Beijing on June 15, 1953. His father, Xi Zhongxun, was a respected revolutionary leader who later fell victim to political persecution during the Cultural Revolution. As a teenager, Xi Jinping experienced the hardship of political upheaval. At the age of fifteen, he was sent to Liangjiahe Village in Shaanxi Province, where he lived for seven years in a cave dwelling, performing manual agricultural labor alongside ordinary villagers.

Those years profoundly shaped his worldview. Rather than distancing him from the Chinese people, they immersed him in the realities of rural poverty. He experienced first-hand the

absence of modern infrastructure, the difficulties of agricultural life, and the aspirations of ordinary citizens. These experiences, as reflected in his writings and speeches, convinced him that genuine governance must begin with understanding people's everyday lives.

This philosophy is perhaps best illustrated in Up and Out of Poverty, a collection of Xi Jinping's reflections during his leadership in Fujian Province. The book rejects the notion that poverty can be eliminated through temporary relief alone. Instead, it argues that sustainable development requires empowering people through education, infrastructure, healthcare, employment, industrial development, and local

initiative. In essence, it advocates teaching people how to create lasting prosperity rather than simply providing short-term assistance.

China's implementation of this philosophy has few historical parallels. Between 2012 and 2020, China completed what the United Nations described as the eradication of extreme rural poverty under its national standard. Nearly 100 million rural residents were lifted above that threshold through targeted poverty alleviation programs.

Millions of officials were deployed to villages to identify the precise causes of poverty for individual households. Assistance was tailored through vocational training, industrial development, relocation from

inhospitable regions, improved education, healthcare, housing, and modern infrastructure. According to the World Bank, China's broader poverty reduction since reform and opening-up remains the single largest contribution to global poverty reduction in recorded history.

This achievement illustrates one of the central themes running throughout The Governance of China: development succeeds when governments invest not merely in projects, but in people. (To be continued in Part II.)

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

FIFA World Cup match live

ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in arrangements for watching live FIFA World Cup match 2026 on big screen to people between Argentina and Spain at D-Chowk in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DPM/FM Dar, FM Venezuela resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Minister of Foreign Relations and Foreign Trade of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Felix Plasencia, Sunday, exchanged views on the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Venezuela and reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties.

They discussed opportunities to expand cooperation across a broad range of sectors, including trade, investment, business, agriculture, IT, and other areas of mutual interest. Both sides underscored



the considerable potential for enhancing economic collaboration and fostering stronger people-to-people contacts for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The DPM/FM received a

call from the newly appointed minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The DPM/FM emphasized the importance of sustained

high-level engagement to reinvigorate bilateral relations and further deepen cooperation.

Both sides appreciated the continued close coordination between Pakistan and Venezuela at multilateral forums on issues of common interest.

The DPM/FM extended his warm congratulations to Minister Plasencia on his appointment and conveyed Pakistan's heartfelt condolences over the devastating earthquakes that recently struck Venezuela.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the Government and the people of Venezuela during this difficult time and expressed confidence in their resilience and recovery.

Minister Plasencia thanked the DPM/FM for Pakistan's message of sympathy and solidarity.

He also expressed appreciation for Pakistan's support and humanitarian solidarity with the victims of the natural disasters, underscoring the importance of mutual support in times of need.

He further acknowledged Pakistan's constructive role in promoting dialogue and de-escalation in the regional situation involving the United States and Iran and commended its commitment to peace and diplomacy.

They agreed to remain in close contact and to meet at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Dr. Musadik Malik Calls for Regional Climate Cooperation at China Xizang Forum

News Desk

XIZANG, CHINA: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik called for stronger regional cooperation to address climate change while addressing the 5th China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation in China's Xizang Autonomous Region.

The forum brought together policymakers, experts and stakeholders to discuss sustainable development, ecological conservation and challenges facing the Himalayan region. Dr. Malik described the event as a celebration of shared heritage and



a reaffirmation of the collective responsibility to protect humanity and nature. He thanked China for hosting the forum and praised the long-

standing Pakistan-China friendship.

Highlighting Pakistan's climate vulnerability, the minister said the country is home to around 13,500 glaciers,

making it highly susceptible to the impacts of global warming. He noted that climate-related disasters over the past 15 years have claimed around 6,000 lives, injured nearly 20,000 people, displaced 40 million and resulted in approximately 1.8 billion lost school days.

Dr. Malik stressed that glaciers are vital for regional prosperity and urged countries sharing the Himalayan ecosystem to strengthen scientific collaboration instead of working in isolation. He also commended China's model of balancing environmental conservation with economic development during his visit to

villages in Xizang. To enhance regional cooperation, the minister proposed establishing a Virtual Green University for joint climate research, a Green Fields platform to support young entrepreneurs developing climate solutions, and a Green Cloud initiative to make publicly funded scientific research freely accessible to innovators and researchers.

Concluding his address, Dr. Malik urged participating countries to work collectively to protect glaciers, preserve shared ecosystems and promote sustainable development through scientific cooperation and shared responsibility.

Belgium's Ban on Israeli Settlement Imports Welcomed by Palestinian Foreign Ministry

News Desk

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has welcomed the Belgian federal government's decision to ban imports of products originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, describing the move as an important step towards upholding international law.

In a statement, the ministry said Belgium's decision demonstrates its commitment to international justice and is consistent with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which states that countries should neither recognize nor support the illegal situation resulting from Israel's occupation and settlement activities.



The ministry emphasized that the obligation extends beyond political recognition and includes trade, investment, financial and commercial relations associated with Israeli settlements

in the occupied Palestinian territories.

It also welcomed ongoing discussions within the European Union regarding the adoption of similar measures by other member states. The ministry

expressed hope that Belgium's decision would encourage broader international action against settlement-related activities.

Calling on governments and parliaments around the world to follow Belgium's example, the ministry urged them to ban the import of products from Israeli settlements, end investment and business ties linked to settlements, and strengthen accountability measures against individuals and entities involved in settlement expansion.

According to the ministry, such actions are essential for ensuring respect for international law, preventing further expansion of Israeli settlements, and supporting efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legal principles.

Interior Minister Naqvi Orders CDA Chairman to Submit Emergency Service Upgradation Plan Within a Week



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman to submit a plan for the upgradation of the Capital Emergency Service within seven days.

He took notice of the fact that the no new vehicle had been added to the Service's fleet since 2009.

The minister lauded the performance of the Service whose fire brigade vehicles and ambulances responded to a mock call made by

Acting Deputy Commissioner Sahibzada Yousaf and reached the site within eight minutes.

He mingled with the Service staffers and appreciated their agility and quick response.

He also inquired from them the issues they were facing.

Naqvi said that response time was of extreme importance in any emergency. "I am delighted that the Service's firefighters and ambulances reached the site on time."

He assured that the provision of new vehicles and latest equipment to the Service would be ensured.

NCCIA Summons Imran Khan's Sister Noreen Niazi Over Alleged Anti-State Remarks

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has summoned Noreen Niazi, sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, for July 20 to record her statement over alleged controversial remarks against state institutions.

According to a notice issued under Section 160 CrPC, Noreen is accused of spreading baseless and provocative content against state institutions on social media. She has been directed to appear at the Cyber Crime Office in G-13/3, Islamabad at 12:00 PM on Monday.

Noreen had alleged the May 2025 Pak-India military confrontation was "staged" to boost the Army's image. She also claimed the current government is in contact



with Israel and would recognize it, and called the regime "Trump's blue-eyed boy."

Defence experts termed her statement a "pack of lies" and urged PTI to condemn it. Officials noted Indian channels have used her remarks to malign Pakistan and the Pakistan Army.

Bilal Azhar Kayani Condemns Noreen Niazi's Remarks as 'Shameful and Anti-State'



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani has strongly condemned recent remarks by Noreen Niazi, sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, calling them "highly regrettable and shameful" and reflective of a mindset that undermines Pakistan's defense, diplomacy and economy.

Addressing media on Sunday, Kayani said her statement on Pakistan's victory in 'Marka-e-Haq' last year was unacceptable. "Can such a statement be acceptable? Does it suit any Pakistani?" he asked.

He linked the remarks to a pattern by PTI leadership, citing the May 9

attacks, display of the cipher, and letters to IMF aimed at pushing Pakistan toward default. "Their objective has been to put Pakistan's defense, diplomacy and economy at stake just to get Imran Khan released," he said.

Kayani questioned what message this sends to PAF pilots and soldiers who sacrifice for the country, and to families of martyrs in his home district Jhelum.

He noted no clarification or retraction was issued, adding that legal action has been initiated. "Pakistan gave a befitting response to Indian aggression in Marka-e-Haq. Unfortunately, not everyone could digest that victory," he said.