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Mushaal pays tribute to July 13 martyrs, renews Kashmir call



National Population Council to lead unified population strategy: Ahsan Iqbal

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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US military launches new round of strikes against Iran

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: The US military said Saturday it has launched a new round of strikes against Iran, after Tehran "blatantly attacked" a container ship in the Strait of Hormuz.

The latest strikes, which began at 7:15 pm in Washington (2315 GMT), came "after Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces blatantly attacked" a Cyprus-flagged container ship transiting the Strait of Hormuz, US Central Command said in a statement.

"The United States is imposing a heavy cost by continuing to degrade Iran's ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the strait," Centcom said, adding that the strikes were being carried out at the direction of President Donald

Trump. US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said simply: "Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay."

Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the Strait of Hormuz would be closed "until further notice," state media reported.

The Guards had fired warning shots at a vessel using an unauthorised route, the reports said.

The move threatens to further complicate efforts to salvage US-Iran negotiations after both sides exchanged strikes over the past few days. Earlier strikes by Tehran on vessels in the strait had triggered exchanges of fire between Iran and the United States, sparking heated rhetoric between the adversaries. A key roadblock to a final agreement.



ISLAMABAD: Head of Jamiat Ulema Islam (F) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman addressing a people gathering.

7 more terrorists killed as Operation Shaban continues in Balochistan: state media

PEAK POINT



QUETTA: Security forces killed another seven terrorists during the ongoing Operation Shaban in Balochistan, following which the total number of terrorists killed in the operation reached 71, according to state-run Radio Pakistan.

Operation Shaban is being jointly carried out across the province by the army, Frontier Corps and Balochistan Police following the terrorist July 7 attack in the Mangi Dam area, in which 27 police personnel were martyred.

Citing security sources, Radio Pakistan said a total of 109 "khawarij terrorists" have been killed in Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations in Balochistan since July 5.

The outlet had earlier reported that three terrorists were killed, and later said another four were eliminated in the Saran Tangei area.

Security sources said a large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the possession of the killed terrorists. The recovered weapons include M4 rifles, submachine guns, rocket launchers, mobile phones, and other equipment.

Iran targets US bases in UAE, Qatar and Bahrain amid 140 American strikes

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Tehran announced it was closing the Strait of Hormuz Sunday and launched missiles and drones at its Gulf neighbours, in retaliation for new US strikes following an attack by Iranian forces on a merchant vessel that was abandoned in flames by its crew. Sirens and explosions were heard in

Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, AFP journalists and local authorities reported, the latest escalation to undermine an interim agreement between Washington and Tehran aimed at ending the Middle East war. The Pentagon said it had struck Iran early Sunday after the Revolutionary Guards fired on a Cyprus-registered container ship they said was sailing an "unauthorised route" through the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian media reported explosions in Bandar Abbas, Sirik, Jask and on Qeshm Island as well as in Khuzestan province, which borders Iraq, with no immediate reports of casualties. Hours later, air raid sirens sounded over Bahrain, while the United Arab Emirates and Qatar said they intercepted missile attacks.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards had earlier said they struck and stopped a vessel ignoring repeated instructions to use an approved shipping corridor, according to state news agency IRNA.

"Following this incident... the Strait of Hormuz will be closed until further notice and until the end of American interventions in this region," the Guards said.

PM Shehbaz expresses solidarity with Bangladesh after deadly floods

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed solidarity with Bangladesh following the deadly

floods and landslides that have caused widespread destruction, saying Pakistan stood with the country's government and people during the crisis.

Floods and landslides triggered by days of torrential monsoon rain have killed at least 44 people in southeastern Bangladesh and left over a million stranded. The heavy rain also triggered landslides in Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar earlier this week, killing 16 refugees, including women and children. In a statement, President Zardari extended his "heartfelt condolences" to the families of those who had lost their lives in the disaster. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured and for the well-being of all those affected by the floods and landslides. The president said Pakistan stood with the government and people of Bangladesh during this difficult time. In a post on X, the prime minister said he was "deeply saddened by the tragic loss."

Pakistani doctor elected president of leading mental health body

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Dr Ayesha I. Mian has been elected as the president of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACA-PAP) for the 2026-2030 term.

According to a press release, her election makes her the first Pakistani and the first South Asian to lead the organisation since its establishment in 1937.

Dr Mian's election marks an important moment not only for Pakistan but also for the growing recognition of expertise emerging from low- and middle-income.

Dar holds phone call with Iranian FM amid latest attacks in Mideast, calls for de-escalation and restraint

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Sunday, calling for restraint and de-escalation as tensions rose in the Middle East with a fresh wave of attacks by the US on Iran and retaliatory strikes at US assets and bases by Tehran.

During the phone call, both leaders exchanged views on the evolving regional situation, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a post on X.

It added that DPM Dar stressed "upon the parties to follow the path of de-escalation and show restraint, as agreed in the Islamabad MoU in

June 2026". The Islamabad Memorandum



of Understanding — a vital maritime corridor for the supply of oil and gas. The signing of the MoU had raised hopes of some relief as the world reeled from the fuel crunch and the economic impact of Hormuz's closure. However, a series of attacks between the US and Iran over the past several days led President Donald Trump

to declare the end of the ceasefire.

The Middle East remained tense on Sunday as the US military launched fresh strikes on Iran after the latter struck a container ship while Tehran said it had again closed the Strait of Hormuz and escalated attacks on US facilities in states across the Gulf. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had destroyed a command and control centre and drone hangars at a base in US ally Jordan, targeted a US military radar site in Kuwait, attacked US aircraft carrier support and refueling platforms in Oman and destroyed a fighter jet maintenance centre and command and control facility in Qatar.

Former emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, dies at 74

PEAK POINT

QATAR: Qatar's government on Sunday announced the death of former leader Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who led the country from



1995 to 2013. He was 74, according to a government website. "With hearts steadfast in faith in God's decree and destiny, the Bureau of the Emir mourns the great loss to the nation of the late — may God have mercy on him — His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani," read a statement published by the emir's office on social media. Qatari officials said funeral prayers would be held on Sunday evening along with several days of public mourning across the country, which would see government offices and public institutions closed and flags flown at half mast. The former leader was seen as one of the key architects of modern Qatar and led the country during a period of rapid economic growth.



SPORTS



Pakistan outclass Kyrgyzstan 3-0 in Asian Boys U18 Volleyball Ch'ship opener



	1	2	3	4	5
PAK	25	25	25	0	0
KGZ	10	19	17	0	0

PEAK POINT

CHINA: Pakistan made an impressive start to the Asian Boys Under-18 Volleyball Championship 2026, defeating Kyrgyzstan 3-0 in their opening match in Haikou, China.

The national team dominated the contest from the outset, securing a straight-sets victory with scores of 25-10, 25-19, and 25-17 to begin the tournament on a winning note.

Pakistan took complete control in the opening set through powerful serving, solid blocking and aggressive attacking play, overwhelming Kyrgyzstan 25-10.

The second set saw Kyrgyzstan put up stronger resistance, but Pakistan maintained its straight sets. Fahad Ali, composure with disciplined teamwork and consistent performance to claim the set 25-19.

The Green Shirts continued their impressive display in the third set, excelling in both attack

and defence to seal a 25-17 victory and wrap up the match in straight sets. Fahad Ali, Muhammad Anas, Captain Muhammad Irfan, Asadullah, and Faizanullah delivered standout performances as Pakistan registered a convincing opening win in the continental championship.

City Hockey Club beats Multan Hawks 3-2



WAJHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

MULTAN: The crowd at the Multan Hockey Stadium was in full swing today as City Hockey Club Multan and Multan Hawks played out a close contest. The match was thrilling till the final whistle. Both teams played aggressively from the start of the match. City Hockey Club took the lead by scoring 2 goals in the first half with brilliant strategy. Multan Hawks also did not give up and made a strong comeback in the second half to level the score at 2-2. When the match was heading towards a draw, a City Hockey Club player surprised everyone by scoring the decisive goal in the last minute. The special guest of this match was Mian Muhammad Zafarullah Bhatti, President District Hockey Association Multan, Professor Mukhtiar Pervaz Bukhari, accompanied by Secretary General Kamran Sharif Chaudhry, International Umpire, and Mohsin Gilani. The organizer of this match was Abdul Saeed, Pakistan Women Hockey Team Coach/Goalkeeper Coach Pakistan WAPDA/Member Congress Pakistan Hockey Federation. The umpiring duties were performed by Roman Shahid and Shahid Bhatti. The fans present in the ground appreciated the excellent performance of both the teams. The players hugged each other after the match, setting an example of sportsmanship. This sensational match will be remembered as a memorable match in the history of Multan hockey.

Argentina sink 10-man Swiss to set up blockbuster FIFA World Cup semi-final against England



PEAK POINT

MEXICO: Julian Alvarez scored a breathtaking goal as Argentina battled past 10-man Switzerland 3-1 after extra-time on Sunday, setting up a mouthwatering World Cup semi-final against bitter rivals England.

Fans of the South American team dominated the stands in Kansas City and were celebrating as early as the 10th minute when

their hero Lionel Messi set up Alexis Mac Allister's opener. Switzerland levelled midway through the second half through Dan Ndoye, but minutes later, disaster struck when Embolo was sent off after picking up a second yellow card for simulation. The match went to extra-time and Switzerland snuffed out wave after wave of attacks until Alvarez curled a breathtaking strike into the top corner in the 112th minute. Lautaro Martinez added gloss with a late third. The hard-fought victory for Lionel Scaloni's men at the Arrowhead Stadium means the top four teams in the FIFA rankings will contest the semi-finals of the 2026 tournament.

Argentina are now unbeaten in their past 12 World Cup matches as they attempt to become the first team since Brazil in 1962 to retain their World Cup crown.

The South Americans swept through the group phase but struggled past minnows Cape Verde and needed a spectacular comeback against Egypt. Sunday's game was another attritional affair against a Swiss team seeking to reach the World Cup semi-finals for the first time. Argentina took the lead with their first effort on target when Liverpool midfielder Mac Allister rose between Djibril Sow and Embolo to glance a header into the far corner.

Young golfers shine at Royal Palm Junior Golf Camp finale



India's batting under the microscope after T20 defeats by England, Ireland

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Pundits and former players highlighted India's struggles with the bat after the Twenty20 World Cup champions suffered back-to-back series defeats by England and Ireland.

England beat India by 56 runs in the fifth and final T20I at Southampton, the hosts sealing a 4-0 series win after the opener ended in a no result due to rain. That series defeat came after Ireland had completed a 2-0 T20 whitewash last month. Player-turned-commentator Dinesh Karthik said India's batting unit had looked out of rhythm throughout the tour.

"I think India have a problem adapting to a little bit of extra bounce," he told cricket news site Cricbuzz.

"The middle order looks wobbly, not confident, and it is definitely not the Indian team that we saw during the

World Cup or before it in bilateral series, where they took down opponents and actually imposed a lot of fear. Where has that gone?" India captain Shreyas Iyer said their failure to adapt to different conditions

reporters.

India great Sunil Gavaskar said the team's batting had been having concerns throughout the series.

"I do believe that the batting has to really come



had cost them in the series.

"We kept on going from one venue to another, and we kept on facing challenges, especially in terms of the dimensions, the grounds, the conditions, just to adapt to it as quickly

as we could have anticipated. That didn't happen," Iyer, who was appointed T20I captain in June, told

to the party, because the batting is the strongest part of this Indian team, and if the strongest part is you know not doing well, then no wonder it has an effect on your bowling as well as your catching," he added.

Commentator Harsha Bhogle said the defeat could be a wake-up-call for India.

Noskova overcomes nerves to capture maiden Wimbledon crown





Government should increase health budget, APAHMO

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A seminar organized by APAHMO on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Financial Times, full participation of doctors, medical experts and representatives of the health sector in Islamabad. On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Financial Times, a major seminar titled "Economic Challenges Facing Health and Medical Institutions" was organized by the All Pakistan Association of Health and Medical Organizations (APAHMO), in which a large number of prominent doctors, medical experts, hospital administrators, laboratory owners, representatives of rehabilitation centers, personalities associated with the paramedical sector, business leaders, social figures and media representatives from across the country participated.

The event was attended by Malik Sajjad (President, APAHMO), Tahir Nawaz (Senior Vice President), Dr. Zahid Ahmed (Vice President), Nabila Sadaf (President, Women Wing), Abdul Waheed Babi (Secretary General, APAHMO), Dr. Sidra Jahangir, Arshad Khan (Secretary, All Pakistan Paramedics Association), Nawaz Khattak and Dr. Qaiser (Saeed International Hospital), Masood Qureshi (Chief Executive Officer, Universal Lab), Qamar Razaq (Chief Executive Officer, Shaheen Lab), Senior journalist Executive Editor Naseem Hassan Awan, Nawabzada, Nawabzada Shah Ali, Nadeem Tanoli, Naveed Satti, Nayyar Naveed, Ikramullah Joya and representatives from various government and private hospitals, laboratories, medical



institutions, rehabilitation centers and the corporate sector. The seminar aimed to have a detailed discussion on the impact of the federal budget on the health sector, financial difficulties faced by medical institutions, provision of quality medical facilities to the public, health insurance, the role of the private sector and promotion of effective cooperation between the media and the health sector. Addressing the event, Hurish Shah, News Coordinator, Financial Times, thanked APAHMO President Malik Sajjad, Secretary General Abdul

Waheed Babi and all the office bearers of the organization and said that the Financial Times has been highlighting economy, business, diplomacy, health, education and public issues through responsible journalism for the past thirteen years. She said that the media is not limited to publishing news only but is also a strong medium of communication between experts from different fields, policy makers and relevant institutions. She said that the Financial Times will always

continue to provide such positive platforms where there is a serious dialogue on national issues and actionable suggestions come out. In his address, Javed Siddique, Editor of Financial Times, said that the health sector is of fundamental importance for national development and Financial Times will continue to provide a rich platform for medical institutions, doctors, researchers and health professionals to convey their opinions, suggestions and research work to the public and policy makers in the future. He said that the newspaper and its sister organization ANI News Agency are committed to highlighting positive initiatives, research activities and reform proposals related to the health sector at the national and international levels. President APAHMO Malik Sajjad said that the main objective of the organization is to provide better medical facilities to the public and raise a common voice for solving the problems faced by the institutions related to the health sector. He said that this partnership with Financial Times will play an important role in highlighting the problems of the health sector at the national level. Secretary General Abdul Waheed Babi said that APAHMO has been rendering public service for the past several years across the country through free medical camps, eye camps, rehabilitation programs, health awareness campaigns and other welfare activities. He said that with the support of the media, the scope of these activities will be further expanded and quality medical facilities will be provided to as many deserving people as possible.

NHMP assists over 876,625 road users, reunites 115 missing children in 2026

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) provided timely assistance to more than 876,625 road users, reunited 115 missing children with their families and arrested 54 wanted criminals during the first half of 2026.

According to the NHMP's performance report for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2026, NHMP continued its commitment to ensuring safe travel, provid-

ing timely public assistance, enforcing traffic laws, promoting road safety, and combating smuggling across the country's motorways and national highways.

The force promptly responded to 26 medical emergencies, helping save precious lives. NHMP officers also extinguished 39 vehicle fires, preventing casualties and minimizing property losses, it added. Through its 130 Toll-Free Helpline, the NHMP provided guidance to 179,408 citi-

zens, extended various forms of assistance to 123,256 road users, delivered emergency support to 9,823 citizens, and resolved 42,111 public complaints in a timely manner.

During the reporting period, the NHMP issued 15,679 driving licences, 43 Category CE driving licences, and 528 International Driving Permits. To promote road safety nationwide, the NHMP organized 1,327 road safety awareness programmes. More than 16.36 million (16,361,682) road

users received road safety awareness at toll plazas, while over 2.27 million (2,275,043) road safety pamphlets and booklets were distributed across the country.

Demonstrating honesty, professionalism, and public trust, NHMP officers recovered and returned lost valuables to their rightful owners, including gold jewellery in two separate incidents, hundreds of mobile phones worth over Rs. 13.617 million, 23 bags containing important documents, and 31

wallets.

The NHMP also recovered 25 stolen vehicles and 22 non-custom-paid vehicles, handing them over to the relevant authorities and their rightful owners. Furthermore, 115 missing children were safely reunited with their parents, while 54 dangerous criminals wanted in various criminal cases were arrested and handed over to the respective district police. During enforcement operations on national highways, the NHMP recovered

four illegal weapons, 35 rounds of ammunition, three magazines, 21.22 grams of hashish, 26 kilograms of opium, 21 kilograms of cocaine, 2,420 litres of liquor, 400 cans of alcoholic beverages, non-custom-paid cigarettes worth Rs. 60 million, skimmed milk powder worth Rs. 1.5 million, and non-custom-paid cloth worth Rs. 12 million.

All recovered items were handed over to the relevant law enforcement agencies for further legal action.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
DAILY PEAK POINT
Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Balochistan security crisis

Muhammad Amir Rana

THE latest surge of violence in Balochistan has once again compelled Pakistan's civil and military leadership to reaffirm its resolve to eliminate terrorism. During a high-level visit to Quetta following a series of deadly attacks, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, during a provincial apex committee meeting, declared that the country's political and military leadership had reached a "mutual and singular decision" to eradicate terrorism.

While the apex committee was meeting in Quetta to discuss the implementation of the National Action Plan, another, less visible process involving the local community was unfolding only a short distance away. In the Hanna Urak area, a jirga of local elders was engaged in direct negotiations with an armed group that had abducted several citizens. Apparently, the elders secured the hostages' release without any visible involvement of the district administration or provincial government. The abductors reportedly claimed affiliation with the banned TTP, although their identity and motivations could not be conclusively established.

One is uncertain about what impact the resolve shown by the civil and military leadership vis-à-vis the volatile security situation will have in the province. However, it is clear that the growing gap between the

state and the civilians is making Balochistan's security landscape more complicated. Not only have a variety of Baloch insurgent groups become hyperactive, but the TTP and even the IS have found space and have started terrorist activities, as seen in the assassination of two Christian cricketers in Mastung. The criminal threat has become particularly critical, especially in the province's urban areas.

However, no substantial change has been witnessed in the state's policy in the last few years. Whenever the level of violence decreases, the government claims victory over terrorism. But when violence increases, it puts all the blame on external factors.

It does not require a special lens to see how violent actors are surviving and thriving. Baloch insurgent groups have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to adjust their operational tempo to strategic requirements, temporarily reducing activity before resuming attacks with greater intensity. Consequently, a single month of lower incident numbers should not be interpreted as evidence that the conflict is diminishing. Instead, it may reflect a period of tactical recalibration on the part of these groups.

The state must revisit its security policies in the volatile province.

The data from the last few weeks suggests that the insurgency remains geographically dispersed, operationally

flexible, and strategically deliberate. Although the total number of attacks declined, 17 incidents across 13 districts indicate that insurgent groups retain the capacity to operate simultaneously across a wide and challenging geographical area. In June, the banned Balochistan Liberation Army alone conducted attacks in nine districts, demonstrating sustained operational reach rather than a contraction of its activities. This month, the BLA launched an assault on Chagai district and destroyed public as well as several private properties.

The group is increasingly focusing on launching assault operations, but it also continues to carry out operations that can be classified as revenge attacks, especially on the anniversaries of Baloch nationalist and insurgent leaders. The recent attack in Khuzdar, particularly targeting Shafiq Mengal, currently affiliated with the PPP and previously accused of heading a militia operating against the insurgents, is a case in point. The Majeed Brigade's attack on his residence was said to be an act of revenge.

One of the most notable developments witnessed during the last few weeks is the BLA's activity in Qilla Abdullah and Pishin — border districts with predominantly Pakhtun populations that have historically experienced violence associated with the TTP rather than Baloch nationalist insurgents.

Courtesy Dawn

What tragedies reveal

Asghar Soomro

Pakistan's response to tragedy has become painfully predictable. Whether it is floods, fires, transport accidents or collapsing buildings, the script rarely changes. There is grief, outrage and condemnation. Governments announce inquiry committees, suspend a few officials and promise compensation for victims' families. Public attention gradually fades until another preventable tragedy demands the same response.

The greater tragedy is that we rarely learn. In June 2015, after an eight-year-old boy was killed when the wall of a government primary school collapsed in Tando Mohammad Khan, I wrote 'Crumbling Schools of Thought' in this newspaper. Nearly a decade later, after another series of roof collapses in Sindh's schools during the monsoon, I revisited the issue in 'Building Blues'. I had hoped those tragedies would provoke reforms serious enough to make another article unnecessary.

Instead, I find myself writing about the same issue once again.

This time, three girls lost their lives when the boundary wall of a government school collapsed in Umerkot as they walked past it. On the same day, fourteen students were killed when the roof of a private tuition centre collapsed in Lahore.

Different provinces. Different institutions. Yet the same lesson.

A wall does not collapse overnight. Neither does a roof. Long before concrete gives way, inspections are missed, maintenance is deferred, warning signs are ignored and responsibility becomes everyone's job — and therefore no one's. By the time a building collapses, the real failure has already occurred: the absence of preventive governance.

For years, Pakistan has debated why millions of children remain out of school. We blame poverty, child labour and parental attitudes. Those factors matter.

Courtesy Tribune

Imran Shah inaugurates Solarized Water Filtration Plant, reaffirms commitment to climate-resilient rural development



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah Sunday reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding access to safe drinking water and strengthening climate-resilient communities.

He stated this at inauguration of a solarized water filtration plant at village Daad Baloch, Union Council Karyal-1, Sahiwal under the Pakistan

Poverty Alleviation Fund's (PPAF) Building Resilient Communities for Sustainable Development (BRCS) Project.

Imran Shah inaugurates Solarized Water Filtration Plant, reaffirms commitment to climate-resilient rural development

Addressing the inauguration ceremony as chief guest, the minister said ensuring safe drinking water for rural and climate-vulnerable communities remained a key priority of the gov-

ernment, as climate change was placing increasing pressure on the country's water resources.

He stressed that investment in climate-resilient infrastructure was essential to protect public health, strengthen livelihoods and improve community resilience.

Imran Shah inaugurates Solarized Water Filtration Plant, reaffirms commitment to climate-resilient rural development

The solarized water filtration plant has been established by PPAF through its partner organization, Comprehensive Health and Education Forum (CHEF). The ceremony was attended by Member Provincial Assembly Pir Wilayat Shah Khagga, PPAF Chief Executive Officer Nadir Gul Barech, CHEF International CEO Sohail Ayaz Khan, Dr. Ahmad Khawar Shahzad, senior officials and members of the local community. The minister appreciated PPAF's role in poverty alleviation.

Mushaal pays tribute to July 13 martyrs, renews Kashmir call

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri freedom fighter Yasin Malik, Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Sunday paid tribute to the martyrs of July 13, 1931, saying their sacrifices continue to inspire the struggle for the people of Jammu and Kashmir's right to self-determination.

On the eve of Kashmir Martyrs' Day, she urged the United Nations, the international community and global human rights organisations to step up efforts for the protection of Kashmiris' rights and support a peaceful resolution of the long-standing dispute in line with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Speaking in a statement, the



former special assistant to the prime minister on human rights and women empowerment said July 13 remains a defining chapter in Kashmir's history, representing courage, faith and sacrifice.

She recalled that 22 unarmed Kashmiris were killed outside Srinagar Central Jail on July 13, 1931, after Dogra forces opened fire while they were completing the call to prayer. She said their sacrifice ignited a movement that continues to inspire generations of Kashmiris. MS Malik said the spirit of the martyrs lives.

Pakistan, Turkiye sign MoU on family affairs and social protection



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in family affairs, social services, and social protection during a meeting between Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and his Turkish counterpart, Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, on Sunday. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, where the two ministers discussed women's rights, the family system, and social

protection. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Human Rights, the two countries also agreed to strengthen cooperation on women's and children's rights, as well as the protection of the family system in the digital space. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to promoting family welfare, enhancing social protection, exchanging expertise, and advancing joint initiatives. Pakistan and Turkiye also agreed to further strengthen cooperation on women's rights, social welfare, and institutional collaboration. Earlier, Tarar, addressing a press conference in Islamabad, said that hosting the two-day 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women is a distinct honor for Pakistan, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the law minister said Pakistan would utilise this high-level forum to highlight the government's initiatives aimed at women's empowerment and building an inclusive society.

TRNC Seeks Sovereign Recognition and Equal International Status

Minister for labour and social security of Turkish Republic of north cyprus oguzhan hasipoglu



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Oğuzhan Hasipoğlu, met with members of the Pakistani media in Islamabad on the sidelines of the 9th Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States. During the meeting, Minister Hasipoğlu outlined the TRNC's position on the Cyprus issue, emphasizing the principles of sovereign equality and the equal international status of the Turkish Cypriot people. He stated that the people of the TRNC seek recognition as a sovereign state and should have the right to represent themselves within the

international community. He also highlighted the TRNC's growing engagement with Islamic countries, underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation with the Muslim world, and expressed appreciation for Pakistan's constructive stance on the TRNC issue. In addition, he acknowledged the contribution of Pakistanis living in the TRNC. The Minister also exchanged views on developments in the Middle East, stressing the importance of dialogue, regional stability, and enhanced cooperation among OIC member states in addressing shared challenges. The meeting provided an opportunity for a constructive exchange of views between the Minister and Pakistani journalists on issues of regional and international significance.

No wheat shortage in county; Govt to act against price hikes and hoarding: Rana Tanveer

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Saturday said that sufficient wheat stocks were available in the country to meet domestic requirements.

He warned that strict action would be taken against those involved in hoarding and creating artificial price hikes of the commodity.

The minister chaired the 9th Wheat Board meeting to review the country's wheat production, availability, procurement, and market prices, said a press release. The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Chief Secretaries of Punjab and Sindh, the Agriculture Secretaries and Food Secretaries of all provinces, senior officials of the Ministry, and representatives of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association and other relevant stakeholders.

The Board conducted a detailed review of the wheat situation across the country. The provincial representatives

National Population Council to lead unified population strategy: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing Pakistan's population challenge through coordinated, evidence-based and whole-of-government action, saying the country's future would depend on the quality, productivity and preparedness of its people rather than the size of its population. In a message issued on World Population Day, observed this year under the theme "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people, today and for the future," the minister said Pakistan's large youth population was both a national asset and a major policy responsibility.



He said Pakistan's population should be viewed as human capital to be developed rather than a burden to be managed, adding that investments in health, nutrition, education, skills development and women's empowerment would translate into greater productivity, resilience and prosperity. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan had made progress in reducing fertility, with the total fertility rate declining from 4.1 births per woman in 2006-07 to 3.6 in 2017-18, a figure reaffirmed.

Women University Mardan successfully completes Three-Day RIPE review

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Women University Mardan, successfully conducted the Review of Institutional Performance & Enhancement (RIPE) from 8-10 July 2026 as part of the University's continued commitment to strengthening internal quality assurance in accordance with the HEC Quality Assurance Framework (PSG-2023). The RIPE Review Panel comprised Dr. Asiyah Bukhari, Director QEC, Khyber Medical University, Peshawar; Ms. Mahwish Asmat Ullah, Director QEC, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar; Dr.



Monazza Serwar, Coordinator QEC, Women University Mardan; Mr. Adnan Ahmed, Deputy Registrar, Women University Mardan; and Ms. Haleema Ikram, Deputy Director ORIC, Women University Mardan. During the three-day review, the panel evaluated the University's Institutional Performance Report (IPR) against the 16 RIPE.

Summer Fiesta play a pivotal role in unlocking students' hidden potential": Dr Ehsan

Self-defense should be made a compulsory subject in the curriculum," Qamar Nadeem G/S (IFMA)

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Director Colleges, Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), Dr Ehsan on Wednesday said the successful conclusion of 'Summer Fiesta 2026' reflected the commitment of educational institutions to promoting creativity, technology, confidence-building and lifelong learning for the holistic development of students. He was addressing the ceremony of Summer Fiesta 2026, organised by the FDE at



Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) G-11/1. "Programs like Summer Fiesta play a pivotal role in unlocking students' hidden potential and preparing them for future challenges," Dr Ehsan said.

"Skills such as self-defense are essential for every female student." Principal IMCG G-11/1 Raheela Awais said the program was aimed at providing students an effective platform to learn, create and explore

new skills during summer vacations. Around 400 students participated in courses that commenced in June, July including 180 female students who enrolled in the Self-Defense Training course. Other courses included Software Development and Canva introduced students to digital designing and modern technology, while Creative Embellishment Arts provided an opportunity to refine artistic skills. Self-Defense Training remained.

Oil-producing countries interested to store oil in Pakistan under Energy City project: Junaid Anwar

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar said on Saturday that significant progress is being made on the government's Energy City project and that several oil-producing countries have shown interest in storing oil in Pakistan following recent regional tensions. Talking to business community during his visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), he said that under the project, private companies would lease land from the



government to establish modern oil storage facilities where oil could be stored and re-exported on a duty-free basis. He said Pakistan did not have sufficient capital to establish large-scale strategic reserves on its own, but the proposed model.