



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ آل محمد
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم بھی دے دیے تین دن
نک سارن کے ساتھ کیوں کی وہی نہیں تھا
کے یہاں تک کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
سے جاپے اور ان ٹیڑھے بیان کیا کہ ہم کو
سچان نے خریدی کہ ہم سے عید اڑھن نے
بیان کیا ان سے ان کے والد نے اور ان سے
عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے یہی حدیث بیان کی۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6687)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

Lahore High Court Justice Raheel Kamran Sheikh resigns

Lahore High Court Justice Raheel Kamran Sheikh has resigned from his position as a judge, sending his resignation to the President of Pakistan under Article 206 of the Constitution. In his resignation, Justice Raheel Kamran Sheikh said serving on the bench had been an honour and a privilege and an important part of his professional life.



Unannounced loadshedding continues to hit Lahories

Unannounced loadshedding continues in several areas of Lahore city, with power outages lasting several hours in the atmosphere intense heat and humidity. Residents of Begampura, Islampura, Krishna Nagar, Outfall Road, Sant Nagar and Sham Nagar are facing difficulties due to prolonged power cuts, affecting routine life and business activities.

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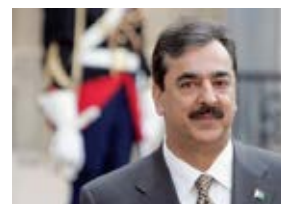
Meeting on Jinnah Medical Complex

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Jinnah Medical Complex, Research Centre and Federal Government Polyclinic Phase 2/Extension on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Gilani Congratulates King Haakon VIII of Norway on Accession to Throne



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, has extended his warm congratulations and best wishes to King Haakon VIII of the Kingdom of Norway on his accession to the throne.

In his letter to the new king, Acting President Gilani expressed confidence that under his leadership, Norway would continue to advance on the path of peace, democracy,

prosperity and social progress. He also conveyed his best wishes for King Haakon VIII's success in carrying forward the important responsibilities entrusted to him as Sovereign of the Kingdom of Norway.

Mr Gilani reaffirmed the longstanding bonds of friendship and mutual respect between Pakistan and Norway, expressing confidence that the warm and cordial relations between the two countries and their peoples would continue to deepen and strengthen in the years ahead. He emphasized that closer parliamentary cooperation and greater people-to-people contacts would provide important avenues for further strengthening these ties.

PM Shehbaz Visits Nepal Embassy, Announces Relief for Flood Victims



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad on Thursday to sign a condolence book for victims of the recent devastating flash floods and landslides in Nepal. Received by Nepal's Ambassador to Pakistan Rita Dhital, the PM was accompanied by Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi, Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch, and other senior officials. In the condolence book, PM Shehbaz conveyed Pakistan's deepest sympathies to the government and people

of Nepal, and heartfelt condolences to bereaved families. He reaffirmed sentiments shared earlier with Nepali PM Balendra Shah, stressing Pakistan's full solidarity.

The Prime Minister announced that Pakistan will dispatch emergency relief assistance to Nepal later this week to support rescue and relief operations in affected areas. He expressed confidence in Nepal's resilience and highlighted the long-standing fraternal ties between the two countries. Ambassador Dhital thanked the PM for his support and briefed him on current bilateral cooperation.

PM Shehbaz directs completion of first phase of Jinnah Medical Complex by March 2027

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to complete the first phase of the Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre by March 2027, aiming to provide the citizens with modern healthcare facilities at the earliest.

The prime minister issued these directives while chairing a review meeting on the construction of the Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre and the Phase-2 extension of the Federal Government Polyclinic here at the PM Office, a news release said. The prime minister said that providing quality healthcare facilities to the public was the

top priority of the government, adding that the pace of reforms in the health sector should be further accelerated.

During the meeting, various construction designs and proposals for the proposed Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre building were presented for consideration. The participants were also briefed on the progress

made on the construction of the Federal Government Polyclinic Phase-2 extension.

The meeting decided that the Federal Government Polyclinic extension, currently under construction in Sector G-11, would be launched as the first phase of the Jinnah Medical Complex. The decision was aimed at making the hospital operational at the

earliest and providing citizens with the best possible healthcare facilities.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal, Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, and senior officials concerned.

15 militants killed as security forces foil infiltration from Afghanistan in N. Waziristan

Adam Khan

WANA: Security forces foiled an infiltration attempt by Fitna Al Khawar-j militants from Afghanistan in North Waziristan, killing 15 militants during a 36-hour operation, the ISPR said on Thursday. According to the military's media wing, the militants were intercepted at the border. A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from those killed. A clearance operation is underway to eliminate any remaining militants said



to be operating under Indian patronage. The ISPR stated the militants aimed to sabotage peace and stability in Pakistan. It added that the Afghan Taliban govern-

ment had failed to prevent terrorist groups from using Afghan soil for attacks against Pakistan and to ensure effective border management and fulfill international obligations. The military reaffirmed its resolve to defend the borders and said counterterrorism operations under Azm-e-Istehkam would continue to eliminate foreign-sponsored terrorism. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the forces for their professionalism and courage, and said operations would continue with full force until terrorism is completely eradicated.

DPM Dar reviews preparations for UN General Assembly Session



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Thursday chaired a meeting to review preparations for Pakistan's upcoming multilateral engagements, including the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Special Secretary (UN) briefed the Deputy Prime Minister on the preparations and key aspects of the upcoming engagements, a DPM's Office news release said.

The deputy prime minister provided guidance on Pakistan's priorities and directed all concerned to ensure comprehensive preparations and effective coordination. The relevant senior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting.

Govt, JI Agree to Discuss Measures for Reducing Petroleum Levy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The federal government and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) have agreed to form expert committees to explore measures for reducing the petroleum levy and providing relief to consumers facing rising living costs. The decision was announced after a meeting between government representatives and JI leadership at the party's headquarters in Mansoor, Lahore.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the government would establish an expert committee, while JI would form a similar team to discuss proposals for reducing the petroleum levy and easing the burden

on the public. Formal talks are scheduled to begin on Monday. The government currently imposes Rs114 per litre in taxes and duties on petrol and Rs100 per litre on high-speed diesel.

Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah said both sides were seeking ways to provide relief, while noting that international petroleum prices and regional developments, including the Iran war, had increased pressure on consumers. Officials from the Federal Board of Revenue, Finance Ministry and Petroleum Ministry will also participate in efforts to find solutions.

JI Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman described the meeting as positive but said

the party's protests would continue. JI has demanded abolition of the petroleum levy, lower electricity tariffs, termination of independent power producer agreements and reductions in government expenditure.

The JI leadership argued that high petroleum and electricity costs were worsening inflation and putting additional pressure on ordinary citizens. It said the party would present practical proposals during negotiations aimed at reducing the cost of living.

The government welcomed JI's proposals and agreed to examine possible measures for providing greater economic relief to the public.

Yasin Malik says he has no faith in Indian courts, refuses to pursue case



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik has told an Indian court he has no expectations of justice and will no longer contest his case, submitting a 25-page affidavit in Srinagar. Malik categorically denied involvement in the 1990 killing of Kashmiri Pandit woman Sarla Bhat and said he would accept even a death sentence, but stressed it would not mean an admission of guilt. He called the case political victimisation and said he was leaving the

matter to God. He alleged the Indian government was conspiring to implicate him in a false case 36 years after the incident to seek his execu-

tion. Malik also challenged evidence linking him to the case, including a reported JKLF note found near Bhat's body. He further claimed Indian agencies had asked him to develop ties with Pakistan and later used it as evidence against him, and said he did not expect a fair trial. Malik also mentioned his wife Mushaal Malik, expressing a desire to free her from prolonged imprisonment and uncertainty. Malik was arrested by Indian forces in Srinagar on April 10, 2019.

Acting President AJK Emphasizes Role of Elected Representatives in Addressing Public Issues

 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chaudhry Tariq Farooq held a meeting with Member of the AJK Legislative Assembly Maryam Idrees.

During the meeting, the Acting President emphasized that elected representatives have a responsibility to effectively highlight the issues faced by their respective constituencies and play their due role in addressing public grievances.

He underscored the need for all elected representatives to move forward through mutual consultation and cooperation to strengthen democratic institutions in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and facilitate the resolution of issues confronting the people.

Meanwhile: Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, held a meeting with former Prime



Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan. During the meeting, the current political situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the ongoing consulative process regarding the formation of the new government, and other matters of



mutual interest were discussed in detail. The meeting also covered matters relating to political stability, continuity of democratic traditions, and the public interest. Acting President Chaudhry Tariq Farooq and former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan agreed that, in the prevailing political situation, mutual consultation and political tolerance should be promoted.

Charity Clothes

ISLAMABAD: A woman selecting cloths from charity collection for rain affected families of twin cities at Masjid Rehmatlil Alameen, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Faisalabad Workers Rally Against Levy Tax and High Prices in Nationwide Strike

 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the occasion of a nationwide strike in Faisalabad on the appeal of Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman to abolish levy tax, reduce petrol price, make electricity cheaper and other demands, workers of Zone PP-112 and Railway Prem Union reached the strike camp in the form of a rally by circling the Ghanta Ghar through Rail Bazaar.

The rally was led by Mian Tahir Ayub, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Asif Islam, Bao Tahir, Shakir Alvi, Abid Islam, Hafiz Arshad, Mian Rafiq Babar, Muhammad Ashiq, Zahid Islam, Muhammad Umair Basharat, Yasin Ansari and others. Speaking on the occasion, Mian Tahir Ayub, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry said that the



rulers are digging their own graves with their own hands. The current rulers claiming to be democratic have done what even dictators could not do to the people. When people's hopes turn into deprivations, their moods also change. Those who shout slogans of "Zindabad" are forced to say "Murdabad". If the rulers fail to control the situation quickly, the people will be bent on killing and killing.

Friends Group Pledges New Era of Service and Trust at Multan Chamber

 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Chairman SM Group of Companies and Friends Group leader Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum has said that the group's manifesto is based on respect, trust, service, transparency and collective development rather than mere electoral promises.

Speaking to the media, he said the growing support of Multan's business and industrial community reflected their desire for leadership that would continuously represent their concerns rather than remain active only during elections. He said the Friends Group viewed traders and industrialists as the real stakeholders and strength of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

Anjum highlighted major challenges facing the business community,



including high taxes, electricity and gas costs, inadequate infrastructure, limited industrial facilities, investment barriers and difficulties in coordination with government institutions. He stressed the need for strong and credible representation to address these issues.

He said the Friends Group aimed to transform the Chamber into an effective institution that would raise the concerns of Multan's traders and

industrialists while also representing the interests of South Punjab's business community at the national level.

According to Anjum, the unusual enthusiasm surrounding the MCCI elections demonstrated that businessmen wanted to move beyond traditional electoral practices and seek fresh thinking, transparency, consultation and practical performance. He said today's business community wanted measurable results rather than slogans.

He added that the Friends Group would use the Chamber platform for collective interests, promoting trade, industry, investment and economic activity rather than personal gains. He expressed confidence that the group's success would mark a new chapter in the Chamber's history and establish respect, trust, service and collective progress as its defining principles.

Caravan-e-Kashmir Car Rally to Be Held in Connection with Defence Day

 Bereau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The World Kashmir Forum is organizing the Caravan-e-Kashmir Car Rally in connection with Defence Day of Pakistan. The rally will depart from Islamabad for Muzaffarabad on September 5, with a large number of prominent personalities from different walks of life participating in the event.

The participants of the rally will be accorded a warm welcome upon their arrival in Muzaffarabad. On September 6, the caravan will proceed from Muzaffarabad towards Neelum Valley and visit the Martyrs' Memorial at Keran.

The participants will pay tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan and Kashmir, honouring their invaluable sacrifices and saluting their courage, determination and spirit of patriotism.

Chairman World Kashmir Forum Dr. Haji Muhammad Rafiq Pardesi will also participate in the Caravan-e-Kashmir Car Rally. Senior Vice Chairman Justice (Retd.) Anwar Mansoor Khan, Sheikh Rashid Alam, Rafiq Suleman, Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad and other prominent personalities will also be part of the caravan.

The rally is aimed at paying tribute to the enduring sacrifices of the martyrs on Defence Day, promoting the spirit of national unity and solidarity, and expressing support and solidarity with the people of Kashmir.

Sajida Yusuf Appointed Secretary of Sindh Textbook Board

 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi



HYDERABAD: The Sindh Education Department has appointed Sajida Yusuf, a Grade-19 officer, as Secretary of the Sindh Textbook Board, ending the uncertainty surrounding the post. Following the issuance of the appointment order, Sajida Yusuf has assumed charge as Secretary of the Sindh Textbook Board. Sajida Yusuf was serving as an Art Subject Specialist at the board and is among its senior officers. Her appointment has brought an end to the administrative uncertainty surrounding the secretary's post, while she has started performing her responsibilities as the board's secretary.

Agha Mehr Ali Shah Urges Speedy Completion of Shrine Development Work

 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Senior Noha Khawan Agha Syed Mehr Ali Shah has expressed concern over the slow pace of government-funded development work at the shrine of Masooma-e-Sindh in Agham Kot and urged authorities and the contractor to accelerate the project.

He said large excavations and exposed steel reinforcement around the shrine ahead of Muharram-ul-Haram had raised safety concerns for mourners and pilgrims arriving from different parts of the country. Following protests and concerns from Azadari organizations, some conditions were improved, but the overall construction progress remained unsatisfactory. Agha Syed Mehr Ali Shah stressed that development work at the sacred site should not be delayed because of disputes, personal interests or unnecessary controversies. He called for collective efforts to ensure safe and improved facilities for visitors.

He welcomed Chief Administrator Auqaf Hyderabad Mukhtar Hussain Abro's intervention and the inspection team's visit to the shrine. The team reviewed the construction work and directed officials and the contractor to speed up the project and take necessary safety measures. He urged the Auqaf Department to continue monitoring the work closely and appealed to all stakeholders to avoid disputes and prioritize the sanctity of the shrine, safety of pilgrims and timely completion of the project.

Concern Raised Over Alleged Seizure of Apple Crop in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Mushtaq Ahmed Butt has expressed serious concern over reports alleging that Indian forces entered orchards belonging to Kashmiri civilians in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and took away apples at gunpoint.

He said that, if verified, such incidents would raise serious questions about the protection of civilian property rights and the use of force against the local population. He stressed that the matter was not limited to the loss of agricultural produce but also involved the economic rights, dignity and livelihoods of Kashmiri farmers. Mushtaq Butt said orchards, crops and agricultural produce represented the legitimate economic interests and property rights of farmers. He maintained that any coercive appropriation of civilian property would conflict with the principles of rule of law, protection of private property and respect for fundamental rights.

He urged the international community and relevant human rights organizations to take notice of reports concerning the economic security and rights of civilians in IIOJK. He called for measures to ensure respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law, emphasizing that the issue concerned the property rights, dignity and economic freedom of Kashmiri people.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:17 am
Zohr	12:07 pm
Asr	4:42 pm
Maghrib	6:31 pm
Isha	7:57 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	9261070-79
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

Safe City Launches Crackdown on Smog and Pollution in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Director PR, Punjab Safe Cities Authority Punjab Safe Cities Authority has started strict surveillance and enforcement against smog and environmental pollution under the Smog Free Punjab Vision of the Chief Minister Punjab. Using Safe City cameras, drones, and advanced monitoring systems, the Authority is identifying pollution sources and alerting relevant departments for immediate action. In the last two days, over 300 environmental violations were reported through cameras. Actions taken include issuing e-challans and alerts for smoke-emitting vehicles. Safe City systems are also detecting vehicles carrying uncovered construction material, sand, and soil, as well as smoke-emitting factories, crop residue burning, and garbage burning. Reports from 43 Smart Safe City Centers across Punjab are being shared with field forces to ensure timely response. According to the spokesperson, Safe City is now supporting both crime prevention and a clean environment. Citizens are urged to report pollution incidents by calling Punjab Emergency Helpline 15.

Punjab Launches Mobile Veterinary Fleet to Bring Livestock Care to Farmers' Doorstep

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated a mobile veterinary fleet designed to deliver livestock treatment and diagnostic services directly to farmers, particularly in rural areas.

During the ceremony, the Chief

Minister inspected a mobile veterinary dispensary, veterinary laboratory, and X-ray unit, directed the livestock department to organize a livestock conference, and approved designs for model veterinary hospitals across the province.

Livestock Minister Ashiq Hussain Kirmani and Secretary Livestock



Ahmed Aziz Tarar briefed the CM that 30 new mobile veterinary dispensaries and 17 mobile laboratories had been launched, bringing the total functional mobile veterinary hospitals to 262. The dispensaries will feature ultrasound and X-ray facilities, while the labs can conduct 40 on-site tests and support disease screening and surveillance.

X-ray facilities will be available at 10 divisional hospitals, while 36 district-level facilities will have operation thea-

tres and labs, alongside 138 ultrasound machines across tehsils. The government also plans to deploy 6,964 mobile motorbikes for veterinary assistants to treat animals at farmers' premises. Under the CM Internship Programme, 1,000 veterinary doctors and assistants have treated around 3.4 million animals so far.

Officials said 230 veterinary hospitals would be built or rehabilitated at the tehsil level, including a model hospital

in each tehsil equipped with cattle and horse crushes, hydraulic tables, and modern lighting. The province also plans artificial insemination of 800,000 animals to boost breeding and production, while Punjab has been protected from lumpy skin disease through an effective vaccination campaign.

The CM said improved breeding would boost milk and meat output, reaffirming the government's commitment to doorstep veterinary services.

Preparation of Defence Day

ISLAMABAD: Digital screen shows image in connection with Defence Day along highway, in the Federal Capital.



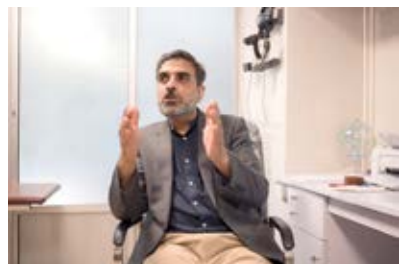
Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan faces growing ROP threat as thousands of premature babies risk blindness

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Doctors have warned that Pakistan is facing a growing threat from retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a potentially blinding eye disease affecting premature babies. They urged the government to introduce mandatory nationwide screening to prevent avoidable childhood blindness.

According to specialists at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, nearly one million premature babies are born in Pakistan annually, with around 300,000 estimated to develop varying degrees of ROP. Thousands may require specialized treatment or sight-saving surgery. Babies



weighing less than 1.5 kilograms at birth are considered particularly vulnerable.

Doctors explained that ROP develops when premature birth interrupts normal development of blood vessels in the retina, potentially causing abnormal growth and permanent vision loss if not

detected and treated within the appropriate period.

Dr. Amjad, a pediatric ophthalmologist and ROP specialist, said Pakistan currently lacks a nationwide screening programme. He pointed to India's experience, where mandatory screening has helped reduce ROP-related blindness.

Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital performed around 560 ROP surgeries free of cost during the past year, but doctors said this covers only a small proportion of those needing treatment.

They called for mandatory screening in neonatal intensive care units, expanded specialist services and greater funding, particularly for rural and underserved areas.

PM Shehbaz hands over Rs 10 mln cheque to nurse who saved newborn during PIMS fire

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met nurse Razia Noreen, who saved a newborn's life during a fire at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), and handed over Rs 10 million cheque in recognition of her extraordinary bravery and sense of duty.

The prime minister said the nation acknowledged the courage and bravery shown by Razia Noreen and that she was a source of pride for the country. He said she performed her duty with great courage and daring, without taking care of her own safety.

PM Shehbaz hands over Rs 10 mln cheque to nurse who saved newborn during PIMS fire

He said the mother of the child, she saved, would remember her in prayers for the rest of her life. The prime minister announced that Razia Noreen would be conferred the Tamgha-e-Khidmat on March 23 in recognition of

her services.

He said that while the monetary reward carried its own meaning, the real recognition was that she truly deserved this honour.

The prime minister said that all those responsible for the fire incident at PIMS would face strict action, and that the government would make every effort in this regard. He said he had asked the concerned federal minister to fully review the hospital and ensure proper restructuring of the facility. In her remarks, Razia Noreen said she was carrying out her responsibility, as people had entrusted the children to her at that moment and that responsibility rested on her shoulders.

She said that she was happy to receive such recognition and considered herself a role model for all nurses, adding that her fellow nurses work with the same



dedication and hard work. She said it was a heartrending incident and that she had tried to save as many other children as possible, but due to the emergency situation she was able to save only one child.

Razia Noreen said that on seeing the fire, she did not think of anything and went straight inside. She stated that she instructed another nurse to save the children, who in turn helped rescue people from outside, including postnatal mothers, some of whom had undergone operations.

She said she rescued a very small baby, the child of Asifa, weighing 1050 grams, and brought him outside. She said that in the resulting rush, a baby could get misplaced, so she handed the child to someone she knew and trusted, identifying the person as Dr Abdul Rehman.

She said she then went back inside to save another child when a blast occurred, followed by darkness and smoke spreading throughout the area. Federal Ministers Syed Mustafa Kamal and Attaullah Tarar were also present on the occasion.

Ali Rehman Malik Demands Full Accountability After PIMS Nursery Fire Kills 14 Newborns

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of IRR International and Rehman Malik Foundation, Ali Rehman Malik, has called for complete institutional accountability following the fire at PIMS' Mother and Child Health Centre neonatal nursery that killed 14 newborn children. Malik said the tragedy raises serious questions about fire safety, supervision, emergency preparedness, and responsibility within the public health system. He urged a full, impartial investigation to determine not just the cause of ignition, but whether fire safety systems, evacuation plans, and clear lines of responsibility were in place and working. "A minister need not personally run a hospital. He is responsible for ensuring that there is a functioning chain of accountability beneath him," Malik said, stressing that political responsibility is about enforcing standards before disaster, not finding scapegoats after. He said the inquiry must examine whether institutions had adequate systems to prevent and respond to emergencies. Accountability should be based on evidence, not administrative expediency. "Fourteen children are dead. Their deaths must lead not merely to suspensions and statements of regret, but to a clear account of what failed, who was responsible, and what will change to ensure this is never repeated," he added.

Punjab 9th Grade Results 2026 Raise Concerns; Private Schools Outperform Govt Institutions

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Private Schools & Colleges Association (APPSCA) has expressed concern over Punjab's 9th-grade annual exam results, urging immediate steps to improve education standards and the examination system. Results announced on September 2, 2026, showed overall pass rates were not encouraging. APPSCA Central President Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik highlighted a significant performance gap. In the Rawalpindi Board, government institutions had a 30.82% pass rate compared to 60.41% for private institutions. In Gujranwala, the figures were 39.59% for government and 69.71% for private/non-government schools. Dr. Malik said the results warrant review of government claims on education reforms. He called for a comprehensive assessment of both sectors and urged the government to involve private institutions in policy-making. Despite limited resources, he noted, private schools educate millions and play a vital role. APPSCA recommended targeted improvement programs for low-performing districts, teacher training, and modern teaching methods. Leaders congratulated successful students and urged support for those who did not pass, stressing one exam does not define a future.



Sheikh Abdul Waheed Calls Defence Day a Symbol of National Resolve and Sacrifice

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: President of Anjuman Tajirana Liaquat Road Rawalpindi, "Sheikh Abdul Waheed", said that "September 6, Defence Day of Pakistan", represents an enduring story of national resolve, courage, and sacrifice.

In his message, he stated the day reminds the nation of the unparalleled sacrifices made by martyrs and veterans who laid down their lives for the homeland.

He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army for demonstrating extraordinary bravery and patriotism in defending the country, adding that the sacrifices of martyrs remain a precious legacy and an inspiration for future generations.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said Defence Day is an opportunity to renew commitment to Pakistan's security, stability, and development. He stressed that national unity, peace, and economic stability are essential to strengthening the country.

He affirmed that the business community will continue supporting the national economy. Concluding, he said the nation must turn its resolve into practical efforts to build a stronger, prosperous, and stable Pakistan, and will always remain united for the country's defence and sovereignty.



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Makkah Accord: From Strategic Security to Economic Strength

The Makkah Accord between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye represents an important development in regional security and cooperation. Signed on August 7, 2026, the agreement establishes a principle of collective deterrence, under which an armed attack against one country would be considered an attack against all. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has rightly emphasized that the true value of the accord will depend not merely on its defence dimension but on its ability to generate economic strength, technological advancement and human development.

The agreement comes at a time when the global order is undergoing major transformation. The growing influence of China, Russia, Türkiye, Gulf states and other emerging powers reflects the shift from a predominantly unipolar system towards a multipolar world. In this changing environment, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye possess complementary strengths that can form the basis of a powerful strategic partnership. Saudi Arabia offers financial resources, energy potential and investment capacity; Türkiye contributes industrial, technological and defence expertise; while Pakistan provides defence capabilities, geographical connectivity and a large young population.

However, military cooperation alone cannot guarantee long-term national strength. Economic stability, technological innovation, education, productivity and social cohesion are equally important components of modern security. Therefore, the Makkah Accord should evolve into a broader framework covering artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, space technology, energy, food security, critical minerals, joint defence production, research and regional connectivity.

For Pakistan, this presents an opportunity to convert strategic confidence into economic gains. Saudi investment combined with Turkish technology and Pakistani human capital could strengthen local industries, create employment and increase exports. Such cooperation would also support Pakistan’s pursuit of strategic autonomy without isolation. Islamabad can maintain its longstanding ties with China while developing constructive relations with the United States, Europe, neighbouring countries and the wider Muslim world.

The minister’s emphasis on the “Battle for Development” is particularly significant. Pakistan’s future success will increasingly depend on its ability to compete through knowledge, innovation, exports and productivity. The country’s ambitions under URAAN Pakistan therefore require consistent policies, institutional reform and investment in education and technology.

Universities and young people must remain at the centre of this transformation. Investment in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, robotics, quantum computing, renewable energy and space sciences can help Pakistan build indigenous capabilities and reduce dependence on others.

Ultimately, the Makkah Accord should be viewed as more than a defence arrangement. If strategic security is transformed into investment, knowledge, technology and development, it can become a foundation for lasting prosperity. Pakistan must use this opportunity wisely so that by 2047 it is not merely discussing its potential, but demonstrating that it has fulfilled it.

Trees: The Adornment of the Earth and the Treasure of Oxygen

Nature has adorned the earth with countless blessings, but among them, trees occupy a unique and invaluable place. They are not only the beauty of the earth but also the guardians of the environment and the foundation of human survival. Trees enhance the aesthetic appeal of landscapes while silently performing essential ecological functions that sustain life on Earth. For this reason, they are rightly described as “the adornment of the earth and the treasure of oxygen.” Without trees, the ecological balance of the planet would collapse, placing the existence of humans and countless other living beings at serious risk. Today, the world faces unprecedented environmental challenges, including climate change, air pollution, global warming, deforestation, and water scarcity. Among the most effective and sustainable solutions to these crises is the protection and expansion of tree cover. Environmental scientists often refer to trees as the “lungs of the Earth” because they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release life-sustaining oxygen essential for all living organisms.

Trees are nature’s silent benefactors, serving humanity selflessly without expecting anything in return. Throughout their lifetime, a single tree absorbs significant amounts of carbon dioxide, produces oxygen, purifies the air, reduces dust particles, and helps regulate atmospheric temperature. According

to modern scientific research, a healthy mature tree can produce enough oxygen to contribute significantly to the daily needs of several people while simultaneously removing harmful pollutants from the air. This explains why cities with abundant green spaces generally enjoy cleaner air, lower temperatures, and healthier living conditions. In contrast, urban areas lacking sufficient trees often experience severe heat, increased pollution, and a higher prevalence of respiratory diseases.

Beyond producing oxygen, trees play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. They contribute to the regulation of rainfall patterns, help replenish groundwater reserves, prevent soil erosion, reduce the severity of floods, and slow the expansion of deserts. Their roots firmly bind the soil, minimizing the loss of fertile land during heavy rainfall and protecting landscapes from erosion. Forests also absorb and store rainwater, allowing it to gradually recharge underground water resources that are indispensable for agriculture, industry, and human consumption. In this way, trees support the sustainability of natural ecosystems and strengthen environmental resilience.

Trees are equally essential for preserving biodiversity. Countless species of birds, animals, insects, and micro-

organisms depend on trees for food, shelter, breeding, and survival. Forests provide complex habitats that sustain rich ecosystems and maintain the delicate balance of nature. The destruction of forests not only threatens wildlife but also disrupts ecological systems that have evolved over thousands of years. Therefore, protecting trees is synonymous with protecting biodiversity and ensuring the continuity of life on Earth.

The economic significance of trees is equally remarkable. They provide timber, fruits, nuts, medicinal plants, paper raw materials, honey, rubber, resins, oils, and numerous other products that support industries and livelihoods around the world. For many developing countries, forestry and fruit cultivation are important contributors to national income and rural employment. Trees also improve agricultural productivity by enhancing soil fertility, reducing wind erosion, and creating favorable microclimates for crops. Thus, investment in tree plantation contributes not only to environmental sustainability but also to long-term economic growth.

The importance of trees becomes even more evident in rapidly expanding urban environments. Industrialization, population growth, and increasing vehicle emissions have significantly deteriorated

air quality in many cities. Under such conditions, planting trees along roads, in parks, around educational institutions, hospitals, and residential neighborhoods has become an environmental and public health necessity. Trees absorb pollutants, reduce noise levels, and create cooler surroundings by providing shade and lowering surface temperatures. Their cooling effect also decreases dependence on air conditioning, thereby reducing energy consumption and contributing to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The nation has witnessed increasingly intense heatwaves, prolonged droughts, melting glaciers, water shortages, deteriorating air quality, and devastating floods. One of the major factors contributing to these environmental challenges is the continuous decline in forest cover. According to international recommendations, approximately one-fourth of a country’s land area should ideally be covered by forests to maintain ecological stability. However, Pakistan’s forest cover remains significantly below this level. Consequently, large-scale afforestation and reforestation have become not only environmental priorities but also matters of national development and security.

The value of trees extends beyond environmental protection to human health and well-being. Green environments promote physical health, mental peace,

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

Syed Ali Shah Geelani: A Life of Resistance and Uncompromising Conviction

Some political figures are remembered for the offices they held. Others are remembered for the principles they refused to abandon. Syed Ali Shah Geelani belonged to the second category. For decades, he remained one of the most prominent voices of the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination. His death on September 1, 2021, marked the end of a long political journey, but not the end of the ideas to which he devoted his life.

Geelani was born in 1929 in Sopore, Kashmir. His political life was shaped by a conviction that the Kashmir dispute could not be settled without recognising the political aspirations of the Kashmiri people. For him, self-determination was not merely a political slogan. It was a question of rights, dignity and the freedom of a people to determine their own future.

That conviction came at a personal cost. Geelani spent years in detention and faced repeated arrests and restrictions. Yet imprisonment did not persuade him to abandon his position. If anything, the years behind bars strengthened his belief that political principles have little meaning if they disappear under pressure.

His politics were rooted in a clear understanding of the Kashmiri dispute. He consistently argued that its resolution should take into account the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the framework established by the United Nations. Whatever one’s political position on Kashmir, Geelani’s consistency is difficult to overlook. He did not change his central position according to political circumstances. He remained committed to the same demand through changing governments, shifting regional dynamics and periods of intense political repression.

This consistency explains both his influence and the controversy surrounding his politics. Supporters saw

him as a symbol of resistance who refused to compromise on what he considered a fundamental right. Critics disagreed sharply with his political vision and methods. But reducing his legacy to either praise or condemnation misses a larger point: Geelani represented a generation of Kashmiri political leadership for whom the Kashmir question was not a temporary political dispute but an unresolved historical and political question.

His relationship with Pakistan was equally central to his political thought. Geelani viewed Kashmir and Pakistan through the prism of shared religious, cultural and historical ties. His famous political position was not based simply on geography. It reflected his belief that the political future of Kashmir was closely connected to Pakistan. This conviction remained one of the defining features of his political career.

Yet Geelani’s legacy cannot be understood through politics alone. He was also a writer, thinker and student of literature. His engagement with Allama Iqbal’s philosophy, particularly ideas of selfhood, dignity and awakening, influenced his political worldview. His writings, including Wular Kinare and Rudad-e-Qafas, provide an important window into the intellectual foundations of his struggle. For Geelani, political resistance was inseparable from intellectual and moral conviction.

This aspect of his legacy deserves greater attention. Movements are sustained not only through political mobilisation but also through ideas. Leaders leave behind institutions, speeches and political programmes, but their deepest influence often survives through the questions they teach subsequent generations to ask. Geelani repeatedly asked whether a people can be denied the right to participate meaningfully in determining their political future. That question remains relevant to any serious discussion of Kashmir. Four decades of political struggle also transformed Geelani into a symbol. His phys-

ical freedom was repeatedly restricted, particularly during the later years of his life, but his political voice continued to resonate among his supporters. His prolonged confinement demonstrated the limits of treating political dissent solely as a security problem. Suppressing a voice may restrict its public reach for a time, but it does not necessarily eliminate the political grievances that gave rise to that voice.

The most important question on his death anniversary, therefore, is not simply how Geelani should be remembered. It is what his life tells us about the unresolved Kashmir question. His death did not remove the political aspirations he represented. Nor can the passage of time alone resolve a dispute that remains deeply rooted in questions of identity, representation and self-determination.

Geelani’s death should be approached critically and historically. Remembering a political leader does not require ignoring disagreements surrounding his politics. It requires understanding the circumstances that shaped his choices, the principles he defended and the costs he was prepared to bear for them.

Four years after his death, the enduring lesson of Syed Ali Shah Geelani’s life is therefore one of political conviction. He demonstrated that leadership, in his understanding, meant remaining committed to a cause even when the personal consequences were severe. Whether one agreed with his politics or not, his determination made him one of the defining figures of modern Kashmiri politics.

On his death anniversary, his legacy should not be reduced to a slogan or a photograph. It should be examined through the larger question that defined his life: can lasting peace be built without addressing the aspirations and rights of the people at the centre of a conflict? For Geelani, the answer was clear. His life was devoted to making that answer impossible to ignore.

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“Born in Different Times, Living Different Lives”

The definition given by the Royal Academy (RAE) leaves no room for doubt about the concept, defining it as “A generation is a group of people born during a similar period who share common life experiences, cultural influences, and historical events.

Individuals within a generation often develop similar values, behaviors, preferences, and attitudes because they grow up in comparable social, technological, and economic environments. Generations are not rigid categories; instead, they serve as helpful frameworks for understanding how people of different age groups think, work, and interact. Generational studies usually divide people into cohorts spanning about 15 to 20 years. These cohorts are shaped by major events, technological advancements, economic conditions, and parenting styles. Understanding generations helps researchers, educators, employers, and marketers analyze social trends and adapt strategies to different age groups.

Lost Generation (1883-1900): The Lost Generation refers to the generation of people born approximately between 1883 and 1900. They came of age during or just before World War-I (1914–1918) and were deeply affected by the war’s devastation and the rapid social changes of the early 20th century. Historical events experienced were Industrialization and urbanization, World War I, The social and cultural changes of the

1920s. Why “Lost”? Many members experienced disillusionment after World War-I, The war shattered traditional beliefs about progress, patriotism, and morality, and many felt alienated, directionless, and emotionally scarred. In Literary significance, the term “Lost Generation” was coined by Gertrude Stein and popularized by Ernest Hemingway in the epigraph of his 1926 novel The Sun Also Rises. It also refers to a group of American expatriate writers living in Paris during the 1920s. Notable members were Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Dos Passos, and E. E. Cummings.

The Greatest Generation (1901–1927): The Greatest Generation, also known as the GI Generation, includes individuals born in the early 20th century. This generation experienced significant historical events such as the Great Depression and World War II. These events shaped their values of hard work, discipline, resilience, and community responsibility. Members of this generation contributed significantly to rebuilding societies after the war. They played a key role in industrial development, infrastructure construction, and social institutions. Their experiences encouraged strong family values, perseverance, and dedication to national and community development.

The Traditionalist or Silent Generation (1928–1945): The Silent Generation grew up during the Great Depression and

Continued on Page 7

Gilani Calls for Continued Relief Efforts for Flood-Hit Gilgit-Baltistan

 **Kiran Asim**

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has stressed the need for continued attention and coordinated efforts to provide maximum relief to people affected by floods in Gilgit-Baltistan. He expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Malik Kifayatullah Rehman at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Former Forest Minister Muhammad Imran Wakeel and former Kohistan MPA Abdul Sattar Khan also attended.

The meeting also discussed the overall political situation in Gilgit-Baltistan. Abdul Sattar Khan thanked Gilani for establishing a degree college in Dasu during his tenure as prime minister.

In a separate meeting, Justice (R) Irfan Qadir briefed the acting president on decisions concerning representations filed under the Federal Ombudsmen Institutional Reforms Act, 2013.

A delegation of the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers, led by Chairman Usman Aslam Malik, also met Gilani and discussed issues facing the country's automobile industry.

Dr Kaleem Zaidi and Resident Editor Khabrain Multan Syed Sajjad Bukhari discussed matters related



to Multan and South Punjab and the region's development. Dr Abdul Ghaffar Jhammat of Darya Khan, Bhakkar, also apprised him of issues concerning his area.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan Friendship Transcends Time and Borders: Ambassador Tipu

TASHKENT: Pakistan's Ambassador to Uzbekistan Muhammad Mudassar Tipu extended heartfelt greetings to the government and people of Uzbekistan on the 35th anniversary of the country's independence. He praised Uzbekistan's ancient civilization, rich cultural heritage, resilience and achievements, describing it as a privilege to celebrate the historic occasion.

Ambassador Tipu highlighted the deep historical, cultural and spiritual ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, noting the shared legacy of renowned scholars including Imam al-Bukhari, Imam al-Tirmidhi, Al-Khwarizmi, Ibn-e-Sina and Al-Biruni. He said the longstanding friendship between the



two countries had gained renewed momentum in recent years.

He noted that under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan and Uzbekistan were steadily expanding cooperation in various sectors. He emphasized their shared commitment to peace, development and regional security.

The ambassador expressed confidence that the two brotherly countries would continue working together to build a brighter, peaceful and secure future for coming generations. He also conveyed Pakistan's sincere wishes for Uzbekistan's continued peace, prosperity, progress and happiness.

Mac Users Lag Behind Windows Users in Cybersecurity Practices: Kaspersky Survey reveals

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: According to Kaspersky's latest survey 12% of macOS users reported malware infections compared with 9% of Windows users. Moreover, only 35% of macOS owners install dedicated security software, versus 42% of Windows users.

The largest gap in cybersecurity approaches appears in the habit of not opening suspicious emails or links, with 62% of Windows users following this practice compared to 51% of macOS users. What's more, when it comes to cybersecurity software installation, macOS users are also lagging behind. While among Windows users 42% reported using digital life protection software, for macOS this rate is only



35%, what Kaspersky security experts call a worryingly low figure.

MacOS users faced more scams and investment frauds (16% vs 13%),

privacy violations (11% vs 8%) and thefts of personal data (12% vs 7%).

To counter these specific threats, robust anti-malware and anti-phishing

protection is essential.

Dedicated security solutions add a crucial layer of real-time detection and defense that complements macOS's built-in protection—and independent tests have repeatedly shown that effective options, such as Kaspersky Premium for macOS, deliver strong protection. In 2025, AV-TEST recognized it as the top-performing macOS security solution based on consistent, reliable results across a full year of evaluations. When it comes to credentials and passwords safety, Windows users also show better security practices' adoption rates. They lead in using a unique password for each account (38 % vs 35 %) and complex passwords (52 % vs 45 %), two factor or multi factor authentication (51 % vs 46 %).

D-8 Secretary-General's Ankara Visit Focuses on Health, Climate Cooperation

 **Spokesman Report**

ANKARA: D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood undertook high-level engagements in Ankara aimed at strengthening cooperation among member states in health, climate action and other priority areas.

During a meeting with Turkish Health Minister Prof. Dr. Kemal Memişoğlu, the two sides reviewed the D-8 health cooperation agenda and explored practical collaboration in pharmaceuticals, medical manufacturing, vaccines, biotechnology, research, innovation, digital health and capacity-building. They stressed the importance of linking institutions and utilizing the complementary

expertise of the nine D-8 member states.

The Secretary-General also discussed preparations for the 2nd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Health, to be hosted by Türkiye, and proposed a D-8 webinar on digital health based on Türkiye's experience. Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination and strengthen engagement with international health organizations.

Mahmood also participated in a briefing on Türkiye's preparations for its COP31 Presidency and Leaders' Summit, scheduled for Antalya in November 2026. He reaffirmed D-8 support for Türkiye's presidency and expressed readiness to contribute to a successful conference.



The visit included meetings with Turkish officials, diplomats and parliamentarians, including Fuat Oktay and Ali Şahin. Discussions



sions focused on COP31, the D-8 agenda and opportunities to enhance cooperation and the

organization's international visibility. Overall, the visit emphasized

practical, project-based cooperation and implementation of D-8 decisions.

Sardar Muhammad Irshad Khan Urges Resolution of Public Grievances in AJK

 **City Desk**



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Parliamentary Board of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Muhammad Irshad Khan, expressed concern over continued difficulties faced by people traveling between Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, especially those transporting essential goods.

He noted that despite the AJK Prime Minister's statement that obstacles on trade routes would be removed within 24 to 36 hours, problems reportedly persist. He urged authorities to take immediate steps, emphasizing that the people of AJK have deep-rooted ties with Pakistan. "The people of Kashmir have made immense sacrifices in the name of Pakistan; their sentiments and longstanding association with Pakistan should be respected," he said.

On internet services, Sardar Irshad questioned why connectivity had not been fully restored beyond educational institutions. He pointed out that Poonch and Pallandri were excluded from the restoration notification, despite their role in the Kashmir freedom struggle, and called for clarification.

He appealed to the Government of Pakistan and all stakeholders for restraint, dialogue, and peaceful resolution to prevent further tension. He also raised concerns over prolonged restrictions and curfew-like measures in Rawalakot, asking whether residents were being treated as outsiders despite their historical contribution.

He reiterated the need for constructive engagement to address grievances and maintain peace and stability in the region.

Saraikistan Coordination Campaign Convoy to Leave Multan for Taunsa Sharif today



 **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The Saraikistan Coordination Campaign convoy will depart from Multan for Taunsa Sharif at 8 am today, September 4, announced Saraikistan Watan Party Chairman Zahoor Dharija during a meeting with Saraiki leader Akhtar Khan Jatoi and others. Dharija said the convoy, including writers, poets and intellectuals, will address gatherings at Bahawalpur Bypass, Nakshah Chowk, Sher Shah Bypass, Sher Shah Pul, Doaba Mor and Muzaffargarh Press Club before heading to DG Khan. In DG Khan, gatherings are planned at Baseera, Chowk Qureshi, Ghazi Ghat, Gaddar Wala Bypass, followed by a rally at Pul Dot. The convoy will stay overnight in DG Khan and proceed to Taunsa the next day, where Pir Adil, Shah Sadr Din, Dari Dhule Ali and Shadan Lund will address gatherings and a protest demonstration will be held. Dharija criticized the government for ignoring the demand for a Saraikistan province, calling assemblies "stamp paper" and accusing rulers of pursuing personal interests. He rejected the proposal for 34 administrative units as an attempt to undermine the Saraiki movement, and vowed the campaign would continue until the province of Saraikistan with full Wasib boundaries is established.

PEA Destroys 1,500kg Substandard Food in Multan, Restaurant Fined Rs1m

 **Special Correspondent**

MULTAN: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has launched a major crackdown against food safety violations in Multan, destroying around 1,500 kilogrammes of substandard food and taking action against restaurants and a bakery production unit. Two restaurants and a bakery unit were sealed until corrective measures are completed, while their owners were also fined.



During inspections, officials recovered substandard meat, stale vegetables, expired food items, poor-quality ingredients and food stored in contaminated freezers. The bakery production area reportedly contained insects, while particles were also found in raw materials, prompting enforcement action.

Separately, Punjab Chief Minister's Special Assistant for Price Control, Food and Consumer Protection Salma Butt inspected Soghat Restaurant in Gulgasht on September 1. The restaurant was fined Rs1 million for poor cleanliness and hygiene arrangements.

The crackdown has raised concerns among citizens about food safety practices and the effectiveness of routine inspections. They questioned why large quantities of allegedly expired and substandard food remained undetected and demanded that the PFA disclose previous inspection records of the businesses involved.

Citizens stressed that fines and temporary sealing alone were insufficient and called for continuous monitoring, transparent inspection records and accountability. They also urged authorities to ensure that food businesses maintain proper hygiene and protect consumers' health and trust.

The report noted that Multan Food Authority officials and its PRO did not respond to requests for comment.

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
174,929.68	174,776.59
Day's High	Day's Low
175,796.24	174,893.67
Index Value	Change
13,125,688,251	+ 153.09
Percentage	Time
+0.09%	3 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,831.52	+ 75.07
Percentage	Time
+0.70%	3 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
53,685.76	+623.81
Percentage	Time
+ 1.18%	3 Sept, 1:47 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
64,214.48	− 111.16
Percentage	Time
−0.17%	3 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT +9
Open Market Forex Rates	

PMPKL

Completes Skills

Training Project,

Empowers 964

Youth



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited (PMPKL) has successfully completed its Skills Training Project 2026, with 964 adolescents from tobacco-growing communities completing vocational training during the year.

The initiative, launched in 2021, aims to provide practical skills and livelihood opportunities to adolescent children of contracted tobacco farmers while contributing to efforts to reduce child labour risks. The 2026 programme trained 481 boys and 483 girls in various vocational fields.

Boys received training in Building Electrician and Agricultural Sciences, while girls were trained in Tailoring, Embroidery, and Food Preparation and Preservation. All successful participants will receive Trade Testing Board-accredited certificates and starter toolkits, including sewing machines and electrician equipment, to help them apply their skills in the future.

The graduation and exhibition ceremony in Swabi was attended by government representatives, trainers, farmers and PMPKL officials. Assistant Commissioner Tehsil Razar Sabeeha Hastam praised the initiative, particularly its focus on creating opportunities for young women and promoting economic independence.

PMPKL Director Leaf Abid Javed said nearly 5,000 boys and girls had benefited from the project since 2021. He said the company would continue supporting skills development, employability, economic inclusion and sustainable livelihoods in tobacco-growing communities.

Mobilink Bank, SDPI Urge

Gender-Responsive Climate Finance

for Women Farmers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A new study by Mobilink Bank and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) has highlighted the financial vulnerability of women farmers in Pakistan, particularly as climate change intensifies risks to agriculture. The study, "Designing Gender-Responsive Climate Finance," was based on field research in eight districts of Punjab and Sindh and examined barriers preventing women farmers from accessing formal financial services.

The findings showed that more than 90 percent of surveyed women farmers had experienced an extreme climate event, including floods, heatwaves, heavy rainfall or drought, during the previous five years. More than 80 percent reported crop losses or negative effects on farming. Borrowing money was among the most common coping strategies, while some women also sold livestock, potentially reducing their future income.

The study also revealed major structural inequalities. Although 67 percent of employed women work in agriculture, only 1.5 percent of agricultural households are formally recorded as female-headed. Land ownership



is extremely limited, with only around two percent of ever-married women aged 15-49 owning land alone or jointly. In Sindh, 99.1 percent of surveyed women did not own land.

A significant financial and digital gender gap further restricts access to support. While 56 percent of men have full-service financial accounts, only 14 percent of women do.

Mobile-wallet ownership is 48 percent among men compared with just 11 percent among women.

Government and financial-sector representatives called for tailored products addressing women's challenges related to collateral, digital access and climate resilience. Mobilink Bank said the findings would help strengthen its

existing portfolio and develop new financial products for women farmers.

The study emphasized that recognizing women as agricultural workers and providing them with appropriate climate finance is essential for strengthening Pakistan's rural economy and building resilience against future climate shocks.

Sweet lime

RAWALPINDI: Vendors sell sweet lime on their handcarts alongside a road in night hours, in the city.



Photo: Online

BAJK Board Reaffirms Commitment to Good

Governance and Better Customer Service

Commerce Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: The 104th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (BAJK) was held in Muzaffarabad under the chairmanship of Khushal Khan, Chief Secretary, Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Chairman BAJK Board.

The meeting was attended by BAJK President and CEO Babar Ayyaz, Secretary Finance Hasan Masud, Secretary Law Muhammad Idrees Abbasi, Secretary Industries Adnan Khurshed and other board members and senior officials.

At the outset, the Chairman and board members welcomed and congratulated Babar Ayyaz on assuming charge as President and CEO of BAJK. They expressed confidence that his professional leadership would help strengthen the bank's institutional capacity and banking services.

The Board reviewed several important matters concerning the bank's operations, governance, business activities and future direction and took decisions in the interest of customers and stakeholders. Participants emphasized corporate governance, financial discipline, transparency, institutional strengthening and professional excellence.

Special attention was given to improving



customer service and service delivery while responding to changing customer needs. Khushal Khan appreciated the efforts of management and employees and stressed collective commitment, prudent decision-making, innovation and professionalism.

Babar Ayyaz thanked the Board for its confidence and guidance and pledged to

focus on customer service, operational efficiency, technological modernization and sound governance.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to protect stakeholders' interests, enhance public confidence and further develop BAJK as a professionally managed, customer-focused financial institution.

3P Plastic Print Pack

Pakistan 2026 Exhibition

Inaugurated in Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The 3P Plastic Print Pack Pakistan 2026 exhibition, the country's largest show for plastic, printing and packaging industries, was inaugurated today at Lahore Expo Centre by Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce and Investment. Also present was Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO of organizer Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. Addressing the ceremony, Minister Shafay Hussain appreciated Fakt Exhibitions for connecting Pakistan's industry with global manufacturers and technology providers. He said the exhibition offers businesses a chance to explore latest machinery and innovative solutions while promoting responsible plastic use, sustainable packaging, and



eco-friendly practices. He stressed that innovation and sustainability are vital as industries address climate change. CEO Saleem Khan Tanoli said the event is a key platform for stakeholders to network, exchange knowledge and identify growth opportunities, highlighting the need for circular economy practices and climate-smart technologies. The exhibition features 650+ companies from 30 countries showcasing advanced machinery and sustainable solutions.

3P Pakistan 2026 will run until September 5, 2026.

MEPCO Chairman Reviews Customer Facilitation

Center in DG Khan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: MEPCO Board Chairman Engineer Amir Zia visited the Customer Facilitation Center in Choti Zari, DG Khan to review modern one-window services for consumers, including complaint redressal, billing, new connections and online facilities.

CEO MEPCO Engineer

Gul Muhammad Zahid briefed him on operations. Chairman Zia appreciated the steps taken for transparent and dignified services and stressed further improvement in quality and promptness. He noted that digital facilities like online payment, modern billing, duplicate bills, online new connections and complaint tracking are directly benefiting consumers.

He said MEPCO aims not only to supply electricity but also to deliver best customer service by expanding CFCs to consumers' doorsteps. He welcomed the Ministry of Energy's plan to replicate the CFC model in other DISCOs, which have praised MEPCO's system during visits to Multan.

CEO Zahid added that CFCs provide multiple



services under one roof and are being expanded across the MEPCO region, including remote areas. All CFCs are

linked to an online system for complaints, billing issues, installments and reconnections. Future plans include

expanding CFCs to division and sub-division levels. SE Malik Khurshed Ahmed and other officials were present.

PCB Holds Coaching Clinic for Schoolchildren with National Cricketers

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) organised a coaching clinic for 30 schoolchildren at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore as part of its Talent Hunt Programme for Schools. National cricketers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Fakhar Zaman, Abrar Ahmed and Shah Nawaz Dahani participated in the two-hour session and shared their experience with young players.

Fakhar Zaman guided young batters on balance, playing against seam and spin, pacing a 50-over innings and improving their skills. Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shah Nawaz Dahani interacted with aspiring fast bowlers and provided advice on fast-bowling techniques. Spinner Abrar Ahmed coached young players on bowling variations, changing pace and adapting to different playing surfaces.

The second edition of the PCB Talent Hunt Programme for Schools is scheduled to begin in the third week of September and continue until December. The programme has expanded significantly, increasing from 39 to 100 districts and from 450 to 1,400 schools within a year.

The initiative, launched under PCB



Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's vision, aims to revive school cricket and develop educational institutions as nurseries for future

national talent. Trials were conducted by regional coaches in July 2026, followed by training camps that will continue until

September 15. The programme seeks to make cricket a permanent part of co-curricular activities across Pakistan.

NAFSA Introduces Modern Regulatory Framework for Agro-Chemicals Sector



ISLAMABAD: The newly established National Agri-Trade and Food Safety Authority (NAFSA) held an introductory consultation with stakeholders from Pakistan's pesticides and agro-chemicals sector to discuss its new regulatory framework and future priorities.

The session brought together government officials, industry representatives, pesticide manufacturers and importers, laboratories, academia and development

partners. Under the NAFSA Act, 2026, the authority will replace the existing regulatory system under the Agricultural Pesticides Ordinance, 1971 and Rules, 1973.

NAFSA's new framework will modernize the regulation of pesticides, covering registration, imports and exports, manufacturing, licensing, packaging, storage, laboratory testing, inspections and complaint resolution. It

will introduce science-based risk assessment, digital services, defined timelines and stronger traceability.

Officials said the authority would shift from a traditional "gatekeeper" approach to an enabling and export-oriented system. Pesticide regulation will also be linked with food safety, maximum residue limits and farm-to-port traceability to improve access to international markets.

Chairman NAFSA Board of Governors Ahmed Umair said the initiative would strengthen food safety, protect farmers and consumers and support agricultural exports. Director General Muhammad Imran Khan Mohmand emphasized transparency, digitalization and predictable regulatory processes.

NAFSA plans to complete the transition from the Department of Plant Protection by October 31, 2026.

Zone-I Whites and Zone-II Whites win in Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament here at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Batting Aman Haider scored 99 but could not save their team Zone-III Greens from defeat. Mohib Nasir 73, Aitaz Khan 69, Jazim Ali Khan 66, Mir Murash 52 also batted well.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-I Whites beat Zone-III Greens by 44 runs at TMC Ground. Zone-I Whites 241 all-out in 38.2 overs. Jazim Ali Khan 66 6x4, Mir Murash 52 8x4, Muhammad Qaseem 49 6x4. Ayan Ali (rlb) 3/30, Abdul Moiz 2/47, Ruslan 2/52, Muhammad Rayan 2/58.

In reply Zone-III Blues 197 all-out in 39.3 overs. Aman Haider 99 11x4. Umar Sharif 2/21, Mehboob 2/26, Wajid Khan 2/38.

In the 2nd Match Zone-II Whites beat Zone-I Blues by 114 runs at KCCA Stadium Zone-II Whites 241 all-out in 39.1 overs. Mohib Nasir 73 5x4, Aitaz Khan 69 5x4 2x6, Arish Yaqoob 33, Muhammad Duzail 29. Atif Hussain (rlb) 3/33, Muhammad Rayan Talah 3/55.

In reply Zone-I Blues 127 all-out in 31.3 overs. Abdullah Ahmed 49 5x4 1x6, Muhammad Tayyab 17, Junaid Jawed (rlb) 3/25, Muhammad Imam 2/3, Atif Khan 2/13.

Punjab Inaugurates Modern Padel Tennis Courts at Nishtar Park



Sports Desk

Punjab Sports Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar inaugurated five modern padel tennis courts at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC), Lahore, on September 3, aiming to promote emerging sports and provide better opportunities for young athletes.

The minister said around Rs120 million had been spent on developing the courts, which include dedicated seating areas, washrooms and other facilities for players and visitors. One of the five courts has been constructed according to international standards and can host international-level competitions, while the remaining four will be used for national competitions, training and practice sessions.

Following the inauguration, Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar also played a ceremonial padel tennis match to formally launch sporting activities at the new facility.

The minister emphasized that the Punjab government was upgrading sports infrastructure according to modern requirements and was giving equal attention to traditional as well as emerging sports. He noted that padel tennis was becoming increasingly popular among young people and that modern facilities could help talented players develop their skills and compete nationally and internationally.

He said usage charges would be kept affordable so that students, players and the general public could benefit from the courts.

The government aims to make modern sports facilities accessible and encourage young people towards healthy and constructive activities.

The minister also announced that similar padel tennis courts would soon be established in Sialkot, while the Sports Department was exploring facilities in other cities of Punjab.

Trees: The Adornment of the Earth and the Treasure of Oxygen

and emotional stability. Numerous scientific studies have shown that people living near parks and tree-covered areas experience lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression than those in densely built environments. The presence of trees around schools, hospitals, and workplaces creates healthier, more pleasant surroundings while also improving concentration, productivity, and overall quality of life. Children who grow up in greener environ-

ments often benefit from enhanced cognitive development and greater emotional well-being.

Unfortunately, uncontrolled urban expansion, indiscriminate deforestation, and the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources have caused severe environmental degradation. If this trend continues, future generations may struggle to access clean air, fresh water, and a stable climate. It is therefore

imperative that governments formulate effective forestry policies, prevent illegal logging, implement continuous tree plantation campaigns, and integrate environmental conservation into all development projects. Likewise, educational institutions, religious organizations, the media, and civil society must work together to raise public awareness about the indispensable role of trees in sustaining life and protecting the envi-

ronment.

At the individual level, every citizen has an important responsibility to plant and care for trees. Planting a tree is not merely placing a sapling in the ground; it is an investment in cleaner air, a healthier environment, and a more secure future for coming generations. Equally important is nurturing and protecting trees until they mature and become permanent contributors to the

ecosystem. If every individual plants and safeguards even one or two trees each year, the environmental landscape of Pakistan can be transformed within a relatively short period.

In conclusion, trees truly are the adornment of the earth and the treasure of oxygen. They are fundamental to environmental sustainability, public health, economic development, biodiversity conservation, and ecological balance.

At a time when humanity is confronting unprecedented environmental crises, planting and protecting trees has become a moral, social, and national responsibility. Let us all pledge to plant more trees, preserve existing forests, and promote a culture of environmental stewardship, for only a greener planet can ensure a healthier society, a sustainable environment, and a prosperous future for generations to come.

“Born in Different Times, Living Different Lives”

Continued from Page 4

World War II. This generation valued dependability, straightforwardness, tactfulness, stability, loyalty, and respect for authority. They emphasized discipline, education, and family responsibility. The Silent Generation laid the foundation for post-war economic growth and social stability. They contributed to education, science, politics, and business, helping shape modern institutions and societal structures. The Silent Generation experienced hardship and uncertainty. The term "silent" reflects the conformity and restraint characteristic of the era, where stability and hard work were prioritized over self-expression.

So these were the Builders (born <1946) generation, which describes those born before 1946. The label points to the fact that this generation 'built' so much of the society we know today. This generation has also displayed its resilience through some tough times: starting life after the Depression, hearing stories of World War I from their parents,

and living through World War II. Baby Boomers (1946–1964): The Baby Boomer Generation was born during the population boom that followed World War II. There was a significant increase in birth rates, a "baby boom." This generation benefited from economic expansion, technological development, and increased educational opportunities. Baby Boomers played a major role in shaping modern society. They influenced cultural movements, promoted social change, and contributed to advancements in politics, education, and civil rights. Many Boomers became leaders in business, government, and academia, leaving a lasting impact on global development. Boomers also redefined parenting styles by focusing on children's emotional and educational needs. Their contributions to economic growth, housing development, and social reforms continue to influence society today.

Generation X (1965–1980): Generation X is known as the post-boomer generation, or often referred to as the "forgotten generation." Generation X grew

up during a time of rapid technological change and globalization. They witnessed the rise of personal computers, mass media, and shifting economic conditions. Gen X is known for independence, adaptability, and pragmatism. They value work-life balance, financial stability, and personal responsibility. Many Gen X members became entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders during a period of economic growth and technological innovation. This generation serves as a bridge between traditional and digital eras, combining practical skills with technological awareness.

Millennials or Generation Y (1981–1996): Coming of age during the new millennium, Millennials, also called Generation Y, came of age during the rise of the internet, "Digital Natives," and globalization. They experienced both pre-digital and digital lifestyles, making them highly adaptable to technological change. Millennials value creativity, diversity, collaboration, and social responsibility. They seek meaningful work, personal devel-

opment, and work-life balance. This generation is known for embracing technology, social media, and global connectivity. Millennials have become a significant part of the workforce and consumer market. They influence trends in education, business, technology, and culture and are shaping modern family and workplace environments.

Generation Z (1997–2012): Generation Z, also known as Zoomers, centennials, or iGen, is the first generation to grow up fully in the digital age. They are true digital natives who use smartphones, social media, and online platforms from an early age. Gen Z values innovation, education, inclusivity, and global awareness. They are highly skilled in technology and communication and show a strong interest in entrepreneurship, science, and creative industries. This generation is shaping future trends in technology, education, and social interaction. Zoomers are also those who most value the so-called "emotional salary". Millennials and Gen Z place a high value on travel and diverse

life experiences.

Generation Alpha (2013–2024): Generation Alpha includes children born entirely in the 21st century. This generation is surrounded by advanced technology such as artificial intelligence, tablets, smart devices, and virtual learning tools from birth. Gen Alpha is expected to be one of the most technologically educated and globally connected generations. They are growing up in a highly digital and diverse world, which will influence future education systems, workplaces, and social structures. It may be too soon to peg the Alphas as this or that based on how little we know about them so far. However, there are a few things we understand: Some Gen Alphas were the first to be born during the COVID-19 pandemic, they're more diverse than any other generation, and they're more likely to be in a single-parent household. They have the potential to redefine education and the workforce. Gen Alpha is currently between 0 and 13 years old, representing the youngest generation.

Generation Beta (2025–2039): Generation Beta refers to children born from 2025 onward. Although research on this generation is still limited, experts predict that they will grow up in an environment deeply integrated with artificial intelligence, automation, and digital connectivity.

Generation Beta is expected to value adaptability, sustainability, innovation, and global collaboration. As technology continues to evolve, this generation will play a key role in shaping the future of society. Three major factors influence generational differences:

Parenting styles: How parents raise children affects values, attitudes, and behavior.

Technology: Advances in communication, computing, and media shape learning, social interaction, and work patterns.

Economic conditions: Economic growth, recessions, and job markets influence career choices and lifestyles.

Generations experience major events such as wars, technological revolutions, pandemics, and social movements during their formative years. Understanding generations is important in many fields, including education, marketing, psychology, and business. Each generation contributes unique skills, values, and experiences to society. A generation is a group of people born within a similar time period who share common historical, technological, and cultural experiences. From the Greatest Generation to Generation Beta, each cohort reflects the world in which it was raised. These generations have shaped society through their values, contributions, and innovations. Understanding generational cohorts helps us understand social change, improve communication across age groups, and build a more inclusive and connected society. Today, at least six generations live together. Generational differences are not a social barrier, but rather an opportunity to bring together unique perspectives in both work and life. Understanding these differences helps us better serve our clients across all generations and accommodate their unique needs.

Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, delivering the keynote address at the "High Level International Dialogue on Taxation for Fiscal Sustainability in Pakistan", organised by the Asian Development Bank.



Photo: PID

Finance Minister Chairs Second Meeting on National Private Equity Policy Framework

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the second meeting of the Committee developing a National Private Equity Policy Framework, aimed at strengthening Pakistan's private equity ecosystem and mobilizing long-term domestic and international capital.

The Committee opened by congratulating Aurangzeb on Pakistan's successful \$3 billion dual-tranche Eurobond issuance, which he said reflected growing investor confidence and provided momentum for deepening equity markets. The meeting reviewed progress across regulatory, taxation and institutional work streams established after the first meeting.

On regulation, the Committee discussed State Bank measures to facilitate institutional investment, repatriation, exit and accounting treatment under banking and IFRS standards. On taxation, members emphasized tax neutrality for private equity structures, transparent capital-gains treatment, and safeguards against tax arbitrage. The

meeting also reviewed SEC-led work on the legal framework for private equity and venture capital.

Aurangzeb stressed that private equity is vital for mobilizing patient capital into productive sectors, supporting employment and entrepreneurship, and that the framework must translate into actual investment rather than just financial

structures. The Committee agreed to consolidate recommendations into a coherent, implementable national framework.

The meeting was attended by advisors Haroon Akhtar Khan and Muhammad Ali, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, Secretary Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal, and other Committee members.

Pakistan, Australia Agree to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain held talks with Australian officials on September 3 to strengthen cooperation in agricultural research, climate resilience, biosecurity, water management and agricultural trade.

The minister appreciated Australia's longstanding partnership through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), noting that collaboration in agricultural research has continued since 1984. He stressed the need to convert



research into practical and scalable solutions for farmers, particularly in climate-resilient agriculture, water

management, crop improvement, horticulture and value-chain development.

Both sides discussed

increasing Pakistan's agricultural and horticultural exports to Australia by addressing phytosanitary require-

ments, improving plant-health systems and facilitating market access. Pakistan also proposed greater cooperation in pest identification, molecular diagnostics, DNA barcoding, surveillance, quarantine management and digital plant-health systems.

The meeting explored collaboration in weather-based pest forecasting, GIS surveillance, early-warning systems, invasive pest management and locust preparedness. ACIAR's Aik Saath programme and the Water Resilience and Livelihood Improvement in the Southern Indus Basin project were also reviewed.

Acting President Gilani commends security forces for foiling infiltration attempt along Pak-Afghan border



Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Acting President, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday paid tribute to the security fore-

es for foiling an infiltration attempt by the India-backed Fitna al-Khawarij along the Pak-Afghan border in North Waziristan.

In a statement issued by the Presidency, the acting president lauded the professionalism and bravery of the security forces for killing 15 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij during the operation.

"India-backed terrorists will never be allowed to obstruct the country's peace, stability and journey towards prosperity," Yousuf Raza Gilani said.

He said the efforts of the security forces and law-enforcement agencies would continue until the complete elimination of terrorism.

Dar Pledges Cooperation with Newly-Elected OIC Secretary-General



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with newly elected OIC Secretary-General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. Dar congratulated the SG on his election by consensus and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the OIC. He expressed confidence that the SG would advance the interests of the Muslim Ummah and address key issues including Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir. The Secretary-General thanked Pakistan for

supporting his candidature and acknowledged Pakistan's important role in the OIC. He commended Pakistan's leadership — PM Shehbaz Sharif, DPM Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir — for efforts to end the Iran conflict. He also congratulated Dar on the signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye, calling it significant for regional peace and security. Both sides agreed to work closely to strengthen the OIC's role in serving the Muslim Ummah and looked forward to continued coordination and an early meeting.

Sindh Assembly Passes Resolution Against Province's Division



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution declaring Sindh an indivisible province and rejecting any proposal to alter its boundaries. MQM-P lawmakers walked out during the proceedings.

The resolution was moved by PPP lawmaker Nisar Khuhro after a four-day debate on an adjournment motion about creating new provinces and administrative units. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah addressed the house, rejecting any move to divide Sindh.

He said decisions on the province's future should be made by elected representatives and that the assembly would not compromise on geographical unity.

He added there was no objection to creating administrative units for better governance, but opposed any division. CM Shah cited similar anti-division resolutions passed in 2012, 2014 and 2019.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said creating provinces is a constitutional matter to be decided only by the provincial assembly, not through protests or talk shows. Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Saeed Ghani and Faryal Talpur also opposed division.

Opposition Leader Ali Khursheed said MQM-P does not want Sindh divided but wants discussion on administrative reforms and devolving powers to address Karachi's issues. The session was adjourned until Friday at 2:30pm.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Orders Grand Anti-Corruption Operation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: September 3Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced a zero-tolerance campaign against corruption and malpractice across the province. A special confidential cell has been set up to identify corrupt practices and submit reports directly to the CM. An anti-corruption helpline 1350 is now functional for public complaints, with assurances that complainant identities will remain confidential. The CM directed that action on complaints must be completed within a set timeframe and that arrests be made where needed. She will personally monitor the crackdown and has made independent review of quality and expenditure of every development project mandatory. A modern monitoring system will oversee project spending. "Corruption is theft of people's rights and trust," she said, vowing that action will continue until looted money is recovered. She warned that no influence or recommendation will provide cover. Good performers will receive the CM Merit Badge, while those found guilty will face legal action. "Public money will be spent only on the people," she added.



Governor Balochistan, Federal Minister Discuss Rs. 415 Billion Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Expressway

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan met Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in Islamabad to discuss the development of the communication sector in Balochistan and ongoing projects of the National Highway Authority (NHA).

The meeting focused on major highways across the province, including progress on the N-25 Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Pakistan Expressway, a Rs. 415 billion project, as well as the Zhob Bypass and other key NHA projects in Balochistan.

Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said the Pakistan Expressway would make travel between Karachi and Quetta faster and reduce distance, while serving as



a vital trade route for Balochistan and the country. He added that its completion would boost trade, transportation and economic activities in the region.

He emphasized that due to Balochistan's strategic location, a modern and secure road network is essential for national development and regional trade, and that the Ministry and NHA are prioritizing and closely monitoring highway projects in the province. Governor

Mandokhail thanked the federal minister for special attention to Balochistan's highway projects.

He appreciated NHA's role and the federal government's efforts on the N-25 Expressway, noting that completion of these projects would provide better travel facilities and create new opportunities for trade and economic growth. The Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman NHA and other officials also attended the meeting.