

Quetta
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DAILY MIRROR

mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

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Pakistan won't allow India to cross IWT red line: PM

APP

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, rejecting the weaponisation of water, warned that Pakistan would not allow India to cross the red line by holding the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance and endangering millions of lives for narrow political gains.

"India's unilateral and illegal decision to hold in abeyance the Indus Water Treaty, which governs the sharing of the Indus Basin's water, is deeply regrettable. Millions of lives must not be held hostage to narrow political gains, and Pakistan will not allow this. We will never allow the red line to be crossed," the prime minister said addressing the three-day High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation being held here in Tajikistan from May 29-31.

The conference is being attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 UN member states and 70 international organisations, includ-

ing prime ministers, vice presidents, ministers, and UN assistant secretaries-general.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, in his comprehensive address, touched all the relevant issues, including glacial preservation, Pakistan's climate vulnerability, 2022 floods in Pakistan, global climate action and responsibility, scientific projections on glacial melt, weaponisation of water and call to protect nature and humanity's shared destiny. "We are now witnessing an alarming new low — the weaponisation of water," he told the international conference being hosted by Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with the United Nations, UNESCO, WMO, the Asian Development Bank, and other key partners as a historic moment for climate ambition, glacier preservation, and international cooperation. The 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, through a resolution, had declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation.



RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Friday visited the Command & Staff College Quetta where he addressed the student officers and faculty.

Field Marshal Asim Munir visits Command & Staff College Quetta, highlights national resolve and regional security concerns

APP

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Friday visited the Command & Staff College Quetta where he addressed the student officers and faculty.

During his address, the COAS paid tribute to the martyrs of Operation 'Bunyanum Marsoos' and expressed unwavering solidarity with their families. He stated that under the national leadership, the Pakistani people became a united front in defense of the motherland. Commending the professionalism of the armed forces, he reaffirmed that the success of 'Ma'arka-e-Haq' stands as proof of national unity and the seamless coordination of all elements of national power.

Reflecting on the global and regional security landscape, the COAS spoke about the evolving nature of modern conflict, particularly emphasizing India's increasing inclination toward unprovoked military aggression against Pakistan. He reiterated Pakistan's resolve to counter any aggression and its capability to address threats across the full spectrum of conflict.

The COAS firmly stated that Pakistan will not be coerced and that any hostile efforts to derail the

country's counter-terrorism operations will be decisively defeated.

He also highlighted the critical need for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, which remains internationally recognized. Furthermore, he warned against India's actions involving what he described as unlawful and legally indefensible "hydro terrorism."

The COAS also drew attention to India's alleged role in sponsoring terrorism within Pakistan. He expressed confidence in the renewed counter-terrorism campaign, assuring that the nation's fight against terrorism will continue until it achieves complete success against all its forms.

Addressing the importance of leadership, the Field Marshal urged student officers to approach their duties with dedication, passion, and a strong sense of purpose.

He stressed the importance of innovation and research, praising the Command & Staff College Quetta for preparing future military leaders committed to the values of their profession. He remarked that training must not only reflect current challenges but also anticipate the demands of future battlefields, which will require agility, innovation, and steadfast resolve.

IOMed creation significant step in reinforcing multilateralism, promoting diplomacy over confrontation: Dar



Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Hong Kong

ONLINE

HONG KONG: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday termed the creation of International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) a significant step in reinforcing multilateralism and promoting diplomacy over confrontation in the new era of mediation. The signing ceremony of the

Convention establishing IOMed took place in Hong Kong, with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar representing Pakistan at the historic event. Speaking at the high-profile gathering, Senator Dar lauded the visionary leadership of the People's Republic of China for spearheading the creation of IOMed. He hailed China for once again leading a transformative initiative—comparable in impact to the Asian

Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The DPM underlined that Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to peaceful conflict resolution by becoming a founding member of the newly established International Organization for Mediation (IOMed). Senator Dar described the establishment of IOMed as "the birth of an important global institution dedicated to mediation and peaceful dispute resolution."

ATC sentences 11 including PTI MNA to over 15 years in May 9 riots case

INP

Islamabad: Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Islamabad, on Friday sentenced 11 accused, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Abdul Latif to a combined punishment of 15 years and 4 months imprisonment along with fines, in connection with Ramna police station attack during May 9 riots.

The case stem from an incident on March 18, 2023, when a large number of PTI supporters accompanied Imran Khan to the Judicial Complex. Protesters 'removed' security barriers, forced entry into the premises, vandalized property, and disrupted judicial proceedings.

The verdict was delivered by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, who noted that the accused attacked the police station, pelted stones, opened fire, and attempted to harm police personnel.

The court stated that the attackers also set motorcycles ablaze to achieve their objectives.

Following the verdict, four of the accused present in court were taken into custody, while arrest warrants were issued for those absent.

According to the court, 24 witnesses recorded their statements, and the accused were identified through a proper identification parade before a magistrate.

All the convicts were awarded five-year jail for attempting to kill the policemen, 10-year prison term plus Rs50,000 fine to all convicts

under anti-terrorism provisions, four-year jail for setting a motorcycle on fire, three-year prison term for stopping police from performing their duty, one-month jail under Section 144 and one-year prison term for committing crime by forming a jatha (group).

UN honours 57 peacekeepers including two from Pakistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations has honoured fifty-seven military, police and civilian peacekeepers from thirty-two countries, including two from Pakistan, who paid the ultimate price for the cause of peace last year serving the missions around the world.

A ceremony to this effect was held on the occasion of International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

Among the posthumous awardees of Dag Hammarskjöld medals are: Sepoy Muhammad Tarique and Havildar Ahsan Ullah Khan who both served with UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad,

accompanied by the Mission's Military Adviser Col. Umar Shafique, attended the ceremony and accepted the awards, along with other heads of missions and their military attaches.

President signs bill aimed at curbing child marriages

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday signed the Islamabad Capital Territory Child Marriage Restraint Bill into law, aimed at curbing underage marriages.

In post on X platform, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman shared the signed copy of the bill.

The bill, which seeks to protect the rights of children and eventually eradicate marriages of children under the age of 18, reached the presidency on May 27 after sailing through both houses of parliament. However, the move attracted strong opposition from religious segments of society,

with the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) ruling that classifying marriage under the age of 18 as rape did not conform with Islamic law.

"The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 2025 is assented to, as passed by the Parliament," the notification read.

"Pakistan has reached a milestone in the enactment of important legislation against child marriages," Sherry Rehman said in a statement.

She said that the approval of the bill was successful despite resistance from various sections, adding that President Zardari signed the bill despite pressure.

Pakistan to upgrade diplomatic ties with Afghanistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday announced that Pakistan would upgrade its Chargé d'Affaires in Afghanistan to the level of an ambassador amid improving ties with the neighbouring country.

Taking to X, Dar said that Pakistan-Afghanistan relations were on positive trajectory after his "very productive" visit to Kabul on April 19.

"I am confident this step would further contribute towards enhanced engagement, deepen Pak-Afghan cooperation in economic, security, CT & trade areas and promote further exchanges between two fraternal countries," he stated. Pakistan and Afghanistan have

embassies in each other's capitals but they are led by charge d'affaires, not ambassadors.

China was the first country to accept an ambassador from the Taliban-run administration in Kabul though it does not formally recognise its government. Several other states, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), followed.

The two nations share a porous border spanning around 2,500 kilometres with several crossing points which hold significance as a key element of regional trade and relations between the people across both sides of the fence.

The issue of terrorism remains a key issue for Pakistan which has urged Afghanistan to prevent its soil from being used by groups such as the TTP to carry out attacks inside the former's territory.



DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the High Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation (IGCP 2025).

Pakistan, India start reducing troops after border clashes: CJCSC

Mirza said there were no backchannel discussions or informal talks to ease tensions

APP

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and India are close to reducing the troop buildup along their border to levels before conflict erupted between the nuclear-armed neighbours this month, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Pakistan's Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Reuters on Friday. However, he warned the crisis had increased the risk of escalation in the future.

Both sides used fighter jets, missiles, drones, and artillery in four days of clashes, their worst fighting in decades, before a ceasefire was announced.

The recent clashes between Pakistan and India arose following the Pahalgam attack on April 22 in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) that killed 26 people, most of them tourists.

New Delhi blamed the incident without evidence on Pakistani elements, a charge denied by Islamabad, which sought an independent probe into the incident.

On May 7, India launched missiles at civilian sites, which it claims to describe as "terrorist infrastructure" across the border.

This prompted a defensive response from Pakistan and a subsequent troop buildup by both countries along the frontier.

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Pakistan's chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the two militaries had started the process of drawing down troop levels.

"We have almost come back to the pre-April 22 situation... we are approaching that, or we must have approached that by now," said Mirza, the most senior Pakistani military official to speak publicly since the conflict.

India's Ministry of Defence and the office of the Indian Chief of Defence Staff did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment on the remarks by Mirza.

Mirza, who is in Singapore to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue forum, said while there was no move towards nuclear weapons during this conflict, it was a dangerous situation.

"Nothing happened this time," he said. "But you can't rule out any strategic miscalculation at any time, because when the crisis is on, the responses are different."

He also said the risk of escalation in the future had increased since the fighting this time was not limited to the IOJK, the scenic region in the Himalayas that both nations

rule in part but claim in full.

Dangerous trend

The two countries have fought three major wars, two of them over the disputed Kashmir region, and numerous armed skirmishes since both were born out of British colonial India in 1947.

"This (conflict) lowers the threshold between two countries who are contiguous nuclear powers...in the future, it will not be restricted

to the disputed territory. It would come down to (the) whole of India and (the) whole of Pakistan," Mirza said. "This is a very dangerous trend."

Reuters has reported that the rapid escalation of hostilities ended in part because of behind-the-scenes diplomacy involving the US, India, and Pakistan, and the key role played by Washington in brokering peace.

India continues to deny any third-party role in the ceasefire and said that any engagement between India and Pakistan has to be bilateral. But Mirza warned that international mediation might be difficult in the future because of a lack of crisis management mechanisms between the countries.

Govt, WB vow to strengthen Pakistan's economic resilience

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan and the World Bank have reaffirmed the mutual commitment to strengthening Pakistan's economic resilience and advancing inclusive development through strategic partnerships.

This commitment was expressed at a meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and the World Bank Pakistan team in Islamabad on Friday. The World Bank team included Najy Benhassine, the outgoing Country Director, and Bolormaa Amgaabazar, the incoming Country Director for Pakistan.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister warmly welcomed Bolormaa Amgaabazar to Pakistan and extended his best wishes for her upcoming assignment. He expressed confidence that the collaborative efforts between Pakistan and the World Bank would continue to flourish under her leadership.

Muhammad Aurangzeb also took the opportunity to commend Najy Benhassine for his valuable contributions and unwavering support to the Government of Pakistan throughout his tenure. He acknowledged Najy Benhassine's role in strengthening the development partnership and wished him success in his future endeavors. Highlighting the enduring relationship between Pakistan and the World Bank, the Minister expressed gratitude for the Bank's generous financial and technical assistance across key sectors of the economy.

Shehbaz Sharif okays 4 holidays on Eid-ul-Azha

INP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved a four-day official holiday for Eid-ul-Azha.

According to sources, the Eid holidays will be from Friday, June 6, to Monday, June 9.

The extended break is expected to facilitate citizens in celebrating the religious festival with their families and loved ones.

Sources revealed that the Cabinet Division is expected to issue an official notification shortly to formally announce the holidays.

In light of the announcement, all government and private offices, educational institutions and banks across the country will remain closed during this period.

While the closure of educational institutions is part of the Eid holiday announcement, it is important to note that most schools and colleges are already closed for summer vacation.

Eid-ul-Azha, one of the two major Islamic festivals, is celebrated with special congregational prayers and the ritual animal sacrifice.

The holidays will provide ample time for faithful to take part in religious rituals, including the traditional animal sacrifice, prayers, and community gatherings.

Pakistan-Turkmenistan ties growing stronger: Gilani

ONLINE

ASHGABAT: Chairman Senate Yusuf Raza Gilani says the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan are growing stronger with time.

He said this during a meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, G. Rozyev in Ashgabat on Friday.

The meeting covered enhancing cooperation in various sectors including trade, energy, Information Technology, tourism, culture.

The two leaders agreed to promote regional cooperation and economic connectivity.

During his visit, Chairman Gilani is scheduled to engage in high-level meetings with Turkmen officials, including the leadership of the Mejlis and other key stakeholders. The talks are expected to focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, and cultural exchange.

The visit provides an excellent opportunity for both nations to explore new avenues

for collaboration and deepen existing ties. Pakistan and Turkmenistan share a rich history of cultural and economic cooperation, and this visit is expected to further cement these bonds.

Key objectives including strengthening bilateral Relations: Enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Turkmenistan

Trade and Investment: Explore new opportunities for bilateral trade and investment.

Chief Executive Officer (Education) Gujranwala Division Attia Arshad Ensures Student Attendance with New Measures



CEO (Education) of Gujranwala Division, Attia Arshad

By Khawaja Farooq

Gujranwala: Chief Executive Officer (Education) of Gujranwala Division, Attia Arshad, has stated that to ensure regular school attendance for girls across Gujranwala, instructions have been issued to all schools to update parents on "Same Day" basis, following the model of developed countries.

During a meeting with Daily Mirror and Daily Mashriq, Ms. Attia Arshad shared that she is working to bring school security for female students up to international standards.

All schools have been directed to collect parents' phone numbers and update them in the school system. If a student is absent, the parents must be contacted immediately to ascertain the reason, and the principal should be informed.

She emphasized that this step has been taken because irregular attendance negatively impacts students' education. This initiative will also help teachers and parents stay informed about students' academic progress and other activities. Ms. Attia Arshad further stated that she is also focusing on ensuring teachers' attendance. Surprise inspections in schools will resume after the summer vacations. She added that, under the special directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Gujranwala Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Shirazi, special attention is being given to improving education and security in government schools across Gujranwala Division.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning & Development Ahsan Iqbal chairing a high-level preparatory meeting of the Pakistani side ahead of the upcoming China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) session..

Step afoot to address problems of people under limited resources: Zahida

INP

Quetta: Senior Assistant Director of Local Government Department Zahida Baloch on Friday said that the Local Government Department is taking steps to address the problems being faced by the people under limited resources. She said this while talking to Assistant Engineer Alamgir Bazai and the Head of the Department during inspecting the ongoing development projects in different areas of Quetta city. Senior Assistant Director Zahida Baloch expressed satisfaction with the quality and speed of the development projects and directed to complete the projects on time.

She said that with the funds of Provincial Health Minister Bakht Kakar, Parliamentary Secretary Wali Muhammad Noorzi and other members of the assembly, other development works including construction of tuff tiles, drains and roads, installation of solar systems in schools are underway.

She said that the completion of which would help in providing facilities to the people and added that work is underway on various schemes under the auspices of the Local Government Department which would be completed before June 30. She said that no compromise would be made on the standard and quality of development schemes.

If any contractor is found doing substandard work, departmental action will be taken against him, she said.

She directed the contractors to further accelerate the pace of work on the ongoing schemes so that the development projects could be completed on time.

World Milk Day observed at UVAS



By Maqsood khalid

LAHORE: Faculty of Animal Production & Technology of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore in collaboration with Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) observed World Milk Day with the theme of "Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy" here on Friday in City Campus.

Various activities including a seminar, advocacy session, introduction of project whey to value, whey utilization global perspective & option, documentary on whey to value, panel discussion unlocking the potential of whey sustainable solution for a thriving dairy industry featured the day to create awareness about nutritional value of milk for human health.

UVAS Vice-Chancellor Meritorious Prof Dr Muhammad Younus (DLA.I, T.I) presided over the seminar while Dean Faculty of Animal Production & Technology Prof Dr Saima, Chairperson Department of Dairy Technology Dr Saima Inayat, Country Director (GAIN) Ms Farah Naz, Ms Tanazza Sadaf and a number of stakeholders from dairy industry, progressive farmers, representatives of farmer & Buffalo Breeder Associations, milk processor, faculty members & students were present.

While addressing the seminar, Prof Dr Muhammad Younus spoke about the importance of milk and said that milk is a priceless gift of nature and a complete food, even after birth a child is fed only on milk.

Ethiopia, Pakistan discuss bilateral cooperation in higher education

APP

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopia Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Jemal Bekir Abdula, Friday met with Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and discussed various avenues for bilateral cooperation in the higher education sector in a bid to further strengthen the bilateral ties and foster academic excellence through potential collaborative initiatives.

The meeting took place between two officials in HEC Chairman Office in Islamabad.

Both sides discussed a wide range of initiatives, including student and faculty exchange programs, curriculum development for quality assurance in higher education, exchange of knowledge and expertise in educational digitalization, and joint research projects in various fields such as agriculture, science and technology, medicine.

Liaquat Baloch Lauds Pakistani Nation, Armed Forces for Resorting to Convincing Defeat to Indian Aggression

APP

MIRPUR (AJK): Lambasting India for her hegemonic and aggressive designs in the region, Naib Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Pakistan, Liaquat Baloch Friday said that New Delhi was trying to become the policeman of the region and her approach had become a threat to the peace of the entire region. "India's such dreams of hegemonic designs will not be allowed to be fulfilled", the JI leader warned while speaking at the "Meet The Press" programme hosted jointly by the Kashmir Press Club Mirpur-AJK and JI AJK top Leader, Dr. Riaz Ahmed here.

Liaquat Baloch, also Central Secretary

General 'Milli Yakjehti Council Pakistan' strongly criticized India's aggressive policies, which, he declared, a permanent threat to the regional and global peace.

Referring to Delhi's sponsored recent Pehelgam False Flag Operation that took over 26 innocent human lives, he said that India launched unprovoked aggression against the targeted sites of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir under the bogey of the Pahalgam carnage of the innocent tourists as a justification, but the way the Pakistani nation and the valiant Pakistani armed forces responded resorting to convincing defeat to the enemy was commendable and which was being highly.

CM Maryam Unveils Rs1.5bn Education Package for Layyah University

INP

LAYYAH: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday announced significant educational and developmental initiatives during her visit to Layyah, including the immediate commencement of Layyah Medical College's construction and the allocation of Rs1.5 billion in funds for the University of Layyah.

Addressing a large gathering of students and citizens, the chief minister said scholarships have been increased to 50,000 and one lakh laptops will be distributed annually among eligible students. She pledged that no talented student in Punjab would be deprived of modern technology due to lack of resources.

Highlighting her emotional connection with Layyah, CM Maryam said the love she received from the youth of the city was unforgettable. "I want the sons and daughters of Layyah to know that they are very close to my heart," she said. "I feel proud of you and I am committed to fulfilling all your educational aspirations." She said that the state must act like a mother and ensure that every promising student in Punjab receives full support. "You don't need to thank me. It is your right, and you will continue to receive what is rightfully yours," she added.



QUETTA: People visiting sacrificial animal market for buying animal for upcoming Edi ul Azha.



Noor Zaman secures spot in British Open Squash Championship main draw

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan's Noor Zaman has qualified for the main draw of the British Open Squash Championship after defeating Egypt's Kareem El Torkey in the qualifying final.

The reigning World Under-23 Squash champion continued his impressive run on the professional circuit, securing his place in the main round of the prestigious tournament in England.

In the decisive qualifying match, the 10th-seeded Zaman overcame third-seeded El Torkey 11-5, 11-8, 3-11, 11-7 in 46 minutes.

Earlier in the qualifying rounds, Zaman defeated England's

Will Salter 3-1 (10-12, 11-2, 11-5, 11-3) in 42 minutes and Adrian Waller 3-1 (9-11, 11-6, 11-7, 14-12) in a 59-minute thriller.

Zaman, the first Pakistani player to reach the British Open main round since 2022, will face England's Curtis Malik in the first round on Sunday.



Islamabad: Sabrina Filzmoser, a four-time Olympian, Chair of the World Judo Athletes' Commission, poses group photo with judo players on her visit to Pakistan Sports Complex.

Pakistan is most loving country: Olympian Sabrina Filzmoser

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Four-time Austrian female Olympic judoka Sabrina Filzmoser on Friday said that she has always received immense love whenever she visited Pakistan and it is important to showcase the country's positive image to the world.

"I intend to ride on a bicycle from Islamabad to K2 Base Camp via Skardu before climbing K2," she said in a press briefing here at the Pakistan Sports Complex, before starting her mission along with President Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) Col. (R) Junaid Alam.

Sabrina was a 2005 and 2010 World bronze medalist and 2008 and 2011 European Champion. 7th at the 2012 Olympic Games. Winner of the Super World Cup Tournoi de Paris 2006 and 2008. Winner of the Grand Slam in Paris twice.

Bronze medalist at the Grand Prix in Cancun in 2017. In 2019 she took bronze at the Grand Prix in Budapest as the oldest medalist ever in the Judo World Tour, and Tokyo 2020 was her fourth Olympics.

Sabrina expressed her determination to complete the K2 mission despite the difficulties, reiterating how tough it is to summit the peak, adding that Pakistanis are incredibly hospitable and that she has always felt loved in the country. She emphasized the need to show Pakistan's positive side to the world. Filzmoser also expressed her desire to inspire women in Pakistan to take part in sports and stated that she hopes to become a role model for girls in the country. She shared that although her bicycle broke down, local citizens came forward to help her. She said climbing K2 is a personal challenge and highlighted the importance of raising awareness about Judo, adding that Promoting Judo is her dream and I am happy to see full support given by Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) for a good cause.

Sabrina said that Pakistan holds a special place in her heart and that she considers it her home. She consistently refutes negative narratives about Pakistan wherever she goes. She will depart for her K2 expedition from Islamabad on Saturday.

Speaking earlier, Junaid Alam said that Pakistan Judo Federation is grateful that Sabrina chose our beautiful country for this peace mission.

She has consented to hold talent hunt and training sessions before the expedition, during the expedition as well after the expedition. Takbeer Judo Club has requested her to accept the post of Brand Ambassador of TJC which she has kindly consented, he said.

Leicestershire Foxes' squad boosted by Shan Masood's inclusion: captain

SPORTS DESK

LEICESTER: Pakistan test team captain Shan Masood is set to make his Leicestershire Foxes debut in this year's T20 Blast as they host Derbyshire Falcons in their opening match of the tournament at Upton Steel Ground in Leicester.

The southpaw who was repeating Karachi Kings in the recently concluded Pakistan Super League has joined the Foxes squad earlier this week and has been practising hard in the nets ahead of the Foxes' opening clash against his old club Derbyshire.

Louis Kimber, the captain of Leicestershire, is super excited to welcome the experienced fellow to the squad.

"Shan landed on Monday. It's been great welcoming him into the group, he's already fitted in really well. You can see his class and his skill set in the nets just watching him bat", said Louis Kimber.

Masood, now 35, has been a regular in the County Championship and T20 Blast in recent years and is set to represent

Leicestershire County Cricket Club across all three formats this year.

He enjoyed a spectacular debut season with Derbyshire in 2022, scoring 1,832 runs across 28 matches, which helped earn him a recall to the Pakistan national squad.

He subsequently joined Yorkshire in 2023 for the next two seasons, where he led the team back to Division One last year. He ended up scoring 720 runs in 2023, followed by 520 runs in 2024.

In their opening clash in the T20 Blast, Leicestershire won't be able to have the services of key players Rehan Ahmed and Josh Hull in their squad as both have been named in England Lion's squad against India-A for the two unofficial test match series. In their absence, skipper Kimber is banking heavily on Shan's experience and skill set.

"It's gonna be great to kind of learn off him, and watch him go about his business and hopefully, score some runs for Leicestershire. There could be a lot of batting together with him".

"Really excited to get going on Friday. We just finished our last training day. So, all the lads and I are aiming to go. There's a great positive vibe within the camp at the moment", Louis added further.



Pakistan red-ball skipper Shan Masood speaks at a press conference in this image released.

TENDER NOTICE

The NATURAL CALAMITIES & OTHER DISASTERS (REL) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242505733051 Only electronic bid will be submitted, NO physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB

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Last mile?

WITH the national tally of polio cases rising to 10 following two new confirmations in KP, Pakistan's ambition to eliminate the virus by year's end faces a sobering reality check. Though there has been some progress — marked by better campaigns, declining vaccine refusals, and closer coordination — the virus's persistence in high-risk zones demands sharper, more focused action in the months ahead. The federal health minister's renewed pledge, reaffirmed during his meeting with Gates Foundation officials, reflects resolve. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's direct involvement through regular high-level reviews adds political heft to the campaign. But political will must now translate into verifiable, ground-level results. The nationwide anti-polio campaign, set for May 26 to June 1, is a crucial test of that commitment.

Each province has ambitious plans: Punjab is targeting over 23m children and has warned of strict action against data manipulation or underperformance. Sindh aims to vaccinate 10.6m children, focusing on persuading parents who decline vaccination to reconsider, and enhanced accountability. KP, where eight of the 10 confirmed cases have occurred, is deploying over 35,000 workers to reach 7.3m children — though southern districts like Lakki Marwat and Bannu remain difficult due to restricted access, insecurity, and local mistrust. Balochistan is aiming to vaccinate more than 2.6m children across the province. In addition to polio drops, children will receive Vitamin A supplements to boost immunity. The campaign's success, provincial health officials stress, will depend heavily on community support and the engagement of teachers, religious leaders and civil society. However, outreach efforts in some areas remain complicated by security concerns and difficult terrain, which have in the past hindered access to remote communities and put front-line workers at risk. To truly end polio, the authorities must ensure detailed, community-level planning — identifying every child, mapping remote and high-risk areas, and deploying teams with precise, supervised routes to leave no child unvaccinated. Misinformation must be countered through trusted religious figures, medical professionals and digital influencers. Cold-chain maintenance, especially during extreme heat, must be ensured. With Eid approaching and population movement set to increase, the timing of this campaign is critical. Pakistan has the tools and support it needs. What is required now is relentless focus, honest reporting and unified resolve. The last mile is often the hardest — but it is also the most decisive.

Straight to the top

NO summit seems beyond reach for Naila Kiani. She is now a mere two peaks away from making history. In so many ways, she already has. In terms of ascents, Naila is Pakistan's leading woman mountaineer. Her summit of Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain, last week means she has now scaled 12 of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000m. Only 17 women have conquered all and Naila is on the point of having her name etched in the record books. But that is not all. Naila has broken stereotypes and barriers for women mountaineers in the country. As a mother of two, she has shown incredible grit to go far and beyond. She started her mountaineering career in 2021; at a more advanced age than her counterparts. Instead of setting easier targets at the start of her climbing journey, she aimed for the very top.

Upon scaling Kanchenjunga, she said it was a message to Pakistan's women to realise their strength. Naila has previously said she had to face questions from society over pursuing mountaineering full time. With each successful ascent, she has given an emphatic answer — being a shining example for women empowerment in the country. According to her, though, her journey has just started and it is a mission that goes beyond scaling the world's highest peaks. Naila has been made the goodwill ambassador for girls' education by the federal education ministry and is aiding the cause for women's empowerment through sports in the country. Her daring feats have also earned her the Sitara-i-Imtiaz — one of the country's highest civilian accolades. Naila has been a trailblazer for women mountaineers in the country and as she goes for her final two eight-thousanders — the Dhaulagiri and Shishapangma — it must be ensured that she has all the support that she requires. After all, it is not just a personal milestone but a matter of pride for the country as well.

By Maleeha Lodhi

The forever war

DURING President Donald Trump's recent three-nation visit to the Middle East reports in the international media suggested he had sidelined Israel in decisions taken there or just ahead of his trip. For good reason.

The slew of actions he took would certainly have troubled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Washington lifted sanctions on Syria and Trump met with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Riyadh, praising a man who previously had a US bounty on his head. Trump also praised Turkiye's President Tayyip Erdogan, another of Israel's adversaries, whose advice to lift sanctions he said he listened to. Netanyahu had urged Trump not to end sanctions.

Trump also forged a truce with the Houthis in Yemen with both sides agreeing to halt military strikes against each other. This too bypassed Israel. Trump secured the release of the last remaining American hostage in Gaza after direct talks between the US and Hamas. But what would have worried Tel Aviv the most was Trump pursuing direct nuclear negotiations with Iran, which Israel vehemently opposes.

There are reports now of US receiving 'new' intelligence about Israel making preparations for a military strike on Iranian nuclear installations. If Israel takes this reckless course, it would sabotage Trump's diplomatic efforts and damage Netanyahu's relations with Washington, especially as Trump recently told Netanyahu in a phone conversation that talks were moving in the right direction.

Writing in the Financial Times Kim Ghattas saw Trump's Middle East moves "springing surprises on Netanyahu [and] cutting Israel out of the deals it is making". She pointed out that Trump's patience with Netanyahu was running out even though the "decades-long alliance between Israel and the US will endure". Other commentators referred to the Israeli prime minister being downgraded to a "spectator" during his visit as Trump moved closer to Israel's enemies.

Despite all this Trump has been unable or unwilling to get Israel to halt its genocidal war on Gaza even though he has long wanted a quick end to the conflict.

Although the White House has warned Netanyahu he would be on his own if he continued the war, Israel has expanded its military offensive in Gaza and continued to block humanitarian aid.

With Palestinians being killed every day by air strikes, Netanyahu has threatened to take over all of Gaza ostensibly to "destroy Hamas once and for all". Additional military forces have been deployed to carry out Israel's Gideon's Chariots offensive targeting both southern and northern Gaza, whose aim is to push Palestinians out of the strip. Hundreds of thousands are again being forced from their homes. Forcible displacement of people outside Gaza has long been Netanyahu's aim.

This has created a catastrophic situation and worsened the humanitarian crisis, forcing millions of Gazans into starvation. The Israeli offensive and blockade of humanitarian aid has provoked an international outcry. UN Secretary General António Guterres called this dire situation "beyond description, beyond atrocious and beyond inhumane". Demanding an end to the blockade he said, "The entire population is facing the risk of famine."

Even Israel's closest Western allies lashed out against Tel Aviv. In a joint statement, France, the UK and Canada condemned Israel's military escalation in Gaza and the West Bank, and threatened "concrete actions" including targeted sanctions, if Israel did not end its offensive and lift aid restrictions. The EU announced it would review its trade relations with Israel while countries such as Spain called for tougher action including sanctions.

Twenty-three countries issued a joint statement calling on Israel to allow aid into Gaza and warning that people faced "starvation". Under mounting pressure, Israel permitted some aid into Gaza but this was slammed as wholly inadequate by the international community.

The response from Amnesty International was telling: "It is outrageous and morally reprehensible that it took the world nearly 80 days of broadcast starvation and cruelty amidst genocide to exert enough pressure on Israel to even slightly ease its total siege that has blocked the entry of all food, medicine,

fuel and other vital goods."

Meanwhile, efforts to renew the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel are going nowhere at Doha. Despite the Trump administration's unease with the lack of progress in the talks it has been unable to goad the Israelis in that direction. This seemed a factor behind US Vice President J.D. Vance's recent decision not to visit Israel this month. Although talks have continued after Israel launched its offensive, Netanyahu has little interest in a truce. He unilaterally broke the ceasefire in March and has repeatedly declared he will not end the war until "total victory" is achieved over Hamas.

This leaves Gaza facing more bloodshed, displacement and devastation. The US-backed Israeli plan to manage and deliver aid to Gaza is hugely controversial and entails establishing a few central distribution sites where people will have to travel from long distances. These hubs will be secured by the military and private armed contractors.

A Swiss-incorporated company, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, will manage the centres. The UN has denounced the plan as a tool for more displacement, which is a war crime. The UN aid chief also said this makes "starvation a bargaining chip". UN agencies have refused to be part of this arrangement. Humanitarian organisations have condemned the "militarisation of aid".

With Israel embarked on a relentless military campaign to seize and permanently occupy all of Gaza, its far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich told a news conference the goal is to "destroy everything that's left of the Gaza Strip" and force the population out of 'combat zones'. From there, he said, "the population will reach the south of the Strip, and [then] move to third countries under President Trump's plan". Meanwhile, Netanyahu has said he will end the war only if Hamas releases all hostages and Trump's plan to relocate the population outside Gaza is implemented. It is now incumbent on Washington to clarify if Israel is really carrying out Trump's plan. This is necessary because if untrue it would put pressure on Israel to stop the offensive. If true, it would make a mockery of the image Trump is seeking to cultivate as a man of peace.

By Umair Javed

Security and insecurity

WARS, even short ones, carry plenty of consequences. The India-Pakistan one from earlier this month was no different.

Its aftermath leaves behind a combination of heightened security for some, and heightened insecurity for many others. Incumbents in power in both countries benefited from the strengthening of their domestic positions. When the adrenaline of nationalism runs high, difficult questions about security lapses, geographic vulnerabilities, and long-term policies are set aside. The mood becomes celebratory, lauding, feting, and consecrating those in the driving seat.

Laudatory outcomes in Pakistan include a fresh promotion for the army chief, another extension for the air chief, a significant bump in public approval for the military as per at least one survey, and unquestioning acceptance of the need for greater defence spending to stave off the Indian threat in the future.

Civilian partners in the incumbent regime also gained an advantage. They can take some comfort in the renewed vigour and tenure security of their 'same-page' arrangement. The PML-N might actually be able to see off an entire five-year term without changing their prime minister. And the prospects of a deal between the establishment and the PTI, one that would be beneficial for the latter and harmful for the incumbent party, appears to be off the table for now.

Mirroring the same in India, the BJP-led coalition government appears to have staved off some growing public apathy and incumbent fatigue. It has won space for its security agenda (as demonstrated in the recent anti-Naxal operations), and set itself up well for the upcoming state elections in Bihar. Under the ambit of a national threat, it has also managed to sideline a few irritants in the domestic media space, and shut off indirect people-to-people cul-

tural contact through YouTube and music-streaming platforms.

Going forward, the Indian population's view of their neighbours will filter through whatever the state deems acceptable. The task of 'otherising' the enemy and creating cultural gulfs amidst shared heritage — a long-term agenda of right-wingers in both countries — will be considerably easier.

The bonanza of security for some, opens up a world of insecurity for most others.

This bonanza of security for some, opens up a world of insecurity for most others. One obvious consequence is the vulnerability felt by common citizens in different parts of the region. People living in Pakistani Punjab's big cities will now go about their daily lives knowing that they remain fair game for missiles and drones launched from India; knowledge made worse by the fact that the trigger for such an attack may be something relatively minuscule and unrelated to their actions.

The same is true for those residing in parts of India along its western borders.

For those already existing under insecurity, such as the people of Kashmir, the skirmish intensifies distress and caution.

Pakistan and India may be bitter rivals, but they appear to have forged an implicit agreement around the cheapened worth of Kashmiri lives. These lives in and around the LoC are deemed to be the most dispensable under the ambit of artillery fire. Their level of dispensability is now up by several notches.

Upon its conclusion, open warfare is also leaving behind 'sub-conventional warfare' as a strategy for both states. Civilian populations are fair game. Terrorism will continue to rear its ugly head. No one will be spared, not even — as we've recently learnt — children on their way to school.

Vectors of heightened insecurity don't just operate across national borders,

they run through internal fault lines as well. States under siege turn their attention to 'local collaborators' and domestic nuisances.

For Muslims of India-held Kashmir, the terrorist attack and its subsequent aftermath makes a bad situation even worse. The region is already one of the most militarised in the world. Security force deployment is likely to go up further. The practice of regulating movement and communication will become more common. A state of exception, where fundamental rights and civil liberties are distant concepts, will remain the norm.

In Pakistan, all manner of opposition will experience new forms of insecurity. Freshly legitimised, recently rewarded, and thriving in the afterglow of a successful military response to Indian aggression, the establishment is far better placed to move forward with its domestic agenda. Opposition parties, mainly the PTI, find the already small space available to them shrinking even further.

Other initiatives being pushed by the centre, such as the ones related to land allocation and control in Gilgit-Baltistan, have been quickly approved by the local assembly; opposition to the Land Reform Act was summarily dismissed. Several activists were rounded up and incarcerated.

In the context of such swift domestic action, it might be unsurprising if the contentious issue of canal irrigation in Cholistan rears its head once again. Will opposition be as vigorous this time around, especially considering how the domestic political situation has changed?

No one asked for war, least of all the average Pakistani.

The state responded justifiably well to a blatant act of aggression from across the border. In doing so, it carried out an essential task that defines the modern state — securing territorial integrity through the use of violence.

DAILY MIRROR

'Reserved seats': ECP says relief granted to PTI in July 12 verdict 'unconstitutional'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has stated that the Supreme Court's July 12, 2024, verdict declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats exceeded the constitutional authority granted under Article 187(1) of the Constitution.

In its written response submitted in the SC against its July 12 verdict, the election body said: "The relief granted in the majority judgement to PTI is beyond the scope of power under Article 187(1) of the Constitution."

Last year, the top court ruled that the former ruling party was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The verdict was announced by a 13-member bench, headed by then chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

Besides ECP, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) also filed review petitions against the July 12, 2024 judgement on the reserved seats for women and minorities in national and provincial assemblies.

Currently, an 11-member constitutional bench — headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan — was hearing the review petitions.

Raising questions over the SC's verdict, the electoral watchdog argued that PTI was not a party to the list before the ECP, PHC and SCP. It further said that contrary to findings in the SC judgement, the PTI did not even pray for allocation of the reserved seats to "PTI itself" or to "either PTI or SIC".

"PTI did not seek allocation of the disputed reserved seats to itself. Instead, PTI expressly asserted that the denial by the ECP of reserved seats to the SIC will result in the national assembly and the provincial assemblies losing their representative character. These seats cannot be allowed to any other party," read the petition.

The ECP further said that the Article 51 Provisions and the Article 106 Provisions have been misconstrued in the majority judgement which inter alia has distorted the scheme of the Article 51 Provisions and the Article 106 Provisions as read with section 104 of the Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017.

The election body said that the timelines prescribed and options granted to PTI in the July 12 verdict were beyond the appellate jurisdiction of the SCP under Article 185(3) read with Article 175(2) of the Constitution and could also not be given in exercise of power under Article 187(1) of the Constitution.

Earlier on Tuesday, the SIC questioned the maintainability of review petitions filed against the apex court judgment declaring that the PTI was entitled to the reserved seats of women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies.

Justice Mandokhail asked the counsel whether he supported or opposed the review and pointed out that 13 judges had said that the SIC was not entitled to the seats.

Siddiqui told Justice Mandokhail that he partially supported his decision adding, "Sometimes, you win even when you lose."

Siddiqui contended that since most of the judges on the current bench had not heard the main case, as six new judges had joined, he would present his arguments in detail, including the background of how the issue arose. The SIC counsel emphasised that 11 out of 13 judges had declared that the seats belonged to the PTI.

Justice Mazhar noted that the review petition was filed only against the majority decision. Siddiqui pointed out that interestingly, the review relied on Justice Mandokhail's opinion. He listed seven main arguments, starting with the objection that if the PTI was not a party, how relief was granted.



Acting Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan exchanging views with Nawab Ayaz Khan Jozezai, Chief of Pashtun during meeting held in Quetta

Pakistan downed five Indian planes during war: admits BJP leader

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: In a rare and candid admission, senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy acknowledged that Pakistan shot down five Indian Air Force jets during the recent conflict.

Speaking in an interview, Swamy said that the Indian planes were defeated in air combat as Pakistan deployed Chinese fighter jets which outperformed the French-made aircraft used by New Delhi.

"Pakistan downed five of our planes. They used Chinese planes to down our planes, which were French," Swamy revealed. "The Chinese planes were good, but the French were not. Rafale is not up to the mark as per India's needs," he added, criticising the performance of the highly-touted Rafale jets.

He went on to make a startling claim regarding the controversial Rafale deal, alleging corruption in the procurement process. "Corruption happened in Rafale which won't be investigated till Modi is the PM," he stated firmly.

Discussing the lack of accountability within the Indian leadership, Swamy said that under the current prime minister, an open probe into the aircraft losses is highly unlikely. "With Modi in power, no discussions or investigations will happen about how and why those jets were downed," he said.

The military confrontation between the two countries was triggered by last month's attack in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) that left 26 tourists dead, with India blaming Pakistan for the attack without offering any evidence.

Earlier this month, Pakistan's armed forces launched a large-scale retaliatory military action, named "Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos", and targeted several Indian military targets across multiple regions.

Pakistan downed its six fighter jets, including three Rafale, and dozens of drones.

After at least 87 hours, the war between the two nuclear-armed nations ended on May 10 with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States.

When asked about the downing of Indian jets during the conflict, Indian Air Marshal AK Bharti had said that "losses are a part of combat," without providing further details.

Strict adherence to building code is necessary to save electricity: Awais

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, has written to all Chief Ministers and key federal officials, urging them to adopt the Energy Conservation Building Code 2023 (ECBC-2023) as a national standard for new constructions.

He said the move was necessary to ease the country's growing power burden. In formal letters addressed to all provincial Chief Ministers, as well as the federal Ministers for Planning and Science and Technology, Leghari called for immediate implementation of ECBC-2023.

He stressed that traditional building designs are a major factor behind the country's high electricity consumption and that a change in construction standards is overdue. Around 60 percent of Pakistan's electricity is consumed by buildings. He said that outdated structures and poor design lead to heavy power losses, especially in the summer when cooling systems increase the electrical load on the national grid.

The ECBC-2023 was developed under the guidance of the Prime Minister as a

national policy for electricity conservation. Leghari described it as a framework that mandates energy-efficient designs for all new buildings. He said this law should be integrated into all government-funded infrastructure projects through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

Leghari also recommended that all provinces include ECBC-2023 in their development plans. He proposed that approval for future construction projects should be linked to compliance with the code. The Minister said that ensuring all buildings are equipped with efficient electrical systems is essential for reducing power waste.

He pointed out that the ECBC-2023 is not just a technical update, but a strategic response to the country's ongoing energy crisis. By reducing power demand through smarter design, the country can lower costs and reduce pressure on its power supply.

Leghari concluded that consistent enforcement of the ECBC-2023 will help manage energy demand and support economic planning. He said the code should be seen as a core part of the country's path toward more stable and efficient electricity use.

Muqam vows full Support for Merged Districts in Key Meeting with PML-N Leadership

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam, on Friday held an important meeting with PML-N presidents and key party leaders from the merged districts of the former FATA.

During the meeting, the delegation briefed Engineer Amir Muqam who is also PML-N President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the major issues affecting the region.

Muqam listened attentively and expressed strong support for their concerns, declaring the demands "completely valid" and reaffirming his commitment to addressing them.

"The well-being of the people in the merged districts is our priority. I am dedicated to offering every possible assistance. These districts have a distinct identity and significance," Muqam stated.

The delegation expressed full confidence in Engineer Amir Muqam's leadership and praised his continued efforts to resolve longstanding issues and promote the welfare of the people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Muqam highlighted that the federal government, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is prioritizing the development and support of the merged districts.

The meeting was attended by prominent PML-N figures from across the merged districts, including former MNAs Malik Nazir and Malik Spingul, Senior Vice President Inayat Khan, Coordinator Zar Khan Safi, Faqir Muhammad, Gul Karim, Malik Shaban Orakzai, Sanaullah, Abdul Karim Abid,

Mir Badshah Jandola, Saeed Duraz Khan, Kashif Khan, Naqeebullah Mehsud, and Akhtar Zaman. Member of the Provincial Assembly Sardar Shah Jehan Yousaf also participated.

Interior Minister Naqvi visits cattle market in Islamabad

INP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the cattle market along the Expressway on Friday, on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, where he reviewed the facilities being provided to the public.

He ordered the allocation of a designated parking area and a reduction in the per-animal fee.

Responding to the cattle sellers' demand, Mohsin Naqvi immediately instructed the expansion of the market space and directed authorities to ensure adequate lighting and water supply.

The Interior Minister also engaged with potential buyers, and upon their request, he ordered immediate repairs of the crossing bridge adjacent to the market.

Naqvi takes special interest in a white bull in the market. The traders demand 1.8 million of the bull which carried weight of above 14 maunds.

Interior Minister also met with the visitors. On the request of the citizens, the Interior Minister ordered immediate repair of the crossing bridge adjacent to the market.

31 profiteers held for violation control price in Quetta

APP

Quetta: The district administration arrested 31 profiteers and sent 22 of them to jail for violations price control and involvement of encroachment in conducting raids at various areas of Quetta City.

The teams led by Assistant Commissioner (Sariab) Saad Kaleem Zafar and Special Magistrate Ehsamuddin Kakar and Special Magistrate Haseeb Sardar conducted raids against anti-encroachment and price control operations on different areas of Quetta including Sariab Road, Jinnah Town, Gowalmandi Chowk, Shahbaz Town, Link Sariab Road and Nawab Kili.

Assistant Commissioner (Sariab) Saad Kaleem Zafar conducted anti-encroachment and price control operations on different roads of Sariab Road and arrested 11 profiteers and removed illegal encroachments.

While Special Magistrate Ehsamuddin Kakar arrested 13 people from Sub-Division City.

Special Magistrate Haseeb Sardar apprehended 7 people in conducting operations at Jinnah Town, Nawab Kili and Alamo Chowk for violation of control price.

The district administration reviewed the quality, weight and prices of butchers, tandoors, bakeries and general stores during operation.

Ahsan directs all ministries to operationalize long-term CPEC plan

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has directed Board of Investment to immediately initiate strategic outreach to major Chinese economic zones, to attract experienced companies for industrial relocation and development of Special Economic Zones in Pakistan.

He was chairing a high-level preparatory meeting of CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee in Islamabad on Friday to review progress and finalize deliverables for the upcoming 14th CPEC-JCC session.

The Minister directed all ministries to rigorously operationalize the long-term CPEC plan by ensuring that their project roadmaps are aligned with sectoral priorities for effective implementation.

He emphasized unified and proactive efforts across all government institutions to ensure that the 14th JCC session becomes a landmark event for accelerating the second phase of CPEC for a prosperous Pakistan.

The Minister emphasized that second phase of CPEC, 'CPEC 2.0' is now fully integrated into the broader national transformation vision under the 'URAAAN Pakistan' initiative. He said this integration will catalyze economic modernization and also ensure inclusive development across all regions of Pakistan.



ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani is being received by G. Rozye, Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, Annamuhmet Sarvjayev, Chairman of the Friendship Parliamentary Group upon his arrival in Ashgabat.

Pakistan's IT sector creating complementarity with US: Rizwan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has said Pakistan's booming IT sector, driven by its tech-savvy youth, is creating an unmatched complementarity with the United States.

In his address to U.S. business leaders, diplomats, and thought leaders at the World Trade Center in Washington D.C., he highlighted the economic opportunities in Pakistan.

He said the success of over eighty U.S. multinational companies in Pakistan for past several decades clearly reflect our profitability and potential as regional trade hub.

The Ambassador said that discussions are ongoing with the US to deepen agricultural trade ties.

He highlighted the extraordinary potential for collaboration in the technology sector, underpinned by Pakistan's youthful demographic with 65% of the population under 30.

He said that Pakistan offered a 70% cost advantage in IT services compared to the U.S. and 20-30% to any of our global competitors.

The Ambassador also noted the important role of around one million Pakistani-American diaspora in strengthening bilateral ties and people to people contacts.

Reflecting on the recent escalation between Pakistan and India, the Ambassador reiterated that Pakistan does not seek conflict and values peace above all. He said Pakistan is a peace loving country.

31 Phd Scholars Present Research Proposals at AIOU's BASR Meeting

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad: A total of 31 PhD scholars showcased their research proposals at the 73rd meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), underscoring the university's steadfast commitment to academic excellence and cutting-edge research. The meeting concluded on a successful note, marking a significant step forward in fostering a vibrant research culture.

The event was held in two sessions. The first session featured 15 PhD candidates from the Faculty of Sciences, who presented their innovative research synopses. Their presentations were met with high praise for demonstrating scholarly depth, originality, and scientific rigor.

The second session included 16 scholars from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, and the Faculty of Education. This session was chaired by Professor Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad, Director of BASR, who commended the

students' dedication and academic insight. The meeting was attended by the university's deans, senior faculty members, and subject experts, all of whom appreciated the students' research enthusiasm and intellectual competence. While the majority of proposals received approval, some were returned with constructive recommendations for refinement and enhancement.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized AIOU's role as a leading institution in promoting research and quality education.

He stated, "Our researchers and graduates continue to contribute meaningfully to the intellectual and developmental progress of the nation. AIOU remains committed to nurturing future scholars who will shape tomorrow's knowledge economy."



Members of Khilji Qaumi Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against Israeli aggression and atrocities on the Gaza Strip and solidarity with the Palestinians, at Quetta press club