



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے امت نے ان سے ابراہیم نے ان سے
محمد سے محمد سے اور ان سے محمد بن مسعود
رضی اللہ عنہ نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
نے فرمایا ہے کہ میرے بعد ہوں گے اس کے
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لوگ پیدا ہوں گے جو قسم سے پہلے کو ایسی
دیں گے بھی گواہی سے پہلے قسم نکالیں گے۔
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6429)
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Houthi launch fresh missile, drone attacks on Yemen's Mocha, Marib

The Houthi group launched a fresh wave of missile and drone attacks on the southwestern Yemeni cities of Mocha and Marib, amid renewed fighting and escalating tensions across the war-torn country, pro-government forces and local authorities said on Sunday.



Senate, NA to meet Today

Sessions of the Senate and the National Assembly will separately be held at the Parliament House, Islamabad on Monday. The Upper House will meet at four 4 p.m., while the Lower House will start its proceedings at 5 p.m. Both Houses will take up matters of national and international importance.

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Deserted Mall Road

LAHORE: A view of deserted Mall Road during Sunday holiday, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Seven terrorists killed in intelligence-based operation in Kharan

News Desk

QUETTA: Security forces killed seven terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the Lajay area of Kharan, Balochistan, under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, security sources said on Sunday.

According to security sources, security forces acted on intelligence information, during which several Indian-backed terrorists were injured, while seven were killed. Modern weapons, a



large amount of ammunition, other military equipment, two vehicles, and a motorcycle were recovered from the terrorists' hideouts.

Sources further said that security forces also completely destroyed the hideouts of Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists during the operation.

The terrorists were involved in planning looting, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, target killings, and suicide attacks in Kharan and Lajay.

According to security sources, security forces are continuing operations to completely eliminate terrorism in Balochistan under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. The pursuit of terrorists will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated, and all necessary steps will be taken to bring them to a logical end.

President commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, commended the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Kharan district, Balochistan.



The president observed

that the destruction of hideouts of Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists and the recovery of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were significant achievements, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

He reiterated that oper-

ations against terrorist elements, operating with external support, were essential to safeguarding Pakistan's national security.

President Zardari said the entire nation stands firmly with Pakistan's security forces in the fight against terrorism.

Trump's envoys in Middle East to push for Gaza peace plan

Reuters

Donald Trump's envoys met with Egyptian, Qatari and Turkish mediators in Cairo on Sunday, a diplomatic source said, in a bid to advance the US president's Gaza peace plan, even as Israel pressed on with airstrikes in the enclave.

Hamas officials were present at some of the meetings between mediators and with Trump's envoy and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Nickolay

Mladenov, Trump's Board of Peace envoy for Gaza, the diplomat said.

A senior Israeli official said that Kushner and Mladenov were scheduled to meet on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who on August 9 said Trump's latest roadmap for Gaza peace was 'unacceptable'.

Gaza medics say strikes injured several people

The official said that Israel was concerned about Washington's demand to

end targeted assassinations of Hamas militants in Gaza as the group rebuilds its forces.

Trump's peace plan calls for the immediate cessation of military operations in Gaza. It foresees Hamas disarming as Israeli troops withdraw from the enclave and Gaza is rebuilt under a new civilian Palestinian administration.

After scaling back its attacks in the enclave earlier this month, Israel's airstrikes have resumed in

the past few days.

The Israeli military said on Sunday that its aircraft targeted a militant in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. At least five Palestinians were injured in the strike, which hit a tent encampment, medics in the enclave said.

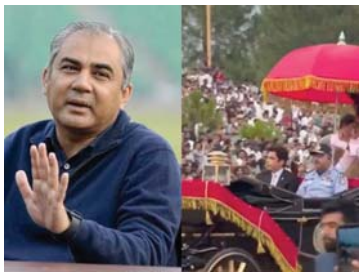
A separate airstrike, which the Israeli military said targeted another militant, hit an apartment in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, wounding several people, medics said.

Naqvi Defends Islamabad Officials Over Buggy Ride at Independence Day Parade

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has defended Islamabad Police Inspector General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf following criticism over their appearance in a horse-drawn buggy during an Independence Day parade at D-Chowk.

Videos and photographs of the officials travelling in the ceremonial buggy circulated widely on social media, prompting criticism over perceived official privilege at a public event. Naqvi acknowledged that the incident was inappropriate but said the two officials



were not responsible for the decision.

He explained that the buggy had originally been arranged for the chief guest and the interior minister. However, their arrival was delayed due to a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. As thousands of people had been waiting since 5pm, Naqvi said the officials were instructed to begin the programme rather than keep the public waiting.

According to the minister, the officials had initially been reluctant to start the event without the chief guest and himself but followed instructions for the convenience of citizens. He said the buggy was subsequently used by the officers because of the unavoidable delay.

The incident nevertheless sparked wider debate on social media about official privilege, public perception and the conduct of state officials during public celebrations.

Transporters to end strike today as govt agrees to accept demands

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The ongoing strike by goods transporters will come to an end tomorrow (Monday) after successful negotiations between the federal government and the transporters, President of the All Pakistan Goods Transporters Association Nabil Mahmood Tariq said on Sunday.

Speaking about the developments, Nabil said transporters held negotiations with Federal Minister Aleem Khan, during which the government agreed to accept the demands put forward by



the transporters. He said the negotiations between the government and the transporters are currently being finalized, adding that significant progress has been made towards resolving the issues that led to the strike.

According to the transporters' asso-

ciation president, the government has assured them that their demands will be accepted. Nabil announced that the transporters' strike will be called off from tomorrow following the completion of the ongoing negotiations.

The nationwide strike had caused disruptions to the movement of goods, affecting supply chains and freight operations in various parts of the country.

The expected end to the strike follows efforts by the government and representatives of the transport sector to reach an agreement and resolve the transporters' grievances.

APPEAL

His Excellency King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
His Excellency Muhammad Bin Salman
His Excellency Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malkiy
His Excellency Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy

Appeal to resolve all more than 3,500 pending cases for visa issuance at Royal Embassy of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Islamabad and more than 6,000 in que of submission for processing of visa issuance.

The urgent intervention of His Excellency King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Muhammad Bin Salman and Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy shall provide relief to intending emigrants to get visa in time before the expiry of visa and medical.

Sayed Rahmat Ali Shah
Central Chairman POEPA
& Central Executive Committee POEPA

Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association
www.peopa.com.pk

PPP AJK condemns alleged electoral interference

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Jammu and Kashmir has strongly condemned what it described as federal interference in elections, alleging coercion, irregularities and attempts to undermine the sanctity of the public mandate.

Addressing a press conference, PPP AJK leaders, including Government Spokesperson Shaukat Javed Mir, criticized remarks reportedly made by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif against the PPP leadership during a PML-N parliamentary meeting in Murree. They termed the criticism politically motivated and recalled the PPP's past role in supporting democratic institutions and political reconciliation.

The PPP leaders expressed concern over alleged manipulation of electoral results through Form-47 and warned against repeating such practices in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. They also cautioned that attempts



to form a government through an incomplete electoral college, particularly before elections in the Poonch region, could create political instability.

They highlighted the performance of the AJK government led by

Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and described its policies as people-oriented. The leaders also praised Kashmiris for celebrating Pakistan's Independence Day with patriotic enthusiasm and paid tribute to the armed forces, Kashmir and

democracy martyrs.

They reaffirmed their commitment to democracy, constitutional institutions, national unity and the Kashmir cause, urging political disputes to be resolved through dialogue and respect for the public mandate.

Waiting for customers

RAWALPINDI: Vendors wait for customers at Sunday weekly bazar at Committee Chowk area in the city.



Photo: Online

Data Darbar development works to be completed before next Urs

 **Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has directed that all ongoing development, expansion, renovation and beautification works at the historic shrine of Hazrat Ali Hajveri (RA), popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhsh, be completed before next year's Urs.

During a detailed inspection of Data Darbar and adjoining areas, Dr. Bhutta reviewed the progress and quality of ongoing projects and directed officials to accelerate construction while maintaining high standards of workmanship. He said the Punjab Government was committed to providing millions of devotees visiting the shrine from across Pakistan and abroad with modern, safe and dignified facilities.



He emphasized improvements in cleanliness, security, parking, move-

ment and other essential amenities, stressing that neither quality nor timely completion would be compromised.

The inspection team included senior officials from NESPAK, TEPA, Communication and Works Department and Auqaf Punjab. The delegation also paid respects at Data Darbar, laid a chadar and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and progress of Pakistan.

Later, Dr. Bhutta visited Sharqpur Sharif in connection with its annual Urs, where he laid a chadar and offered prayers. He also inspected the historic mosque, which has been restored and modernized with the cooperation of the Sharqपुरi family. Officials assured him that the remaining restoration works would be completed within two months.

Symposium Highlights China's Party-Building Approach and Governance Model

 **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A joint symposium on "Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building" was organised by the Chinese Embassy and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), bringing together Chinese officials, Pakistani senators, political leaders, diplomats, academics and media representatives.

Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, who attended as chief guest, said China's transformation demonstrated the importance of strategic planning, institutional continuity and effective governance. He highlighted the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship and welcomed President Xi Jinping's global initiatives.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building emphasised self-reform,



discipline and people-centred development. He linked China's poverty reduction achievements to scientific

development and said the approach offered lessons for developing countries and further strengthened Paki-

stan-China cooperation.

Chinese officials Liu Daxiu and Professor Zheng Huan discussed the theory's emphasis on party discipline, accountability, organisational strength, anti-corruption measures and public trust. Professor Huan said strong grassroots organisations had helped China implement major national programmes.

IRS President Ambassador Jauhar Saleem stressed that political parties must reform themselves to govern effectively and identified meritocracy as a key factor in China's development.

Participants discussed how Pakistan could adapt relevant lessons while following its own national path. The symposium also highlighted growing institutional exchanges during 75 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations.

GC Women University Faisalabad Celebrates 79th Independence Day

 **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) celebrated Pakistan's 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervor, youth engagement, and a renewed commitment to national ideals.

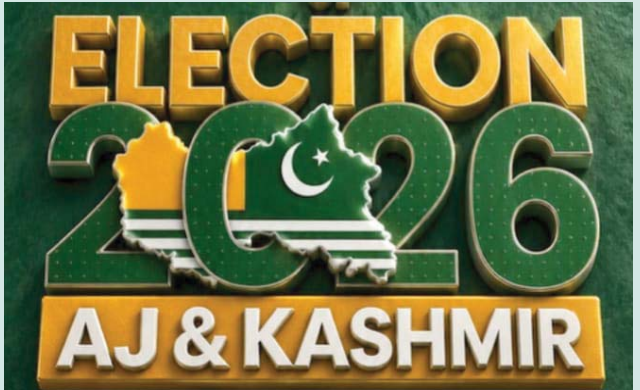
The main ceremony was attended by Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd) HI(M), SBT, former Vice Chief of Air Staff PAF; MPAs Uzma Raja and Qudsia Batool; CPO Faisalabad Tanveer Hussain as guests of honor; and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) as Chief Guest.

Events included flag hoisting, a police march-past, student tableaux, a patriotic poster exhibition, and Independence Day cake cutting.

Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan said freedom brings responsibility to learn and contribute. Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen urged students to reflect on Quaid-e-Azam's principles of honesty, integrity and responsibility. CPO Tanveer Hussain paid tribute to Armed Forces and police martyrs and stressed unity and responsible citizenship.

The event, attended by faculty, staff and students, concluded a week-long series of activities including Quran Khawani, an Independence Badminton Match, and other patriotic engagements.

AJK Election Commission Dismisses Appeals Challenging LA-17 Haveli Results



 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has dismissed appeals challenging the election results in Constituency LA-17 Haveli.

The appeals were filed by Chaudhry Mohsin Aziz (PML-N) and Khawaja Tariq Saeed, Advocate (Independent), both unsuccessful candidates.

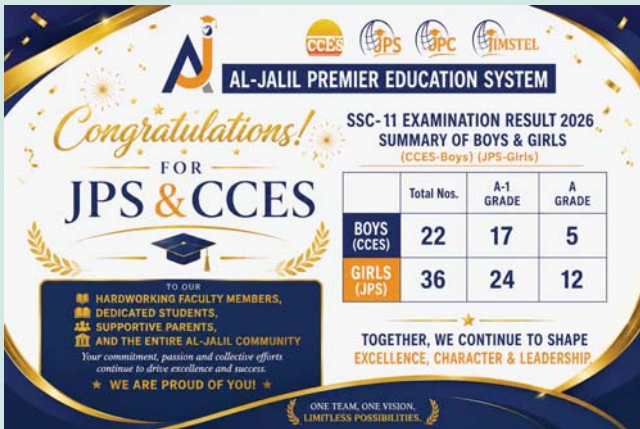
The case was heard by a bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Justice (Retd.) Mustafa Mughal, with Senior Member Khawaja Ahsan and Member Syed Nazir-ul-Hassan Gilani.

The Chief Election Commissioner and Senior Member dismissed the appeals, observing that petitioners may seek remedy before the relevant Election Tribunal.

However, Member Syed Nazir-ul-Hassan Gilani recorded a dissenting note. While agreeing with arguments from both candidates, he directed the Returning Officer to reconcile Form-24 results from Presiding Officers with copies given to Polling Agents, and proposed compiling results for polling stations with alleged discrepancies after verification.

The Commission Spokesperson clarified that under election laws, where opinion differs, the majority decision is operative and enforceable.

Al-Jalil Premier Education System Students Achieve Outstanding Results in SSC-11 Examination 2026



 **Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Students of CCES Boys and JPS Girls, operating under the Al-Jalil Premier Education System, have achieved outstanding results in the SSC-11 Examination 2026, bringing pride to the institution, teachers and parents.

According to the examination results, a total of 22 students from CCES Boys appeared in the examination. Among them, 17 students secured A-1 grades, while 5 students achieved A grades.

Similarly, a total of 36 students from JPS Girls participated in the examination. Of these, 24 students secured A-1 grades, while 12 students achieved A grades.

The administration of Al-Jalil Premier Education System congratulated all high-achieving students, dedicated teachers, supportive parents and the entire Al-Jalil community on the remarkable performance.

The administration stated that the students' success is the result of their hard work, the dedication of their teachers and the continued support of their parents.

Schedule Announced for Election to Eight Reserved Seats in AJK Assembly

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has announced the schedule for elections to eight reserved seats in the AJK Legislative Assembly, clearing the way for a new political setup.

Of the eight seats, five are reserved for women, one for Ulema and Mashaikh, one for Kashmiris Overseas, and one for technocrats and professionals.

Election Schedule:

- 20 August: Filing of nomination papers, scrutiny, and publication of candidate list
- 21 August: Last date for filing appeals against nominations
- 22 August: Hearing and decision on appeals
- 23 August: Withdrawal of nominations and publication of final candidate list
- 24 August: Polling from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Assembly Hall, Block 12, Civil Secretariat, Muzaffarabad

Sources said the election for Speaker and Deputy Speaker is expected on 25 August, followed by the election of the Prime Minister of AJK on 27 August. The oath-taking ceremony will follow, paving the way for the new AJK government.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:00 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:58 pm
Maghrib 6:53 pm
Isha 8:24 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

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif commends successful operation against terrorists in Kharan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her appreciation for the successful operation against terrorists in Kharan. She commended the security forces for their timely action during Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, in which seven terrorists were killed.

PDMA issues alert as heavy rains, thunderstorms threaten KP

PESHAWAR: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued a weather alert following predictions from Meteorological Department regarding heavy rainfall and thunderstorms expected across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from August 17 to 21.

The forecast indicates widespread severe weather during this five-day period across northern, central, and southern districts, including Chitral (Upper and Lower), Dir (Upper and Lower), Swat, Buner, Shangla, Malakand, Bajaur, Kohistan (Upper and Lower), Kolai Palas, Battagram, Torgar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Swabi, Khyber, Mohmand, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Kohat, Kurram, Hangu, and Orakzai.

Shifa Foundation Concludes Cohort 3 of “NUR of Tomorrow” Youth Internship Programme

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shifa Foundation concluded the third cohort of its flagship “NUR of Tomorrow” Youth Internship Programme at Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad, with students from colleges and universities across Islamabad, Rawalpindi and nearby areas.

The four-day capacity-building programme focused on life skills, emergency preparedness, mental health awareness, digital and cyber safety, communication, teamwork, professionalism and civic responsibility.

Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, participants gained training in first aid, CPR, fire safety, disaster response, stress management, resilience, empathy, digital literacy, community development.

MPAs laud CM Maryam Nawaz for launching electrobus service in Attock and other cities

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Members of the Provincial Assembly from Attock district called on CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz and held detailed discussions on public needs and

development projects.

The MPAs congratulated the chief minister on the success in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and paid tribute to her for launching the electrobus service in Attock district.



Talking to the chief minister, the MPAs said electrobuses were operating from POF Sanjwal to Hazro and from Government College of Technology Dhok Fateh to Attock Khurd. They apprised the chief minister of the positive public response to the provision of electrobus service for Attock and adjoining areas.

They said free travel for women, students and senior citizens on a world-class bus service was a blessing. The

MPAs described the upgradation of villages under the Model Village Project as a revolutionary initiative, saying Punjab's development and landmark projects were becoming a model for other provinces.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that, on the pattern of the Suthra Punjab Programme, the Clean Drinking Water Project was also among the government's priorities. “After cleanliness, my resolve

is to provide clean drinking water in all cities across Punjab,” she said.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the Pakistan Muslim League-N had made Pakistan a nuclear power and built motorways. “We have launched the Punjab Development Programme for every city and village, under which mega projects for drainage, sewerage systems and roads have been initiated across the province,” she added.

Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Children enjoying bathing in water at trail-5 during pleasant weather after the rain, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Imam Hasan al-Askari's Life Reflects the Teachings of Holy Prophet: Allama Ghadeeri

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Renowned religious scholar Hujjat-ul-Islam Allama Hashim Raza Ghadeeri has stressed the importance of understanding both the apparent teachings and deeper spiritual meanings of the Holy Quran.

Addressing a Majlis-e-Aza at Imambargah Panjtani, Attock City, held to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), he said Muslims should respect each other's sacred personalities and beliefs to counter sectarian tensions and promote harmony.

The scholar highlighted the life, character and teachings of Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), saying his conduct reflected the noble character and teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He urged Muslims to remain connected with the Holy Quran and Ahl al-Bayt (AS) as a means of achieving success in this world

and the Hereafter.

He paid tribute to Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), recalling his steadfastness and spiritual guidance despite persecution and martyrdom. He said the Imam belonged to the revered household whose sacrifices at Karbala defended the principles of Islam.

and the Hereafter.

Hundreds of mourners attended the gathering. At its conclusion, the Taboot of Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS) was brought out, followed by Noha Khawani and Matam. Niaz was later distributed among participants.



FIA Immigration Multan Arrests Two Passengers for Illegal Travel Abroad

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration Multan has taken action against two passengers who allegedly travelled abroad through illegal means.

The passengers, identified as Arshad Ali and Zulqarnain Haider, arrived in Multan from the United Arab Emirates on flight G9558. During immigration clearance, no travel record relating to their departure from Pakistan was found in the system.

According to preliminary investigation, both passengers had travelled abroad through illegal means. FIA Immigration Multan subsequently handed them over to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Multan for further investigation.

The FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle took both deportees into custody and initiated legal proceedings against them. The action was carried out by Sub-Inspector Tahir Ausaf.

FIA authorities reiterated their commitment to continuing operations against illegal immigration and elements involved in human trafficking. Officials said that legal action would be taken against individuals travelling abroad through illegal channels as well as their facilitators, in accordance with the law.



IIUT's Research Incentive Framework Yields 331 High-Quality Publications in 2025

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUT) has recorded 331 high-quality, ranking-relevant research publications in 2025 under its Research Excellence Incentive Framework, launched in August 2025 by President Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed.

One year after the launch, 105 of IIUT's 501 PhD faculty members — about 21% — contributed to the output, averaging 0.66 ranking-relevant paper per PhD faculty member. The publications include over 300 W-category and 20+ X-category papers.

Under the framework, W-category papers received an honorarium of USD 100 and X-category USD 80, converted to PKR. Rs. 4.83 million was secured with support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for these rewards. Additionally, 5 researchers with highest-impact publications will receive Rs. 150,000 each, and 8 faculty members hit the Rs. 150,000 cap for a high number of W-category papers.

Vice President (Research) Prof. Dr. Ahmad Shuja Syed guided implementation, while ORIC Director Dr. Rashid Farooq managed submissions and QAD verified eligibility.

The Faculty of Sciences led with 221 publications. CAEPE, Sciences, and Engineering topped output relative to PhD faculty. The President said the milestone shows IIUT's growing contribution to knowledge and will strengthen its position in global university rankings.



8th World Taekwondo President's Cup Asian Region Begins in Lahore



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 8th World Taekwondo President's Cup Asian Region begins today at the Jinnah Sports Complex, Cantonment, Lahore, and will run until August 21.

A total of 874 athletes from 38 countries, including Japan, Korea, England, Australia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, are participating. The event features competitions for men, women, and Paralympic athletes.

Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Chairman Lt. Col. (Retd) Wasim Ahmed Janjua said this is the first event in Pakistan with such large international participation. He added that successful hosting could pave the way for Pakistan to host the Asian Taekwondo Cup and Olympic qualifying rounds in the future.

Asian Taekwondo Union President Seung Jin Kim expressed pleasure at holding the event in Pakistan, praising the Federation's arrangements. He called Lahore a cultural city and thanked Pakistan for hosting an international-level event, while also noting his happiness over the growth and development of Taekwondo in Pakistan.

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IS The Architect of Defiance

President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed on his 38th Death Anniversary



On 17 August 1988, the skies over Bahawalpur claimed a soldier-statesman whose vision still shapes the destiny of Pakistan. President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed left this world in a plane crash. That day a nation lost its longest-serving military ruler, but history gained a figure whose imprint on Pakistan's destiny remains indelible.

The foundations he laid—of faith, strategic foresight, and national resilience—remain unbroken. Today, as the nation marks another anniversary of his martyrdom, we do not merely mourn a leader. We reaffirm the unfinished mission of a man who transformed Pakistan from all vulnerable state into a nuclear-armed Islamic power it is time to remember and refused to let Pakistan become a footnote in someone else's empire.

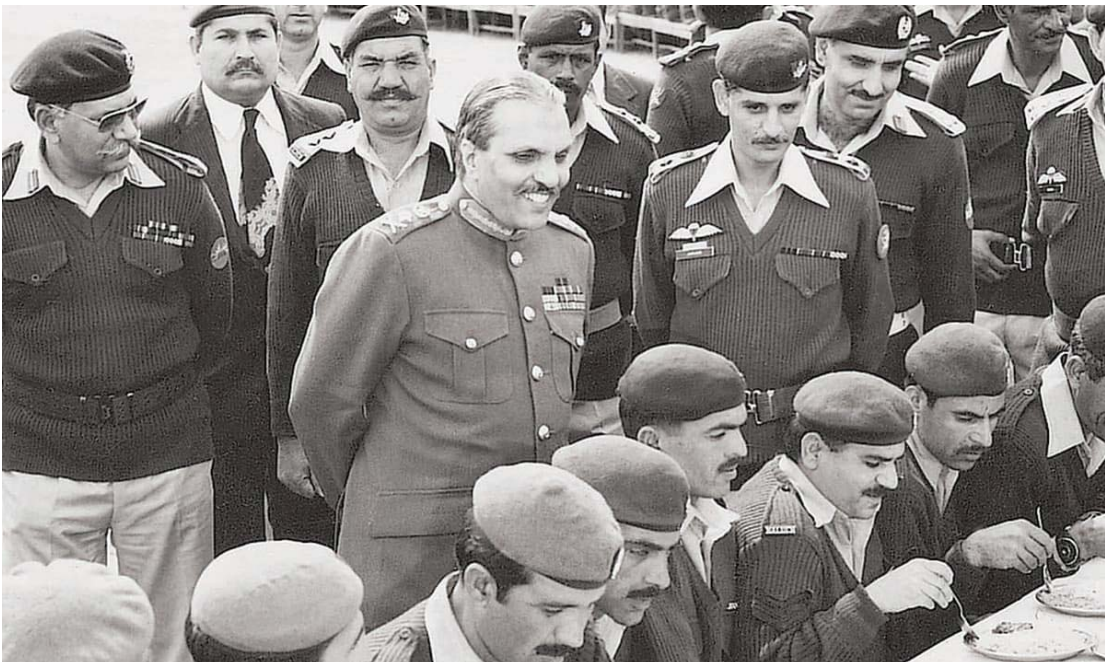
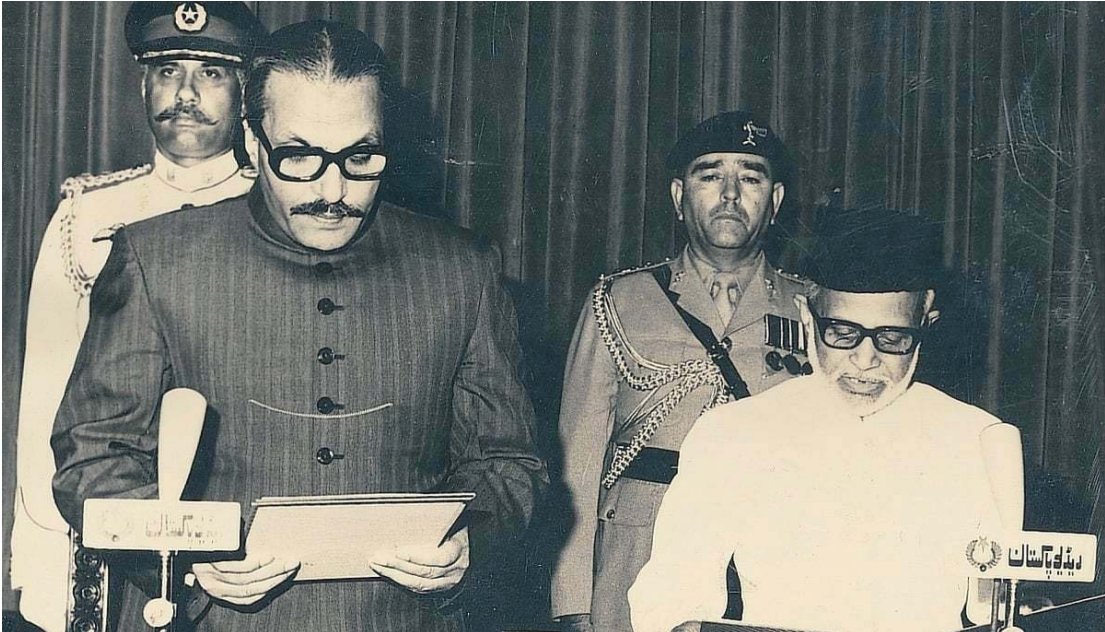
President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed was Born in 1924 in Jalandhar, he took a commission in the British Indian Army in 1945. After wartime training and service linked to the Malayan theatre, he returned to a subcontinent on the brink of partition. At that moment of birth pangs, Captain Zia ul Haq Shaheed was among those entrusted with the solemn duty of escorting one of the last trains carrying arms and matériel across the new frontier into Pakistan. From those early days of nation-building he rose steadily through the ranks, serving in multiple commands until, in 1976, he became Chief of Army Staff. In July 1977 he assumed power; he remained at the helm until that fateful afternoon in Bahawalpur eleven years later.

His greatest domestic legacy was the determined effort to restore Pakistan to

the ideological purpose for which it was created. President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed elevated the Objectives Resolution from mere preamble to substantive constitutional status through Article 2A, declaring that sovereignty belongs to Allah alone and that no law repugnant to the Quran and Sunnah could stand. Zakat, Ushr and measures to facilitate Salat were introduced not as ornaments but as instruments to realign society with the founding vision. President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed insisted that when Quaid-e-Azam raised the slogan "Pakistan ka matlab kya — La ilaha illallah," he was articulating a state in which Islam would be the guiding light and minorities would retain the freedom to practice their faith. That principle remains the constitutional bedrock of the Islamic Republic.

Beyond Pakistan's borders his strategic vision proved prophetic. When Soviet forces poured into Afghanistan in 1979, their ultimate objective was not Kabul alone but the warm waters of the Gulf. President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed understood the stakes with crystalline clarity. "The Soviets are 350 miles from the Strait of Hormuz," he warned, "and whoever occupies the Strait of Hormuz occupies the Gulf." Under his direction Pakistan became the indispensable front-line state. The resistance that bled the Red Army, forced its withdrawal, and contributed to the eventual collapse of the Soviet empire was architected in Islamabad. From the wreckage of that empire emerged independent Muslim-majority states in Central Asia and the liberation of Eastern Europe. Few leaders in the late twentieth century can claim so direct a hand in reshaping the global balance of power.

Simultaneously, President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed made the nuclear programme the highest national priority. When Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's work faced obstruction, it was President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed who cleared the path. Between 1979 and 1984, under the cover of the Afghan struggle, Pakistan conducted cold tests in the Chagai tunnels—preparations begun nineteen years before the public detonations of 1998. American pressure mounted;

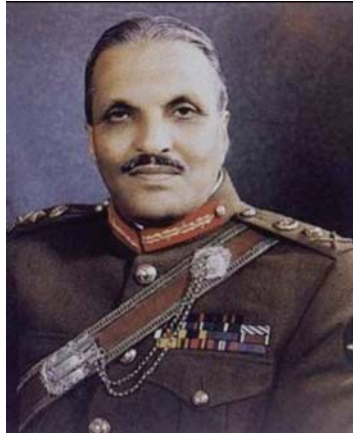


threats were issued. President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed neither blinked nor bargained away the nation's ultimate deterrent. Today Pakistan stands as the only nuclear-armed Muslim country in the world—a status that exists because

one soldier-statesman refused to let the Islamic world remain defenceless.

He also redefined the ethos of the Pakistan Army with the enduring motto Iman, Taqwa, Jihad fi Sabilillah. He forged the first major defence under-

standing with Saudi Arabia in 1981–82. Defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia deepened into formal arrangements; Pakistani brigades served on the soil of the Holy Land, establishing a strategic partnership that has endured and



expanded across decades.

Today, as Pakistan stands taller after the decisive demonstration of resolve in Marka-e-Haq. The same spirit of defiance and faith continues under the present leadership. Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Hafiz General Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif carry forward the legacy of resolve that President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed embodied. In the face of new challenges, the armed forces and the nation remain anchored in the principles of Marka-e-Haq—the struggle for truth and justice that President General Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed lived and died for.

President General Zia ul Haq Shaheed kept Pakistan's Islamic identity central, frustrated a superpower's advance toward the Gulf, secured the nuclear shield, and forged enduring strategic friendships. On this anniversary of his martyrdom, Pakistan remembers a leader who placed Allah's sovereignty above all earthly power, who armed the nation with both faith and the ultimate weapon, and who proved that a determined Muslim state can alter the course of history.

His body rests, but his mission does not. The best tribute we can offer is to protect the ideological and strategic inheritance he bequeathed—an independent, nuclear, Islamic Pakistan that bows only to its Creator.

Writer is Member National Assembly and also President Pakistan Muslim League (Zia), He can be reached at ijaz.na191@na.gov.pk

Prestigious Independence Day Mushaira Held in Islamabad, Poets Urge Youth to Connect with National Values

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A prestigious Mushaira was organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Cultural Forum to mark Independence Day. The event was presided over by renowned poet Professor Jaleel Aali, with Dr. Najiba Arif, Chairperson Pakistan Academy of Letters, as chief guest. Poets, writers, intellectuals and literary enthusiasts attended in large numbers.

Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum Zafar Bakhtawari said Pakistan is our identity and freedom our greatest blessing. He noted poets played a key role in the Pakistan Movement, with Allama Iqbal providing the vision and Quaid-e-Azam giving it



shape, and Hafeez Jalandhari gifting the national anthem. He stressed that literature promotes patriotism and national unity, and urged writers to connect

the younger generation with culture, language and values. He also highlighted Pakistan's growing international role, including its contribution to the Makkah Agree-

ment and Muslim unity.

Professor Jaleel Aali said Iqbal's poetry remains a source of intellectual resistance and called freedom a continuous responsibility, urging adherence to Quaid's principles of knowledge, education, peace and development.

Dr. Najiba Arif praised the business community's support for literature, saying Pakistan was created to protect human rights and ensure justice. Acting ICCI President Irfan Chaudhry said culture keeps nations alive.

Prominent poets including Shakeel Jazib, Dr. Junaid Azar, Rashida Maheen Malik and others recited verses on love for the homeland and national unity, receiving warm applause.

Women University Multan Celebrates 79th Independence Day

Iram Asim

MULTAN: The Women University Multan (WUM) celebrated Pakistan's 79th Independence Day with patriotic enthusiasm and a renewed commitment to unity and responsible citizenship.

Organized by the Directorate of Student Affairs, the event began with flag-hoisting, National Anthem, and Guard of Honour. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool, faculty, staff and students participated, dressed in green and white. Qari Amna offered prayers for Pakistan's peace and prosperity.

In her address, Prof. Dr. Batool said Independence Day is a moment of pride and responsibility to teach youth about Pakistan's sacrifices. She highlighted three



duties: honouring sacrifices, recognizing Pakistan as a blessing, and shaping the nation's future through honesty, discipline and dedication. She stressed national unity against terrorism,

propaganda and divisions of Balochistan, and said diversity must become strength through tolerance and harmony.

The event included

student speeches, national songs by Dr. Sara Musadiq, cake-cutting, and a tree plantation drive. The VC appreciated Dr. Adeela Saeed and her team for organizing the celebration.

Pakistan Türkiye Saudi Arabia: a Vision for a Peaceful Future

The trilateral relationship between Pakistan, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia represents one of the most significant geopolitical partnerships in the Islamic world, with the potential to reshape regional dynamics and contribute meaningfully to global peace and stability. These three nations, each wielding considerable influence in their respective spheres, share common interests rooted in Islamic solidarity, strategic cooperation, and mutual security concerns. As the world navigates increasingly complex challenges including terrorism, economic instability and geopolitical tensions, the collaboration between these three countries offers a pragmatic pathway toward addressing regional conflicts and fostering sustainable development. This essay examines the historical foundations of this trilateral relationship, analyzes the contemporary opportunities and challenges facing these nations, and proposes a comprehensive vision for how Pakistan, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia can work collectively to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in their regions

and beyond.

The relationship between Pakistan, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia is deeply rooted in shared Islamic heritage and Cold War-era strategic alliances. Pakistan and Türkiye have maintain diplomatic relations since Pakistan's independence in 1947, with both nations viewing themselves as guardians of Islamic values while navigating the complexities of secular governance and regional stability. Saudi Arabia, as the custodian of Islam's holiest sites and a major regional power, has historically served as a financial and ideological anchor for both Pakistan and Türkiye. These connections intensified during the Soviet-Afghan War when all three nations collaborated to support Afghan resistance movements, establishing patterns of military cooperation and intelligence sharing that persist today.

The geographical positioning of these three nations makes their cooperation particularly valuable. Pakistan serves as a bridge between the Middle East and South Asia, Türkiye controls critical waterways and straddles Europe and Asia, while Saudi Arabia dominates the Arabian Peninsula and maintains

substantial economic influence globally. Together, they represent a population exceeding 250 million people and combined GDP that makes them economically significant actors in the Islamic world. Their combined military capabilities, particularly Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and Türkiye's advanced defense industry, provide them with considerable strategic weight in global affairs.

The three nations face remarkably similar security challenges that necessitate coordinated responses. Terrorism, particularly extremist groups operating across borders, poses a persistent threat to all three countries. Pakistan has struggled with militant organizations such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Türkiye faces challenges from the Kurdistan Workers' Party and various Islamist extremist groups, while Saudi Arabia confronts threats from Al-Qaeda affiliated organizations and Iranian-backed militias. A coordinated counterterrorism strategy

that shares intelligence, coordinates military operations, and implements joint training programs could significantly enhance the security of all three nations while reducing opportunities for terrorist organizations to exploit jurisdictional gaps.

Beyond security concerns, these nations share substantial economic interests. The growing middle class in Pakistan, Türkiye advanced manufacturing sector, and Saudi Arabia's renewable energy ambitions create complementary opportunities for trade and investment. Regional infrastructure projects, such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the proposed Middle Corridor connecting Central Asia to Europe through Türkiye, offer avenues for economic cooperation that could benefit all three countries. Additionally, all three nations recognize the importance of energy security in an increasingly multipolar world, creating opportunities for cooperation in renew-

able energy development, particularly given Saudi Arabia's commitment to transitioning away from oil dependency and Türkiye strategic location for energy transit.

Recent developments demonstrate growing momentum toward deeper trilateral cooperation. The Economic Cooperation Organization, which includes all three nations along with others on the region, has emerged as a platform for discussing trade facilitation and infrastructure development. Pakistan and Türkiye have strengthened military-to-military ties through joint exercises and defense cooperation agreements, while Saudi Arabia has increased its defense procurement from both countries and hosted significant diplomatic summits bringing the three nations together. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization also provides a forum where these nations increasingly coordinate on regional security matters.

Cultural and educational exchanges have expanded considerably, with increasing numbers of students from all three nations studying in each other's universities and growing tourism facil-

itating people-to-people connections. Turkish media has gained significant popularity in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, while Pakistani cultural products have found audiences in the other two countries, creating soft power synergies that strengthen bilateral ties. These cultural connections help build constituencies within each country that support deeper cooperation and mutual understanding.

However, challenges remain in translating political will into concrete outcomes. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, trade barriers, and inconsistent policy implementation have hindered some cooperative initiatives. Additionally, each nation faces domestic political pressures that sometimes constrain their ability to fully commit to trilateral projects. Pakistan's ongoing economic challenges, Türkiye internal political dynamics, and Saudi Arabia's regional rivalry with Iran create competing priorities that sometimes divert attention and resources from trilateral initiatives.

The writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) at International Islamic University Islamabad



Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
180,104.61	180,311.21
Day's High	Day's Low
181,433.85	180,035.92
Index Value	Change
21,949,326,716	−206.60
Percentage	Time
−0.11%	13 Aug, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,772.67	−60.48
Percentage	Time
−0.56%	13 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
53,755.92	−14.35
Percentage	Time
−0.027%	13 Aug, 1:28 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
68,308.59	+784.53
Percentage	Time
+784.53	13 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.61	198.25
Bahrain Dinar	735.25	745.35
Canadian Dollar	198.17	202.70
China Yuan	38.15	38.90
Danish Krone	42.75	43.35
Euro	320.05	325.55
Hong Kong Dollar	34.97	35.97
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.25
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	883.59	893.65
Malaysian Ringgit	68.00	68.85
NewZealand \$	162.60	165.78
Norwegians Krone	28.15	28.50
Omani Riyal	719.80	730.35
Qatari Riyal	75.08	76.25
Saudi Riyal	74.05	74.70
Singapore Dollar	216.01	224.04
Swedish Korona	28.40	28.90
Swiss Franc	343.16	347.93
Thai Bhat	8.75	9.40
U.A.E Dirham	76.15	77.15
UK Pound Sterling	374.89	380.84
US Dollar	278.50	278.70

Finance Ministry
congratulates
Aurangzeb on
receiving Nishan-e-
Imtiaz

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance on Saturday congratulated Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on being conferred the country's highest civilian award, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, in recognition of his distinguished public service.

In a statement, the ministry said the award was a fitting recognition of his leadership, integrity and reform efforts at a defining moment for Pakistan's economy, contributing to greater stability, restored confidence and the country's journey towards a stronger and more prosperous future.

LESCO comes down
hard on consumers
failing to pay their
electricity bills

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Launching an indiscriminate crackdown on consumers (households, commercial, and industrial) failing to pay their electricity bills, the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) on Sunday ordered that connections of all consumers in a building should be served in case any consumer turns out to be a defaulter.

Sources told the TV channel it had emerged that the company had failed to collect billions of rupees from consumers, some of whom, rather than paying their bills, even obtained another connection.

LESCO has also activated legal teams to recover amounts from defaulters.

Punjab approves
reforms to speed
up private housing
scheme approvals

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to make the system for private housing schemes more efficient and transparent by approving major changes to housing rules.

According to the report, amendments have been approved to the Punjab Development Authority Private Housing Schemes Rules 2021, while changes have also been approved to the PHATA Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020.

The government said the changes were aimed at speeding up the approval and development of housing schemes and reducing unnecessary delays in the implementation of projects.

The reforms are also intended to make it easier for the private sector to take part in the housing sector and support the development of new residential projects.

Changes to the PHATA rules have been approved to promote affordable housing and improve access to reasonably priced homes.

The government said the regulatory system for private housing schemes would be brought in line with modern requirements through the reforms.

The new measures are expected to reduce unnecessary barriers and speed up work on housing projects while improving planning and regulation.

Greater transparency in private housing



schemes will also be a key focus of the reforms, with the government aiming to improve planning and ensure more effective oversight.

Officials said the changes would help create a more suitable environment for investment in the housing sector and encourage the develop-

ment of private residential projects.

The government said the overall purpose of the amendments was to make the system for private housing schemes and affordable housing more effective, transparent, and responsive to current needs.

Bar B Que

ISLAMABAD: A woman preparing barbeque chicken during pleasant weather after the rain at Lotus Lake, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Sialkot trade delegation
visits South Africa to explore new
export markets

Commerce Desk

SIALKOT: A trade delegation from Sialkot has arrived in South Africa to explore new international markets for the city's export-oriented industries and strengthen direct trade links with the South African business community, here on Sunday.

Chairman Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Departmental Committee on Fair and Exhibition Qaiser Baig, in a statement, said that in the prevailing global economic situation, exploring new markets for Pakistani products and expanding exports was the need of the hour.

He said trade delegations help establish direct contacts with foreign buyers, importers and business organizations, paving the way for new partnerships and contributing



to growth in the country's exports.

Qaiser Baig said the delegation represented major export sectors of Sialkot, including sports goods, leather, surgical instruments and other important industries.

The visit was aimed at strengthening trade ties with

the South African business community, exploring markets for Sialkot-made products and identifying new export opportunities.

During the visit, delegation members will hold meetings with business leaders, importers and representatives of trade organizations.

The discussions will focus on promoting bilateral trade, developing joint ventures, exploring investment opportunities and increasing the presence of Sialkot products in the South African market, he added.

He said Sialkot's industrialists and exporters had established a strong position in international markets through quality, innovation and hard work.

He stressed the need to further strengthen marketing and trade relations in traditional markets as well as in Africa and other emerging regions.

Qaiser Baig expressed hope that the visit would open new avenues for Sialkot's export industries, help establish long-term business relationships with foreign buyers and contribute to increasing Pakistan's overall exports.

NPO to organize
webinar on
'Digital Kaizen in
Manufacturing'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Digital Kaizen in Manufacturing" on August 17 (Monday), aimed at helping manufacturing professionals understand how digital technologies can improve productivity, quality and operational efficiency.

The session aims to equip participants with an understanding of Digital Kaizen, which merges the Japanese philosophy of continuous, incremental improvement, or Kaizen, with real-time data, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies, said an NPO document.



The course will cover key areas including digital Kaizen concepts, lean digital manufacturing, digital technologies for Kaizen, digital Kaizen for productivity and sustainability, smart manufacturing case studies, and implementation road maps.

The workshop has been designed for CEOs, CFOs, managers, workers, operators, technical staff, production staff, maintenance staff, energy staff and waste management staff.

Rs1,500 prize bond
draw scheduled for
August 17

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Savings Centre in Faisalabad will hold Draw No. 107 for the Rs1,500 prize bond on Monday, August 17, 2026.

Bondholders across the country are hoping to win the top cash prize as the draw date nears.

Under State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) policy, the first prize is Rs3 million.

Three second prizes of Rs1 million each will also be awarded. A total of 1,696 third prizes of Rs18,500 each will go to winners.

The full list of winners will be published here once the National Savings Centre announces the results.

Prize bonds are available to all Pakistani citizens through commercial banks and National Savings

Centres nationwide.

Officials say the bonds remain a popular investment, as the principal is fully secure and can be encashed at face value at any time without deductions.



Tax on winnings

For the 2026 tax year, prize winnings will attract a 15 per cent withholding tax for filers on the Active Taxpayers List (ATL). Non-filers will pay 30 per cent.

Under Section 156 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, this tax is final. It cannot be refunded or adjusted against other taxable income.

Pakistan's petroleum
exports hit record \$939
million in FY26

News Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's petroleum exports climbed to an all-time high of \$939 million in the fiscal year that ended in June 2026, up 3.9% from \$903 million a year earlier, according to data compiled by Topleine Securities using State Bank of Pakistan figures.

The increase capped a sharp, multiyear turnaround for the sector. Exports had fallen as low as \$235 million in fiscal year 2021 before climbing steadily to \$415 million in FY22, dipping to \$291 million in FY23, then more than doubling over the following three

years to \$553 million in FY24, \$903 million in FY25 and finally \$939 million in FY26.

Analysts attributed the FY26 gain to two main factors: weaker domestic demand for furnace oil and a shift by local refiners toward low-sulphur products, including very low-sulphur fuel oil, or VLSFO, which is used as marine bunker fuel. With less furnace oil being consumed at home, refiners have increasingly redirected output toward exportable, cleaner-burning fuels sought by the international shipping industry.

The export data mirrors broader shifts underway in Pakistan's refining sector this



year. Furnace oil, once a mainstay of the country's power generation mix, has lost ground domestically as electricity producers lean more on liquefied natural gas, coal and renewable sources, industry data compiled

by Arif Habib Limited and the Oil Companies Advisory Council show. That has left refiners with a growing surplus of fuel oil to place in export markets rather than sell locally.

Pakistan women’s Cricket Squads Announced for ACC Asia Cup and Asian Games: PCB says

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board has today announced the 15-member squads for the DP World Women's Asia Cup 2026 and the 20th Asian Games women's cricket event with the regular captain Fatima Sana returning to lead the team in both the tournaments after skipping the Sri Lanka T20I series due to The Hundred commitment.

The eight-team DP World Women's Asia Cup is set to be played from 28 August to 13 September at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium with all 15 matches beginning at 7.30pm PKT. Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside Hong Kong – China, India and Thailand. Group B consists of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan will face Thailand on 1 September, India on 5 September and Hong Kong, China on 7 September, while the semi-finals will take place on 10 and 11 September. The final is scheduled on Sunday, 13 September. In the 20th Asian Games women's cricket event, Pakistan is seeded with Thailand and will play them in the 17 September fourth Quarter-final. India will play Japan, Bangladesh will face China and Sri Lanka will be up against Malaysia. All the matches are scheduled to take at Korogi Athletic Park in Aichi.

Pakistan will face either of Sri Lanka or Malaysia if they qualify for semi-final on 20 September. The Bronze and Gold Medal matches will take place on 22 September. Pakistan won Gold Medals in the 2010, 2014 editions of the Asian Games women's

cricket event and finished fourth in the recent most 2022 event. Apart from skipper Fatima, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Ayesha Zafar, Gull Feroza, Saira Jabeen, Eymaan Fatima, Eman Naseer, Umm-e-Hani, Tuba Hassan, Nashra Sundhu and Momina Riasat are part of both the squads. Najiha Alvi, Waheeda Akhtar and Sadia Iqbal are a part of the Asia Cup Squad. Whereas, Aliya Riaz, Tasmia Rubab and Humna Bilal will be part of the Asian Games Squad when the team travels from UAE to Japan for the 20th Asian Games. The squad for the Asian Games was submitted in June earlier this year. Pakistan women's team will take part in a pre-tournament training camp commencing from Sunday, 16 August and it will conclude on

Tuesday, 25 August at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore. Pakistan women's squad for ACC women's Asia Cup Fatima Sana (captain), Ayesha Zafar, Eman Naseer, Eymaan Fatima, Gull Feroza, Momina Riasat, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wk), Najiha Alvi, Nashra Sundhu, Sadia Iqbal, Saira Jabeen, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani, Waheeda Akhtar. Reserves – Tasmia Rubab, Humna Bilal, Maham Anees, Sadaf Shamas Support Staff Wahab Riaz (coach/mentor), Ayesha Ashar (team manager), Abdur Rehman (spin bowling coach), Umaid Asif (fast bowling coach), Abdul Majeed (fielding coach), Imran Farhat (batting coach), Waleed Ahmed (performance analyst), Moeen

(strength & conditioning coach), Dur Samand (Physiotherapist) and Raza Rashid Kitchlew (media manager) Pakistan women's squad for Asian Games Fatim Sana (captain), Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Zafar, Eman Naseer, Eymaan Fatima, Gull Feroza, Humna Bilal, Momina Riasat, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Saira Jabeen, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan and Umm-e-Hani. Reserves – Natalia Parvaiz, Waheeda Akhtar, Sadia Iqbal, Syeda Aroob Shah, Rameen Shamim Support Staff Wahab Riaz (coach/mentor), Ayesha Ashar (team manager), Abdur Rehman (spin bowling coach), Umaid Asif (fast bowling coach), Abdul Majeed (fielding coach), Imran Farhat (batting coach), Waleed Ahmed

(performance analyst) and Tehreem Sumbal (physiotherapist) Schedule of Pakistan's matches at the ACC women's Asia Cup: (All matches at Dubai International Cricket Stadium; all matches to begin at 7.30pm PKT) 1 September – Pakistan v Thailand 5 September – Pakistan v India 7 September – Pakistan v Hong Kong, China 10 September – semi-final 1 11 September – semi-final 2 13 September – final Pakistan women at Asian Games (All matches at Korogi Athletic Park in Aichi prefecture) 17 September–Quarter-final 4 – Pakistan v Thailand 20 September – Semi-final 1 & 2 22 September–Bronze and Gold Medal matches

KHA Celebrates 79th Independence Day at Olympian Hanif Khan & Dr. Junaid Ali Shah Hockey Stadium

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) celebrated the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan with great patriotic fervor at the Olympian Hanif Khan & Dr. Junaid Ali Shah Hockey Stadium Gulshan Iqbal. The ceremony commenced with a cake-cutting ceremony. This was followed by an exhibition hockey match between KHA White Team and



KHA Colour Team, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Aisha Nadeem scored for KHA White Team while Maheen Ali scored for KHA Colour Team. The match was supervised by Kashmala Batool and Rizean Khan. Olympian Hanif Khan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the efforts of KHA and urged the players to continue working hard to promote hockey and bring pride to the country. The event concluded with a special prayer for the progress, prosperity, and peace of Pakistan.

Independence Day Celebrations: Pakistan’s Message to the World — We Are One

Pakistan's Independence Day is not merely an annual celebration but a powerful reminder of the sacrifices, resilience and national unity that shaped the country's history. Every August 14, Pakistanis celebrate their freedom with patriotic enthusiasm, remembering the leaders, martyrs and countless people whose sacrifices made the creation and survival of Pakistan possible. This year's celebrations carried particular significance, reflecting a renewed sense of national pride, diplomatic confidence and unity.

The article highlights several developments that, in the author's view, contributed to this renewed confidence. These include Pakistan's military success in the May 2025 conflict with India, its diplomatic role during tensions between the United States and Iran, and the reported defence cooperation involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. These developments are presented as signs of Pakistan's growing regional and international importance.

According to the article, Pakistan's international image has also evolved. The country,

which was frequently portrayed negatively in international discourse, is increasingly being recognised for its diplomatic engagement and potential role in promoting peace and regional stability. The author attributes this progress to the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, whose leadership and diplomatic initiatives are portrayed as strengthening Pakistan's position abroad.

The Independence Day celebrations across the country provided a visible expression of this national confidence. Lahore, in particular, witnessed major cultural events. On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab Information and Culture Department organised a series of celebrations under the leadership of Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Zahid Bukhari. An Independence Day music concert at Alhamra Cultural Complex attracted large crowds and featured performances by renowned singers including Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Fakhir Mehmood and Bilal Saeed.

Citizens enthusiastically participated in the celebrations, singing national songs and

raising patriotic slogans while paying tribute to the martyrs and veterans who had served the country. Addressing the gathering, Azma Bukhari described freedom as a precious blessing earned through immense sacrifices. She urged the nation to value independence and renew its commitment to Pakistan's development and prosperity. Lahore's Liberty Chowk and Minar-e-Pakistan also became major centres of celebration. Spectacular fireworks and lighting displays attracted thousands of citizens, while singers including Arif Lohar, Bilal Saeed and Natasha Baig entertained audiences. The events created an atmosphere of collective happiness and national pride and received attention from international media. The article also highlights Independence Day celebrations in Islamabad. A Victory Monument was inaugurated by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Commander National Strategic Command Syed Amer Raza also attending. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz participated as a special guest. The monument was established to commemorate Pakistan's reported victory in Marka-e-Haq and is expected to contribute to tourism in the capital. A large national flag was also installed at the site, adding to its symbolic significance.

Faisalabad CPO Praises Jawad Sports Complex for Nurturing Cricket Talent

Abdul Majid



FAISAL-ABAD: We were honoured to welcome CPO Faisalabad, Mr. Tanveer Hussain, to Jawad Sports & Cultural Complex. His appreciation and encouraging words for our efforts in promoting sports, particularly cricket, mean a great deal to our entire team. During his visit, Mr. Tanveer Hussain also congratulated our exceptionally talented female academy player Maham Nazakat, a proud member of the Hamida Afzal Women Cricket Team, for representing Pakistan in the Women's U-19 series against South Africa in 2026. Maham's achievement is a proud moment not only for our academy but for everyone who believes in providing opportunities and a strong platform for young female athletes. Her dedication, discipline, hard work, and passion for cricket have brought her to the international stage, and we are incredibly proud to see her representing Pakistan. At Jawad Sports & Cultural Complex, we remain committed to discovering, developing, and supporting young sporting talent and helping the next generation achieve their dreams.

Education Future of Youth: Building with the Power of Purposeful Teaching

Continued from Page 4

Purposeful teaching also requires connecting classroom learning with practical experiences. Community service, project-based learning, educational visits, environmental activities, debates, science exhibitions, and entrepreneurship projects allow students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations. Such experiences strengthen confidence, leadership, teamwork, communication, and decision-making while helping young people understand their social responsibilities. Mental and emotional well-being is another important dimension of purposeful education. Young people may experience academic pressure, career uncertainty, social challenges, and emotional stress. Teachers who create supportive classrooms and encourage open communication can contribute to students' confidence and resilience. A caring teacher can influence a student's development far beyond academic achievement. Parents and educational institutions also share responsibility for purposeful learning. Strong cooperation between teachers and parents provides students with consistent guidance at school and home. Schools should involve parents in educational activities, career

counselling, and student development programmes to support young people's academic, emotional, and social growth. Despite its importance, purposeful teaching faces challenges in Pakistan. Examination-oriented systems, overcrowded classrooms, outdated curricula, limited teacher training, and inadequate resources can restrict innovative teaching. Many teachers are also burdened with administrative responsibilities, leaving little time for creative lesson planning and individualised support. Comprehensive educational reforms are essential. Policymakers should prioritize curriculum modernization, continuous teacher development, educational technology, and improved infrastructure. Teacher training should focus on student-centred learning, classroom innovation, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and effective digital integration. Assessment systems should evaluate creativity, analytical thinking, communication, and practical problem-solving rather than relying primarily on memorization. Teachers must also embrace lifelong learning. Professional workshops, research, online courses, academic conferences, and collaboration with fellow educators enable teachers to

remain updated with emerging practices. A teacher who continues to learn is better equipped to inspire students to become lifelong learners. The future of Pakistan depends largely on how effectively today's youth are prepared for tomorrow's challenges. Purposeful teaching transforms education from information transfer into the development of capable, ethical, innovative, and socially responsible individuals. When students understand the purpose behind learning, they become more motivated, confident, and committed to personal excellence and national progress. In conclusion, purposeful teaching is a powerful foundation for Pakistan's future. Teachers who inspire curiosity, promote values, encourage innovation, and support emotional well-being prepare students not only for examinations but for life. By strengthening teacher development, modernizing curricula, adopting appropriate technology, and creating supportive learning environments, Pakistan can empower its youth to become responsible leaders, skilled professionals, and active citizens. Investing in purposeful teaching today means investing in a brighter and more sustainable future. The writer holds a PhD in Media Sciences, Rawalpindi. Email: malik-tariq.media@gmail.com

Who, Then, Is the Murderer?

Continued from Page 4

dignity of science consists precisely in its refusal to compel evidence into yielding a conclusion already desired by the investigator. Science allows evidence to speak in its own language. "And if every piece of evidence points in a different direction?" "Then the investigation requires further time." "And if time passes?" "Then the burden upon justice becomes heavier." "And if society begins to clamour?" "Then the preservation of silent evidence becomes all the more imperative." He paused before adding: "Remember this: the true strength of a state is not demonstrated by the speed with which it arrests someone; it is demonstrated by the integrity with which it proceeds towards the person who is actually responsible." The two men then fell silent for a considerable while and eventually said, almost in a whisper, "I now suspect that we have been asking the wrong question." "Why?" "We have been asking, 'Who is the murderer?' Perhaps we ought first to ask, 'What is the truth?'" "Now," replied the other, "you have approached the threshold of the real question." "And where shall truth be found?" "Not necessarily where the noise is loudest, but where the evidence corroborates itself." "Then what, ultimately, does the Mir Raza Ali case teach us?" The

other looked through the window. The lights of Karachi remained unchanged, yet the question had acquired an altogether deeper dimension. "It teaches us," he said, "not merely how to pursue a murderer, but how to distinguish reality from conjecture. The pistol, the mobile telephone, the Apple Watch, the CCTV recordings, the motorcycle, the financial connections, the forensic specimens, and the post-mortem findings are all knocks upon the door of truth. Yet that door will open only when those knocks converge upon one demonstrable reality." "And if they do?" "Then the murderer's name will not emerge from the rhetoric of a columnist, the assertion of a police officer, or the clamour of social media. The evidence itself will carry him before the court." The two men then fell silent. Outside, Karachi continued its habitual restlessness, indifferent to the philosophical gravity of the question. Yet within that silence another question seemed gradually to emerge: "Is justice merely the punishment of a murderer?" Perhaps the nocturnal wind itself supplied the answer: "No. Before punishment, justice requires the establishment of a certainty that the person called a murderer is, in fact, the murderer." For when a state hastily condemns the innocent, it does not merely deprive one human

being of justice; it wounds the sanctity of its own juridical order. But when it takes the necessary time and arrives at truth through evidence, the silence of the murdered acquires a voice. The story of Mir Raza Ali has not yet reached its final chapter. Its characters remain partially obscured; certain names have entered the sphere of discussion; certain routes remain suspicious; some pieces of evidence remain mute; and other fragments are still within laboratories, awaiting the language through which science may render them intelligible. Thus the most intellectually honest answer, for the present, remains this: Who is the murderer? We do not yet know. But where is the truth? It lies upon the path of evidence. And perhaps this is precisely the point at which a single murder ceases to be merely a criminal mystery and becomes one of the oldest questions of civilisation itself: Do we genuinely desire the truth or merely the answer that accords with what we already wish to believe? The writer is a recipient of the Sanad-e-Imtiaz and a distinguished senior analyst, scholar, and PhD holder. He currently serves as the General Secretary of the Pakistan Federal Union of Columnists and Creators (Sindh). He can be reached at +92 333 2103855. Email: muhammad-tayyabk773@gmail.com

Consciousness, Creation and the Search for Global Harmony

Continued from Page 4

be achieved merely through positive thinking. It requires deliberate conduct, fair institutions and accountability. Gender, in the Hermetic sense, refers to complementary generative principles rather than a rigid scientific division between masculine intellect and feminine emotion. Modern neuroscience does not support reducing the brain's hemispheres or human abilities to such stereotypes. The valuable lesson is complementarity: reason needs empathy, strength needs care, initiative needs receptivity, and creation requires cooperation. Human spirituality long

predates modern science and many organized religious institutions. Across civilizations, people have prayed, sought forgiveness, honoured the dead and appealed to a power greater than themselves. Different traditions have named and understood that ultimate reality differently, but their persistence reveals humanity's enduring awareness of mystery, dependence and moral responsibility. Ancient achievements, including the pyramids, deepen our admiration for earlier civilizations. Their magnificence still teaches an important lesson: technological modernity does not grant us a monopoly over intelligence, wisdom or imagination.

Humanity may never perceive reality exactly as it is in itself. Science continues to investigate the measurable universe, while philosophy and religion address meaning, purpose and moral direction. These paths need not destroy one another. Science can protect spirituality from superstition, and spirituality can remind science that knowledge without compassion may become destructive. The continuing journey of human learning since The Kybalion was published in 1908 reinforces a timeless truth: harmony depends upon balance. When individuals, families, tribes, societies and nations resist destructive extremes and

remain within the boundaries of patience, tolerance, perseverance, justice and compassion, conflict becomes manageable and peaceful coexistence becomes possible. This middle way does not mean remaining neutral between justice and injustice, tolerating oppression or compromising with cruelty. It means pursuing justice without hatred, exercising power without arrogance, expressing disagreement without dehumanization and defending legitimate interests without destroying innocent human beings, animals or the natural world. A family can escape the cycle of emotional distress, bitterness and feuds when its members restrain

anger, listen to one another and refuse to cross the limits of dignity and mutual respect. A society can reduce hunger, exclusion and instability when competition is balanced by compassion and individual freedom by collective responsibility. Nations can avoid wars and atrocities when ambition is restrained by international law, dialogue and recognition of shared humanity. This principle of balance is also central to religious wisdom. Islam particularly teaches wasatiyyah—the just and balanced path—and describes Muslims as a "middle community." It discourages excess, commands

justice even toward those whom one dislikes, and places mercy, patience and moderation at the centre of human conduct. Similar appeals to balance and compassion appear across the world's spiritual traditions. Harmony, therefore, is not passivity, weakness or the absence of disagreement. It is the disciplined ability to keep disagreement from becoming hatred, strength from tyranny, desire from greed and pain from becoming revenge. If this consciousness is cultivated within individuals and families, it can rise through communities and institutions into national and international life. The world may then witness fewer wars, less hunger, reduced emotional suffering and greater respect for every form of life. The deepest lesson is not that consciousness magically controls everything, but that consciousness carries immense responsibility. The pictures we hold in our minds influence the world we build together. The ultimate relevance of these principles is therefore practical: by restoring balance within ourselves, we help restore harmony in the world we collectively create. The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Michigan, USA.

Protest

LAHORE: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

JI holds sit-ins against petroleum levy and rising taxes

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) staged sit-ins outside the Sindh Governor's House in Karachi and at Faisal Chowk in Lahore, protesting the petroleum levy, rising taxes, inflation and what it termed excessive government expenditure.

JI Karachi Ameer Munim Zafar Khan led a march to the Governor's House, where party workers staged a demonstration amid heavy police and Rangers deployment. He demanded withdrawal of the petroleum levy and other taxes, alleging that the government was continuously

increasing the financial burden on citizens. He also criticised arrangements involving independent power producers and raised concerns over Karachi's governance and the killing of Mir Raza, demanding justice for his family.

In Lahore, JI Central Punjab Ameer Javed Kasuri

criticised the petroleum levy and government spending on official facilities, calling for financial relief for citizens.

JI Ameer Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman said people across Pakistan were facing severe difficulties due to inflation, rising petrol prices and increasing electricity costs.

He demanded abolition of the petroleum levy and criticised what he described as privileges enjoyed by the political elite.

JI leaders said the nationwide sit-in campaign would continue until the government took concrete measures to reduce the financial burden on the public.

700+ Humanitarian Aid Trucks Enter Afghanistan from Pakistan: UN OCHA

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: More than 700 trucks carrying international humanitarian aid have entered Afghanistan via Pakistan, despite a near-total closure of the land border since clashes in October 2025, the United Nations said.

UN OCHA Afghanistan spokesperson Olga Cherevko told AFP the convoy carried "food and other critical humanitarian items". UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan Mo Yahya said on X that 724 trucks crossed through Torkham, "reaching families who need it most".

He thanked Islamabad and all involved for "keeping the humanitarian lifeline open."

The aid comes as acute child malnutrition has reached critical levels, according to the World Food Programme. WFP reports nearly 14 million Afghans



face acute hunger due to last year's earthquakes, climate disasters this year, and the

return of millions from Iran and Pakistan since 2023. Border disruptions have

severely impacted aid delivery. WFP noted fortified biscuits for Afghan schoolchildren

had to be rerouted via Iran, Jordan, Turkey and Azerbaijan before finally arriving.

SC fixes hearing on Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali Chaudhry's sentence suspension pleas

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has fixed for hearing petitions filed by human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chaudhry seeking suspension of their sentences in the controversial tweets case.

A two-member bench headed by Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan will hear the petitions on August 19. Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim will also be part of the bench.

The Supreme Court has issued notices to all parties in the case.

At the next hearing, the court will consider the petitioners' requests for suspension of their sentences along with other legal points related to the case.

Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chaudhry, were sentenced to 17 years in prison each and fined Rs36 million each under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA).

MQM-P Calls for National Dialogue on Population-Based New Provinces, to Approach SC Over Article 140A

Bureau Report

KARACHI: MQM-Pakistan has called for a national dialogue on the creation of new provinces based on population and announced it will again approach the Supreme Court over non-implementation of Article 140A.

Addressing a press conference with Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal, Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said existing provinces were formed largely on linguistic grounds, but new provinces should be created on a population basis. He urged the debate be held without political interests dominating, adding that Sindh has the greatest need for new provinces. He noted several other parties are now expressing similar views and MQM-P is ready to engage them.



Siddiqui said MQM-P had previously raised the issue of "abandoned Sindh" and would challenge in court the failure to devolve powers under Article 140A, which mandates elected local governments.

Mustafa Kamal said the current system creates difficulties for people and that new administrative units in Sindh could benefit farmers. He added Sindh received Rs22,000 billion in 17 years.

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Gillani Expresses Grief Over Loss of Lives in Indonesia Earthquake

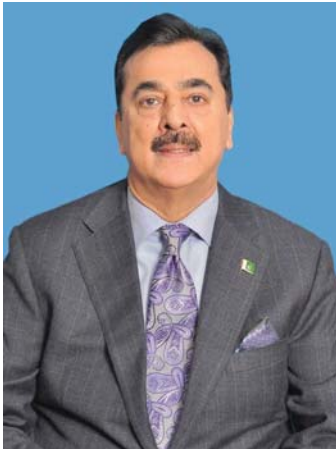
Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and injuries caused by the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia's Flores Island.

The Chairman Senate said the loss of lives in the earthquake was a deeply tragic incident and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured and for strength and patience for the families who have lost their loved ones.

"The people, Government and Parliament of Pakistan stand in solidarity with the Government, Parliament and people of Indonesia in this hour of grief," he said.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said Pakistan and Indonesia enjoy longstanding and brotherly relations, marked by mutual respect and close



parliamentary and people-to-people ties. He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the people of Indonesia during this difficult time.

He prayed for the departed souls to rest in eternal peace and for the bereaved families to be granted strength and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Naqvi contacts Balochistan Home Minister, inquires after his well-being after terror attack on his convoy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi contacted with Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango and inquired about his well-being after terror attack on his convoy on August 14.

Interior Minister Naqvi strongly condemned the terror attack and paid tribute to the bravery of the Balochistan Police for thwarting the nefarious designs of Indian sponsored attackers. Mir Ziaullah Lango said he remained safe in the attack. The sacrifices made by the Balochistan Police in the war against terrorism are commendable, said Mohsin Naqvi.



Ziaullah Lango thanked Mohsin Naqvi for inquiring about his well-being and offering words of encouragement. Lango said the war against terrorists will certainly be taken to its logical conclusion.

"We will not allow the nefarious designs of anti-peace elements to succeed", Balochistan Home Minister asserted.

PML-N finalises AJK PM, reserved seat nominations

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has finalised its consultations on the next prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and candidates for reserved seats, party sources said on Sunday.

The final decisions in this respect were taken at a meeting held in Murree and chaired by PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Federal Minister Amir Muqam, Rana Sanaullah and other party leaders attended the meeting.

According to the sources, the party has finalised the names for the AJK prime ministerial position as well as the reserved seats.

PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir and Tariq Farooq are being considered for the prime minister's position, the sources added.

For the women's reserved seats, the names of Sehrish Qamar, Maryam Kashmiri, Nasira Khan and Nasara Abbasi are under consideration.

For the overseas reserved seat, the party is considering Haji Ehsan Danish, Abdul Rehman Arain and Raja Waseem, the sources said.

According to the sources, Nawaz Sharif will personally announce the final nominations on Monday.

Balochistan Women Lawmakers condemn alleged BLA attacks on civilians

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Women politicians in Balochistan condemned alleged attacks by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) targeting civilians, women and children, and called for stronger action to end terrorism.

At a press conference with Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola and Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, CM's Adviser Meena Majeed Baloch said BLA militants allegedly entered a home and killed 50-year-old Bibi Hanifa and her 17-year-old daughter. She accused militants of "Fitna al-Hindustan" of targeting civilians and said the government would work to eliminate terrorism and promote peace, development and education.

Raheela Hameed said terrorists could not achieve goals by attacking women. Ghazala Gola said those responsible would be brought to justice, noting women hold a respected place in Baloch and Pashtun traditions.



Hadia Nawaz said attacks inside homes raised safety concerns and urged people to stand against terrorism. Shahid Rind alleged militants were also using women and children