



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے سفیان نے بیان کیا ان سے عبدالمک
نے انہوں نے کہا ہم سے ابو سلمہ نے اور ان
سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے کہ نبی کریم صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ شہر اہل کے کام میں
سے سچا نک لیں کہ مضر عہد جو ہے کہ اللہ
کے سوا جو کچھ ہے سب معدوم ہو جائے گا
ہے۔ امیر بن ابی الصلت شاعر تو قریب تھا
کہ مسلمان ہو جائے۔
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China does not recognize so-called "Arunachal Pradesh" illegally set up by India: Guo Jiakun

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has said that China does not recognize the so-called "Arunachal Pradesh" illegally set up by India. Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks when asked to comment on the report that India issued on Aug. 7 the "standard names" of 27 locations in the so-called "Arunachal Pradesh."



Defence production minister briefs PM on ongoing projects

Federal Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shebaz Sharif here and briefed him on matters pertaining to his ministry as well as the progress made on ongoing development projects. During the meeting, the federal minister felicitated the prime minister on the historic Makkah Joint Defence Agreement signed between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 28, Wednesday, August 12, 2026



www.dailyspokesman.net



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 113

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Special Investiture Ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, members of the Federal Cabinet, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, COAS; Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu; and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf stand in respect of the National Anthem at a Special Investiture Ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Photo: Online

President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Commander NSC Gen Raza

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on Commander National Strategic Command (NSC) General Syed Aamer Raza at a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the services chiefs attended the investiture ceremony.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gillani, federal ministers, senior civil and military officials



and ambassadors from several countries were also present.

General Aamer Raza was promoted to the rank of four-star general and appointed Commander of the National Strategic Command by PM Shehbaz on July 24.

His appointment followed the creation of the new four-star post of Commander National Strategic Command, a position tasked with overseeing Pakistan's nuclear command and strategic forces.

The development came after Field Marshal Asim Munir was appointed the country's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) for a five-year term.

The CDF position was created

under the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which abolished the office of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), formally ending it on November 27, 2025.

Under the revised command structure, the CDF combines the responsibilities previously held by the JCSC chairman with those of the Chief of Army Staff.

The appointment of the NSC commander was another key change under the revised structure. Under amended Article 243 of the Constitution, the commander is appointed by the prime minister on the recommendation of the chief of army staff.

Naqvi meets Iran's Araghchi in Tehran, discusses regional situation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran on Tuesday, with the two sides discussing regional and international developments and efforts to promote peace and stability.

Naqvi arrived in the Iranian capital earlier in the day, where Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni received him at Tehran airport.

According to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency, Naqvi and Araghchi held talks on the evolving situation in the region, recent regional and international developments and ongoing efforts to main-



tain peace and stability.

The two officials also discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Naqvi is expected to hold further meetings with Iranian officials during his visit, with bilateral issues and other

matters of mutual interest likely to come under discussion.

The visit comes about a month after Momeni travelled

to Islamabad, where he met his Pakistani counterpart.

Pakistan has in recent months played a diplomatic role in efforts to ease tensions between Iran and the United States.

Islamabad, along with Qatar, helped facilitate the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington in June.

However, Tehran has said it reclosed the Strait of Hormuz following what it described as violations of the understanding by Washington.

Iran has maintained that the waterway will be reopened after the alleged US violations end and compensation is provided for the resulting losses.

Two more sections added to Lahore Police Station assault case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Police have added two serious provisions to the case involving allegations of sexual assault against a mentally disabled girl at Ghaziabad police station, as the investigation continues.

According to police officials, Section 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code, relating to kidnapping or abduction, and Section 376(4), concerning rape, have been incorporated into the case. Legal experts said Section 376(4) provides for severe punishment upon

conviction.

The alleged incident has also led to disciplinary action against police personnel. DIG Operations and DIG Investigation suspended 78 officers and officials of the police station, including the SHO and front-desk staff. The investigation

in-charge was also suspended over alleged negligence.

ASI Imran, identified as the main suspect, was arrested after the case was registered. He has denied the allegations.

A preliminary medical examination reportedly found no clear evidence of rape, while

police said the final findings would depend on detailed forensic reports.

Police said all aspects of the case were being investigated impartially and further facts would emerge after completion of the investigation and forensic process.

PM Highlights Minorities' Role in Pakistan's Development



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday highlighted the significant contributions of minority communities to Pakistan's creation, development and progress, urging all citizens to work together for national prosperity.

Addressing a National Minorities Day ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office, he said the Constitution guaranteed equal rights to all citizens in line with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's August 11 vision. He

paid tribute to Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis and other communities for their contributions to the Pakistan Movement, education, defence and other fields.

The prime minister particularly appreciated Christian educational institutions and recalled their role in providing quality education. He also acknowledged prominent personalities including Cecil Chaudhry, Justice A. R. Cornelius and Jogendra Nath Mandal.

He said sacrifices made by minority citizens in wars and the fight against terrorism would always be remembered. Shehbaz stressed equipping youth with modern knowledge to strengthen Pakistan's position globally.

During the ceremony, he presented awards to members of minority communities for their services. Federal ministers also highlighted government measures for minority welfare, religious freedom, security and educational support.

PM Orders Three-Year Third-Party Audit of Customs Bonded Warehouses

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the relevant authorities to conduct a comprehensive independent third-party audit of customs-bonded warehouses covering the last three years, warning that officials involved in negligence or irregularities would face strict legal action.

Chairing a review meeting on Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) matters, the prime minister said there was no room for irregularities or illegal activities in customs-bonded warehouses and ordered swift action against those found responsible.

The meeting was informed that bonded trade accounted for 16.5 percent of Pakistan's total imports. On the prime

minister's instructions, a countrywide physical verification of stocks in customs-bonded warehouses will also be carried out.

Officials said petroleum-product cargo stored in customs warehouses was linked with the Web-Based One Customs (We-BOC) system. Measures were also being taken to ensure proper licensing and security of warehouses.

The authorities further briefed the meeting that valuation testing would be conducted and information technology systems reviewed to eliminate loopholes and strengthen monitoring.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers, the State Bank governor and senior government officials.

Minority Contributions Vital Part of Pakistan's Progress Story: Asifa

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said the contributions and achievements of minority communities in education, healthcare, law, public service, business, armed forces, arts and sports were an important part of Pakistan's progress and development.

In her message on National Minorities Day, she extended greetings to minority communities across the country and said Pakistan's progress was strengthened by citizens of all faiths.

She stressed that every citizen must enjoy equal rights and opportunities, with the law providing equal protection without discrimination based on religion. She said all Paki-

stanis should be able to participate fully in the country's social, economic and civic life.

Asifa Bhutto emphasized the need to provide young people from minority communities equal opportunities for education, skills development and participation in the country's future. She also called for equal opportunities for minority women in education, employment and public life.

She urged families, educational institutions, communities and public institutions to promote respect, understanding and equal treatment among citizens.

The First Lady paid tribute to minority communities and expressed hope that Pakistan would continue progressing with equality and opportunities for all.

Auqaf Punjab concludes training course for Imams, Khateebbs

 **Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta said the pulpit and mihrab are pillars of religious, moral and intellectual guidance, with Imams and Khateebbs playing a key role in character building and social reform beyond leading prayers. He was addressing the concluding ceremony of the 45th Quarterly Refresher Training Course for Imams and Khateebbs at Aiwan-e-Auqaf, Lahore, where 19 Khateebbs from across Punjab completed a mandatory three-month training required for career promotion.

Dr. Bhutta stressed the need to align scholars' research, communication and professional skills with modern challenges. He urged Khateebbs to use Friday sermons and public engagements to promote unity, interfaith harmony, tolerance and national cohesion, while countering sectarianism, extremism and hate-driven attitudes through the peaceful teachings of the Quran, Sunnah and Seerah.

He also called on Imams to responsibly use social media to spread Islam's



humane message to younger generations and counter fake news and hate speech.

Dr. Bhutta noted the department's ongoing efforts to ensure transparency and merit in mosque and shrine administration, and said that under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Magnificent Punjab" vision and Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman's supervision, reforms and public facilitation measures are being strengthened.

GCWUF Marks National Minorities Day with Awareness Walk, Seminar



 **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) observed National Minorities Day with an awareness walk and seminar to highlight the contributions of religious minorities to the Pakistan Movement, nation-building and national development.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T.I.) led the awareness walk, which was attended by faculty members, officers and students. Addressing participants, she said minorities were an integral part of Pakistan and entitled to equal rights under the Constitution.

She stressed that the country's progress, stability and prosperity required collective efforts based on mutual respect, unity and interfaith harmony.

The seminar, titled "Role and Contributions of Religious Minorities: From Pakistan Movement to Nation Building," featured remarks by Dr. Asma Aziz, Dr. Najma Bano and Dr. Umrana Shehzadi, who highlighted religious freedom, equal citizenship and minority contributions to national development.

RPO Faisalabad continues the process of self-accountability against police officers and employees

 **Bureau Report**

FAISALABAD: RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera, making the process of self-accountability in the police department more effective, demoted Inspector Iftikhar Saliqa of Toba Tek Singh district from inspector to sub-inspector for poor investigation and exceeding his powers. RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera clarified that the process of accountability in the police department is going on without discrimination and no officer or official will be considered above the law. Departmental action is being taken against officials involved in corruption. Corrupt, incompetent and negligent police officers have no place in the department. The implementation of the zero-tolerance policy against corrupt elements is ongoing. Encouraging dutiful officers while self-accountability against corrupt police officers will continue. Indiscriminate actions to ensure departmental discipline will continue in the future as well. No negligence will be tolerated to protect the lives and property of the public.



Minorities Are a Valuable Asset of Pakistan, Say Inam Zafar and Hafiz Usman Abbasi

 **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Awaam Pakistan Central Vice President Chaudhry Inam Zafar and Additional General Secretary Hafiz Usman Abbasi said on National Minorities Day that minority communities have made valuable contributions to Pakistan's development.

They stressed that the state must protect minorities' lives, property, dignity, places of worship and religious freedom, while ensuring equal rights and opportunities regardless of religion, sect or language. The leaders said meaningful participation of minorities in political, economic and social spheres is essential for national progress and called for the promotion of interfaith harmony in line with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of Pakistan. They congratulated minority communities on National Minorities Day.

14th August Independence Day

 **Zunaira Riaz**

14th August 1947 Pakistan came into being. Muslims made countless sacrifices to make the dream of this homeland a reality. And they broke the chains and set out on the path to make Pakistan a reality. On the way, some lost their property, some lost their children. Some lost their mother, some lost their mother. Some lost their son. Some lost their body. But the madness of the Muslims did not stop them. Allah's help kept raising the profile of the Muslims. And they reached their destination, Pakistan. On that day, the Muslims of the subcontinent were freed from the slavery of the British and succeeded in getting their own separate country. We have got this country to live according to Islam. Behind this country are the sacrifices of the elders, children and adults who made it our homeland. On this occasion of Independence Day, tell your children about the sacrifices by which we got this homeland. On this day, Muslims decorate the cities and neighborhoods with green lights to express their love for the homeland. People go to the mausoleum of the founder, Quaid-e-Azam. Quran is recited and a wreath of flowers is offered. Moreover, a military contingent is always present at the shrine to protect it. The Muslims of India have made unforgettable sacrifices to achieve this country. A chapter of our freedom is colored with blood. Which tells how many lives have been sacrificed for this country. On August 14, 1947, the blood-soaked convoys reached Pakistan. And that was such a moment that the heart should be patient over the sacrifices for the sake of the country. In this freedom, there are painful stories of not thousands but millions of Muslims. Some lost their homes, some lost their savings. Only those who endured oppression and reached their homeland, Pakistan, know how much hard work and effort was put into achieving Pakistan. Their homeland. The homeland of Muslims.

Proud of their own country. And of everyone who made efforts to achieve it. Including Quaid-e-Azam. And Allama Iqbal.

May Allah keep Pakistan happy and prosperous like this. Long live Pakistan. Happy 14th August-Happy Independence

Recognition

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, His Excellency Khazar Farhadov, awarding Certificate of Appreciation to Photojournalist of Online News International Sultabn Bashir for his recognition of valued support and contribution to strengthening Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations through the media, during a ceremony at Embassy of Azerbaijan.



Photo: Online

All Departments Directed to Ensure Active Participation in Independence Day Celebrations: DC Attock

 **Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Dr. Mudassir Ahmed Shah has directed all government departments to finalize arrangements for celebrating Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14 with national spirit and enthusiasm.

Chairing a meeting to review preparations, the deputy commissioner was briefed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Municipal Services) Anil Saeed about arrangements across the district.

The main Independence Day ceremony will be held at 8 a.m., with officials, elected representatives, civil society members, students and citizens expected to participate. The national



flag will be hoisted during the ceremony, followed by various activities.

Government buildings across the district have been decorated with lights, while national flags and bunting will be displayed at prominent locations. Departments will also organize special ceremonies, seminars, national song programmes and other activities.

Dr. Mudassir directed departments to ensure cleanliness, discipline and proper arrangements at offices and other venues. He said Independence Day provided an opportunity to renew the commitment to Pakistan's development, prosperity and stability.

He urged citizens to participate enthusiastically, hoist the national flag and celebrate the day with dignity and national spirit.

Attempts to Shut Down Elementary School Alleged in Jamshoro, Principal Moves Court

 **Correspondent**

JAMSHORO: Education activist and school principal Benazir Rajpar has approached a court in Jamshoro, seeking protection for an elementary school, its students and teachers following alleged attempts to disrupt construction and educational activities at the institution.

Through Supreme Court lawyer Agha Kashif Hussain, Rajpar filed a petition seeking legal protection and continuation of educational activities at the school in the Khasai area of Manjhand Taluka.

Talking to the media, she said she purchased a plot in 2016 and later acquired another property in 2025, where she established an elementary

school under the Penza Education System. She said around 250 children from nearby areas were currently studying there.

Rajpar alleged that certain influential individuals had obstructed construction work, interfered with school activities and allegedly attacked the institution several times, taking away equipment and records. She also claimed to have

received threats and faced harassment.

She said complaints had been submitted to the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Jamshoro, but no effective action had been taken.

Rajpar urged the administration and police to provide security, investigate the allegations and ensure that children could continue their education without fear.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:55 am
Zohr 12:13 pm
Asr 5:01 pm
Maghrib 6:59 pm
Isha 8:31 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

FBR seals illegal cigarette unit in Chakwal, Rs. 211 million impact

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has sealed a clandestine cigarette manufacturing unit in District Chakwal, seizing raw tobacco, manufacturing materials, unstamped cigarettes and machinery in an operation with an estimated economic impact of Rs. 211 million.

FBR's Intelligence & Investigation Directorate, Islamabad, working with the Inland Revenue Enforcement Network, raided Hunter Tobacco SMC Pvt. Ltd. near Dharabi on Kallar Kahar Road. The unit was found manufacturing cigarettes without mandatory tax stamps and was not integrated with the Track & Trace System.

Authorities seized about 12,600 kg of raw tobacco—enough for roughly 630,000 cigarette packets—along with filter rods, cigarette paper, foil and packaging material. Goods were moved to a government warehouse and the premises sealed.

The Rs. 211 million estimate includes about Rs. 90 million in potential tax evasion from the seized tobacco, plus evaded duties on existing stock and the value of seized machinery and materials.

FBR called the violations serious breaches of tax law and said legal and criminal proceedings will follow the investigation. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to curbing illicit tobacco manufacturing and protecting compliant, legitimate businesses.

Minorities' rights, freedom to remain protected under Quaid's vision: CM Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated her resolve to follow the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for the freedom and rights of minorities.

Paying tribute to brothers and sisters from the minorities community, actively

contributing to the development and prosperity of the country, the chief minister, in her message on National Minorities Day, said: "Pakistan of Quaid-i-Azam is a homeland for all, where everyone is safe and free to practise their respective faith."

She said minorities were the beauty and pride of Pakistani society, adding that

there would be no compromise on their dignity, honour, protection and development. The Punjab government, she said, was pursuing a policy of ensuring minorities their full rights to education, development and welfare.

CM Punjab said Punjab had earned the distinction of introducing the "Minority Card" for the minority community for

the first time in history. Under the initiative, Rs10,500 were being provided to minority families every quarter through the Minority Cards.

She said Punjab also had the distinction of being the first province to pass the Sikh Marriage Act 2024, under which "Anand Karaj" had been granted legal status. The long-pending Hindu

Marriage Act 2017 had also been approved, she added.

She said scholarships had been introduced for minority students and live courses had been launched in Youhanabad. Baisakhi, Holi, Diwali, Christmas and Easter were now being celebrated on a larger scale at the official level in Punjab, she added.



National Minorities Day

CM Maryam reaffirms commitment to minority rights, highlights the Minority Card's increased financial grants, and strict adherence to quota systems.

Final Touches

ISLAMABAD: An artist giving final touches to wall painting "Pak-China Friendship" at Jinnah Square.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DC Multan Inspects Health Facilities at Shahbaz Sharif Hospital

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Multan Dr. Faisal Saleem on Monday visited Shahbaz Sharif District Headquarters Hospital and inspected medical facilities and services being provided to patients in various departments.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Tanzeel-ur-Rehman and Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. MB Khalid briefed the Deputy Commissioner about patient treatment, availability of medicines, cleanliness, emergency services and other healthcare facilities.

They said the hospital was providing round-the-clock medical services in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. More than 3,000 patients were examined daily in the hospital's outdoor department, while free medi-



cines and clinical tests were also provided.

Patients were also being offered ECG, CT scan and X-ray facilities, while diabetic patients received check-ups and free insulin.

Dr. Faisal Saleem directed the hospital administration to ensure quality medical care, maintain high cleanliness standards and take immediate steps to resolve public complaints.

He said the district administration was utilizing all available resources to improve healthcare services and regular inspections would continue to ensure better service delivery at government hospitals.

AFWO Stages 'Aladdin – In the Whole New World of Masailistan' in Karachi

News Desk

KARACHI: Al-Furqan Welfare Organization (AFWO) successfully staged its theatrical production "Aladdin – In the Whole New World of Masailistan" on August 6 and 7 at Arts Council Karachi, showcasing the creativity and performing skills of its students.

Inspired by the classic tale of Aladdin, the production presented a local interpretation combining humour, imagination and social messages relevant to everyday life. The event provided students from underserved communities an opportunity to express themselves, build confidence and develop skills beyond the classroom.

The theatrical production also served as a fundraising initiative to support AFWO's educational



programmes.

Established in 2012 with 16 students and two teachers, AFWO has expanded to more than 17 schools, providing education to over 3,500 students and employment to more than 250 educators.

The organization provides students with free textbooks, uniforms, shoes, meals at several branches, healthcare check-ups, digital literacy programmes, sports, arts activities, educational visits and vocational training.

Through education, healthcare and community initiatives, AFWO continues to promote the socio-economic and moral uplift of underserved communities and create opportunities for children and families to build better futures.

CM Maryam Nawaz condoles loss of lives in motorcycle rickshaw accident

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives after a motorcycle rickshaw fell into a canal in Kot Addu.

The chief minister conveyed her sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families. She also directed the authorities to utilize all available resources to search for the others who went missing after drowning in the canal.

Trilateral Defence Pact Among Three Islamic Countries a Major Breakthrough: Sarfraz Mughal

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Sarfraz Mughal, Chairman of Tanzeem Mughlia Markaz Pakistan and a prominent business and social figure, has termed the recent historic joint defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye a welcome development, saying its impact will extend well beyond defence cooperation into the region's political, economic, and trade landscape.

In a statement, Mughal said the defence collaboration among the three brotherly Islamic nations marks a significant development given current global and regional circumstances. He noted that Pakistan's defence capability, Saudi Arabia's economic and energy strength, and Türkiye's military-industrial capacity could complement one another, with the partnership strengthening regional peace and stability and serving as an effective deterrent against aggression.

He urged equal focus on economic activity, investment, and trilateral trade, saying joint ventures in defence, industry, technology, energy, agriculture, and infrastructure could energize all three economies, paving the way for a new era of cooperation among Muslim nations.

AIOU Launches Monsoon Plantation Drive to Green Campus



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has launched a monsoon tree plantation campaign, "Plant Trees, Beautify Pakistan," to combat climate change and environmental pollution while making the campus greener and healthier.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood inaugurated the drive by planting a Chorisia tree near the Quality Enhancement Cell building, joined by deans, the registrar, and horticulture officials.

Dr. Mahmood called tree plantation an investment in collective survival and a national responsibility, stressing that the campaign is a practical movement to build environmental awareness and counter rising temperatures and pollution. He directed the Horticulture Section to speed up plans for an "Artificial Forest" on campus as a sustainable model for future plantation efforts.

Horticulture Officer Wajeeh-ul-Hassan said 70 flowering plants were being installed in the campaign's first phase, with a total target of 200 plants for the season. Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad noted that 70 percent of the saplings were grown using the university's own resources, reflecting a sustainable, self-reliant approach.

Deans and senior officials also took part in the plantation activity, pledging to expand landscaping and environmental initiatives across campus. The drive aims to boost campus greenery while raising awareness among students and staff about sustainability and environmental responsibility.

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Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Investing in Pakistan’s Greatest Asset: Its Youth

As Pakistan joins the world in observing International Youth Day on 12 August, the President’s message carries a message that deserves more than ceremonial acknowledgment — it demands sustained national action. This year’s theme, “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations,” captures a truth too often overlooked: whatever their background, young people everywhere want the same things — quality education, dignified employment, equal opportunity, and a genuine voice in shaping their societies.

For Pakistan, this is not an abstract global observance but an urgent domestic priority. With nearly 67 percent of the population under the age of 30, the country possesses one of the youngest populations in the world. This demographic reality can either become Pakistan’s greatest asset or its most serious liability, depending entirely on how seriously the state and society invest in the coming generation today.

The potential upside is immense. Young Pakistanis have repeatedly demonstrated resilience, creativity, and entrepreneurial energy, whether in technology start-ups, digital freelancing, sports, or grassroots civic initiatives. Harnessing this energy requires more than rhetoric — it requires expanding access to quality education, closing the digital literacy gap, and creating employment pathways that match the scale of the youth population entering the job market each year. Particular attention must go to young women, whose participation in education, science, technology, entrepreneurship, and leadership remains disproportionately constrained by social and structural barriers. Unlocking their potential is not a matter of inclusion for its own sake; it is essential to the country’s economic future.

The consequences of inaction are equally stark. Persistent high youth unemployment, limited educational opportunity, and widening digital divides do not remain contained problems — they metastasize into brain drain, rising crime, vulnerability to human trafficking, mental health crises, and, in the worst cases, social unrest. Pakistan cannot afford to treat youth empowerment as a peripheral policy concern.

Initiatives such as the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme represent a step in the right direction, offering avenues in skills development, entrepreneurship, digital innovation, and civic engagement. But programmes alone are insufficient without consistent funding, transparent implementation, and genuine channels for young people to participate in decisions that affect their futures.

International Youth Day should be a moment of honest stocktaking rather than mere celebration. The aspirations of Pakistan’s youth are clear and consistent across every context — what remains uncertain is whether the state can match those aspirations with real opportunity. Turning shared aspirations into shared achievements will require not just goodwill, but sustained investment, institutional reform, and a national commitment to placing young people at the center of Pakistan’s development agenda.

From Crushing Iran to Avoiding Economic Catastrophe in the USA

Nearly six months later, President Donald Trump is no longer speaking confidently about unconditional victory. He is talking about negotiations and the danger of an “economic catastrophe” for the USA and its people if the conflict continues.

This is more than a change in language. It is a strategic admission that the economic pressure intended to break Iran has recoiled upon the United States and the wider world. The war has damaged Iran enormously, but it has also depleted American munitions, disrupted energy supplies, raised fuel and consumer prices, unsettled financial markets and exposed the limits of Washington’s military power.

Trump acknowledged this danger while defending his diplomatic approach. He linked expectations of peace with gains in the stock market and warned that continuing the conflict could produce a severe economic downturn. Trump said he “didn’t want to see economic catastrophe” and suggested that prolonged warfare could have created something resembling an international depression.

That statement represents a remarkable reversal. At the beginning, the administration projected the war as a demonstration of irresistible American power. Iran would supposedly lose its leadership, missile forces, nuclear infrastructure, economy and ability to

influence the region. Now Washington is seeking an exit partly because the economic consequences have become intolerable for Americans themselves.

The Strait of Hormuz has transformed the entire strategic equation. Before the war, ships passed through the waterway without paying Iran for access. Today, Tehran’s ability to disrupt or regulate traffic has turned the strait into its greatest bargaining instrument. Every interruption raises oil prices, transportation costs and inflationary pressure throughout the world. Iran can therefore impose economic costs far beyond the damage inflicted on its own territory.

Trump says the United States is “semi-negotiating,” apparently relying upon economic pressure to force Tehran into an agreement. Iranian officials deny conducting direct negotiations and say messages are being exchanged through intermediaries, particularly Oman. Tehran is demanding an end to the American naval blockade, sanctions relief, access to frozen assets and compensation for wartime destruction. Whether all these demands survive negotiations is uncertain, but Iran is negotiating from a position few anticipated when the war began.

Some American lawmakers have suggested that even a bad agreement is

now preferable to continuing a disastrous war. That assessment reflects the uncomfortable reality confronting Washington: the price of reopening the Strait of Hormuz increases with every passing day. The longer Iran demonstrates that it can endure military pressure while disrupting the global economy, the stronger its negotiating position becomes.

Trump has responded to Iran’s demand for war reparations by insisting that Tehran compensate Americans for alleged damage caused over several decades. The demand may have domestic political appeal, but it does little to resolve the immediate crisis. If both countries begin calculating every death, intervention, sanction, covert operation and destroyed asset over the past half-century, the resulting claims would be immeasurable. Such historical accounting would produce endless confrontation rather than peace.

The more serious obstacle may be the growing divergence between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The United States increasingly needs de-escalation to protect its economy, military readiness and political stability. Netanyahu, however, continues taking steps that risk expanding regional conflict. Israel’s latest attack on Hezbollah targets in Beirut, which

killed and wounded several people, complicated negotiations and reportedly angered Trump at a particularly sensitive moment.

Netanyahu has also publicly rejected Trump’s 15-point Gaza peace framework. The proposal envisages Hamas’s disarmament, a phased Israeli withdrawal, an international stabilization force and a Palestinian administrative structure. Netanyahu insists that Hamas must disarm completely before Israel withdraws and has declared that no Palestinian state will emerge in Gaza or the West Bank while he remains prime minister.

This is a revealing fracture. As long as Washington financed, armed and diplomatically protected Israel while confronting Israel’s regional enemies, the alliance appeared harmonious. But now that American economic and strategic interests require restraint, Netanyahu is demonstrating that Israeli priorities do not necessarily coincide with American ones.

Trump built his political identity around “America First,” yet his Middle East policy has repeatedly appeared to place Israel’s objectives above America’s long-term interests. Even while seeking an escape from a war that has burdened American families, depleted military inventories and weakened global readiness, he continues attacking domestic political figures on the basis of their criticism of Israel.

Continued on Page 7



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

Zelensky’s Caspian Gambit: Strategic Messaging or Proxy Manoeuvre?

The recent Ukrainian strike on an Iranian-linked vessel in the Caspian Sea has ignited a storm of diplomatic controversy, extending the war in Ukraine into new and unexpected waters. President Volodymyr Zelensky not only confirmed the operation but boasted of its success, framing it as a demonstration of Kyiv’s ability to project force far beyond its traditional battlefields. The incident raises pressing questions: why target an Iranian vessel, what outcomes might ensue, and was Zelensky acting independently or at the behest of Western patrons eager to hurt Russia through its allies?

Strategic Calculus Behind the Strike

Ukraine’s rationale rests on two pillars. First, Iran has been accused of supplying drones and military hardware to Russia, materially aiding Moscow’s war effort. By striking an Iranian-linked vessel allegedly involved in military cargo shipments, Kyiv sought to disrupt this supply chain and signal that Iranian involvement would not go unanswered. Second, the Caspian Sea strike showcased Ukraine’s growing long-range strike capabilities. For a nation fighting a defensive war, the ability to hit targets hundreds of miles away carries immense symbolic and deterrent value. As Zelensky himself declared, Ukraine had “achieved very strong results with long-range strikes in the Caspian Sea—including vessels used in military cargo shipments involving Iran.”

Iran’s Economic and Diplomatic Sensitivities

For Tehran, the strike was not merely a military provocation but an economic affront. The Caspian Sea has become a vital northern trade

corridor, linking Iran with Russia, Central Asia, and markets toward China. With its southern maritime routes under constant pressure, Iran views the Caspian as a lifeline. Thus, the attack was framed by Iranian officials as a direct threat to its economic sovereignty. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that the strike “cannot go unanswered,” while Iranian analysts debated whether the Caspian might now become a new arena of confrontation.

Possible Outcomes: Escalation or Containment?

The immediate outcome is heightened tension between Kyiv and Tehran. Iran summoned Ukraine’s chargé d’affaires, demanded restitution, and labelled the strike “illegal and unjustified.” Yet, in subsequent diplomatic exchanges, both sides signalled a desire to avoid escalation. Araghchi later stated that Ukraine assured him the attack was “unintentional.” This duality—public outrage tempered by private pragmatism—suggests that Iran may calibrate its response, wary of opening a new front while already entangled in regional conflicts from the Gulf to Yemen.

For Ukraine, the strike risks stretching its conflict into a multidimensional arena. While it demonstrates capability, it also risks alienating potential partners in the Global South who view attacks on commercial vessels as destabilizing. Moreover, Russia will exploit the incident to deepen its narrative of Ukraine as a Western proxy destabilizing Eurasia.

Was Zelensky Acting Alone?

The question of agency is crucial. Was Zelensky acting independently, or was this strike coordinated with Western powers? The timing and messaging suggest alignment with

broader Western objectives. The United States and Europe have long sought to isolate Iran for its regional activities and nuclear ambitions. By striking an Iranian vessel, Ukraine indirectly advances this agenda, hurting Russia’s ally while showcasing Western-supplied capabilities. Zelensky’s boastful tone may have been intended as reassurance to Western backers that their support is yielding tangible results.

Yet, it would be simplistic to reduce Ukraine’s actions to mere proxy behaviour. Kyiv has its own compelling reasons: Iran’s drones have killed Ukrainian civilians, and Russia’s partnership with Tehran is a direct threat. In this sense, Ukraine’s strike was both self-interested and strategically consonant with Western aims. The overlap of interests creates the impression of coordination, even if formal directives were absent.

The Broader Geopolitical Implications

The Caspian strike illustrates how conflicts once viewed as discrete are now colliding. Russia’s war in Ukraine, Iran’s confrontation with the West, and Middle Eastern maritime tensions are increasingly intertwined. As Hamidreza Azizi of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs observed, “With each passing day, the war is evolving into an increasingly complex, multidimensional, and international conflict.”

This interconnectedness carries risks. If Iran retaliates, it could drag Central Asia into the fray. If Ukraine continues such strikes, it risks opening fissures with countries that prefer neutrality. Conversely, if the West tacitly encourages Kyiv to expand its theatre of operations, the Caspian could become a new fault line in great-power competition.

Conclusion: A Calculated Gamble

Zelensky’s Caspian gambit was both a military demonstration and a political message. It

Continued on Page 7

Lack of Research and Diseases in our Country Pakistan

During MBBS education in Pakistan, we mostly study textbooks written by authors from the UK, the USA, and India. Later, during FCPS training in Medicine and Cardiology, we depend even more on American textbooks and international clinical guidelines. There is no doubt that these books and guidelines are based on high-quality research and have greatly improved patient care around the world. However, an important question remains:

Does a treatment that works well in another country always produce the same results in Pakistan?

The answer is not always.

Pakistan has a very different disease burden compared with many developed countries. Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB), typhoid fever, malaria, dengue, meningitis, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are still very common. At the same time, non-communicable diseases such as heart attack (coronary artery disease), diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), stroke, and cancer are increasing rapidly.

Another major challenge is the widespread and unnecessary use of antibiotics, which has led to a serious rise in antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Many bacteria no longer respond to commonly used antibiotics, making infections more difficult and expensive to treat.

Pakistan has developed its own national guidelines in some areas, including tuberculosis, diabetes, hepatitis C, and hypertension. This is a positive step. However, most of these guidelines are adaptations of international recommendations. In simple words, we have mainly modified foreign guidelines according to our local conditions rather than creating them

from strong Pakistani research. Even so, these efforts deserve appreciation because they recognize the need for local adaptation.

Unfortunately, high-quality, large-scale medical research in Pakistan is still very limited. We continue to rely heavily on studies conducted in other countries. While international evidence is valuable, our patients live in a different environment and face different healthcare challenges.

Our patients, disease patterns, genetics, drug resistance, healthcare system, climate, tempera-

ture, food habits, water quality, socioeconomic conditions, and available medical resources are not the same as those in Europe or North America etc. These differences can influence how diseases develop, how patients respond to treatment, and which medical strategies are most effective.

Therefore, Pakistan urgently needs:

- More locally conducted medical research.
- Large multi-centre clinical trials involving Pakistani patients.
- National disease registries and healthcare databases.
- Research on antibiotic resistance and locally common infections.
- Clinical guidelines that are based on evidence generated from Pakistani populations rather than relying mainly on foreign data.

Medicine should not be Evidence-Based alone; it should also be Context-Based. Scientific evidence is strongest when it is applied according to the local population, available resources, and real-life healthcare conditions.

Pakistan carries a heavy burden of both infectious and non-communicable diseases. We cannot continue to depend almost entirely

Continued on Page 7

Azerbaijan Ambassador bids farewell, hails Pakistani media for strengthening bilateral ties

 Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan H. E. Khazar Farhadov held a farewell meeting with representatives of the Pakistani media, expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the press's consistent and valuable contribution to strengthening and promoting the close and enduring relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, particularly in the fields of cultural exchange and tourism.

Addressing the media representatives, Ambassador Farhadov said the Pakistani media had played a pivotal role over the years in highlighting the deep-rooted friendship between the two brotherly nations. Through its coverage, he said, the media had helped bring stories of cultural cooperation, people-to-people contacts, tourism initiatives and mutual understanding to a wider audience. He appreciated the Pakistani press for providing meaningful visibility to the multifaceted relationship between the two countries, saying that such coverage had contributed significantly to enabling the people of Azerbaijan and Pakistan to better understand and appreciate each other's rich cultural heritage, traditions and shared values.

The Ambassador also conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Pakistan for its unwavering support and cooperation throughout his tenure. He described the relationship



between Azerbaijan and Pakistan as a unique bond founded on mutual trust, respect, solidarity and a shared vision for peace, prosperity and progress. He further expressed his gratitude to the people of Pakistan for the warmth, affection and hospitality extended to him during his stay in the country. Reflecting on his tenure, he said his time in Pakistan had been a deeply enriching and memorable experience, marked by meaningful engagements, warm relationships and lasting friendships.

Acknowledging the important contribution of the business community,

the Ambassador also thanked various chambers of commerce and industry across Pakistan for their active engagement in promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries. He mentioned that growing interaction between the business communities had created new opportunities for investment, trade and commercial partnerships, with the potential to bring greater economic benefits to both nations. While reflecting on the future of bilateral relations, Ambassador Farhadov expressed confidence that the strong and brotherly bonds between Azerbaijan and



Pakistan would continue to grow and flourish in the years ahead. He said the relationship had enormous potential for further expansion across a wide range of areas, including diplomacy, culture, trade, tourism and people-to-people contacts.

On the occasion, Mr. Naveed Ahmad Khan, Editor of Daily The Spokesman, presented Ambassador Khazar Farhadov with the "Ambassador of the Year" certificate on behalf of the Tourism Association of Pakistan, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to strengthening relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Naveed Ahmad Khan appreciated Ambassador Farhadov's tireless efforts to promote tourism, cultural exchange and closer people-to-people contacts between the two countries. He also acknowledged the Ambassador's personal commitment to further deepening the already strong bonds of friendship between the people of Pakistan and Azerbaijan. While presenting the recognition, Mr. Khan expressed his best wishes for Ambassador Farhadov's continued success and prosperity in all his future endeavors.

In a gesture of appreciation and mutual goodwill, Ambassador

Farhadov also distributed certificates among media representatives in recognition of their valuable and continuous support in promoting and strengthening the friendly relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The farewell gathering concluded on a warm and cordial note, with media representatives extending their best wishes to Ambassador Farhadov for his future assignments and endeavors. They also reaffirmed their commitment to continue playing a constructive role in highlighting the longstanding friendship and expanding cooperation between the two brotherly nations.

High Commissioner Iqbal Hussain Khan Appreciates Ibrahim Murad's Educational and Social Contributions

 Bureau Report

UMT Chairman Ibrahim Hasan Murad met Bangladesh High Commissioner Iqbal Hussain Khan in Lahore to discuss avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Murad said the two countries have significant opportunities for collaboration, particularly in education, trade, and culture, which could greatly benefit their people, especially the youth. He noted that education, technology, research, and strategic partnerships could elevate bilateral ties to new heights.

He emphasized building stronger linkages among universities, industry, and young people in both nations to enable exchange of knowledge, skills, and expertise. Such engagement, he said, would drive educational and economic progress while fostering greater mutual understanding and people-to-people ties.

Murad added that robust Paki-



stan-Bangladesh relations could play a pivotal role in advancing regional development, prosperity, and cooperation, stressing the need to expand collaboration across sectors so both countries can benefit from each other's experience, expertise, and institutional strengths.

High Commissioner Iqbal Hussain Khan praised Murad's educational and

social contributions and expressed hope for deeper cooperation between the two countries across various fields.

The meeting concluded with Murad presenting a souvenir to the High Commissioner, symbolizing the warmth of the engagement and the shared commitment to strengthening ties between the two brotherly nations.



 News Desk

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said

Russian Foreign Ministry says foreign nationals killed in Nizhnekamsk Attack

as foreign nationals.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry's preliminary account, the dead included eight citizens of Uzbekistan and one citizen of Tajikistan, while roughly 20 other foreign nationals were reported wounded.

Zakharova attributed the attack to Ukrainian forces, describing it as a deliberate strike on facilities where citizens of "friendly countries" live and work, and alleging the aim was to damage relations between Russia and its regional partners. She said Ukrainian attacks have killed both Russian civilians and foreign nationals

in the past.

"We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims and wish speedy recovery to the wounded," Zakharova said, according to the ministry's statement.

The Russian Foreign Ministry called on the international community to condemn what it described as the actions of Ukrainian forces.

Ukraine has not yet issued a public response to the specific allegations regarding the Nizhnekamsk incident, and the claims made in the Russian statement have not been independently verified.



Pakistani Students Head to Thailand's Asian Institute of Technology for International Exchange Programme

A cohort of four outstanding Pakistani students has arrived at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand, widely regarded as the country's leading institution for technology and engineering education, to participate in a two-week exchange programme alongside their Taiwanese counterparts.

The initiative, organized by Dream 3, one of Pakistan's leading educational counselling firms, offers the students an immersive international learning experience. Over the course of the programme, they will engage with social business entrepreneurs across Thailand, attend specialized courses at AIT, and gain hands-on exposure to zero-carbon initiatives shaping the region's sustainability landscape.

The students selected for this prestigious opportunity are Muhammed Rao, Mahad Raja, and Zaid Bin Shakir of The City School, Ravi Campus, along with Waleed Chaudhary of FGS International — a group whose academic credentials reflect the calibre of talent Pakistan continues to produce on the



global stage.

Among them, Zaid Bin Shakir's recently released Cambridge International GCE AS & A Level results (Centre/Candidate No. PK871/0401, June 2026 series) showcase outstanding achievement, with top A grades across five demanding subjects: Further Mathematics (9231), Global Perspectives &

Research (9239), Accounting (9706), Economics (9708), and Mathematics (9709) — a testament to the strong academic foundation these students bring to international programmes.

Educational exchange programmes such as this one continue to play a vital role in equipping young Pakistanis with global exposure, cross-cultural collabo-



ration skills, and firsthand insight into emerging fields like sustainable development and social entrepreneurship. Organizations like Dream 3 have been instrumental in connecting talented students with such opportunities, rein-

forcing Pakistan's growing presence in international academic and innovation networks.

As these four students embark on their journey at AIT, their participation stands as an encouraging example

of how Pakistani youth are increasingly stepping onto the world stage, representing their country with distinction while building skills that will serve both their futures and Pakistan's development.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
179,846.68	181,310.28
Day's High	Day's Low
181,017.29	179,778.98
Index Value	Change
26,137,216.637	-1463.60
Percentage	Time
-0.81%	11 Aug, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,844.19	-18.31
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	11 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
53,877.09	-98.89
Percentage	Time
-0.18%	11 Aug, 1:36 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
66,970.22	+1,363.51
Percentage	Time
+2.08%	10 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.41	197.89
Bahrain Dinar	734.94	745.10
Canadian Dollar	198.30	202.15
China Yuan	38.15	38.90
Danish Krone	42.75	43.35
Euro	320.55	323.85
Hong Kong Dollar	34.99	35.99
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.6999	1.7976
Kuwaiti Dinar	883.59	893.65
Malaysian Ringgit	67.05	68.25
NewZealand \$	162.60	165.78
Norwegians Krone	28.15	28.50
Omani Riyal	719.80	729.95
Qatari Riyal	75.15	76.15
Saudi Riyal	74.10	75.20
Singapore Dollar	217.83	221.10
Swedish Korona	28.40	28.90
Swiss Franc	343.16	347.93
Thai Bhat	8.55	9.15
U.A.E Dirham	76.15	77.15
UK Pound Sterling	375.36	378.65
US Dollar	278.50	278.70

Emirates
Offers Greater
Flexibility
and Savings to
Travellers



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Emirates has announced a range of measures aimed at providing customers with greater flexibility, choice and confidence when planning and undertaking their journeys.

From August 10, passengers travelling to Dubai can change their travel dates an unlimited number of times without charge across eligible Economy and Business Class fares. Higher-tier fully flexible fares will also continue to offer flexibility.

The airline has also reduced refund fees for flights to Dubai, with charges lowered to US\$50 for eligible Saver fares and US\$25 for Flex fares in Economy. In Business Class, refund fees will be US\$50 for Special and Saver fares and US\$25 for Flex fares.

Passengers travelling anywhere across the Emirates network can also avail themselves of one free date change on tickets booked from April 2, 2026. Customers can hold fares for 24 hours without charge while finalising travel plans.

In case of disruptions, Emirates said it would assist affected passengers with accommodation and rebook them to their destinations at no additional cost where required.

Emirates Skywards members can also benefit from 20% fewer Tier Miles required for Silver, Gold and Platinum status and 20% bonus Tier Miles on Emirates and flydubai flights until August 31.

SECP Highlights IPO Success,
Targets 2.5 Million Investors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Tuesday highlighted successful recent initial public offerings (IPOs) and announced plans to expand the country's investor base to 2.5 million through easier market access and greater financial literacy.

The developments were discussed during the fourth session of the SECP Talk Series, where executives of three recently listed companies shared their IPO experiences, capital-raising strategies and post-listing growth plans.

Service Long March Tyres attracted bids worth Rs85 billion and was oversubscribed 16.7 times, while Select Technologies raised Rs3.02 billion through an offering that was 3.23 times oversubscribed. The companies said IPO proceeds were being utilized for capacity expansion, new projects and working capital.

SECP Commissioner Muzaffar Ahmed Mirza said Pakistan's population of around 255 million, with nearly two-thirds below 30, offered significant



investment potential. However, he noted that only around 500,000 to 600,000 people currently invested in the capital market, representing less than one percent of the population.

Service Long March Tyres CEO Omar Saeed said the company's IPO attracted more than 35,000 investors and was helping finance a Rs22.56 billion passenger-car radial tyre project.

Sitara Petroleum Service CEO Zaheer Baig highlighted plans involving oil storage, smart mobility, EV charging infrastructure and tyre manufacturing.

Select Technologies CEO Adnan Aftab said its IPO proceeds would support capacity expansion and working capital, while its shares opened at a 21.4 percent premium on the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said the regulator was simplifying digital onboarding, developing a mobile-first application and strengthening financial literacy initiatives to encourage youth and first-time investors.

Renovation

RAWALPINDI: Workers busy in whitewash on Chandni Chowk overhead bridge, in the city.



Photo: Online

Pakistan's Mud Crab
Sector Holds Major
Export Potential in
China: PCJCCI

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has called for greater efforts to expand seafood exports to China, terming growing demand for Pakistani mud crabs and other seafood a major opportunity for export diversification and foreign exchange earnings.

PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain said Pakistan had significant potential in high-value seafood products, including mud crabs, shrimp, lobster and fish. He stressed the need for modern processing facilities, cold-chain infrastructure, quality control and international certification.

He said Pakistan's seafood exports to China reached around US\$255 million in 2025, registering a 24 percent increase over 2024. Chilled and fresh crab exports to China also exceeded US\$31.9 million during the first 11 months of 2025.

PCJCCI officials said stronger supply chains, compliance with food-safety standards and improved business-to-business linkages could further expand Pakistan's market share in China.

They also highlighted the sector's potential to create employment and improve livelihoods in coastal communities of Sindh and Balochistan, urging targeted policy support and investment in seafood infrastructure.

BYD-MMC Launches Freedom
Festival with Free Home Charger,
Installation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: BYD Pakistan-Mega Motor Company (MMC) has launched its "BYD Freedom Festival," offering customers a complimentary 7kW home charger and free installation with bookings of any BYD vehicle during August.

The limited-time promotion offers potential savings of up to Rs250,000, subject to applicable terms and conditions. Customers will also be automatically entered into a lucky draw for a chance to win an exclusive trip to BYD Headquarters in China.

According to the company, the complimentary 7kW charger will provide customers with a convenient and efficient home-charging solution. Professional installation



through BYD's charging partner will ensure the equipment is installed safely and according to manufacturer standards.

The company said the installation would also help ensure

reliable performance, protect the charger's warranty and provide customers with a hassle-free charging experience.

The offer is applicable to vehicles booked between August 1 and August 31, 2026.

Customers have been advised to confirm the applicable terms, installation requirements and charges through BYD Pakistan's official channels or at its experience centres and authorized dealerships across the country.

Petroleum Dealers Give
Government 72-Hour
Ultimatum, Threaten
Nationwide Strike

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) has issued a 72-hour ultimatum to the government, warning of an indefinite nationwide closure of petrol pumps from 6 a.m. on August 15 if their demands are not addressed.

Speaking at a press conference, PPDA Chairman Malik Khuda Bakhsh and other office-bearers said dealers were facing growing financial and operational difficulties and could no longer continue under the existing conditions.

The association has demanded that the dealers' commission on petrol be increased to at least 8 percent of the retail price. The chairman said the existing margin was insufficient to

meet rising electricity and gas bills, salaries, inflation and other operating costs.

The PPDA also criticized the newly introduced 24-hour fuel price revision mechanism, describing it as impractical and a source of financial uncertainty for petrol pump operators.

The association further demanded an immediate review of the Company Allocation Policy, calling for a transparent and fair mechanism.

The dealers said they remained committed to dialogue with the government, OGRA and oil marketing companies but warned that failure to resolve their concerns within 72 hours would leave them with no option but to shut petrol stations nationwide.

CCP Clears CVC Fund IX Acquisition of
DSM-Firmenich's Animal Nutrition Business

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of controlling equity interests in DSM-Firmenich's Animal Nutrition and Health Business by four investment vehicles indirectly owned and financed by CVC Fund IX.

The transaction was approved following a Phase-I competition assessment under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010. The review examined whether the acquisition could create or strengthen a dominant position or raise competition concerns in relevant Pakistani markets.

DSM-Firmenich's Animal Nutrition and Health Business operates in Pakistan through DSM-Firmenich Pakistan (Private) Limited. Under the transaction, DSM B. V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Swiss-based DSM-Firmenich AG, will reorganise the business into SpecialtyCo and EssentialCo, with CVC-backed entities acquiring controlling interests.

The acquirers include four newly incorporated investment vehicles based in the Netherlands and the United States, which are indirectly owned and financed by CVC Fund IX.

The business produces animal nutrition ingredients, including

vitamins and carotenoids, performance solutions, premixes, precision services and aroma ingredients.

The CCP found that CVC Fund IX and its controlled portfolio companies had no presence in Pakistan's relevant product markets. Therefore, the transaction would create neither horizontal overlaps nor vertical relationships, and would not increase market concentration.

The Commission concluded that the acquisition was unlikely to create entry barriers, strengthen market power or substantially lessen competition, and accordingly authorised the transaction.

The CCP said it remained committed to facilitating investment, supporting business growth and maintaining a competitive and investor-friendly business environment.



Election Commission Orders Re-polling at 23 Polling Stations in Bagh Constituencies

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has decided to hold re-polling at nine polling stations in Constituency LA-15 Bagh-II and fourteen polling stations in Constituency LA-16 Bagh-III.

According to the spokesperson of the Election Commission, the decision for re-polling has been taken in light of reports received from the respective Returning Officers.

The spokesperson stated that re-polling at a total of 23 polling stations in both constituencies will be conducted on 15 August 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

According to the Election Commission, results from 204 out of 213 polling stations in Constituency LA-15 Bagh-II have been received by the Returning Officer, while in Constituency LA-16 Bagh-III, results from 172 out of 186 polling stations have been received.

The Election Commission further

stated that re-polling in LA-15 Bagh-II will be held at Polling Stations Nos. 114, 135, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, and 186.

Similarly, re-polling in LA-16 Bagh-III will be conducted at Polling Stations Nos. 28, 29, 40, 49, 50, 51, 77, 91, 109, 110, 111, 112, 143, and 149 on 15 August 2026.

The Election Commission has appealed to voters in the concerned constituencies to visit their respective polling stations on the scheduled date and exercise their right to vote.



Kotli Finalizes Arrangements for Pakistan's 79th Independence Day Celebrations



Bureau Report

KOTLI,: Arrangements for celebrating Pakistan's 79th Independence Day on August 14 with national spirit and patriotic fervour have been finalized in District Kotli.

A meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Usman Sarim reviewed arrangements for Independence Day ceremonies, security, sanitation, traffic management,

plantation and beautification. Officials from the district administration, police, municipal corporation, education, health, information, Rescue 1122 and other departments attended the meeting.

The deputy commissioner directed all departments to complete their assigned responsibilities on time and ensure discipline, cleanliness and public convenience during the celebrations.

The central ceremony will include hoisting of the national flag, the national anthem and special prayers for Pakistan's security, stability, progress and prosperity. Government officials, elected representatives, community leaders, students, teachers and members of civil society will participate.

Special programmes will also be held at educational institutions, featuring speeches, national songs and tableaux to promote patriotism among young

people. Roads, squares and public buildings will be decorated with national flags and illuminated.

Police will ensure security at major venues, while traffic authorities will manage traffic flow. Rescue 1122 and the Health Department will provide emergency services.

The deputy commissioner urged citizens to participate enthusiastically and celebrate Independence Day with unity, brotherhood and national solidarity.

JKDFP Pays Tribute to Sheikh Abdul Aziz on Martyrdom Anniversary

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) spokesperson Advocate Arshad Iqbal has paid rich tribute to Sheikh Abdul Aziz on his martyrdom anniversary, saying his sacrifice remains an unforgettable chapter in the Kashmir freedom struggle.

In a statement, he said Sheikh Abdul Aziz devoted his life to advocating the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He recalled that Sheikh Abdul Aziz was martyred on August 11, 2008, while leading a large procession, along with JKDFP President Shabir Ahmad Shah, towards the Uri border area in protest against an economic blockade.

Advocate Arshad Iqbal said the participation of hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris reflected their collective resolve against what he described as occupation, repression and economic restrictions. He said Sheikh Abdul Aziz's struggle and sacrifice continued to inspire the Kashmiri people, particularly the younger generation.



He urged the international community and the United Nations to take meaningful steps to resolve the Kashmir dispute and facilitate the exercise of the

people's right to self-determination in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

The spokesperson reaffirmed that the JKDFP would continue supporting

the political and peaceful struggle of the Kashmiri people and preserve the memory of those who sacrificed their lives.

From Crushing Iran to Avoiding Economic Catastrophe in the USA

Continued from Page 4

His reaction to the political rise of Michigan Democrat Abdul El-Sayed is illustrative. Instead of concentrating on why voters may be turning toward candidates who oppose foreign wars and challenge established power, Trump has portrayed criticism of Israel as hostility toward America. That framing ignores a fundamental distinction: Americans are entitled to question whether unconditional support for another government serves their own national interest.

The Iran war has made that question unavoidable. The United States has used enormous quantities of advanced missiles and defensive interceptors that cannot be replaced quickly. Its Strategic Petroleum Reserve has fallen to historically low levels. Energy shocks have affected household budgets, agricultural costs and business confidence. Financial markets

now rise on expectations of peace and fall when diplomacy appears to collapse. Few American allies have shown enthusiasm for joining another open-ended Middle Eastern war.

Netanyahu's defiance should therefore compel Washington to reconsider the structure of the relationship. An alliance cannot mean that one party initiates or expands conflicts while the other supplies weapons, money, diplomatic protection and soldiers—and then absorbs the economic and political consequences. Friendship between states must remain subordinate to national interest, law and democratic accountability.

It would be premature to claim that Iran has achieved a complete military victory. Iran has suffered extensive destruction, casualties and economic hardship. But strategic victory is not determined solely by the number of

targets bombed. It is measured by whether the initiating powers achieve their political objectives at an acceptable cost. Iran remains intact, its leadership has been reorganized, its missile and drone capabilities have not disappeared, and it possesses decisive leverage over the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump's shift toward negotiations is therefore not simply tactical flexibility. It is an acknowledgment that military escalation has reached its economic and strategic limits. Calling the approach "low-key" cannot conceal the fact that Washington now needs an agreement it once believed Iran would be forced to accept unconditionally.

Sanity requires restoring conditions as close as possible to those existing before the war: reopening the strait, ending the blockade, establishing verifiable security arrangements, preventing nuclear

proliferation and addressing reparations through negotiations rather than retaliatory arithmetic. Congress, the media and financial institutions must also evaluate Middle East policy through the interests of the American people—not through fear of challenging Israel.

The war intended to demonstrate American dominance has instead exposed American vulnerability. Trump may call it negotiation, de-escalation or strategic patience. In reality, his warning of economic catastrophe amounts to an honest admission: continuing Israel's war at America's expense is no longer sustainable.

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

Makkah Defence Pact to Strengthen Unity in Islamic World: Gharib Awam Party

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Makkah Defence Pact will provide a new direction to unity, solidarity and cooperation in the Islamic world, said Syed Aurangzeb Hussaini, Chief Organizer of the Gharib Awam Party.

Addressing various delegations at his office, he said that the inclusion of more Islamic countries in the pact would not only strengthen the collective security of the Muslim world but could also pave the way for lasting peace across the globe.

The Gharib Awam Party expressed its full support for the international agreement and paid rich tribute to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their role in promoting national and international security.

Syed Aurangzeb Hussaini urged the government to simultaneously focus on the deteriorating economic condition of the poor masses and take immediate welfare measures.

He said bringing down the prices of essential commodities should be the government's first priority. He also called for urgent relief for the people from what he described as unjust levies and excessive financial burdens associated with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which were making life increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens.

He expressed hope that the government would take practical steps to provide economic relief to the poor and improve their living standards.



Senior Journalist and Writer Zain Siddiqui's Edited Book "Zinda Kahaniyan" Published

Dr. Rashid Hussaini

The book "Zinda Kahaniyan" (Living Stories), edited by senior journalist and writer Zain Siddiqui, has been published.

Zinda Kahaniyan is a collection of selected short stories by emerging writers from across Pakistan. The hardcover book comprises 287 pages and has been published by Rang-e-Nau Publications Pakistan.

The book features beautiful and thought-provoking stories by Afroz Inayat, Nighat Parveen, Saba Ahmed, Suneh Imran, Maria Hassan, Saadia Yasmeen, Alia Rauf, Nighat Farman, Saadia Arif, Ashabnat Farooq, Rozina Khurshid and several other writers.

The stories portray various aspects of everyday life, highlighting social conditions, events and the different colours of human life in an engaging and meaningful manner.

The foreword to the book has been written by Zain Siddiqui, while the publication has been dedicated to Professor Khayal Afagi, a distinguished writer, intellectual, poet, scholar of Iqbal studies and biographer of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The book also includes the views and comments of Yasmeen Siddiqui, Director of Rang-e-Nau; Professor Saeed Hassan Qadri; and poet, researcher and critic Dr. Rana Khalid Mahmood Qaiser.



Petrol price cut by Rs1.70, diesel rises by Rs1.39

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday revised petroleum product prices, reducing the price of petrol by Rs1.70 per litre while increasing the price of high-speed diesel by Rs1.39 per litre.

According to a notification issued by the Petroleum Division, the new prices will take effect from August 12, 2026.

The price of Motor Spirit (petrol) has been reduced from Rs327.62 to Rs325.92 per litre.

Meanwhile, the price of High-Speed Diesel (HSD) has been increased from Rs380.86 to Rs382.25 per litre.

The revised prices were notified under the federal government's petroleum pricing mechanism following a revision by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA).

Lack of Research and Diseases in our Country Pakistan

Continued from Page 4

on research conducted in other countries. Our doctors, researchers, universities, hospitals, medical societies, funding agencies, and policymakers must work together to produce high-quality research that reflects the realities of Pakistan.

Only then can we develop truly effective national guidelines and provide the best possible care for our patients.

The time has come for Pakistan to move from simply following international evidence to generating its own evidence. Research conducted on Pakistani patients, under Pakistani conditions, is no longer a choice it is a national necessity.

The writer is a PhD in Electronics, an Educator, and a Researcher. He writes on Education, Digital Transformation, and Youth Development.

Zelensky's Caspian Gambit: Strategic Messaging or Proxy Manoeuvre?

Continued from Page 4

signalled Ukraine's refusal to tolerate Iranian support for Russia, showcased long-range strike capabilities, and reassured Western allies of Kyiv's resolve. Yet it also risked alienating Iran, destabilizing a vital trade corridor, and expanding the war's geography. Whether Zelensky acted at Western behest or out of national necessity, the result is the same: the Ukraine war has spilled into new waters, entangling Iran and raising the spectre of broader confrontation.

In the annals of modern conflict,

such actions underscore the erosion of boundaries between theatres of war. What began as a European struggle now reverberates across the Middle East and Central Asia. Zelensky's boast may have been intended to project strength, but it also reveals the fragility of a world where regional conflicts are increasingly inseparable from global rivalries.

The writer is a retired Group Captain of PAF. He is a columnist, analyst and TV talk show host, who has authored 16 books on current affairs, including ten on China

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Finance Minister, Mr. Khurram Schehzad, meeting with Pakistan Business Council (PBC) leadership at the Finance Division to discuss investment, privatization and economic reforms on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Finance Minister, PBC Leadership Discuss Investment, Digital Transformation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb met newly elected Pakistan Business Council (PBC) Chairman Ziad Bashir and CEO Javed Kureishi to discuss investment, business competitiveness, regulatory reforms and private-sector-led economic growth.

The finance minister emphasized the need for greater investment, technological adoption and digital transformation to improve business efficiency and competitiveness. He urged businesses to adopt innovative models and adapt to changing global markets.

The meeting highlighted the importance of stronger government-business engagement,

with the minister encouraging PBC to conduct concise, sector-specific research and provide practical recommendations for policymaking. He also stressed the need to align Pakistan's business environment with international practices and streamline regulations affecting investment and business activity.

Aurangzeb discussed opportunities to attract international financing through institutions including the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and US Export-Import Bank (EXIM), emphasizing the importance of presenting commercially viable, investment-ready projects.

Tax policy and the development of a medium-term tax

framework were also discussed. The minister welcomed private-sector input to develop a tax system supportive of investment and sustainable growth. PBC leadership appreciated the government's engagement and economic reforms, describing the current federal budget as among the most promising in recent years.

NAB and National Forensics Agency Partner to Strengthen Scientific Accountability Investigations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the National Forensics Agency (NFA) have formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate advanced forensic science into NAB's inquiries, investigations, and prosecutions.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Amjad Majeed Aulakh (DG Operations, NAB) and Mr. Jawad Ahmad Dogar (DG, NFA) in the presence of Chairman NAB Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed and Senior officers of NAB & NFA at NAB Headquarters.

Under the partnership, NAB will refer investigative material to NFA for crime-scene investigation and scientific analysis, receiving authenticated forensic reports in return. To strengthen evidence-driven prosecutions, NFA forensic experts will provide expert testimony in Accountability Courts and other



judicial forums as required. The agreement establishes strict physical, digital, and procedural protocols to ensure the secure handling and confidentiality of all sensitive investigative material. Additionally,

clear mechanisms for focal-point coordination and service-based financial reconciliation have been established to streamline inter-agency cooperation.

This strategic alliance modernizes the national accountability framework, ensuring greater procedural rigor, scientific integrity, and transparency in legal proceedings.

Joint Monitoring Committee to Address Goods Transporters' Issues

ISLAMABAD: Decisions reached during two days of negotiations between the government and the All Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance were finalized on Monday, with the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Committee comprising Customs authorities and goods transporters.

The meeting, chaired by Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, discussed short- and long-term measures to resolve transporters' concerns regarding Customs authorities, weigh stations, ports and



other agencies. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwaar

assured the transporters of his ministry's full cooperation.

Abdul Aleem Khan

directed authorities to address complaints regarding weigh stations and announced plans to establish modern stations with minimal human intervention on all Motorways.

The meeting also discussed axle-load regulations, NHA and Motorway Police matters, port operations and petroleum-related issues. Transporters supported a uniform policy to control axle loads at the source.

Officials from FBR, NHA, Motorway Police, Port and Shipping authorities and Karachi Port Trust attended the meeting.

President Zardari approves appointments, confirmations of high court judges



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday approved the appointment of additional judges to several high courts and confirmed several existing additional judges as permanent judges.

President Zardari approved the appointment of additional judges to the Lahore High Court, Sindh High Court, Peshawar High Court, Islamabad High Court and Balochistan High Court.

He also approved the confirmation of additional judges of the Sindh

High Court and Lahore High Court as permanent judges.

In another decision, Zardari approved bringing the salaries, allowances and pensions of Supreme Court judges at par with those of judges of the Federal Constitutional Court.

He also approved amendments to the 1997 Order concerning the leave, pension and privileges of High Court judges.

In a separate decision, Zardari approved the appointment of Haroon Akhtar as Adviser to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production.

Bahraini FM phones DPM Dar; felicitates on Makkah Agreement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a phone call from Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani on Monday night.

Foreign Minister Al Zayani congratulated the deputy prime minister on the signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement

between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

He also expressed his intention to visit Pakistan in the near future.

The deputy prime minister warmly welcomed Dr. Al Zayani's desire to visit Pakistan and thanked him for his kind sentiments.

He reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to promoting dialogue and diplomacy to achieve peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Privatisation Board Advances Airport Outsourcing, LESCO, MEPCO Privatisation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission (PC) Board on Tuesday approved key steps for outsourcing Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore and Jinnah International Airport Karachi, besides advancing the privatisation process of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) and Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO).

The decisions were taken during the 257th meeting of the PC Board chaired by Prime Minister's Adviser on Privatisation and Chairman Privatisation Commission Muhammad Ali.

The Board approved the consortium led by EY-Parthenon as the top-ranked interested party for appointment as Financial Adviser for outsourcing the two airports. It also constituted a Negotiation

Committee to finalise the Financial Advisory Services Agreement with the successful consortium.

The Board further declared the proposed privatisation of LESCO and MEPCO as major transactions, requiring the appointment of Financial Advisers under applicable regulations. The Privatisation Commission will now initiate the selection process.

LESCO and MEPCO constitute the fourth batch of power distribution companies identified for privatisation, while processes for three earlier batches are already underway.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the government's privatisation programme through transparent and competitive processes, with emphasis on accountability, professional management and maximising value for the government and people.

Azerbaijan's outgoing ambassador pays farewell visit to Defence Minister Khawaja Asif



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan's outgoing Ambassador to Pakistan, Khizr Farhadov, paid a farewell visit to Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Khawaja Asif appreciated the ambassador's services and contributions towards strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan during his tenure.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of defence and aviation.

The defence minister also expressed his best wishes to the outgoing ambassador for his future.