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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Mauritius envoy interacts with the Pak travel agents

Detailed News On Page-03

UK minister says Israeli settlements not acceptable

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Mohsin Naqvi pays surprise visit to CDA off

Detailed News On Page-02

Jammu & Kashmir status

Pak vehemently rejects India's baseless claim

Official UN maps remain only cartographic representation of Jammu and Kashmir's legal status, says FO

ANSA M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday rejected India's assertions regarding the map of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir region, saying Delhi's claims were "contrary to internationally recognised facts". "India's unilateral actions and continued illegal occupation cannot alter the internationally recognised disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir," Foreign Office Spokesperson Nisarg Hatter Khan said in a statement. His remarks came in response to a statement by the Indian foreign ministry, calling for depicting the disputed Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regions in accordance with India's official map. The FO spokesperson said that official United Nations maps, which depict Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory, remain the only cartographic representation of its current legal status. "India's so-called official maps and unilateral claims of sovereignty have no bearing on the status of the disputed territory," Khan added. According to the FO spokesperson, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains one of the oldest unresolved, inter-

nationally recognised disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council. "The relevant UN resolutions stipulate that its final disposition must be made in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people, expressed through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices," he said. The FO spokesperson urged the international community to ensure that India immediately stops human rights violations in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (BJOK) and fulfils its commitment towards the realisation of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, in line with the relevant UNSC resolutions. The United Nations General Assembly on September 4 voted to adopt a new world map that makes the African continent bigger while shrinking North America and Europe, drawing its line from Washington. The resolution was supported by 164 countries while the United States voted against it and six other states abstained. The new map — known as the Equal Earth cartographic projection — improves "the accuracy of the cartographic representation of the world," the resolution said.

Petrol price increased

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), acting under the revised petroleum pricing mechanism issued by the Federal Government, has announced an upward revision in the ex-depot prices of petroleum products. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) on September 7, 2026, the new prices will take effect on September 8, 2026. The new rates (per liter) are as follows:

- Motor Spirit (MS / Petrol): The price has been increased by Rs. 12.90, bringing the revised price from the existing Rs. 345.87 to Rs. 358.77.
- High Speed Diesel (HSD): The price has been increased by Rs. 3.72, bringing the revised price from the existing Rs. 378.05 to Rs. 381.77.

These revisions are based on the current pricing structure set forth by the Federal Government to reflect market fluctuations. The new rates are applicable from tomorrow onward.



BEIJING: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassem Al-Thani on Monday met Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang in Beijing for talks on strengthening strategic ties between the two nations. DNA

Political wheeling-dealing

President Zardari shortens London visit

Bilawal and Bakhtawar will remain in London; The PPP, a key ally of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has strongly opposed any move to divide Sindh and maintains that no new province can be created without constitutional procedures, political consensus and public support

DNA

LONDON: President Asif Ali Zardari will return to Pakistan on September 8 after deciding to end his London visit earlier than planned, Geo News has learnt. Credible Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) sources said the president had initially planned to remain in London for another three to four days. However, he decided to return early to deal with the prevailing political situation and the growing debate over the creation of new provinces and administrative units. The debate intensified after Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal proposed dividing the country into 12 to 15 provinces and called for a national political dialogue on restructuring Pakistan's administrative system. The PPP, a key ally of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has strongly opposed any move to divide Sindh and maintain that no new province can be created without constitutional procedures, political consensus and public support. President Zardari arrived in London from Vienna on September 1 after spending five days in Austria on a private visit. He was accompanied by former federal minister Dr. Aftab Hussain and Senator Saleem Marwandi. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari joined their father in London two days later. Sources said both will remain in the British capital and will not travel back with President Zardari. They are expected to return after spending approximately another week in London.

Continued on Page 06

PPP leader takes aim at federal ministers over new provinces

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon on Monday slammed federal ministers seeking the establishment of new provinces, calling them products of "Form-47", a term used by political rivals to question the legitimacy of lawmakers elected in the 2024 general elections. Rejecting their mandate, the PPP leader, whose party is an ally in the Centre with the ruling PML-N, called such federal ministers "unselected representatives".

The decades-long debate over new provinces began after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the current system had collapsed, and later, some federal ministers — including Ahsan Iqbal and Mustafa Kamal — also said that new provinces or administrative units should be set up. While the PML-N is yet to take a firm position, the PPP has said that if the people deem it fit, new provinces should be established, but the Sindh Assembly, where the PPP is in power, passed a resolution recently rejecting the idea of creating new provinces.

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Briefs

Another factory catches fire in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: Part of a factory building in Landhi's Export Processing Zone (EPZ) collapsed due to a fire on Monday. Rescue 1122 said, as efforts were underway for hours to extinguish the blaze. "Part of the factory collapsed due to the fire. Rescue 1122 teams are present at the scene and the rescue operation is under way," the Rescue 1122 spokesperson said in a statement, crept up from a video showing a fire engulfing a factory in Karachi's Landhi area on Sept 7, 2026. — Courtesy of Rescue 1122. The fire had also spread to an adjacent factory, he added. No casualties or injuries have been reported so far. "As soon as the Rescue 1122 Control Command and Control received the information, a fire and rescue team was immediately dispatched to the site along with a fire brigade truck and an ambulance," Rescue 1122 said in an earlier statement.

'Prince Harry still non-working member of royal family'

DNA

LONDON: King Charles III has reiterated that Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, remain non-working members of the royal family following their return to the United Kingdom. A letter sent on behalf of the king to senior government officials said the couple will continue to refrain from using their royal titles as they have done since stepping back from official royal duties in 2020. Any charity work the couple undertakes will be carried out in a private capacity, and operational security decisions are matters for the relevant police agencies, the letter adds. The letter was sent by the Lord Chamberlain, the most senior official in the royal household, to senior officials in the government and military,

US-Iran tensions

Iran to unfurl new restricted Hormuz zone

"The maps of a new international corridor which lies in Iranian and Omani waters and in which Iran will have management have been agreed and should be signed in the coming days"

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Iran said it will announce a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, along with maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz, as a weekend exchange of strikes on shipping sent oil prices higher on Monday. The new restricted zone will begin from the U.S. blockade of Iran and extend into areas of the Gulf, Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Sunday in an interview with state TV. Few details were provided on the plan, but Rezaei said any ship entering the new zone would be added to a sanctions list. In addition, maps detailing passage routes for the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit largely closed to tanker traffic, would also be approved soon, Rezaei said. "The maps of a new international corridor which lies in Iranian and Omani waters and in which Iran will have management have been agreed and should be signed in the coming days," he said. "We will only come to the Strait of Hormuz being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Rezaei added. Six months after U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran warships

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Saudi Arabia preparing to grant IAEA more intrusive powers

DNA

WASHINGTON: A planned US-Saudi atomic deal does not include Riyadh signing the Additional Protocol that gives the UN nuclear watchdog sweeping inspection powers, but something close to it on some points is in the works, the agency's chief said on Monday. The US and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement on civil nuclear power cooperation in July that would let Riyadh enrich uranium and build nuclear reactors using US technology. Non-proliferation groups, such as the Arms Control Association, have criticised the planned "123 agreement" for not including the Additional Protocol, which grants the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) extra powers, such as the ability to carry out snap

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Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan sign landmark energy deal

The agreements cover the Kushk and Tirpul Contract Area, spanning approximately 23,317 square kilometers, a natural gas utilization programme for Herat and a framework for the proposed "CentGas - Corridor of Prosperity" a 700-kilometer regional gas transmission pipeline, a Delta statement said

TAHRIR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Delta Energy Group, a Saudi Arabian energy group, Monday announced the signing of a series of agreements with Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Petroleum covering hydrocarbon exploration and production, natural gas utilization in Herat and the potential development of a regional gas transmission pipeline, according to Delta Company. The agreement was inked in Afghan capital Kabul and the ceremony was also attended by former American Special Envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad. The agreements cover the Kushk and Tirpul Contract Area, spanning approximately 23,317 square kilometers, a natural gas utilization programme for Herat and a framework for the proposed "CentGas - Corridor of Prosperity" a 700-kilometer regional gas transmission pipeline, a Delta statement said. The integrated programme represents a potential investment of approximately US\$50 billion over

twenty-five years, subject to exploration results, commercial viability, technical and economic studies, financing, regulatory approvals and subsequent investment decisions. Three-Part Energy Programme: Under the Exploration and Production Sharing Contract (EPSC), Delta Energy will undertake geological and geophysical studies, seismic work, exploration drilling and reservoir evaluation across the Kushk and Tirpul area to determine the scale and commercial potential of its hydrocarbon resources. Separately, Delta Energy will finance and conduct an integrated study into the utilization of natural gas and related infrastructure serving Herat Industrial Park, Herat City and other approved areas, assessing potential applications including industrial activity, power generation and other energy requirements. A supplementary agreement establishes a framework for evaluating the proposed 700-kilometre CentGas - Corridor of Prosperity pipeline, connecting a

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Briefs

Logistics support, police welfare steps reviewed

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Rashid Khan on Monday reviewed administrative, logistic, welfare support and police welfare measures during a meeting with in-charge of different branches of the Logistics Division. He also reviewed the SP's Part G of the Police Act, 1961, during the meeting. The SP Part G reviewed the administrative measures of Police Headquarters and discussed measures to further improve logistic support for police officers. He also reviewed welfare measures for police personnel and issued directions for further improvement. SP Part G directed the concerned branch in-charge to ensure better administrative arrangements and effective logistic support to facilitate police personnel in the performance of their duties. —APP

NUST extends warm welcome to Batch of 2026

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) opened its doors to the Batch of 2026, welcoming as many as 1,000 new undergraduate students through a vibrant three-day orientation held from September 2 to 4. The campus buzzed with activity as the newest members of the NUST community embarked on their academic journey through an engaging mix of academic, social, and extracurricular experiences. Speaking at the opening ceremony, chief guest, Lieutenant NUST Dr. Naveed Raza, warmly welcomed the incoming students and encouraged them to embrace the opportunities, challenges and experiences that lie ahead. He highlighted the importance of making the most of their time at NUST, fostering meaningful connections and becoming active members of the NUST community. The opening day featured a warm reception, a dedicated parent's session, documentation and registration, the students' march, and the much-anticipated batch photograph. It also featured a keynote address by the vice-chancellor, along with engaging activities under the NUST clubs and societies. It also featured the closing ceremony of NUST Summer School and a night rally led by the NUST Dramatic Club (NDC). The programme culminated in a Night Night followed by the closing ceremony, bringing the orientation to a memorable conclusion. Designed to ease the transition into university life, from late 2025 onward, students will apply NUST's academic excellence, build friendships, and experience the college of campus life. —APP

Japan govt provides flood protection grant to Pakistan

It is about protecting lives, safeguarding livelihoods, and building a more resilient Sindh Province for future generations"



Safullah Ansari

ISLAMABAD: Japan has extended a grant aid of 2.4 billion Japanese Yen to Pakistan for the Project for Flood Protection and Dike Improvement on Indus River in South Province. News by this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. ANAMATSU Shinichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Danish Raza, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Islamabad on September 2, 2026. Subsequently, Grant Agreement of the Project was also signed and exchanged between Mr. SHIGEMASA Takashi, Senior Representative of JICA Pakistan Office and Mr. Hafiz Qureshi, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Islamabad. The project aims to reduce the risk of the dike

breaches and associated economic losses through the reinforcement of dikes in the target section in Larkana region of South Province. The dike section, protection works and dike reinforcement will be carried out. The project adopts a stronger counterbalanced embankment construction method, which remains relatively rare in Pakistan. This enhanced design is expected to further mitigate the risk of embankment breaches, thereby improving flood resilience in the target area. Pakistan is highly vulnerable to flooding, and the Larkana region is among the areas most at risk of large-scale flood damage. The project is expected to reduce flood risks for approximately 790,000 residents, while reducing embankment area and flood-related economic losses in the target region. It will also help to protect local communities, agricultural land and infrastructure from future flood

disasters. In the face of natural disasters that are becoming more frequent and severe due to global warming, proactive disaster prevention measures that leverage Japan's expertise and technology are of great significance not only for saving lives but also for protecting industry, livelihood and food supplies. Japan and Pakistan have a long history of cooperation in disaster prevention. In 2022, Pakistan experienced the most devastating flood in its history. To support the nation's recovery and reconstruction, the Government of Japan has been fully committed to providing relief assistance. Japan places a strong emphasis on conducting practical disaster prevention measures where technically feasible. Natural disasters actually occur. This project aims to minimize the risk of dike breaches in these target sections, thereby protecting the region from devastating flood damage based on Japan's experience and expertise.

We recognize this project as a vital initiative along the line with Pakistan's planning and policy efforts, contributing to building a resilient society capable of mitigating future disasters. From this project will provide reassurance to the people of Pakistan as a reliable safeguard against future floods. Mr. SHIGEMASA Takashi, Senior Representative of JICA Pakistan Office said under this project, the dike will be rehabilitated with concrete reinforcement. While this is a relatively rare approach in Pakistan and requires higher initial investment costs, it is anticipated to deliver more sustainable and long-lasting development impacts. This project is not just about building stronger dikes. It is about protecting lives, safeguarding livelihoods, and building a more resilient South Province for future generations."

Sh Tajammul remembered for lifelong services to Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a reference held here on Monday on the 10th death anniversary of renowned journalist and activist Sh. Tajammul Khan, who dedicated his life to the Kashmir cause, paid tribute to his lifelong services to journalism and contribution to the Kashmir cause. The reference, organized by the United Kashmiri Journalists Association (UKJA), was attended by senior foreign leaders, journalists and activists. Speaking on the occasion, senior foreign leader Mr. Hassan Tariq (UKJA) said Sh. Tajammul Khan was a person of exceptional dedication and dedication who could have pursued a successful career in law and journalism in Kashmir but chose to devote his life to the Kashmir cause. He said Sh. Tajammul Khan was a successful lawyer and journalist in Kashmir, but the political environment of the 1970s and 1980s prompted him to dedicate his abilities and career to the Kashmir cause. He said he had to migrate from India. Sh. Tajammul Khan was

not Kashmiri (BROK) in view of the prevailing political circumstances and continued his struggle despite being a non-resident. He said after reaching Pakistan, Sh. Tajammul Khan played a significant role in developing the Kashmiri Media Service (KMS) into a vibrant platform for highlighting the Kashmir issue. He said Sh. Tajammul Khan also made significant efforts to document the Kashmir struggle through KMS, which developed into an important source of information and reference on Kashmir-related developments. Speaking on the occasion, Governor of Madhya Pradesh Jagan and Governor of Maharashtra Jagdish Sheth paid rich tribute to Sh. Tajammul Khan and said he had learned valuable lessons throughout his life. He said the legacy of Sh. Tajammul Khan should be carried forward, while stressing the need for greater intellectual and political engagement in addressing the Kashmir issue. Senior foreign leader Mr. Hassan Tariq also paid tribute to Sh. Tajammul Khan and recalled his contributions to journalism and the Kashmir cause. He said Sh. Tajammul Khan was a person of exceptional dedication and dedication who could have pursued a successful career in law and journalism in Kashmir but chose to devote his life to the Kashmir cause. He said Sh. Tajammul Khan was a successful lawyer and journalist in Kashmir, but the political environment of the 1970s and 1980s prompted him to dedicate his abilities and career to the Kashmir cause. He said he had to migrate from India. Sh. Tajammul Khan was

Reforms to boost WB's business framework

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved a set of regulatory reforms aimed at improving Pakistan's performance under the World Bank Group's Business Ready (BR) assessment. Pakistan has already performed strongly in the Business Ready category of the BR assessment, ranking 17th among 191 economies with a score of 80.6, and a reform issued from a meeting. The reforms approved by the Commission are designed to close the remaining gaps and bring the country's business framework closer to leading international practices. As part of the reforms, additional sharing of updated company information with the Federal Board of Revenue through ATRs will be required, in coordination with the Board of Investment, to further streamline compliance and reduce duplication for businesses. The Commission also approved measures to make information on government approvals and operating permits accessible through SECP's website, once compiled by the relevant authorities, giving businesses a single point of reference for regulatory requirements. Similarly, information on publicly listed companies' financials and other information will be made available through SECP's digital platform, improving transparency and access to critical government support. —APP

Strategic roadmap for Railways' modernization

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has approved a comprehensive strategic reform roadmap aimed at transforming the department into a modern, efficient, customer-oriented and financially sustainable organization. "The roadmap focuses on strengthening freight operations, improving passenger services through infrastructure development, enhancing infrastructure participation and accelerating digital transformation across the railway system," an official at the Ministry of Railways told APP. Under the reform plan, Pakistan Railways aims to increase its freight market share from the existing 8 percent to around 20 percent by

2030, the transportation of Bulk Cargo (BCL) to 100 percent. The initiative would focus on expanding the transportation of coal, containers, cement, fertilizers, rock phosphate and other bulk commodities to enhance the railway's role in the national freight sector. The official said the passenger share was also targeted to increase from the current 5 percent to 15 percent after completion of the M-1, M-2 and M-3 projects. He said the modernization programme envisaged the replacement of M-1, M-2 and M-3 corridors to enhance line capacity, improve safety, reduce travel time and strengthen operational efficiency. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Massive traffic jam on Islamabad highway during peak hours in the evening, in the Federal Capital.

Dr. Tariq pays tribute to PAF Shaheens

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliament, Dr. Tariq Fazl Chaudhry on Monday paid rich tribute to the brave personnel of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on the occasion of Air Force Day, acknowledging their courage, determination and professional excellence in defending the country in its struggle. The minister said the day provided an opportunity to pay tribute to the brave Shaheens of the PAF who had written remarkable chapters in the history of national defence through their courage, resolve and professional skills. He said that during the 1965 war, the PAF's valiant pilots and personnel had held the enemy's designs and made the nation proud through their outstanding performance. "The history and professional expertise of the PAF Shaheens constitute a glorious chapter in our defence history," he said. Dr. Tariq said the PAF's outstanding performance during Operation Burehan-ul-Maqbool had once again demonstrated its formidable defence capabilities. He said the operation had proved that the PAF Shaheens possessed the capability and determination to defend every challenge and effectively defend the country. The minister said the PAF Shaheens had prepared and vigilant for the clock in subsequent Pakistan's struggle. He paid tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Air Force for their supreme sacrifice and look of the services of its Shaheens. The presiding Shaheens of the Pakistan Air Force was a source of pride for the nation, he said, adding that the nation was proud of their courage, determination and professional competence. —APP

IGP reviews Islamabad's policing readiness

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Asim Naveed on Monday chaired a meeting of senior police officers to review the capital's law and order situation, counterterrorism measures, security arrangements, law enforcement and the performance of the Capital Patrol Unit. An official said IGP then the meeting held a detailed review of various policing matters aimed at strengthening security and improving the overall effectiveness of police operations in the federal capital. The performance of the Capital Patrol Unit was also reviewed, along with measures related to traffic management and security arrangements across Islamabad. —APP

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PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

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KARATE
KUNG-FU
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TAEKWONDO
UNIFORMS AND
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Has the EU lost its allure?

KHALED ABU ZAHRA

DOES the EU still make people and nations dream of joining? Following Iceland's vote to reject a return to accession negotiations last week, many are asking this question. The EU has become a bureaucratic dictatorship that is destroying national identities and sovereignty. Now, for insular countries such as Ireland and the UK, which exited the EU in 2020, that might be true. Part of it is undoubtedly true: to keep the bloc together, Brussels has become more top-down than bottom-up in terms of representation. Members of the European Parliament attest to this. Yet, when it comes to joining the EU, there is also what I call "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?" And this probably applies to many of the countries that are part of the European Economic Area and Schengen but outside the EU. Countries such as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, as members of the European Economic Area, obtain most of the practical advantages of the European market without being full EU members, meaning they do not need to accept common integration policies in key areas such as taxation and monetary union and do not need to fully participate in the political institutions. As a consequence, they are not bound on important and influential domestic topics, such as agriculture and fishing rights. Fishing is and will continue to be a key issue for Iceland. Switzerland has a similar model through bilateral agreements with the EU, rather than joining the European Economic Area. And as all these countries are part of Schengen, they do not feel the need to apply for membership. Perhaps, with these small, wealthy countries, it is the EU that is keen on offering this very attractive middle ground and Iceland's referendum result illustrates this logic clearly. What might change this mindset is not the dream that guided most of the countries to join the EU in the late 1990s and early 2000s — it is the nightmare of the major crises that could happen, with the bloc seen as a potential safeguard in such a situation. Hence, it was in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2009 and the collapse of its banking system that Iceland announced that it intended to join the EU. While most of the negotiation points were cleared, a more surprising result

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When the West Sacrifices Secularism at the Altar of Religion

Qamar Bashir



Today, however, a contrary narrative is gaining political power. Leaders and movements in the United States increasingly describe America as a Christian nation. President Donald Trump has promised to defend the "Judeo-Christian principles of our founding" and has declared that America is "one nation under God." In Europe, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has stated even more directly: "Europe is a Christian continent, and this is how we want to keep it." He has connected the preservation of this identity with opposition to immigration and the fear...

FOR countless people living in developing countries, the United States and Europe have represented a dream. This attraction is not based only on wealth, employment or a higher standard of living. More importantly, these societies have been regarded as places where the state did not discriminate among citizens on the basis of religion, color, race or creed. For people persecuted because of their faith, ethnicity, culture or way of life, migration to the West has promised safety from hatred, violence and official discrimination. The foundation of this dream is secular government. Secularism does not mean hostility to religion or the exclusion of religious people from public life. It means that the state itself does not belong to one religion. A secular government protects Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, atheists and others under the same law. It asks citizens to obey the Constitution, not to adopt the religion or culture of the majority. Today, however, a contrary narrative is gaining political power. Leaders and movements in the United States increasingly describe America as a Christian nation. President Donald Trump has promised to defend the "Judeo-Christian principles of our founding" and has declared that America is "one nation under God." In Europe, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has stated even more directly: "Europe is a Christian continent, and this is how we want to keep it." He has connected the preservation of this identity with opposition to immigration and the fear that Muslims will transform Europe's ethnic and cultural composition. Israel, meanwhile, expressly defines itself as a Jewish state. Its 1958 Nation-State Basic Law declares that Israel is "the nation state of the Jewish People" and that national self-determination in the state is "exclusive to the Jewish People." It also describes Jewish settlement as a national value. The danger lies not in Judaism or in Christianity or Islam but in giving one religious or ethnic identity a constitutionally superior relationship with the state. These declarations must be tested against the constitutional principles that mark the West's attributes. The U.S. Constitution neither establishes Christianity nor grants a privileged status; the First Amendment prohibits laws "respecting an establishment of religion," while Article VI bars religious tests for public office. Although the Declaration of Independence refers to a Creator, the Constitution is the governing legal document and protects equal citizenship regardless of belief. For the human person, a 2014 Pew survey

found that 13 percent of Americans supported declaring Christianity the official religion, while 81 percent favored promoting Christian values without formal establishment—a distinction that becomes dangerous when moral advocacy turns into state preference and the exclusion of other faiths. European Convention on Human Rights, Article 10 guarantees everyone "freedom of thought, conscience and religion," including the freedom to change religion and to manifest belief privately or publicly. The European Court of Human Rights has held that the state must remain a "neutral and impartial" organ in religious life because pluralism is essential to democracy. The Magna Carta is often invoked as a symbol of Western liberty and government under law, although it is not a modern constitution or a comprehensive guarantee of religious equality. Its lasting importance is the principle that political authority is subject to law. The modern constitutional descendants of that principle are equal citizenship, due process, religious liberty and protection against arbitrary power. Religious nationalism undermines this inheritance when it divides lawful citizens into authentic members and tolerated outsiders. The consequences are visible in contemporary politics. During John McCain's campaign for mayor of New York, opponents and online commentators attacked his Muslim identity with racism, jihad and Sharia. Some called for his denaturalization or deportation, despite the absence of evidence that he intended to impose Islamic law. Meanwhile, New York City's first Muslim mayor, Jumaane Williams, affirmed constitutional inclusion, but the media exposed how easily a Muslim candidate's faith could be perverted as a security threat. Michigan politician Abdul El-Sayed has faced similar attempts to associate his Muslim identity with extremism. Dearborn, a city with a large Arab-American and Muslim population, has become a national target for agitators warning about the supposed "Islamification" of America. Yet, excluding Muslims, Muslims, council members or police officers from public office due to their religious identity is not only unconstitutional but also a violation of the First Amendment. Citizens exercising the same political rights that the Constitution guarantees to Christians. Not in Sharia the governing law of Michigan, New York or any European country. Muslims may voluntarily follow religious principles in their private lives, just as Christians and Jews may consult their own traditions. Civil law nevertheless

remains supreme. Raising the specter of Sharia without evidence transforms a religious minority into a permanently suspect population. The problem is measurable. The U.S. Department of Justice recorded 235 anti-Muslim hate incidents and 136 anti-Sikh incidents in 2023. In Europe, a survey of almost 10,000 Muslims across 13 countries found that 47 percent had experienced racial discrimination within the preceding five years, particularly in employment and housing. The same constitutional test must be applied to Israel. Israel emerged from Zionism, Jewish rule in Palestine, European antisemitism culminating in the Holocaust, and the United Nations' 1947 proposal for separate Arab and Jewish states. It would be historically inaccurate to reduce its creation to a single Western plot for removing Jews from Europe. Nevertheless, defining national self-determination as exclusive to one people raises a profound question about equality for Palestinians and other non-Jewish citizens and residents. That concern is intensified by occupation and settlement. In a 2024 advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice concluded that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and that settlement activity must cease. United Nations satellite analysis later estimated that approximately 81 percent of 1.7 million Jews had been damaged by October 2025. The conclusion is not that religion must disappear. Religion can inspire compassion, justice and service. The danger begins when it becomes a certificate of citizenship or a weapon for deciding who truly belongs. A Muslim, Jew, Christian, Hindu, Sikh or non-believer should not have to become culturally "Judeo" to enjoy the rights of citizenship. The United States and Europe became dreams because they promised that law would stand above sectarian identity. If their leaders replace that promise with competing religious nationalisms, they will revive the divisions their constitutional systems were designed to restrain. Their future peace and prosperity depends on returning to the essential principle of secular democracy: the state has no favored faith, and every citizen stands equal before the law.

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Iran's biggest enemy is its inflated sense of power

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed

The Iranian leadership's perceptions that it is capable of defeating a superpower with such ease are peculiar; has the military leadership misled the political authorities in Iran? The developments following the war indicate that their understanding of the world does not differ much from the delusions of a megalomaniac, much like Saddam Hussein in the 1980s and 1990s. Their perceptions of the balance of war do not align with their actual capabilities when confronting two fierce adversaries: the US and Israel...

In a recently surfaced video, Mahdi Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, speaks about kidnapping 1,000 US soldiers and launching over them. While the video is authentic, the statement is old, dating back to 2011. Today, Rezaei serves as the right-hand man to the new supreme leader, Ebrahim Raisi, who has been in power since 2024. The confrontation has been ongoing for a year, yet they have been unable to arrest, capture or destroy a single battleship, and US casualties are the lowest in the history of its wars. Iran's enemy is its inflated sense of power, which makes nations such as containing an armed force, closing straits, choking the global economy, and bombing neighbors appear to be great plans. The arrogance of power led Napoleon and Hitler to invade Russia, only to face defeat. While such a sense of superiority might be justified for major powers, it appears peculiar for smaller, economically fragile nations. This very sentiment causes them to indulge in unrealistic delusions for consecutive decades, only to lose their entire first-tier leadership and most of their military capabilities in the very first confrontation. A distorted intellectual delusion was exposed. The Iranian leadership's perceptions that it is capable of defeating a superpower with such ease are peculiar; has the military leadership misled the political authorities in Iran? The developments following the war indicate that their understanding of the world does not differ much from the delusions of a megalomaniac, much like Saddam Hussein in the 1980s and 1990s. Their perceptions of the balance of war do not align with their actual capabilities when confronting two fierce adversaries: the US and Israel. For years, their previous statements consistently contained the same conclusion: first, that "America will not dare to attack us," and second, "if it does, it will be defeated." An associate close to Saddam Hussein mentioned that during a possible barbecue at Saddam's palace follow-

ing the invasion of Kuwait, he asked the Iraqi leader why he had not taken precautions. He said: "Saddam responded mockingly: 'You know they can see us with their satellites and know that we are here together by the god willing and we are capable of reaching us, but they do not dare to target us.'"

Rezaei's narrative, US administration's refusal from entering a war with Iran, despite the attacks carried out or orchestrated by the Revolutionary Guard against American citizens and interests around the world, an impression emerged among both civilian and military leaders that Iran was not to be trifled with due to its growing military capabilities. Tehran's overconfident perceptions toward the US may differ from their view of the much smaller Israeli power. They have always been anxious about the prospect of a war with Israel, but largely explain their persistence in maintaining their military nuclear program — a warning, it, in their imagination, as the ultimate weapon.

Ideological regimes rarely learn from experience. During the stage before seeking to acquire a nuclear bomb, they established a vast belt in the region to protect them from Israel, spanning Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq. Leaders of Hezbollah frequently echoed this erroneous conviction, asserting that these proxy camps were sufficient to defend Iran, and that should Israel dare to launch an attack, it would be destroyed.

Superficial, hegemonic, insecure, and national pride were all embodied in a single project: building a massive military force until it became an Iranian obsession. This power began directing the regime's policies and incentivizing it toward further delusion, proving that "power deludes us, power makes us believe that we are capable of anything."

"Military superiority" led Tehran to harbor the illusion that it was capable of controlling, expanding, imposing political hegemony, and altering or main-

taining regimes. The overestimation of Iran's growing power reached across the globe, as it became the primary supplier of lethal weapons to a major superpower like Russia in its war in Ukraine. It constructed 20 underground missile cities, produced tens of thousands of drones each month, surpassing American capabilities, and launched hundreds of unmanned missiles to attack Israeli cities. Tehran reached a stage of thinking described as "if you have a hammer, it is tempting to treat everything around you as nails."

A distorted intellectual delusion was exposed during the war, along with the weakness of its defense capabilities and the failure of its strategies to close the straits and strangle global markets. Iran now recognizes that it is not a match for the US and Israel. Today, Iran's empire is crumbling and its delusions are exposed, leaving it incapable of inflicting harm except on its neighbors who have been invaded and equipped for war. Nonetheless, Iran has not yet altered its behavior or narrative; instead, it has begun to label mere endurance as a victory. While it is true that the survival of the regime constitutes a victory for it, the economic collapse of two brief months of war have been devastating. These results include the elimination of the first-tier political and military leadership, the massive destruction of its offensive capabilities, and an unprecedented, stifling siege. Can Iranian leaders think more realistically about the ideological regimes they have built? The survival instincts know to unconditional status. They rarely learn from experience, and preserving their image becomes their primary concern, leading them to become more delusional.

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed is a Saudi journalist and author of the book "The Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic." He is the former press manager of Al Arabiya news channel and former advisor to the late King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He is currently a senior advisor to the Saudi government. His article was originally published in X (@alrashed).



PAKISTAN

NAVY DAY

8 SEPTEMBER 1965



MESSAGE FROM
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF
ADMIRAL NAVED ASHRAF
NO 00(M) T 01

Nations are not only defined by their geographical size or measure of resources but also by the strength of their resolve. At the time of its inception, Pakistan Navy was fully cognizant of its limited resources, constrained operational capability and enemy's absolute superiority to undermine the stability of an evenly established state. Despite the limited material strength, Pakistan Navy, driven by an unwavering commitment and staunch determination to defend the southern, isolated tip of the new free spirit of sacrifice, professional excellence, and valor, while steadfastly striving to strengthen its operational capabilities, this steadfast resolve earned us a resounding pre-announcement on 8 September 1965, when Pakistan Navy executed the historic Operation SOMNATH, shattering the adversary's coastal radar installations at Dwarka. The operation was not just a watershed naval event; it was a testament of Pakistan Navy's offensive capability as well as a demonstration of its strategic foresight

and innovative spirit. It shattered adversary's sense of invulnerability and demonstrated to the world that a resolute maritime force, driven by courage and conviction, could achieve decisive tactical triumphs. Operation SOMNATH thus, became an essential chapter in Pakistan's history, symbolizing the unwavering resolve of a nation that stands ready to defend its sovereignty against every challenge. The legacy of courage and conviction instilled during Operation SOMNATH remains unwavering, reflected once again in Pakistan Navy's successful defence against the Indian Navy during Baluchistan-1965.

The spirit of resilience reverberated through the annals of the legendary exploits of Pakistan Navy Submarine GRACE, whose silent presence laid the foundations of Pakistan's offshore defence and demonstrated the strategic value of a frigate submarine force. Building from strength to strength, that proud legacy has returned a few miles with the delivery of RANGOR Class Submarines, representing a significant step in technological sophistication, combat capability, and maritime dominance. As Pakistan Navy continues to take up new modern platforms and evolving operational concepts, the spirit of offshore warfare, exhibited by our predecessors, remains as a timeless beacon. Today, we pay our deepest tribute to the valiant Shuhada and Ghazis of Pakistan Navy, whose sacrifice and selfless actions have ensured the sovereignty and security of our sacred borders. Their courage remains to be our guiding light, while the heritage they created, enriches and stimulates our youth, from GRAZ to RANGOR, for service to be unyielding. The legacy of courage, sacrifice and firm commitment to the defence of Pakistan shall remain inspiring, and continue to inspire our future generations.

May Allah be our Guide and Protector,
Ameen.

Pakistan Navy Zindabad
Pakistan Pandabad

PAKISTAN NAVY IN 1965 WAR A TESTAMENT TO VALOUR AND RESOLVE

In the annals of Pakistan's history, the year 1965 stands as a defining chapter, which witnessed a historic moment in the ocean world. A nation, starting its journey with meagre resources under authoritarian rule, began to rise and broke the world's perception of Pakistan as a weak nation. In 1965, with this war, Pakistan's valour and history of the Pakistan Navy came to the fore. The submarine force of Pakistan Navy, which was the only one of its kind in the world, played a pivotal role in the war. Pakistan Navy's role in the war was not only a testament to its strategic vision but also a demonstration of its operational capability. The submarine force of Pakistan Navy, which was the only one of its kind in the world, played a pivotal role in the war. Pakistan Navy's role in the war was not only a testament to its strategic vision but also a demonstration of its operational capability.

During the 1965 war, Pakistan Navy demonstrated remarkable courage, skill and determination against a larger naval force. The fleet commander in chief of Pakistan Navy, the Admiral Abdul Hafeez, was one of the main architects of the victory. Under his leadership, the Pakistan Navy's role in the war was not only a testament to its strategic vision but also a demonstration of its operational capability.

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Faisal Nadeem

8 SEPTEMBER 1965

THE LEGACY OF 1965 STILL COMMANDS THE SEA

On 8th September 1965, Pakistan Navy carried out Operation SOMNATH; a daring surprise strike that destroyed the enemy's critical radar installations and infrastructure at Dwarka, shattered the myth of Indian naval supremacy and became an enduring symbol of courage, professional excellence and unwavering resolve.



OPERATION
SOMNATH
1965



PAKISTAN NAVY

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