



Lahore Qalandars crowned PSL champions for third time



Interior Minister chairs key meeting on Islamabad's Administration



Govt focuses on power sector indigenisation to boost exports: Leghari

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PM Shehbaz meets Turkish President Erdogan in Istanbul on first leg of four-nation tour

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived at Dolmabahce Palace on Sunday to meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. On arrival at the place, the Turkish president greeted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting of the two leaders at the delegation level has started.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar and Special Assistant Tariq Fatimi are attending the meeting.

Turkish president will host a dinner in honour of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Pakistani delegation.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Istanbul on Sunday evening, on a two-day visit to Turkey.

The prime minister's visit is to express gratitude to the people of Turkey and especially President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for their unwavering support of Pakistan's principled position during the recent Pak-India tensions. Upon his arrival at Istanbul airport, he was received by Turkish Defense Minister Yashar Guler, Governor Istanbul, President of Pakistan-Turkiye Cultural Association, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, Consul General Istanbul, senior officials of the Turkish government and Pakistani diplomats posted in Turkey. The prime minister will visit Iran, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan till 30th of this month. During the visit, the prime minister will have wide-ranging discussions with the leaders of these countries on entire range of issues, covering bilateral relations and matters of regional and international importance.



ISTANBUL: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hold delegation level talk along with their respective delegations.

Security forces kill nine Indian-sponsored terrorists in KP operations

AYESHA REHAN

RAWALPINDI: The security forces killed nine Indian-sponsored terrorists in three separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said ISPR.

According to the military's media wing, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in Dera Ismail Khan, on the reported presence of Indian sponsored khwarij.

During the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian-sponsored khwarij were killed.

Another intelligence-based operation was conducted in Tank district and in ensuing fire exchange, two more Indian-sponsored khwarij were killed by the security forces.

In the third encounter that took place in general area of Khyber district, own troops successfully neutralised three more Indian-sponsored khwarij. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed Indian-sponsored khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas. Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian-sponsored terrorism from the country.

Addressing the students, Lt Gen Chaudhry said India thought it could attack and Pakistan wouldn't respond.

India uses Afghanistan against Pakistan: ISPR DG

SAMRA ATHRA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army spokesperson Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Sunday stated that India is using Afghanistan against Pakistan and urged Afghan brothers not to provide sanctuary to terrorists in their country and not to become tools of India.

Lt Gen Chaudhry, who is the director general of Public Relations, was interacting with more than 2,500 students from universities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a special session.

The ISPR DG stated that the time has come for Kashmir to become part of Pakistan.

Addressing the students, Lt Gen Chaudhry said India thought it could attack and Pakistan wouldn't respond.



"But you all saw how the nation stood united behind the country. By the will of Allah, a wall of iron was formed, which nullified all the flawed strategies of India and Modi," he added.

He said that falsehood and truth cannot coexist.

"Some people thought the army and the people were distant from each other — absolutely not. The nation and the army

have always stood together and will continue to do so," he continued.

Lt Gen Chaudhry told the students that military leadership decided to respond to India and hit 26 locations.

They targeted Muzaffarabad, where seven-year-old Irtiza was martyred due to shelling on a brigade headquarters. "We destroyed their entire brigade headquarters in

response."

He said: "Afghanistan is our brotherly neighboring Islamic country. Pashtun Afghans are our brothers — the problem lies with the elite. India pays and buys off Afghanistan's elite, using them against Pakistan. We say to our Afghan brothers: 'do not give sanctuary to terrorists, and don't become instruments of India.

Pakistan reserves 2,000 megawatts of power for Bitcoin mining

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has allocated 2,000 megawatts of surplus electricity exclusively for Bitcoin mining and artificial intelligence (AI) centres, according to reports here on Sunday. According to the Ministry of Finance, this initiative is part of the Pakistan Crypto Council's broader digital transformation strategy. In the first phase, additional electricity will be reserved specifically for AI infrastructure and Bitcoin mining facilities. The aim is to monetise excess electricity that previously went underutilised. Officials believe this step will open new avenues for economic growth and position the country at the forefront of digital innovation.

Pakistan chose restraint, dialogue despite nuclear capability: Gilani

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that during the recent Indian provocations, the entire Pakistani nation, along with all political parties, demonstrated exemplary unity, which played a pivotal role in delivering a strong and effective national response to the enemy.

Talking to the media after visiting the International Solar Energy Exhibition at the Expo Centre, here on Sunday, he said that the bravery and professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces are acknowledged globally. He stressed that despite being a nuclear power, Pakistan responded to Indian provocations with restraint and strategic maturity. "Pakistan's measured and well-thought-out response has earned global recognition for its wisdom and composure," he said.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire nation for demonstrating unity and playing a vital role in shaping a cohe-



sive national response. "The credit for our firm and peaceful strategy goes to the leadership, armed forces, and the unity of all political stakeholders," he added.

He said Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to peace and dialogue, consistently prioritizing negotiations over confrontation in resolving regional issues. "We have never taken any action that would threaten the stability of the region," he said.

To a question on Balochistan, he recalled that during his tenure as Prime Minister, he had clearly highlighted India's involvement in sponsoring terrorism and unrest in the province. "At that time, I presented evidence to international forums and even Bollywood produced a film, 'The Accidental Prime Minister,' which indirectly hinted at Indian policy contradictions. This led India to show willingness to engage in dialogue on core issues like

Siachen, Kashmir, and interference in Balochistan," he said.

To another query, he said Pakistan had called for a neutral and independent investigation into the Pahalgam attack, but India refused.

He noted that India unilaterally suspended the Indus Waters Treaty and blocked river flows, actions that violate international law. "However, Pakistan's leadership and armed forces responded firmly, demonstrating our full capability to defend our sovereignty."

The armed forces acted decisively and solely in self-defense," he added.

On domestic politics, the senate chairman stressed the need for national unity. He declined to comment on PTT's narrative, stating that their cases are sub judice and will be decided by courts. "We must now focus on uniting the nation. Political divisions must not derail our shared goals," he said.

Responding to a question on the upcoming federal budget, he called for maximum relief for the common man.



Death toll rises to eight in Khuzdar school bus attack

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Two more students, Sheema Ibrahimi and Muskan, succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment after a terrorist attack on a school bus in Khuzdar.

The deaths of the two children raised the death toll to eight, security sources confirmed. The students were victims of a suicide attack orchestrated by Indian-backed terrorists. Among the martyrs are seven girls and one boy, including Sania Soomro, Hifza Kausar, Esha Saleem, Haider, Malaika, and Sehr Saleem. Security officials stated that the cowardly attack was planned on Indian soil, holding the Indian state and its proxies responsible for shedding the blood of innocent schoolchildren. On May 21, a blast targeted a school bus near Zero Point on the National Highway in Khuzdar. It resulted in the tragic deaths of seven children and a teacher, and left 34 others injured.



Pakistan's Bano Kousar wins gold at Asian Ju-Jitsu Championship

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Pakistani athletes exhibited standout performance at the Asian Ju-Jitsu Championship as Bano Kousar won gold after defeating her Indian opponent Richa Sharma in the women's 48-kilogram contact Ju-Jitsu category.

Kousar's victory on Day 3 of the competition in Amman highlighted Pakistan's strong showing, which also included two bronze medals earlier in the week.

Muhammad Ali Rashid and Muhammad Yousuf Ali took bronze in the men's duo category, while Isra Waseem and Kainat Arif secured bronze in the women's duo event.

Khalil Ahmed Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation, praised the team's success. "These aren't just medals, they're proof that Pakistani athletes are world-class," he said. "The credit goes to the coaches, athletes and the entire support staff who worked tirelessly."

Tariq Ali, secretary general of both the Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation and the South Asian Regional Ju-Jitsu Association, called the win a milestone for the sport in Pakistan. "The passion and courage displayed by our female and youth athletes are truly inspiring," he said.

The championship, which features top competitors from across Asia, concludes Monday. Pakistan's team aims to add to its medal tally in the final events.

Arshad Nadeem receives prestigious 'Best Asian Athlete' award



SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's star javelin thrower and Olympian Arshad Nadeem has been conferred with the Best Asian Athlete Award by Asian Athletics.

The honour was conferred during an official ceremony held on Sunday in the city of Cumi, South Korea. The award recognises Arshad's outstanding performances and contributions to athletics in the Asian region.

Taking to his official X account, he wrote: "Honoured to receive the 'best male athlete of Asia' award by Asian Athletics. I am humbled and recharged to give better performances."

The ceremony took place following the Asian athletics meeting in South Korea, highlighting his status as one of the continent's top athletes.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Major General (ret'd) Muhammad Akram Sahi, Chairman of South Asian Athletics, who was present at the meeting where the award was presented.

Lahore Qalandars crowned PSL champions for third time

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars became the Pakistan Super League (PSL) champions for the third time after defeating Quetta Gladiators by six wickets on Sunday.

In a thrilling chase of 202 runs, Lahore Qalandars began aggressively with Mohammad Naeem and Fakhar Zaman laying a strong foundation. The duo put together a 39-run opening partnership, setting the tone for the innings.

However, the partnership was broken when Fakhar was dismissed by Abrar Ahmed after scoring just 11 runs off 10 balls, including two boundaries.

Abdullah Shafique then joined Naeem at the crease, and the pair quickly accelerated, hitting boundaries and building a crucial second-wicket partnership.

The 26-year-old was in fiery form as he approached his PSL 10 fifti, but his innings came to an end courtesy of Faheem Ashraf.

The opening batter scored a valuable 47 runs off 27 deliveries, featuring a boundary and six sixes. His dismissal ended the important 46-run stand, with the team positioned at 85 for 2 after 8.4 overs.

Abdullah Shafique continued to impress, forging a 30-run partnership with Kusal Perera, who also contributed important runs with his eyes set on surpassing the target.

The partnership was eventually broken by



Usman Tariq, who dismissed Shafique. Shafique played a fiery knock of 41 runs off 28 balls, including four boundaries and a six, with the team at 115 for 3 in 12.3 overs.

Perera and Bhanuka Rajapaksa were scoring runs but came under pressure as Quetta Gladiators' formidable bowling restricted them with dot balls, pushing the required run rate past 10.

In the 17th over, Mohammad Amir picked up his first wicket, dismissing Rajapaksa, who scored 14 off 16, leaving the side at 145-4 in 16.4 overs.

Sikandar Raza came to bat first, the crease and started hitting boundaries off setback as captain Saud Shafique was dismissed by Qalandars' skipper and left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi for just four runs off six balls, leaving the Gladiators at 17-1 in 2.4 overs.

On the other hand, it was Perera with the bat who was easing the pressure on the team's shoulders by notching up a brilliant fifty off 28 deliveries.

With just 13 overs remaining in the final over, Sikandar Raza hit the winning runs with a four and a six to seal the win with one delivery remaining.

After winning the toss

and electing to bat first, Quetta suffered an early setback as captain Saud Shafique was dismissed by Qalandars' skipper and left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi for just four runs off six balls, leaving the Gladiators at 17-1 in 2.4 overs.

Quetta's troubles continued in the next over when Salman Mirza removed Finn Allen for 12 off 11 deliveries, putting the side under early pressure.

However, a 38-run partnership between Rilee Rossouw and Hasan Nawaz steadied the innings.

Babar Masih downs Pankaj in Asia-Oceania Q event

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Babar Masih is through to the final round of Asia-Oceania Q School event two in Bangkok following a 4-1 victory over Pankaj Advani. According to information, Masih had already knocked out the likes of Tian Pengfei and Peng Yisong and his 4-1 defeat of Advani, highlighted by a break of 74 in the fourth frame, leaves the 38-year-old one more win away from a place on the World Snooker Tour. This victory is a proud moment for Pakistan, which has produced world-class snooker talent, including legends like Asif, Hamza Akbar, Haris Tahir, and Asjad Iqbal, all of whom have represented the nation at the highest level of professional snooker.



PCB announces ticket prices for Pakistan-Bangladesh series

RIZWAN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced ticket prices for the T20I series between Pakistan and Bangladesh, scheduled from May 28 to June 1 at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

Three T20Is will be played on May 28, May 30 and June 1, with the first ball set to be bowled at 8pm PST.

Tickets will be available to fans from May 25 onwards at centres of a private courier company, the cricket board said in a statement.

In the first phase, tickets will be available tomorrow at the centres located at Davis Road and Gulberg, Lahore.

To encourage fans to come to the ground, affordable prices have been set for the matches. The general enclosures (Hanif Mohammad, Imtiaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Saeed Ahmed) at the Gaddafi Stadium will be available to fans at Rs300.

The first-class enclosures (Abdul Hafeez Kardar, Abdul Qadir, Javed Miandad and Sarfaraz Nawaz) will be available at Rs400, while the premium enclosures (Rajas and Saeed Anwar) will be available to fans at Rs500.

PAKISTAN VS BANGLADESH T20I SERIES 2025									
TICKET PRICING									
DATE	MATCH	GALLERY	VIP/GENERAL	VIP/PREMIUM	VIP	PREMIUM	PROTECTED	GENERAL	GENERAL
28-MAY-25	BT281	5000	5000	5000	5000	1000	300	300	300
30-MAY-25	BT282	5000	5000	5000	5000	1000	300	300	300
1-JUN-25	BT283	5000	5000	5000	5000	1000	300	300	300

Pakistan drop Azhar Mahmood in fresh coaching line-up for Bangladesh T20Is

MUHAMMAD USMAN

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a new coaching staff and management for the forthcoming Twenty20I series against Bangladesh, starting next week. Surprisingly, assistant coach Azhar Mahmood is not part of the coaching staff.

Mike Hesson of New Zealand will take over as head coach, the PCB said. Among the other important postings are Hanif Malik as the batting coach and Ashley Noffke of Australia as the bowling coach. On the other hand, the team manager is now Naveed Akram Cheema.

The new support staff also includes Mohammad Masroor as the fielding coach, Cliff Deacon as the physiotherapist, and Imranullah as the strength and conditioning coach. The team management will also comprise a team analyst, team doctor, security manager, masseur, and media manager.

This series marks the beginning of Hesson's tenure as the white-ball head coach of Pakistan men's cricket, after he was appointed by the PCB for the said role on May 13, replacing Aqib Javed.

Mahmood, who previously held the role of bowling coach, had expressed his interest in taking up the role, stating that he would apply for the post of head coach.

"I'm definitely going to apply for the Pakistan team head coach role," Mahmood stated in an interview earlier this month.

However, the board did not consider him for the crucial role.

These changes come as Pakistan prepare to face Bangladesh in the T20I series, signalling a significant overhaul in the team's backroom leadership.

All three T20Is will be held at Lahore's

Gaddafi Stadium, starting on May 28 and concluding on June 1.

The first T20I will be played on Wednesday, the second on Friday and the final on Saturday. All matches will begin at 8:00pm local time.

Originally, Bangladesh was scheduled to



Ministry of Science Hit by 58 Inquiries, COMSATS University Tops List with 37 Cases

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) has emerged as the focal point of accountability concerns in Ministry of Science and Technology, with the highest number of formal inquiries—37 in total—initiated over the past three years. These cases form part of a broader pattern of 58 inquiries across four major public sector organizations under the Ministry of Science and Technology, exposing persistent issues related to mismanagement, financial irregularities, and administrative lapses. The investigations target key institutions including CUI,

the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), and the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). While several inquiries have been completed, many remain ongoing or are under judicial review. At COMSATS University Islamabad, thirty inquiries have reached a "Completed" or "Concluded" stage. These include cases where final reports have been submitted, references sent to the Senate, or administrative actions taken. Among the notable incidents is the controversial quiz paper circulated at the

Islamabad campus in December 2022, which has been concluded with recommendations shared with the Higher Education Commission and relevant ministries. Four inquiries remain "Ongoing," particularly at the Lahore campus, where most cases relate to unauthorized absences and disciplinary breaches. Additionally, three other cases—primarily involving faculty members who received university-funded higher education abroad and subsequently absconded—are classified as "Subjudice" due to pending court proceedings. The Pakistan Standards and Quality

Control Authority (PSQCA) reported two inquiries. One concerning recruitment anomalies from 2017 has been completed, while another broader investigation focused on salary-related issues and recruitment irregularities—is still being actively pursued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). PCSIR was the subject of twelve separate inquiries. Five of these have been completed, involving cases such as the issuance of fake laboratory reports and equipment theft. Seven others remain ongoing, including one involving harassment allegations against a senior officer, and several

others relating to unauthorized absences and mismanagement. Some proceedings have been stalled due to court-imposed stay orders. At the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), seven inquiries were initiated. Three have been decided by the courts, including cases of alleged financial embezzlement that resulted in the compulsory retirement of senior officials. Four cases remain pending, covering charges such as vandalism, concealment of facts, and a harassment case currently before the Islamabad High Court. In total, 39 of the 58 inquiries across these organizations have been catego-

ried as "Completed," "Concluded," or "Decided by Court." Twelve remain "Ongoing," and seven are either "Pending" or "Subjudice," indicating incomplete proceedings. These findings were disclosed in a written reply by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magi in response to an Un-Starred Question by MNA Sher Afzal Khan in the National Assembly. The lawmaker had sought a detailed account of all inquiries undertaken across the Ministry's departments over the last three years, as well as the reasons for procedural delays.

Bunyan Al Marsoos Dinner by Field Marshal in Rawalpindi

REPORT WAJHA TAMSEEL

A dinner was hosted by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, ANI(M), Chief of Army Staff, on 24 May 2025 in Rawalpindi to honour the political leadership, steadfast commitment of the Armed Forces, and the indomitable spirit of the people of Pakistan as demonstrated during Marka-e-Haq, Operation Bunyanum Marsoos. The distinguished gathering was graced by the Honourable President of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari; the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif; Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister; Chairman Senate; Speaker National Assembly; Federal Ministers; Governors; Chief Ministers; Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Chief of Air & Naval



Staff; senior leadership of major political parties; high-ranking government officials; and senior officers from the three Services. Participants paid tribute to the sagacious leadership that steered the nation through a defining moment, hailed the courage and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, and commended the resolute patriotism of the Pakistani people. In his remarks, the

Chief of Army Staff expressed profound gratitude to the political leadership for their strategic foresight during Marka-e-Haq and lauded the seamless inter-services coordination that ensured operational success in Operation Bunyanum Marsoos. He further acknowledged the unwavering role of Pakistani youth and media in countering the disinformation campaign waged by India, describing them as a 'steel wall' against malign propaganda. The COAS also commended the outstanding contributions of Pakistani scientists, engineers, and diplomats, whose professionalism and resolve proved critical during the conflict. The evening stood as a powerful affirmation of national unity and the collective resolve to advance with renewed strength and cohesion.

Removing encroachments from Government Housing a top priority, says FGEHA

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Director of Enforcement and Vigilance at the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Colonel (R) Azhar Saeed, emphasized that eliminating encroachments in government residential projects remained a top priority, with a strictly enforced zero-tolerance policy.

In an exclusive interview with APP on Sunday, Colonel (R) Azhar Saeed stated that, in line with the vision of FGEHA Director General Captain (R) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, indiscriminate operations against encroachments were actively underway.

He emphasized that all officers of the Enforcement and Vigilance Wing had been directed to sustain anti-encroachment efforts without exception. Assistant Director of the Enforcement and Vigilance Wing, Dawood Kakar, informed APP that commercial centers in Sectors G-13 and G-14 have been completely cleared of encroachments.

He further stated that a week-long crackdown in these sectors' commercial areas led to the removal of illegally constructed structures, stalls, and encroachments obstructing public pathways and commercial spots.

Opinion & Editorial

The Army Chief's Take on the 'Forwarded as Received' Mindset

Abdul Basit Ali

In a recent speech at a forum, Army Chief General Asim Munir highlighted the importance of verifying information before sharing it, referencing a verse from the Holy Quran to emphasize his point. He cited Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 6, which instructs believers to investigate any news—particularly when it comes from a source of questionable integrity—to avoid unintentionally causing harm and later regretting it. General Munir also expressed concern over a troubling trend in Pakistan, where certain individuals and groups spread information with a "forwarded as received" mindset, without any verification. He noted that this behavior goes against the true teachings of Islam. In Islam, the transmission of information is not a trivial act—it carries moral, social, and spiritual weight. As follows through social media, messaging apps, and online platforms, the principles set forth in Islamic teachings become more relevant than ever. One of the central ethical concerns in Islam is spreading news without verification, which the religion forbids and encourages and, in some cases, explicitly condemns. The Quran, Islam's sacred text, lays down the foundation for the importance of verifying information before acting upon or relating it to others. This verse quoted by Army Chief encapsulates a profound ethical principle: the duty of verification. It teaches believers to pause, reflect, and examine the credibility of any news or report before reacting or passing it along. The context of this verse was a real incident during the Prophet Muhammad's time, where misinformation could have led to a serious conflict. The divine instruction that followed served not just to prevent one incident, but to establish a timeless rule: do not act on unverified information, as it can lead to injustice and regret. In Islam,



Abdul Basit Ali

causing harm to others—be it through words, actions, or false accusations—is considered a major sin. Fitnah (chaos, conflict, or discord) is strongly condemned, and the careless spread of rumors or baseless claims can be a direct cause of it. The Quran repeatedly warns about the dangers of fitnah, even stating that it can be worse than killing in some contexts (Quran 2:191). A small, false piece of news can ruin reputations, destroy families, ignite community tensions, and even endanger lives. Moreover, Islam categorically prohibits backbiting (ghibah) and slander (buhtan), both of which can arise from spreading unverified news about individuals. The Quran commands backbiting to eating the flesh of one's dead brother (Quran 49:12)—a deeply disturbing image that reflects the seriousness of the sin. Slander, where false accusations are made without evidence, carries even graver consequences in Islamic law and is considered a punishable offense both in this world and the hereafter. Another relevant concept is taqwa (God-consciousness). A person who possesses taqwa is always mindful of their words and deeds, knowing that everything they say or do is recorded by the angels and will be judged by Allah. Before sharing news, a believer with taqwa will ask: Is this true? Is this beneficial? Is this fair? Will this harm someone? The answer to these questions guides their actions. This mindfulness is what separates the careless from the conscientious in Islam. In a society inundated with information—some accurate, much of it false—Muslims are called to act as filters rather than funnels. Instead of simply forwarding what we receive, we are expected to verify, assess, and confirm. Islamic scholars have consistently emphasized the role of tabayun (clarification or investigation) before accepting any report, particularly when it affects another person's honor, reputa-

tion, or livelihood. Furthermore, the principle of "enjoining good and forbidding evil" (amr bil ma'ruf wa nahi tanbih) applies to the digital world as well. Spreading false information, especially knowingly, is a clear violation of this principle. If one sees others sharing unverified news, it becomes their duty to correct it—respectfully and wisely—based on knowledge and truth. Islam places a great emphasis on honesty, accountability, and social responsibility when it comes to the spread of information. Spreading news without verification is not a light matter in Islam—it is a behavior that can lead to serious spiritual consequences and worldly harm. In a time when rumors can go viral within seconds, the timeless guidance of the Quran and Sunnah serves as a powerful reminder: Speak the truth, verify before you act, and always be conscious of the impact your words have on others. A Muslim must be a beacon of truth and integrity, never a vehicle for falsehood. As Allah commands in the Quran: "And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart—about all those [one] will be questioned." (Surah Al-Isra, 17:36). This verse warns that a person will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment for any information they passed along without certainty or knowledge. Islam teaches that every word and action is recorded and will be presented to a person on the Day of Judgment. If someone spreads a false report that causes harm to others, they bear the sin of that harm. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "A man utters a word thoughtlessly (i.e., without thinking of its consequences), and as a result of it, he will fall into the Hellfire deeper than the distance between the east and the west." (Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 6477). This hadith emphasizes how a single careless word or unverified piece of news can lead to immense punishment. If it results in harm or misguidance. One of the most well-known examples of the consequences of spreading unverified news is the incident of the slander (al-Ifk) against Aisha (RA), the wife of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In this incident, false rumors were spread about her character. The consequences were severe, and Allah revealed verses in Surah An-Nur (Chapter 24) condemning those who propagated the lie without evidence. While the Prophet (PBUH) exercised mercy and restraint, this verse illustrates how seriously Islam views the act of spreading unverified and harmful information. Historically, Islamic societies governed under Shariah law implemented strict policies regarding the spread of unverified news, especially if it involved reputations, governance, or public safety. If someone's rumors led to civil unrest, they could be punished under 'zir (disciplinary punishment by the judge), depending on the level of harm caused. These punishments could include fines, imprisonment, public shaming, or even corporal punishment in severe cases. Even if a person escapes worldly punishment, Islam teaches that they remain accountable in the sight of Allah for the consequences of their words. The Prophet (PBUH

accuses another of fornication or adultery without presenting four reliable witnesses. Allah says: "And those who launch a charge against chaste women, and produce not four witnesses (to support their allegation)—flog them with eighty stripes; and reject their evidence ever after; for such men are wicked transgressors." (Surah An-Nur, 24:4). This law was not only applied during the time of the Prophet (PBUH) but also during the rule of the righteous caliphs and throughout Islamic legal history. The punishment of 80 lashes was meant to protect people's honor and prevent the chaos that can arise from unverified claims. The hypocrites (munafiqeen) in Medina were notorious for spreading false news to create panic and division within the Muslim community. In response to their actions, Allah revealed the following: "If the hypocrites, and those in whose hearts is disease, and those who spread false news among the people of Medina, do not stop, We will surely incite you against them; then they will not remain your neighbors and therein except for a little." (Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:60). According to scholars, this verse signaled a warning of banishment or even execution if the hypocrites continued to spread lies and destabilize the society. While the Prophet (PBUH) exercised mercy and restraint, this verse illustrates how seriously Islam views the act of spreading unverified and harmful information. Historically, Islamic societies governed under Shariah law implemented strict policies regarding the spread of unverified news, especially if it involved reputations, governance, or public safety. If someone's rumors led to civil unrest, they could be punished under 'zir (disciplinary punishment by the judge), depending on the level of harm caused. These punishments could include fines, imprisonment, public shaming, or even corporal punishment in severe cases. Even if a person escapes worldly punishment, Islam teaches that they remain accountable in the sight of Allah for the consequences of their words. The Prophet (PBUH

emphasized that sins caused by the tongue—such as lying, gossiping, and slandering—are among the most dangerous. On the Day of Judgment, a person may find that the consequences of a seemingly small rumor have multiplied due to its far-reaching effects. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or remain silent." (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim) This simple yet powerful hadith reminds believers to weigh their words carefully and avoid unnecessary speech and news—especially when it is unverified or harmful. It is clear that spreading unverified information is not only harmful but also fundamentally at odds with both Islamic teachings and the principles upheld by civilized societies. Unfortunately, there is a growing disconnect from the core values of Islam, which emphasize truth, justice, and responsibility. At the same time, rather than learning from the positive aspects of developed societies—such as their commitment to accuracy and accountability—we too often imitate the negative influences of their cultures. To confront these challenges, a collective effort is needed. The government, media, and citizens must embrace their respective and informed practices. This includes promoting digital literacy, enforcing stricter regulations on the dissemination of misinformation, and applying meaningful penalties to those who deliberately spread falsehoods. Only through unity and shared responsibility can Pakistan protect its national security and move toward long-term stability and peace. The recent statement by the Army Chief regarding the dangers of spreading unverified news has been widely welcomed across the nation. There is a strong public demand to take firm action—making Pakistan a resolute state that holds wrongdoers and anti-state elements accountable under the law.

India hatches conspiracy against Pakistan, pushes FATF to include Islamabad in grey list again



ARSHAD MALIK

ISLAMABAD: India has started conspiring to economically weaken Pakistan as Delhi planned to force the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global financial crime watchdog, to add Islamabad to its 'grey list' again, and oppose upcoming World Bank funding to its arch rival.

British News agency Reuters quoted a top Indian government source as saying that Delhi would not miss any opportunity "in opposing Pakistan and the next one is funding by World Bank, and we will raise our protest there too." Pakistani diplomatic sources and political analysts castigated India for not only initiating a false global propaganda campaign

against Pakistan but also making efforts to put Islamabad in the FATF grey list. Sources say the dossier presented by India to the FATF is based on unfounded allegations, aimed at putting financial pressure on Pakistan and obstructing its economic development. India is alarmed by Pakistan's economic recovery and progress, they added. Political observers note that India has strongly opposed the \$20 billion development projects approved by the World Bank for Pakistan, further revealing its malicious intentions. Analysts say India is attempting to deprive Pakistan of financial assistance to halt the development process and create internal instability in the

country. Experts state that India is engaged in international conspiracies against Pakistan in order to maintain its hegemony in the region. All these actions reflect political hostility and a desire to damage Pakistan's global reputation. Experts say that India is trying to mislead the world on false pretexts while Islamabad adheres to international laws.

Pakistan authorities have appealed to the international community not to fall for India's false propaganda and to acknowledge Pakistan's positive initiatives for promoting peace in the region.

Pakistan was taken off the FATF grey list in 2022, giving it a clean bill of health on terrorist financing and boosting its reputation among lenders.

The FATF's grey list places a country under increased monitoring until it has rectified identified flaws in its financial system.

IMF director Julie Kozaack had on May 22 said at a press conference in Washington that Pakistan had met all of its targets and made progress on reforms, leading the board to approve the programme last year.

Rich tributes paid to Pak Navy during PSL X final

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Rich tributes were paid to the officers and jawans of the Pakistan Navy in the innings break during the PSL X final played between Lahore Qalandars and Quetta Gladiators at the Gaddafi Stadium, here on Sunday night.

A special ceremony marked by performances by renowned singers like Abrar Ahmed showed solidarity with the Pakistan Naval force. The ceremony was attended by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, US embassy Islamabad Charge D'Affaires Ruziela Bakar, senior civil and military leadership were present on the occasion.

Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the distinguished guests at the Gaddafi stadium.

Shutter-down in interior Sindh: JSQM protesters arrested

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Workers of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) observed a shutter-down strike against relevant officials for not handing over the dead body of martyred Irfan Leghari across Sindh on Sunday. The protest demonstrations were held in Moro, Larkana, Nawab Shah, Thatta, and Obaro. All petrol pumps in the city are closed, and protest demonstrations were held in different cities of Sindh. In Obaro, all business centres, including Shahi Bazar, Subhan Allah Market, and Main Road Market, were closed on the call of Sindh Qaumi Mahaz President Bashir Khan Qureshi.

The protesters demanded that relevant officials that a case should be registered against those who kidnapped and later killed Irfan Leghari. A similar kind of demonstration was also held in Sakrand, Qazi Ahmad, Daur, Nawab Shah, and other cities of the province. The traffic on roads is too low, and all business centres are already closed. Heavy contingents of police deputed in these areas to tackle any untoward incident.

Govt focuses on power sector indigenisation to boost exports: Leghari

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari said the government is working to shift the country's economic model from import dependence to export-driven growth, with a strong focus on indigenisation in the power sector.

In a video link address at a National Consultative Workshop on Power Sector Indigenisation organized by the National Grid Company of Pakistan (NGC) in collaboration with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), the minister said the government is committed to building strong linkages between the energy sector, industry, and technical experts to enhance local capabilities. He announced the launch of Pakistan's first Power Equipment Manufacturing Dashboard—a real-time digital platform aimed at tracking local production, vendor performance, and strategic investment opportunities.

Leghari said the dashboard would promote transparency and data-driven decision-making in the sector, helping monitor progress on localisation and identify future opportunities. "Policy-making will now be guided by reliable data," he added.

The minister also confirmed that the restructuring of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) is underway, while the establishment of the Independent System



and Market Operator (ISMO) has been completed. The Energy Infrastructure Development and Management Company will also be activated soon, he added.

Leghari emphasized that the "Made in Pakistan" label on power equipment would become a symbol of national progress, as the country moves toward self-reliance and sustainable energy solutions. He said local manufacturing of energy sector equipments mark a major milestone and will significantly reduce import reliance.

He noted that the energy sector is witnessing rapid growth in generation capacity, but is also facing new challenges due to evolving technologies.

Speaking on renewable energy, Leghari said the solar energy revolution has already begun in Pakistan, though it also poses integration challenges for the grid. He urged distribution companies to manage net metering carefully while adopting new solar technologies.

The minister also praised the Energy Data Portal developed under LUMS, calling it a valuable tool for all stakeholders. He said the government is setting specific timelines for achieving various energy targets.

Interior Minister chairs key meeting on Islamabad's Administration

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired an important meeting in the capital, focusing on urban management, law enforcement, and administrative reforms.

The meeting was attended by Islamabad's Chief Commissioner, Inspector General of Police, Deputy Commissioner, DGs, SPs, ACs, Minister of State for Interior Tal Chaudhry, and the Federal Interior Secretary.

A major decision was taken to launch an immediate crackdown against illegal constructions in Islamabad.

Naqvi ordered strict action against unapproved housing structures and unauthorized housing societies, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy.

"All relevant officers must ensure strict implementation of this policy," Naqvi said, directing the use of the Land Information

and Management System (LIMS) and satellite mapping to prevent any illegal development.

Naqvi stressed that providing world-class services to the residents of Islamabad must be the top priority.

He urged the police and administration to improve their image through public trust and proactive service delivery.

"The safety of citizens' lives and property must not be compromised," he said, instructing SPs and ACs to perform their duties actively.

He also called for new initiatives from officers to improve public convenience, promising full support for their implementation. "This mission must be pursued with full commitment and national spirit," Naqvi added. The Interior Minister also directed effective price control of essential commodities and special cleanliness measures during Eid-ul-Azha.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a high-level meeting.

Death toll rises as severe storm, rain lash parts of Punjab

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The torrential rains and strong winds caused widespread destruction across the Punjab as 14 people lost their lives and 101 suffered injuries in rain-related incidents.

According to sources, various areas of Lahore received light to moderate rainfall.

Areas like Upper Mall, Lakshmi Chowk, Mughalpur, Tajpura, and Chowk Nakhuda recorded around 1 mm of rain.

Light showers were reported from Jail Road, Airport, Gulberg, and Nishtar Town, whereas heavy downpours in areas like Pani Wala Talab, Farukhabad, Gulistan Ravi, Iqbal Town, Samanabad, and Johar Town led to power outages.

Strong winds and rain also disrupted the electricity supply in several areas.

Many areas in Lahore experienced power outages. The Orange Line Metro Train service was also suspended, and stations were evacuated as a precautionary measure.

In Raiwind Road near Bhothian Chowk, two people—25-year-old Usman and 20-year-old Hasnain—were injured when a wall collapsed due to strong winds. They were shifted to a local hospital.

Meanwhile, the storm caused the roof and wall of a mud house to collapse, injuring six people in Attock.

As many as 8 people were



injured in Gujranwala due to the collapse of walls and signboards. Three people were dead in Jhelum due to rain-related incidents.

Several solar panels and hoardings were reported to have fallen, damaging vehicles and motorcycles.

PDMA issues high alert

Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) issued high alert after strong winds and rain hit several parts of Punjab on Saturday.

According to the PDMA spokesperson, all District Emergency Operation Centers have been put on alert.

The people have also been urged to exercise caution and stay away from electric poles, hanging wires and dilapidated structures.

The PDMA emphasized that people should seek shelter in safe locations during such situation and avoid going outside during the rain.

Earlier, the dark clouds covered the sky in Lahore with severe dust storm and winds.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also directed the authorities to remain alert in the rainy weather.

Minister Junaid Anwar Chaudhry unveils scholarship initiative for coastal communities

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced the launch of the Maritime Educational Endowment Fund (MEEF) to provide scholarships to coastal communities' deserving and talented children.

In a statement on Sunday, the minister stated that the MEEF aims to promote inclusive development by enabling access to quality education for youth from over 70 coastal and fishing communities, particularly in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan. "This initiative



will help cultivate a skilled maritime workforce essential for the country's future," he noted.

He said the creation of the fund is based on recom-

mendations of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs, reflects the government's broader commitment to education-driven empow-

erment in coastal regions. "The Maritime Educational Endowment Fund underscores our dedication to sustainable human capital development," said Junaid Anwar Chaudhry. "By investing in coastal youth today, we are laying the foundation for a resilient and prosperous maritime sector tomorrow."

To finance the MEEF, the Ministry will restructure Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions from organizations operating under its jurisdiction. This redirection of CSR resources aims to create a centralized and sustainable funding mechanism to sup-

port long-term educational opportunities. The Minister also announced the formation of a dedicated oversight committee, responsible for ensuring transparency, equitable scholarship distribution, and strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks. In its initial phase, the MEEF will target students of coastal regions, with plans to expand nationally, enabling more students across the country to benefit from the initiative. "This initiative represents our vision of an educated, empowered, and thriving maritime community," the Minister added. Highlighting the urgent

need for intervention, Minister Chaudhry cited data from recent education surveys showing school dropout rates exceeding 40 percent among children in coastal regions—particularly in remote districts of Sindh and Balochistan due to financial constraints and inadequate educational infrastructure. "The MEEF is more than just a scholarship programme; it is a strategic investment in the future of Pakistan's maritime sector," the Minister said. "It symbolizes our enduring commitment to ensuring that no capable student is left behind due to economic hardship."