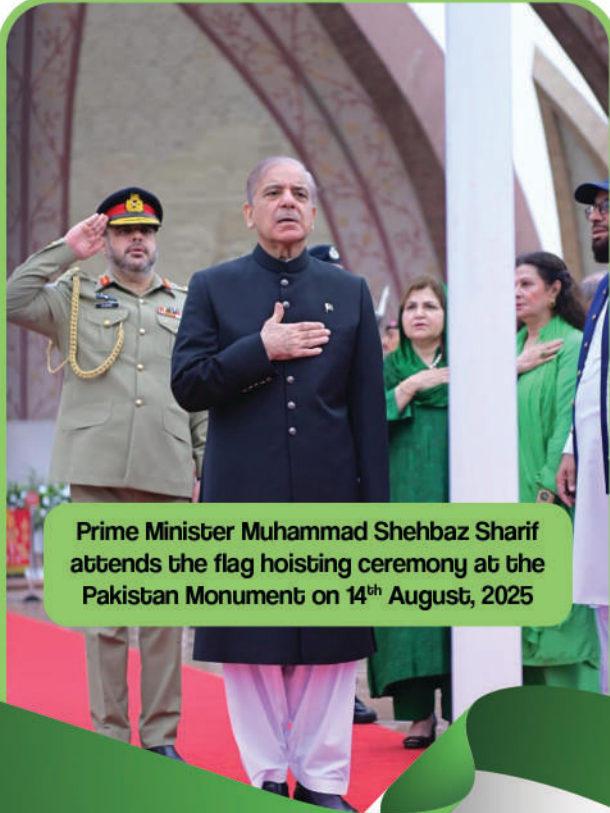


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PAKISTAN'S OLDEST MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF COMMERCE, TRADE, INDUSTRY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends the flag hoisting ceremony at the Pakistan Monument on 14th August, 2025

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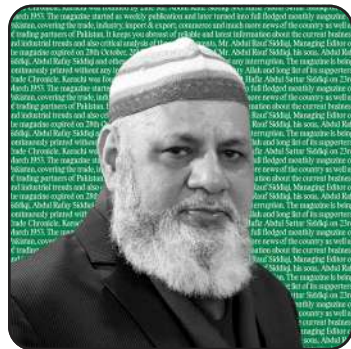
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We begin with the name of Allah the Magnificent

From the editor's desk

14th August Celebration: A Pledge for a Better Future



On August 14th, Pakistanis across the country and around the world celebrated the 78th anniversary of Independence Day with remarkable enthusiasm. This year's festivities not only marked a historic occasion but also highlighted the success of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos and advances in Marqa-e-Haq. Civilian and military leaders emphasized a decisive victory against India in a brief military conflict earlier this year, using this anniversary to promote national unity and reaffirm support for the ongoing Kashmir dispute. In their Independence Day messages, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and military leaders, including Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation. They described this occasion as a reminder of the courage, unity, and sacrifices that led to Pakistan's creation, paying homage to its founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as well as the broader Pakistan Movement.

Leaders noted that the successes in Marqa-e-Haq and Operation Bunyanum Marsoos reflect a strong national will and a unity of purpose. They asserted that these victories have restored faith in national institutions and boosted Pakistan's global standing. Additionally, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. He characterized Marqa-e-Haq not merely as a military achievement but as a reaffirmation of the Two-Nation Theory, which is central to the nation's identity. Local media extensively covered the Independence Day celebrations, highlighting both the hopes and challenges facing the country.

On the occasion, a leading financial daily reflected on the ongoing struggles many citizens face, noting that despite the celebrations, the promise of freedom remains unfulfilled for a significant segment of the population. Many citizens struggle with economic pressures, security concerns, and a democratic system that has not fulfilled its fundamental promises in nearly eight decades. The editorial underscored the grip of an entrenched elite on the nation's resources and decision-making processes, leaving little room for ordinary Pakistanis to voice their aspirations. It pointed out that since 1947, limited progress has been made in building institutions that ensure political and civic freedoms as well as economic empowerment.

The tragic reality is that many rulers have overlooked the primary purpose of a state: to protect the fundamental rights of its people, including freedoms and equality before the law. Instead, they have prioritized the dominance of unelected power and the privileges of a small elite. The lessons from history are clear: nations flourish when they leverage their collective wisdom and embrace the diversity of opinions, cultures, and ethnicities. However, when the electoral process is allegedly compromised, the will of the people is ignored, and elections lose their credibility, the foundation for collective prosperity is undermined. The ongoing subversion of these rights raises questions about the true meaning of Independence Day celebrations, the financial daily questioned.

As we observe the 78th Independence Day, it is essential to reflect on what this freedom truly means for the overwhelming majority of Pakistanis. There is a collective hope for a future where the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality can genuinely be realized, allowing all citizens to thrive in a nation that honors their dignity and aspirations. We strongly advocate for an urgent dialogue among all political parties to develop a charter for economic growth, political stability, equal job opportunities based on merit, and accessible civic facilities for every citizen, including access to housing, healthcare, and education. The provincial governments should transfer real power to the grassroots level of city governments.

Editorial Comments **PSX surpasses 150,000 points: Could it sustain?**

In August 2025, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) achieved a historic milestone by surpassing the 150,000 mark for the first time during intraday trading. The index peaked at 150,323 before closing at 149,770.75, reflecting an increase of 1,574.32 points, or 1.06%.

Analysts attributed the bullish momentum to strong corporate results in various sectors, higher than anticipated, as well as institutional inflows, particularly in the banking and cement sectors. Furthermore, positive economic outlooks from credit rating agencies Fitch and Moody's, along with government efforts to tackle circular debt, significantly boosted investor sentiment.

However, concerns have been raised about the sustainability of this level, as profit-taking could potentially erode these gains. Experts suggest that the upward trend could continue toward new records if the government reduces interest rates to single digits and if the upcoming

review meeting of the IMF regarding Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program, expected later this year, produces positive outcomes.

Following this record-breaking performance, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif celebrated the surge in the benchmark stock index, crediting it to the government's policies and increased investor confidence. The index had previously crossed the 127,000-point mark for the first time on the opening day of the new fiscal year, representing a significant boost for the country's financial markets.

"The new fiscal year has begun with good news and a significant development in the economic field," stated Sharif. He described the surge as evidence of improving sentiment among investors and the business community.

Sharif expressed confidence that this performance reflected trust in the government's economic policies, which he attributes to the gradual stabilization of the economy over the past year. He praised his economic team and reaffirmed his administration's

commitment to enhancing the investment climate.

Taking into account various expert opinions, it is suggested that to sustain growth, there should be a focus on enhancing institutional inflows, promoting diversification, and encouraging investments in sectors beyond banking and cement, such as technology, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy.

Strengthening investor confidence is crucial; this includes improving communication and transparency regarding economic policies to enhance investor sentiment and confidence. Regular government updates and investor forums can help build trust.

Additionally, strengthening the regulatory framework and improving regulations to protect investors while ensuring fair trading practices can boost market credibility through stricter enforcement and new transparency policies. Encouraging small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to access capital markets through initial public offerings (IPOs) can also help diversify the PSX.

Pakistan and Bangladesh are moving closer together

The recent visit by Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, has attracted significant attention from the Bangladeshi media. Their discussions aim to enhance bilateral economic and trade relations, strengthening connections between importers, exporters, and the citizens of both nations, which share a historical bond of unity.

Following a major political shift in Bangladesh last year that led to the ousting of Sheikh Hasina's government, there has been a noticeable improvement in relations between Islamabad and Dhaka, with trade experiencing

significant growth.

During his visit, Minister Dar met with key Bangladeshi leaders, including Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, conveying warm regards from Pakistan's Prime Minister. This trip, the first by a Pakistani foreign minister in 13 years, has been described as a "significant milestone" in ongoing relations.

Both parties engaged in constructive discussions, addressing various bilateral, regional, and international issues, and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in sectors such as trade, investment, education, and disaster management. Notably, Dar announced the launch of the 'Pakistan-Bangladesh Knowledge Corridor,' which aims to provide 500 scholarships to Bangladeshi

students for higher studies in Pakistan over the next five years.

Additionally, Bangladesh requested Pakistan's support in resolving the Rohingya crisis, coinciding with the anniversary of the Rohingya Genocide. The dialogue underscores the importance of addressing historical issues, including an official apology for events from 1971, to establish a stable foundation for enduring bilateral relations.

However, the Pakistani foreign minister mentioned to the media that these issues were resolved twice—first in 1974 and again during the visit of former President Pervez Musharraf. Lastly, we hope that further diplomatic interaction will resolve any issues and pave the way for a new chapter in diplomatic relations.



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14th AUGUST PAKISTAN DAY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Message of President, Asif Ali Zardari on Independence Day of Pakistan, 14th August 2025

Today, as we celebrate the 78th Independence Anniversary of our beloved homeland, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all Pakistanis at home and abroad. This day is a reminder of the courage, unity, and sacrifices that led to the creation of Pakistan. Today, the entire nation pays homage to our founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and the workers of the Pakistan Movement for their struggle and sacrifices.

We celebrate this Independence Day with a sense of renewed pride and hope. Recently, our nation has reaffirmed its strength, resolve, and unity in the face of external aggression. Our success in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos is a landmark moment in our history. It was a demonstration

of unshakable national will, professional excellence, and united purpose. Faced with unjustified Indian aggression, Pakistan responded with clarity, courage and restraint. The world witnessed a nation that is peace-loving, but fully capable of defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This victory has given our people a sense of renewed confidence. It has lifted the morale of the people, restored faith in our institutions, and enhanced Pakistan's stature on the global stage. Today, the world sees Pakistan as a country that seeks peace but does not bow to coercion. But this moment is about more than military success. It is a reminder of what we can achieve when we are united, focused, and committed to a common goal. Let us now channel this spirit into our economic revival, educational reform, technological advancement, institutional development, and

environmental resilience. The same discipline, courage, and clarity that led to our recent success against India can lead us toward victory in eradicating poverty, creating opportunities for our people, and building a just and inclusive society.

On this Day, we also express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Their courage and struggle for justice and their right to self-determination remain close to our hearts. Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering diplomatic, moral, and political support until their right to self-determination is realised. Let this Independence Day be a turning point in our history.

Let us rise beyond our divisions and stand together for a Pakistan that is built on justice, equality, faith, and service to all. May Allah be our guide and supporter. Ameen!

Message of Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

Today, with gratitude to Almighty Allah, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the nation on completion of 78 years of independence of Pakistan. I pay tribute to Father of the Nation, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and the Thinker of Pakistan, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who along with other resolute leaders and workers of the Independence Movement united the nation under one vision, one mission and one goal. Their relentless efforts changed the course of the history with the establishment of an independent, ideological state, thus realizing a seemingly impossible dream into a reality.

The past 78 years tell a tale of resilience, strong faith and a hope of a bright future when as a nation, we braved several difficult challenges. Despite this, Pakistan achieved a series of milestones of success and achievements in every field. From economy to sports and defence to information technology, Pakistanis with their unparalleled determination and courage have written exemplary chapters of knowledge and skills. Pakistan's great victory in Marka-e-

Haq during the war imposed by India on 6-10th May 2025 has not only increased the significance of freedom, but has also enliven a new ambition and enthusiasm in the hearts of Pakistanis, which has amplified the joy and celebrations of the Independence Day.

With the blessings of Almighty Allah, our brave armed forces in their fight against India revived their past glory and shattered the false pride of enemy by acting as a Bunyan-um-Marsoos – a solid fortified wall. The military capability, valour and faith of our brave soldiers and air warriors forced the enemy to kneel down. We pay tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of our freedom and offer prayers for the elevation of their ranks in eternal life.

It was not merely a military conquest, but also the victory of the validation of a Two-Nation Theory, which is the foundation of our dear homeland. With same passion, we stand vigilant to defend and safeguard our national interests including water resources. While expressing our resolve to protect Pakistan's sovereignty, we as a peaceful nation, reiterate our belief in the principles of peaceful coexistence and resolving the regional and global issues

through dialogue and diplomacy. India also needs to demonstrate the same will for the resolution of all disputes, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Our government has given priority to the welfare of common man. A prominent step in this regard is a significant cut in the rates of electricity, which has provided an across the board relief to the general public and industries. As a Prime Minister, I particularly express my commitment that the government is utilizing all resources to make the country effectively meet the new economic, industrial technological demands of the present era.

Apart from these policies and programmes, the main source of strength behind the progress of Pakistan is our unity. Like military prowess, a strong and stable economy is also inevitable for an impregnable national defence and sovereignty, for which we all need to demonstrate the spirit of Marka-e-Haq and the Pakistan Movement. On this occasion, I want to extend my sincere invitation to all political parties and segments of the society to join hands with us in strengthening our resolve to safeguard national interests.

From Partition to present: A journey of resilience and sovereignty

By Dawood Mirza

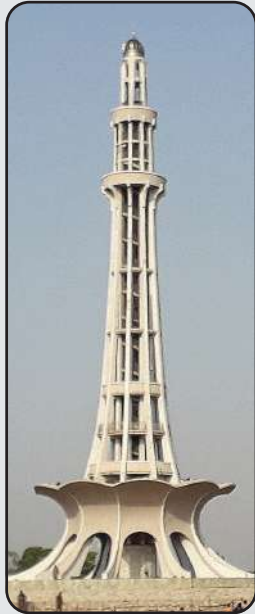
On Pakistan's Independence Day, we must revisit the essence of freedom, that it is not a one-time reward, but a continuous responsibility. As the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared in Lahore on October 30, 1947:

"There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan."

His resolute words echoed the determination of a nation forged in fire, resolved to endure.

"We are going through fire: the sunshine has yet to come," he acknowledged, urging a people battered by violence and displacement to hold fast to unity, faith, and discipline. For Jinnah, independence was never a finite event, it was a living, evolving pledge demanding constant vigilance, sacrifice, and collective strength.

The necessity of this ongoing struggle is illustrated by recent events. A fly, dwelling in filth, eyes a spotless china shop. Powerless to move even a single cup, it seeks out a bull, creeps into its ear, and buzzes. Maddened, the bull thrashes blindly, destroying the shop the fly alone could never harm. The fly hovers back, triumphant. This grim fable played out in real life not long ago. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident, India responded like the agitated bull, reckless, provoked, and dangerously misled. Believing Pakistan to be the fragile china shop, it lashed out, only to find itself charging into a far grimmer reality, more akin to a butcher's shop, where the bull itself is bloodied. India's miscalculation lay in failing to grasp the nature of terrorism. Like flies, terrorists are stateless, chaotic, and opportunistic. They thrive on provoking disproportionate responses. To conflate their actions



with a nation like Pakistan, one that has been a repeated victim of terrorism and continues to fight it, is not only inaccurate but unjust.

When India claimed to possess "incontrovertible evidence" against Pakistan, we rightly demanded proof. Pakistan has consistently rejected knee-jerk scapegoating and has instead called for cooperation and dialogue. As political philosopher Hannah Arendt warned, "Loneliness is the common ground of terror"; a society cut off from empathy and communication becomes fertile ground for extremism. In contrast,

Pakistan has defended its people and sovereignty without abandoning its moral compass. Even when foreign jets crossed our skies under the pretense of targeting militants, the missiles struck homes and places of worship, a tragic reminder of assumptions gone awry. Throughout, Pakistan's response remained proportionate and deliberate. We did not lash out blindly. We responded with restraint, recognising the difference between sovereign defence and blind aggression.

And the outcome is clear. Those who expected Pakistan to shatter have seen the opposite. When the dust settled, Pakistan remained militarily unbroken, diplomatically composed, and morally grounded. From wars and sanctions to propaganda and pressure, we have met each challenge with resolve, not panic. Our sovereignty, tested many times over, remains intact. Our resilience, not our rhetoric, defines us.

Yet independence cannot be understood solely through the lens of external threats. As the Quaid reminded us, freedom also demands internal reckoning. "That freedom can never be attained by a nation without suffering and sacrifice," he

said, "but I can say with confidence that... we shall emerge triumphant."

A Persian fable speaks to this need: shipwrecked sailors build a boat and row through the storm, but only later realise they never lifted anchor. Their efforts, though intense, were futile. So too with nations. Greed, division, and indifference can anchor even the sincerest efforts. For Pakistan, these anchors often appear in the form of sectarianism, political polarisation, and intolerance. To truly move forward, we must first free ourselves from within. True independence means casting off both foreign chains and domestic complacency; it means choosing reform over stagnation, accountability over blame, and unity over division.

After 1947, as Pakistan grappled with poverty, partition, and uncertainty, Jinnah gave his people a message of hope. "We are in the midst of unparalleled difficulties... we have been through dark days of apprehension and anguish," he said, but he believed we would rise with confidence. That belief remains as vital today as it was then. Just as we once dismantled an empire, we must now dismantle the internal obstacles to justice, equality, and progress. The challenges are formidable, but not insurmountable.

This Independence Day, as we celebrate, especially in light of the recent display of strength and precision by our Air Force, we must see in it a reflection of what this nation is capable of when it rises above its divisions and commits to a unified purpose. From 1947 to 2025, Pakistan's journey has been one of perseverance and resilience. We have stumbled, but we have never surrendered. We honour the sacrifices of our founders and martyrs not just with speeches and flags, but by continuing the struggle they began. In doing so, we reaffirm the timeless conviction of Quaid-i-Azam: no power on earth can undo Pakistan. With unity, faith, and discipline as our compass, we can weather every storm, and shape a future as strong, sovereign, and enduring as the ideals we were founded upon. (Courtesy - The News)

1947–2025: How the idea of Pakistan evolved

By Syeda Beena Abbas

Pakistan's evolution from 1947 to 2025 encompasses significant political, social, and economic transformations. Initially formed as a nation with a large Muslim population in 1947, it faced challenges of nation-building, including constitution-making and political instability. The early decades saw periods of military rule interspersed with democratic governments. A major turning point was the secession of East Pakistan in 1971, leading to the formation of Bangladesh. Subsequent decades were marked by economic development, social changes, and ongoing political dynamics, including periods of both progress and challenges. However, looking ahead to years beyond 2025, Pakistan aims to achieve a powerful economy and aims to further improve human development indices, with a focus on inclusivity and addressing gender inequality.

Politically, Pakistan since its establishment, like any other newly developed nation, has faced instability, with frequent shifts between democratic and military rules, and a persistent struggle for national identity, social cohesion, economic crisis and security threats from extremism and terrorism. The early years witnessed the assassination of Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, political infighting, and difficulties in establishing a stable government. Secondly, constitutional development also took nine long years to finally adopt



the first constitution in 1956. Later, General Ayub Khan's coup in 1958 ushered in a period of martial law and military rule, followed by a return to democracy and then another period of military rule.

This era was characterised by both economic growth and political repression. Following the 1971 war and the secession of East Pakistan, the country experienced a mix of democratic periods and military interventions. The 1970s saw a return to democracy, with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto leading the country. However, this was followed by another period of military rule under General Zia-ul-Haq. The 1980s and 1990s saw a further cycle of democratic governments, often interrupted by political crises and military interventions. Pakistan has continued to grapple with issues of governance, extremism, and regional conflicts. Subsequent decades saw periods of economic progress and setbacks, with fluctuations in growth rates and challenges related to debt, inflation, and poverty.

However, contrary to it, the one thing that needs to be addressed here is Jinnah's vision for Pakistan. Jinnah had always envisioned a democratic Pakistan and many of his successors have struggled towards this goal, but not more than maintaining

their own platforms of power. It is ironic that such political instability plagues a country, where its leaders' number one objective is to secure their own power. Maybe it is time for a new equation. The actions of both civil and military leaders have exhaustively tried the Pakistani people and their struggle as a nation.

Pakistan faces the unenviable task of setting government priorities in accordance with the needs of its diverse and unevenly developed constituent units. Regardless of the form of government – civilian or military, Islamic or secular – solutions of the problem of mass illiteracy and economic inequities on the one hand, and the imperatives of national integration and national security will also determine the degree of political stability, or instability, that Pakistan faces in the decades ahead. But the people and the nation persevere offering the world great cultural, religious, and intellectual traditions. However, timely focus on these political challenges will give way to a longer-term vision of a developed and prosperous Pakistan.

Thus, Pakistan's evolution from 1947 to the present day is a complex narrative of political transitions, economic development, and social change. The nation has faced numerous challenges but also demonstrated resilience and a capacity for adaptation. Looking ahead, Pakistan continues to grapple with issues of governance, security, and economic stability, while striving to build a stronger and more prosperous future.

Courtesy - The News

PNSC celebrates the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan

Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) celebrated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with patriotic zeal and enthusiasm. The ceremony commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the dignified hoisting of the national flag.

Chairman (PNSC Board), Sultan

Ahmed, and CEO, Syed Jarar Haider Kazmi, hoisted the national flag along with the Chief Financial Officer, Executive Directors, officers, and staff. Later, the Chairman addressed the PNSC employees, and a cake was cut on the occasion of Independence Day, and prayers were offered for the progress and stability of the country.

During the event, the CEO also planted a sapling on the organization's premises. The ceremony concluded



with the distribution of sweets among participants, who reaffirmed their commitment to celebrating this national day with devotion and spirit.

Glimpses of Independence Day



PORTS, SHIPPING & RAILWAYS

Xinxu to invest in PNSC's fleet expansion

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, said that the Pakistani shipping sector is set for a major transformation following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Shipping Corporation and China's Shandong Xinxu Group.

The federal minister expressed these views while addressing a signing ceremony for the MoU, which was signed by the CEO of PNSC and the Chairman of Shandong Xinxu Group Corporation.

"The signing of this MoU symbolizes a growing partnership between Pakistan and China in the maritime domain, paving the way for future cooperation, investment, and development in Pakistan's shipping industry", he added.

He emphasized that the collaboration will boost regional trade, enhance connectivity, and strengthen Pakistan's role in the global maritime industry through cooperation and shared economic goals.

The understanding primarily focuses on collaborative efforts in several key areas. These include the sale and purchase of merchant cargo vessels, such as liquid bulk tankers, dry bulk

carriers, and containerized ships, under joint or individual ownership, as well as through profit and loss-sharing arrangements.

The MoU also encompasses the leasing of such vessels by Xinxu to PNSC through various charter mechanisms, including time, spot, and bare boat charters.

Another major component of the MoU involves PNSC offering commercial, technical, and administrative management services for vessels, as mutually agreed upon, covering areas such as chartering, marketing, revenue optimization, maintenance, dry docking, crewing, and regulatory compliance.

Furthermore, the MoU includes provisions for financing arrangements by Xinxu to PNSC for investments in ships and other floating platforms. These arrangements will be governed by commercially competitive terms, ensuring mutual benefit and financial viability.



Rear Admiral Atiqur Rehman takes charge as acting KPT chairperson

In accordance with a notification issued by the Establishment Division on August 7, 2025, Rear Admiral Atiqur Rehman has assumed acting charge of chairperson of the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), in addition to his existing duties. KPT Trustees Abdullah Zaki and Khawaja Zubair extended their congratulations to the acting chairperson on the occasion. They were joined by GM Engineering Rear Admiral Kashif Munir; GM Administration Brigadier Muhammad Younis; and KPT Secretary Qasim Khokhar.



PNSC eyes \$700m freight boost with expanded green fleet

The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) aims to generate an estimated \$700 million in freight earnings by expanding its cargo fleet to 34 vessels over the next three years as part of a broad strategy to revitalise the country's maritime and logistics sectors. The announcement was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Maritime Affairs Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry.

Officials informed the meeting that PNSC currently manages around 11pc of Pakistan's cargo by volume and 4pc by value. The national carrier now targets increasing its cargo handling share to 52pc

by volume and 43pc by value — excluding containerised cargo — within three years.

To strengthen domestic capability and reduce foreign dependence, the government plans to enhance collaboration between PNSC, Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works, and local industries for the indigenous construction of cargo vessels, oil tankers, and container carriers.

The initiative is expected to generate skilled employment, support local supply chains, stimulate industrial activity, and revitalise Pakistan's shipbuilding sector — paving the way for the country to emerge as a regional maritime hub.



Government pushes shipping sector growth as PNSC fleet grows to 12 vessels

Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), the country's national flag carrier, has expanded its fleet from 10 to 12 vessels with the addition of two Aframax-class tankers, Swan Lake and P. Alik, enhancing maritime and energy transport capacity.

PNSC Chief Executive Officer Zarar Hussain briefed the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, during a meeting recently attended by the maritime ministry's Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, other officials and the heads of Karachi Port Trust and Port Qasim Authority (PQA).

Minister Junaid Chaudhry highlighted that these new tankers increase the PNSC fleet to 12 ships, reaffirming the government's

commitment to strengthening the national shipping sector. He further announced the ambition to grow the fleet to 20 vessels by year-end.

He emphasized PNSC's vital role in transporting crude oil and petroleum products, noting Aframax tankers, ranging from 80,000 to 120,000 deadweight tonnes, are favoured globally for their ability to access ports inaccessible to larger Very Large Crude Carriers. This



expansion is expected to boost Pakistan's capacity to efficiently handle rising energy imports.

Acknowledging the country's dependence on imports for nearly 70% of its energy needs, largely crude oil and refined products, Minister Chaudhry underlined that expanding the national fleet will decrease reliance on foreign shipping lines. Currently, freight payments to foreign carriers cost Pakistan an estimated \$4.6 billion annually. By carrying more cargo on its own vessels, PNSC aims to save significant foreign exchange, increase revenue, and bolster the energy security, he added.

The minister also noted that PNSC is actively pursuing new business prospects both domestically and internationally, as part of wider efforts to revitalize maritime economy and enhance supply chain resilience against external shocks.

Port Qasim halves export cargo charges

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has notified a 50 percent reduction in port charges for export-oriented cargo at Port Qasim in a move aimed at facilitating exporters and enhancing the port's competitiveness.

The reduced rates, effective immediately, apply to wharfage and transshipment container charges for a period of one year.

The decision also includes concessions at Marginal Wharf Berths 1 and 2, as well as at the Fotco

and Fauji Akbar Portia terminals.

Speaking to media, Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said the government's move is intended to support exporters and attract more traffic to Port Qasim.



"While the ministry is working to attract cargo from Central Asian countries to Pakistani ports, it is crucial to make our ports regionally competitive," he said.

As part of the reforms, handling charges for LNG cargoes have also been reduced. Charges for containerised cargo at DP World terminal have been halved, though no concessions will apply to empty containers.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs said the changes are designed to promote exports and trade activity.

KPT delegation visits CBD PUNJAB

A high-level delegation from the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) visited the Central Business District of Punjab (CBD Punjab) to explore collaborative opportunities, discuss investment prospects, and exchange insights on urban development and infrastructure modernisation.

The KPT delegation was led by Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, KPT

Board Trustee, along with Brigadier (Retd.) Younas, General Manager of Administration; Atif Naik, General Manager of Estate Management; and Qasim Khokhar, Secretary. Upon arrival, the delegation was warmly welcomed by Imran Amin, Chief Executive Officer of CBD Punjab,

along with Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, COO of CBD Punjab; Riaz Hussain, Executive Director of Technical; Ali Waqar Shah, Director Business Development; Sameer Aftab Sial, Director Architecture & Planning and other senior officials of the authority.



KPT has surpassed its all-time container handling record in the fiscal year 2024-25

The Karachi Port Trust (KPT) concludes the fiscal year 2024-25 with a record cargo handling performance, achieving a remarkable milestone of 54 million tons at Karachi Port.

The Karachi Port Trust has successfully concluded the fiscal year 2024-25, achieving an impressive cargo handling milestone of 54 million tons and surpassing its all-time container handling record with the processing of 2.65 million TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units).

This exceptional growth can be attributed to the dynamic leadership of the Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, as well as the Transition Management Committee of KPT. Their efforts have enabled Karachi Port to leverage the surge in both imports and exports, thereby enhancing national trade and economic activity.

A comprehensive analysis of the Karachi Port's outstanding performance in handling export and import cargoes during the recently concluded fiscal year. There was a

notable increase of 4.45% in total cargo handling compared to the previous fiscal year, 2023-24, when the port managed 53.95 million tons. The breakdown shows that the port handled 41.68 million tons of dry cargo, marking a 3.57% increase, and 12.28 million tons of liquid bulk cargo, reflecting a 7.56% growth during 2024-25.

Further details indicate that export cargo handling concluded with an impressive growth rate of 6.49%, totalling 20.02 million tons by the end of the fiscal year. Imports also performed well, recording a growth of 3.28% from the previous year to close at 33.93 million tons. In terms of dry cargo exports, handling reached 18.91 million tons, a 7.06% increase from the previous year, largely



Govt unveils plan to expand Gwadar Port operations

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has announced an ambitious plan to expand Gwadar Port's operational capacity by introducing additional shipping lines and launching a ferry service connecting Pakistan with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The announcement was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry recently.

Gwadar as a major hub in the Arabian Sea," Mr Chaudhry said. "We aim to transform Gwadar into a strategic transshipment and logistics centre, benefiting Pakistan and the wider region." He emphasised that with Gwadar Port now fully operational, it is

time to accelerate its integration into international maritime networks. He directed relevant departments to pursue all necessary steps to increase the port's commercial activity and unlock its full potential.

He said additional shipping lines will be connected to Gwadar to facilitate greater movement of goods, promote transit trade with Central Asia and the Middle East, and support Pakistan's growing role



due to the significant handling of clinker, rice, and talc lumps, among other goods. Meanwhile, dry cargo imports reached 22.77 million tons, a 0.81% increase from last year, driven primarily by the handling of soybeans and yellow peas. An audit of liquid bulk imports revealed that the port managed 11.16 million tons during the fiscal year, representing an 8.66% increase, primarily due to the handling of crude oil, palm oil, base oil, chemicals, soybean oil, and canola oil.

Container handling at Karachi Port reached a historic high of 2.65 million TEUs during the fiscal year 2024-25, driven by increased trade activities enabled by the government's favourable trade policies.

Additionally, the movement and handling of vessels at Karachi Port increased by 11% by the end of the fiscal year. Out of a total of 1,943 boats handled, the port managed 1,093 container ships, 218 bulk carriers, 180 general cargo ships, and 452 liquid bulk tankers. The Karachi Port Trust is committed to fully complying with the directives of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and is well-positioned to support the country's speedy economic recovery.

in the regional logistics landscape. "The new routes will reduce pressure on existing ports and ensure faster, more efficient cargo handling," Mr Chaudhry stated. In addition to enhancing cargo operations, the maritime ministry has also planned to launch a ferry service from Gwadar to GCC countries. The move is expected to provide an affordable, direct maritime link for passengers and cargo, particularly benefiting expatriate communities and cross-border traders.

"The ferry service will strengthen people-to-people ties, boost tourism and provide a new economic lifeline for Balochistan," the minister said. "It will create local employment, improve supporting infrastructure and attract private sector participation, especially in the areas of ship services, hospitality and transportation."

First-ever ferry license approved for routes to Iran, GCC countries

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has approved its first-ever ferry service license to an international ferry operator, Sea Keepers, authorizing the company to operate routes connecting Pakistan with Iran and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The approval followed a high-level meeting of the Licensing Committee, comprising officials from Maritime Affairs, Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Interior ministries, along with representatives from the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation and Port & Shipping authorities. Federal

Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry hailed the move as a

historic step aligned with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision and Pakistan's National Maritime Policy.

He emphasized the opportunity this license creates for boosting regional connectivity, religious tourism, and economic activity via sea routes. The new ferry service is expected to serve hundreds of thousands annually, particularly pilgrims traveling to Iran and Iraq, alongside workers and tourists bound for GCC states.

The minister noted that the ferry service will alleviate pressure on land routes and reduce travel costs

compared to air transport for the Pakistani diaspora and religious travelers.

"Initial operations will commence from the ports of Karachi and Gwadar using modern ferry vessels equipped with essential amenities to ensure safe, affordable travel. Expansion of routes and port calls is planned based on demand and bilateral agreements", he added.

This ferry service launch forms part of Pakistan's broader strategy to develop its blue economy, improve trade logistics, and promote maritime tourism, reflecting a renewed commitment to sustainable regional sea transport infrastructure, the minister stated.

Kyrgyzstan is exploring opportunities and avenues in maritime sector of Pakistan

A 10-member Kyrgyzstan Delegation led by their Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Edil Baisalov visited Karachi Port Trust Head Office (KPT) to explore opportunities and avenues that the maritime sector of Pakistan offers.

A briefing was given to the delegation about the infrastructure, facilities, port projects, and the port expansion development plan during the occasion, which was chaired by the Transition Management Committee (TMC) member, Mr Abdullah Zaki. It was also attended by all the senior and middle management officers of KPT.

The delegation led by H.E. Mr Edil Baisalov has taken a

keen interest in the port projects and the overall Karachi

Port Development Plan, which includes real estate projects and port expansion projects such as the Edible Oil & Chemical Terminal, Clean Bulk Cargo Terminal, Maritime Business District project, and LNG Terminal.

During the occasion, the Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Edil Baisalov informed and offered to establish joint ventures with Pakistan. He said that his country has potential in various sectors like energy and

infrastructure, cooperation in agriculture, education, healthcare, tourism, and information technology, from which the business community of Pakistan can take advantage.

At this juncture, the TMC informed about the ferry service project that KPT plans to launch to nurture the fruition of the Blue Economy and Maritime Tourism in Pakistan—the KPT General Manager, Real Estate Development Brig. Muhammad Younis informed the delegates about launching the Maritime Business

District, which will provide land to businesses associated with the Maritime Sector, including insurance companies, financial institutions, logistics, and supply chain sectors, or interested in establishing warehousing facilities with ample space for all.



DP World to build zero-cost 'Pakistan Mart' in UAE

Pakistan and UAE-based logistics giant DP World have announced plans to establish 'Pakistan Mart', a dedicated commercial hub near Jebel Ali, Dubai, UAE to display Made-in-Pakistan products to regional and global buyers. The initiative was presented to Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan by a delegation from National Logistics Corporation

(NLC) and DP World, led by NLC Director-General Maj Gen Farrukh Shehzad.

DP World will build the facility at no cost to Pakistani stakeholders. The mart will house warehouses, showrooms, retail units, and e-commerce fulfilment centres to support exporters and traders. Khan called the project "transformational",

urging support for high-potential sectors such as textiles, food, surgical goods and sportswear, and stressed the need to integrate e-commerce solutions. The ministry has directed the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to coordinate closely with the project team. The mart is seen as a major step in Pakistan's efforts to diversify exports and strengthen its trade presence in the Gulf.



Pakistan to expand and modernize the national shipping fleet

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has launched a major initiative to expand and modernize the national shipping fleet as part of efforts to strengthen maritime infrastructure and reduce reliance on foreign vessels.

Chairing the agreements' signing meeting, the federal minister said the initiative is designed not only to cut sea freight bills and conserve foreign exchange, but also to support climate-smart maritime practices by strengthening a cleaner, more efficient domestic fleet.

The minister said Pakistan plans to increase its shipping capacity by 600% over the next three years, with

a focus on incorporating greener technologies and energy-efficient vessels into the state-owned fleet.

Under his leadership, the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and Port Qasim Authority (PQA) have signed separate agreements with the state-run Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), pledging financial support for the fleet expansion plan.

The agreements were signed by A. Abdullah Zaki, representing KPT's Transition Management Committee, and Rear Admiral (R) Syed Moazzam Ilyas HI(M), Chairman of PQA, with PNSC CEO Syed Jarar Haider Kazmi.

The accords were finalized days after a high-level policy meeting chaired by Junaid Chaudhry, in

which maritime stakeholders agreed to align fleet modernization with environmental sustainability and national climate goals outlined by the prime minister's office.

KPT and PQA officials stressed that modernizing the fleet would not only conserve foreign exchange and enhance trade connectivity but also significantly lower the environmental cost of sea freight by minimizing fuel consumption and enabling compliance with international emission standards.

"This initiative reflects our broader vision to modernize the maritime sector, boost operational efficiency, and introduce advanced technologies across all institutions," Junaid Chaudhry said, adding that the government remains committed to transparency and merit-based decision-making.

The initiative forms part of Pakistan's efforts to position itself as a regional maritime hub while contributing to global efforts to decarbonize the shipping industry, one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.



Pakistan slashes Karachi port charges in climate-conscious maritime reform drive

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, announced a major 50% reduction in port charges at Karachi Port, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of trade logistics and foster sustainable growth.

In a statement issued recently, the minister announced the initiative as part of a broader strategy to decarbonize the maritime sector and improve energy efficiency in port operations.

"By lowering operational costs and streamlining logistics, we are not only boosting trade competitiveness but also contributing to climate

resilience," Junaid Chaudhry stated. The newly introduced reforms include a 50% cut in port handling, vessel, and storage charges, while scrapping the previously planned annual 5% hike in these fees. This move is expected to benefit exporters of dry bulk goods

and reduce emissions through faster, less congested port activity.

The minister highlighted that these changes are part national strategy to modernize port infrastructure, enhance sustainability, and transition towards smart maritime practices.

This announcement follows recent efforts by the maritime minister to enhance port efficiency, including the formation of a high-level committee to reduce container dwell time by 70% and the deployment of advanced technologies such as AI and drones for monitoring operations, further underlining the government's proactive stance in modernizing maritime trade logistics.



Pakistan unveils 120-acre aquaculture project to boost blue economy

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, announced the establishment of a state-of-the-art Aquaculture Park at Korangi Fish Harbour (KoFHAH), Karachi, at an estimated cost of 3 billion rupees. The Minister made the announcement while chairing a high-level meeting on the development of the blue economy, attended by Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Noorul Haq Baloch, representatives from the Korangi Fish Harbour Authority (KoFHAH), the Marine Fisheries Department (MFD), and the Balochistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The estimated annual production of a 120-acre aquaculture park ranges from 360 to 1,200 tons, depending on the species cultivated and the farming system employed. Its yearly revenue potential is projected to be between \$720,000 and \$7.2 million, influenced by species selection, market prices, and production intensity.

The Minister stated that the project, spanning 120 acres, should be developed under a public-private partnership framework, aiming to enhance the country's blue economy

through sustainable aquaculture.

The meeting was informed that the land cost for the Aquaculture Park has been determined based on an extensive farming model, providing an affordable and efficient foundation for private investors.



Experts informed the meeting that Pakistan's coastal waters possess highly conducive conditions for aquaculture, providing an ideal environment for farming a variety of marine species. To accelerate the process, the Federal Minister directed the Korangi Fish Harbour Authority to submit a comprehensive execution report within 10 days.

Emphasizing replication of success, the Minister proposed extending the aquaculture model to Balochistan, leveraging its vast coastal belt for sustainable marine farming.

In a move aimed at enhancing coordination, the Minister ordered the relocation of the Marine Fisheries Department sub-office

to the premises of the Gwadar Port Authority. This administrative shift is expected to streamline inter-agency collaboration and expedite decision-making in blue economy initiatives.

In a separate meeting, the Federal Minister also reviewed the progress on the land allotment and lease policy of the Port Qasim Authority (PQA).

Officials informed him that the Survey of Pakistan has been engaged to identify and demarcate PQA-owned land. Furthermore, it was conveyed that the revision of PQA's master plan is being aligned with the broader feasibility study for the National Ports Master Plan, currently underway.

Minister Junaid Anwar Chaudhry reiterated the government's commitment to promoting sustainable marine development, emphasizing that investments in aquaculture and port infrastructure are crucial for ensuring food security, boosting exports, and creating employment opportunities across coastal regions.

The series of meetings held by the Maritime Minister marks a significant step in the government's broader maritime development strategy, focused on harnessing the full potential of Pakistan's coastal resources through innovation, institutional cooperation, and private sector engagement.

Chattogram Port in Bangladesh has set a new record by handling 3,296,067 TEUs in the FY2025

The Chattogram Port, the country's main seaport, has achieved a record in container handling during the fiscal year 2024-2025, managing 3,296,067 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

This figure marks the highest volume in its 48-year history of container operations, which began in 1977.

The Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) in a media statement narrated that this

represents an increase of 127,377 TEUs compared to the 3,168,690 TEUs handled in the previous fiscal year (2023-2024), reflecting a year-



on-year growth of 4%.

In the fiscal years leading up to this record, the port handled:

– 3,004,142 TEUs in 2020-21

– 3,097,236 TEUs in 2021-22

– 3,255,358 TEUs in 2022-23

– 3,007,375 TEUs in 2023-24

The latest figures surpass all previous records and encompass operations from the main jetty, Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD),

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Minister Junaid Anwar Chaudhry vows to transform Gwadar into a maritime logistics hub

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has reiterated his commitment to developing Gwadar into a modern, integrated maritime and logistics hub that supports national priorities and promotes the socio-economic development of the region.

The Minister shared his vision during a meeting with Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Noor ul Haque, who briefed him on the port's performance, ongoing development projects, and future business plans during his official visit to Gwadar.

The Minister highlighted the importance of taking concrete steps to enhance ports' performance, reflecting on-ground realities, and focusing on prosperity, inclusivity, and national pride.

Discussing the untapped economic potential of Balochistan's coastal and agricultural regions, the Minister pointed out business opportunities in fishing and date production in Gwadar, Panjgur, and Kech districts.

It was disclosed in the meeting that the Makran coast contributes 40% of Pakistan's fish catch, while Kech and Panjgur produce over half of the country's high-quality dates. However, a 30–40% post-harvest loss occurs due to the lack of value-addition facilities, which negatively impacts export potential.

The Minister urged both private and public sectors to invest in processing plants for fish cleaning, freezing, and packaging, as well as for date grading, drying, and production of syrups and jams. He also emphasized the urgent

requirement for cold storage and logistics infrastructure to support sustainable exports.

Further, the meeting included plans for establishing an Off-Dock Terminal near the New Gwadar International Airport. One hundred acres have been allocated for this terminal, which will serve as a key hub for container and cargo handling.

This terminal is expected to provide vital logistical benefits, especially for landlocked Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, by reducing their logistical costs.

With a projected cost of PKR 497 million and a completion timeline of one year, the Off-Dock Terminal is expected to reduce demurrage charges, enhance trade confidence, and increase revenue generation through Gwadar Port, the Gwadar Port Chairman informed the Minister.

The Minister also visited the China Business Center, where he was briefed on the Gwadar Port, Free Zone, Gwadar International Terminal, and related infrastructure projects.

Pleased with the progress, he instructed the relevant authorities to expedite their efforts and make the necessary improvements to maintain momentum.



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and Pangaon Inland Container Terminal, covering both import/export and empty containers.

In addition to container throughput, there was also growth in cargo handling and the number of ship arrivals. The port managed 130 million tonnes of open (non-containerized) cargo in FY25, an increase from 120 million tonnes in FY24—representing an 8.33% rise. Ship arrivals at the port rose to 4,077 in the last fiscal year, up from 3,971 the previous year.

Currently, 23% of all imports through Chattogram arrive in containers,

while the remaining 77% are bulk or liquid cargo, including oil and chemicals. Among the vessels calling at the port:

- 45% are container ships
- 45% are bulk carriers
- 10% are liquid bulk vessels

Chattogram Port handles nearly 99% of Bangladesh's total container trade.

CPA officials and trade analysts noted that this growth in container and cargo handling occurred despite various challenges, including

multiple protest movements by National Board of Revenue (NBR) employees and ongoing global supply chain disruptions.

“This is the highest container handling figure in our history,” stated Muhammad Omar Faruk, Secretary of the CPA. “All officers, staff, and stakeholders worked with dedication to achieve this. We thank everyone for their contributions.”

Chattogram Port currently ranks 67th among the world's busiest container ports, according to Lloyd's List, a London-based shipping and maritime intelligence publication.

Minister Junaid Anwar, FPCCI agree on a joint mechanism to boost the maritime sector

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) have agreed to establish a formal consultative mechanism aimed at aligning national port strategies with the evolving needs of the private sector. This consensus was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, and a four-member FPCCI delegation that met him, led by its President Atif Ikram Sheikh.

Minister Junaid Chaudhry emphasised the importance of integrated logistics corridors under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He urged a more prominent role for the private sector in developing port-related infrastructure.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to modernising port facilities, enhancing

efficiency at Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Port Qasim Authority (PQA), and Gwadar Port, and advancing blue economy initiatives to promote long-term maritime sustainability.

Highlighting recent reforms, the Minister noted progress in digitalising port operations, streamlining regulatory processes, and adopting green port practices, which are already producing measurable outcomes.

He invited FPCCI to collaborate closely with the ministry in identifying targeted investment opportunities in key areas such as maritime logistics, coastal tourism,

fisheries, and shipbuilding.

Atif Ikram Sheikh lauded the ministry's recent performance, particularly the record-breaking cargo and container throughput achieved by KPT in the fiscal year 2024-25. He assured the Minister of FPCCI's full cooperation in supporting continued reforms in the maritime sector.

The meeting reflected a shared commitment to strengthening public-private partnerships in maritime development and addressing the concerns of the business community to enhance Pakistan's seaborne trade and economic growth.

The FPCCI delegation also included Sheikh Umer Rehan, Chairman of the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA); Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman, Coordination FPCCI Capital Office; and Kunwar Qutubuddin Khan, Chairman, Lakeshore Towers and Kunwar's Associates.



Gulftainer launches the very first Bonded Inland Container Depot in the UAE

Gulftainer, a UAE-based global end-to-end supply chain, logistics, and multi-purpose ports solutions provider, has set a new benchmark for trade and logistics in the UAE with the launch of the country's first bonded Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Sharjah.

The facility is now fully operational and marks a major milestone in enhancing the UAE's logistics infrastructure and trade efficiency.

Strategically located just 20 km from Sharjah Port and 140 km from Khorfakkan Port, the new Sharjah ICD offers seamless multimodal connectivity between seaports and inland markets. It is designed to streamline customs processes, accelerate cargo movement,

and deliver cost-effective logistics solutions for importers, exporters, NVOCCs, and carriers.

The Sharjah ICD is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including advanced mobile container handling equipment and a high-speed computer system, enabling fast, reliable operations. Its integration with regional and international

supply chains aims to significantly strengthen the UAE's role as a global logistics hub.

Farid Belbouab, Group CEO of Gulftainer, said: "The launch of Sharjah ICD sets a new benchmark for trade in the UAE. Gulftainer is proud to introduce the UAE's first bonded Inland Container Depot in Sharjah, a strategic development designed to redefine the flow of trade across the region. With this milestone, we reinforce Gulftainer's role in strengthening Sharjah and the UAE as leading hubs for global trade and logistics."

The bonded facility at Sharjah ICD provides added flexibility and efficiency for cargo movement, supporting businesses with faster processing and reduced operational costs. The facility will play a vital role in transforming regional logistics and supply chain dynamics.



CEMENT INDUSTRY

APCMA reports a significant increase in dispatches in July 2025

In July 2025 the cement industry reported a significant increase in cement dispatches, which rose by 30.1 per cent compared to the previous year. Total cement dispatches for July 2025 amounted to 3.99Mt, up from 3.07Mt dispatched during the same month in the last fiscal year.

A spokesperson for the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA) stated that the new fiscal year has begun on a positive note, despite the challenging weather conditions across many regions of the country. He expressed optimism that the industry will experience good momentum in the upcoming months, aided by improved macroeconomic indicators.

Osama Naeem from AKD Research noted that the annual increase in domestic dispatches is primarily due to a resurgence in construction

activity and a low base from the previous year, as sales in July 2024 were affected by nationwide

protests by cement retailers over an increased withholding tax. Additionally, exports continued to trend upward, supported by stable coal prices and improved international prices for cement and clinker.



According to data released by APCMA, local cement dispatches in July 2025 were 2.98Mt, compared to 2.52Mt in July 2024, representing an increase of 18.4 per cent. Export dispatches also saw a significant

rise of 84.2 per cent, increasing from 0.55Mt in July 2024 to 1.01Mt in July 2025.

For July 2025, northern cement mills dispatched 2.65Mt, reflecting an increase of 17.6 per cent from 2.25Mt in July 2024. Southern mills dispatched 1.35Mt during the same period, which is 64.6 per cent higher than the 0.82Mt dispatched in July 2024.

In the domestic markets, northern cement mills delivered 2.42Mt in July 2025, representing an increase of 12.3 per cent compared to 2.15Mt in July 2024. Meanwhile, South-based mills dispatched 569,954t locally, showing a 54.2 per cent increase from 369,557t during the same month last year.

Exports from northern mills surged by an impressive 134 per cent, rising from 99,020t in July 2024 to 231,665t in July 2025. Exports from southern mills also increased by 73.2 per cent, reaching 776,459t in July 2025, up from 448,242t in July 2024.

Courtesy - CemNet

Cement export target from PQA set at 1.5m tons: SAPM

Pakistan has set cement export target at 1.5 million tons from Port Qasim Authority only and to achieve the target the government and the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA) are closely collaborating.

This was stated by the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, while chairing a high-level meeting of the task force formed to enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's cement and clinker exports.

The SAPM stressed that to meet the cement export target of 1.5 million tons next year, enhancing storage capacity at

Port Qasim is essential.

The meeting reviewed key logistical and infrastructural issues including the movement of cargo on Lyari Expressway, challenges faced by DHA and Cantonment authorities on Malir Expressway, and the need for increased storage capacity at Port

Qasim.

To facilitate cement exports, Khan said discussions will be held with the Sindh government to acquire land for extending the railway track and a sub-committee has been constituted to meet with the chief minister of Sindh in this regard.



According to the committee, 40,000 tons of cement are currently being exported to the United States from Berth No 2 (MW2) at Port Qasim. SAPM Khan remarked that this successful export to the US demonstrates the global competitiveness of Pakistan's cement sector.

Cement exporters present at the meeting also reiterated the need for increased storage facilities to meet growing international demand.

Cement consortiums line up to bid for Pakistan International Airlines

A consortium containing Pakistan cement producers is vying to buy Pakistan International Airlines. Lucky Cement, Hub Power holdings, Kohat Cement, and Metro Ventures form one bidding outfit. In contrast, Arif Habib Corp (Power Cement Ltd), Fatima Fertiliser Co, City Schools (Pvt) Ltd, and Lake City Holdings (Pvt) Ltd have formed a rival consortium seeking to buy the airline.

The Privatisation Commission announced that the pre-qualified parties would proceed to the buy-side due diligence phase. Pakistan's government is selling

the majority shares in the airline along with management control.

The government has set a minimum price of PKR85.03bn (US\$299m) with a PKR46bn negative balance sheet. The bidding is expected to occur between October and December 2025.

This is the second attempt to privatise the company after a failed

bid attempt in 2024. Outright sale, joint venture with multiple options, and long-term lease – the joint venture model with various options has been approved by the CCOP, according to the announcement.

The development for the cement producers could see them use captured CO2 from their cement plants to create sustainable aviation fuel, building a circular economy.

The conglomerates can also reduce their risk by diversifying their businesses to include the aviation sector.

Courtesy - CemNet



Kohat Cement enters the real estate business

AHL Research has released a brief report on Kohat Cement Co Ltd, highlighting the company's entry into the real estate business and its stock split.

According to a notice from the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), the Board of Directors of Kohat Cement (KOHK) has approved the establishment of a wholly-owned subsidiary, Ultra Properties (Private) Ltd, which will focus on real estate development, marketing, and rental operations. This initiative marks

the company's official entry into the property development sector, pending the necessary regulatory approvals.

As part of this strategy, Kohat Cement plans to lease one of its existing investment properties to the newly formed subsidiary.

The subsidiary is expected to develop multi-story commercial buildings designed to generate rental income.



To support this endeavour, the Board has authorised an investment of up to PKR750m (US\$2.6m), which may be provided in the form of equity and/or interest-bearing loans.

AHL Research is optimistic about Kohat Cement's performance, citing several positive factors, including an anticipated recovery in local cement demand, the upcoming addition of a coal-based captive power plant that is likely to enhance energy efficiency and profit margins, and KOHK's cost advantage stemming from lower raw material costs compared to manufacturers based in Punjab.

Courtesy - CemNet

Dewan Cement installs 6MW solar power system at Karachi facility

Dewan Cement has successfully commissioned a 6MW solar power system at its manufacturing facility at Dhabeji, District Malir, Karachi.

In a statement to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), the company said that it is now utilising 50 per cent of its operational energy requirements through this renewable energy source.

"This initiative reflects our commitment to sustainable energy

and focused operational efficiency," it said, adding that the investment in the renewable energy project will result in cost savings and reduce reliance on imported fuel.



Established as a public limited company in 1980, Dewan Cement has two manufacturing units, Pakland Cement Ltd and Saadi Cement Ltd, which, between them, contribute a clinker capacity of 2.94Mta.

Dewan joins Fauji Cement, Gharibwal Cement, Kohat Cement, and others in joining the Pakistani industry's renewable, in particular solar, transition. This rising trend is said to have left decision-makers grappling with its implications for the national grid and energy sector, as electricity consumption remains stagnant.

Bestway Cement terms the cement industry in FY 2025-26 as cautiously optimistic

Chairman of Bestway Cement, Sir Mohammed Anwar Pervez, remarked in the latest annual report that the company achieved a 16 per cent growth in gross turnover, increasing from PKR145.6bn last year to PKR168.5bn for the year ending on June 30, 2025. Gross profit rose to PKR37.3bn, while net profit after tax amounted to PKR23.9bn. In light of these results, the Board has recommended a final dividend of PKR 10 per share, resulting in a total distribution of PKR 34 per share for the year.

The Company produced 6.851Mt of cement and recorded a 2 per cent decline in local cement dispatches,

which is an improvement compared to the industry-wide decline of 3 per cent.

Outlook

As the national economy shows signs of stabilization, the outlook for the cement industry in FY 2025-26 remains cautiously optimistic. A projected recovery in economic activity—driven by declining interest rates, easing inflation, and improved investor sentiment—is expected to revive the construction sector and infrastructure development gradually. With



a more accommodative monetary policy and potential fiscal expansion through government-led housing and public sector projects, domestic cement demand is likely to improve.

However, high taxes, duties, royalties, and rising fuel and power costs continue to weigh heavily on the industry, making it challenging for cement manufacturers to pass on these increases, which could affect profit margins in the future. Additionally, border issues with Afghanistan have severely impacted cement exports from the North, and this situation is expected to persist until a long-term solution is reached. Despite these challenges, the company has demonstrated financial and operational resilience.

Courtesy - CemNet

Maple Leaf Cement Factory posts strong results for FY25

Maple Leaf Cement Factory Limited (MLCF), based in Pakistan, announced its financial results for FY25, providing initial details on the Pakistan Stock Exchange on August 7. The company reported consolidated earnings of PKR11.503bn, reflecting a 67 per cent YoY increase compared to earnings of PKR6.891bn in the same period last year.

In 4QFY25, revenues reached PKR3.632bn, marking a 139 per cent YoY increase and a 30 per cent QoQ increase compared to PKR1.517bn in 4QFY24. According to AHL

Research, sales of MLCF increased by 3 per cent YoY to PKR68.6bn in FY25. In 4QFY25, the topline grew to PKR17.3bn, a 10 per cent YoY increase from PKR15.7bn in the same period last year. Higher retention prices primarily drove this sales growth in FY25, while the increase in 4QFY25 was mainly attributed to an 11 per cent rise in domestic dispatches YoY.

Selling and distribution expenses fell by 24 per cent YoY in FY25, totaling



PKR4.134bn. In 4QFY25, these expenses dropped by 28 per cent YoY but increased by 26 per cent QoQ. Other income surged 6.8 times YoY to PKR2.078bn in FY25, largely driven by an increase in short-term investments, which reached PKR11.1bn by June 2025. In 4QFY25, other income also rose for the same reason.

Finance costs decreased by 42 per cent YoY in FY25, amounting to PKR1.978bn due to lower interest rates and slightly reduced borrowings. In 4QFY25, finance income was recorded at PKR 519m compared to finance costs of PKR726m in 4QFY24.

Attock Cement's majority shareholder considers sale of stake

Attock Cement Pakistan Ltd (ACPL) has announced that its majority shareholder, Pharaon Investment Group Ltd, Holding SAL, is actively engaged in the process of potentially divesting its shareholding in the company.

The disclosure, made on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) website under Section 96 of the Securities Act, 2015 and Regulation 5.6 of the PSX Rule Book, confirms that multiple binding offers have been received from prospective

investors. The majority shareholder, together with its advisors, is currently evaluating the commercial terms of these offers.



Established in 1981 with an initial investment of PKR1.5bn (US\$17.22m), including US\$45m in foreign exchange, ACPL commenced commercial production in 1988 with a clinker capacity of 2000tpd (0.6Mta).

Through successive expansions, most recently in FY18, the company has grown its production capacity to 3Mta. Operating three manufacturing lines at its Hub, Balochistan facility, ACPL remains a significant player in Pakistan's cement industry.

Courtesy - CemNet

Fauji Cement Co saw a record growth of 62% in profit during FY24-25

The Board of Directors of Fauji Cement Co Ltd (FCCL) has published its financial results for the year ended 30 June 2025 (FY24-25), at the Pakistan Stock Exchange. The company reported a profit after tax of PKR13.3bn (US\$46.9m), an increase from PKR8.2bn in FY23-24. This reflects a yearly growth of 62 per cent.

Key highlights from FY24-25 include the company's dispatches, which totalled 5.4Mt compared to 5.1Mt in the same period last year, representing a six per cent increase.

During FY24-25, FCCL earned net revenue of PKR88.956bn, up from PKR80.03bn in the prior year, representing an 11 per cent YoY increase. The gross profit margin rose to 35 per cent, compared to 32 per cent in the same period last year.



This improvement is primarily due to higher sales volume, better pricing and cost optimisation initiatives implemented by management.

The increased use of local coal and various alternative fuels, the company's production of PP bags, enhanced in-house power generation, and a significant reduction in interest rates all contributed to lower financial charges, thereby improving overall performance. Additionally, on August 8, the Board approved the expansion of the PP Bags Manufacturing Plant at Hattar to meet the company's 100 per cent in-house requirements for bags.

Lucky Cement demonstrates a YoY 17% increase in FY24-25 PAT

Pakistan's largest cement producer, Lucky Cement, announced its highest-ever consolidated profit after tax of PKR76.9bn (US\$27.12m), marking a 17 per cent increase YoY, with earnings per share of PKR52.50 for FY24-25. Alongside these results, the company declared its highest-ever dividend per share of PKR4.



In the first quarter, PAT was recorded at PKR19.6bn, a significant increase of 34 per cent YoY. According to AHL Research, which provided highlights of the results, Lucky Cement's net revenue for FY24-25 reached PKR132.6bn, reflecting a nine per cent YoY growth. This increase in revenue was primarily driven by

growth in local cement sales and Lucky Motors. The growth in local cement revenue resulted from higher export dispatches and improved domestic retention prices. At the same time, Lucky Motors experienced a revenue boost of 40-45 per cent due to increased volumetric auto sales.

In the first quarter, net revenue rose by 12 per cent YoY and eight per cent QoQ to PKR33.8bn. This increase in revenue is attributed to the expansion of local cement operations and the performance of Lucky Motors.

Gross margins for FY24-25 were recorded at 27.3 per cent, down from 30.1 per cent in FY23-24. In the first

quarter, gross margins decreased to 24.2 per cent, compared to 29.7 per cent in the previous quarter. Other income saw an increase of 27 per cent YoY, reaching PKR20.6bn in FY24-25, while in the first quarter, it surged by 148 per cent YoY to PKR 5.05bn. This rise in other income is largely due to higher short-term investments.

Finance costs in FY24-25 declined by 31 per cent YoY, amounting to PKR25.5bn. In the first quarter, finance costs dropped by 41 per cent YoY to PKR5.2bn. The reduction in finance costs for both FY24-25 and the first quarter is attributed to lower interest rates. The effective tax rate for FY24-25 was 20.4 per cent, compared to 21.5 per cent in FY23-24. In the first quarter, the effective tax rate stood at 20 per cent, down from 26.2 per cent in the previous quarter.

DG Khan Cement posts record profits in FY25

DG Khan Cement Co Ltd announced its annual financial results on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on 28 August, reporting a Profit After Tax (PAT) of PKR8.7bn (US\$307.1m) for FY25, alongside a Dividend Per Share (DPS) of PKR2. The company also delivered its highest-ever quarterly PAT of PKR3.2bn in the 4QFY25.

According to AHL Research, profitability surged from PKR0.5bn in the FY24 to PKR8.7bn in FY25, supported



by stronger gross margins and significantly reduced finance costs.

Net revenue for the year reached PKR71.9bn, up nine per cent YoY, driven by higher domestic and export retention prices. However, 4QFY25 revenues dipped 1 per cent YoY, reflecting a 5 per cent fall in domestic dispatches, which declined to 800,000t from 840,000t in the 4QFY24.

Gross margins improved to 25.7 per cent in FY25 from 15.9 per cent in FY24, with 4QFY25 margins climbing to 31.8 per

cent, compared with just 7.9 per cent in the same quarter last year.

Finance costs dropped sharply, falling 52 per cent YoY to PKR 3.8bn for FY25, and down 70 per cent YoY in 4QFY25 to PKR0.57bn. The reduction was driven by lower interest rates and reduced borrowings.

The company also benefited from a lower effective tax rate, which stood at 33.3 per cent in FY25 versus 80.9 per cent in FY24. In 4QFY25, the effective tax rate eased further to 25.6 per cent, down from 43.9 per cent in the preceding quarter.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Maqbool Ahmad Gondal named new AGP



President Asif Ali Zardari has appointed Maqbool Ahmad Gondal, who had been serving as the Controller General of Accounts, as the new Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP).

Mr Gondal is a public finance executive with over three decades of leadership experience in financial governance, audit and public procurement.

Mr Gondal holds an MS in Accounting and Finance from the University of Manchester in the UK, an MBA in Finance from the National University of Modern Languages in Pakistan, and MPhil and MSc degrees in Physics from Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad.

Saleem Khan made Member



Former Director General Public Relations Information Department, Government of Sindh Muhammad Saleem Khan has been appointed as a member of the Sindh Information Commission.

Information department has issued a notification in this regard.

It may be recalled that Muhammad Saleem Khan and Noor Mohammad Dayo Advocate were approved to be nominated as members of the Sindh Information Commission in the meeting of provincial cabinet on July 8, 2024.

The tenure of Mohammad Saleem Khan as member Sindh Information Commission will be three years.

Justice Junaid Ghaffar sworn in as CJ SHC



Newly-appointed Chief Justice of Sindh High Court (SHC) Justice Mohammad Junaid Ghaffar took oath of his office in Karachi recently.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori administered oath to the newly appointed Chief Justice at a ceremony which was held at the historic venue where the Founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, took his oath as the country's first Governor-General.

The event was also attended by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and other dignitaries. This marked the first time that the oath ceremony was held at this significant location. Later, Justice Junaid Ghaffar visited the Mazar of Quaid-e-Azam and offered fateha. He also laid floral wreath on the Mazar of the Quaid-e-Azam.

Waqas Khalid to lead SMP Advisory Board



The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMA Pakistan) has appointed Waqas Khalid as chairperson of its Small and Medium Practitioners (SMP) Advisory Board, the institute announced recently.

Khalid, a qualified Chartered Management Accountant (CMA-Pak), Chartered Accountant (CA-Pak), and Chartered Management Professional (CMP-USA), previously served as Chairperson of ICMA Pakistan's Multan Branch Council. He brings extensive experience in finance, governance and strategic advisory to the role, the statement said.

Bakhtari assumes charge as PPCBL President



Shahrar Raza Bakhtari has assumed the charge as President of the Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank Ltd (PPCBL).

He is a seasoned banker with over 35 years of experience in various leading financial institutions. Prior to this appointment, he served as the President of Silk Bank.

Wafi Energy says Zubair Shaikh to continue as CEO



Wafi Energy Pakistan Limited, the exclusive licensee of Shell fuel and lubricants in Pakistan, has confirmed Zubair Shaikh to continue as Chief Executive Officer.

With more than 19 years of experience across the energy and financial sectors, Zubair brings a strong track record of strategic growth, commercial delivery, and operational transformation.

His leadership during a pivotal phase of the company — following Wafi Energy Holding's acquisition of Shell Pakistan in November 2024 — has ensured business continuity, strengthened performance, and built momentum towards the company's long-term ambitions in Pakistan.

"Zubair's confirmation reflects the board's confidence in his ability to lead Wafi Energy Pakistan," said Ghassan Al Amoudi, chairman of the board.

PBC appoints Javed Kureishi as new CEO

The Pakistan Business Council (PBC) board has announced the appointment of Javed Kureishi as its new Chief Executive Officer.



Kureishi is a seasoned Citibanker with 34 years of leadership experience across Pakistan, Egypt,

South Africa, the Czech Republic, the UAE, and Singapore. He has held senior regional roles across Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Africa and is an expert in emerging market strategy, stakeholder engagement, and policy advocacy.

According to the announcement, the PBC board of directors unanimously selected Javed Kureishi as the new

Chief Executive Officer, effective July 11, 2025. Javed Kureishi currently sits on the boards of KElectric, PIA Holding Co, Fauji Food, Pakistan Oxygen Ltd, Samba Bank, Lucky Electric, and Tricon Boston, with prior directorships at the Pakistan Stock Exchange, Power Cement, Naya Nazimabad, the Pakistan Cricket Board, Sindh Infrastructure Development Co Ltd, and Pakistan Corporate Restructuring Co Ltd and served as Senior Consultant to IFC Pakistan.

WB appoints Amgaabazar as new country director

World Bank appointed Bolormaa Amgaabazar as the new country director for Pakistan effective July 1st. She is succeeding Najy Benhassine in this role. "I am delighted to be appointed the World Bank's new Country Director for Pakistan," said Amgaabazar.

"The World Bank and Pakistan have

a long-standing partnership that has benefited millions of people over generations.

I look forward to deepening our engagement with the federal and provincial governments, local institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders." Amgaabazar, a Mongolian national, has over two decades of international



development experience.

She joined the World Bank in 2004 and has worked in the East Asia and Pacific, Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions.

She has also held managerial responsibilities in the bank's country offices in Kyrgyz Republic and, most recently, in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Murtaza Ali joins IAMTN Advisory Board

Murtaza Ali, President of JazzCash, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform, has been appointed to the Advisory Board of the International Association of Money Transfer Networks (IAMTN). This historic appointment marks

him as the first and only Pakistani to serve on the board of this prestigious global body, which is dedicated to advancing cross-border payments and fostering financial inclusion worldwide.

His extensive experience in digital financial services and his deep understanding of Pakistan's

remittance and payments ecosystem will bring invaluable insights to our organization.



Financial advisers for ZTBL appointed

The Board of the Privatisation Commission approved the appointment of financial advisers for the divestment of Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd (ZTBL) recently, marking it as one of the government's priority transactions in the current privatisation pipeline.

Following a competitive and transparent bidding process, a

consortium led by Next Capital Ltd was selected as financial adviser for the ZTBL transaction. The consortium also includes Ijaz Ahmed & Associates (Legal), Baker Tilly Mahmood Idrees Qamar (Accounting & Tax), Executives Network International (HR), Bridge Public Relations (Media), Savills Pakistan Pvt Ltd (Real Estate Valuation), and Prima Global Consulting Pvt Ltd (Actuarial).

The board also approved the

formation of a Negotiation Committee to finalise the Financial Advisory Services Agreement with the selected consortium.

Founded in 1961 as the ADBP, it was renamed and incorporated as Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd in 2002 under the Companies Ordinance 1984. The bank offers agricultural credit and banking services to farmers nationwide and remains Pakistan's largest public-sector agri lender.



KATI President Junaid Naqi and Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya present a shield to NLC Director General Maj Gen Farrukh Shehzad Rao. Fakhar Alam, Ejaz Sheikh, Syed Tariq Hussain and Saleem uz Zaman were also present.

Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for Dr Mansoor Memon

The Government of Pakistan has announced the conferment of the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz upon renowned physician, humanitarian, and cultural ambassador Dr. Mansoor

Memon in recognition of his long-standing services to the nation.



The announcement was made on Independence Day, August 14, 2025. The award

will be formally presented to him on Pakistan Day, March 23, 2026.

Dr. Mansoor Memon's life stands as a shining example of excellence, compassion, and patriotism. The Tamgha-e-Imtiaz is a fitting tribute to his services and serves as an inspiration for generations to come.

Sami Wahid joins Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan Region as the new GM

Mr. Sami Wahid has assumed the role of General Manager for the Pakistan and Afghanistan Region of Eurasia & Middle East Operation Unit of The Coca-Cola Company.

With nearly two decades of expertise in marketing, sales, strategy, and general management, Mr. Wahid brings a comprehensive approach to strategic planning and commercial operations leadership. Before

joining Coca-Cola, Mr. Wahid served as Managing Director at Mondelez Pakistan, where he drove sustainable growth and progress across various markets in the Middle East, North Africa, and Pakistan.

Coca-Cola has invested over a billion dollars in Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan in recent years," said Mr. Sami Wahid. "With immense growth potential in this market, I'm excited



to drive further expansion, along with Coca-Cola İçecek (CCI), our Turkey-based bottler. After 70+ years in Pakistan, Coca-Cola is deeply ingrained in the country's fabric, from world iconic platforms like Coke Studio to community-focused sustainability initiatives.

Mr. Sami Wahid also serves as the Senior Vice President of the American Business Council. He believes in driving initiatives that create a meaningful impact for the community at large.

Descon Oxychem Limited appoints Yasir Siddique Sheikh as CEO

Descon Oxychem Limited, a leading producer of hydrogen peroxide, is pleased to announce the appointment of Yasir Siddique Sheikh as its new Chief Executive Officer.

With over two decades of multifaceted experience, Yasir brings a deep understanding of finance, operations, and strategic leadership

to his new role. He most recently served as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Descon Engineering Limited, where, over five years, he was instrumental in driving capital optimization, performance improvement, and long-term sustainability.

Yasir has also held the position of CFO at Descon's Chemicals business, where he led key initiatives



in financial planning and business strategy across the company's chemical manufacturing operations.

His appointment as CEO marks a significant milestone in Descon Oxychem's journey towards operational excellence, sustainable growth, and innovation. The company looks forward to his leadership in advancing its strategic priorities and strengthening its position in the chemical industry.

Mehwish Salman Ali Elected President of CxO Global Forum USA Chapter

Mehwish Salman Ali, visionary CEO and Co-Founder of Zahanat AI and Data Vault Pakistan, has been elected President of the USA Chapter of CxO Global Forum, a leading international platform connecting global C-level executives, technologists, and thought leaders.

This prestigious appointment reflects Ms. Mehwish's extraordinary contributions to artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation across borders. As President, Ms. Mehwish will lead initiatives that promote

collaboration between global technology leaders, foster innovation ecosystems, and empower emerging markets through sustainable and inclusive digital strategies.

Ms. Mehwish's appointment marks a continuation of her impactful journey as one of South Asia's foremost female tech leaders. She has achieved several industry firsts: Launched Zahanat AI, Pakistan's first homegrown GPT-based language model, developed with 2 billion culturally contextual parameters — making AI more inclusive, ethical, and locally relevant. Founded Data



Vault Pakistan, the country's first women-led, solar-powered, and quantum-encrypted AI data center, advancing green technology and AI infrastructure.

Ms. Mehwish Salman Ali is a globally recognized tech entrepreneur, AI innovator, and public speaker. A member of the Forbes Technology Council, TEDx speaker, and recipient of awards such as Wonder Women of

Dubai, Who's Who in Technology, and Azm-e-Alishan, she has led more than 100 IT projects through her leadership at 3wOgle Group of Companies.

Envoys of five countries present credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari

President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasized the need to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany in diverse fields, particularly trade, economy, and culture.

The President expressed these views while talking to the High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka and the Ambassadors-designate of Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany to Pakistan,

who called on him and presented their diplomatic credentials during a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr recently.

The High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka, H.E. Rear-Admiral H.L.A. Don Fred Senevirante, the Ambassador-designate of Indonesia / Chairman of ASEAN Countries, H.E. Mr. Chandra Warsenanto, the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, H.E. Mr. Kylychbek Sultan, the Ambassador-designate of Austria, H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, and the Ambassador-

designate of Germany, H.E. Mrs. Ina Ruth Luise Lepel, presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari.

On their arrival, the envoys were presented with the guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Armed Forces.

The President congratulated the High Commissioner and Ambassadors on their new assignments and expressed the hope that their tenure in Pakistan would help further deepen bilateral ties and broaden cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.



Mian Zahid Hussain commends Pakistan's economic transition, urging a focus on inclusive growth

Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman of the Policy Advisory Board of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and a senior leader of the Pakistani business community, recently issued a comprehensive statement on Pakistan's economic landscape. "Pakistan's economy has successfully transitioned from a phase of stabilization to sustained reform, supported by a remarkable set of positive macroeconomic indicators for FY24-25," said Mian Zahid Hussain.

He highlighted several key achievements, including a real GDP growth of 2.7% and a 10% increase in per capita income, which has now reached \$1,824. He also noted the country's first current account surplus in 14 years, amounting to \$2.1 billion—the highest in 22 years—alongside a nine-year low inflation



rate of 4.5%. Furthermore, he praised the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) reforms, which have led to a record tax-to-GDP ratio of 10.24%.

While acknowledging these top-down successes, Mr. Hussain stressed the critical need for a nuanced approach to address persistent structural challenges and ensure the benefits are felt at the grassroots level. "The credibility of this economic recovery hinges on our ability to translate strong macroeconomic data into tangible improvements for all citizens," he stated.

He cited the recent sharp surge in flour prices in Punjab as a prime example of the disconnect between national gains and ground-level realities, which highlights the fragility and complexity of the situation. He also referenced the

challenges faced by the textile sector, such as high energy costs and a significant cotton shortage, which threaten its otherwise strong export performance.

He concluded by emphasizing that sustaining this positive momentum requires a strategic focus on key growth sectors, such as IT, minerals, and value-added textiles, alongside a commitment to equitable distribution of economic benefits. "The path forward,"

He said, "lies in a balanced strategy that addresses both top-down reforms and the pressing needs of the people, ensuring that economic progress is inclusive and resilient against risks like localized food security crises and implementation challenges".

The development of an industrial estate on the land of Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi, approved by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), is a step in the right direction to attract investment and create jobs.

BANKING & INSURANCE

Cabinet appoints Shoaib as SLIC CEO for another 3 years



Shoaib Javed Hussain has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), for further 3 years effective August 6, 2025. The Federal Cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, has appointed Shoaib as the CEO of SLIC. Previously, he took charge of CEO in March 2021.

The corporation has undergone a significant transformation, marked by innovation and significant growth, since Hussain took charge in March 2021.

In just four years, SLIC has grown its market share, recording an extraordinary 300 percent increase in profit, a 181 percent surge in revenue growth, and a 100 percent increase in profit allocated to policyholders. Growth has been driven by accelerated digital transformation, the launch of innovative products, and enhancements in service delivery.

HBL becomes first bank to partner with NCCPL

HBL and the National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the role of commercial banks in Pakistan's capital markets. This important agreement positions HBL as the first bank to form a partnership with NCCPL.

Under this MoU, HBL aims to pursue opportunities in capital markets such as Margin Trading, evaluating the custodian clearing member's role, and utilizing NCCPL's Capital Gains Tax (CGT) services.



Al Baraka Bank selects PTCL for Colocation Primary Data Center

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited have signed an agreement for the provision of primary Data Center colocation services at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center facility. PTCL will provide Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited with a secure and reliable Data Center environment equipped with modern infrastructure, platform solutions, and managed security services.

Solutions Officer, PTCL and Ufone 4G, said, "We are pleased to enter a partnership with Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited to support them in their information technology and digital transformation vision. As the national carrier of Pakistan, PTCL aspires to be at the forefront of assisting leading organizations in their efforts to adopt cutting-edge technology solutions to drive the national digital agenda."

On the occasion, Muhammad Atif Hanif, Chief Executive Officer, Al



Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL and Ufone 4G, and Muhammad Atif Hanif, Chief Executive Officer, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, signed the agreement during a ceremony held at the Bank's Head Office in Karachi.

Shahid Sumar, Chief Information Officer, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, Syed Muhammad Saqib, Head of IT Infrastructure, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, Basharat Qureshi, Group VP Enterprise, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Sayyed Imran Bukhari, Group VP B2B Strategy, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Saleem Ullah Baig, Group VP DC Ops, PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Umar Farooqi, Group Director Enterprise, PTCL, were also present on the occasion, along with other officials.

During the signing ceremony, Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business

Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited, stated, "We are pleased to sign this agreement with PTCL as our trusted partner for Data Center facility as part of the Bank's technology transformation strategy. This partnership represents a major step forward in enhancing our infrastructure and strengthening our approach to data and platform management. By leveraging PTCL's expertise, we aim to improve security, reduce time-to-market, and deliver a digitally empowered financial experience to our customers and partners."

PTCL continues to deliver best-in-class ICT and security services to organizations across various industries in Pakistan. This agreement reflects the growing momentum in adopting digital solutions that enable a modern, customer-centric banking ecosystem.

HBL reports a record consolidated PBT of Rs75.3 billion for H1 2025

HBL reported a record consolidated profit before tax of Rs 75.3 billion for H1 2025, a 30% increase year-on-year. Profit after tax rose 19% to Rs 34.4 billion, with EPS improving from Rs 20.18 to Rs 23.44. The bank declared an interim cash dividend of Rs 4.50 per share.



HBL's balance sheet grew 26% to Rs 7.6 trillion, with total deposits increasing 19% to Rs 5.2 trillion—making it the first bank to cross the Rs 5 trillion mark. Domestic deposits saw a 22% rise, contributing to a significant increase in current accounts. The loan book reached nearly Rs 2 trillion, and net interest

income grew 12% to Rs 138 billion. Nonfund income also increased 12% to Rs 44 billion, raising total revenue to Rs 182 billion. HBL's cost/income ratio improved to 55.2%, and the non-performing loans ratio dropped to 5%. President & CEO Muhammad Nassir Salim highlighted the bank's strong organic growth and commitment to excellence, expressing optimism for the future.

HBL has demonstrated leadership in Agri Financing, providing over PKR 10 million in payouts under the Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII) program to support farmers in Balochistan and Sindh. The Bank's 'Agahi Programs' have benefited over 30,000 farmers since 2018 by offering Agri-finance

options and advanced farming techniques. HBL is also enhancing financial inclusion by supporting the Women Entrepreneurs (WE) Finance Code, assisting over 450 women entrepreneurs with Rs 2.6 billion in financing since 2024. Additionally, HBL Group serves more than 5 million women, the largest among commercial banks in Pakistan.

In partnership with British International Investment, HBL launched a USD 75 million Climate Resilience Facility in 2025 to promote climate-smart lending. The HBL Foundation contributed Rs. 273 million to various sectors in H1 2025. The Bank also embraced technology with its AI-driven FanTunes initiative, allowing fans to create unique HBLPSL songs. HBL received 22 prestigious accolades in H1 2025, including 'Best Bank in Pakistan' by Euromoney Awards.

NBP expands digital services to various organisations

National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has taken another major step towards promoting a cashless economy by expanding its digital services to a wide range of institutions and organizations. By on-boarding educational institutes, power, gas, water, and otherservice organizations



onto its banking systems, the bank is making bill and fee payments easier, faster, and more transparent.

NBP's digital payment solutions allow customers to pay fees and bills through mobile apps or online banking anytime. This reduces the need to stand in long queues or visiting Bank Branches simultaneously. Institutions benefit from

real-time data tracking, making it easier to manage finances and reduce cash handling risks.

Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President & CEO NBP, said that this initiative supports the national vision for a Digital Pakistan and by supporting the increase in digital transactions, NBP aims to contribute to the overall growth of the digital economy and reduce reliance on cash.

BML reports first ever half-year PBT of Rs1.44bn

Bank Makramah Limited (BML) has achieved a historic milestone by reporting a profit before tax of Rs 1.44 billion and an after tax profit of Rs 707 million for the half-year ended June 30, 2025 – the first profit declared by the Bank in more than a decade. These results, approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on

August 1, 2025, reflect a remarkable turnaround from the loss before tax of Rs 2.44 billion reported for the corresponding period last year, an improvement of Rs 3.88 billion.

President and CEO Jawad Majid Khan stated these historic results mark a decisive turning point for the Bank, and validates the tireless efforts of



BML's management and employees and also sends a strong signal of renewed strength and stability to the customers, investors, and the market at large.

With the restructuring efforts nearing conclusion, the management is confident that BML is now firmly on the path toward sustained profitability and growth.

BankIslami earns Rs8.95bn in H1

BankIslami Pakistan Ltd reported a pre-tax profit of Rs8.95 billion for the first half of 2025 and announced an interim dividend of Rs1.5 per share (15 per cent), supported by strong deposit growth and a digital banking push. Non-funded income surged over 90 per cent even as overall

income fell 4.9 per cent amid tighter margins. Operating costs rose 47 per cent on branch expansion, technology upgrades and the acquisition of a 32-storey Karachi tower for its new head office.

Deposits climbed 12.7 per cent, with current accounts jumping 37.9 per

cent, driving CASA to a record 70 per cent. The capital adequacy ratio stood at 19.37 per cent. BankIslami launched 'aik', Pakistan's first fully digital Islamic banking platform, and received Euromoney's Best Islamic Bank award. "Our performance shows resilience and commitment to Riba-free growth," CEO Rizwan Ata said.

JazzCash and EFU Life Launch Pakistan's First Fully Digital Insurance Journey

JazzCash, Pakistan's leading digital wallet, and EFU Life, one of the country's premier life and health insurers, have partnered to launch a first-of-its-kind, end-to-end digital insurance journey set to reshape the way millions of Pakistanis access insurance.

This strategic collaboration aims to simplify and digitize the entire insurance value chain from instant policy subscription to seamless servicing and claims, making insurance more accessible, transparent, and user-friendly than ever before.

From instant policy subscription via multiple digital touchpoints, to seamless customer servicing and

with speed, transparency, and accessibility at its core.

The partnership is rooted in an omni-channel approach, ensuring



customers can engage across app, call center, web, or even WhatsApp anytime, anywhere. The experience will be further enriched with value-added features such as health advisory, wellness benefits, and digital claim tracking, all bundled within affordable plans.

Mohammed Ali Ahmed, CEO of EFU Life, added to this: "This launch marks a major step forward in EFU Life's mission to democratize insurance access in Pakistan. For too long, protection products have been seen as complex, slow, and out of reach for many. By combining our product innovation and underwriting

expertise with JazzCash's unmatched digital reach, we are creating an experience that is fast, fair, and frictionless. This is more than just a digital channel,

it's a transformation of the entire insurance journey, enabling us to serve customers with the speed, trust, and convenience they deserve. Our focus remains on delivering solutions that truly meet the needs of people, wherever they are, and this collaboration is a strong testament to that commitment."

MCB Bank delivers Rs58.06 billion PBT in H1 2025

MCB Bank Limited's Board of Directors, chaired by Mian Mohammad Mansha, reviewed the bank's performance and approved the interim financial statements for the half year ending June 30, 2025. A second interim cash dividend of Rs. 9.00 per share (90%) was declared, bringing the total for H1 2025 to 180%. MCB reported a Profit Before



Tax (PBT) of Rs. 58.06 billion, and Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 27.31 billion, resulting in Earnings Per Share (EPS) of Rs. 23.04, down from Rs. 26.95 in H1 2024.

Key highlights include a 5% decline in net interest income, a 4% drop in non-markup income, but a 55% rise in dividend income. Operating expenses rose by 18%, while the cost-to-income ratio stood at 38.05%. Total assets grew by 25% to Rs. 3.38 trillion, with a 78%

increase in investments. Deposits reached Rs. 2.23 trillion, with a notable growth in current deposits.

MCB processed USD 2,303 million in remittances, a 16.7% increase year-on-year, and maintained a strong capital position with a Capital Adequacy Ratio of 19.61%. The bank received 'AAA' ratings for long-term and 'A1+' for short-term from PACRA. MCB Bank remains committed to long-term growth through prudent risk management and digital transformation.

Mobilink Bank, has successfully upgraded its core banking system

Mobilink Bank, Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, has upgraded its core banking system by moving from Temenos R17 to R23, enhancing performance and scalability.



This upgrade demonstrates Mobilink Bank's commitment to technological advancement and improved customer experiences, made possible through partnerships with Temenos

and Systems Limited.

The new system allows for faster transaction processing, better security, and seamless integration of digital features like onboarding and personal finance tools.

CEO Mahmood Chaudhary

emphasized that this shift lays the groundwork for next-generation digital banking in Pakistan.

Ammara Masood from Systems Limited highlighted the unification

of banking capabilities within the new core, setting a benchmark for digital transformations in the region. The modular design of R23 enables rapid rollout of new services and improved service delivery.

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, underscored Mobilink Bank's transformation as a step toward a more connected, cashless economy.

Temenos' Managing Director, Santhosh Rao, expressed enthusiasm for the strategic move toward modern banking, reinforcing Mobilink Bank's vision of redefining digital banking in Pakistan.

NBP total income soars 58% to PKR 157.1 bn in half-year 2025

National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has announced strong results for the half-year ended June 30, 2025, with profit after tax reaching PKR 43.5 billion, compared to just PKR 0.4 billion in the same period last year.

Total income rose 58% year-on-year to PKR 157.1 billion, driven by both fund-based and non-fund income.

Despite a 27% drop in gross interest income to PKR 411 billion, lower funding costs—down 43% YoY to PKR 280.3 billion—helped boost net interest income 76% to PKR 130.6 billion.

Non-fund income increased 6.3% to PKR 26.6 billion, supported by capital gains of PKR 5.3 billion, dividend income of PKR 3.1 billion, and fee and commission income of PKR 14.7 billion, up 22%. Operating expenses grew 15% to PKR 59.1



billion due to inflation and ongoing IT investments.

Credit loss allowances stood at PKR 4.8 billion. Even so, profit before tax surged to PKR 93.2 billion from PKR 0.6 billion in H1'24. Last year's figures were depressed by a one-off pension cost of PKR 49 billion.

NBP's balance sheet expanded 7.1% to PKR 7.2 trillion. Investments rose 9.4% to PKR 4.9 trillion, while gross advances declined 5.5% to PKR 1.58 trillion. Deposits stood at PKR 4.7 trillion, with a strong CASA ratio of 82.9%. Liquidity and capital buffers remained solid, with LCR at 216%, NSFR at 211%, and CAR at 27.28%.

The Bank resumed dividend payouts, announcing PKR 8.0 per share (80%), signaling confidence in sustainable shareholder returns.

Investor sentiment has strengthened, with S&P ranking NBP among the top 10 Asia Pacific

banks in 2024. Market capitalization has grown 230% since mid-2024 to PKR 310 billion. In August 2025, NBP joined the PSX "Billion Dollar Club," crossing \$1 billion in market cap. It retains AAA (long-term) and A1+ (short-term) credit ratings.

NBP continues to play a pivotal role in priority sectors, holding an agriculture loan book of PKR 120 billion. It is also advancing ESG initiatives, introducing green banking products and scaling CSR programs.

Islamic banking remains a key growth area, with Aitemaad Islamic Banking assets up 35% YoY to PKR 448 billion. Recently, NBP launched a Shariah-compliant Advance Salary product and introduced the Amirah PayPak Pink Debit Card—the nation's first women-exclusive debit card.

CEO Rehmat Ali Hasnie praised employees' commitment and emphasized NBP's ongoing transformation through digitalization, product innovation, and financial inclusion.

Founded in 1949, NBP continues to align its mission with national development, standing by its tagline: Ek Azm, Ek Pehchan – National Bank Aur Pakistan.

JS Bank posts PBT of PKR 3.488 Billion for 1H 2025

JS Bank Limited, one of the fastest-growing banks in Pakistan, announced its financial results for the half-year ended June 30, 2025. The Bank maintained stable overall



income growth, with total income rising to PKR 21.367 billion, reflecting a healthy 10% increase from PKR

19.354 billion earned in the same period last year.

On a consolidated basis, JSBL reported Profit after tax of PKR 5.324 billion as against PKR 9.703 billion earned for the comparative period last year.

easypaisa digital bank reports PBT of Rs3.64 billion for H1 2025

The Board of Directors of easypaisa digital bank approved the financial statements for the half year ended June 30, 2025. The Bank reported a profit before tax of PKR 3.64 billion, compared to PKR 2.61 billion in the same period last year, reflecting a 39.4% increase.

This performance was driven by higher markup income and robust fee-based revenues from digital

lending and payments, despite a decline in the SBP discount rate from 20% to 11% in line with easing inflation.

Net markup income rose by 15.6%, supported by growth in digital lending. At the same time, non-markup income surged by 60.5% on



the back of increased transaction volumes, particularly in cash deposits and withdrawals, as well as higher earnings from load and bundle products, commissions on corporate disbursements and collections, and insurance products.

Operating expenses rose by 9.6%, reflecting continued investments in technology, talent, and customer acquisition costs to support future growth and partially offset by a reversal of accruals for compensation costs. Cost to income ratio improved from 80.5% last year to 66.9%.

FERTILIZER & PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

FFC announces its financial results

Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has announced its financial results for the period ended June 30, 2025 in its Board of Directors' meeting held on July 29, 2025.

The company achieved net profitably of Rs 38.5 billion as compared to Rs

26 billion translating into an EPS of Rs 27.



FFC attained aggregate urea production of 1419 thousand tonnes and registered aggregate sales revenue of Rs 155 billion.

Other income of company also increased due to higher dividend distribution by associated companies.

The company declared its second interim dividend of Rs 12 per share, with a total distribution of Rs 19 per share for the period.

The Company maintained an uninterrupted business operations including continued supply chain, besides maintaining highest standards of health and safety for the employees.

Fatima Fertilizer ignites patriotic fervor with 'Dil Se Sarsabz' Milli Naghma Competition

In a heartfelt celebration of Pakistan's Independence Day, Fatima Fertilizer brought together the power of music and national pride through its first-ever 'Dil Se Sarsabz' Milli Naghma Competition, held in Islamabad.

The event was attended by senior leadership of Fatima Fertilizer, including Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales, and Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer, who lauded the participants and

success.

The first prize was awarded to Tahir Ali Khan from Chakwal for an emotionally moving performance, the second prize winner was Shumaila Fareedon from Islamabad, and Mehtab Ali Talpur from Khairpur secured the third position. In addition, the top three most engaging TikTok entries received exciting surprise gifts, recognizing their digital creativity and audience

shared their thoughts on the campaign's

engagement.

Speaking on the occasion, Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales at Fatima Fertilizer, said, "With 'Dil Se Sarsabz', we aimed to create a platform where the voices of young Pakistanis could echo their love for the country. The overwhelming response we received shows that the spirit of patriotism is very much alive, and through music and digital platforms, it can inspire a whole new generation."

Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer of Fatima Fertilizer, added, "As a proud Pakistani brand, Fatima Fertilizer is committed to nurturing not only our lands but also the patriotic spirit of our people. 'Dil Se Sarsabz' was not just a competition; it was a celebration of identity, unity, and pride."



Engro Holdings results for the half year ended June 2025

Engro Holdings Limited (PSX: ENGROH), formerly Dawood Hercules Corporation, reported a consolidated Profit-After-Tax (PAT) of PKR 73.3 billion for the half year ended June 30, 2025 (shareholders' share: PKR 35.6 billion), translating into EPS of PKR 29.54 versus PKR 8.09 last year.

The sharp increase was mainly due to the reversal of earlier



impairments on thermal assets once reclassified as continuing operations. Excluding this one-off, consolidated PAT stood at PKR 19.6 billion (shareholders' share: PKR 9.0 billion).

On a standalone basis, PAT fell sharply to PKR 67 million from PKR 4.2 billion last year (EPS PKR 0.06 vs 8.68), reflecting the transfer of investments to DH Partners and reduced dividends from Engro Corp, which is conserving

funds for the towers acquisition.

Results were significantly shaped by three adjustments: the creation of Engro Holdings effective January 1, 2025, which raised its stake in Engro Corp to 100% and expanded shares to 1.2 billion; the reclassification of thermal assets, triggering impairment reversals of PKR 53.8 billion; and consolidation of Deodar Towers (~10,600 towers) following its June acquisition from PMCL.

The Board opted against an interim dividend, prioritizing funding for the tower acquisition—considered a key long-term value driver.

EFERT showed strong results in 2Q

IMS Research recently reviewed Engro Fertilizer Ltd's (EFERT) fiscal performance for 2QCY25. EFERT reported NPAT of PKR 5.6 billion (EPS: PKR 4.17), which is a significant increase of 3.3x YoY and 92% QoQ, largely due to a 40% increase in Urea offtake. The company declared an interim cash dividend of PKR 4.25/sh, totaling PKR 6.25.

Key Takeaways:

EFERT's Urea market share rose to 34% in 2Q, aided by competitive pricing despite higher gas costs. The

upcoming Rabi season is expected to alleviate Urea inventory pressures.

The DAP segment faced challenges due to rising international prices, limiting the company's ability to pass costs to consumers and resulting in losses in 1QCY25.

Other income increased significantly due to a gain on the sale of an aircraft.

The US\$300 million Production Enhancement Facility project is on track, with Phase 1 expected to be completed by August 2025.

Four operational Engro Markaz in Punjab are delivering fertilizer directly to farmers, with plans for

further expansion.

Outlook:

Management anticipates continued depressed fertilizer offtake due to the lack of support prices for crops and climate change impacts.

Despite high working capital needs, they remain confident in maintaining a 100% payout policy, subject to Board approval.

Overall, EFERT showed strong results in 2Q, and we expect this trend to continue into 2HCY25. Forecasts estimate a profit of PKR 19.18 with a DPS of PKR 19, resulting in a DY of 9.3%.

Fatima Fertilizer's Sarsabz Tabeer launches healthcare initiative in collaboration with MASH and the Government of Punjab

As part of its ongoing commitment to empower rural women and female farmers, Fatima Fertilizer, under its flagship Sarsabz Tabeer initiative, has launched a new health-focused intervention in collaboration with Mukhtar A. Sheikh Memorial Welfare Hospital (MASH) and the Government of Punjab.

The first Free Medical Camp under this new health initiative was successfully held on June 26th at THQ Hospital Kehrorpaka, Lodhran, targeting underserved communities where access to quality healthcare remains a challenge.

The camp provided free medical consultations and medicines to a total of 400 participants including female farmers, children and their families, with a panel of specialists from various fields, including Gynecology, Pediatrics, Nephrology, Family Medicine, Neurology, and Ophthalmology.

The event was attended by Multan Division Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan, Assistant Commissioner Ashraf Saleh Khan, and Babar Khan Marketing Head, who led the camp on behalf of MASH, along with Noor Malik, Brand Manager at Fatima Fertilizer. The event saw participation from 100 female farmers, reflecting

the strong community engagement and institutional support behind the initiative.

"Sarsabz Tabeer is more than a program, it is a movement to uplift and enable the women who form the backbone of our agricultural economy, where female participation stands at a significant 67.9%," said Rabel Sadozai, Director Marketing and Sales at Fatima Fertilizer.

"By adding healthcare to our scope, we're responding to a critical need because true empowerment is not possible without access to basic health services. This collaboration with MASH and the Government of Punjab marks an important milestone in delivering dignity, care, and opportunity to the women who grow Pakistan."



Building on the program's three existing pillars, Education, Skill Development, and Financial Empowerment, Fatima Fertilizer has now introduced Health as a fourth pillar to support the holistic well-being of female farmers across Pakistan.

Fatima Fertilizer launched the Sarsabz Tabeer program to empower female farmers and rural women through vocational training in food processing. Aimed at promoting financial independence, reducing post-harvest losses, and advancing sustainable agriculture, the initiative has trained over 2,000 female farmers and rural women across 15+ cities nationwide, helping them add value to their farm produce and establish home-based agribusinesses.

To further amplify its impact, Fatima Fertilizer signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Akhuwat Foundation, providing female farmers with access to financial resources, mentorship, and entrepreneurial support.

The newly launched healthcare pillar further strengthens Sarsabz Tabeer's vision of enabling long-term socio-economic transformation for rural women. With more camps planned in the coming months, the program continues to play a pivotal role in building healthier, more resilient farming communities.



MCML launch new variants of Karvaan and Sherpa

In a notable development for Pakistan's commercial and family mobility sector, Master Changan Motors Limited (MCML) has launched upgraded variants of its two most popular vehicles, the Karvaan and the Sherpa, signaling a fresh commitment to safety, performance, and practicality.

At a grand launch event held in



Lahore, the company marked a milestone for the Changan Karvaan, which has now crossed 25,000 units

sold in Pakistan.

The newly unveiled Karvaan Power Plus UG comes with a significant shift under the hood, a more powerful 1.2L engine replacing the previous 1.0L unit, offering 44% more horsepower and improved fuel efficiency.

Speaking at the launch, Danial Malik, CEO of Master Changan Motors, remarked, "Karvaan is not just a vehicle, it's a movement."

Honda launches first local hybrid

Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited has launched the country's first locally assembled Honda HR-V e:HEV, marking a major step toward sustain-able mobility.

The launch aligns with Honda's global vision for carbon neutrality

and zero traffic fatalities by zoso.

At the ceremony, senior Honda executives from Japan and Pakistan highlighted the vehicles hybrid technology, which combines petrol and electric power for seamless performance and fuel



savings. Equipped with Honda SENSING safety features, a premium interior, and bold styling, the HR-V e:HEV offers an all-in-one package. Available in three variants, VD, VIT-S, and e:HEV, the SUV is Incally produced and sets a new benchmark for intelligent, eco-friendly driving in Pakistan.

BYD unveils hybrid pickup

BYD Pakistan -Mega Motor Company (MMC) has launched the country's first plug-in hybrid pickup, the BYD Shark 6, setting new bench-marks for power, performance, and luxury. With dual motors,



436 hp, and a 0-100 km/h time of 5.7s, the Shark 6 offers an 800km combined range and up to solaria fuel efficiency. It features advanced terrain modes, a V2L.. mobile power station, and BYD's Dual Mode Off-Road tech.

The pickup includes

premium interiors, smart safety systems, and reduced tailpipe emissions of up to 62%. Bookings are now open, with test drives available soon nationwide.

MMC also plans a charging station every 200 km on the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway by next year.

Soneri Bank & MG introduces the industry's lowest auto financing rate

Soneribank has announced a special collaboration with MG Motors Pakistan, offering customers the most competitive auto financing package in the industry under the conventional and Islamic financing facilities. With an unprecedented financing rate starting from a rate of 1 Year KIBOR + 2%, Soneri Bank and MG financing offer sets a new benchmark in affordability and convenience for auto consumers.

It also offers an Insurance rate of 1.5% with tracker, 100% waiver in

processing fee, and 100% waiver in early settlement and balloon payment penalty.

The offer is available on select MG models, including the MG HS and MG HS Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV), catering to customers who seek a perfect balance of modern

design, advanced technology, and eco-friendly mobility. Speaking about the collaboration, Syed Asif Ahmed, General Manager, Marketing Division, MG Motors Pakistan, said:

"This partnership with Soneri Bank further strengthens our vision of making premium mobility accessible for more people in Pakistan."

Customers now have the opportunity to enjoy MG's cutting-edge technology and eco-friendly vehicles, while benefiting from the industry's lowest financing rates in a fully Shariah-compliant manner. It's a win-win for innovation, affordability, and customer convenience."



Auto industry rallies against govt plan

Pakistan's auto industry, particularly Japanese assemblers, is reportedly making a last-ditch effort to block the government's plan to allow the commercial import of five-year-old used cars, expected to be implemented from October 1, 2025, well-informed sources told Business Recorder. Representatives from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and auto parts vendors recently held detailed discussions regarding the proposed used car import policy and its potential impact on domestic auto industry.

The new import tariff policy is expected to adversely affect existing OEMs — especially Japanese companies — while Chinese firms, primarily focused on electric vehicles (EVs), are seen as less vulnerable to the tariff rationalization due to their EV-centric product lines. According to industry sources, stakeholders informed the government that the total new car market in Pakistan is approximately 200,000 units annually. Under the current regime, around 40,000 used vehicles are imported each year.

Nadeem Malik, a leading manufacturer, warned that further relaxing import conditions for used cars would severely undermine the domestic industry's access to its own market. "The volume is already so low that new investment and localization are struggling to



survive," Malik stated. Shehryar Qadir, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), informed the Minister that 17 WP29 regulations have been adopted by the local auto industry. However, he pointed out that these standards apply only to domestically manufactured vehicles, with no quality checks imposed on imported used cars.

"This creates an uneven playing field, putting local industry—which already faces significant challenges—at a serious disadvantage," Qadir said. He further noted that pressure is mounting to adopt additional WP29 regulations, which would further increase operational costs for local manufacturers. "With the imposition of a carbon tax and now enhanced quality standards, policy direction seems to be artificially inflating the price of Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to make EVs appear economically viable," sources quoted industry stakeholders as saying adding that "Otherwise, EVs are currently so expensive that they don't make business sense in a country like Pakistan."

Akhlaq, General Manager of a large OEM, highlighted Pakistan's

limited purchasing power, with a vast majority of consumers at the lower-income level and only a small segment able to afford high-end vehicles. "If prices are pushed up artificially, most of the population will be priced out of the market for new, locally manufactured cars," he warned and added that "This policy shift risks turning Pakistan into a trading economy and a dumping ground for used vehicles from around the world." Following extensive discussions, the Minister announced the formation of a joint committee, including members from the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) and PAAPAM. The committee will work on formulating a balanced policy regarding the commercial import of used cars.

According to an official statement, a government strategy is being developed to support the growth and export of the auto sector. "After tractors and motorcycles, Pakistan will now export cars as well. The auto industry will be a key part of the new industrial policy," the Minister stated. Jam Kamal added that healthy competition in the Pakistani auto market is increasing and that tariffs will be gradually reduced over the next five years. He emphasized that all imported used cars must meet environmental and quality standards. "The tariff reduction agreement with the United States has opened new opportunities for auto exports," he continued.

Courtesy - Business Recorder

IMC reports strong performance with 56% Growth in unit sales for FY25

Indus Motor Company Limited (IMC) recently announced its financial results for the year ended June 30, 2025, reporting strong growth in sales, revenues, and profitability amid signs of economic stabilization.

IMC sold 33,757 units, a 56% increase over the previous year. The Yaris facelift launch in July 2024 drove an 84% rise in passenger car sales, while the commercial vehicle segment grew 32% due to stronger fleet demand. Net sales revenue climbed

to PKR 215.14 billion from PKR 152.48 billion in FY 2023-24.

Prudent cost management, higher localization, and favorable exchange rate movements drove profit before tax to PKR 37.67 billion, up from PKR 23.33 billion. Earnings per share increased to PKR 292.74 from PKR 191.76, while net profit after tax rose to PKR 23.01 billion, compared to PKR 15.07 billion last year. Based on the results, the Board of Directors announced a final dividend of PKR 50 per share, resulting in an annual dividend of PKR 176 per share for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Commenting on the results, Ali Asghar Jamali, CEO IMC, said: "This year marked a period of cautious optimism for Pakistan's economy and our industry. While challenges persisted, the broader macroeconomic environment showed signs of stabilization, offering hope of a stronger foundation ahead. Against this backdrop, I am pleased to report that IMC delivered improved performance, driven by product refresh, recovering demand, and prudent financial discipline. This outcome reflects the resilience of our teams, the loyalty of our customers, and the trust of our shareholders."

TELECOMMUNICATION NEWS

Telenor Pakistan appoints Fridtjof Rusten as CEO

The board of directors of Telenor Pakistan has appointed Fridtjof Rusten as CEO of the company, as



per a press release. He will succeed Khurrum Ashfaq, who will take on a new leadership role within Telenor Group. Mr Rusten

will take over the helm at Telenor Pakistan on 1 September 2025.

Mr Rusten has over 23 years of working experience and has held several key leadership roles in Asia with Telenor Group.

PTCL, Ufone 4G enter landmark partnership with TPL Corp

Pakistan's largest telecommunication and digital services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), has entered a landmark partnership with TPL Corp, a tech conglomerate with investments across diversified industries.

This collaboration covers the deployment of Machine-to-Machine

(M2M) devices, secure Data Center hosting, and managed network connectivity across TPL Corp and its operating companies.

The agreement was signed by Asif Ahmed, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer (GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Ali Jameel, CEO, TPL Corp, during a ceremony held at



TPL Corp's headquarters in Karachi. Senior leadership from both sides attended the event.

Zong 4G Secures 2nd Position in PTA's Cyber Security Awards 2025

Pakistan's leading technology innovation company has achieved 2nd place in the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Annual Cyber Security Awards 2025, improving from its 3rd position last year among Category-I operators.

The recognition was announced at the Next-Gen Cyber Resilience Workshop and Telecom Cyber

Security Awards 2025, held on August 12, 2025, at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. Chaired by the Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, the high-profile event brought together



telecom industry leaders to explore advancements in 5G, FinTech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and LEO Satellite Communications.

Head of Information Security at Zong 4G, Mr. Rehan Siddiq, stated: "This achievement is a testament to our teams' dedication and our commitment to leading in cybersecurity and data protection. We will continue to invest in innovative security solutions to safeguard our customers and uphold national cyber standards."

Zong and Energy & Automation Pvt. Ltd. partner to launch Smart Energy Management Solutions

Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has entered a strategic partnership with Energy & Automation Pvt. Ltd. (ENA) to launch an advanced suite of IoT-powered Smart Energy Management Solutions, marking a significant step in Zong's evolution beyond traditional telecom services toward a broader role as a technology-driven service provider.

The initiative directly supports Pakistan's Digital transformation while advancing Zong's sustainability

pillar of Green & Low Carbon Operations.

Zong's IoT-powered Smart Energy Management Solution is designed to help corporates achieve cost savings, enhance operational efficiency, and meet sustainability goals. For the banking industry in particular, the solution enables real-time monitoring

and intelligent control of air conditioning systems in branches and ATM enclosures, ensuring optimal performance, energy efficiency, and uninterrupted customer service.



LEATHER INDUSTRY

Pakistan begins modest leather exports in July 2025

In July 2025, marking the first month of the financial year 2025-2026 (July to June), Pakistan's leather industry reported a notable single-digit growth in export revenue. According to data compiled by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), total revenue increased by 5.15%, rising from \$77.196 million to \$81.178 million compared to

the same period the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by increased exports of leather garments, gloves, and shoes.

Data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) indicate that finished leather exports generated \$10.283 million in July 2025, representing a decrease from \$11.780 million during the same month in 2024, and reflecting a year-over-year decline of 12.71%. In contrast, leather manufacturing exports,

including garments and other products, rose by 5.05%, reaching \$53.307 million in the first month of FY2025-2026, compared to \$50.745 million in the same month of the previous financial year.

Additionally, the value of Pakistan's footwear exports saw significant growth, increasing from \$14.671 million to \$17.588 million during July of FY2025-2026. This represents an impressive 19.89% growth over the same period last year.

Indian leather industry saw a growth of 4.45% in exports

The Indian leather industry experienced a growth of 4.45% in exports during the first three months of the fiscal year 2025-26 (April to June). According to the Indian Council of Leather Exports (CLE),

official export data for this period indicates that exports reached US\$1.204 billion, compared to US\$1.152 billion during the same period in 2024-25.

However, the performance of major components within the leather sector showed mixed results. Exports of finished leather fell significantly

by 14.63%, totaling US\$102.8 million in the first three months of FY26. Conversely, leather garments saw an increase of 12.48%, reaching a value of US\$88.71 million during the same timeframe. Leather footwear exports experienced a slight rise of 4.53%, totaling US\$505.16 million, while exports of leather goods increased by 3.05%, reaching US\$318.63 million.

Bangladesh leather industry shows growth in July 2025

According to data from the Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the leather sector experienced a growth rate of 29.65% in July 2025, the first month of the financial year 2025-26 (July to June 2026). Export earnings reached a

total of \$127.38 million in July 2025, compared to \$98.25 million during the same month last year. This increase is primarily driven by a significant rise of 25.52% in footwear export revenue.

The detailed figures show that finished leather exports rose by 21.90%, totaling \$9.24 million, compared to \$7.58 million in

the same period of the previous fiscal year. Additionally, exports of leather products surged by 41.54%, increasing from \$27.08 million to \$38.33 million during this time.

Notably, leather footwear exports rose by 25.52%, jumping from \$63.59 million in July 2024 to \$79.82 million in July 2025.

Chinese shoe co to invest \$10.20m in BEPZA EZ

Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited, a Chinese company, is set to invest \$10.20 million in BEPZA Economic Zone to establish a footwear industry, said a press release.

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority member (investment promotion) Md Ashraful Kabir and Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes chairman Ye Yary signed an agreement in this regard at BEPZA Complex in the capital recently. BEPZA executive chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad

Ziaur Rahman, member (finance) ANM Foyzul Haque, executive director (investment promotion) Md Tanvir Hossain and executive director (public relations) ASM Anwar Parvez, among others, were present.

The Chinese company will produce 2.10 million pairs of sandals, flats, high heels, pumps, booties, boots

and sports shoes annually, creating employment opportunities for 1,939 Bangladeshi nationals. The BEPZA executive chairman thanked Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes for choosing BEPZA EZ as their investment destination, reaffirming BEPZA's commitment to providing a secure and supportive environment for investors.

He also urged the company to make the best use of land, noting the need for efficient factory designs that allow future vertical expansion. He further emphasised incorporating environment-friendly features, including rooftop solar panels and rainwater harvesting facilities within the factory premises.



TEXTILE INDUSTRY

July textile exports grow 33.7pc to \$1.69bn YoY

The country's textile exports have posted a growth of 33.7 percent to \$ 1.69 billion in the first month of FY 2025-26 as compared to \$ 1.27 billion

during the corresponding month of FY 2024-25.

billion 2023-24 and \$ 1.27 billion in July 2024-25.

According to All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), textile exports were \$ 1.47 billion in July 2021-22, \$ 1.48 billion 2022-23, \$ 1.31

Pakistan textile exports were recorded at \$ 19.30 billion in FY 22, \$ 16.51 billion in FY 23, \$ 16.68 billion 24, \$ 16.68 billion in FY 25.

Interloop Ltd embarks on strategic digital transformation journey with SAP Ariba

Interloop Limited, one of the world's largest vertically integrated textile manufacturers and a leading garment exporter from Pakistan, continues to play a critical role in driving the country's export growth.

With an annual revenue exceeding USD 500 million, the company contributes significantly to Pakistan's overall export earnings, reflecting



the strength and potential of the textile sector.

In its ongoing transformation to become a fully integrated clothing company aligned with global best practices, Interloop has partnered with SAP to implement the SAP Ariba Source-to-Contract Suite.

The transformation initiative Project North Star began as Interloop restructured its business units to meet the evolving needs of global customers.

The company transitioned from a decentralized to a centralized model, ensuring a unified approach to accounting and procurement management. To digitize its

procurement function and drive transparency, efficiency, and cost savings, Interloop selected SAP Ariba for its comprehensive capabilities in strategic sourcing, supplier management, contract lifecycle management, and performance tracking.

The Ariba platform will enable Interloop to manage sourcing events more effectively, access a global pool of suppliers, and streamline procurement processes for greater control and accountability.

Navid Fazil, CEO, Interloop Limited said "Our goal was clear - to build a procurement function that reflects world-class standards while supporting our sustainability and digital ambitions."

Textile, clothing fetch \$17.9bn

Pakistan's textile and clothing exports posted a modest growth of 7.39pc in FY25, reaching \$17.89bn compared to \$16.66bn in the previous fiscal year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) recently.

Product-wise, readymade garments led the growth with a 15.85pc increase in value and 5.80pc in quantity, followed by knitwear, which rose 13.68pc in value and 6.47pc in quantity. Bedwear exports grew 11.07pc in value and 8.37pc in quantity, while towel exports saw marginal increases of 2.61pc in value and 1.62pc

in quantity.

Conversely, cotton cloth exports fell 3.05pc in value and 7.03pc in quantity, and yarn exports dropped sharply by 28.76pc. The export of made-up articles, excluding towels,

rose 8.45pc, while tents, canvas and tarpaulin increased 6.21pc. Raw cotton exports declined steeply by 98.45pc.

On the import side, synthetic fibre and synthetic/artificial silk yarn imports rose 5.19pc and 12.03pc, respectively. Imports of other textile items surged 67.99pc. Raw cotton imports jumped 182.53pc year-on-year, reflecting higher domestic demand amid local production constraints. Imports of second-hand clothing also rose 17.79pc, while textile machinery imports increased significantly by 61.51pc.

Pakistan's total exports rose 4.45pc to \$32.04bn in FY25, up from \$30.67bn in the previous fiscal year.



TRAVEL WORLD

Revised business plan: PIA buyer required to invest Rs70bn in 5 years: PC

Privatization Commission Secretary Usman Akhtar Bajwa, recently had informed the Senate Standing Committee on Privatization that the buyer of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) will be required to invest Rs70 billion over five years period under revised business plan of privatisation of PIA.

He stated that PIA's current business



model is not sustainable. In the previous bidding round, investors backed out because their demands were not met. He further briefed that now, investors will receive sales tax exemption on aircraft purchases.

Meanwhile, the Privatisation Commission has granted access to the virtual data room of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) to four shortlisted parties for conducting buy-side due diligence ahead of the airline's privatisation.

The commission informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatisation

recently that the pre-qualification committee had finalised four entities — a consortium comprising Lucky Cement Ltd, Hub Power Holdings Ltd, Kohat Cement Company Ltd and Metro Ventures Limited; a consortium comprising Arif Habib Corporation Ltd, Fatima Fertiliser Company Ltd, The City School Ltd, and Lake City Holdings Ltd; Fauji Fertiliser Company Ltd; and Air Blue.

The virtual data room — an online repository used for document storage and sharing — facilitates due diligence processes typically associated with mergers and acquisitions, loan syndication, private equity and venture capital transactions.

Air Karachi inks MRO deal with PIA

Air Karachi has signed a maintenance agreement with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to acquire engineering services from the national flag carrier.

According to the details, under the agreement, Air Karachi will acquire engineering services or MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul)

services from PIA.

The agreement was signed by CEO PIA, Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat, and Air Karachi's Chairman Hanif Gohar and CEO AVM Imran Majid (retd). Senior officials from PIA and Air Karachi were present.



PIA spokesman said that the airline's Engineering Division has the capacity and capability for maintenance, repair, and overhaul that is available

and being offered to other airlines, adding that this agreement would generate additional revenue for PIA through MRO facilities.

Fly Jinnah marks Pakistan's Independence Day



In celebration of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's leading low-cost carrier, surprised passengers onboard its Karachi to Lahore flight with a unique in-flight experience, marking the nation's cultural richness and unity.

Pakistan would begin direct flights with Bangladesh by the end of this year

Pakistan would begin direct flights with Bangladesh by the end of this year, with an expectation to get help in trade and business between the two countries, confirmed Jam Kamal Khan, the Commerce Minister of Pakistan, in a meeting at the Chattogram World Trade Centre, recently.

Sheikh Bashir Uddin, the Commerce Adviser of Bangladesh, and other business leaders from various sectors of Chattogram were also present at the meeting. Various other issues,



such as import-export of leather, sugar, garment items, agriculture, and food products were also subjects of discussion in the meeting.

Bangladesh's Commerce

Adviser, Sheikh Bashir Uddin, said that the meeting focused on growing trade and strengthening business. He said, "The government wants to build strong trade ties with as many countries as possible."

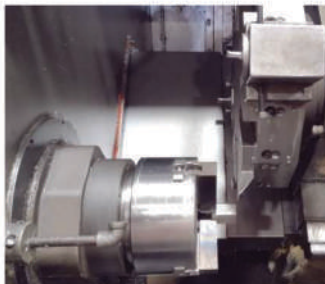
The Pakistani minister also visited Chattogram Port and factories, accompanied by officials from the Chattogram Chamber of Commerce.

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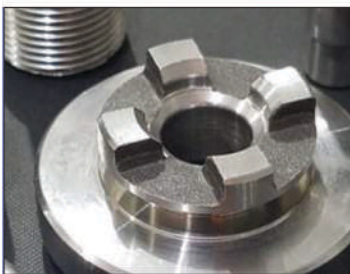
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Al Baraka Group Hosts First Product Based International Webinar | Made in Pakistan ~ Second to None Sports Goods Sector of Sialkot

Al Baraka Group continues its Trade Finance Webinars across its 13 Subsidiaries. Leading exporters from Sialkot, Pakistan were connected virtually with buyers of sports products in 12 other Subsidiaries.

The CEO of Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited, Mr. Muhammad Atif Hanif, said on the occasion that the Al Baraka Group Trade Finance Webinars and Trade Finance Portal, which started in 2023 with the first webinar between Pakistan and South Africa, has been successfully implemented across all ABG subsidiaries as a Global trade initiative. The country to country webinar model has now moved to Product/Sector specific Webinars. The first product under this initiative is selected from Pakistan, which will go a long way in diversifying new export markets for Sialkot based sports goods and sportswear sector and establishing B2B connectivity through Al Baraka Trade Finance Portal.

Mr. Khawaja Masood Akhter, Chairman of Sports Association of Pakistan and CEO of Forward Sports, was the Chief Guest who highly appreciated Al Baraka Bank Pakistan's innovative initiative to support the sports industry of Sialkot in an effort to take Sialkot Sports goods and Sportswear exports to new heights.



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