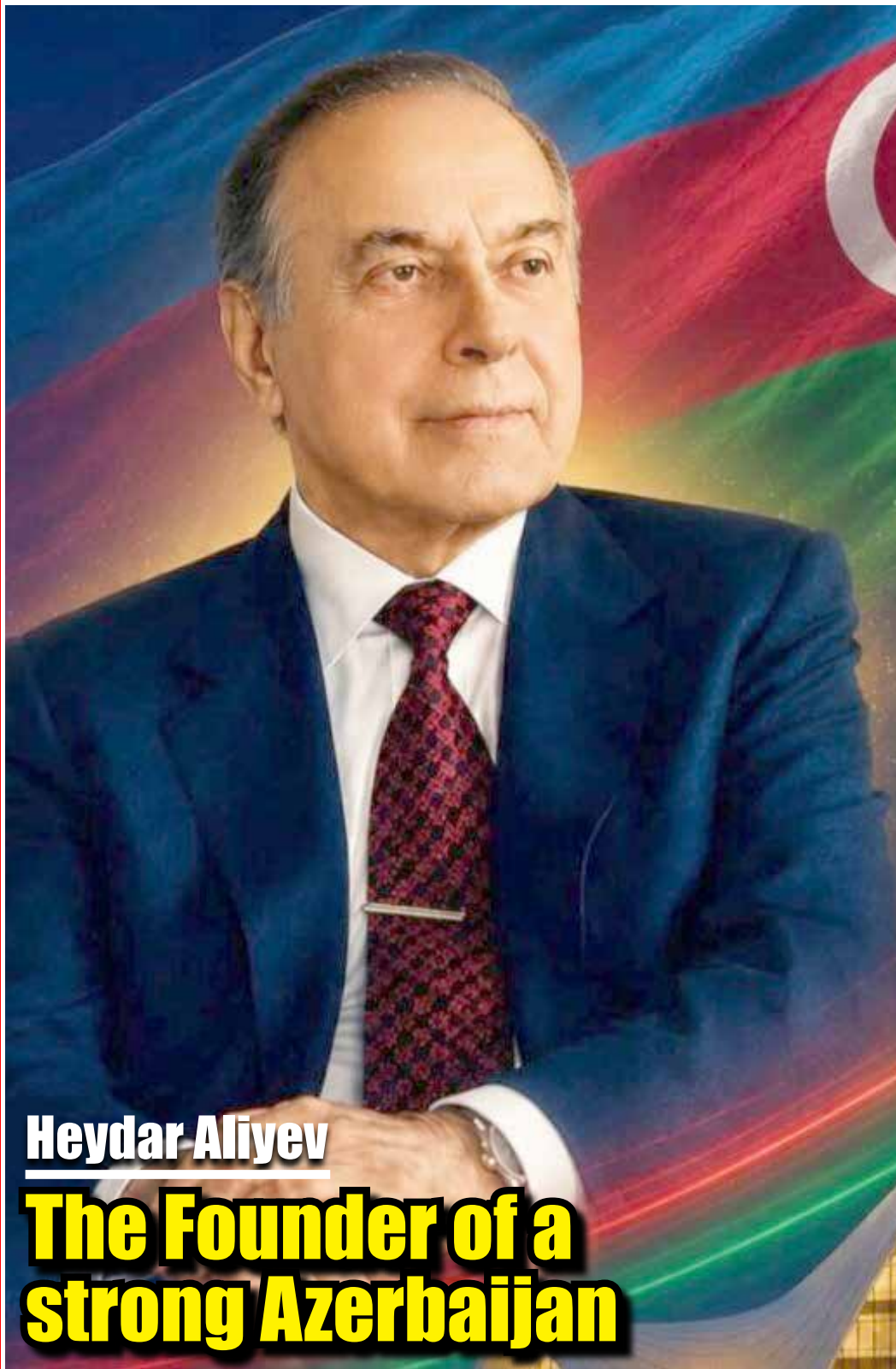


CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



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H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, paid an official visit to Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design. During the visit, **Mr. Usman Shah, CEO of Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design and Honorary Advisor to the Federal Minister Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khitchi, Ministry of National Heritage and Culture**, warmly received the distinguished guest.

Mr. Usman Shah provided a comprehensive tour of the institute, showcasing its various departments and highlighting the creative work and achievements of students across multiple disciplines. The Ambassador was briefed on the institute's academic programs, artistic initiatives, and ongoing projects aimed at promoting innovation in arts and design.

FORGE NEW CREATIVE ALLIANCE NIFTYSPHERE & SOUTH AFRICA



Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan, Acting High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan, visited Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design in Islamabad for a collaborative engagement focused on cultural exchange and creative partnerships.

During the visit, **Mr. Usman Shah, CEO of Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design**, warmly welcomed the distinguished guest and provided a comprehensive tour of the institute. He introduced various departments, ongoing student projects, and the institute's contributions to the creative industry.



RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR APPRECIATES NIFTYSPHERE STUDENTS FOR DESIGNING CULTURAL COSTUMES FOR RUSSIA'S NATIONAL DAY

Mr. Albert P. Khorev, Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, visited Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design in Islamabad, where he appreciated the creative efforts of the institute's students, particularly from the Fashion Department.

During the visit, the Ambassador was briefed on the ongoing work of students who are actively designing and stitching traditional Russian cultural costumes in preparation for Russia's National Day celebrations in June. He commended the students for their dedication, creativity, and attention to cultural detail, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in promoting cultural understanding and international collaboration.

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Why Pakistan must rethink its national priorities



PAKISTAN today stands at a critical crossroads. The country faces political uncertainty, economic instability, institutional weaknesses, rising poverty, and growing public frustration. Yet despite these serious challenges, very few people are addressing the real causes behind Pakistan's decline. Public debate largely revolves around roads, motorways, transport systems, and infrastructure projects. While such developments are necessary for a modern state, nations are not built merely with highways and concrete structures. Strong nations are built on justice, rule of law, constitutional supremacy, honesty, and equal opportunities for all citizens.

Unfortunately, these fundamental principles have long been neglected in Pakistan. The Constitution, which should guide governance and national direction, is too often interpreted according to political convenience. Institutions meant to ensure justice and accountability remain weak, while ordinary citizens continue to suffer. In such an environment, influence and wealth often matter more than merit and fairness. Pakistan's economic condition reflects the same structural weaknesses. The country survives largely on loans, aid packages, and financial assistance from friendly nations. Every new IMF agreement is celebrated as an achievement, when in reality it should be a cause for concern. No self-respecting nation can survive indefinitely on borrowed money. The comparison with India may be uncomfortable, but it is necessary. Pakistan recently demonstrated courage and capability in defending itself against a much larger adversary. Militarily, Pakistan proved that size alone does not determine strength. Economically, however, the picture is very different. India has transformed itself into a major economic force. Instead of seeking bailouts, it now contributes financially to international institutions. The question Pakistan must ask itself is: when will it shift from dependency to self-reliance?

The answer lies not in slogans but in reforms. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are often supported by deposits from friendly countries rather than by exports and industrial growth. Exports remain stagnant, industries struggle, and investors hesitate because of inconsistent policies and political uncertainty. Pakistan received the European Union's GSP Plus status, which provided an excellent opportunity to expand exports, yet the country failed to fully utilize this facility. Even its continuation now appears uncertain, though such decisions are often influenced more by geopolitics than merit.

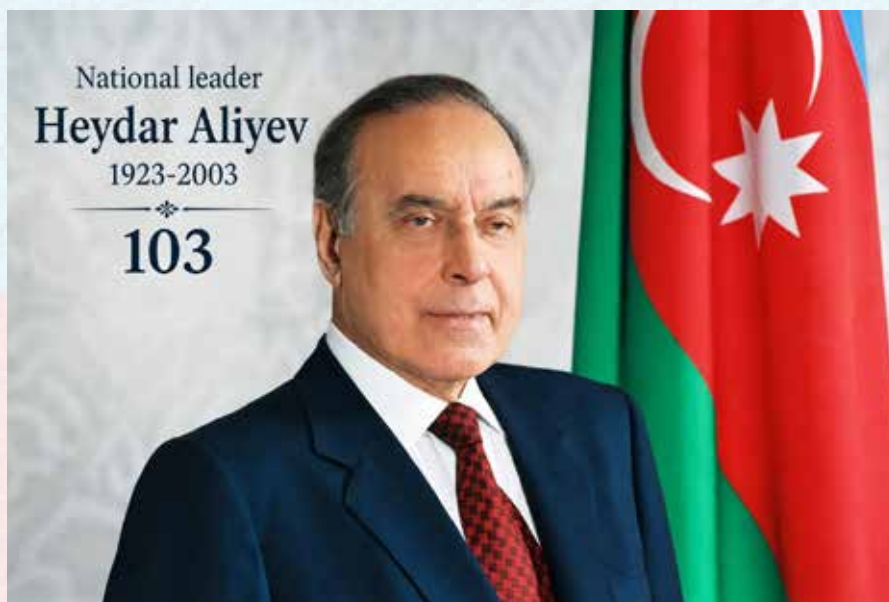
Among all the problems facing Pakistan, corruption remains perhaps the most destructive. Yet corruption is rarely discussed seriously anymore because it has become normalized within society. From small offices to major institutions, money and connections often carry more weight than honesty and competence. This culture destroys merit, discourages hard-working citizens, and weakens state institutions. The social consequences are alarming. A large segment of the population now lives below the poverty line. Millions struggle daily for food and shelter. Education, which should be the backbone of national progress, remains inaccessible for many children. Healthcare has become a privilege for the wealthy, while poor citizens are left helpless in overcrowded hospitals with inadequate facilities. Those in power today must remember that authority without moral legitimacy has little meaning. Stability cannot be achieved without justice, transparency, and public trust. History shows that nations survive not merely through force or political control, but through fairness and the confidence of their people. Pakistan still possesses enormous potential. It has talented youth, strategic importance, natural resources, and resilient citizens. But potential alone cannot guarantee progress. The country urgently needs institutional reforms, economic discipline, accountability, and a renewed commitment to constitutional governance. The time has come for serious national reflection. Cosmetic development projects and temporary financial arrangements cannot substitute for structural reform. Pakistan must decide whether it wants to remain dependent on loans and political compromises or become a confident, self-reliant state built on merit, justice, and the rule of law. The decisions made today will determine whether future generations inherit stability and hope or continued crisis and uncertainty.

Ansar

Chief Editor's Profile: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily The Muslim in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined Pakistan Observer as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join THE Nation as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with the The News spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of The Post, a sister publication of daily Khabrain. In 2010, he launched his own publication Centreline. He has authored two books on European Union. He launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012. In May 2020 he launched Pakistan's First & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad POST.

Heydar Aliyev

The Founder of a Strong and Independent Azerbaijan



AMONG the distinguished leaders whose legacies are etched into the chronicles of global history, Heydar Aliyev stands out for his pivotal role in shaping the contemporary history of Azerbaijan. National Leader Heydar Aliyev's extraordinary vision played a pivotal role in guiding Azerbaijan to independence and setting the course for its national development. His exceptional leadership, as well as during the late 20th century, was vital as the country faced major geopolitical changes after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

During Heydar Aliyev's first period of leadership in Azerbaijan, the country witnessed remarkable progress in socio-economic, scientific, technical, and cultural spheres within a short span of time. This advancement was driven by his exceptional talent in state governance, strong political will, deep patriotism, and visionary, goal-oriented decisions.

Thanks to the unparalleled contributions of the Great Leader between 1969 and 1982, Azerbaijan entered a new era of large-scale construction, creative development, and rapid progress across all areas of life. Crucial decisions were made and concrete actions were taken to develop national human resources, appoint qualified individuals to key positions, strengthen public administration institutions, and foster growth in science, education, industry, healthcare, culture, and other vital sectors. Thousands

of young Azerbaijanis were sent to top public administration schools and educational institutions across the former Soviet Union, where they received training in advanced industrial fields.

During this period, Azerbaijan's national income and overall production in industry and agriculture increased significantly. More capital investment was directed toward economic development than in previous decades, resulting in the construction and commissioning of hundreds of large industrial plants and factories.

In recognition of his leadership he was appointed First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in 1982. In this high-ranking position, he oversaw some of the most critical areas of the Soviet Union's economic, social, and cultural affairs. It should be underlined that Heydar Aliyev's exceptional state management abilities, strong political will, and unwavering determination were once again clearly demonstrated during his tenure as one of the top leaders of the USSR, where he successfully led major initiatives and large-scale projects. Throughout this period, he consistently prioritized the interests of the Azerbaijani people, leveraging every opportunity to support the republic's development. In October 1987, as a protest against the policies pursued by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and specifically

by Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev, Heydar Aliyev resigned from his position.

Upon his return to Azerbaijan in July 1990, Heydar Aliyev first lived in Nakhchivan, where he was elected to the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan the same year. In 1991-1993, he served as the Chairman of the Supreme Majlis (the legislative body) of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and the Deputy Chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Majlis.

In May-June 1993, when, as a result of a crisis in the government, the people of Azerbaijan demanded to bring their genius son, Heydar Aliyev to power, and the authorities of the day had no other choice but to invite Heydar Aliyev back to Baku. Responding to the will of the people during a time of great turmoil, Heydar Aliyev returned to power and led the country out of political chaos and disunity. He prevented the severe decline affecting all sectors, restored stability, and laid the foundation for the state's long-term, sustainable development.

The Contract of the Century, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, and other internationally important projects are connected with the name of Heydar Aliyev. As a result of the great leader's wise policy, high-speed socio-economic development was ensured in Azerbaijan, and it became a country with a strong position in international relations. The years under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan were the fateful stage when the nation took advantage of a rare historical opportunity and made its independence eternal and irreversible at the cost of great suffering.

In short, the National Leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a personality who created history and today he is being remembered by the people of Azerbaijan for his shining and great services to his nation. Today, the political course defined by the National Leader is being successfully continued by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. Under his leadership, the country won the 44-day Patriotic War. The territories liberated from almost 30 year long Armenia's occupation in 2020. President Ilham Aliyev fulfilled the dream of his father and the National Leader by liberating the lands of Azerbaijan from occupation and now the three-color national flag of Azerbaijan is waving in the liberated lands.

Iran Shattered the Dream of Greater Israel



Qamar Bashir

AT the beginning of the Iran war, many observers believed that the greatest beneficiary would ultimately be Israel. The war was projected as the final chapter in a long strategic campaign to neutralize Iran, dismantle its regional influence, and reshape the Middle East under a new geopolitical order favorable to Tel Aviv and Washington. Israeli intelligence circles, supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and their allies in Washington, appeared convinced that the Iranian state was fragile, internally collapsing, economically exhausted, and politically isolated. According to that narrative, all that Iran needed was one decisive kinetic push from the United States and Israel for the entire regime to collapse like a house of cards. The assumption was that once Tehran fell, a pro-Western puppet regime would emerge, Iranian resources would come under indirect American-Israeli influence, and the strategic dream of uncontested Israeli dominance in the Middle East would finally become reality. This was not merely about defeating Iran militarily; it was about transforming the entire political map of the region. But history often humiliates those who confuse ambition with reality. Instead of collapsing, Iran resisted. Instead of surrendering, it retaliated. Instead of fragmenting, it unified. And in doing so, it may have fundamentally damaged Israel's long-term strategic position more severely than any battlefield loss. The first and perhaps most devastating consequence for Israel has been the erosion of its unquestioned political influence inside the United States. For decades, support for Israel in Washington operated almost as an untouchable doctrine. Congressional appropriations for

Israel passed without scrutiny. Military aid flowed uninterrupted. Politicians from both parties competed to prove their loyalty to Israeli security interests. Criticizing Israel was politically dangerous, and opposing Israeli military actions was often portrayed as unpatriotic. But the Iran war changed the atmosphere dramatically. For the first time in years, large segments of the American public, independent journalists, political commentators, and even lawmakers began openly questioning whether the United States had entered the conflict to defend America or merely to protect Israeli strategic ambitions.

Earlier congressional efforts to restrict presidential authority for war against Iran had failed overwhelmingly. Yet when a similar bipartisan initiative reappeared later, it was defeated by only a single vote. That shift was historically significant. It demonstrated that many lawmakers who once unquestioningly aligned with Israeli demands were now beginning to recognize the political cost of appearing subordinate to foreign strategic interests. The second major failure for Israel was strategic miscalculation. Iran absorbed the initial attacks, maintained command cohesion, preserved national unity, and launched retaliatory strikes that shocked both Israel and the United States.

Instead of showcasing Israeli supremacy, the war exposed vulnerabilities. Iranian missile and drone operations damaged sensitive Israeli infrastructure and demonstrated that Israel could no longer operate with total impunity. The myth of invulnerability was shattered. When the United States entered directly to support Israel, American bases themselves became targets, expanding the conflict beyond Israel's borders and increasing the risks for Washington. The broader geopolitical consequences may prove even more damaging for Israel. One of the hidden strategic goals behind pressure on Iran was to accelerate normalization between Israel and major Sunni Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia. Israeli strategists believed that weakening Iran would frighten Gulf monarchies into deeper dependence on Israeli military and intelligence cooperation. Once Saudi Arabia fully normalized relations with Israel, Tel Aviv hoped to cement its hegemony across the Middle East.

Yet the opposite occurred. Most Middle Eastern states avoided direct participation in the war. Rather than joining a regional offensive against Iran, Gulf countries emphasized diplomacy, negotiation, coexistence, and regional stability. Their leaders repeatedly signaled that they

understood how to manage relations with Iran through political engagement, religious ties, and pragmatic diplomacy rather than total confrontation.

More importantly, Iran's military and strategic resilience has now altered the balance of power in the region. Instead of being weakened into submission, Iran has emerged as what many analysts increasingly describe as the new strategic sheriff of the Middle East. Its demonstrated offensive and defensive capabilities have created a new deterrence equation. For decades, Israel relied on the doctrine of absolute military superiority and total impunity. That doctrine has now been challenged openly and visibly. Ironically, the very war designed to establish "Greater Israel" may now accelerate the opposite outcome. Instead of expanding Israeli influence from the Euphrates to the Nile, the conflict has exposed the limits of Israeli and American power. The dream of uncontested territorial and military expansion has collided with the reality of regional resistance and shifting geopolitical dynamics. As a consequence, the future may increasingly move not toward a greater Israel, but toward an Israel forced back within more internationally recognized and defensible boundaries.

These questions would have been politically unthinkable only a few years ago. Today, they dominate public debate across many societies. In the end, the greatest lesson of the Iran war may be that military superiority alone cannot guarantee geopolitical victory. Nations endure through legitimacy, resilience, diplomacy, and the ability to command genuine trust among allies and populations. Israel entered the conflict hoping to reshape the Middle East in its favor. Instead, it may have triggered a historic reassessment of its role in the region and its relationship with the United States itself.

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

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Romania and Pakistan celebrate friendship through culture and cuisine

Ambassador Dan Stoenescu Hosts Vibrant Romanian Independence Day Reception

Ansar M Bhatti / DNA

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the Independence Day of Romania and to showcase the rich culture and traditions of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Dr. Dan Stoenescu hosted a grand and colourful reception in Islamabad. The event was co-hosted by the Honorary Consul General of Romania in Peshawar, Masood Qazi, and attracted diplomats, government officials, members of the business community, civil society representatives and cultural enthusiasts.

The reception presented a vibrant and festive look as guests arrived dressed in traditional attire reflecting both Romanian and Pakistani cultures. The gathering became a beautiful blend of Eastern and European traditions, with many foreign diplomats also wearing shalwar qameez, symbolizing cultural harmony and friendship between the two nations. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Dr. Dan Stoenescu warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the importance of celebrating cultural diversity and people-to-people connections. He said relations between Romania and Pakistan had grown from cordial to excellent over the years and were now touching new horizons in different sectors, including education, trade, culture and diplomacy.

The ambassador expressed optimism that bilateral relations

would further strengthen in the coming years through enhanced cooperation and increased exchanges between the two friendly countries. He appreciated the contribution of the Pakistani community as well as Romanian nationals working to promote mutual understanding and friendship. Masood Qazi, Honorary Consul General of Romania in Peshawar, also addressed the audience and welcomed the guests to the special celebration. He emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy in bringing nations closer and said events of this nature help strengthen ties between the people of Romania and Pakistan. He particularly highlighted the cultural richness and hospitality of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was prominently featured during the evening.

Guests thoroughly enjoyed the traditional Peshawari cuisine served at the reception. The menu included famous dishes such as namkeen gosht, lamb specialties, Peshawari chicken karahi, Kabuli pulao and several other local delicacies that reflected the culinary heritage of the province. The evening became even more lively with colourful traditional dance performances that added charm and excitement to the celebration. Romanian nationals also presented cultural dances, which were warmly appreciated by the audience. The fusion of Romanian and Pakistani music, food and traditional performances created a memorable atmosphere and reflected the growing friendship between the two countries.







Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, Bank Alfalah Partner for a cause

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, in partnership with Bank Alfalah, one of the leading commercial banks in Pakistan, has launched a rehabilitation programme to restore critical infrastructure and strengthen resilience in flood-affected communities across Gilgit-Baltistan. The initiative will be implemented in collaboration with Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Focus Humanitarian Assistance, and Aga Khan Rural Support Programme. The event was attended by His Excellency Salem Mohammed Alzaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, alongside senior leadership from Bank Alfalah and the Aga Khan Foundation. The gathering brought together key stakeholders from the development community, including the Asian Development Bank, Global Affairs Canada, the European Union, and Concern Worldwide, reflecting a strong, multi-partner commitment to advancing climate resilience and community reha-

bilitation efforts in the region.

The programme follows the devastating impacts of the August 2025 monsoon floods, which triggered flash floods, debris flows, cloudbursts, and glacial lake outburst floods across the region. According to assessments, key community infrastructure, including drinking water supply systems, irrigation channels, bridges, and homes, sustained extensive damage, leaving many vulnerable communities without access to essential services.

Key interventions include the rehabilitation of multiple drinking water supply schemes to restore access to safe water for thousands of households, reconstruction of irrigation channels to revive agricultural livelihoods, and construction of flood mitigation structures to protect vulnerable settlements and land from future hazards. Additionally, the replenishment of emergency winterized tents will enhance disaster preparedness in high-risk valleys.

With a total project budget of PKR 57.05 million, including a PKR 50 million grant from Bank Alfalah, and PKR 7.05 million

from Aga Khan Foundation, the initiative will focus on restoring safe drinking water supply schemes, rehabilitating irrigation channels, constructing flood protection works, and replenishing emergency shelter stocks. The project will directly benefit over 10,600 individuals and indirectly support nearly 13,000 people across the districts of Gilgit, Ghizer, and Hunza. The project will also include a PKR 9.3 million partnership for providing a 25KV solar system for a school in Chitral to facilitate students and faculty members.

Implementation will be guided by strong community engagement and coordination with local authorities to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are prioritized. The programme is designed with a focus on sustainability, with community ownership and maintenance mechanisms embedded to ensure long-term functionality of rehabilitated infrastructure.

In this context, it is worth highlighting the prominent role played by the United Arab Emirates in advancing global sustainability and climate action efforts, through the implementation of development and

“ Key interventions include the rehabilitation of multiple drinking water supply schemes to restore access to safe water for thousands of households, reconstruction of irrigation channels to revive agricultural livelihoods ”

humanitarian initiatives that strengthen community resilience to environmental challenges. These efforts are a natural extension of the longstanding and historic relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which are rooted in close cooperation and a strategic partnership, particularly in the areas of sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, and support to communities affected by natural disasters.

Atif Bajwa, the President and CEO of Bank Alfalah Limited, emphasised the commitment of Bank to contribute to the development of communities in Pakistan and shared, “We are proud to partner with the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan in launching this vital rehabilitation initiative, reflecting our enduring commitment to responsible banking and driving meaningful community investment. Guided by our focus on customers, colleagues, community, and country, this programme reinforces our resolve to support flood-impacted communities.” Akhtar Iqbal, the Chief Executive Officer of Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan noted that, “This partnership reflects our shared commitment to not only rebuild what has been lost but to strengthen the resilience of communities against future shocks. By restoring essential infrastructure such as water systems and irrigation networks, and investing in preparedness, we are enabling families in Gilgit-Baltistan to recover with dignity and security. We are grateful to Bank Alfalah for their timely support and collaboration in reaching the most affected communities.”





Malaysian envoy visits Aghosh college Murree

DNA

MURREE, H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, undertook a working visit to Aghosh College Murree as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen educational, humanitarian and people-to-people relations between Malaysia and Pakistan, particularly with welfare institutions and non-governmental organisations engaged in youth and community development. Upon arrival, the High Commissioner was warmly received by Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman, President of Al Khidmat Foundation Pakistan, together with the management and senior administration of the College. During the visit, H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan was given a comprehensive briefing on the facilities, academic environment and development initiatives of the institution, followed by a tour of the College campus and its various facilities. During the discussions, both sides exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the fields of education, youth empowerment and capacity building. Particular emphasis was placed on enhanc-

ing linkages through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), including opportunities for academic exchanges, training initiatives and scholarship programmes for students between Malaysia and Pakistan. The discussions also highlighted the importance of expanding institutional collaboration to provide greater educational exposure and professional development opportunities for young people from both countries.

A key highlight of the visit was the High Commissioner's interactive engagement session with the students of the College. H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan shared insights on Malaysia's history, multicultural society, economic development and the country's education system, while also highlighting the longstanding bilateral relations between Malaysia and Pakistan. The session was followed by an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively posed questions on Malaysia's culture, higher education opportunities, technological advancement, tourism sector and regional role within ASEAN. As part of the programme, H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan distributed 300 packs of Malaysian delicacies, namely Nasi Lemak and Mee Goreng, to the students and staff of Aghosh College Murree as a gesture of goodwill from Malaysia. In conjunction with the visit, the High Commissioner was also accorded the honour of planting a sapling within the College grounds, symbolising the enduring bonds, shared prosperity and growing relations between Malaysia and Pakistan.





ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE/Diplomatic News Agency met with the newly-arrived ambassador of Spain to Pakistan H.E Carlos Aragen. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest. – DNA

PRCS holds humanitarian forum

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) organized a Humanitarian Forum at its National Headquarters in Islamabad on Thursday in connection with World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day being observed globally under the theme “United in Humanity.” The event brought together humanitarian leaders, diplomats, government officials, Movement partners, representatives of national and international organizations, PRCS staff and volunteers to reaffirm collective commitment towards serving vulnerable communities and strengthening humanitarian cooperation in Pakistan.

The forum was attended by Chairperson PRCS Mrs. Farzhana Naek, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Mr. Mohamed Yahya as Chief Guest, PRCS Managing Body members, provincial branch leadership, Heads of Delegations and representatives from ICRC, IFRC, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay), along with representatives from NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, NDMA, PDMA and other humanitarian organizations.

An interactive dialogue session titled “Partnerships for Humanity” was moderated by Secretary PRCS Sindh Mr. Kanwar Waseem and Deputy Director PMER Mr. Javed Mazhar, focusing on strengthening collaboration and collective humanitarian action to address growing challenges including climate-induced disasters, emergencies and displacement.

Speaking on the occasion, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Mohamed Yahya appreciated the humanitarian services of PRCS and paid tribute to its volunteers for their dedica-

tion and commitment. He said the world is facing unprecedented humanitarian challenges driven by climate change, disasters, conflicts and funding constraints, making stronger cooperation, localization and early action more important than ever. He termed PRCS a true example of “localization in action” due to its strong community trust and volunteer network, calling volunteers the “first to arrive and last to leave” during emergencies.

Addressing the forum, Chairperson PRCS Mrs. Farzhana Naek highlighted PRCS initiatives and community-based programs aimed at reducing the suffering of vulnerable communities across Pakistan. She emphasized the vital role of volunteers and stressed that partnerships and collaboration remain central to PRCS humanitarian efforts under the spirit of “United in Humanity.” In a special video message, IFRC Regional Director for Asia Pacific Mr. Alexander Matheou highlighted growing humanitarian and climate challenges worldwide and appreciated the longstanding partnership between IFRC and PRCS.



Polish envoy lauds Pak mediatory role

Despite global instability, the Ambassador declared that Poland-Pakistan relations have “reached a higher level,” culminating in the successful October 2025 visit of Poland’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Radosław Sikorski, to Islamabad



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a poignant and personal address on the occasion of Polish National Day, the Ambassador of Poland, Maciej Pisarski reflected on an eventful four-and-a-half-year diplomatic tenure in Pakistan, highlighting deepening bilateral relations, mediation efforts in the Middle East, and a shared commitment to international law. Speaking at a ceremony commemorating the Third May Constitution of 1791, the Ambassador—who noted this would likely be his last formal address in the role—struck a tone of gratitude and reflection, steering away from a traditional farewell speech to offer a “personal and retrospective” account of his family’s journey in Pakistan. The Ambassador painted a sobering picture of a “rapidly changing international environment,” marked by turmoil and human suffering. He recalled the embassy’s regular commemorations of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and the victims of terrorism in Pakistan. “We have kept reminding ourselves that human suffering, especially of the civilian population, in one place

should not, could not, make us numb to the sufferings of others,” he stated, adding that “there cannot be peace without justice; without self-determination and freedom to choose one’s future in a sovereign homeland.” A notable highlight of the speech was the Ambassador’s praise for Pakistan’s recent role as a mediator in Middle Eastern conflicts. He referred to “The Islamabad Process,” stating that Pakistan has “stepped in as a mediator, working with the concerned parties to find a solution to the conflict through diplomacy and dialog,” and confirmed that the process “has already contributed to the de-escalation.” Despite global instability, the Ambassador declared that Poland-Pakistan relations have “reached a higher level,” culminating in the successful October 2025 visit of Poland’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Radosław Sikorski, to Islamabad. High-level talks with Pakistani leadership, including President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, have opened “a new chapter” in cooperation, focused on upholding the UN Charter and international law. Economic ties are also strengthening. Bilateral trade has exceeded 1.3 billion

USD, described by the envoy as a “genuine GSP plus miracle in the working. consumers along with advanced technology and vocational training. On a personal note, the Ambassador said the “lasting legacy” of his tenure would be the people-to-people connections fostered by the embassy. He cited educational projects in Islamabad and Chapursan Valley, vocational training for underprivileged children, and collaboration with women activists in Hunza to advance empowerment and safe spaces. He also paid tribute to Pakistan’s high-altitude climbing community, noting Poland’s historic legacy—highlighting Wanda Rutkiewicz, the first woman to scale K2 in 1986. The Ambassador extended deep thanks to his wife for her support, calling their Pakistani journey “amazing,” and praised the embassy team—without whom, he said, “the ambassador would be just a lone white sail, lost in a vast ocean.” Concluding with a heartfelt “Hamari Pakistani Dostou – Bohot Shukria” (Thank you, our Pakistani friends), he declared: “Pak-Poland Dosti Zindabad” (Long live Pakistan-Poland friendship). He then invited guests to enjoy pierogis, a Polish specialty, as dinner was served.



Polish envoy lauds Pak mediatory role



Russian embassy commemorates Victory in Great Patriotic War

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Russia in Pakistan commemorated the 81st anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The celebrations began with the “Immortal Regiment” march, attended by Russian Chargé d’Affaires Natalia Shmeleva, Russian Defence Attaché Colonel Vadim Fenchenko, the Ambassadors of Belarus, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan together with their family members, Embassy staff, Russian community in Pakistan, as well as citizens of several Central Asian countries.

The “Immortal Regiment” is an annual public remembrance campaign held around Victory Day on May 9. During the march, participants carry portraits of relatives who fought, perished, or contributed to the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The event symbolizes the continuity of historical memory across generations and pays tribute to the sacrifice, courage, and resilience of those who defended their homeland during the Second World War. As part of the celebrations, the Russian Embassy School hosted a commemorative concert.

The event was attended by the Ambassa-



dors of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. In her opening remarks, Russian Chargé d’Affaires ad interim Natalia Shmeleva emphasized that Victory Day remains a symbol of courage, unity, and the unparalleled feat of the peoples of the USSR, who, at the cost of immense sacrifice and hardship, crushed Nazism. She condemned attempts to distort historical truth and revive Nazi ideology, stressing

that Russia will continue to preserve the memory of the Great Victory of the Soviet people. A particularly moving part of the evening was the recitation of wartime poetry and performances of heartfelt compositions by children of Embassy staff. Guests were also treated to a photo exhibition titled “Saved Europe,” prepared by the National Center for Historical Memory under the President of the Russian Federation.

Indonesian Ambassador calls on Pakistan Navy Chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Lt Gen (R) Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Pakistan Navy, at the Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

The meeting highlighted the strong and growing bilateral relations between Indonesia and Pakistan, particularly in the defence and maritime domains. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, including naval cooperation, maritime security, and opportunities to further strengthen defence ties between the two Muslim-majority nations. This high-level engagement underscores Pakistan’s continued focus on enhancing strategic partnerships with key Indo-Pacific nations like Indonesia, which shares deep cultural, religious, and economic linkages with Pakistan.

Pakistan and Indonesia have been exploring greater collaboration in areas such as joint military exercises, defence production, and maritime domain awareness in recent years.



Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Lt Gen (R) Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters Islamabad

Serena Hotels, Australian HC join hands to support blind cricket

CEO Serena Hotels, Aziz Bolani, said: "This initiative reflects the power of partnerships in advancing inclusion and opportunity through sport"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission, in partnership with the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) and Serena Hotels, supported a national training camp for visually impaired women and girls in Islamabad from 25–30 April. The annual initiative built on the historic formation of Pakistan's first blind women's cricket team in 2018. This year, 52 participants from across Pakistan took part in the camp, developing their skills

and working towards national selection. Speaking after the closing T20 match, Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Timothy Kane, said: "Cricket is a powerful force for connection and inclusion. It brings Australia and Pakistan together through a shared passion, and it also creates opportunities for women and girls – including those with disabilities – to challenge barriers and succeed." "At a time when Australian players and coaches are actively engaged in Pakistan's cricket landscape, this initiative highlights the depth of our partnership – from elite

sport to grassroots impact." Chairman of the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council, Syed Sultan Shah, said: "Blind cricket is more than a sport – it is a platform for empowerment. With the right support, these women can excel both on and off the field." CEO Serena Hotels, Aziz Bolani, said: "This initiative reflects the power of partnerships in advancing inclusion and opportunity through sport." Blind cricket originated in Australia in 1922 and has since grown into a global sport, with both Australia and Pakistan playing leading roles in its development.







"Taste of the World" 2026 presented at Serena Hotel

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, stated, "At Serena Hotels, we are committed to creating platforms that celebrate cultural diversity while contributing meaningfully to society. 'Taste of the World' reflects this vision by bringing together international communities and supporting a cause that extends beyond the event itself"

D N A

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Cultural Diplomacy initiative hosted Taste of the World, a distinguished food festival celebrating international cuisine and cultural diversity. The event featured 24 stalls, including participation from various diplomatic missions, each showcasing an authentic selection of traditional dishes and offering guests a rich, immersive global culinary experience. The festival was inaugurated by the President of IFWA together with the CEO of Serena Hotels, Mr. Aziz Boolani. The occasion underscored the importance of cultural

exchange and highlighted the role of such initiatives in strengthening community engagement through shared experiences. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, stated, "At Serena Hotels, we are committed to creating platforms that celebrate cultural diversity while contributing meaningfully to society. 'Taste of the World' reflects this vision by bringing together international communities and supporting a cause that extends beyond the event itself." This initiative brings together cultures in a truly meaningful way, showcasing the richness of global traditions while reinforcing the spirit of collaboration and compassion.

In addition to celebrating global cuisine, the festival was dedicated to giving back to the community. Proceeds from the event were donated to charitable organizations supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of visually impaired individuals. A total amount of PKR-2 million was raised through this initiative, reflecting the collective generosity and commitment of all participating partners and attendees. Serena Hotels remains dedicated to promoting cultural exchange and community engagement through meaningful initiatives, continuing to create platforms that bring people together while contributing positively to society.





Speakers call for stronger Pakistan-Zimbabwe relations

SSI-PAIDAR Commemorate Zimbabwe's National Day

Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), organized an event to commemorate Zimbabwe's National Day. The proceedings, which began with the national anthems of Pakistan and Zimbabwe were moderated by Dr. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. Speakers included Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI; H.E. T.M.J Abu-Basutu, (RTD) Air Marshal, Am-

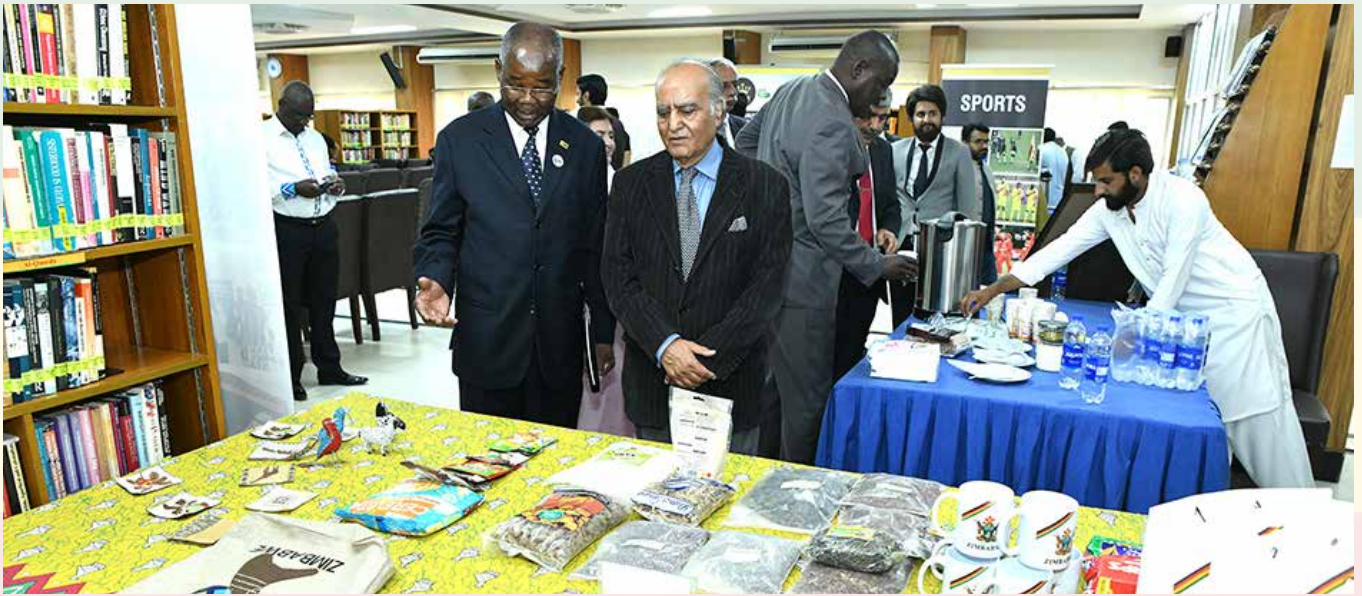
bassador of Zimbabwe to Pakistan; Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi, Ambassador of Pakistan to Zimbabwe. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, President PAIDAR. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood highlighted the significance of Zimbabwe's National Day, marking its independence on April 18, 1980, and paid tribute to its resilience and struggle for sovereignty. He underscored the strong Pakistan-Zimbabwe relationship, rooted in mutual respect and South-South cooperation, and recalled Pakistan's consistent support for Zimbabwe's independence. He noted ongoing collaboration in defence, education, agriculture, health,

and capacity building. He emphasized the potential to expand trade and economic cooperation, particularly in agriculture, textiles, and light engineering, under Pakistan's 'Engage Africa' policy. He also reaffirmed the importance of stronger institutional linkages and highlighted ISSI's role, through CAMEA, in promoting dialogue, research, and engagement with Africa.

In her remarks, Dr. Amina Khan highlighted the significance of the National Day of the Republic of Zimbabwe, paying tribute to the courage and resilience of its people. She underscored that Africa remains a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy and noted CAMEA's efforts under the 'Engage Africa' policy to promote meaningful engagement through initiatives such as National Day and Africa Day commemorations. She emphasized the importance of building practical partnerships and strengthening people-to-people and institutional linkages.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed highlighted that Pakistan's relationship with Zimbabwe dates back to its nationalist struggle, when Pakistan was among the first countries to extend political, diplomatic, financial, and material support against British colonial rule. He noted that the partnership, strengthened through leadership-level engagement, continued after independence, with Pakistan among the first to recognize Zimbabwe in 1980, reflecting deep mutual trust and solidarity. He highlighted cooperation in defence, trade, and people-to-people contacts, as





well as the role of the Pakistani diaspora and early cultural and sporting exchanges, including cricket ties in the 1990s. He stressed the importance of amplifying the voices of developing countries and the potential for deeper cooperation in a changing global order. He further pointed to the shifting global balance from West to East, linking it to Afro-Asian solidarity rooted in the Bandung spirit, and expressed confidence that relations can grow further through expanded people-to-people and business-to-business linkages, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to Africa solidarity. Ambassador T.M.J Abu-Basutu, in his remarks, appreciated the ISSI for organising the celebration of Zimbabwe's 46th National Day and highlighted the long-standing, brotherly ties between Zimbabwe and Pakistan. He acknowledged

Pakistan's consistent support since Zimbabwe's independence, particularly in defence cooperation and the training of Zimbabwe's Air Force. Emphasising the need to expand bilateral ties, he pointed to the untapped potential in sectors such as trade, mining, tourism, and infrastructure, and called for greater collaboration between the governments and private sectors of both countries to foster economic growth and deepen the partnership. He highlighted Pakistan's longstanding role in training the Zimbabwe Air Force and ongoing cooperation through institutions such as the National Defence University and Foreign Service Academy, underscoring strong bilateral ties across defence, education, and sports. Emphasizing "Unity and Development towards Vision 2030," he called for collective efforts to build a pros-

perous and modern Zimbabwe, expressed optimism about its economic prospects, and reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support, including for its UN engagements and bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (2027-2028). Ambassador Amjad Qazi said that Pakistan and Zimbabwe enjoy cordial relations and support each other at multilateral forums, including the United Nations. He noted that an MoU on bilateral cooperation will be signed, with defence cooperation as an important aspect of ties. He also highlighted education linkages, with Zimbabwean students studying in Pakistan and efforts underway to enhance university-to-university collaboration. He further stressed the need to strengthen business-to-business connections. In particular, he underscored greater engagement between the chambers of commerce.

Isphanyar Bhandara hosted his annual minority lunch

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Isphanyar Bhandara, Member of the National Assembly from the Pakistan Muslim League (N), hosted his annual minority lunch at his residence in Rawalpindi, bringing together representatives from a wide spectrum of religious communities in a show of unity and interfaith harmony.

The gathering was attended by members of the Sikh, Parsi, Baha'i, Kalasha, Buddhist, Hindu and Christian communities, along with Muslims, as well as prominent religious figures and public personalities.

Among the notable attendees were former Bishop Samuel Azariah, Dr. Majid Abel, Administrative Senior Pastor of the

Naulakha Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, and Guru Sukhdev, a leading figure among the Nath Panthi Yogis.

The event also saw the participation of sitting and former parliamentarians, including Naveed Amir Jeeva, Neelum Kumari, Asiya Nasir, Zammurd Khan, and Kamran Michael. Former members of provincial assemblies, including Gursaran Lal, Joel Amir Sahotra, and Wilson Wazir, were also in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, Isphanyar Bhandara expressed gratitude to the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League (N) for its continued commitment to an inclusive and representative Pakistan. He said such efforts reflect the ideals of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who envisioned a Pakistan where all citi-

zens enjoy equal rights and opportunities regardless of faith.

He also acknowledged the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif, highlighting Pakistan's emergence as a credible interlocutor for peace and regional cooperation under his stewardship. He further appreciated the role of Field Marshal Asim Munir in reinforcing these efforts and contributing to the country's growing diplomatic stature.

The annual lunch has become a regular feature aimed at fostering dialogue, strengthening mutual respect, and celebrating Pakistan's religious diversity. Participants appreciated the initiative as a meaningful platform for engagement among different faith communities and policymakers.







Russian embassy's 'genocide of Soviet people' exhibition held

Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev addressed the gathering and shared personal family stories while stressing the need to preserve historical truth and counter neo-Nazism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Distinguished diplomats and esteemed guests inaugurated the photo exhibition 'Genocide of Soviet People' organized by the Russian Embassy in Pakistan at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad. The exhibition, which opened on April 17, 2026, featured powerful archival photographs and historical materials highlighting the atrocities committed against Soviet civilians during the Great Patriotic War

(1941-1945), where approximately 27 million Soviet lives were lost, including around 14 million civilians. Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev addressed the gathering and shared personal family stories while stressing the need to preserve historical truth and counter neo-Nazism. Diplomats from CIS countries including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, along with representatives from Cuba, Iran, Kenya, Rwanda, Syria, Zimbabwe and Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the event. The inauguration concluded with candle lighting and a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims.

K-Wave chaos: Korean Embassy event triggers security scare in Red Zone

Authorities are reportedly reviewing the situation and may seek an explanation from the embassy to prevent such occurrences in the future.

The incident has underscored the importance of strict adherence to security protocols, particularly in areas as sensitive as Islamabad's Red Zone



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serious security concerns have emerged following a large-scale public gathering organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the federal capital, which led to unprecedented crowds entering sensitive areas of the city, including the Red Zone. According to eyewitness accounts and officials, the embassy hosted the “2026 K-WAVE Festa,” a cultural event intended to promote Korean culture, music, and entertainment. However, instead of issuing limited or targeted invitations, the embassy allegedly circulated open invitations across multiple social media platforms, drawing an overwhelming response from the public. As a result, tens of thousands of people from Islamabad as well as other cities flocked to the venue, many arriving with families. The unexpected turnout triggered severe traffic congestion across key arteries of the capital, particularly in and around the highly sensitive Red Zone, which houses key government buildings and foreign missions. Sources indicated that the number of attendees far exceeded the capacity of the designated venue, leading to chaotic scenes outside the premises. Hundreds of individuals who had traveled long distances to attend the event were left stranded outside, unable to gain entry. The situation quickly escalated into a security challenge for law enforcement agencies. Officials from the

Islamabad Police were forced to intervene as the crowd swelled beyond manageable limits. Police personnel reportedly began questioning individuals and dispersing large groups in an effort to regain control of the situation and prevent any potential breach of security protocols. The incident occurred in close proximity to the Diplomatic Enclave, one of the most heavily guarded zones in the capital. The sudden influx of people raised alarm bells among diplomatic circles, with some diplomats reportedly fearing that the gathering could be a form of protest or an attempted intrusion into the enclave. Adding to the gravity of the situation was the already heightened security environment in Islamabad due to ongoing geopolitical developments, including sensitive discussions linked to the United States–Iran talks. Security in the capital had been tightened in anticipation of any unforeseen developments, making the large, uncontrolled gathering even more concerning for authorities. Despite strict security measures in place, the sheer volume of attendees reportedly allowed many individuals to make their way into restricted areas of the Red Zone, raising questions about lapses in access control and coordination between event organizers and security agencies. Residents of the area have expressed strong concern over the incident, criticizing what they describe as a lack of planning and coordination on the part of the Korean embassy.

Many have called upon relevant authorities to seek a formal explanation from the Korean mission regarding the circumstances that led to such a large and unmanaged gathering. “There should have been proper planning and coordination with local authorities, especially given the sensitivity of the area,” said a resident of the nearby sector. “Inviting such a large number of people without ensuring adequate arrangements posed a serious risk not just to attendees but also to the entire diplomatic community.” Security analysts have also pointed out that events held in high-security zones require meticulous planning, including controlled access, pre-registration of attendees, and close coordination with law enforcement agencies. The apparent absence of such measures in this case has raised concerns about potential vulnerabilities in the city’s security framework. As of now, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea has not issued any official clarification regarding the incident. Questions remain unanswered about why an open invitation strategy was adopted and why the number of expected attendees was not aligned with the venue’s capacity. Authorities are reportedly reviewing the situation and may seek an explanation from the embassy to prevent such occurrences in the future. The incident has underscored the importance of strict adherence to security protocols, particularly in areas as sensitive as Islamabad’s Red Zone.



Discussion on Pakistan's Mediating Role as Genuine Reflection of Bandung Spirit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with the International Institute for Regional and International Studies (IIRIS), successfully convened a discussion on “Pakistan’s Current Mediating Role as a Genuine Reflection of the Bandung Spirit,” held in hybrid, 29 April 2026, at the Indonesian Corner, National Library of Pakistan (NLP).

The event brought together distinguished diplomats, scholars, strategic thinkers, and students from different universities including Quaid-e-Azam, NUST, Bahria, and NUML to reflect on Pakistan’s evolving role in fostering dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution in an increasingly dynamic global order.

In his welcoming remarks, Shafqat Rasool, President of IIRIS, underscored the enduring relevance of the Bandung Spirit as a guiding framework for inclusive diplomacy, mutual respect, and South-South cooperation.

The forum was enriched by the insightful perspectives of General Naeem Khalid Lodhi, Former Defence Secretary of Pakistan, who emphasized strategic balance and pragmatic diplomacy in contemporary conflicts. Abdullah Gul, Direc-

tor General of MEASAC Research Center, offered a nuanced analysis of geopolitical dynamics, while Dr. Sarwat Rauf, Head of the Department of International Relations at NUML Islamabad, underscored the Bandung framework remained a living reference for Pakistan’s credible mediating role. In his turn, Professor Tahir Malik of NUML Islamabad further contributed by contextualizing these developments within evolving international relations paradigms.

Representatives of the Embassy of Indonesia connected Pakistan’s mediating role with the historical legacy of the Bandung Spirit, reaffirming the importance of solidarity, sovereignty, and non-alignment in today’s world. “One of the essences of the Bandung Spirit is the resolution of all international disputes through peaceful means,” commented Mr. Donny Ardiwidha, First Secretary of Political Affairs on Pakistan’s mediating role.

“Pakistan alongside Indonesia and other key co-sponsors played a foundational role in the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference which subsequently adopted the Bandung Spirit. For Indonesia and some other countries that uphold peace, Bandung Spirit has inspired their ‘fitrah or nature of foreign pol-

icy,” explained Minister Counsellor Rahmat Hindiarta, Coordinator for Information, Social and Cultural Affairs of the Indonesian Embassy.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta conveyed high appreciation from Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo to distinguished speakers and all participants for their presence at the Indonesian Corner which has been dedicated as a hub for people-to-people relations. At the same time, Ambassador of Indonesia was in Lahore for ASEAN-Pakistan engagement along with other ASEAN Head of Missions.

The event concluded with a thoughtful vote of thanks by Dr. Munawar Husain, Chairman of the IIRIS Board of Directors, who acknowledged the valuable contributions of all speakers and participants, reiterating IIRIS’s commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and diplomatic engagement.

This dialogue on April as the birth month of Bandung Spirit stands as a testament to the power of collaborative platforms in advancing meaningful conversations and reviving the Bandung Spirit not merely as a history, but as a living principle shaping pathways toward peace, cooperation, and shared global responsibility.

Army Day of Nepal celebrated



FPCCI chief calls on Ambassador of Jordan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a move aimed at fostering stronger economic cooperation, Ambassador of Jordan, Maen Khreasat recently held a high-level meeting with the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), H.E. Atif Ikram Sheikh. Geographic Reference: Describing the engagement as an “utmost pleasure,” Mr. Khreasat welcomed his “dear brother” to discuss a wide range of business topics. The primary focus of the dialogue was to enhance mutual cooperation, identify avenues for shared economic interest, and chart the way forward for sustainable growth between the respective business communities. “The discussions were highly productive,” Mr. Khreasat noted. “We explored strategic opportunities to align our efforts for mutual benefit, leveraging the strong institutional framework of the FPCCI.” The meeting underscores a growing commitment to deepen trade linkages and remove barriers to investment. Both leaders agreed on the importance of continued dialogue to translate shared visions into tangible economic outcomes.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan Visits APJCCI Office, Emphasizes Enhanced Trade & Economic Cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, visited the newly established office of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (APJCCI) in Islamabad. During his visit, the Ambassador highly appreciated the efforts made for the establishment of APJCCI and acknowledged its growing role in strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He remarked that the Chamber

is playing an important role in facilitating business linkages and promoting cooperation between the private sectors of both countries. Highlighting specific initiatives, H.E. Khazar Farhadov proposed organizing an exhibition of Azerbaijani products in Pakistan to introduce high-quality Azerbaijani goods to the local market. He also suggested the concept of establishing an “Azerbaijan Market” or dedicated promotional platforms in Pakistan to further enhance the visibility of Azerbaijani products. He informed that PASHA Real Estate, one of Azerbaijan’s leading business groups, is doing events in Pakistan to introduce

the premium real estate projects, inviting Pakistani investors and companies to explore opportunities in Azerbaijan’s growing property sector. He also extended an invitation to the Patron-in-Chief of APJCCI, Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, to attend the World Urban Forum (WUF). The World Urban Forum, organized by UN-Habitat, is a premier global platform focusing on sustainable urban development, housing, and investment opportunities in urban infrastructure, offering valuable insights for investors and policymakers alike. Emphasizing the importance of people-to-people contact and connectivity, the Ambassador noted that the frequency of direct flights between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is increasing, making travel more convenient for business communities. He added that further improvements in connectivity are expected in the coming months.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Patron-in-Chief APJCCI, thanked His Excellency for visiting the newly established office and for his continuous support in promoting bilateral relations. He informed that APJCCI is planning to take a business delegation to Azerbaijan in June, aimed at exploring opportunities across multiple sectors. He highlighted that Pakistani companies are keen to engage with Azerbaijani counterparts, and APJCCI is actively disseminating information to facilitate business connections and partnerships. On this occasion, Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman APJCCI, also appreciated the Ambassador’s dedicated efforts in promoting trade relations and supporting the establishment of the Joint Chamber. He expressed optimism that, with continued cooperation and engagement, bilateral trade between Pakistan and Azerbaijan will witness significant growth in the coming years.





Russian envoy Albert Khorev visits Niftysphere Institute

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Albert Khorev, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan, paid an official visit to the Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Design. The visit marked a significant step toward enhancing cultural collaboration and educational exchange between Pakistan and Russia. Geographic Reference During the visit, the Ambassador was warmly received and given a comprehensive tour of the institute by Syed Usman Tahir, Honorary Advisor to the federal minister of culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi of Pakistan. The delegation explored various departments of the institute, gaining insights into ongoing academic programs, creative activities, and skill-based training initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, both sides emphasized the importance of promoting cultural diplomacy through art, education, and skill development. It was highlighted that Pakistan and Russia share rich cultural heritages, and collaborative efforts will be made to foster cultural exchange programs, student opportunities, and professional skill

development initiatives. The Ambassador appreciated the institute's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting creative education. He expressed interest in future collaborations, including participation in upcoming cultural events and joint activities between Russian institutions and Niftysphere. The event was also attended by Ms. Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate, who commended the institute for its outstanding contribution to arts and education in Pakistan. A special highlight of the visit was a musical performance by renowned sitar player writer, and musician Mr. Wajih Nizami. He captivated the audience by performing classical compositions, including a Russian melody and traditional tunes representing the diverse provinces of Pakistan. The performance was highly appreciated by the Ambassador and distinguished guests, symbolizing cultural harmony and artistic unity. The visit concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing their commitment to future collaborations. Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Design reaffirmed its dedication to contributing actively to upcoming Russian cultural events and strengthening bilateral relations through art, education, and creative exchange.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan leads Pakistan delegation at ECO conference in Shusha

In his keynote address, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan highlighted Pakistan's vast investment potential in the tourism sector, inviting governments and the private sector from ECO member states to explore opportunities across infrastructure, hospitality, and destination development



SHUSHA (AZERBAIJAN): Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism and National Coordinator, led the Pakistani delegation at the high-level ECO Conference in Shusha, commemorating its designation as the Tourism Capital of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for 2026.

The multi-day engagements, held from April 27 to 29, brought together senior representatives from ECO member states including Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan, reaffirming a shared commitment to advancing regional tourism cooperation, connectivity, and sustainable development. The opening ceremony and official proceedings were attended by prominent Azerbaijani leadership, including Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Aydin Karimov, Mayor of Shusha.

In his keynote address, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan highlighted Pakistan's vast investment potential in the tourism sector, inviting governments and the private sector from ECO member states to explore opportunities across infrastructure, hospitality, and destination development. He noted that Pakistan's tourism sector is currently experiencing annual growth of approximately 10%, employing 4.7 million people, and is poised for significant expansion under a comprehensive 5–10 year tourism plan and policy. This roadmap aims to increase employment to 8 million jobs and enhance tourism's contribution to GDP to \$40 billion. Numerous package including adventure tourism, medical tourism and religious tourism are being introduced and special discounted packages will be launched for members States to encourage their citizens to visit Pakistan. He also highlighted the importance of establishing a unified visa policy for the region similar to the Schengen visa program.

He further emphasized that under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, major reforms are being undertaken to strengthen tourism as a key pillar of economic growth. He also highlighted Pakistan's strategic role as a regional stabilizer, acknowledging national leadership of the Prime Minister & Field Marshal for ensuring peace and stability critical for tourism development. Infrastructure & Connectivity Outlook Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan underscored Pakistan's strong tourism infrastructure and accessibility, including:

5 international airports and 15 domestic airports
Over 12,000 km of motorway network

7,700 km of railway connectivity
Presence of five of the world's highest peaks
Expanding nationwide 5G connectivity

These factors position Pakistan as a well-connected, high-potential destination for international tourists and investors.

A key highlight of Pakistan's participation was its cultural and culinary showcase, where authentic Pakistani cuisine was presented to international delegates. Signature dishes including Chicken Biryani, Nihari, Mutton Karahi and Seekh Kebabs along with traditional sweets and nan reflected the country's rich heritage and diversity which was appreciated all the visitors.

During this segment, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan was accompanied by Fuad Naghiyev Chairman of the state tourism agency and Aydin Karimov Mayor of the city, symbolizing strong cultural ties and bilateral engagement between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. On the sidelines of the conference, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan held one-on-one meetings with tourism leadership from Türkiye, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to discuss:

Enhancement of bilateral tourism cooperation
Development of hospitality exchange programs
Strengthening of academia–industry linkages
Organization of joint tourism roadshows

He emphasized the importance of increasing inbound tourism to Pakistan, particularly from countries with existing direct flight connectivity, to balance current travel trends. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan was recognized as the youngest representative from Pakistan at the conference, reflecting the country's commitment to empowering youth participation in international tourism platforms. The forum holds added importance as Pakistan prepares to host ECO events in 2027 in Lahore and Islamabad. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan extended a formal invitation to all member states to participate, positioning Pakistan as a future hub for regional tourism dialogue and collaboration. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan's leadership at the ECO Conference in Shusha underscores Pakistan's commitment to leveraging tourism as a driver of economic growth, regional integration, and cultural diplomacy. His participation has opened new avenues for investment, partnerships, and enhanced connectivity across the ECO region, reinforcing Pakistan's vision for a sustainable and globally competitive tourism sector. – DNA

ZLK Islamic Financial Services engages with Turkish Ambassador

D N A

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of ZLK Islamic Financial Services (Pvt.) Limited, along with Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Business Executive Manager, held a meeting with His Excellency Dr. Irfan Neziroğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, to explore avenues for collaboration in the field of Islamic finance and capital markets. The meeting served as a platform to strengthen bilateral engagement and discuss opportunities for economic cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye. During the discussion, Mr. Zahid Latif Khan introduced ZLK Islamic Financial Services as Pakistan's first Shariah-compliant brokerage firm licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), highlighting its commitment to providing ethical, interest-free investment solutions in the capital market.

Key areas of discussion included the potential for joint ventures and strategic partnerships, as well as the promotion of Shariah-compliant investments. Both sides acknowledged the growing importance of Islamic finance as a catalyst for sustainable economic development and financial inclusion.

His Excellency Dr. Irfan Neziroğlu appreciated the efforts of ZLK Islamic Financial Services in advancing Islamic finance in Pakistan and emphasized the significance of such initiatives in strengthening the financial ecosystem. He also expressed keen interest in visiting the Islamabad Stock Exchange Tower to gain further insight into Pakistan's capital market landscape.



The meeting underscored the strong cultural affinity, shared values, and mutual respect between Pakistan and Türkiye, which continue to provide a solid foundation for long-term cooperation in Islamic finance and capital markets. As a gesture of goodwill, Mr. Zahid Latif Khan presented a token of appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Irfan Neziroğlu. About ZLK Islamic Financial Services (Pvt.) Limited ZLK Islamic Financial

Services (Pvt.) Limited is Pakistan's first Shariah-compliant brokerage firm, licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). As a subsidiary of Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Limited, the company is dedicated to offering innovative and ethical investment solutions aligned with Islamic principles, facilitating participation in the Pakistan Stock Exchange while promoting financial inclusion.



Turkish embassy marks national sovereignty & children's day

Ambassador Neziroglu noted that the founder of the Republic of Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, dedicated the day not only to Turkish children but to children around the world, reflecting a universal message of peace, unity, and hope for future generations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu highlighted the historical significance of National Sovereignty and Children's Day while underscoring the enduring brotherhood between Türkiye and Pakistan. Addressing a ceremony held here at the Embassy lawns, the ambassador said April 23 is celebrated annually in Türkiye as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, marking the establishment of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 1920 during the Turkish War of Independence.

Prominent among those who attended the were Chairperson PEMRA Ms. Ambreen Jan, Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Syria North Cyprus. The ambassador noted that the founder of the Republic of Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, dedicated the day not only to Turkish children but to children around the world, reflecting a universal message of peace, unity, and hope for future generations. The ambassador recalled that in 1979, the United Nations rec-

ognized the day as an international event, after which Türkiye began hosting children from across the globe to celebrate the occasion annually. Paying tribute to Ataturk, the heroes of the Turkish War of Liberation, and members of the first National Assembly, he said their sacrifices laid the foundation of modern Türkiye and left a lasting legacy for future generations.

Highlighting deep-rooted historical ties, Ambassador Neziroglu expressed gratitude to the people of the subcontinent, particularly Muslims, for their unwavering support to Türkiye during its War of Independence, stating that these bonds have evolved into an "eternal brotherhood" between the two nations. He also appreciated the contributions of partner organizations, including Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Al-Khidmat Foundation, Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools, and Sweet Homes, for joining the celebrations.

The ambassador thanked participants and encouraged them to enjoy the celebrations, emphasizing the importance of nurturing joy, unity, and shared values among children.





إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ صَفًا كَأَنَّهُمْ صُلْبٌ
Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in rows as though they are a solid impenetrable structure. (Al Qur'an)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

پاکستان ہمیشہ بابر

1st COMMEMORATION 10 MAY 2026

MESSAGES



ASIF ALI ZARDARI
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The nation stood firm with unwavering resolve when Pakistan faced a defining moment one year ago.

The events of May last year were not merely a military confrontation; they marked a critical test of our national resolve and collective spirit. Under the pretext of the Pahalgalam false flag operation, India launched unprovoked aggression against Pakistan, targeting military installations as well as innocent civilians and places of worship. In response to this unprovoked aggression, Pakistan responded with resolute, strategic clarity, discipline, and national unity. Operation Buryanum Marsoos, which became the central pillar of Marka-e-Haq, demonstrated to the world the professionalism and strength of our Armed Forces, reinforced by the unwavering support of the Pakistani nation. Our response was carefully measured, proportionate, precise, and fully aligned with the demands of the situation. Our message was clear and unequivocal.

Marka-e-Haq has reaffirmed that Pakistan's defence capabilities are not based on rhetoric but on professional excellence, institutional preparedness, integrated coordination among all branches of the Armed Forces, and the indomitable spirit of a nation that never bows before aggression. On this occasion, we pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices of our Armed Forces and honour all martyrs who gave their lives for the sovereignty, dignity, and security of Pakistan. It is part of our national commitment that whenever the country is challenged, every Pakistani rises in its defence, some in uniform and many without it.

Today, Pakistan stands recognized not only as a sovereign state but as a nation capable of defending itself, but also as a responsible actor committed to peace and regional stability. During recent years in West Asia, Pakistan pursued balanced and principled diplomacy and contributed meaningfully to efforts that helped facilitate dialogue, de-escalation, and a ceasefire between key regional actors. These efforts reflect Pakistan's consistent commitment to preventing conflict and promoting stability wherever possible.

On this occasion, it is important to reiterate that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains the core issue affecting peace and stability in South Asia. No objective assessment of regional security can ignore this reality. The legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people, as recognized in United Nations Security Council resolutions, remain unfulfilled despite decades of hardship. Pakistan remains steadfast in its principled position for a just, peaceful, and lawful resolution of the dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, has long stood as a rare example of cooperation despite political tensions and conflicts. Any attempt to unilaterally suspend or undermine this agreement amounts to the weaponization of water and places the lives and livelihoods of millions at risk. Water must never be used as a tool of political pressure. Pakistan will defend its water rights with full resolve and determination.

We also reaffirm our firm stance on terrorism. Pakistan itself has suffered immensely as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. We have fully committed to eliminating all forms of extremist and militant threats, including Fita al-Khawarij and Fita al-Hindustani. Pakistan continues its constructive engagement with the international community and expects full implementation of commitments under the Doha framework to ensure that Afghan soil is not used against Pakistan or any other country.

Pakistan does not seek confrontation. However, it will never accept coercion, intimidation, or hegemony. We remain firmly committed to safeguarding our sovereignty, upholding international law, and promoting a region of peace and stability. We resolved through dialogue and diplomacy rather than force.

Marka-e-Haq now stands as a defining chapter in our national history. It was not a moment of choice, but when the moment arrived, the nation responded with unity, resilience, and determination. This day will continue to remind us that a nation which remains united and dignified and united in purpose will always possess the strength to defend its sovereignty, protect its people, and uphold its honour.

MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Marka-e-Haq is a day to bow in gratitude before Allah Almighty for His countless blessings upon us. Today, we commemorate Pakistan's valiant stand in adversity and the crushing defeat we inflicted on the enemy. The nation pays tribute to its martyrs, their families and the ghazis who stood like a steel wall to defend their homeland. The well-coordinated and synchronized response of our forces across land, sea, and air, and cyber domains established Pakistan as an invincible nation.

Marka-e-Haq bears testimony that Pakistanis are a peace-loving, yet courageous, resilient, and dignified nation who can neither be intimidated nor subdued by any aggressor. Marka-e-Haq is etched in history as an epic feat of achieving overwhelming dominance over an enemy, bent on unprovoked aggression. The enemy was administered a heavy dose of reality serum to dispel its illusion of invincibility.

We pay rich tribute to the Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, for his bold and courageous leadership. We also pay tribute to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber and Admiral Naveed Ashraf for their strategic prudence.

We also salute officers and soldiers of the valiant Armed Forces, who, with unflinching support of the Pakistani nation, inscribed a new chapter in Pakistan-India context. Pakistan clearly manifested its desire for peace, while re-establishing deterrence and safeguarding its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Let there be no doubt that any aggression to undermine Pakistan will be met with an immediate, befitting and full-spectrum response. We stand determined and vigilant to ensure security along our frontiers. We also remain steadfast in our efforts to root out 'Fita al-Khawarij' and 'Fita al-Hindustani' and take the fight against terrorism to its logical conclusion.

No story of Pakistan is complete without Kashmir, which remains the unfinished agenda of the Subcontinent's partition. Strategic stability in South Asia, without the resolution of Kashmir issue, would remain a distant dream which needs to be resolved in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan stands committed to regional peace and stability. We believe in dialogue, in diplomacy, and in resolving disputes through justice and mutual respect. At the same time, we reaffirm that any threat to our homeland will be met with national unity, unshakable resolve, and strength through all means available.

The anniversary of Marka-e-Haq is not only about remembering the past; it is about shaping the future—a future where Pakistan is strong not just in defence, but also in economy, education and all social sectors; a future where our youth leads with confidence and our nation rises with dignity among the comity of nations.

Let this day renew our collective pledge to stand united, to reject division, to stand tirelessly for a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan—because the spirit of Marka-e-Haq lives not just in our history, but also in our hearts—now and forever Inshallah.



SENATOR MUHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR
Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Today, we mark one year since Marka-e-Haq, a defining moment in our national journey. It is not just a date on the calendar; it is a story of courage, unity, and unwavering resolve. A story where every soldier stood firm and every citizen stood behind them.

On this day, I salute the bravery of our armed forces, our sons and daughters, who rose with discipline and determination to defend our homeland. I also salute the people of Pakistan, whose unity became our greatest strength. Because when the nation stands as one, no force on earth can shake its foundations.

Last year, when aggression was imposed upon us, Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif acted with calm resolve and moral clarity. Our response was measured, precise, and guided not by emotion, but by principle.

Operation Buryanum Marsoos was more than a military success. Acting in accordance with the UN Charter, Pakistan exercised its inherent right of self-defence under the then General Asim Munir, now Field Marshal and Chief of Defence Forces, delivering a determined, decisive, and proportionate response directed solely at military installations of the aggressor.

Under the command of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, the Pakistan Air Force achieved notable operational successes, including the downing of multiple Indian fighter jets and the neutralization of key military targets. These achievements were documented and beyond any dispute. Simultaneously, the Pakistan Navy, led by Admiral Naveed Ashraf, maintained readiness to counter any aggression in the maritime domain.

Through this calibrated and resolute response, Pakistan sent a clear and unambiguous message: Pakistan stands for peace, but will never compromise on its dignity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

During this critical period, I along with my colleagues in the Foreign Office undertook an active diplomatic outreach, effectively presenting Pakistan's position on bilateral and global platforms, reinforcing international understanding of Pakistan's lawful and restrained response.

The events of last year also remind us that lasting peace in South Asia cannot be achieved without addressing the core issues—foremost among them, the just resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of its people.

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KHAWAJA MUHAMMAD ASIF
Defence Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On the first anniversary of the historic victory of Marka-e-Haq, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan and pay tribute to our Armed Forces. This day stands as a defining chapter in our national history—a moment when courage, unity, and professional excellence converged, and the nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its defenders like a wall of steel to safeguard our sovereignty.

Marka-e-Haq was not merely a military success; it was a line permanently drawn. What the world witnessed was not only Pakistan's capability, but also its restraint. Let there be no miscalculation: any future aggression against Pakistan will invite a response far more decisive, comprehensive, and overwhelming.

Pakistan neither sought confrontation then nor seeks it today. We remain committed to peace, regional stability, and responsible statecraft. Yet our desire for peace must never be mistaken for weakness. Any misadventure against Pakistan will not remain limited in scope. We possess both the resolve and the capacity to shape the course and consequences of any escalation imposed upon us.

If anyone still believes Pakistan can be pressurized, isolated, or coerced, Marka-e-Haq has buried that illusion forever. Today, our capabilities across land, sea, air, cyber, and emerging domains are more integrated, responsive, and battle-ready than ever before.

Our greatest strength remains our unbreakable national unity. The people of Pakistan, the state, and the Armed Forces stood united in purpose as Buryanum Marsoos, an unbreakable steel wall—and that unity fundamentally reshaped the strategic balance.

Pakistan remains committed to peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir disputes in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan today stands recognised as a responsible and resilient state that not only safeguards its own security but also contributes to regional and global stability through balanced and responsible diplomacy.

On this Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq, we honour the sacrifices of our martyrs and renew our pledge that wherever Pakistan faces a challenge, the nation will stand united with its Armed Forces. This day is not only a remembrance of victory, but a commitment to move forward with confidence, clarity, and unwavering resolve.

Pakistan Zindabad!



FIELD MARSHAL SYED ASIM MUNIR, HILAL-E-JURRAT, NISHAN-E-IMTIYAZ (MILITARY)
Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces

Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq reminds us of those historic moments when the Pakistan Armed Forces and the entire nation stood like a Steel Clad Wall, and thwarted the enemy's aggression. Undoubtedly, this great victory was the result of Allah SWT, our national unity, the professional excellence of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and the sacrifices of our Shuhada. We cannot forget the moments when the enemy, under the guise of the Pahalgalam false flag operation, targeted civilian population and mosques, resulting in the martyrdom of innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. In response to this blatant aggression, Pakistan Armed Forces launched the Operation Buryanum Marsoos and gave a clear message that we remain ever ready and resolute like a 'steel clad wall' to defend our territorial integrity as well as our citizens.

On that day our land, naval, and air forces shattered the illusion of the enemy's numerical superiority and proved that our resolve to defend every inch of the motherland is unwavering and decisive. Marka-e-Haq was not merely a military operation; it was a display of national honour and dignity. The world today recognizes Pakistan as a strong and self-respecting state. Indeed, we have attained this stature through our steadfastness and national unity.

In order to meet the complex future challenges, it is vital to attain mastery over modern technology. I assure the nation that, Alhamdulillah, Pakistan's Armed Forces are fully cognizant, and completely capable of bracing the future challenges of conventional, unconventional and hybrid threats. Anyone dares to challenge our sovereignty, our response will be far more severe and swift than they can imagine. I also want to make it clear that without a just resolution of the issue of Kashmir, lasting peace in South Asia will remain an elusive dream. We stand with the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for the right to self-determination and will continue to extend our moral and diplomatic support, at every level. We are determined to take the war on terror to its logical end, and we will crush all threats to Pakistan's security and stability, including Fita al-Khawarij and Fita al-Hindustani. Operation Gaza will-Haq reflects our resolve that we will not allow the territory of any country, including Afghanistan, to be used against us.

I am proud of the capabilities of our youth; indeed, they are our most valuable asset. I owe my gratitude to them for demonstrating their abilities during Operation Buryanum Marsoos, and defeating the enemy's false propaganda. Our youth is our future, and I have complete confidence in their potential. I am certain that wherever they are called upon for the defence of Pakistan, they will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Armed Forces at every front.

Alongside the nation, my message to the global community is, Pakistan is a self-respecting and resilient nation. We have endured through testing times and emerged triumphant in all adversities, our national cohesion remains our foremost strength.

Let us pay homage to the sacrifices of the Shuhada of our homeland; let us renew our pledge that wherever the defence of Pakistan is called upon, we stand united like Buryanum Marsoos. "Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause as rows as though they are a solid-impenetrable structure." (Al Qur'an, Surah Al-Saff: Verse 4)

Pakistan Zindabad!

ADMIRAL NAVEED ASHRAF NI(M), TB1
Chief of the Naval Staff

Officers, Sailors and the resilient people of Pakistan, as we commemorate Victory Day, we thank Allah SWT and reflect upon a defining moment in our national history, the May 2025 conflict, where Pakistan's Armed Forces demonstrated unwavering resolve against unwarranted aggression by India. Pakistan Navy, throughout the conflict, stood as a national sentinel, the vast expanse of the Arabian Sea.

In the lead-up to the conflict, Indian Navy made numerous attempts to deploy its naval units in the North Arabian Sea with the objective, rooted in a false sense of superiority, to threaten our maritime infrastructure, disrupt our maritime trade and strangle our economic lifelines. However, they underestimated the resolve, strategic foresight, combat capabilities and operational readiness of Pakistan Navy. Our surveillance network ensured comprehensive and round the clock maritime domain awareness. As the adversary deployed its naval assets, our long-range maritime patrol assets and unobscured capabilities detected and tracked their every move. When an Indian P-8I aircraft attempted to approach our air space, it was promptly picked up, intercepted and forced to retreat. The enemy aircraft carrier, after briefly idling a forward position, recorded deep-sea operations and remained at a standoff distance from our coast—well outside the strike range of our weapon systems, within its perceived safe zone. Their pride, INS KRANTHI did not even consider the risk to its survival and credibility had it ventured closer within our strike zone. This operational agility maintained continuous deterrence at sea.

Pakistan Navy's employment strategy and layered defence, ensured that our sea lines of communication remained uninterrupted and untouched. While INS KRANTHI did not even consider the risk to its survival and credibility had it ventured closer within our strike zone. This operational agility maintained continuous deterrence at sea.

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The future battle space is transforming at an unprecedented pace and scale. As the security environment in the Indian Ocean Region remains fluid and contested, we are acutely aware that the traditional domain conflict warfare has given way to multi-domain operations. Looking forward, we recognize that future conflicts will be won not just by firepower, but by forces that are intellectually astute, technologically superior, info-ops savvy and seamlessly integrated.

The induction of advanced platforms like Type 054AP Frigates, Hangar Class Submarines with Air-Independent Propulsion and Jet LR05s have further sharpened our combat edge. We are investing in emerging technologies, including autonomous unmanned systems, AI decision support tools, space and cyber capabilities to keep pace with the requirements of future battle space. We are aligning our force structure and war plans to undertake cross-domain operations to generate multi-domain effects and ensure that we keep the adversary from any challenge or even casting an evil eye on our territorial integrity and maritime interests.

To the nation, I reaffirm my pledge that Pakistan Navy remains fully capable to defend our maritime frontiers in line with our proud legacy, anytime and anywhere. We will not only maintain deterrence, but also dominate the maritime domain against any aggression in India, Sri Lanka.

**Pakistan Navy Zindabad!
Pakistan Paindabad!**



AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ZAHEER AHMED BABER SIDHU NI(M), HJ
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force

On commemoration of 1st Anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, Operation Buryanum Marsoos, I commend all citizens and personnel of Defence Forces of Pakistan for their professionalism and valour against Indian aggression.

Indeed, this day is of great significance in our history. The enemy once again challenged the very existence of a peaceful country in the wake of Pahalgalam incident, little knowing about our indomitable will to fight. Undoubtedly, Pakistan Air Force, in synergy with sister services, delivered a decisive punch to the adversary, which stunned the entire world. I am proud that on the strength of exemplary courage, consummate professionalism and matchless spirit of sacrifice, PAF rose more upheld its glorious legacy of fighting the outnumbered and being 'Second to None' as envisioned by the Quaid.

My Dear Countrymen! For the first time in its history, Pakistan Air Force conducted Full Spectrum Operations employing Multi-Domain Warfare Capabilities, including integration of Space, Cyber, Electronic Warfare along with Niche and Disruptive technologies.

I would like to share that this resounding success was made possible on the strength of aggressive modernization efforts undertaken by PAF in recent years through smart and swift inductions, besides vigorous pursuit of a comprehensive indigenous strategy, with special focus on latest trends in contemporary warfare.

On this special day, I assure that PAF being a potent element of defence will continue to accomplish its national obligation of defending the aerial frontiers of this sacred country with even more ferocity in the times ahead. On this occasion, we pay rich tributes to Shuhada of Marka-e-Haq, Operation Buryanum Marsoos, who rendered supreme sacrifice to ensure that we live with peace and honour.

May Allah Almighty guide our endeavors to safeguard aerial frontiers of our great country (Ameen).

**Pakistan Air Force Zindabad!
Pakistan Paindabad!**



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