



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
پی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا جس نے چھوٹی قسم
اس مقدمے کھائی کسی مسلمان کمال اس
کے ذریعہ ناجائز طریقے پر حاصل کرے تو وہ
اللہ تعالیٰ سے اس حال میں ملے گا کہ وہ اس
پر غضبناک ہو گا پھر اللہ تعالیٰ نے اس کی
تصدیق نازل کی (قرآن مجید میں کہ) «ان
الذین یشترکون بعیہد اللہ» یا شریوہ
لوگ جو اللہ کے ہمہ کے ذریعہ خریدتے ہیں۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6659)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**



Mohsin Naqvi inspects construction work on Islamabad's two mega projects

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has visited T-Chowk flyover and Shaheen Chowk underpass projects in Islamabad in order to review the progress on construction work. Member Engineering CDA briefed the Interior Minister on the progress made on the projects so far.



Sohail Leghari appointed Supreme Court registrar

Sohail Muhammad Leghari has been appointed as registrar of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. An official notification has been issued in this regard. Earlier this year, the Chairman Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) appointed Sohail Leghari as secretary of SJC on a deputation basis. Prior to this assignment, Leghari was serving as Registrar, High Court of Sindh, where he contributed notably to judicial administration and institutional reforms.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 10, Sunday, November 2, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net



@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 197 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Guard of Honor

GILGIT: President Asif Ali Zardari inspecting the guard of honour during the ceremony marking the 78th Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan. Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah is also present on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Zardari calls for renewed resolve to make Gilgit-Baltistan a model of development

Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday emphasised the need to renew the collective resolve to make Gilgit-Baltistan a model of development, justice, and equality.

Addressing a ceremony marking the 78th Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan from Dogra rule in Gilgit, the president said that over the past seven decades, the people of the region had marched shoulder to shoulder with the rest of Pakistan.

"You have guarded the borders, advanced progress, and carried Pakistan's flag to the world's highest peaks. This region is not only the crown of Pakistan but also our northern gateway — a symbol of our enduring friendship with China," he remarked.

The president said the Karakoram Highway stood as a living monument to this partnership, adding that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had brought new opportunities for livelihood, trade, and connectivity to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He further stressed that it should be their shared responsibility to ensure that the benefits of development reached every valley and village, creating prosperity for all.

President Zardari noted that the region offered the best of its potential not only to Pakistan but to the entire world.

He said that the freedom of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan was also a reminder of the unfinished struggle of their brothers and sisters in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Pakistan exposes alleged Indian bid to recruit fisherman for spy mission

Tarar, Talal say Indian intelligence offered money to fisherman for espionage

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Saturday revealed that India's intelligence agency had attempted to recruit a Pakistani fisherman, Ijaz Mallah, for espionage activities by offering him money.

Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad, Tarar said that following the failure of India's "Operation Sindoor," the New Delhi government launched a disinformation campaign against Pakistan.



As part of those efforts, Indian intelligence operatives detained Ijaz Mallah, assigned him specific

tasks, and later sent him back to Pakistan.

Tarar said that Pakistani secu-

rity agencies became alert when they received reports that Mallah was trying to purchase uniforms of the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Rangers.

Surveillance was intensified, and he was subsequently arrested. During interrogation, Mallah confessed to all the charges, the minister added.

During the press conference, the information minister also played a video of Mallah's confessional statement, in which he recounted that he was captured by the Indian Coast Guard while fishing at sea.

He said Indian intelligence

officials offered him money to bring back Pakistani Army, Navy, and Rangers uniforms, SIM cards, Pakistani cigarettes, and currency notes — materials allegedly required by India for its "information operations".

Mallah said he sent some photographs to Indian intelligence officers, but was arrested by Pakistani security agencies when he ventured out to sea again.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said this was "India's new propaganda operation, which has now been fully exposed".

Continued on Page 7

PM praises FBR for record 5.9 mln tax filings in fiscal year 2025

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has praised the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for achieving a record 5.9 million tax return filings during the fiscal year 2025 and expressed gratitude to the nation for demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Prime Minister said that the inclusion of 900,000 new tax filers in the tax net reflects the public's growing trust in the government's economic policies. "We are deeply thankful to the people of Pakistan for their

confidence in the government's reforms," he added.

Shehbaz Sharif said that by the grace of Allah Almighty, the government's efforts to reform the tax system have begun to yield positive results. He emphasized that meritocracy has been given top priority within the FBR, introducing a performance-driven culture that rewards competent and hardworking officers while discouraging poor performance.

The Prime Minister noted that he personally supervises the digitization of the FBR by chairing weekly meetings, adding that tax return filing has been made easier and more user-friendly.



He further stated that the introduction of an automated

clearance system at ports has helped eliminate corruption

and enhance efficiency, while the expansion of the Point of Sale (POS) network has reduced sales tax evasion and curbed the informal economy.

Highlighting the success of the reforms, the Prime Minister said that a Rs 9 billion increase in tax revenue compared to the previous fiscal year stands as clear evidence of the effectiveness of the government's FBR reforms.

"The process of further reforms in the FBR system is continuing without interruption," he concluded, reaffirming the government's commitment to eradicating corruption and the informal economy.

Former Sindh CM Aftab Shaban Mirani passes away in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Former Sindh Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani passed away in Karachi after a prolonged illness.

Mirani, a senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and one of the close associates of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, had been unwell for several months.

He was shifted home from the hospital about a week ago, according to family sources.

Born in Shikarpur district, Aftab Shaban Mirani had a long political career spanning several decades. He served as Chief Minister of Sindh and later as Federal Minister for Defence.

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed deep sorrow over Mirani's passing,



describing him as "one of the senior-most and most loyal comrades of the Bhutto family."

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also offered condolences, acknowledging Mirani's lifelong commitment to the party and democracy.

According to the family, his funeral prayers will be offered tonight (Saturday) at 10:00pm at Masjid Baitul Islam in Defence Phase IV, while burial will take place at Gizri graveyard.

Torkham border reopened after 20-day closure for repatriation of Afghan refugees

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Afghanistan Torkham border has been partially reopened after a 20-day closure, officials confirmed on Saturday.

The crossing will remain open only for the repatriation of undocumented Afghan refu-

gees, while all trade and regular cross-border movement will stay suspended.

According to Khyber Deputy Commissioner Bilal Shahid, the border was reopened to facilitate the deportation of illegal Afghan residents from Pakistan.

Hundreds of Afghan nationals are currently undergoing immi-



gration processing at the Torkham centre, where officials are completing necessary documentation before allowing them to cross into Afghanistan.

"The border crossing will remain closed for trade and pedestrian movement until further orders," Deputy Commissioner Shahid said.

Lepa Valley development projects lagging, Shaukat Mir demands action from local government

 **Bureau Report**

LEPA VALLEY: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information Candidate Assembly Constituency 7 Shaukat Javed Mir has urged the Local Government Department to make progress in development projects. He announced the publication of a white paper against violations and biased distribution of funds. Speaking to media after the meeting, Shaukat Javed Mir said that the office of All Government Departments office space of 50 beds near Berthwar Guli Lepa Bypass has been renovated. Execution of debts Lack of advanced facilities including universities in educational institutions Lack of availability of doctors and paramedical staff At the same time, the machinery crew did not



miss the government on the legitimate demands of Mamorgi. In response, they said that army Pakistan national honor peace and security curtain four walls

protection country recognition national dignity is also a symbol of national dignity and guarantee of field marshal Hafiz Ko Syed Asman Manir's leadership Paki-

stan has been celebrating four months across the world and the Pakistani Kashmiri nation has become proud of Kashmir President Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, Banana Education Employment Provision of health and infrastructure Lifeline raise the standard of living of the people Develop mental capacities of youth and develop positive behavioral activities Commanding Officer Chenar Division Commanding Officer Lipa Guards Brigadier Aamir Farid Khan and other teams are grateful for the day. And it is a cruel step to not exaggerate in any way with the middle households. I will talk to the party leadership and chairperson Ms. Rubina Khalid. Regardless of the border situation, all families there should join the income support program without allocation.

Traffic Jam

LAHORE: A view of the massive traffic jam at High Court Chowk due to the hustle bustle of lawyers because of election day Punjab Bar, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

RPO Multan Awarded Certificates of Appreciation and Cash Prizes to Police Officers who Showed Excellent Performance

 **Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Multan Captain (R) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry appreciated the services of police officers and awarded them with certificates of appreciation and cash prizes. The ceremony was held at the Regional Police Office Multan in which officers from different departments participated.

Speaking on the occasion, RPO Multan said that there is no dearth of capable, hard-working and dutiful officers



in the police force, who are carrying out their duties in a

good manner and bringing glory to the name of the department. He said that such officers are a valuable asset of the police department, thanks to whom the morale of the police is high and the trust of the public is further strengthened.

The officers who were awarded certificates of appreciation on this occasion included Assistant Sub-Inspector Shiraz Hussain, Adnan Maqbool, Head Constables Kashif Adeel, Khalid Hussain, Imdad Hussain, Nasir Hussain and

Constable Abdul Rauf.

The RPO Multan further said that to further improve the performance of the police force, the incentive and reward system will be further promoted so that the spirit of service to the people is further developed among the officers.

At the end of the ceremony, the RPO Multan congratulated all the officers and expressed the hope that they would continue to perform their duties with the same spirit and dedication in the future as well.

Condolence



 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

RAWALPINDI: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan Condoled to former President of Azad Kashmir Haji Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan on the death of his elder brother Sardar Hanif Khan in Rawalpindi. Fatiha was offered and expressed grief sorrow over the sad demise of his brother's death.

Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Raja Pervaz Ashraf, President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Sardar Mehtab Khan, Chief Editor of Daily Ausaf were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has also Condoled Muslim Conference President Rawalakot City Sardar Nawaz Hayat Khan mother expressing that May Allah forgive the deceased and grant patience to the family.

CTD Punjab arrested 18 terrorists in October

 **Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Punjab province has foiled a major Terrorist plan by arresting 18 Terrorists belonging to a banned organization in a month during operations in different areas of Punjab.

According to the spokesperson, CTD Punjab conducted 386 intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of Terrorism, in which 386 suspects were questioned and 18 Terrorists were arrested along with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

The arrested Terrorists are Muhammad Karim, Ali Raza, Muhammad Aziz, Muhammad Ali. Hashim, Noorul Amin Saleem and Saddam etc. These arrested terrorists belong to Fitna-ul-Kharji and other terrorist organizations. The arrested terrorists are from Lahore, Mandi, Bahauddin, Khushab, Bahawalpur, Toba, Tek Singh, Gujranwala, Narowal and Pakpattan. Explosives 3020 grams, Detonators 14, Safety fuse wire 33 feet, EID bombs 3. Pamphlets of the banned organization 151, Magazines. Prima cards. Mobile phones and cash

Have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists. The Counter Terrorism Department Punjab is diligently pursuing its goal of a safe Punjab and will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to bring terrorists and anti-state elements behind bars he said



Ziauddin University Hosts the 2nd National PPIE Summit 2025 “Awaz se Aaghaz”

 **News Desk**

KARACHI: The Critical Care Research Group at Ziauddin University, in collaboration with the International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC), organized the 2nd National Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Summit 2025, titled “Awaz se Aaghaz.”

The summit aimed to strengthen the culture of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) in health research by fostering collaboration, dialogue, and knowledge sharing among researchers, institutions, and community representatives. It sought to promote awareness, showcase best practices, encourage collaboration, and build capacity for sustainable and inclusive health research across the country.

While delivering the keynote address, Dr. Baber Saeed Khan, Director of the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) and Founder of the ACRP Ambassadors Club Pakistan, laid a powerful vision for a patient-centric revolution in Pakistan's healthcare research.

Highlighting both the ethical imperative and practical necessity of this approach, Dr. Babar further elaborated, “This means moving beyond the traditional model where patients are passive subjects, to one where they are active partners and co-architects in the research process. Their lived experiences are not just data points, but essential insights that can steer scientific inquiry towards more meaningful and sustainable solutions.

Speaking on the purpose and vision of the initiative, Prof. Dr. Madiha Hashmi, Chair of Critical Care Medicine at Ziauddin University, articulated a clear and powerful mission. She stated, “The core objective of this summit is unequivocal: to position the patient's voice as the fundamental compass for all national health research.

Adding to the strategic momentum, Prof. Dr. Nikhat Siddiqui, Active PPIE member and former Dean of Research at Ziauddin Universityl shared her visionary perspective.

Representing the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Mr. Hanifullah, Deputy Director emphasized the importance of ethical governance and public participation in shaping national health policies. He remarked, “Meaningful engagement between regulators, researchers, and patients strengthens our ability to deliver research that is both scientifically sound and socially responsive. DRAP stands committed to promoting inclusive frameworks that uphold patient safety and public trust.”

Among the distinguished international speakers were Mr. Richard Stephens, Patient Advocate (UK) and Co-Editor-in-Chief of Research Involvement and Engagement, and Professor Phaik Yeong Cheah, Professor of Global Health and Bioethics at the University of Oxford and Head of Bioethics & Engagement at the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Thailand.

Jammu’s Forgotten Genocide: How 1947 Still Haunts Kashmir Today

 **News Desk**

In November 1947, an estimated half a million Muslims were killed in Jammu — victims of a state-sponsored genocide designed to change the region's demographic character. Nearly eight decades later, Kashmir faces eerily similar threats under India's new policies. The world must act before history repeats itself.

On November 6, 1947, the plains of Jammu were drenched in the blood of its own people.

Tens of thousands of Muslim men, women, and children — unarmed, displaced, and desperate — were slaughtered while fleeing their homes. What unfolded was not chaos, not communal frenzy, but a meticulously planned genocide.

Its goal was chillingly clear: to erase

Jammu's Muslim majority and reshape the political future of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

At the time of Partition, Jammu and Kashmir was a Muslim-majority state ruled by a Hindu monarch, Maharaja Hari Singh, who feared losing his power if the state joined Pakistan.

In alliance with extremist organizations like the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha, and aided by sections of the Dogra army, a campaign of ethnic cleansing was unleashed between September and November 1947.

Villages were torched, mosques desecrated, and entire Muslim populations disarmed. Under the pretext of “safe passage” to Pakistan, thousands were assembled in convoys — only to be ambushed and massacred en route.

Thousands gathered at Jammu's fort and railway station that morning, believing the promise of safety. But as

their convoys moved out, Dogra troops and RSS militias surrounded them.

Gunfire and swords tore through the crowd. The Tawi River ran red with blood.

The Times (London) reported on August 10, 1948:

The massacre of Muslims in Jammu was carried out as part of a state-organized plan to alter the demographic character of the region and eliminate pro-Pakistan sentiment

Historians estimate that 200,000 to 500,000 Muslims were killed, while up to a million were forced to migrate to Pakistan. Thousands of women were abducted; entire villages were erased.

Before the massacre, Muslims made up 61% of Jammu's population (Census 1941).

By 1951, their share had dropped to 33% — a drastic demographic shift achieved through deliberate violence.

This was not a riot; it was demographic engineering — the systematic use of terror to change the population map of an entire region.

By every measure of international law, the Jammu massacre constitutes genocide, as defined by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

And yet, it remains largely absent from the global conscience — ignored by history books, unacknowledged by the United Nations, and silenced by geopolitical convenience.

For the survivors, the pain was not only in the loss of life, but in the denial of memory. Their stories were buried under the weight of politics, their wounds left open and unhealed.

Seventy-eight years later, the same forces of demographic manipulation are at work again — this time through laws, bureaucracy, and constitutional changes.

Since August 5, 2019, when the Modi government revoked Article 370 and 35A, Kashmir's autonomy has been dismantled.

Tens of thousands of outsiders have been granted domicile rights; land laws have been rewritten; and political constituencies redrawn to dilute Muslim representation.

Human rights organizations and UN experts have warned that India's current approach could amount to a “Demographic Conquest” — a bureaucratic continuation of the 1947 project.

Where the Dogra sword once ruled, the Indian pen now redraws the map.

The world's silence in 1947 enabled a genocide. Its silence today may enable another.

If the international community truly believes in the universality of human rights, then it must act now:

Establish an independent UN

fact-finding mission on the Jammu massacre and the current demographic changes in Kashmir.

Demand international accountability for crimes against humanity and violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Protect Kashmir's indigenous identity and ensure that demographic engineering is not rewarded with political legitimacy.

The martyrs of Jammu did not die in vain. Their blood became the ink that wrote Kashmir's story of resistance.

Each year, November 6 is commemorated as Martyrs' Day of Jammu — not just to mourn the past, but to remind the world of an unfulfilled moral debt.

As Kashmir stands once again at a crossroads, the lessons of 1947 could not be more urgent.

History is watching — and this time, it must not be allowed to repeat itself.

Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES	
Namaz Timings	
Fajr	5:02 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	3:37 pm
Maghrib	5:16 pm
Isha	6:40 pm

EMERGENCY	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

ENQUIRY	
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS	
CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS	
Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Unqualified Doctor’s Clinic Sealed in Kamalia

✉ Zafar Chisht

TOBA TEK SINGH: The clinic of an unqualified doctor was sealed after a surprise raid conducted by Deputy District Officer Health (DDOH) Kamalia, Dr. Asim Ijaz, in Mohalla Islam Pura. According to official details, Dr. Asim Ijaz inspected the credentials of the so-called doctor, identified as Muhammad Shafiq Chishti, who was found operating a clinic without the required qualifications. During verification, it was revealed that he only possessed a DHMS (Homeopathic) degree and did not hold an MBBS degree, which is mandatory for practicing allopathic (English) medicine. The DDOH further stated that despite being a homeopathic diploma holder, the accused doctor was illegally treating patients with allopathic medicines, which is a serious offense and poses grave risks to human lives. A stock of allopathic medicines was recovered from the clinic during the raid. Subsequently, the DDOH, Dr. Asim Ijaz, ordered the clinic to be sealed on the spot. Talking to the media, Dr. Asim Ijaz emphasized that such unqualified practitioners are not entitled to any leniency as they directly endanger public health. He reaffirmed that strict action will continue against all unqualified doctors operating in the area.

Curtain Raiser of Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 held at Karachi

✉ Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Curtain Raiser ceremony of Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 (PIMEC 25) was held at Karachi Expo Centre. Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi briefed the media regarding the forthcoming event. Addressing the media, Commander Karachi apprised that the second edition of PIMEC will be held from 3 to 6 Nov 25 at Karachi Expo Centre. He highlighted that PIMEC 25 holds significance in advancing Pakistan’s Blue Economy roadmap and the event will witness representation from almost every region of the world. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi further informed that 178 exhibitors from across the globe, including 28 international firms and 150 local organizations, will participate in the exhibition. Moreover, 133 international delegations from Europe, Asia, North America, South America and the Far East including representatives from 44 countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Iran, Turkiye, KSA, Australia, Egypt and China, will also attend the event. He highlighted that in addition

to local exhibitors PIMEC 25 will also feature pavilions by the Governments of Sindh and Balochistan, showcasing potential and investment opportunities in the country’s maritime sector. Commander Karachi also acknowledged the media’s valuable role and expressed confidence in their support for the forthcoming event. PIMEC 25 will encompass a wide-ranging maritime exhibition, business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) meetings, signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), and media interactions. These high-level engagements among foreign delegates, senior government officials, and maritime stakeholders are aimed at fostering collaboration and building partnerships across key maritime sectors including ports, shipping, fisheries, and coastal development. Running concurrently with the exhibition, the International Maritime Conference (IMC), a two-day event scheduled from 4 to 5 Nov 25, will be organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA). The conference, themed “Harnessing Blue Economy Potential for Sustainable



Development,” will feature 14 papers presented by distinguished national and international scholars and professionals in four sessions. The briefing was attended by Pakistan Navy Officers and media representatives.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Ms . Nicole Guihot DCM Australian High Commission along with Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan Ladislav Steinhubel and others cut the ribbon to inaugurate “Crafts Festival” at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Islamabad Model College Holds Formal Investiture Ceremony for Student Council

✉ City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A graceful investiture ceremony of Islamabad model college for girls G10/2 was held in College Auditorium. Renowned educationist Prof Shaheen Mubashir was the chief guest while Principal Ms. Saddat Begum presided the ceremony.

The chief guest Sashes about 170 council members of different categories, i.e., Pro-



tors, Monitors, Members of Clean & Green Society, Civic Society and Water Management.

The Chief Guest then takes oath from, Dua Qamar, President Azka Ahmad, Vice President Safia Anwar Treasurer,

Bushra Fatima General Secretary, Mahnoor Khan Head Girl Morning Shift Senior Section Mahnoor Fazal, Deputy Head Girl Senior Section, Morning Shift Samavia Asad, Head Girl Senior Section Evening Shift, Mayra Shahid Deputy Head Girl Senior Section Evening Shift Zoha Hassan, Head Girl Junior Section Emaan Aqeel Deputy Head Girl Junior Section took their oath for the next one year.

Negative Perceptions About Dengue Response Are Unjustified: Dr. Poonam Jatoi

✉ Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The AMS and Focal Person for Dengue at Civil Hospital Hyderabad, Dr. Poonam Jatoi, has stated that while dengue has indeed emerged as an epidemic, it is completely incorrect and unfair to suggest that the Health Department has taken no action. In her official statement, Dr. Jatoi said that despite limited capacity, all public hospitals in Hyderabad and across Sindh continue to provide full medical services to patients. All preventive, treatment, and awareness measures have been implemented, and doctors along with paramedical staff are working round the clock.



“There is no denying the outbreak,” she said, “but with proper treatment, cleanliness, and preventive care, the situation can be controlled. Doctors

and staff are human too — instead of targeting them, their dedication should be acknowledged, as they are serving on the front lines.” Dr. Jatoi added that despite limited resources, the Sindh Government, district administration, and Health Department have jointly brought the situation under significant control. Hundreds of dengue patients are being treated daily at Civil Hospital Hyderabad, and no patient has been refused treatment. “At times when beds fall short, treatment is continued even in the corridors — because our priority is to provide care to every patient, not to turn them away,” she clarified.

Journalist Blocked at Bar Council Polls Sparks Outcry in Attock

✉ Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In the Punjab Bar Council elections for the Attock seat, a tough contest was witnessed among three candidates. The polling process continued from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. without any break. At the entry gate of the District Bar, Sub-Inspector Muhammad Rafiq misbehaved with journalists, which led to strong protests by the journalist community. According to details, the polling for the Punjab Bar Council elections 2025–30 was held at the District Bar Attock. Polling took place in Attock, Hasan Abdal, Jand, Pindigheb, and Fateh Jang. Three candidates contested for the single Punjab Bar Council seat from Attock district, Rizwana Raja, former President, District Bar Attock, Faisal Bukhari and Sardar Tauseef. A total of 1,128 lawyer members exercised their right to vote through ballot papers. The polling continued without any break until 5:30 p.m. Strict security arrangements were made at the District Courts on the occasion of the election. Media coverage was restricted, and journalists were not allowed access to the polling booths. Out of 1,128 total voters in the district, 667 votes were cast from Tehsil Attock. Additional Sessions Judge Nadeem Sohail served as the Presiding Officer, while Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Asif performed duties as the Returning Officer. Each tehsil had a separate presiding officer appointed. Road accident between customs vehicle and motorcycle near Custom House Karachi: Two officials suspended

✉ Commerce Desk

KARACHI: An incident occurred outside Custom House Karachi on 31st October 2025 following a minor road accident between a Customs vehicle and a motorcycle. During the dispute, some local residents physically assaulted Customs staff, upon which Customs personnel also reacted, resulting in a scuffle that was promptly contained. Two officials, Driver Zahoor and Sepoy Yaseen have been placed under suspension pending a formal inquiry under departmental procedures. While the incident was personal in nature and unrelated to any official duty, the conduct of the concerned staff has been deemed unprofessional and is being addressed accordingly. FBR reaffirms its commitment to professionalism, transparency, and accountability in all circumstances.

WWF-Pak, SDPI Calls for Fairness, Protection of Environmental Defenders

✉ City Desk

ISLAMABAD: WWF expresses concern at the recent FIR against the former Chairperson of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) and the actions taken to cast doubt on her integrity. As an organization dedicated to protecting Pakistan’s natural heritage, WWF-Pakistan urges that environmental institutions and those serving them should be supported for fulfilling their legal and conservation mandates. We firmly believe that the protection and conservation of Pakistan’s environment and biodiversity must remain above political, institutional, or personal biases, and urge that all proceedings in this matter be conducted with impartiality and transparency and in accordance with due process. Meanwhile, the chairperson of SDPI Board of Governors condemned the cases against two IWMB Board members, saying that publishing posters against them, attacks on their homes and now an FIA enquiry and FIR are the worst kind of victimization. Dry weather forecast for city LAHORE, NOV 01 (APP): The weather in the city remained dry on Saturday, and similar conditions are likely to continue on Sunday. The MET officials said that continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. They predicted dry weather across much of the country, with cold conditions in hilly areas during the morning and night hours. The officials further warned that districts of Punjab were likely to remain under the influence of smog due to persistent dry weather and atmospheric pollution. The public was advised to take precautionary measures.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor:
Vice Chairman:
Editor:
Head Editorial Advisory Board:
Bureau Chief Karachi:

Almass Ayoub Sabir
Asim Nazir Ahmad
Naveed Ahmad Khan
Amjad Mehmood
Khurram Jaffrani
(jaffrani@adpluse.pk)

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Head Office:

AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone: +92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office:

A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office:

7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

ECP suggests amendment to LG Act

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday recommended an amendment to clause III of Article 140-A of the Constitution. Under the proposed amendment, the changes in the Local Government Act will only be possible one year before the end of the term.

The new amendment also proposed the addition of Section 140-A of the Constitution, and it would be made mandatory to hold elections within 120 days after the end of the local governments term.

It suggests no amendment will be made to scheduled elections after the end of the term.

On Friday, the Punjab Assembly had forwarded to the federal government a resolution, passed by the provincial legislature, proposing an amendment to Article 140-A of the Constitution to provide constitutional protection to local governments.

The resolution not only suggests amending Article 140-A but also includes a binding provision for holding local government elections within 90 days of the dissolution of councils.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Punjab Assembly and was jointly presented by MPAs Ahmad Iqbal and Ali Haider Gilani.

The text of the resolution recommends inserting a new constitutional chapter dedicated to local governments, clearly defining their tenure, responsibilities, and structure.

It further proposes that elected representatives must convene their first session within 21 days of taking office.

The resolution also highlights that, following the 18th Constitutional Amendment, elected local bodies in Punjab functioned for only two years.

It emphasises that the establishment of empowered and well-resourced local governments is essential for effective governance and democracy.

Copies of the resolution have been sent to the Secretaries of the National Assembly and the Senate.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said that local governments must be granted constitutional protection.

He noted that the proposed 27th Amendment pertains to local bodies and urged Parliament to take it up immediately.

He criticised past governments for abolishing local government laws and stressed that every ruling party, regardless of affiliation, must safeguard local governance institutions. "Article 140-A clearly states that provincial governments are bound to establish local governments," the Speaker said.

New Turning Point of the Global Economy: Growth Under Political Pressure

The global economy today stands at a complex and fragile crossroads. On the surface, a sense of financial and economic steadiness seems to prevail, yet beneath that veneer lies a structure weakened by internal imbalances and geopolitical turbulence. Growth is slowing, financial systems are tightening, trade flows are fragmenting, and international politics are redefining themselves along new, uncertain lines.

According to the latest IMF projections, global growth is expected to remain around 3.2 percent in 2025, slowing slightly to 3.1 percent in 2026. While the numbers appear stable, they conceal a deeper stagnation. The world economy has not regained the vitality it enjoyed before the pandemic or during the expansionary cycles of the previous decade. Financial stability reports have warned that asset valuations have reached unsustainable levels, global debt is rising sharply, bond markets are under stress, and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) are assuming a larger and riskier role in the financial ecosystem.

Trade, too, reflects a cautious recovery. The World Trade Organization (WTO) projects global merchandise trade volume to grow by 2.4 percent in 2025, but to fall dramatically to 0.5 percent the following year. Much of this limited growth stems from front-loaded orders and heavy investments in AI-related infrastructure rather than organic demand. Looming ahead are policy inconsistencies, trade barriers, sluggish investment, and supply chain disruptions all factors that could restrict international commerce and compound existing vulnerabilities.

Meanwhile, social and commercial dynamics are shifting. Consumer and

business confidence is weakening across Western economies where aging populations, sluggish productivity, political polarization, and growing protectionism are dampening momentum. Developing economies have benefited somewhat from a weaker dollar, yet remain exposed to the hazards of external debt, currency volatility, and reliance on foreign investment. Although global markets exhibit temporary resilience, economists warn that such strength is largely superficial an illusion that may crumble under a major financial shock.

The political and diplomatic backdrop is no less unsettling. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) lists 2025 as a year of "high-likelihood and high-impact" conflicts across several fronts: the Middle East, the Europe-Russia corridor, and the Indo-Pacific. The instability in Gaza, the ongoing Ukraine war, and the rising tensions over the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait have made the geopolitical landscape increasingly volatile. Confidence in global institutions has waned as well. The United Nations, long viewed as the custodian of peace and human rights, now faces criticism for its diminishing effectiveness and eroding moral authority.

Economics and geopolitics are now more intertwined than ever. A shift in U. S. immigration, trade, or taxation policy, for instance, could ripple across global labor markets, investment flows, and migration trends. The IMF has warned that stricter U. S. immigration controls alone could trim GDP growth by 0.3

to 0.7 percent, illustrating how deeply political decisions can influence economic outcomes.

From these developments emerge two unmistakable lessons. First, the structural weaknesses within the global economy have not disappeared; they have merely evolved. Second, resilience remains fragile and conditional. Growth continues, but its quality is deteriorating. Without transparent policy frameworks, fiscal discipline, and coordinated oversight, both economic and social strains could deepen. Rising national debts, uneven financial supervision, and intensifying trade frictions are all feeding into a cycle of

instability.

Looking ahead, several risks and opportunities define the path forward. If international cooperation remains weak, protectionist impulses could harden, fracturing supply chains and hurting developing nations most. The risk of financial contagion also looms large an unexpected shock in bond or currency markets could disrupt global liquidity and test the limits of institutional coordination. Strengthening collaboration among central banks, regulators, and multilateral bodies has thus become a global imperative.

Equally vital is the alignment of domestic and foreign policy. Short-term, populist measures may soothe political anxieties, but they cannot sustain long-term growth. Instead, nations must pursue deep structural reforms enhancing productivity, tackling demographic challenges, modernizing labor markets, and integrating advanced tech-

nology and artificial intelligence into their economic frameworks. Sustainable progress depends on institutional trust, inclusive policymaking, and social balance.

Yet, one must also acknowledge the growing risk of social unrest. When economic slowdown coincides with rising inequality, job scarcity, and political disillusionment, frustration often erupts into protest and instability. Such unrest not only undermines domestic governance but also complicates external diplomatic relations, particularly in already polarized regions.

Ultimately, the global economy today walks a narrow and precarious path. Its direction may appear steady, but its footing remains uncertain. The world's economic performance is not entirely discouraging, but its pace has slowed markedly. Trade and finance have shown brief stability, yet their foundations are fragile. Political transitions are accelerating, but institutional responses lag dangerously behind.

Unless governments, international organizations, and civil societies act collectively developing coherent, long-term strategies that balance economic, social, and political dimensions the world may well enter an era defined by slow growth, divided trade blocs, volatile financial markets, and intensified geopolitical rivalries.

At this turning point, the task before global leadership is clear: to move beyond identifying problems and begin constructing solutions solutions rooted in cooperation, transparency, and shared responsibility. Only through such a collective vision can the global economy regain its lost momentum and navigate safely through the uncertain years ahead.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Imran Khan and Terrorism in KPK - II

Many political analysts and security commentators view this alleged political maneuvering as a grievous betrayal, especially coming from a political figure who consistently presents himself as a steadfast patriot and repeatedly claims to uphold the nation's supreme interests. The core argument against this alleged policy is that by actively opposing forceful, decisive responses to terrorism, and by stubbornly preferring dialogue even in the face of ongoing, brutal violence, Khan is effectively turning his back on both innocent civilians and the dedicated soldiers and police officers who risk their lives daily defending the nation against these attacks. For the many people who have suffered the unimaginable loss of loved ones in KPK due to militant violence, or whose entire livelihoods have been fundamentally disrupted, the notion that their political leadership would intentionally slow or prevent necessary operations specifically aimed at protecting them feels profoundly immoral and utterly unacceptable.

Further intensifying the public emotion surrounding this issue is the repeated reference to Afghan refugees in the accusations. Pakistan has generously hosted a massive population of Afghan refugees for decades, and while the overwhelming majority are ordinary civilians seeking safety and refuge, some reports have alleged the isolated involvement of a small number of refugees or external actors in militant activity. Critics aggressively assert that Imran Khan has reportedly opposed their orderly repatriation even when objective security conditions in Afghanistan have reportedly improved, and that by doing so, he is intentionally allowing an additional, potential security burden to persist within the nation. A significant portion of the public views this policy as

yet another example of a political leader placing political optics or the image of his party above genuine national welfare and security.

What many people across the nation find most deeply galling is the perceived and dramatic contradiction between Imran Khan's rhetoric and his alleged actions: he frequently invokes lofty ideals like "Riasat-e Madina," an aspirational Islamic concept of governance explicitly premised on justice, protection, and deep care for the vulnerable. Yet, critics claim he is fundamentally neglecting those very ideals when he appears to systematically deprioritize the protection of life and state security in favor of protracted political negotiation or short-sighted appeasement. For many, the recent claims regarding the alleged removal of Gandapur, the appointment of a more compliant Chief Minister, and the active opposition to decisive operations are not merely conventional political disagreements but represent a deeply felt moral and existential crisis—because when the state fundamentally does not act forcefully and decisively against proven threats, innocent lives are tragically lost, public trust deeply frays, and the very legitimacy of the state itself is severely undermined.

The situation of terrorism, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), is extremely alarming. In a recent press briefing, the Director General of ISPR presented a summary of counter-terrorism operations carried out in the province. He stated that in 2024 alone, a total of 799 terrorists were eliminated, averaging one every 2.1 days. However, this came at a heavy cost, as 577 Pakistanis were martyred, including 272 army personnel, 140 policemen, and 165 innocent civilians. In 2025 so far, 10,115 intelligence-based operations have been conducted, with approximately 40% of these in KPK. As a result, 917 terrorists have been killed — aver-

aging one every 3.5 days — while 516 lives have been lost, including 311 soldiers, 173 policemen, and 32 civilians. These figures clearly reflect the severity of the situation in KPK. In such a context, if anyone still suggests negotiating with terrorists, their loyalty to the country naturally comes into question.

In the current public sentiment, a noticeable shift appears to be underway. A growing number of citizens, political analysts, and influential civil society actors are increasingly articulating the view that the appropriate moment for talking has decisively passed: they believe the current, escalating trajectory of violence now demands firm, unified, and decisive action. For these voices, Islam's true, authentic teachings are demonstrably not served by postponing necessary protective operations or by deliberately delaying justice — because Islam, they argue compellingly, demands both the uncompromising protection of the innocent and absolute accountability for all wrongdoers. Thus, people are currently demanding not merely rhetorical declarations or social media posts, but concrete, actual policy implementations—including strategic arrests, decisive law enforcement, robust military operations, seamless intelligence cooperation, and thorough judicial follow-through — all carried out under a framework of both moral and constitutional accountability. In their resolute view, this critical issue is no longer just conventional politics, but a fundamental matter of survival for the Pakistani state and its people.

The complex tapestry of alleged actions by Imran Khan has demonstrably generated deep disappointment and a sense of betrayal across the nation, especially from a figure of his stature as a former Prime Minister of Pakistan. There is a palpable demand from both the populace and political analysts for the government to take strict and decisive actions against what are being viewed as anti-state activities or political maneuvers that consciously undermine national security.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Algerian embassy celebrates 71st National Day in Islamabad with renewed pledge for stronger ties

✉ Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in Pakistan hosted a grand reception on Friday to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, marking the historic Glorious Revolution of November 1, 1954.

The event was attended by Chief Guest Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, along with ambassadors, senior government officials, diplomats, parliamentarians, and members of the business community. A ceremonial cake-cutting ceremony added a festive spirit to the evening.

Addressing the gathering, Haroon Akhtar Khan said Pakistan remains an open, reliable, and rewarding destination for international investors. He noted that the government is working to develop a robust regulatory and industrial framework that encourages sustainable growth, safeguards partnerships, and empowers investors to take part in the nation's economic progress.

He expressed optimism that Pakistan and Algeria could strengthen their cooperation in industry, innovation, and sustainable development. Extending warm felicitations to the Algerian government and people, he conveyed Pakistan's best wishes for continued peace and prosperity. "May the bonds between Pakistan and Algeria grow even stronger, guided by shared values and a common vision for a better future," he stated.

In his remarks, Ambassador of Algeria Dr. Brahim Romani praised the historic friendship between Algeria and Pakistan, recalling Pakistan's unwavering support for Algeria's independence movement during the 1955 Bandung Conference and later at the United Nations. He emphasized that Algeria continues to value this support



as a symbol of solidarity and brotherhood.

Dr. Romani highlighted the countries' shared commitments to multilateralism and their collective advocacy for global justice, particularly the causes of Palestine and Western Sahara. He added that Algeria and Pakistan continue to coordinate closely at regional and international forums, including the UN Security Council.

The ambassador described Algeria as a nation of growing strategic importance, being the largest country in Africa and the Arab world, and serving as a link between Africa, Europe, and

Asia. Under the leadership of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, he noted, Algeria is witnessing robust modernization and economic growth, with a GDP of \$270 billion in 2024 and projections to reach \$400 billion by 2027.

He further said Algeria has emerged as a major industrial and energy hub, producing 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually, while over 17,000 new investment projects have been initiated under the country's reformed investment law, equally benefiting local and foreign investors. With more than 10,000 active start-ups, Algeria now leads Africa's innovation and entrepre-



neurial landscape.

Referring to the success of the Intra-African Trade Fair hosted by Algeria in September with participation from 132 countries and trade agreements amounting to \$48.3 billion, the ambassador said the event underscored Algeria's growing role as a regional center for commerce and economic integration.

Inviting Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in energy, mining, agriculture, and manufacturing, Dr. Romani reaffirmed Algeria's readiness to strengthen bilateral economic relations under Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy. "Algeria stands ready to expand cooperation with Pakistan and open new avenues of collaboration across the public and private sectors," he added.

The reception concluded in a spirit of friendship and goodwill, reflecting



the enduring ties of mutual respect and partnership between Pakistan and Algeria. As both nations look toward the future, the event reaffirmed their shared

commitment to advancing cooperation for regional stability, economic development, and collective prosperity.

✉ Photos Sultan Bashir Online

International force in Gaza needs UN mandate – top envoys

A coalition of mainly Arab and Muslim nations is expected to deploy forces in the Palestinian territory under US-brokered ceasefire

The so-called international stabilization force is supposed to train and support vetted Palestinian police in the Strip

MANAMA: Jordan and Germany said on Saturday that an international force expected to support a future Palestinian police in Gaza under US President Donald Trump's post-war governance plan should have a UN mandate.

Under the US-brokered ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, a coalition of mainly Arab and Muslim nations is expected to deploy forces in the Palestinian territory, which has been devastated by the war that broke out on October 7, 2023 with Hamas's attack on Israel.

The so-called international stabilization force is supposed to train and support vetted

Palestinian police in the Strip, with backing from Egypt and Jordan, as well as secure border areas and prevent weapons smuggling to Hamas.

"We all agree that in order for that stabilization force to be able to be effective in getting the job done, it has to have a Security Council mandate," Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said.

Jordan, however, will not be sending its own forces to the Strip.

"We're too close to the issue and we cannot deploy troops in Gaza," Safadi said, adding his country was nonetheless ready to cooperate with the international force.

Safadi was speaking at the IISS Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain alongside his German counterpart Johann Wadephul, who also supported a UN mandate for the

force, saying it would "need a clear basis in international law."

"We understand that this is of utmost importance to those countries who might be willing to send troops to Gaza and for the Palestinians. Germany would also want to see a clear mandate for this mission," Wadephul said.

The idea of the stabilization force has drawn some criticism, with UN experts last month warning it would "replace Israeli occupation with a US-led occupation, contrary to Palestinian self-determination."

The UN has mandated international peacekeeping forces in the region for decades, including UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, which is currently working with the Lebanese army to enforce a November 2024 ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel.

Deeper trade and investments between Pakistan and Malaysia

Dear Editor, I would like to write about the article recently published in The Daily The Spokesman, "Pakistan. Malaysia eye stronger economic links ahead of Shehbaz's visit in October" (Sept 4, 2025). This article highlights the promise of deeper trade and investments between Pakistan and Malaysia. "https://dailyspokesman.net/live/pakistan-malaysia-eye-stronger-economic-links-ahead-of-shehbazs-visit-in-october/"

Yet, such diplomatic wins only matter if they create real opportunities for ordinary citizens of Pakistan.

To translate these agreements into concrete poverty reduction results, Pakistan's negotiating team should insist on people centred measures: target support for small and medium businesses, arrange joint vocational and technical training programs for youth, accord easier access to finance for local companies, and enforce labour protection measures. These steps will make foreign investments into a source of sustainable jobs rather than making them an abstract headline.

Alongside these national efforts international efforts like the United States Foreign Affairs

Budget can help fund developmental programs that reduce poverty and help in economic growth. The Borgen Project advocates for such initiatives that not only uplift communities abroad but also strengthen global stability and cooperation.

If our leaders pair stronger economic links with clear commitments to skills transfer and broader growth, the benefits of diplomacy will reach communities across the country, helping reduce poverty and build long-term stability.

Sidra Tahir Journalist, The Borgen Project, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif meets German Parliamentarian Derya Türk-Nachbaur

✉ Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif warmly welcomed and met German Parliament Member Derya Türk-Nachbaur for a detailed discussion on matters relating to bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation, women empowerment, education, youth exchanges, environment and clean energy. She thanked Germany for its solidarity during recent floods, and said, "It is an honor for me to welcome our distinguished guests from Germany in Lahore, the historical and cultural heart

of Punjab." She also congratulated Germany's Friedrich Ebert Foundation on its 100th anniversary, and appreciated its 35 years of service in Pakistan.

Chief Minister Punjab said that Friedrich Ebert Foundation has played a significant role in promoting democracy, social justice and mutual dialogue in Pakistan and Germany. She added that expression of sympathy and solidarity during recent floods is a reflection of long-standing Pak-German friendship. She highlighted, "Pakistan and Germany believe in democracy, tolerance and parliamentary governance, which are

basis of peace, progress and prosperity."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif acknowledged that it was a pleasure to meet German parliamentarian Derya Türk-Nachbaur, as her work is a wonderful example of inclusive policy-making, gender equality and promotion of human rights. She proposed to organize training workshops on democratic governance for legislators, young leaders and women assembly members under Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and said that an exchange of Punjab and German parliamentarians would provide an opportunity to learn from

German model of federal cooperation and local autonomy. She added that parliamentary cooperation is a bridge of public trust and mutual understanding that strengthens Pak-German relations. She noted that Germany has been a reliable development partner of Pakistan since 1990, as its cooperation has played a significant role in promoting environment, training, energy, health and economic empowerment of women in Punjab.

Chief Minister Punjab expressed a desire to adopt Germany's dual vocational training model to increase employability of youth. She said

that the growth of Pakistan-Germany bilateral trade to US\$ 3.6 billion in 2024 was a good sign. She added that Punjab welcomes further German investment in renewable energy, agricultural technology, IT services and clean manufacturing sectors. She underscored that education is a key pillar of Punjab government's reform agenda, as we are working on curriculum innovation, digital learning and promoting global research linkages, as currently, more than 10,000 Pakistani students are studying in German universities. She highlighted that women empowerment is a central component of Punjab's



social policy, as E-bike scheme, Honhar scholarship program and women's enclaves are ensuring safe and dignified economic participation of women.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that Punjab's historical architectural sites like Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Shalamar Garden and Data Darbar are symbols of shared cultural capital. She noted that

cultural cooperation is an effective tool of diplomacy, therefore, we welcome joint art and culture projects with German institutions. She added that Pakistan and Germany share common values of peace, progress and human dignity, and we are determined to further strengthen Pak-German friendship through parliamentary ties, sustainable development and cooperation.

Mobilize Civil Society to Globalize Kashmir: Mowahid Hussain Shah

✉ Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Presented herewith are the core points on Kashmir of Mowahid Hussain Shah during his keynote address on Kashmir in the greater Washington area, to mark the Black Day when, on October 27, 1947, India forcibly and illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the first time.

Mowahid identified 3 key points: (1) challenges; (2) what India wants; and (3) pathway forward and what Pakistan needs to do. Among challenges, Mowahid highlighted the obstacles of apathy, insufficient seriousness of commitment, defeatist attitude, and timidity. This is

more so among the educated young. Some of this, whether in Pakistan or in the diaspora, the youth have picked up from among elders who do not realize that over-cautious attitudes can be contagious and can paralyze much-needed action. Also, the dysfunctionality of the Pakistan political system has hampered setting up a coherent strategy on Kashmir.

Number 2, what are Indian priorities on Kashmir? Their objective is to localize Kashmir and try to make it globally irrelevant as one of other issues. The mission should be to globalize Kashmir and make it globally relevant. Kashmir is also an endurance issue, and India is

counting on fatigue in presenting the Kashmir cause vigorously.

And, number 3, what is the pathway forward? Pakistan officialdom has missed a step in not relentlessly highlighting the basis under which the US State Department banned Modi from entering the United States for 10 years. That basis speaks for itself. Keep hammering on it. Keep highlighting applicable UN resolutions on Kashmir, which remain a part of international law.

Over the years, Kashmir has become too much of an elite Sircari male-dominated issue, instead of keeping a civil society focus at the grassroots. There is a danger of staleness setting in. I



propose that in each Pakistani as well as Azad Kashmir University

there should be a Kashmir Task Force (KTF) and that can form a

training ground to pick the best and the brightest students, who would then have the commitment and equipment to sustain the momentum and present the Kashmir case, whether at home or abroad. Most importantly, it can draw upon the ample reservoir of female talent, which is hitherto under-represented and can constitute a part of the vanguard.

The main battle is fought in the mind. It is paramount, therefore, to inject passion, energy, and enthusiasm. India's fall from favor in Washington circles gives more scope and space for the Kashmir case to be presented more vigorously. The key thing is to persevere

and press on. Remember the pressure of civil society toppled apartheid in South Africa and, just now, the pressure of a resurgent civil society in the United States pressured Trump to forge a peace deal, making Israel agree to it under duress, principally by globalizing it. Kashmir needs fresh medicine. It is never too late to rejuvenate.

Mowahid Hussain Shah was one of the first Pakistani lawyers admitted to the District of Columbia and US Supreme Court Bars. His book, "Will & Skill", which explores West-Muslim tensions in the aftermath of 9/11 and proposes a way forward, was launched in May 2012.

 **Bull & Bears**
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
161,631.73	156,732.87
Day's High	Day's Low
162,194.30	158,195.54
Index Value	Change
31,136,270,259	+ 4898.86
Percentage	Time
+3.13%	31 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,717.25	− 42.81
Percentage	Time
−0.44%	31 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT + 1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
47,546.22	+ 24.10
Percentage	Time
+0.051%	31 Oct, 12:39 pm GMT-
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
52,411.34	+ 2.12%
Percentage	Time
+0.035%	31 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

Iran, Pakistan
agrees to Strengthen
trade, economic
Cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghaddam called Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan to Strengthen Pakistan-Iran trade and economic Cooperation.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, held a productive meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, to discuss avenues for strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, said a release issued here on Saturday.

The meeting highlighted ongoing initiatives, trade agreements, and upcoming opportunities to further enhance economic ties between the two neighboring countries.

During the meeting, Minister Jam Kamal congratulated Ambassador Amiri-Moghaddam on the successful organization of 22nd Session of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Economic Commission in Islamabad and extended an invitation to Iranian companies and state-owned organizations to participate in the upcoming FoodAg exhibition, scheduled to be held from November 25 to 27, 2025, at the Karachi Expo Center.

The minister emphasized that such platforms would provide opportunities for Iranian and Pakistani businesses to explore trade, investment, and joint ventures in the agri-food sector.

The Commerce Minister proposed arranging high-level visits, including those of the Chief Minister of Balochistan and the Governor of Zahedan, to facilitate cross-border trade and improve the livelihoods of people living in the border regions.

He also suggested inviting Pakistani ministers from the maritime, railways, and communications sectors to Iran to explore avenues of mutual cooperation in their respective fields.

Ambassador Amiri-Moghaddam highlighted the progress in bilateral trade, recalling the previous agreements for imports of 400,000 tons of rice, 300,000 tons of meat, 200,000 tons of maize, and 50,000 tons of animal feed.

He noted that Iran has successfully completed rice imports and is now ready to purchase animal feed and maize.

IHC dismisses petitions
challenging CCP’s power to
investigate telecom firms

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has upheld the jurisdiction of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to inquire into deceptive marketing and anti-competitive conduct in the telecom sector. The court dismissed the petitions filed by Pakistan’s leading telecom operators including Jazz, Telenor, Zong, Ufone, Warid, PTCL, and Wi-Tribe.

Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas, in a detailed 19-page judgment, ruled that the CCP lawfully exercised its powers under the Competition Act 2010 in issuing show-cause notices to telecom operators over misleading advertising and additional service charges imposed on prepaid customers. The court observed that CCP’s statutory mandate extends across all sectors of the economy, including telecommunications, and operates concurrently with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

The petitions challenged CCP’s show-cause notices issued between 2013 and 2014 against cellular operators for allegedly levying hidden



“service maintenance” or “recharge” fees on prepaid cards, a practice that CCP deemed deceptive marketing under Section 10(2)(b) of the Act. Separately, PTCL and Wi-Tribe had also contested notices over the marketing of “unlimited internet packages” that were, in fact, subject to fair usage policies.

In another petition (W. P. 2757/2023), PTCL had sought to block an inquiry initiated by CCP on allegations of discriminatory pricing in fixed local loop (FLL) services.

Rejecting the telecom firms’ argument that the PTA held exclusive powers to regulate competition in the telecom sector, the IHC in para 22 of the judgement held, “the CCP possesses overarching jurisdiction, across all sectors of the economy, including telecommunications.

Its functions are not limited to mere regulation but extend to the prevention and prohibition of anti-competitive behaviour, abuse of dominance, collusive arrangements, and deceptive marketing practices.”

The court ruled that both statutes — the Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996 and the Competition Act 2010 operate in “distinct yet complementary domains.” While PTA regulates technical and operational aspects, the CCP has the primary authority

to address competition-related and deceptive marketing matters.

The judge emphasized that even regulatory bodies like PTA fall within CCP’s ambit, citing Section 2(1)(q) of the Act which defines “undertaking” to include any governmental or regulatory body.

The court also dismissed the writ petitions on grounds of prematurity, noting that CCP’s show-cause notices were procedural and not adverse orders. Justice Minhas observed that the petitioners had adequate statutory remedies before the Commission, its appellate bench, and the Competition Appellate Tribunal.

“Interference at this initial stage would amount to obstructing a statutory body from performing its lawful functions and would jeopardize the intent of the legislature behind the Competition Act 2010,” the judgment stated.

Holding that the CCP was within its powers to investigate deceptive and anti-competitive practices in the telecom sector, the IHC dismissed all seven connected petitions as “not maintainable.”

Traditional dresses

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Nicole Guihot DCM Australian High Commission taking interest in traditional dresses of Pakistan during “Crafts Festival” at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Build Pakistan
2025 concludes
successfully in Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Build Pakistan 2025 – Let’s Build Together Exhibition and Conference, concluded successfully at the Expo Centre, Lahore, after attracting leading stakeholders from the housing, infrastructure, and urban development sectors. Organised by Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works, the event showcased over 100 local and international companies presenting modern technologies, sustainable solutions, and innovative practices driving the future of construction and smart infrastructure.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Federal Minister for Housing & Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada. During the three-day event, multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed focusing on collaboration in smart housing, green building materials, renewable energy integration, and construction technology exchange. These partnerships aim to strengthen Pakistan’s infrastructure capabilities and accelerate the adoption of modern, sustainable construction practices.

Mr. Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO of Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., expressed pride in the successful outcome of the event. He said, “Build Pakistan 2025 demonstrates the industry’s collective vision for a sustainable future. The business partnerships and MoUs signed here reflect our shared commitment to aligning Pakistan’s construction sector with global standards and unlocking new opportunities for growth and innovation.”

Azerbaijan and Pakistan deepen
tourism ties with Islamabad dinner



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Azerbaijan Tourism Board and Pakistan Tourism Mart (PTM) jointly organized an exclusive dinner at Marriott Hotel Islamabad to promote tourism and cultural collaboration between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The event was

attended by distinguished dignitaries from both countries, including Florian Sengstschmid, CEO Azerbaijan Tourism Board; Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, MD PTDC; Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman Azerbaijan–Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI); Syed Muhammad Ali Hamdani, CEO PTM; Rafia Syed, DG

TDAP; Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, National Coordinator PM; Samir Ahmedli, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Azerbaijan; and Adeeba Khalid Jadoon, CMO PTM.

The group photo captures a moment of unity and shared vision to foster stronger tourism partnerships between the two brotherly nations.

Pine nuts become a
luxury as Pak-Afghan
border closure drives
prices up

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The closure of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border has led to a sharp increase in prices of dry fruits in Quetta, particularly pine nuts (chilgoza), which have now become a luxury item — selling for Rs8,000 to Rs9,000 per kilogram.

Despite being the peak dry fruit season, Quetta’s markets wear a deserted look following the suspension of the cross-border trade and the ongoing repatriation of Afghan refugees.

Buyers say the steep prices have made it difficult for them to purchase dry fruits as they did in previous years.

Traders in Quetta’s dry fruit market have also expressed concern over the price hike, noting that high-quality pine nuts arriving from Bannu are about Rs3,000 per kilogram more expensive than those from Zhob and other local areas, mainly due to the suspension of supplies from Afghanistan.

Market vendors report that with prices continuing to climb and stock dwindling, sales have dropped drastically.

Dry fruits are becoming increasingly expensive and scarce as the border closure stretches on, the traders added.



ICCI emphasizes women empowerment through
practical training and industry partnerships

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Tahir Ayub, has emphasized that strong industry-academia linkages are essential to bridge the gap between market needs and academic training, particularly to empower women through skill-based education and professional development opportunities.

Talking with a group of visiting women entrepreneurs here at Chamber House he noted that the changing dynamics of the modern economy demand a closer partnership between educational institutions and the business sector to ensure that graduates, especially women, are equipped with the practical expertise and technical competencies required in today’s job market.

Tahir Ayub highlighted that

empowering women through education-based initiatives not only contributes to their individual growth but also enhances national productivity and economic resilience. He said ICCI is fully committed to promoting collaboration with universities and technical institutions to create pathways for female students to gain hands-on experience, internships, and mentorship opportunities within the industrial sector.





URAN
PAKISTAN

High level meeting

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, chaired a high-level inter-ministerial committee meeting to review government efficiency, particularly the operations of Pakistan Missions abroad, on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan warns of ‘strong response’ to any Afghan aggression

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reiterated that it does not want further escalation with Afghanistan but warned that any act of aggression would draw a “strong and severe” response.

The Foreign Office spokesperson said that Pakistan expected the Afghan interim government to ensure that its territory is not used against Pakistan.

“Pakistan desires peace and stability in the region, but terrorism will not be tolerated under any circumstances,” the spokesperson said.



Separately, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the Pakistan Army is fully prepared to defend the country. “Any external aggression will

be met with a firm and strong response,” he asserted, adding that curbing the menace of Fitna Al Khawarij terrorists is essential for peace.

According to sources, Pakistan has conveyed to the

Taliban regime that cross-border terrorism from Afghan soil will not be tolerated, and Kabul must provide assurances for peace.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif also urged the Kabul leadership to stop supporting terrorists, warning that “it will have to bear the consequences” if it fails to do so.

Meanwhile, trade between the two countries remains at a standstill as the Torkham and Kharlachi border crossings have been closed for the past 20 days.

Hundreds of cargo trucks are stranded in long queues due to the suspension of

commercial activity.

Earlier, during peace talks held in Türkiye, both sides agreed to maintain a ceasefire until November 6.

A joint statement said a verification mechanism would be established to monitor the truce, while detailed peace protocols would be finalised in the next round of talks.

In a related development, law enforcement agencies in Sahiwal arrested seven Afghan nationals for illegally residing in Pakistan.

Six landlords were also detained for allegedly providing them with accommodation.

Fazl warns of protests if demands ignored

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Thousands gathered in Multan on Saturday for a convention on religious and protection of services schools organized by the Wafaq-ul-Madaris, where Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressed people and issued a series of sharp warnings to the government and the policymakers.

Speaking at the event, Fazl framed the gathering as a defence of Pakistan’s Islamic foundations, saying the country was “created in the name of Islam” and recalling the sacrifices of “millions of people” for the cause. He criticized recent government moves and what he described as an international campaign to “provoke religious youth,”



while urging clerics and the public to remain united.

Rejecting a recent Punjab government announcement to give away Rs25,000 each to imams of madrasas, Qari

Hanif Jalandhari — present at the convention — and the JUI leader argued that the stipend amounted to “buying conscience.” “You are buying conscience for Rs25,000,”

Fazl told the crowd, calling on supporters to resist what he called superficial measures that do not address deeper concerns.

The convention revis-

ited historical developments in Islamic education, with speakers noting colonial-era interventions such as the establishment of Aligarh madrasa under British supervision, the introduction of altered curricula and the removal of Persian. Those changes, leaders said, helped spur the foundation of seminaries at Deoband and elsewhere as a response to threats to traditional religious learning.

Fazl also took aim at proposed social reforms and legislation. He questioned laws that would set marriage age restrictions — asking rhetorically whether such rules “should be made in Pakistan” — and raised objections to discussions on gender change, framing them as inconsistent with Islamic teachings.

Foreign Office reshuffles a number of diplomats

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has made major changes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions by reshuffling several top officials.

New Ambassador to Russia Faisal Niaz Termezi assumed his new charge in Moscow, Russia.

Khalid Khan Jamali, who retired in the Russian Federation, has now been appointed as Additional Foreign Secretary Admin.

Zahed Hussain has been appointed Director General Middle East.

He has been appointed replacing new Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Iltamish Wazir Khan.

Former Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan



Hassan Zeigham has been appointed Director General Central Asia.

Bilal Chaudhry has been appointed Director General, South

Asia. He replaced Ambassador-designate to Romania Ilyas Nizami.

According to diplomatic sources, Pakistani Ambassador to the United

Arab Emirates Shafqat Ali Khan has arrived in Abu Dhabi after performing Umrah.

Faisal Niaz Termezi was discharging his duties in the UAE.

A high-level inter-ministerial committee meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was held in Islamabad to review government efficiency, particularly the operations of Pakistan Missions abroad.

The Deputy Prime Minister underscored strengthening Pakistan’s diplomatic footprint, ensuring Mission outputs are fully aligned with national strategic objectives and elevating institutional performance abroad through enhanced synergy and coordination among all relevant ministries and departments.

DPM/FM Dar chairs meeting to review Pak Missions operations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Saturday, chaired a high-level inter-ministerial committee meeting to review government efficiency, particularly the operations of Pakistan Missions abroad.

“The DPM/FM underscored strengthening Pakistan’s diplomatic footprint, ensuring Mission outputs are fully aligned with national strategic objectives, and elevating institutional performance abroad through enhanced synergy and coordination

among all relevant ministries and departments,” Foreign Office Spokesperson, in a press release, said.

During the meeting, the committee presented its findings.

The meeting was attended by the minister of petroleum, minister of state for railways, chair of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch, and secretaries of the cabinet, establishment division, commerce, interior, HR&D, and EAD, along with senior officials from finance, information and other concerned departments.

Speaker NA expresses profound grief over the passing of Aftab Shaban Mirani



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of former Federal Minister for Defence and former Chief Minister of Sindh, Aftab Shaban Mirani.

Speaker NA extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and said that the late Aftab Shaban Mirani was a seasoned, visionary, and dedicated political leader who rendered valuable services for national unity, democratic stability,

and the well-being of the people.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq added that Aftab Shaban Mirani’s contributions towards strengthening democracy and promoting national security and stability will always be remembered.

Speaker NA further stated that Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani played a commendable role in promoting democracy and public welfare.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq prayed to Almighty Allah to elevate the ranks of the departed soul and grant strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

SC to hear Kamran Tessori’s plea regarding access of Governor House to Speaker

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan’s Constitutional Bench will

hear the petition of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori pertaining to the matter of granting access of the Governor House of Sindh to the Speaker of the Sindh Assembly.

A five-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan will hear the matter on November 3. Governor Kamran Tessori has challenged the decision of the Sindh High Court which had ordered full access of Governor House to Sindh Assembly Speaker in the absence of the Governor.

Pakistan to build three new ports, modern maritime complex under five-point strategy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced a series of major initiatives aimed at transforming Pakistan’s maritime sector, including the establishment of three new ports and the construction of a state-of-the-art integrated maritime complex.

Addressing a ceremony held as part of Pakistan Maritime Week, the minister unveiled a five-point strategy for the development of the country’s maritime industry, with the goal of positioning Pakistan as a key player in the global blue economy.

He said that within the next three years, the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) fleet will

expand to 60 vessels, while work has already begun on a Rs12 billion project in Gadani.

Chaudhry added that an educational fund has been established for the children of port community



workers.

He emphasised that the government aims to raise the maritime sector’s contribution to the national GDP to 4 per cent, significantly boosting Pakistan’s economic growth.