



**Pakistan recognised as guarantor of peace, stability: President**



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**Mother's love greatest strength of humanity: Gilani**

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## CDF Munir warns Pakistan's response to any future 'misadventure' will be 'extremely widespread, painful'

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir warned on Sunday that any future "misadventure" against Pakistan will result in "extremely far-reaching and painful" consequences for the enemy. He made the remarks at a ceremony held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi to mark one year since Pakistan's victory in last year's conflict with India. The conflict with India — starting from the April 22 Pahalgam attack to the end of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos with a ceasefire between the two countries on May 10 — has been called "Marka-i-Haq" (Battle of Truth) by the state.

CDF Munir, as the chief guest, addressed the event. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Zaeher Ahmed Babar Sidhu and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf were also in attendance. Addressing the ceremony, Field Marshal Munir warned: "Our enemies should know that if any attempt is made in the future to carry out a misadventure against Pakistan, then the impact of war would not be limited, but extremely widespread, dangerous, far-reaching and painful." At the outset of his speech, the army chief said the day was a "source of pride" for Pakistan, its public and the armed forces. He recalled that the "enemy made a failed attempt to test our resolve by violating the sovereignty.



ISLAMABAD: CDF Field Marshal Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Zaeher Ahmed Babar Sidhu, and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf attend a ceremony at GHQ on Sunday.

## 15 police personnel martyred in Bannu suicide attack

**PEAK POINT**  
BANNU: At least 15 police personnel were martyred on Saturday night after a suicide attack on the Fateh Khel police post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district. The terrorists launched their attack on the post by ramming a vehicle laden with explosives. According to Bannu Regional Police Officer Sajjad Khan, a total of 18 police personnel were present at the post at the time of the attack, of whom 15 were martyred and three sustained injuries. Police said that following the explosion, terrorists opened heavy fire and attacked the post from multiple directions. Multiple blasts were heard in the area, causing fear and panic among local residents. Sources said that communication with the Fateh Khel police post was lost briefly after the attack. The powerful blast completely destroyed the post. An armoured vehicle stationed at the post was also destroyed in the attack. Nearby buildings also suffered severe damage from the blast's intensity. Following the attack, an emergency was declared in local hospitals.

## PM Shehbaz recalls Pakistan's 'historic response' to India on Marka-i-Haq's first anniversary

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recalled the "historic" response of Pakistan to India during Marka-i-Haq on Sunday as he addressed a ceremony held at the Pakistan Monument in Islamabad to commemorate the episode of conflict. The conflict with India — starting from the April 22 Pahalgam attack to the end of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos with a ceasefire between the two countries on May 10 — has been called "Marka-i-Haq" (Battle of Truth) by the state. President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir are among those attending the ceremony in Islamabad, where Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaeher Ahmed Babar Sidhu are also present. PM Shehbaz began his address by observing one minute of silence for those martyred during the period of conflict. Recalling the conflict, PM Shehbaz said that India "using Pahalgam as an excuse, made baseless accusations against us". And despite Pakistan offering a transparent investigation into the incident, the "enemy, in the dark of the night, attacked our mosques and children, imposing an unprovoked war on us".

## Tehran sends response to US peace proposal via Pakistan: Iranian state media

**PEAK POINT**  
IRAN: Iran has sent its response to a US proposal to end the war in the region via Pakistan, Iranian state media reported on Sunday. "The Islamic Republic of Iran sent today through Pakistani mediators its response to the latest text proposed by the United States to end the war," the official IRNA news agency said. Iranian news agency ISNA reported that Tehran's response to the latest US peace proposal focuses on "ending the war and maritime security". "It should be noted that the main focus of Iran's response to the US proposal is on 'ending the war and maritime security' in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz," the ISNA news agency said, without offering further details. Iran had been reviewing the 14-point proposal from the US for formally ending hostilities and opening a 30-day negotiating window for detailed discussions on Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief and secure transit through the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran has largely blocked non-Iranian shipping through the narrow Strait of Hormuz.

## Large-scale security operation continues for 3rd day in NW's Shewa tehsil

**PEAK POINT**  
MIRANSHAH: A large-scale security operation against militants continued for the third consecutive day in the Shewa tehsil and adjoining areas of North Waziristan, with reports claiming that seven militants, including two key commanders, were killed during search and clearance operations. According to sources, several militant hideouts were destroyed during the operation, while security forces intensified actions in multiple localities of the region. In the Dorwazanda area of Shewa tehsil, the Alam Khel Market was reportedly.

## There are 'vast opportunities for investment' in Pakistan, Naqvi tells Bangladeshi state minister

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conveyed to Bangladeshi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam on Sunday that there were "vast opportunities for investment", as the two sides agreed to increase cooperation in trade and business. Naqvi, who is on an official visit to Bangladesh, called on Islam in Dhaka, where the two held "detailed discussions on bilateral relations, the regional situation, and Pakistan's conciliatory role", according to an official statement released by the Ministry of Interior. The Bangladeshi state minister appreciated



Pakistan's efforts aimed at resolving the Iran-US conflict, it said. Pakistan has been leading the efforts for the resolution of the conflict, which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, and hosted the first round of face-to-face talks between Washington and Tehran in April. The interior min-

istry's statement said that during Naqvi's visit to Bangladesh, he said, "Pakistan," it added. Bangladesh Foreign Ministry Secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Pakistani High Commissioner Imran Haider and other officials were also present at the meeting. The meeting comes a day after Naqvi signed an anti-narcotics memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Interior Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and offered cooperation on the Safe City Project. Relations between Islamabad and Dhaka have improved since the ouster of former Bangladeshi premier Sheikh Hasina, during whose tenure ties between the two countries remained shaky.

## Kuwait's army says it has intercepted hostile drones over airspace



**PEAK POINT**  
DUBAI: Kuwait's army said it had detected and dealt with several hostile drones in the country's airspace at dawn on Sunday, the latest incident following similar cross-border drone activity linked to the Iran conflict. On April 25, Kuwait's army said two drones launched from Iraq had targeted two northern border posts, causing damage. Its air defences also dealt with a wave of Iranian drones on April 8 that targeted vital infrastructure. While hostilities during the conflict have largely been scaled down since a ceasefire came into effect in April, drones have been launched from Iraq towards Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.



# SPORTS



## Mehidy claims five wickets as Bangladesh gain slim lead over Pakistan in Dhaka Test



**PEAK POINT**  
DHAKA: Mehidy Hasan Miraz bagged a five-wicket haul, helping Bangladesh take a 27-run lead over Pakistan in the opening Test despite debutant Azan Awaiz's century on the third day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka on Sunday.

Only 11 deliveries could be bowled after the innings break until on-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Kumar Dharmasena called it a day due to bad light.

At the stumps on day three, Bangladesh made 7/0 in 1.5 overs, bolstering their lead to 34 runs

with all 10 wickets in hand.

Earlier, the visitors were bowled out for 386 in 100.3 overs and thus succumbed to a narrow 27-run deficit.

Pakistan got off to a dismal start to the final session as Nahid Rana dismissed their set batter, Salman Ali Agha, who scored 58 off 94 deliveries with the help of six fours and a six.

Following his dismissal, Pakistan's batting tail yielded a crucial 33 runs until Taijul Islam wrapped up their innings by cleaning up Hasan Ali. Miraz was the standout bowler for Bangladesh, taking five wickets for 102 runs in

his 38 overs, followed by Taskin and Islam with two each, while Rana chipped in with one. At the conclusion of the second session the pulsating third day, the touring side were 349/6 in 89.4 overs, trailing by 64 runs, with four wickets in hand. The session was majorly dominated by Agha and Rizwan, who knitted a 119-run partnership for the sixth wicket, which saw both batters bring their respective half-centuries. Left-arm spinner Islam eventually broke the threatening partnership on the penultimate delivery of the 90th over, getting Rizwan caught at mid-off, which resulted in a Tea

break. Rizwan walked back after scoring 59 off 79 deliveries with the help of eight fours.

Meanwhile, Agha remained firm on 55 not out from 90 deliveries and will resume Pakistan's response alongside unmarked Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan resumed their first innings from 179/1 through debutants Azan Awaiz and Abdullah Fazal, who ensured retaining the momentum by stretching their overnight partnership to 104 until the former fell victim to Taskin Ahmed briefly after smashing a century on Test debut.

## Pakistan exit PSA World Squash Championship in second round



**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's journey at the PSA World Squash Championship came to an early end as both national players were eliminated in the second round of the event being held in Egypt.

In the men's draw of the \$71,000 tournament, Pakistan's world number 28 and Under-23 champion Nour Zaman was defeated 3-0 by Egypt's world number 8 and junior world champion Mohamed Zakaria.

Zakaria controlled the match from the start, winning the first game 11-4, followed by 11-5 in the second.

He then sealed a straight-games victory with another 11-5 win in the third game, knocking Zaman out of the competition.

In another second-round match, Pakistan's world number 46 Muhammad Ashab Irfan was also eliminated after losing 3-0 to England's Nathan Lake.

Lake, who is based in the United States, won a closely contested match, taking the first game 11-3 before edging out the second 14-12 and the third 12-10 to secure a place in the quarter-finals.

## Pakistan continue winning streak in Street Child World Cup 2026 with 5-0 victory over Mexico



**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Street Children football team secured their second consecutive victory in the Street Child World Cup 2026, defeating host nation Mexico by 5-0. According to tournament details, Pakistan produced a dominant display in their second group

match, with Kashif Khan and Esa Khan scoring two goals each, while Shahid Anjum added another to complete the comprehensive win.

The team had earlier started their campaign on a winning note, beating Indonesia 2-0, with Kashif Khan scoring both goals in that match as well.

The tournament

features teams from 30 countries and includes boys' and girls' events.

It is part of a global youth-led movement focused on protecting the rights, identity, and welfare of street-connected children, using sport as a tool for education and social change. Pakistan's participation in the event is supported by the organisation Muslim Hands UK, which works in education and social development through sports initiatives.

The team is also expected to participate in the United Nations General Assembly activities linked to the tournament. It is worth

noting that Pakistan had previously won the silver medal in the 2022 edition of the Street Child Football World Cup held in Qatar. After their latest victories, players and management dedicated the wins to "Marka-e-Haq" and the armed forces of Pakistan, paying tribute to their sacrifices, bravery, and national service. The Pakistan squad includes players Abdullah, Mubashir Shah, Muhammad Hamad, Nadeem Hussain, Muhammad Mustafa, Muhammad Esa, Shahid Anjum, Muhammad Kashif, Muhammad Bilal, and Muhammad Ibrahim.

## Bangladesh Acting President, ex-Information Secy watch cricket match at Dhaka stadium



## Fifa to stage separate World Cup opening ceremonies in Mexico, Canada, US

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Fifa announced that it will hold separate opening ceremonies prior to the first game in each of the three host countries for this year's World Cup, which is being held in Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

The biggest World Cup in history kicks off on June 11 in Mexico City, where Grammy Award-winning Mexican pop band Mana will be performing as part of a lineup that also includes Alejandro Fernandez and Belinda, Fifa said in a post on X. The Mexico City concert will highlight Mexican culture and include Indigenous and "modern folkloric" performers, Fifa said.

Canadian singers Alanis Morissette, Michael Buble, Alessia Cara, William Prince, and Bangladeshi American Sanjoy, who is a

Los Angeles-based DJ, will perform ahead of Canada's opening group stage match against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Toronto on June 12.

Fifa said a "mosaic-inspired reimagining of the

known as Future, will also perform. The lineup also includes Anitta, LISA, Rema and Tyla.

The US concert is designed around "delivering a high-energy spectacle that reflects the scale, ambition



Fifa World Cup Trophy will reflect Canada's diversity and community" at the concert. Later that day, American singer-songwriter Katy Perry will headline an opening ceremony ahead of the US team's match against Paraguay in Los Angeles, where Atlanta rap star Nayvadius Wilburn, better

and cultural power of the tournament itself," Fifa said. This year's World Cup marks the second time the global soccer showcase is being co-hosted by multiple countries. The 2002 World Cup was co-hosted by South Korea and Japan, with the former staging the opening ceremony.

## Pakistan Squash Federation officials visit Punjab Squash Courts



**PEAK POINT**

LAHORE: Senior Vice President Pakistan Squash Federation Air Vice Marshal Sohail Akber, along with Secretary Pakistan Squash Federation Air Commodore (R) Amir Nawaz, visited Punjab Squash Association and met with President Punjab Squash Association Mr. Noor ul Amin Mengal. During the meeting, various

prospects regarding the future development and promotion of squash in Pakistan were discussed. Senior Vice President Punjab Squash Association Sohail Khan, Secretary Punjab Squash Association Muhammad Mansoor, Vice President Admin Punjab Squash Association Mamon Zeeshan Riaz were also present on the occasion. The delega-

tion visited the Punjab Squash Courts and Nishtar Park Sports Complex squash facilities, where discussions were held regarding upcoming international events. It was agreed that WSF and PSA tournaments would be awarded to Punjab upon the completion of the Nishtar Complex. Senior Vice President Pakistan Squash Federation Air Vice Marshal Sohail Akber appreciated the efforts of President Punjab Squash Association Mr. Noor ul Amin Mengal for the promotion of squash and the enhancement of squash infrastructure in Punjab. At the conclusion of the visit, Air Vice Marshal Sohail Akber presented a souvenir to the President Punjab Squash Association as a gesture of appreciation and goodwill.



# 'Policy coherence, domestic resources a must to ensure just energy transition'

## PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a policy dialogue said that coherent policies, domestic resource mobilization, and targeted social protection are essential to ensure a just and sustainable energy transition in Pakistan. The policy dialogue on "Socioeconomic Prosperity amid the Transition to an Environmentally Sustainable Economy", was jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (UNESCAP). The report on Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2026 was also showcased on the occasion. In her keynote address, Minister of State for Climate Change Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal emphasized that energy transition must be linked with socioeconomic development to ensure productivity, price stability, and inclusive growth. She reiterated that limited fiscal space necessitates mobilizing private investment, international climate finance, and innovative funding mecha-



nisms. She stressed the need for designing a 'just, financeable, and realistic' transition pathway, guided by clear priorities, balanced trade-offs, and practical implementation strategies. She also highlighted the need for addressing political economy challenges, including resis-

tance from vested interests and distributional impacts of reforms. The Minister said that a successful transition requires integrated policymaking, protection of vulnerable populations, and sustained coordination across federal and provincial levels, alongside stronger

regional cooperation to enhance implementation capacity. Dr Sajid Amin Javed, SDPI Deputy Executive Director, said that global shift towards green energy must be integrated into Pakistan's economic governance framework. Emphasizing on policy coherence across social, economic, and energy sectors, he warned of unintended trade-offs and called for protecting vulnerable populations during the transition. He noted that weaknesses in the global energy architecture and rising vulnerabilities make a clean

energy transition imperative. Dr. Hamza Ali Malik, UNESCAP Director, highlighted that despite Asia-Pacific contributing around 53 per cent of global economic growth, the region faces rising risks from geopolitical tensions, inflation volatility, and slowing growth. Presenting key policy recommendations, he called for enhancing economic resilience through targeted, temporary, and transparent fiscal support for vulnerable groups, while anchoring inflation expectations.

# Cabinet Division explains state awards selection process before Senate

## NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate was informed that Pakistan Civil Awards are not decided by one office alone, as nominations first come through selected agencies, are checked by the Cabinet Division, reviewed by four separate awards sub committees, examined by a main awards committee, and finally sent through the Prime Minister to the President of Pakistan for approval. The details were shared in response to a question by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur, who asked how people are nominated and selected for state awards announced every year. The information was placed before the Senate during the question-answer session after Senator Dr. Zarqa

Suharwardy Taimur asked the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division to explain the criteria and procedure for choosing individuals for state awards. She also asked which authorities or committees are responsible for reviewing and approving nominations. In the official reply, the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division stated that citizens of Pakistan are eligible for civil awards in different categories depending on their services, achievements or acts of bravery. The award in the order of Shuja'at is given for heroism, clear courage, acts performed in extreme danger, and efforts to save human life. The Senate was told that Pakistani citizens may also receive awards in the order of Imtiaz for distinction in fields such as sci-

ence, art, literature, sports and nursing. They may also be recognized for selfless services in human rights and public service. The reply further stated that the President's Award for Pride of Performance is given in recognition of notable achievements in art, science, literature, sports or nursing. This means the award is meant for people who make a major contribution in their field and bring honour to the country. Foreign nationals can also receive Pakistan Civil Awards. According to the Cabinet Division, foreign nationals may be given awards in any order, including Pakistan, Shuja'at, Imtiaz, Quaid i Azam and Khidmat. They may also receive the President's Award for Pride of

Performance if they have rendered distinguished services to Pakistan in any field. The Senate was also informed that the President of Pakistan may confer civil awards after a person's death. In such posthumous awards, any monetary benefits attached to the decoration are paid to the next of kin. Explaining the selection process, the Cabinet Division said nominations are invited every year from specified nominating agencies under the policy and guidelines for Pakistan Civil Awards. After receiving nominations, the Cabinet Division first checks whether the required formalities and criteria have been completed. After initial scrutiny, nominations are placed before four separate awards sub-committees.

These committees cover Science, Engineering and Education; Arts and Literature; Social, Welfare Work, Charity and Philanthropy; and Gallantry. A minister heads each sub-committee. These sub-committees review the proposals received from nominating agencies and make recommendations. The recommendations are then placed before the Main Awards Committee, which is also chaired by a minister appointed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Main Awards Committee conducts the final scrutiny of the recommendations. After this process, the finalized names are sent to the Prime Minister in the form of a summary. The Prime Minister then gives advice to

the President of Pakistan for final approval. Once approval is received from the President, the Cabinet Division issues a press release announcing the names of awardees on Independence Day. The civil awards are later conferred during investiture ceremonies held on Pakistan Day at Aiwani i Sadr, Governor Houses and Pakistan Missions abroad. The Senate reply shows that Pakistan's civil awards go through a multi-stage official process before final approval. However, the question has also brought public attention to the importance of transparency, merit and fairness in state awards, especially because these honours are among the country's highest official recognitions.

# Opinion & Editorial


  
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## Another tranche

A new tranche of \$1.2 billion has been approved by IMF in what proves that the global lender has found Pakistan complying with the terms and conditions of its bailout package. The government has promised adherence to pre-war programme targets to keep its economic stabilisation efforts on track, irrespective of its policies adding to unemployment, poverty and income inequality in the country. Of the new tranche, \$1 billion will cater to the balance of payments situation, while \$200 million will go to budgetary support. With this loan disbursement, Pakistan has so far received loan worth \$4.5 billion against two separate debt packages totalling \$8.4 billion. The conditionalities that the IMF wants fulfilled include: approval of the new budget by the National Assembly in line with its directives to, for instance, amend laws governing the special economic and technology zones; offsetting the impact of revenue shortfall; increasing the petroleum development levy; and adjusting the electricity and gas prices on a regular basis to maintain a progressive tariff structure. The Fund's note came after a careful review as it acknowledged the government's efforts in meeting monetary targets. There were, nonetheless, some reservations too, as the US-Iran conflict has impacted fiscal statistics during the second half of the ongoing fiscal year.

## 'My best girl'

Muna Khan

I HAVE never known life without a dog. Jack came first — before memory, before language. He lay under my bed when there was no nanny, alerting my mother when I cried as a newborn, following me around on my walker as though he had appointed himself my first guide in this world. We took our dogs everywhere, including a cruel six-month quarantine in the UK in the early 1990s, because that is what you do when an animal is family. You do not leave them behind.

Chia arrived 12 years ago and immediately made clear she had her own terms.

She trained beautifully for her trainer — sat, stayed, heeled with the precision of a dog who understood exactly what was being asked of her. The moment he left, she returned to her natural state, as if to say: 'he gets the obedience. You get my irreverence.' I stopped being frustrated. There is a particular intelligence in knowing which rules apply to you and which don't.

She was an equal opportunity lover. She did not discriminate — not by class, not by disposition, not by whether you liked dogs. She would work her way through the entire galli, disarming the harshest critics one by one, until even the most committed dog-hater had softened. A neighbour kept a monkey in a cage outside his gate. That monkey would wait for Chia.

When she arrived, he would reach through the steel bars to hold her — and she would let him. If you needed proof that love recognises no boundaries, there it was, in a galli in Karachi, between a dog and a caged monkey who had found each other anyway.

How we treat animals says something unambiguous about us.

She also had politics, or at least she shared mine. Every single day, she relieved herself outside a particular official's house — with a consistency and a commitment that I can only describe as principled. She knew. I'm convinced she knew.

When we brought other dogs home, she tolerated it. When stray cats followed us in, she tolerated that too. She taught us, quietly that almost everything can be tolerated — my moves away to Vietnam, my returns, my uncertainty, the losses that accumulate in life. If someone shed a tear in her presence, she would come immediately, not with noise but with weight, placing herself against you as if to say: 'I'll take some of that.' In the end, it was old age — the one opponent she could not outwit, could not charm, could not simply ignore until it went away. She had spent 12 years placing herself against anyone who needed the weight of her. Chia faced death the same way she faced everything else: on her own terms, for as long as she possibly could. In a country where staying, truly and unconditionally, has become a radical act, Chia was the most radical

creature I knew.

Twelve years is a long time anywhere. In Karachi, it is several lifetimes. Chia sat beside me through all of it — but she also walked through a city that has never quite decided what to do with its animals. We are a place of profound contradictions: a culture that can be extraordinarily tender towards creatures, and yet one where strays are poisoned in the streets, where the municipal response to an animal problem is extermination, where animal welfare legislation exists largely on paper and almost never in practice.

There are people who show up anyway — the feeders who come every morning before the city wakes, the small rescues operating on no budget and absolute conviction, the individuals who have decided that if the state will not be accountable to these animals, they will be. They are doing, quietly and without recognition, some of the most thankless and necessary work this city produces.

Chia was lucky. She was loved, housed, fed, mourned. Most animals in this city are not. The same galli where she charmed every sceptic into softness is also a galli where strays are kicked, starved, or quietly disappeared when they become inconvenient. We are capable of the monkey reaching through the cage to hold her and we are equally capable of the cage being the kindest thing an animal here ever encounters.

Courtesy Dawn

## Divine (in)justice?

Ali Hassan Bangwar

HAVE you ever wondered why, despite unparalleled cognitive capabilities, humans lingered in a near-total primordial state of nature for most of their existence? And why, in their roughly 300,000 years on Earth, did Homo sapiens only recently learn to challenge their fixated existence — with The Epic of Gilgamesh in Mesopotamia (circa 2100-1200 BCE) and Greek contributions (circa 600 BCE)?

Though the mind in Locke's tabula rasa state might have held open multiple possibilities — or as philosophers put it, "worlds within and beyond" — the absence of inherent agency or blueprint made humans prone to selective fixation. An unformed cognition rendered them susceptible to becoming locked in dictated fates. While intuition may have helped them stay on course, it often lacked the capacity to lead towards a truly fulfilling life. Notwithstanding the existential anxiety that marked their long existence, the absence of inherent agency largely explains their irresponsibility. One might then wonder how a few managed to outwit or overpower the many. The answer, though debatable, partially lies in their outmanoeuvring within a Hobbesian state of nature. Those few who escaped the common fate — through intuition, experience, divine injunctions and trial and error — often used their unrefined agency in a brutish manner to satisfy their ruling desires. To prevent people from examining life and contesting authority, leaders inculcated unquestionable answers and unanswerable questions wrapped in psychic phenomena. This manifested in the divine right to rule where princes protected the clergy's interests and the clergy sanctified the rulers' power. However brutal the regime and miserable the subjects, it was all framed as divine justice. This way, divine truth became personified in the prince as a divine project; the truth of power became divine truth; the kleptocracy of the prince-clergy alliance was presented as ordained fate.

Courtesy Tribune

## Pakistan launching first yuan-denominated 'Panda bond' to raise \$250m next week



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is expected to access Chinese capital markets for the first time through a yuan-denominated bond next week. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Saturday, as Islamabad seeks to shore up foreign reserves and diversify funding sources.

"God willing, next week you will hear good news that for the first time, we will be accessing Chinese capital markets through Panda bond," said Aurangzeb, addressing a press conference alongside Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik.

The planned \$250 million issue

— part of a broader \$1 billion programme — will be backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Pakistan has increasingly turned to friendly nations and multilateral lenders to stabilise its economy after a prolonged balance-of-payments crisis pushed the country to the brink of default in 2023.

Reuters has previously reported that Islamabad has been seeking new external financing avenues, including Chinese and Gulf markets, while remaining under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme aimed at economic reforms and fiscal discipline.

Aurangzeb said the economy was showing signs of recovery, citing improving exports and remittances, despite regional tensions linked to the Iran war and disruption around the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil shipping route.

He said the country's large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector record-

ed 11% year-on-year growth in April, while cumulative growth during the first nine months of the current fiscal year stood at 6.5%.

The government expected the GDP growth rate to remain close to 4% during the current fiscal year, compared to 3.1% last year, according to Aurangzeb.

"Exports have grown by 9% month-on-month and 14% year-on-year, driven by value-added textiles, IT and other sectors, he said, adding that the export growth was broad-based," he added.

Pakistan imports much of its fuel and liquefied natural gas requirements, making it vulnerable to external supply shocks and higher energy prices.

His remarks came after the IMF released about \$1.32 billion in fresh funding to Pakistan under two ongoing lending programmes, providing a boost to the country's foreign exchange reserves. The finance minister also said Pakistan was considering Eurobonds.

## Mother's love greatest strength of humanity: Gilani

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday said that a mother is a great blessing bestowed by Almighty Allah and an eternal symbol of love, compassion, sacrifice, and selflessness.

In a special message on the occasion of Mother's Day, he said that a mother is not only the foundation of a family but also plays a central role in building a civilized, dignified, and strong society.

The Chairman of the Senate said that the day, observed worldwide to honour mothers and acknowledge their invaluable contributions, serves as a reminder that a mother's love is selfless, pure, and among humanity's greatest strengths.

He remarked that a mother's lap is the first institution



of learning, where an individual receives lessons in love, morality, tolerance, and humanity.

He further stated that mothers hold an exceptionally high status in Pakistani society, while the country's religious and social values strongly emphasize respect, care, and obedience towards parents, especially mothers.

He said that honouring mothers, caring for them, and acknowledging their sacrifices should not be limited to a single day.

## Pakistan recognised as guarantor of peace, stability: President

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan was recognised as a state that not only knew how to defend itself but also served as a guarantor of peace and stability.

In a message on the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, he said, "In the context of recent tensions in West Asia, Pakistan, through responsible and balanced diplomacy, played a key role in facilitating a ceasefire between the United States and Iran and bringing both sides to the negotiating table."

He said, "One year ago, Pakistan was put to the test, and it did not blink. The events of April and May last year were not simply a military episode. They were a moment of national reckoning. When India, under the guise of the Pahalgam false flag operation, launched unprovoked strikes on our soil, targeting mainly civilian areas besides military installations, Pakistan responded with discipline, precision, courage and unity."

"Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, the decisive centrepiece of Marka-e-Haq, demonstrated what our armed forces are capa-

ble of when the country stands behind them as one. Our response was calibrated, measured, precise and proportionate. Our message was unambiguous," he added.

He said, "Maarka-e-Haq showed the world that Pakistan's deterrence is not a slogan. It rests on professional competence, tri-service coordination and the resolve of a people who shall not accept aggression lying down." "We salute our men and women in uniform and we bow our heads in honour of every martyr who gave their life so that this nation could stand tall. It is part of our DNA that when a war is imposed on us, every Pakistani becomes a soldier, some in uniform and most without," he continued.

"Our efforts helped avoid further bloodshed and contributed to stabilising the broader regional environment. Pakistan will continue its efforts to promote peace, dialogue and stability wherever it can make a difference," he said adding, "I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the Kashmir dispute remains the root cause of instability in this region."

Ahsan Iqbal attends 'Jashan-e-Marka-e-Haq' ceremony in Narowal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal attended a ceremony titled "Jashan-e-Marka-e-Haq" held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Narowal to mark the completion of one year of Marka-e-Haq.

According to a press release received here, the event, organized by the district administration, was also attended by Member National Assembly and Federal Parliamentary Secretary Anwar ul Haq Chaudhry and Member Provincial Assembly Rana Manan Khan, who is also serving as Chairman of the Punjab Chief Minister's Task Force on Prisons.

During the ceremony, a cake was cut to celebrate the occasion, while rich tribute was paid to the ghazis for their sacrifices and services.

Special prayers were also offered for the security, progress and stability of Pakistan. Deputy Commissioner Narowal Tayyab Khan and the district administration received appreciation.

## Marka-e-Haq' coverage boosts global credibility of Pakistani media; says Secretary Information

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil said Marka-e-Haq serves as a lasting beacon for posterity, underscoring that victory comes through courage and resolve, while commending Pakistani media for its balanced coverage. During a special Radio Pakistan podcast on the occasion of Marka-e-Haq's first anniversary on Sunday, the Federal Information Secretary lauded the Armed Forces and national leadership, highlighting Pakistan's strengthened media credibility and narrative resilience during the landmark event. He also paid tribute to the leadership and the armed forces for their decisive role and unwavering commitment.

The Secretary Information further lauded the Pakistani mainstream media for building strong global credibility through accurate, factual and responsible dissemination of information. He said that national media effectively countered hostile narratives by responding with verified, evidence-based reporting. He noted that widespread disinformation propagated through Indian media was systematically exposed and neutralized through Pakistan's.



## United Council of Churches organizes rally on fight for truth

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad (City Reporter) On the completion of one year of Operation Banyan Al-Marsoos, a rally was organized by the United Council of Churches. The rally was led by Pastor Samison Sohail, Executive Director of the United Council of Churches. The rally was attended by the executive body of the UGA Church, including Senior Pastor Inayat Jalal, Pastor Mushtaq Ghafoor, Pastor Afzal Bhatti, Pastor Emmanuel Rafique, Pastor Asher Jan, Bishop Javed Siddique, as well as a large number of Christian women, children, elders and youth, who expressed their enthusiasm for Pakistan. The participants were holding national flags,



chanting slogans like "Long live Pakistan", "Long live the Pak Army" and "May the struggle for truth be successful". The participants of the rally paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Pakistani Armed Forces and offered special prayers for the security, peace and stability of the country. Speaking on the occasion, Pastor Samison Sohail said that the Pakistani Christian community has always stood by the Pakistani Armed Forces for the security.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Seante Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a group photograph with Former Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Mufti Muneeb ur Rehman Pir Hassan Haseeb Shah of Eidgah Sharif, and members of the visiting delegation during a meeting at his Residence.

## Grand and dignified ceremony held in Brasilia to mark one year of "Battle for Truth"

PEAK POINT

A grand and dignified ceremony was organized in Brasilia under the auspices of the Embassy of Pakistan, Brasilia to mark the completion of one year of "Battle for Truth." The event was attended by Pakistan's Ambassador Murad Ashraf Janjua, Defence Attaché Brigadier Tariq Naem Athar, embassy officials, President of the Pakistani Community Zulfikar Ahmad Maxi, community leaders, businessmen Waqar Ahmad, Sharfat Ali, Amir Khan Kashmiri, Umar

Gujjar, students, and a large number of Pakistanis residing in Brazil. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the national anthem of Pakistan. Speakers at the event highlighted the historical significance of the Battle for Truth, Pakistan's defence achievements, national unity, and the immense sacrifices rendered by the martyrs. The speakers emphasized that the Pakistani nation has always demonstrated unity, courage, and sacrifice during difficult times, and that this spirit remains the true strength of



Pakistan. Ambassador Murad Ashraf Janjua, while addressing the gathering, stated that overseas Pakistanis are the true ambassadors of Pakistan around the world, promoting the country's positive image through their character, hard work, and achievements. He

said that national events abroad play a vital role in keeping overseas Pakistanis connected to their history, culture, and national values. He also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the Pakistani community, describing it as a clear reflection

of national unity and love for the homeland. On the occasion, Defence Attaché Brigadier Tariq Naem Athar also addressed the audience and said that Pakistan's armed forces have always ensured the defence and security of the country in line with the aspirations of the nation. Paying tribute to the martyrs, he remarked that the entire nation would always remember the sacrifices of its national heroes. President of the Pakistani Community Zulfikar Ahmad Maxi said in his speech that Pakistanis living in Brazil always express

complete solidarity with their homeland on every national occasion. He added that the memory of the Battle for Truth teaches lessons of unity, sacrifice, determination, and love for Pakistan. He further stated that the Pakistani community would continue to actively participate in national events in collaboration with the embassy. During the ceremony, national songs were presented while participants raised enthusiastic slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad." Special prayers were offered for the peace, stability, progress.