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‘Every drop of Pakistan water is our red line’, PM warns India

Ishaq Dar meets PML-N AJK president, discusses govt formation

‘Every drop of Pakistan water is our red line’, PM warns India

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday warned India against any move affecting Pakistan’s water supply, saying Islamabad would respond directly if New Delhi failed to return to the “right path.”

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Yadgar-e-Fatah monument in Islamabad on eve of Independence Day, the prime minister said Pakistan wanted peace but cautioned that its desire for peace should not be mistaken for weakness. “India must come to the right path, otherwise it will be given a direct response,” Shehbaz said, adding that Pakistan wanted peace and stability in the region.

He further said the entire nation was celebrating Independence Day under the shadow of the Victory Monument and paid tribute to the nation for its success in Marka-e-Haq. He said the monument symbolised the superiority of the Pakistan Armed Forces, adding that the nation had witnessed an “ocean of emotions” in its hearts. PM Shehbaz paid tribute to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the armed forces for the success of Marka-e-Haq, saying the nation’s head was held high while the enemy had suffered a “humiliating defeat.”

The premier congratulated the field mar-

shah and his team on the Victory Monument and said its unique design had been completed in just eight months.

He said Pakistan had emerged as a symbol of stability in the region and pledged that the government would provide new opportunities for the country’s younger generation. PM Shehbaz said Pakistan wanted the world to remain protected from new conflicts and noted that Islamabad had played a mediating role between the United States and Iran.

that Islamabad’s stance on Kashmir was unequivocal and that the sacrifices of Kashmiris would not be allowed to go in vain. The prime minister advised the Afghan government to prevent its territory from being used for terrorism. Shehbaz said no power could defeat a united nation, adding that no one should dare look at Pakistan with hostile intentions. “We are all heirs to Pakistan, and our differences should not turn into enmity,” the prime minister said. The inauguration ceremony began in Islamabad with displays of national spirit, patriotism and commitment to defending the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari, PM Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Munir jointly inaugurated the Victory Monument.

Contingents of the armed forces, civil armed forces and police from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the ceremony. Police contingents from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan also took part. The ceremony was attended by the service chiefs, federal ministers, foreign diplomats, Chairman Senate, Speaker National Assembly and other senior civilian and military officials. The governors of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the Punjab chief minister, were also present.

Pakistan backs Saudi-led coalition to protect global waterways

MONITORING DESK, ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Tehran and carried messages to the Iranian leadership from Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir as part of Pakistan’s regular diplomatic exchanges, while security-related matters, bilateral relations and regional developments were also discussed. Pakistan stresses that it will continue to offset spoilers using direct and indirect channels and that it will enable the continuation of constructive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues. Naqvi called on and held talks with Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar. “The interior minister’s visit provides us an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations, security, regional security and stability, and constructive engagements amongst the parties in the region and regional developments. I will not share the details of what exactly was the message, but this is essentially in the context of peace efforts.

پوری قوم کو 79 واں

یوم آزادی مبارک

عظیم پاکستانی قوم اور پاک فوج کے عزم و حوصلے کو سلام،

جو وطن کی سلامتی اور دفاع کے لیے ہر محاذ پر ثابت قدم ہے

چیمبرمین میڈیا سنٹر اسلام آباد

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Islamabad, Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar’s annual Urs celebrations begin

Islamabad (FIR Report)

A spirited and dignified ceremony of bathing the Darbar Sharif was held in connection with the annual Urs celebrations of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif, also known as Bari Imam Sarkar. The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon, Member of National Assembly Malik Abrar Ahmed, Khadim Darbar Bari Imam Sarkar and Baba Kilo Sarkar Raja Sarfaraz Akram, and other important personalities. During the ceremony, the Darbar Sharif was bathed with devotion and respect, while special prayers were also offered on this occasion for the security, peace, stability and prosperity of the country and the nation. The personalities participating in the ritual of bathing the Darbar Sharif paid tribute to the teachings and Sufi services of Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar. Speaking on the occasion, the speakers said that Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar is one of the great Sufi saints of the subcontinent, who spread the message of love, brotherhood, tolerance, humanity and brotherhood through his teachings. His message is still of great importance for the promotion of peace, tolerance and unity in the society. They said that thousands of



devotees from all over the country participate in the annual Urs celebrations and express their devotion to Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar. Urs celebrations are not only religiously and spiritually important but also an important part of Islamabad’s Sufi and cultural traditions. On the occasion of the ceremony, security, cleanliness and other arrangements were also reviewed in and around the Darbar, while arrangements have been made by the relevant institutions to provide facilities to the pilgrims. The ceremony was attended by Chaudhry Wajid Ayub, Dr. Riaz

Shahbaz Janjua, Raja Imtiaz Janjua, Dr. Raja Asif Janjua, Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, Shafiquddin Satti, Umar Farooq Quddusi, Syed Bashir Shah, Raja Shahzad Janjua, Dr. Haider Janjua, Abdullah Janjua, Raja Muhammad Ayaz, Ehsan-ul-Haq Mian, Colonel Inam Rabbani and General (retd) Abdul Janjua (Sitara Imtiaz) and other personalities. Finally, special prayers were offered for the security, progress and prosperity of the country and nation, the unity of the Muslim Ummah and peace and stability in the region.

(*Gujranwala environmental protection, effective actions against plastic and air pollution, vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif,*)



Gujranwala (FIR Report)

According to the details: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for environmental protection and clean Punjab, under the leadership of Deputy Director of Environment Protection Department (EPA) Gujranwala Imran Mayo, EPA Gujranwala is conducting effective field operations to implement environmental laws in Gujranwala district. The seals of the previously

sealed shops were found to be intact while during further action 14 kg of prohibited shopping bags were seized. An awareness campaign was also conducted in the market and affidavits were taken from more than 37 vendors and consumers to refrain from selling and using illegal shopping bags. 3 service stations/car wash centers were inspected for water conservation, 2 were sealed and 1 was issued a notice. Similarly, notices were issued to 2 under-construction sites while inspecting them to control dust emission.

Implementation of environmental

laws and smog rules 2023 was also reviewed in Punjab Small Industrial Estate-II Gujranwala. Legal action including notices, sealing and fines were taken against the offending units, while several units were found to have installed environmental pollution control systems and met the required standards. Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed directed that indiscriminate actions should be continued on violation of environmental laws and field monitoring should be made more effective and strict for the protection of water, air and environment.

Independence Day Numbered Convention, Gujranwala District, Numbered Convention was organized in Gujranwala district in connection with the Independence Day of Pakistan



Gujranwala (FIR Report)

Independence Day Numdar Convention Program was organized in Gujranwala district in a dignified ceremony, in which Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Dr. Tayyab Hayat, Assistant Commissioner

President Faisal Majeed, Chairman Numdar Association Sufyan Waraich and other officers and Numdars participated.

Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed cut the Independence Day cake along with the officers and numbedans and addressed the ceremony. He said that Independence Day gives us a message to work together

for the development, prosperity and stability of our beloved country and fulfill our national responsibilities fully. Enumerators are the main means of effective communication between the administration and the people in rural areas, so they should play their full role in solving public problems and effectively implementing government initiatives.

Independence Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Gujranwala Regional Passport Office Cake was cut, reiteration of commitment to national unity and service to the people

Gujranwala (FIR Report)

Regional Passport Office Gujranwala organized a grand ceremony on the occasion of 14th August Independence Day. The national flag was hoisted and the independence cake was cut in the ceremony. Taj Wali Khan, Deputy Director Zonal Head Central Punjab took special part in the ceremony, along with Kashif Saleem, Assistant Director Regional Passport Office Gujranwala and Atif Saleem, Deputy Assistant Director were also present in the ceremony. Rashid Mir and Finance Secretary Fahad Bashir Jaral were present. Speaking on this occasion, Taj Wali Khan said that freedom is a great blessing of Allah. We should value it and make service to the nation our first duty. He further said that the agent mafia and blackmail-



ers have been completely eradicated from the passport office. Now the citizens come without any recom-

mendation or hindrance. A special prayer was also offered for development, security and prosperity.

(*Independence Day celebrated with enthusiasm at Air Force Housing Scheme Office, Gujranwala, hoisting of the national flag, cake cutting ceremony, reiteration of national unity and commitment to service to the people, a solemn and enthusiastic ceremony was held at the office of Air Force Housing Scheme, Gujranwala on August 14th to mark Independence Day. *)



Gujranwala (FIR Report)

Independence Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Air Force Housing Scheme Office. On this occasion, Allah Almighty was thanked for the great blessing of Pakistan’s freedom and special prayers were offered for the security, development and prosperity of the country and nation. Project Director (retd) Air Force Housing Scheme Bilal Ahmed, Deputy Project Director Fakhir Mehmood, AD Finance Tahir Manzoor and AD Development Samid Sahib and other officers and staff participated in the event. On this occasion, the speakers said in their address that freedom is a great blessing of Allah Almighty, the value and protection of which is the national responsibility of all of us. We should consider serving the nation, honesty, unity and mutual

cooperation as our first duty. Every individual has to play his positive role for the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

Project Director (retd) Air Force Housing Scheme Bilal Ahmed said on the occasion that effective steps are being taken to provide facilities to citizens and solve their problems immediately in Air Force Housing Scheme. He said that now the citizens should visit the office without any recommendation or unnecessary hindrance and inform about their problems so that they can be solved in time. He further said that development work in Alhamdulillah Air Force Housing Scheme is going on fast and citizens are being provided with their plot numbers and positions. Construction of houses by citizens in Sector A and Sector B is also continuing, while the provision of basic amenities to residents is

being further improved.

CCTV cameras have also been installed in the Air Force Housing Scheme for 24-hour security, while steps are underway to make the security system more effective.

Regarding development projects, it was informed that work on roads, street lights and other basic infrastructure is going on rapidly. In particular, the development work in Fenum Block and Shaheen Block is progressing rapidly. Similarly, the process of providing positions to citizens in Thunder Block, Mirage Block and Eagle Block is also going on. It was expressed by the administration that timely, transparent, respectful and effective facilities will be provided to all the citizens of the Air Force Housing Scheme and all possible support will be provided to solve their legitimate problems.



The historic Bala Hisar Fort is illuminated colorful lights and national flags and decorative ahead of Pakistan’s 79th Independence Day celebrations, presenting a vibrant patriotic view in the provincial capital.

SDPI debate explores new provinces, administrative units, local government reform to strengthen governance

APP- ISLAMABAD: A high-level national debate convened by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) brought together political leaders, policymakers, technocrats and civil society representatives for a wide-ranging discussion on how Pakistan could improve governance and service delivery.

The debate examined multiple reform options, including the creation of new provinces and administrative units, stronger and more empowered local governments, fiscal devolution, institutional reform and better alignment of government structures with citizens’ need, said a press release issued on Thursday. SDPI debate explores new provinces, administrative units, local government reform to strengthen governance

The debate, titled “Should Pakistan create more administrative units?”, was attended by senior representatives of PML(N), PPP, MQM, PTL, JI and JUI(F), federal ministers, technocrats and civil society representatives. Participants offered different perspectives on the appropriate structure and scale of governance, with some supporting the creation of new provinces or smaller



administrative units, others stressing empowerment of existing tiers, and many arguing that these options should be assessed together rather than treated as mutually exclusive. A recurring theme was that any governance restructuring should be informed by constitutional requirements, public demand, fiscal sustainability, administrative capacity and its likely impact on service delivery. Participants also highlighted the need for stronger devolution of political, administrative and financial authority so that governance structures, whether existing or newly created, could respond more effectively to citizens. SDPI debate explores new provinces, administrative

units, local government reform to strengthen governance

Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal said administrative restructuring should ultimately be judged by whether it reduces citizens’ sense of exclusion and improves service delivery. He argued that smaller administrative units could bring government closer to citizens and stressed that local governments would remain an essential part of the governance architecture regardless of the number of provinces. He also said proposals for new provinces should be backed by public support.

Russian Ambassador felicitates Pakistani nation on Independence Day, reaffirms commitment to stronger ties

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev has extended warm greetings to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, highlighting the friendly and mutually respectful ties between Pakistan and Russia.

In his congratulatory message issued on Thursday, Ambassador Khorev said Pakistan’s Independence Day reflected the “courage, determination and strong spirit” of the Pakistani people.

He said Pakistan had followed its own path of development over the decades, guided by the ideals and aspirations of its founding fathers.

The ambassador also highlighted the long-standing

cooperation between Russia and Pakistan, saying the two countries maintained close and constructive relations in various fields.

He expressed confidence that the two countries would continue to strengthen mutual understanding and expand their partnership for the benefit of their peoples.

Khorev said Independence Day was a time of national pride, joy and celebration, and expressed hope that peace, stability and prosperity would prevail across Pakistan.

He wished the Pakistani people good health, success and prosperity and concluded his message with the slogans, “Pakistan Zindabad! Rus-Pak Dosti Paidnabad!”



ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

آئی جی اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کا 79 ویں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر خصوصی پیغام

پاکستان اور دنیا بھر میں مقیم پاکستانیوں کو جشن آزادی کی مبارکباد، وفاقی دارالحکومت میں امن و امان برقرار رکھنے کے لیے جان و مال کے تحفظ کے لیے جامع اور مربوط سکیورٹی پلان تشکیل دیا گیا ہے جس کے تحت 04 ہزار سے زائد افسران و جوان مختلف مقامات پر سکیورٹی اور ٹریفک کے فرائض سرانجام دیں گے۔ پولیس افسران و جوان ویلنگ، پینٹنگ اور مقامات پر سکیورٹی ڈیوٹیوں پر تعینات رہیں گے تاکہ شہریوں کو محفوظ ماحول فراہم کیا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ جشن آزادی کے موقع پر دن و نیگ، ہوائی فائرنگ، ہلر ہڈی، خطرناک ڈرائیونگ یا شہریوں کو تنگ کرنے کی کسی صورت اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی۔ کسی بھی غیر قانونی سرگرمی میں ملوث افراد کے خلاف بلا امتیاز قانونی کارروائی میں لائی جائے گی۔

آئی جی اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کی زیر صدارت اعلیٰ سطحی کمانڈ کانفرنس کا انعقاد

کانفرنس میں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر سکیورٹی، ٹریفک، سیف سٹی مانیٹرنگ، شہری سہولت اور شہر کی مجموعی صورتحال سے متعلق انتظامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے اہم مقامات، تقریبات اور عوامی اجتماعات کے اطراف اضافی نفری تعینات کرنے، داخلی و خارجی راستوں کی موثر نگرانی اور شہر کے مختلف علاقوں میں پولیس کی بھرپور موجودگی یقینی بنانے کے احکامات جاری کئے

چیف ٹریفک آفیسر اسلام آباد کائنات اطہر خان کی زیر صدارت اہم اجلاس کا انعقاد

اسلام آباد ٹریفک پولیس کا یوم آزادی پر موثر ٹریفک مینجمنٹ کے لیے جامع پلان تیار۔ وفاقی دارالحکومت کی اہم شاہراہوں، چوکوں، تفریحی مقامات اور رش والے علاقوں میں اضافی ٹریفک نفری کی تعیناتی، موثر مانیٹرنگ اور شہریوں کو بروقت رہنمائی فراہم فراہم کی جائے گی



کسی بھی غیر معمولی صورتحال میں فوری ریسپانس یقینی بنانا ترجیح ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید ہدایت کی کہ فیملڈ میں تعینات ٹریفک افسران و اہلکار شہریوں کے ساتھ خوش اخلاقی اور ذمہ داری کا مظاہرہ کریں، ٹریفک قوانین پر عملدرآمد یقینی بنائیں اور شہریوں کو تبادلہ راستوں، پارکنگ اور دیگر ضروری معلومات کے حوالے سے بروقت رہنمائی فراہم کریں۔ سی ٹی او اسلام آباد کائنات اطہر خان نے واضح کیا کہ یوم آزادی کے موقع پر شہریوں کی سہولت اور محفوظ ماحول کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے اسلام آباد ٹریفک پولیس مکمل طور پر متحرک رہے گی اور ٹریفک کی روانی میں کسی قسم کی غیر ضروری رکاوٹ پیدا نہیں ہونے دی جائے گی۔

ٹریفک رؤس اور رش والے مقامات پر ٹریفک مینجمنٹ کو بھی موثر بنانے پر زور دیا گیا۔ سی ٹی او اسلام آباد نے تمام متعلقہ یونٹس کو سکیورٹی، ٹریفک، سیف سٹی، پولی آئی اور دیگر شعبوں کے درمیان موثر رابطہ اور باہمی کوآرڈینیشن یقینی بنانے کی ہدایت کی تاکہ کسی بھی صورتحال میں فوری اور مربوط ردعمل دیا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے سینئر پولیس افسران کو ہدایت کی کہ فیملڈ میں موجود پولیس اہلکار شہریوں کے ساتھ خوش اخلاقی

کے۔ انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ غیر قانونی اسلحہ رکھنے، اس کی نمائش یا ہوائی فائرنگ میں ملوث عناصر کے خلاف بلا امتیاز قانونی کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے سیف سٹی کے ذریعے شہر کی موثر اور مسلسل نگرانی، اہم شاہراہوں اور حساس مقامات کی مانیٹرنگ اور کسی بھی ناخوشگوار صورتحال کی صورت میں فوری پولیس ریسپانس یقینی بنانے کی ہدایت کی۔ پولی آئی سافٹ ویئر کے ذریعے ہلر ہڈی میں آنے

تفصیلات کے مطابق انسپٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی نے 79 ویں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر خصوصی پیغام جاری کرتے ہوئے پاکستان اور دنیا بھر میں مقیم پاکستانیوں کو جشن آزادی کی مبارکباد پیش کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آزادی اللہ تعالیٰ کی بہت بڑی نعمت ہے اور اس عظیم دن کو قوی جذبہ، جوش و خروش اور ذمہ داری کے ساتھ منایا جائے۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے کہا کہ وفاقی دارالحکومت میں امن و امان برقرار رکھنے اور شہریوں کے جان و مال کے تحفظ کے لیے جامع اور مربوط سکیورٹی پلان تشکیل دیا گیا ہے جس کے تحت 04 ہزار سے زائد افسران و جوان مختلف مقامات پر سکیورٹی اور ٹریفک کے فرائض سرانجام دیں گے۔ پولیس افسران و جوان ویلنگ، پینٹنگ اور مقامات پر سکیورٹی ڈیوٹیوں پر تعینات رہیں گے تاکہ شہریوں کو محفوظ ماحول فراہم کیا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ جشن آزادی کے موقع پر دن و نیگ، ہوائی فائرنگ، ہلر ہڈی، خطرناک ڈرائیونگ یا شہریوں کو تنگ کرنے کی کسی صورت اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی۔ کسی بھی غیر قانونی سرگرمی میں ملوث افراد کے خلاف بلا امتیاز قانونی کارروائی میں لائی جائے گی۔

انسپٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کی زیر صدارت مشنل پولیس آفس اسلام آباد میں اعلیٰ سطحی کمانڈ کانفرنس منعقد ہوئی، جس میں اسلام آباد پولیس کے تمام سینئر پولیس افسران نے شرکت کی۔ کانفرنس میں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر سکیورٹی، ٹریفک، سیف سٹی مانیٹرنگ، شہری سہولت اور شہر کی مجموعی صورتحال سے متعلق انتظامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ کانفرنس کے دوران یوم آزادی پر شہریوں کی بڑی تعداد کی مختلف تفریحی مقامات، اہم شاہراہوں اور عوامی اجتماعات کی جانب آمد کے پیش نظر جامع سکیورٹی پلان اور ٹریفک مینجمنٹ کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے اہم

US shift in Syria signals new era in ties with Turkiye

DR. SINEM CENGİZ

Since 2015, US support for the Syrian Democratic Forces in Syria has bedeviled relations between Washington and Ankara. Regardless of which administration occupies the White House, this issue has continued to plague Turkish-American relations. Ankara has long maintained that successive US administrations have disregarded the security concerns of a NATO ally, opting instead to partner with forces affiliated with an organization Turkiye designates as terrorist in the fight against Daesh. This perception has led Ankara to launch three military operations in northern Syria to eliminate the elements it considers threats to Turkish security and stability.

Washington's policy of supporting the SDF — formed from the Syrian affiliates of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK — even led Ankara to enhance its cooperation with Russia. For many years, Moscow has weaponized the PKK, which was ideologically attractive to Russia due to its Marxist-Leninist

roots, for its own geopolitical interests. Moscow also provided the PKK affiliates with a large amount of military support to help fight Daesh in Syria. Yet, when the PKK affiliates reached out to Russia to back the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish region in northeastern Syria, the Kremlin declined to offer support. The positive track in Turkish-Russian ties influenced Moscow's strategic calculus toward the SDF, but concerns over US and Western dominance in Syria also played a role.

Then, the SDF turned to Israel for support. This was not surprising, since Israel was the only country in the region to openly support the independence referendum held by the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq in 2017. Israel wanted to use the SDF to undermine Turkiye, the new leadership in Damascus, and regional states that support Palestinian rights. However, the Israeli backing of the SDF for its own geopolitical interests has also failed. As a result, the status quo won in Syria, and the US, which was once the main backer of the SDF, played a critical role in this.

After the Syrian army pushed back SDF forces during a recent military operation, Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa announced that a truce had been reached with the SDF in northeastern Syria. According to the ceasefire agreement, the SDF will hand over control of all the areas it had held for a decade, including oil and natural gas fields, and its forces will be integrated into the Syrian national security structure.

US Ambassador to Ankara and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said that his country no longer needed the SDF as the “primary ground force” in the fight against Daesh in Syria, and that its original purpose had “come to an end.” Barrack's shuttle diplomacy played a great role in reaching this agreement which was delayed since March 10 last year. Turkiye and Syria have accused Israel of backing the SDF, and during talks in Paris between Israeli and Syrian officials, Israel was urged to stop encouraging the SDF to delay integrating.

Three key factors related to Turkish, Syrian, and US roles have played a part in reaching the current situation. First, since late 2024,

Ankara has been pursuing a “terror-free Turkiye” strategy to end the long-standing conflict with the PKK. This process is not only confined to Turkish territory but aims to extend beyond its borders, including Syria. As the SDF delayed steps toward implementing its agreement with Damascus, Turkiye moved closer to considering a new military operation against the SDF. The prospect of such an operation, in turn, pressured Washington to reconsider its SDF policy. Without an operation, Turkiye instead used the threat of military action as a diplomatic tool to pressure the US.

Second, the determination of the Al-Sharaa government also played a significant role. Since the ousting of Bashar Assad, Al-Sharaa has pledged to bring all Syrian territory under the authority of the new government, including areas administered by the SDF. By pursuing the unification of Syria under a single leadership, he emerged as a more favorable partner for the US under President Donald Trump. This development also benefits Syria as it restores territorial unity because single army and administration was the essential

element of post-war state recovery. It addresses not only Syria's stability, but also the security of neighboring countries, particularly Turkiye and Iran, which are concerned over Kurdish separatism.

In the face of firm and converging Turkish and Syrian positions against the SDF, the Trump administration signaled a willingness to move forward in Syria in coordination with Damascus and Ankara. With the shifting US position and Trump's support, Ankara and Damascus emerged as the winning sides of the recent agreement. Trump, having Al-Sharaa and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as partners in Syria, made it clear that he had no further interest in maintaining a separate role for the SDF in Syria.

In Syria, the US directly instrumentalized and supported the SDF under the pretext of partnership in the fight against Daesh. It provided arms, training, financial support, and even protection. However, the SDF used this backing to establish an autonomous enclave, with separate civilian and military institutions.

— Arab News

Gaza: A step forward or a recycling of the crisis?

DR. ABDELLATIF EL-MENAWY

Once again, Gaza has returned to the center of international debate, not through an announcement of peace but through a proposal for management. Under US President Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza, accompanied by strong American messaging and dense organizational language, an old dilemma has resurfaced in a new form: Is the world finally searching for an exit from the Gaza war or merely redesigning the mechanisms used to contain it?

At first glance, the plan, which is now entering its second phase, appears ambitious. It speaks the language of coordination, stability, reconstruction and post-war governance. It suggests international oversight, regional participation and an administrative framework that would, in theory, prevent Gaza from sliding back into chaos once the fighting subsides. Yet beneath this polished surface lies a deeper, unresolved tension — one that has haunted every previous attempt to “solve” Gaza without confronting its political core.

The idea of international or quasi-international management of Gaza is not new. Variations of it have surfaced repeatedly over the past two decades, particularly after each major escalation. What changes are the labels, the actors involved and the institutional architecture. What remains constant is the underlying assumption: that Gaza can be stabilized administratively while its political status remains suspended.

This is precisely where skepticism begins.

The proposed framework appears less like a peace initiative and more like an advanced crisis-management model, designed to control fallout, distribute responsibility and prevent total collapse. It focuses on how Gaza might be governed, rather than why it has repeatedly reached this state. In doing so, it risks treating the symptoms of the conflict while carefully avoiding its causes.

At the heart of Gaza's tragedy is not merely destruction, humanitarian collapse or security breakdown. It is a persistent political vacuum — the absence of a credible, agreed-upon political horizon for Palestinians in Gaza that is connected to the broader Palestinian question.

Any proposal that isolates Gaza from the West Bank or treats it as a standalone administrative problem implicitly reinforces fragmentation. Even if unintentionally,

such approaches risk normalizing the idea that Gaza can be governed indefinitely without resolving issues of sovereignty, representation, borders or occupation.

This is why many observers view the latest concept with caution. It may offer order without justice, calm without resolution and stability without legitimacy.

The strong American endorsement of the proposal reflects a growing impatience in Washington. After months of war, humanitarian catastrophe and international pressure, there is a clear desire to move from active conflict to controlled aftermath. From this perspective, the priority is preventing Gaza from becoming an ungovernable space that destabilizes the region.

However, urgency is not the same as strategy.

By emphasizing managerial solutions, the US appears focused on preventing immediate deterioration rather than investing in the difficult, politically costly work of redefining the conflict's parameters. This may be understandable in the short term — but history suggests it is insufficient in the long run.

For regional players, the proposal presents a dilemma. Participation offers influence and a chance to shape outcomes, but it also carries significant risks. Any regional or international body involved in governing Gaza without a clear political mandate could quickly find itself blamed for failures it did not cause and unable to make decisions it does not control.

There is also a deeper concern: Does international management become a substitute for political accountability? If so, Gaza risks becoming a permanent international trusteeship in everything but name — managed, monitored and funded but never truly resolved.

The most troubling aspect of the proposal is the possibility that it represents not a breakthrough but a repackaging of stalemate. By focusing on mechanisms rather than meaning, structures rather than solutions, the international community may once again be choosing the path of least resistance.

This would not be the first time Gaza has been “saved” from collapse only to be returned, months or years later, to the same cycle of destruction. Each iteration becomes more complex, more institutionalized and paradoxically harder to dismantle.

— Arab News



The myth of Africa's 'leapfrog moment'

HAFED AL-GHWELL

A seductive idea has taken hold in boardrooms, climate summits, and venture capital decks: Africa will vault over the messy stages of development that defined Europe and East Asia. No smokestacks. No sprawling factory towns. No fossil fuels. Just a clean jump into digital services, renewable energy and critical minerals, with smartphones where assembly lines once stood. The story flatters modern sensibilities. It also flatters outside investors who prefer tidy narratives to stubborn facts.

Africa does hold assets the world urgently needs. Lithium, cobalt, manganese, graphite, copper, and rare earths sit beneath its soil. Solar radiation and wind reach levels Europe can only envy. Cities such as Nairobi, Lagos, Kigali, and Accra host young coders, logistics startups, and fintech firms that would look at home in Berlin or Bangalore. Services exports already make up about a quarter of the continent's total exports, and they have grown far faster than goods trade since the mid-2000s. Productivity in tourism, business services, agro-processing, and ICT often exceeds that of traditional farming several times over, with job growth that in some countries rivals or even exceeds manufacturing. Manufacturing itself, by contrast, has hovered around 11 percent of the gross domestic product for more than a decade, less than half the share seen in East Asia during its takeoff.

Potential is real. The conclusion that Africa can therefore skip the hard work of building factories, power grids, transport networks, and mass employment systems is not. “Leapfrogging” works best when the old system is narrow, self-contained, and easy to replace. Landlines fit that description. Electricity systems, industrial supply chains, and urban labor markets do not. Development is not an app update.

Historically, manufacturing did the heavy lifting because it combined three features that services rarely match at scale; the ability to employ large numbers of moderately educated workers, rapid productivity gains through learning by doing, and strong links to exports that earn foreign currency. East Asia did not grow rich on code alone. It grew rich by moving hundreds of millions from farms into factories, then up the value chain.

Africa's manufacturing share remains low for structural reasons that

digital enthusiasm does not erase. Electricity is unreliable or absent for hundreds of millions of people. Transport costs within many countries exceed the cost of shipping to Europe. Ports remain congested. Firms face fragmented markets despite recent progress on continental free trade. None of these obstacles vanish because a country installs fiber-optic cables or launches a fintech incubator.

Leapfrogging advocates often reply with the mobile phone analogy. Africa skipped landlines and moved straight to smartphones. Why not skip coal plants and factories too?

Unfortunately, the analogy fails on economics. A phone is a consumer device that plugs into a global network funded largely by private capital. A power grid is a national system requiring heavy upfront investment, long planning horizons, and constant maintenance. Distributed solar panels can light homes and charge phones, but they struggle to power steel mills, fertilizer plants, refrigerated warehouses or mass transit.

Even Egypt's vast Benban solar complex, among the largest in the world, supplies only a fraction of national demand despite covering dozens of square kilometers. Scaling such systems to industrial levels means land, transmission lines, storage facilities, and backup generation, all of which cost money that Africa often lacks.

Industrialization itself remains unfashionable in some policy circles, dismissed as dirty or old-fashioned. History offers little comfort to this view. No country has reached high income without building a substantial manufacturing base at some stage. Services grow rich on the back of industry, not instead of it. Software firms run on servers built in factories. Tourism thrives where airports, hotels, water systems, and roads already exist. Even the vaunted green economy rests on industrial inputs: turbines, batteries, cables, vehicles, and concrete.

Services-led growth, often cited as proof of leapfrogging, also depends on foundations that rarely make headlines. Business process outsourcing relies on stable electricity, data centers, and contract enforcement. Agro-processing requires cold storage, rural roads, and predictable trade rules. Studies of so-called “industries without smokestacks” show impressive productivity gains and employment elasticity higher than many manufacturing sectors.

— Arab News

EU's future may well depend on Marine Le Pen appeal verdict

MOHAMED CHEBARO

With Europe under fire for its lack of support for Ukraine and grappling with the prospect of losing Greenland to President Donald Trump — a shift that could spell the end of NATO — an appeal court in Paris could give the coup de grace to the future of the EU as a bloc, if Marine Le Pen's appeal against a conviction relating to the embezzlement of European Parliament funds by her party succeeds.

It is not only the French far-right firebrand's political future that hangs in the balance, but also the fate of France's Fifth Republic and that of Europe, too. Either Le Pen or her protégée Jordan Bardella, head of the patriotic French movement National Rally, will run for president of France regardless of the court decision. Right-wing skeptics have been on the rise across the Continent but have so far been kept at bay in major European countries such as France and Germany. But with their numbers growing, Le Pen's legal troubles might not be sufficient to shift the vote away from a populist movement bent on winning the keys to the Elysee Palace. Meanwhile, France's mainstream political parties appear fragmented and in disarray, with none seeming to offer an appealing alternative to National Rally's plan to radically change the country's direction with anti-immigration and US-style “France first” policies and a euroskeptical agenda. Le Pen is seeking to overturn a March ruling that found her guilty of misusing EU funds in the hiring of staff from 2004 to 2016. However, with no new political coalition or movement emerging to challenge the populist shift, the success or failure of the appeal is unlikely to dent her chances or those of her party in winning the presidency 500 days from now.

Recent opinion polls suggest that Le Pen's legal troubles have had little impact on National Rally's fortunes. Instead, the party's appeal has been growing across the board, especially among young and

older voters. A poll by Le Monde showed that 40 percent of respondents believed that National Rally would improve the situation in France when it came to security, reindustrialization, quality of public services, and the cost of living.

Like many populist parties in Europe, Le Pen's National Rally has been benefiting from toxic social media and a narrative of despair directed from the US toward Europe's mainstream parties. A third of voters also said that National Rally is the only party that could do things differently, while not specifying how. Meanwhile, a growing number of voters favor tougher rules for overseas-born residents in relation to housing, welfare, and employment.

For the past 15 years, Le Pen has been trying to bring the far right into the political mainstream in France. Recent geopolitical changes mean there has never been a more favorable time for such a drive, with Europe as a bloc, as well as its democratic liberal values, besieged and under attack. While the past stigma of racism and antisemitism persists, National Rally's disdain of EU as a bloc — a posture that echoes the Make America Great Again stance in the US — resonates with a larger section of voters in France, and indeed the rest of Europe.

The case against Le Pen for misusing EU funds is now a matter for the Paris appeal court, which might clear her after 13 weeks of deliberation or uphold the previous verdict. But whatever the court's finding, Le Pen and Bardella are likely to emerge stronger, appearing to be the victims of a witch hunt, and capable of rallying even more support.

The question facing France and the EU is what Le Pen or Bardella will do with a win — whether they will be able to deliver better living standards and boost economic growth and not just deliver more “patriotic posturing” while worsening the socioeconomic malaise in the country.

— Arab News

Int'l education day

The International Day of Education is observed each year on January 24, and this year's theme was “The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education.” This important day highlights the vital role education plays in promoting global peace and sustainable development. Education is essential for children's safety, health, happiness and future opportunities. It equips young minds with knowledge, skills and confidence, allowing them to build better lives and contribute positively to society. Education is not a privilege for a few — it is a fundamental right for all. On this day, we not only celebrate the importance of learning but also encourage young people to take an active role in shaping education systems. It is also a time to recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of teachers and educators who guide and inspire future generations. We must use this day as a reminder to support education for every child and to empower youth to become leaders of tomorrow.

Kulsoom Balach
Gidrosia, Balochistan

Unemployed engineers

Pakistan is passing through one of the most punishing economic phases in its history.

Inflation has drained household savings, the rupee has steadily weakened, industries are struggling to stay afloat, and public debt has tightened its grip on national decision-making. For millions, daily survival has become a balancing act. Yet beneath these visible pressures lies a quieter tragedy: the systematic sidelining of its engineers. Pakistan has spent decades producing skilled engineers across civil, electrical, mechanical, software and chemical disciplines. These are professionals trained to build roads, power plants, water systems, industries and digital infrastructure — the very foundations of a modern economy. And yet, tens of thousands of them remain unemployed or trapped in work far below their qualifications. Instead of empowering technical professionals, Pakistan's governance structure continues to favour generalist administration and political patronage over expertise. Engineers are reduced to passive roles, sometimes even forced to “rent out” their professional licenses just to survive. This practice not only humiliates the profession but also compromises public safety and project quality. Meanwhile, many of the country's best engineers leave for opportunities abroad. The loss is national. No country has ever achieved sustainable growth by ignoring its technical backbone. Yet, there is still room for hope. Pakistan does not lack talent, intelligence or youth. What it lacks is the courage

to realign authority with expertise.

Shazia Iqbal
Turbat

Phone tongue

Language has always been the strongest marker of identity. Traditionally, a child's mother tongue was the language spoken at home by parents and elders. However, in the modern digital age, this natural process is rapidly changing. A new phenomenon is emerging — the “phone tongue.” Today's children are growing up surrounded by screens. As a result, many children are learning and adopting the language of digital media rather than their inherited mother tongue. The phone does not just entertain; it educates, influences pronunciation, builds vocabulary and even shapes thinking patterns. This change carries both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, children become multilingual and globally connected. On the other hand, local languages face the risk of decline if they are not actively preserved at home and in society. The responsibility now lies with parents, educators and content creators to ensure that digital spaces also support and promote native languages, so tradition and technology can grow together rather than apart.

Aamir Khan Wagan
Larkana



Heavy machinery is deployed at an underpass construction site along Park Road as development work progresses in the federal capital

Law Minister raises concerns over UK visa delays for Pakistani students

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday raised concerns over delays in the issuance of UK visas to Pakistani students during a meeting with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, who assured him that the matter would be addressed.

The meeting, held in Islamabad, discussed Pakistan-UK bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest, and measures to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the law minister conveyed the government's concern over delays in visa processing for Pakistani students, saying that hundreds of students were facing difficulties and that prolonged delays could result in the loss of an academic year.

Tarar stressed the need to remove



obstacles faced by Pakistani students seeking higher education abroad and to facilitate them in completing their stud-

ies. He informed the British high commissioner that, on the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, a

committee headed by him was working to improve the legal and institutional framework for Pakistani students pursuing education abroad.

The minister said that the committee had finalized its recommendations and that efforts were underway to further strengthen the legal and institutional mechanisms to address issues faced by students.

Jane Marriott assured the minister that the issue of visa delays for Pakistani students would be resolved.

The two sides also discussed ways to strengthen educational ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom and enhance institutional cooperation between the two countries.

Minister of State for Law, Justice and Human Rights Barrister Aqeel Malik also attended the meeting.

Saudi Arabia among world's top 10 in AI investment, emerges as global talent hub: World Bank

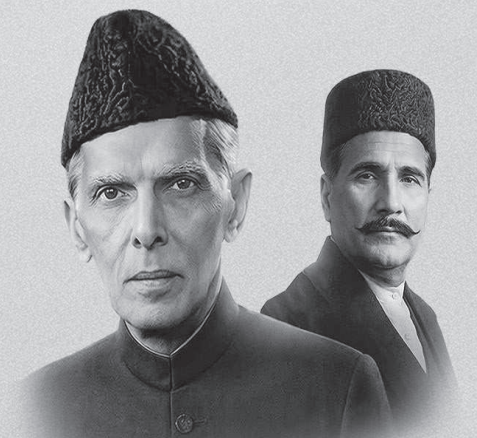
APP- ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has ranked among the world's top 10 countries for private investment in artificial intelligence, while also emerging as a major destination for global AI talent, according to the World Bank's World Development Report 2026. According to Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the World Bank report, titled The Promise of AI, highlighted the Kingdom's progress in AI investment, digital infrastructure, government data integration and attracting specialized technology professionals. The World Bank's first comprehensive assessment of the impact of AI on developing economies, examines opportunities offered by the technology to individuals, businesses and governments, as well as the infrastructure, skills and institutions required to maximize its benefits while managing associated risks. SPA told APP that Saudi Arabia has combined investment incentives and special economic zones to attract capital into data centers and computing infrastructure while developing an ecosystem encompassing skilled professionals, startups, energy and other infrastructure required for AI growth. The Kingdom's data-center capacity increased from 68 megawatts in 2021 to 440 megawatts in 2025, reaching 467 megawatts in the first quarter of 2026 nearly seven times the 2021 level.

Freedom, great blessing from Allah Almighty: Aleem Khan

APP-ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Thursday felicitated the nation on the 79th Independence Day, saying the freedom is a great blessing from Allah Almighty and its protection is a collective national responsibility. In his message, he said that the creation of Pakistan was the result of the great struggle, countless sacrifices and unparalleled leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Independence Day provides us with an opportunity to remember the sacrifices of our forefathers and move forward with renewed determination for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He said that the day of 14th August reminds us to remain committed to the principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline. Abdul Aleem Khan said that the security of Pakistan's borders is indebted to the sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. On Independence Day, we pay tribute to the martyrs, Ghazis and their great families who made immense sacrifices for the defence and security of the motherland. President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party said that Pakistan is in strong hands and the nation should remain hopeful about its future. Abdul Aleem Khan said that on this Independence Day, we must pledge to utilise all our capabilities to transform Pakistan into a strong, prosperous, developed and stable country in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



**May this strength,
this bond of brotherhood,
forever reign,
May this garden,
this beloved homeland,
eternally remain.**



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مطابق وہ خاتون کو اپنے گھر لے گئے جہاں مبینہ طور پر خاتون نے ان پر تیزاب پھینکا اور فائرنگ کی۔ تاہم بیان میں ان تمام الزامات کو مسترد کر دیا ہے۔ تفتیشی افسر علیم گل کے مطابق خاتون کا کہنا ہے کہ انہوں نے تیزاب سے جانتے تھے۔ ان کے مطابق مدعی کا بیان ہے کہ وہ اس سکول میں طالب علم تھے جہاں خاتون بطور استاد خدمات انجام دے رہی تھیں اور اسی دوران دونوں کے درمیان تعلقات قائم ہوئے۔ پولیس کے مطابق مدعی نے اپنے بیان میں کہا ہے کہ بعد میں ان کی شادی کسی اور جگہ ہو گئی جبکہ خاتون کی بھی شادی ہوئی، تاہم وہ اپنی ازدواجی زندگی سے خوش نہیں تھیں۔ مدعی کے مطابق دونوں رابطے میں رہے اور خاتون گذشتہ ایک سال سے اپنے شوہر سے ناراضی کے باعث والدین کے گھر رہ رہی تھیں۔

مطابق وہ خاتون کو ماہانہ 20 ہزار روپے بھی دیتے تھے اور یہ رقم بھی مبینہ دباؤ کے باعث ادا کی جاتی تھی۔ پولیس کے مطابق مدعی نے بیان دیا کہ واقعے کے روز خاتون نے انہیں کہا کہ یا تو وہ ان سے شادی کرے یا پھر 20 لاکھ روپے دے، بصورت دیگر وہ ان کے تعلقات سے متعلق تمام معلومات ان کے اہل خانہ کو بتا دیں گی۔ مدعی کے مطابق انہوں نے جواب میں کہا کہ ان کے پاس 20 لاکھ روپے نہیں، البتہ وہ آٹھ لاکھ روپے دے سکتے ہیں اور اس کے بعد دونوں ہمیشہ کے لیے رابطہ ختم کر دیں گے۔

مدعی کے مطابق خاتون نے اصرار کیا کہ وہ انہیں اپنے گھر لے جائیں۔ پولیس کا کہنا ہے کہ شکایت کنندہ کے مطابق وہ خاتون کو اپنے گھر لے گئے جہاں مبینہ طور پر خاتون نے ان پر تیزاب پھینکا اور فائرنگ کی۔ تاہم بیان میں ان تمام الزامات کو مسترد کر دیا ہے۔ تفتیشی افسر علیم گل کے مطابق خاتون کا کہنا ہے کہ انہوں نے تیزاب سے جانتے تھے۔ ان کے مطابق مدعی کا بیان ہے کہ وہ اس سکول میں طالب علم تھے جہاں خاتون بطور استاد خدمات انجام دے رہی تھیں اور اسی دوران دونوں کے درمیان تعلقات قائم ہوئے۔ پولیس کے مطابق مدعی نے اپنے بیان میں کہا ہے کہ بعد میں ان کی شادی کسی اور جگہ ہو گئی جبکہ خاتون کی بھی شادی ہوئی، تاہم وہ اپنی ازدواجی زندگی سے خوش نہیں تھیں۔ مدعی کے مطابق دونوں رابطے میں رہے اور خاتون گذشتہ ایک سال سے اپنے شوہر سے ناراضی کے باعث والدین کے گھر رہ رہی تھیں۔

نہ اپنے بیان میں کسی تیسرے فریق پر شک ظاہر نہیں کیا۔ اس صورتحال میں پولیس کے سامنے سب سے بڑا سوال یہی ہے کہ حقیقت کیا ہے؟ اگر خاتون کا موقف درست ہے تو وہ نامعلوم حملہ آور کہاں ہیں؟ اور اگر زخمی نوجوان کے الزامات درست ہیں تو پھر اسی واقعے میں خاتون کے زخمی ہونے کی کیا وجہ ہے؟ پولیس کے مطابق واقعے میں زخمی ہونے والے شخص نے اپنی شکایت میں موقف اختیار کیا ہے کہ ان کے ایک خاتون کے ساتھ طویل عرصے سے تعلقات تھے اور خاتون ان سے شادی کرنے یا 20 لاکھ روپے دینے کے لیے دباؤ ڈال رہی تھیں۔ درج مقدمہ کے روز مطابق مدعی کا کہنا ہے کہ واقعے کے روز جب وہ اپنے گھر سے باہر نکلے تو خاتون نے دروازہ کھٹکے ہی ان پر تیزاب پھینک دیا، جس سے ان کے جسم کے مختلف حصے جھل گئے۔ مدعی کے مطابق اس کے بعد خاتون نے انہیں قتل کرنے کی نیت سے فائرنگ بھی کی اور گولی ان کے بائیں جانب سینے میں لگی، جس سے وہ زمین پر گر گئے۔

پولیس کا کہنا ہے کہ زخمی شخص کو فوری طور پر ہسپتال منتقل کیا گیا، جہاں ان کا بیان ریکارڈ کرنے کے بعد ابتدائی اطلاقی رپورٹ یعنی ایف آئی آر درج کی گئی۔ تاہم تفتیش کے دوران سامنے آنے والی معلومات نے کیس کو پیچیدہ بنا دیا ہے۔ پولیس کے مطابق اس واقعے میں نامزد خاتون بھی تیزاب سے زخمی ہوئی ہیں اور اس وقت حیات آباد میڈیکل کیمپس کے برن یونٹ میں زیر علاج ہیں۔ پولیس نے ہسپتال میں ہی انہیں حراست میں لے لیا ہے۔

معلوم ہوا کہ وہ خود بھی اسی واقعے میں تیزاب سے جھلس گئی ہیں اور ہسپتال میں زیر علاج ہیں۔ دوران تفتیش خاتون نے ایک مختلف کہانی بیان کی۔ ان کے مطابق نہ تو انہوں نے تیزاب پھینکا اور نہ ہی فائرنگ کی، بلکہ ان دونوں پر کسی تیسرے شخص نے حملہ کیا، جس کے نتیجے میں دونوں زخمی ہوئے۔ یوں پشاور کے تھانہ چٹنی میں درج یہ مقدمہ اب پولیس کے لیے ایک معمہ بن چکا ہے۔ ایک طرف زخمی نوجوان کا دعویٰ ہے کہ خاتون نے بلیک میٹنگ میں ناکامی کے بعد ان پر تیزاب پھینکا اور فائرنگ کی، جبکہ دوسری جانب خاتون کا کہنا ہے کہ حملہ آور کوئی اور شخص تھا جس نے دونوں کو نشانہ بنایا۔ البتہ شکایت کنندہ انہیں حراست میں لے لیا ہے۔

ملوث ہونے ان کا متعلقہ عدالت سے جسائی رہیمانہ حاصل کیا جائے گا۔ ایف آئی آر کے ابکار کے مطابق ملزمان نے گلبرگ گریز میں ایک پلازے کا ایک بڑا حصہ کرائے پر حاصل کر رکھا تھا اور وہ وہاں پر اپنا کاروبار چلا رہے تھے، تاہم جب تفتیشی ٹیم میں شامل ابکار سے پوچھا گیا کہ کیا گرفتار ملزمان میں کوئی پاکستانی بھی ملوث ہے، تو اس بارے میں انہوں نے کوئی رد نہیں دیا۔ دوسری جانب ایف آئی آر کے ایک اور ابکار کے مطابق اس چھاپے کے دوران گرفتار ہونے والے ان غیر ملکیوں کو جراتی مرکز میں منتقل کرنا ایک بڑا مسئلہ بن گیا تھا کیونکہ ایف آئی آر سے حراستی مراکز میں اتنی بڑی تعداد میں ملزمان کو رکھنے کے لیے جگہ کم پڑ گئی تھی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اسی وجہ سے گرفتار ہونے والے ان غیر ملکیوں کو اس علاقے میں ایک نئی ملازہ میں منتقل کر کے اسلام آباد کی ضلعی انتظامیہ سے اسے سب جیل قرار دیا ہے۔

پشاور میں مبینہ طور پر 'شادی سے انکار' کرنے پر لڑکے پر تیزاب پھینکنے کے الزام میں خاتون گرفتار

ملوث ہونے ان کا متعلقہ عدالت سے جسائی رہیمانہ حاصل کیا جائے گا۔ ایف آئی آر کے ابکار کے مطابق ملزمان نے گلبرگ گریز میں ایک پلازے کا ایک بڑا حصہ کرائے پر حاصل کر رکھا تھا اور وہ وہاں پر اپنا کاروبار چلا رہے تھے، تاہم جب تفتیشی ٹیم میں شامل ابکار سے پوچھا گیا کہ کیا گرفتار ملزمان میں کوئی پاکستانی بھی ملوث ہے، تو اس بارے میں انہوں نے کوئی رد نہیں دیا۔ دوسری جانب ایف آئی آر کے ایک اور ابکار کے مطابق اس چھاپے کے دوران گرفتار ہونے والے ان غیر ملکیوں کو جراتی مرکز میں منتقل کرنا ایک بڑا مسئلہ بن گیا تھا کیونکہ ایف آئی آر سے حراستی مراکز میں اتنی بڑی تعداد میں ملزمان کو رکھنے کے لیے جگہ کم پڑ گئی تھی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اسی وجہ سے گرفتار ہونے والے ان غیر ملکیوں کو اس علاقے میں ایک نئی ملازہ میں منتقل کر کے اسلام آباد کی ضلعی انتظامیہ سے اسے سب جیل قرار دیا ہے۔

ایکٹ کے تحت مقدمہ درج کیا گیا بلکہ مزید شواہد سامنے آنے پر غیر قانونی کاروبار چلانے سے متعلق بھی مقدمہ درج کیا جائے گا۔ اس مقدمے کی تفتیشی ٹیم میں شامل ایک ابکار نے نام ظاہر نہ کرنے کی شرط بتایا کہ ابتدائی تفتیش کے دوران یہ بات سامنے آئی ہے کہ زیر حراست غیر ملکیوں میں کچھ ملزمان فراڈ کرنے کے علاوہ مختلف ویٹ سائٹس بھی بنا رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس مقدمے کی تفتیش جب آگے بڑھے گی تو پھر مزید حقائق اور شواہد سامنے آئیں گے، جس کی روشنی میں مذہبی مقدمات درج کرنے کا فیصلہ ہوگا۔ ابکار نے مزید بتایا کہ چنان چنان کے بعد جو بھی ملزمان دیگر جرائم میں

ایف آئی آر کے مطابق ایف آئی آر کے گلبرگ گریز میں واقع پلازہ پر چھاپہ مارا تو وہاں 258 غیر ملکی مقیم تھے، جو وٹ، سیاحتی اور کاروباری ویزوں پر آئے تھے۔ ایف آئی آر کے مطابق 'مقام کا معائنہ کرنے پر معلوم ہوا کہ وہاں پر ایک بڑا کال سینٹر کی طرح کا کاروبار چلا یا جا رہا ہے اور گلبرگ گریز میں ملازمین فراہم کرنے اور غیر قانونی کاروباری سرگرمیاں کی جا رہی ہیں۔ ایف آئی آر کے ابکار کے مطابق انٹلیجنس پارڈر مینجمنٹ سسٹم کے ذریعے جب ریکارڈ چیک کیا گیا تو معلوم ہوا کہ یہ غیر ملکی شری وٹ، سیاحتی یا کاروباری ویزوں پر پاکستان آئے تھے اور غیر قانونی طور پر کاروباری سرگرمیوں میں ملوث تھے۔ ایف آئی آر کے حکام نے بتایا کہ گرفتار ہونے والے افراد نہ صرف پاکستان میں غیر قانونی طور پر مقیم تھے بلکہ اسلام آباد میں اپنا کاروبار چلا رہے تھے، جس میں نمایاں کاروبار کال سینٹر کو چلانا شامل تھا، اس لیے ان کے خلاف نہ صرف فارن

ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

پاکستان کے دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کی ایک مقامی عدالت نے ملک میں غیر قانونی قیام اور جاری کردہ ویزوں کی خلاف ورزی کرنے پر 250 سے زیادہ غیر ملکیوں کو جیو ہٹل رہیمانہ پر بھیج دیا ہے۔ گرفتار ہونے والے ان غیر ملکی افراد میں چین، ملائیشیا، انڈونیشیا اور ویت نام کے شہری شامل ہیں۔

وفاقی تحقیقاتی ادارے (ایف آئی آر) کے ایک ابکار کے مطابق گرفتار ہونے والی کسی بھی ملزم کو متعلقہ عدالت میں پیش نہیں کیا گیا بلکہ ان کی عدالت میں آن لائن حاضری لگوائی گئی، جس کے بعد جیو ہٹل جھڑپٹ نے تمام ملزمان کو 14 روزہ جسمانی رہیمانہ پر جیل بھیج دیا ہے۔ ان غیر ملکی ملزمان کو راولپنڈی کی ایڈیل جیل بھیجے کے بجائے گلبرگ گریز سوسائٹی میں واقع ایک پلازے میں رکھا گیا ہے، جسے سب جیل قرار دیا گیا ہے۔

ایف آئی آر کے درخواست پر اسلام آباد کی ضلعی انتظامیہ نے گلبرگ گریز میں واقع ایک پلازہ کو سب جیل قرار دینے کا نوٹیفکیشن سرکل کو ایک ذرائع نے خبر دی تھی کہ اسلام آباد کی علاقائی حدود میں ایک بڑی تعداد میں غیر ملکی موجود ہیں، جن کی تعداد 200 سے 300 ہے اور وہ ویزہ قواعد کی خلاف ورزی کرتے ہوئے غیر قانونی کاروباری سرگرمیوں اور ملازمتیں فراہم کرنے میں

ایف آئی آر کے مطابق ایف آئی آر کے گلبرگ گریز میں واقع پلازہ پر چھاپہ مارا تو وہاں 258 غیر ملکی مقیم تھے، جو وٹ، سیاحتی اور کاروباری ویزوں پر آئے تھے۔ ایف آئی آر کے مطابق 'مقام کا معائنہ کرنے پر معلوم ہوا کہ وہاں پر ایک بڑا کال سینٹر کی طرح کا کاروبار چلا یا جا رہا ہے اور گلبرگ گریز میں ملازمین فراہم کرنے اور غیر قانونی کاروباری سرگرمیاں کی جا رہی ہیں۔ ایف آئی آر کے ابکار کے مطابق انٹلیجنس پارڈر مینجمنٹ سسٹم کے ذریعے جب ریکارڈ چیک کیا گیا تو معلوم ہوا کہ یہ غیر ملکی شری وٹ، سیاحتی یا کاروباری ویزوں پر پاکستان آئے تھے اور غیر قانونی طور پر کاروباری سرگرمیوں میں ملوث تھے۔ ایف آئی آر کے حکام نے بتایا کہ گرفتار ہونے والے افراد نہ صرف پاکستان میں غیر قانونی طور پر مقیم تھے بلکہ اسلام آباد میں اپنا کاروبار چلا رہے تھے، جس میں نمایاں کاروبار کال سینٹر کو چلانا شامل تھا، اس لیے ان کے خلاف نہ صرف فارن

اسلام آباد میں ایف آئی آر کے چھاپے میں 'غیر قانونی سرگرمیوں میں ملوث' 258 غیر ملکی گرفتار

گرفتار ہونے والے ان غیر ملکی افراد میں چین، ملائیشیا، انڈونیشیا اور ویت نام کے شہری شامل ہیں ان غیر ملکی ملزمان کو راولپنڈی کی ایڈیل جیل بھیجے کے بجائے گلبرگ گریز سوسائٹی میں واقع ایک پلازے میں رکھا گیا ہے، جسے سب جیل قرار دیا گیا ہے

پشاور میں مبینہ طور پر 'شادی سے انکار' کرنے پر لڑکے پر تیزاب پھینکنے کے الزام میں خاتون گرفتار

خاتون خود بھی تیزاب سے جھلس گئی اور ہسپتال میں زیر علاج ہیں۔ دوران تفتیش خاتون نے ایک مختلف کہانی بیان کی۔ ان کے مطابق نہ تو انہوں نے تیزاب پھینکا اور نہ ہی فائرنگ کی، بلکہ ان دونوں پر کسی تیسرے شخص نے حملہ کیا، جس کے نتیجے میں دونوں زخمی ہوئے

Pakistan duo Aisam, Aqeel advance to ITF Masters semi-finals



SPORTS DESK, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan continued their impressive run at the ITF Masters World Individual Championships, advancing to the semifinals of the Men's 45+ Doubles after a thrilling victory over the dangerous Spanish pairing of Francisco Javier Martínez Baena and Pedro Nieto Orellana.

In a dramatic quarterfinal played on Court 1 at the famous Jamor Tennis Center, the Pakistani duo prevailed 6-7, 7-6, [10-2] in front of a sizeable gathering of tennis enthusiasts.

Aisam and Aqeel appeared to be head-

ing for defeat after dropping a tightly contested opening set and then falling a break behind in the second. The Spaniards subsequently held two match points, but the experienced Pakistani pair produced their best tennis under pressure, saving both and forcing the set into a tiebreak.

After taking the second set 7-6, Aisam and Aqeel completely seized the momentum in the deciding match tiebreak, racing away to a commanding 10-2 victory to seal a memorable comeback and a place in the World Championship semifinals.

Earlier in the tournament, the Pakistani pair had overcome the leading Japanese combination of **Hayato Otsubo and

**Manabu Tsujimoto in 3 sets, further underlining their strong form in Lisbon. They will now face a Ukrainian duo in the semifinals as they attempt to secure a place in the championship match.

On Tuesday, Pakistan also enjoyed an outstanding day in the 40+ Mixed Doubles, with both Aisam and Aqeel reaching the semifinals with their respective partners.

Aqeel, partnering Eileen Aranas-Roth of Germany, fought back from a set down to defeat the Portuguese pairing of Caterina and Joao Ferreira 4-6, 7-6, [10-4]. Like his men's doubles quarterfinal, the contest required a determined comeback

before Aqeel and Aranas-Roth dominated the deciding match tiebreak.

Aisam, meanwhile, partnered Nina Hermann of Austria and produced a more straightforward quarterfinal victory, defeating the German combination of Katherina Rath and Thomas Bergmeister 6-2, 6-4 to book their place in the last four. The results mean that Pakistan's two leading players have now reached the semifinals in both Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles, continuing a remarkable World Championships campaign in Lisbon following Pakistan's silver-medal performance in the Men's 45+ World Team Championships.

Whites edge Blues in Champions Cup thriller

STAFF REPORT, KARACHI: Pakistan Whites secured a nerve-wracking six-run victory against Pakistan Blues in a nail-biting encounter of the Al Batal Presents University of Lahore National Champions Cup 2026-



2027 at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Thursday night. Spearheaded by a lethal pace unit, Whites staged a remarkable comeback to defend a modest total of 245. The pace trio of Mohammad Wasim Junior, Shahnawaz Dahani, and Haris Rauf fired in unison, sharing all ten wickets between them to fold Blues for 239 in 49.4 overs.

Wasim Junior was the architect of the victory, claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in competitive cricket. The right-arm pacer ripped through the oppositions batting line-up with figures of 5-46, removing key batsmen including half-centurion Maaz Sadaqat, Tayyab Tahir, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Ahmed Daniyal and Sufiyan Mugeem. The match build-up to a crescendo in the final over with the Blues requiring 15 for victory. Veteran all-rounder Hasan Ali threatened to snatch the game away, smashing two boundaries off Dahani in a gritty 29-run cameo.

Asian Games draw rules out early Pakistan-India clash

MONITORING DESK, India and Pakistan will avoid an early meeting at the Asian Games 2026, with the arch-rivals only able to face each other in a medal match under the tournament draw.

The two teams are the top seeds in the men's cricket competition and have been placed on opposite sides of the knockout bracket. They can therefore meet only in the gold-medal match or bronze-medal play-off.

The same format applies to the women's competition. The Asian Games will take place from September 19 to October 4, while the cricket tournament runs from September 17 to October 3. The women's final is scheduled for September 22.

The men's competition features 10 teams, with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka receiving direct entry into the quarter-finals.

فلاحی اقدامات

- مینجمنٹ انفارمیشن سسٹم اور موبائل ایپلی کیشن کا اجرا
- ٹیکسلا اور اسلام آباد زون ۷ میں مزدوروں کیلئے اسٹیٹ آف دی آرٹ فلیٹس اور گھروں کی تعمیر
- جدید اور شفاف کیش لیس سسٹم
- وفاقی وزیر چوہدری سالک حسین کے احساس مندانہ اقدام کے تحت
- میرج گرانٹ کو 4 لاکھ سے بڑھا کر 6 لاکھ کر دیا گیا ہے اور ڈیٹہ گرانٹ کو 8 لاکھ سے بڑھا کر 10 لاکھ کر دیا گیا ہے

WWF Protecting Financial Rights of Industrial Workers with Commitment and Care

محنت کش کا پاکستان

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ ملک بھر میں 19 لاکھ سے زائد صنعتی مزدوروں اور ان کے خاندانوں کی فلاح و بہبود تحفظ اور روشن مستقبل کے لیے سرگرم عمل ہے۔

فلاحی اقدامات

- انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کڈنی ڈیزیز برن اینڈ ٹراماسٹر پشاور
- نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کڈنی ڈیزیز لاہور
- نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کارڈیو ویکسکلر ڈیزیز (NICVD) سکھر سندھ
- مختار اے شیخ ہسپتال ملتان
- بلوچستان انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف نیفر ویورولوجی کوئٹہ
- بلوچستان میں 5 جدید ہسپتالوں کا قیام
- F-6 میں بزنس سنٹر کا قیام

Empowering Workers Securing Futures BUILDING PAKISTAN

215,622

بچیوں کے لیے

میرج گرانٹس کی فراہمی

33,739

خاندانوں کو

ڈیٹہ گرانٹ کی فراہمی

2000

سے زائد طلبہ بطور ڈاکٹر

انجینئر اور وکیل گریجویٹ

3,35,205

بچوں کو تعلیمی وظائف

کی فراہمی

83,462

گھروں اور فلیٹس

کی تعمیر

ورکرز کے لیے

کیے گئے اقدامات

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مزید معلومات اور سہولیات سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے وزٹ کریں

ڈیجیٹل نظام، شفاف گورننس اور براہ راست بینک ٹرانسفر کے ذریعے مؤثر اصلاحات کا نفاذ کیا گیا ہے

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ

وزارت اوور سیز پاکستانیز و ہیومن ریسورس ڈویلپمنٹ، حکومت پاکستان

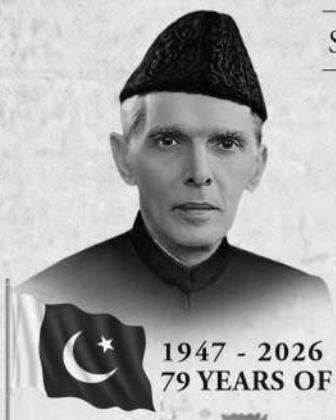
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KENAD

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“THE NATION THAT
BUILDS TOGETHER,
RISES FOREVER,”

PAKISTAN (UNFINISHED, UNSTOPPABLE)

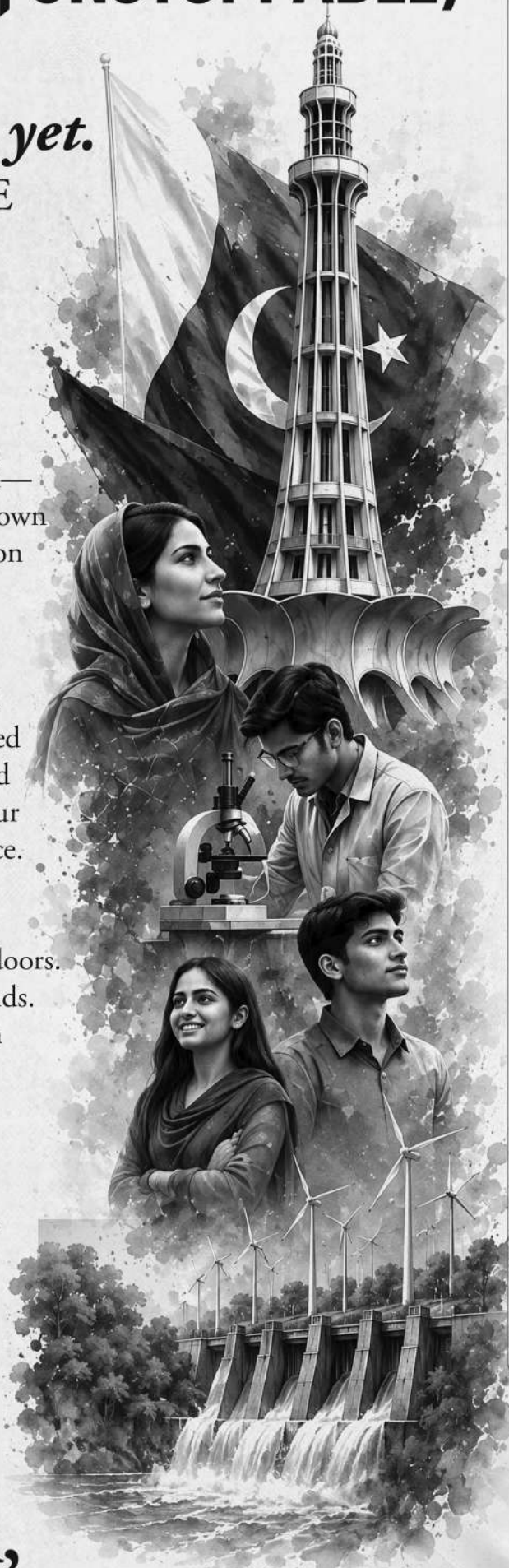
*Dear Pakistan,
we are not done yet.*
FREEDOM WAS THE
BEGINNING.

It began in a dream.
A dream stitched by courage,
held together by faith, and
breathed into reality by sacrifice.
On that August morning in 1947,
we claimed more than a homeland—
we claimed the right to shape our own
destiny. Since then, every generation
has written a new chapter in this
ongoing story of Pakistan.
We have stood tall in wars and
weathered storms. We have turned
deserts green, built dams that tamed
rivers, sent satellites into space, and
shown the world the strength of our
youth, our talent, and our resilience.
But let us be honest—our work is
far from complete.
Poverty still knocks on too many doors.
Ignorance still dims too many minds.
Division still weakens what we can
achieve together.
This is our call to rise again.
To build with integrity.
To achieve without limits.
To innovate, to include, to inspire.

Dear Pakistan,
we are not done yet.

The road ahead is long,
but our resolve is longer.

TOGETHER, WE WILL THRIVE.



Asif Ali Zardari
The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On the occasion of the 79th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all Pakistanis at home and abroad.

14 August is a day when we remember the sacrifices that made Pakistan possible. We pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement and all those who gave up their homes, security and livelihoods in the struggle for a homeland.

But independence is not only a historic achievement. It is also a responsibility that each generation must carry forward. Our task is not only to remember what earlier generations achieved, but to add to it through our own work.

The events surrounding Marka-e-Haq demonstrated that Pakistan seeks peace, but also possesses the resolve and capacity to defend its sovereignty and national interests. The lesson of strength is ultimately a lesson of responsibility. We pay tribute to the martyrs of our Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and police, and honour the sacrifices of their families.

Pakistan's approach is clear. We believe that disputes, no matter how serious, must ultimately be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy. Pakistan will continue to support efforts that reduce tensions, protect regional stability and create conditions for cooperation.

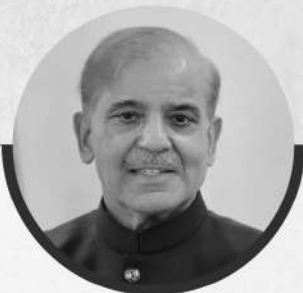
We must strengthen our economy, create greater opportunities for our young people, improve education and skills, strengthen institutions through series of governance, economic and social reforms to ensure that the benefits of development and democracy reach every part and community of the country.

We also renew our solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirm our support for their legitimate struggle for their rights.

On this Independence Day, I call upon all Pakistanis to contribute to the country's progress in whatever field they serve.

May Allah Almighty protect Pakistan, grant peace and prosperity to our people, strengthen our country and guide us towards a better future.

Pakistan Zindabad!



Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Today, on the festive occasion of Independence Day, I extend my warmest and heartfelt felicitations to all my fellow Pakistanis at home and abroad.

It is a matter of immense honour and pride for us all that the struggle for independence was led by eminent leaders like the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Mufakkir-e-Pakistan Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and many other distinguished leaders. Today, as a nation, we pay our earnest tribute to the leaders, stalwarts and workers of the Pakistan Movement and to our forefathers who made determined efforts to turn the dream of a free motherland into a reality.

The cherished dream of an independent state was fulfilled owing to the statesmanship and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the immense sacrifices of our forefathers, the unwavering resolve of the leaders of the Pakistan Movement, and the boundless grace and blessings of Allah Almighty!

By the grace of Allah Almighty, the journey of national development and prosperity is thriving ahead towards a brighter future, despite the challenges along the way. Despite numerous difficulties, the people of Pakistan have achieved remarkable success in every sphere of life through their God gifted talents and abilities. Our talented youth, skilled workforce, highly qualified professionals, hardworking farmers and labourers are the true guarantors of our country's bright future.

On this Independence Day, the nation also pays heartfelt tribute to all its martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the beloved homeland.

Let us, on this day, renew our national resolve to work together for the development and prosperity, peace and stability, mutual harmony and national unity. Today, I sincerely, yet again, extend the invitation to all the segments of society and especially all political parties to join hands and work constructively together for the national integrity and for the protection and advancement of our national interests.

May Allah Almighty make Pakistan a symbol of honour and dignity among the comity of nations and bless it with a glorious future adorned with continued success and progress.

Ameen!



OUR PEOPLE
Our greatest strength and endless potential.



OUR PROGRESS
From classrooms to laboratories, we create the future.



OUR ECONOMY
Innovating today for a stronger, self-reliant tomorrow.



OUR PROMISE
Unity, faith and discipline will take us further than ever.