



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابو ایمنان نے بیان کیا کہ ہم کو شعیب نے خبر دی کہ ہم سے ابو ابراہیم نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے اعرج نے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا قیامت کے دن اللہ کے نزدیک سب سے بدترین نام اس کا ہو گا جو اپنا نام ملک (کشتیاں) رکھے۔
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6205)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived in London

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived in London from Paris on Thursday, after spending about a week in Austria followed by a brief stay in Paris. Sources say his sister Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, along with her husband Mahmood Chaudhry and children, has also reached London. Both siblings will stay there with their father, President Asif Ali Zardari.



Shahid Afridi named Sindh Police Sports Ambassador

Cricketer icon Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the Sports Ambassador of the Sindh Police Sports Board. A ceremony was held in Karachi to honour Afridi's appointment, which was attended by Sindh IG Javed Alam Odho. The police chief presented Afridi with a certificate recognising his appointment as Sports Ambassador. The two also exchanged commemorative shields during the ceremony.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 21, Saturday, September 5, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 136

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Candidate for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations H.E. Ambassador Olara Otunnu called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: PID

DPM condoles loss of lives in Nepal floods, landslides



Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar visited the Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad today and signed the Condolence Book opened in memory of those who lost their lives in the devastating floods and landslides in Nepal.

He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed Pakistan's solidarity with the Government and people of Nepal.

Ishaq Dar noted that climate

change is having a disproportionate impact on countries of the region, with severe consequences for lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.

He prayed for the departed souls, the swift recovery of the injured, and the safety of those still missing.

Reaffirming Pakistan's support for Nepal's relief and recovery efforts, the Deputy Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's readiness to extend all possible assistance in overcoming the consequences of this natural calamity.

Pakistan has successfully navigated a difficult economic turnaround: PM tells ADB VP

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan has successfully navigated a difficult economic turnaround through rigorous fiscal, structural, and governance reforms.

The prime minister, who hosted a breakfast meeting for Asian Development Bank

(ADB) Vice President for South, Central, and West Asia Yingming Yang here, said that the corrective actions by the government have restored macroeconomic stability, reinforced investor confidence, and earned stable outlook upgrades from major international credit rating agencies including Fitch, Moody's, and S&P.

The meeting reviewed the

multi-decade development partnership and priority interventions under the new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2026-2030.

Welcoming Yang on his first official visit to Pakistan in this capacity, Prime Minister Shehbaz lauded ADB's consistent professionalism and responsiveness in delivering transformative urban infra-

structure, transport, and public service projects in Pakistan.

Reaffirming the government's steadfast commitment to long-term economic transformation, he stressed that the administrative bottlenecks are being actively dismantled through dedicated execution task forces.

A central focus of the discussions was the modernisation of

the Main Line-I (ML-1) railway corridor from Karachi to Peshawar—a vital national infrastructure priority.

The meeting concluded with a mutual pledge to translate the strategic priorities of the CPS 2026-2030 into concrete, high-impact results that drive sustainable growth and visibly enhance the standard of living for the people of Pakistan.

Major General Faisal Naseer Appointed National Coordinator of NACTA

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Major General Faisal Naseer has been appointed as the National Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) for a three-year tenure on secondment basis, according to a notification issued by the Establishment Division. The appointment is effective immediately under Section 9(1) of the NACTA Act 2013.

Previously, he served as Director General of Counter Intelligence, DG(C), in the ISI and has extensive experience in counter-terrorism operations and methodologies.

The federal government said his appointment holds "exceptional significance" amid ongoing military operations against terrorism, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Officials noted that his proven opera-

tional expertise and deep understanding of counter-terrorism systems make him well-suited for the role at a critical time.

A decorated officer, Major General Faisal Naseer is a recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Basalat.

NACTA plays a pivotal role in coordinating national-level counter-terrorism efforts, and his posting reflects a merit-based selection based on relevant expertise and professional competence.

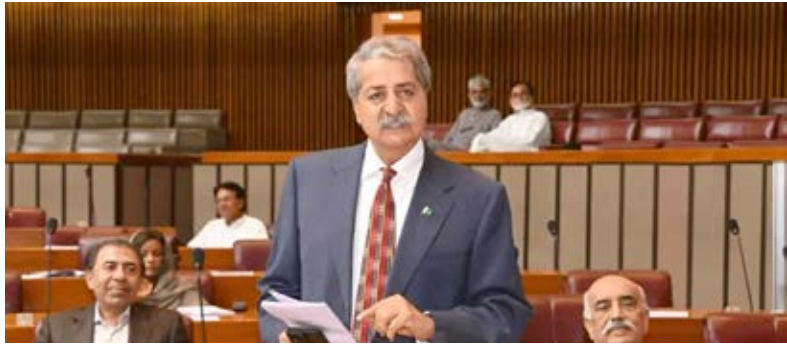


Naveed Qamar says Govt not paying heed to PPP grievances

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar has said that PPP was not full ally of federal government but will continue to support Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif led government. Talking to media at parliament house in Islamabad on Friday, Naveed Qamar said that cooperation will not persist for long time as PPP has expressed some reservation with the government if the government will not listen to their grievances.

PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar, "our grievances relate to the Kashmir elections, the appointment of judges, and



other issues."

The government claimed it would

look into complaints but there has been no progress on these grievances from the

government's side.

PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar said that "due to these reasons, PPP has decided that until there is progress from the government, it will not support the government in the process of government formation".

He said an attempt was made yesterday to bulldoze a bill through the Interior Committee.

PPP leader said Islamabad Local Government Bill will not be supported in any case. He said PPP had submitted a note of dissent regarding the Islamabad Local Government Bill. He said that the government ought to resolve these issues and take appropriate measures.

President, PM pay tribute to forces for eliminating 12 terrorists in Kalat

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for eliminating 12 terrorists backed by Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan during an intelligence-based operation in Kalat.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister expressed their resolve to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country.

They said the entire nation stood firmly with the armed forces in their unwavering resolve to safeguard the country.

"The continuous operations by law enforcement agencies and security forces are aimed



at completely eliminating terrorism being patronized by external elements," the president remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said officers and personnel of the security forces were conducting effective operations against terrorists attempting to undermine peace in the country.

He said the government will never allow terrorists to succeed in their nefarious designs to disrupt peace in Balochistan.

AJK PM Reviews Roadmap for First 100 Days

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Syed Iftikhar Gilani chaired a high-level meeting to review in detail the roadmap prepared for achieving the targets set for the Government's first 100 days.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Khushal Khan, Senior Member Board of Revenue Sardar Zafar Khan, Principal Secretary Adnan Khursheed, Secretary Information and IT Rashid Hanif, and secretaries of various departments.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani said that, in line with the vision and guidance of Quaid-e-Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N Government would accelerate the reform process across all sectors, with a focus on good governance, transparency and merit. He said that the Government's foremost priority was to reduce the difficulties faced by the common citizen and ensure the provision of basic public services.

The Prime Minister said that the



first 100 days would serve as an important milestone for assessing the Government's performance. During this period, people-oriented measures would be undertaken to ensure tangible benefits for the general public. He directed all departments to adopt coordinated and result-oriented strategies for achieving their respective targets and ensure timely

completion of planned initiatives.

He said that reforms in education, health, communications, local government, tourism, infrastructure, employment and other sectors would be pursued to improve public service delivery.

Enhancing the performance of public institutions, addressing public grievances and improving service

delivery would remain among the Government's key priorities.

The Prime Minister directed the officers to ensure prompt resolution of public issues, stating that unnecessary delays would not be tolerated. He called upon all departments to improve their performance and ensure effective implementation of Government policies and decisions.

Daily Wager

LAHORE: A vendor covers his cart with plastic sheet to protect corns during heavy rain in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

New Eight-Member Cabinet Sworn In Azad Jammu Kashmir

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: The 8-member cabinet of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was sworn in on Friday. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the President's House, where Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq administered the oath to the cabinet members.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani, President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir, former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq



Haider Khan, members of the Assembly, Chief Secretary Khushal

Khan, government secretaries, police officers, and other dignitaries.

Those who took the oath included Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Colonel (Retd.) Waqar Noor, Dr. Mustafa Bashir Abbasi, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Saqib Majeed Raja, Raja Riasat, Umair Naeem, and Abdul Rehman Arain.

Secretary Presidential Affairs Javed-ul-Hassan Javed conducted the proceedings of the ceremony. Earlier, Secretary Services and General Administration Department Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed read out the notification regarding the appointment of the cabinet members.

PANAH Urges Pakistan to Fast-Track Front-of-Pack Warning Labels on Unhealthy Foods

 **City Desk**

PANAH's Think Tank has called on the Pakistani government to urgently pass mandatory Front-of-Pack Warning Labels (FOPWLs) on ultra-processed foods high in sugar, sodium, and unhealthy fats. The announcement came from the 5th meeting of PANAH's high-level think tank, held in Islamabad on September 4, 2026, and chaired by Maj Gen (R) Masud Rehman Kiani, PANAH's President. The meeting brought together national and international health experts, policymakers, and civil society representatives.

Participants raised concerns over Pakistan's rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including heart disease, diabetes, and obesity, linking this trend to the growing availability of ultra-processed foods. They argued that clear front-of-pack labels would let consumers instantly



recognize unhealthy products without needing specialized nutrition knowledge.

Maj Gen Kiani stressed that consumers have a right to know what

they're eating, and that Pakistan should learn from other countries that have already adopted similar labeling systems. He warned against further delays, noting the risks unhealthy food

environments pose to women and children in particular.

Sana Ullah Ghumman, PANAH's General Secretary, revealed that the Ministry of National Health Services submitted an evidence-based FOPWL proposal to the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) via the Ministry of Science and Technology more than two years ago, but it remains stalled in discussion.

The think tank formally recommended that PSQCA and the Ministry of Science and Technology act swiftly to finalize and implement mandatory FOPWL national standards, ensuring labels are clear and prominent. PANAH pledged to continue collaborating with government bodies, health experts, researchers, religious scholars (Ulema), media, and civil society to push these labeling standards forward as part of broader efforts to combat NCDs and protect public health across Pakistan.

AJK Election Commission Rejects Reports Regarding Media-Related Funds.

 **Spokesman Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The spokesperson for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has strongly rejected reports circulating on social media, digital media and other platforms alleging that the Election Commission had received funds from the Finance Department under the media head.

The spokesperson clarified that the Election Commission had neither moved any request to the Finance Department for funds under the media head nor received any funds from the Department for this purpose. He termed the reports circulating on social and digital media, as well as other media platforms, completely baseless, fabricated and contrary to facts.

The spokesperson further stated that all matters relating to media fall within the purview of the Information Department, which is therefore the competent authority to provide guidance and clarification on media-related issues.

He urged media organizations to verify information before reporting or disseminating any news and to refrain from circulating unverified reports.



7th Senate Meeting of Agriculture University D. I. Khan Approves Rs445.99 Million Budget

 **Correspondent**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The 7th Senate meeting of Agriculture University Dera Ismail Khan was held in Peshawar under the chairmanship of Senate Chairman and CM Adviser for Agriculture Mian Muhammad Umar.

The Senate reviewed the revised budget for 2025-26 and estimates for 2026-27, and approved a budget of Rs445.99 million for 2026-27.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Latif Gondal briefed the Senate on the university's academic, administrative, financial and infrastructure status. He highlighted key challenges including financial constraints, teaching and HR requirements, land and infrastructure needs, ongoing development projects, asset distribution issues with Gomal University, and shortage of student transport.

Senate members appreciated the briefing and discussed proposals to meet academic and administrative needs. Chairman Mian Umar assured full support to strengthen the university and resolve its difficulties, calling it an important center for higher education and research.

The Senate stressed that adequate financial support is essential for uninterrupted academic activities and for improving education quality, financial stability, and infrastructure.

Senior officials from Agriculture, Higher Education, Finance, HEC and the Peshawar High Court nominee also attended.

RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera meets Professional Photographers Association in Faisalabad

 **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera met with a delegation of the Professional Photographers Association led by Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi in a calm and positive atmosphere.

During the meeting, the RPO engaged enthusiastically with members and discussed the important role of photography across all fields. Association leaders praised the officer, with Chairman Zaidi calling police officers like Sohail Sukhera "no less than a blessing for the public." President Muhammad Ahmed paid tribute with 30 seconds of applause.

Responding to a request for better security for photographers at marquee, RPO Sukhera ordered special police patrolling from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am around all marquees to ensure the protection of photographers.

Secretary Sheikh Qasoor Munir Goreja and other members thanked the RPO, expressing hope for continued support for the development of the association and the photographer community.

Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah Visits Nawabshah, Reviews Division's Affairs

 **Anwar Adil Khanzada**

NAWABSHAH: Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah paid a one-day visit to Nawabshah and chaired a key meeting at the Commissioner's Office Shaheed Benazirabad to review the division's overall situation.

The meeting covered administrative affairs, basic public facilities, development projects, health, education, law and order, and revenue matters. Briefings were given by Commissioner Ghulam Qadir Khan Talpur, DIG Faisal Bashir Memon, and Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti, along with senior district officers.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to prioritize public service delivery, ensure quick resolution of complaints, and improve health and education facilities. He stressed effective implementation of government policies, protection of government land, removal of encroachments, and better revenue record management. Officers were told to remain in the field and assess public issues firsthand.

Later, he visited Quaid-e-Awam Engineering University, where he reviewed academic and research activities. He emphasized modern technology, research, and practical training to equip students for future challenges.

He also expressed condolences to bereaved families from different communities.

Kamal pays surprise visit to PIMS Cardiac Centre

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal on Friday paid a surprise visit to the Cardiac Centre, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and reviewed the healthcare services being provided to patients.

During his visit, the minister also inspected the Electrophysiology Cath Lab at PIMS and sought details about the advanced cardiac facilities available at the centre.

Mustafa Kamal interacted with patients and attendants and inquired about the difficulties they were facing in accessing treatment and other healthcare services.

He asked the hospital administration about the availability and functioning of modern medical equipment and the steps being taken to ensure patients had access to advanced cardiac care.

The minister also questioned officials about patient flow, waiting times and the overall arrangements at the facility, stressing the need to improve services and facilitate patients.

He directed the relevant authorities to identify shortcomings affecting patients and take practical measures to address them.

The minister said public hospitals must focus on providing timely, quality and accessible healthcare to patients, particularly those requiring specialized treatment.

He also reviewed the performance of the Electrophysiology Cath Lab and discussed measures to further strengthen modern cardiac treatment facilities at PIMS.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:18 am
Zohr	12:07 pm
Asr	4:41 pm
Maghrib	6:30 pm
Isha	7:55 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 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

ANF Busts International Afghan-Based Drug Trafficking Network in Karachi and Colombo

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) has disrupted a transnational drug trafficking network smuggling Afghan-origin narcotics through Pakistan to international markets. Acting on actionable intelligence, ANF seized 200 kg of Methamphetamine (Ice) from a container at Karachi Port and arrested the Afghan mastermind Ehsan Ullah along with local handlers. During interrogation, the kingpin provided critical leads. ANF immediately shared intelligence with Sri Lankan authorities and the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This led to a joint operation at Colombo Port, Sri Lanka, where 471 kg of Methamphetamine (Ice) concealed in towels was recovered. In total, 671 kg of Ice linked to the Afghanistan-based network was seized from Karachi and Colombo ports. ANF said Pakistan remains a victim state for Afghan-origin drugs. The force used advanced intelligence-based strategies and close coordination with international partners to dismantle the network. Both Sri Lankan authorities and the DEA formally acknowledged ANF's role in the operation, highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fulfilling international obligations in counter-narcotics cooperation.

CM Maryam Nawaz announces seven more electric buses for Sargodha

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Members of the Provincial Assembly from Sargodha met CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz. Those who called on the chief minister included Provincial Minister Sohaib Ahmad Malik, Mansoor Azam, Mian Sultan Ranjha, Ikram-ul-Haq, Safdar Hussain Sahi, Rana Munawar Hussain, Taimur Ali Khan and Sardar Asim Sher Maken.

The MPAs paid tribute to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for the establishment and record-time completion of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha. They also expressed their gratitude to her for launching the electric bus service in Sargodha.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz announced provision of seven more electric buses for Sargodha and directed the lawmakers to closely monitor the Model



Village, Suthra Punjab Programme and clean drinking water projects.

The meeting also reviewed proposals and recommendations aimed at accelerating the pace of ongoing development projects. The MPAs briefed the chief minister on the positive feedback received from the public regarding various development initiatives.

The lawmakers said that thousands of people were benefiting daily from the

electric bus service in Bhalwal, Bhera, Sillanwali, University, DHQ, Shahinabad, Kot Momin and Tehsil Sahiwal. They termed the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha an unforgettable initiative. They said that the welfare projects launched by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz were being appreciated not only across Pakistan but also abroad.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said

that it gave her immense satisfaction to see people, particularly women and children, travelling comfortably on electric buses.

She said that every city, including Sargodha, had been put on the path of development and all available resources were being utilised for public facilitation.

"Equitable and indiscriminate development in every part of Punjab is Nawaz Sharif's vision," she added.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Activists of different labour unions shouting slogans during protest against 236 Punjab Horticulture Authority (PHA) employees were dismissed their jobs without any reasons, outside press club, in the city.



Photo: Online

AIOU Organizes Naatia Mushaira to Promote Love for Holy Prophet ﷺ

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized a soul-stirring Naatia Mushaira to promote love and devotion for the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and to highlight Seerat-e-Tayyaba, noble character, and Islamic values among students.

Jointly arranged by the Department of Urdu and AIOU FM Radio 91.6, the event featured renowned poets including Qayyum Tahir, Dr. Kashif Irfan, Dr. Qasim Yaqoob, Dr. Shaza Akbar, and Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad who recited devotional Naatia poetry, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Muhammad Izhar-ul-Haq presided over the Mushaira. Prof. Dr. Syed Muhammad



Amir Shah, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, and poet Akhtar Usman attended as chief guests, while Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir and Arsh Hashmi were guests of honour. Dr. Mehnaz Anjum served as stage secretary.

Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Nashad said such gatherings help acquaint the younger generation with the Prophet's ﷺ teachings of morality, tolerance, love and humanity. Prof. Dr. Amir Shah added that the Seerat-e-Tayyaba is the best example for humanity and

that following it can build a peaceful, tolerant society.

The event is part of AIOU's ongoing academic, literary and cultural activities under Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood aimed at students' intellectual, moral and spiritual development.

PEC Launches Skill Development Training for 1,400 Graduate Engineers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has started a one-month Skill Development Training for the second cohort of its Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) Placement Program for 2025 graduates.

The program covers 1,400 trainee engineers. The first 700 trainees will train from September 1-30, 2026, and the remaining 700 from October 1-31, 2026.

Under the GET program, PEC is collaborating with 60+ industrial partners nationwide. Trainees receive 5 months of field training with industry partners, followed by 1 month of skill development training, and a monthly stipend of Rs50,000.

The skill training is held 5 days a week at 8 centers in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Hyderabad and Quetta. Topics include communication, emotional intelligence, business writing, public speaking, critical thinking, time management, innovation, engineering ethics and more. In the final week, trainees will attend a Certificate Program in Personality Development by National Defence University (NDU).

Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir said the program bridges the gap between academia and industry, improves employability, and builds a skilled engineering workforce for Pakistan's economic and technological growth.

MOU Signed Between GSIS and CDA Officers Association for Educational Concessions



ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Global System of Integrated Studies (GSIS) and the CDA Officers Association Islamabad to provide special educational concessions to children of CDA employees. Under the agreement, eligible students will receive a 100% waiver of admission and security fees and a 50% concession on monthly tuition fees. Priority admission consideration will also be given, subject to seat availability. The initiative was appreciated by CDA Member Estate Mr. Zaman Wattoo and reflects the CDA Officers Association's commitment to the welfare and educational opportunities of CDA employees and their families. The MOU was signed by Ms. Quratul Ain Rizvi of GSIS and Mr. Kamran Bakht, President of CDA Officers Association. Mr. Riaz Khan, Secretary General of the Association, was also present. The agreement marks a step toward making quality and affordable education more accessible to CDA families.

Defence Day Calls for Commitment to National Development Alongside Defence, Says Zahid Bakhtawari,

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Zahid Bakhtawari Vice President Rawalpindi Cantonment Board and President Central Anjuman Tajiran Cantonment Registered Rawalpindi, said that September 6, Defence Day, reminds the nation of the sacrifices, courage, unity and patriotism of its martyrs and veterans.

He said national defence requires not only strong armed forces but also a stable economy, quality education, modern technology, national unity, rule of law and self-reliance. A strong economy, he added, is the foundation of a strong defence. Zahid Bakhtawari said the business community will continue contributing to economic growth, investment and employment. He urged the government, institutions, business community and citizens to work together for a stronger, prosperous and secure Pakistan.

Paying tribute to the martyrs and veterans, he called for renewed commitment to placing national interests above personal interests and making Pakistan's development, prosperity, security and defence the nation's top priorities.



PPPW Pays Tribute to National Heroes and Martyrs on Defence Day

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party Workers (PPPW) paid rich tribute to the nation's heroes and martyrs on Defence Day, calling their sacrifices a "proud and unforgettable chapter" of Pakistan's history.

In a joint message, PPPW President Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi, Naheed Khan, Fayyaz Ali Khan, Advocate Amjad Ali Baloch and other office-bearers said September 6 reminds the nation of brave sons who placed the defence of Pakistan above their lives.

They highlighted the 1965 war heroics of Squadron Leader



Muhammad Mahmood Alam (MM Alam) and paid tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider), Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Ahmed Rafique Shaheed, Wing Commander Mervyn L. Shaheed, Flight Lieutenant Imtiaz Ahmed Bhatti Shaheed and countless other officers and soldiers who embraced martyrdom.

The PPPW leaders said the sacrifices of martyrs form the foundation of national unity, patriotism and consciousness, and that families of martyrs deserve the highest regard for their patience and resilience.

"Our heroes are our pride, our martyrs are our eternal honour." Pakistan Zindabad!

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Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

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Preparedness Before Crisis: A Small Step Worth Noticing

Institutions are usually judged by their judgments — the verdicts they hand down, the precedents they set. Rarely are they judged by how well their officers know which fire extinguisher to grab in an emergency. Yet it is precisely this unglamorous, procedural diligence that the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) demonstrated this week, when it organized a one-day training session on safety and emergency preparedness for its officers and officials.

On the surface, this looks like routine housekeeping. Briefings on fire classes, evacuation procedures, and hands-on extinguisher drills do not make headlines the way judgments do. But that is exactly why the initiative deserves attention rather than indifference. Institutional resilience is not built in the moment of crisis; it is built in the months and years before one, through drills that most people hope will never be needed.

The presence of Mr. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi and Registrar Muhammad Hafeez Ullah Khan at the session signals something important: that safety preparedness is being treated as an institutional priority, not delegated entirely to junior staff or outsourced to memory. When senior leadership shows up for a fire-extinguisher demonstration, it sends a message down the ranks that safety protocols are not optional bureaucratic exercises — they are part of how the institution understands its duty of care toward its own people.

The involvement of Capital Development Authority experts, who walked participants through Islamabad’s emergency response system and coordinated firefighting procedures, is equally sensible. Courts, like hospitals and schools, are public institutions where large numbers of people gather daily — litigants, lawyers, staff, visitors. An emergency in such a setting is not merely an inconvenience; it can be a matter of life and death if response protocols are unclear or untested.

What would make this initiative more than a one-off gesture, however, is regularity. Fire drills and safety briefings lose their value if they happen once and are then filed away as a completed formality. Institutions that take preparedness seriously repeat these exercises, test them under realistic conditions, and update them as buildings, staff, and risks change.

The FCCP has taken a sensible first step. The real test will be whether this becomes a standing practice rather than a single afternoon’s exercise — because the value of preparedness is proven not on the day of training, but on the day it is actually needed.

Israel and the U. S.: All Set to Starve Iran?

Military strikes, economic strangulation and an open-ended American deployment risk turning pressure on Tehran into collective punishment of ordinary Iranians—and dragging the entire Middle East deeper into war.

The United States and Israel appear to be constructing two arms of the same pressure campaign against Iran. Israel threatens overwhelming military destruction if Tehran again attacks it, while Washington is tightening Iran’s economic isolation and maintaining a formidable military presence across the Middle East.

One attacks the state’s physical capacity; the other squeezes its financial oxygen. Between them stand nearly 90 million Iranian citizens who will ultimately bear much of the cost.

Washington describes its strategy differently. The Trump administration argues that sanctions, blockade and selective military pressure are intended to force Tehran to change its behavior and return to negotiations. Yet the scale and duration of the campaign increasingly raise a disturbing question: at what point does pressure on a government become collective punishment of a population?

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has used unusually uncompromising language about America’s economic objective. Washington has launched an

intensified campaign against Iran’s international financial and commercial lifelines, targeting shipping, aviation, technology, gold, digital assets and financial networks. Foreign companies and banks dealing with sanctioned Iranian entities face the enormous leverage of America’s dollar-based financial system.

The strategic objective is clear: deprive Tehran of revenue, foreign currency and international commercial access until economic pressure forces political concessions. But economies are not governments.

When oil revenue collapses, ordinary citizens lose purchasing power. When a currency depreciates, food, medicine and imported necessities become more expensive. When companies cannot trade, workers lose jobs. When banking channels close, families and legitimate businesses suffer alongside the institutions Washington actually intends to punish. Economic warfare may produce fewer dramatic television images than missiles, but its human consequences can penetrate every household.

That is why the language of economic strangulation is so troubling. Iran’s leadership may be the declared target, but Iranian families inevitably become part of the battlefield. A pensioner purchasing medicine, a mother buying groceries or

a worker trying to support his family cannot isolate himself from inflation, shortages and economic contraction merely because sanctions were designed to influence his government. Meanwhile, military pressure is not disappearing.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has extended major American deployments in the Middle East into 2027. Approximately 50,000 U. S. military personnel

and 19 warships remain positioned across the region, supported by fighter aircraft, air-defense systems and other forces. The deployment unmistakably demonstrates that America is preparing for a prolonged confrontation. That creates an extraordinary contradiction.

President Donald Trump speaks about limiting military involvement and relying increasingly upon economic pressure, while the Pentagon maintains the infrastructure required for blockade enforcement, missile interception, protection of commercial shipping and renewed offensive operations. This is not disengagement. It is military readiness combined with economic warfare.

Israel adds another dimension. Israeli leaders have again threatened devastating attacks against Iranian military and other strategic infrastructure. After months of conflict, the danger is that the distinction between military pressure

and destruction of the economic foundations sustaining civilian life becomes progressively blurred.

Recent American strikes demonstrate how quickly civilians can become victims even when governments insist that they are attacking military targets. Iranian authorities reported civilian deaths and injuries following the latest U. S. operations, including casualties associated with a reported strike near a wedding gathering. Washington says it does not intentionally target civilians and is investigating that incident. But for the dead and wounded, intention does not reverse the consequences.

The greater danger is what happens if economic strangulation and repeated military destruction continue simultaneously. Iran possesses one of the Middle East’s largest populations. It also occupies perhaps its most strategically consequential geography. The Strait of Hormuz sits beside its coastline, while American bases, Gulf oil installations, shipping routes and some of the world’s largest energy facilities lie within the broader theater.

Iran cannot match the United States conventionally. It cannot match Israel’s combination of advanced aircraft, intelligence capabilities and sophisticated missile defenses. But it can retaliate asymmetrically. That retaliation would not fall primarily upon the American homeland thousands of miles away. It would fall upon the Middle East.

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

Kashmir Cannot Be Occupied Into Silence

India faces a Kashmir question it has failed to resolve, and has increasingly sought instead to construct a narrative that presents the dispute as settled.

Since the unilateral revocation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019, New Delhi has devoted considerable political and diplomatic effort to projecting an image of normalcy, relying on elections, diplomatic visits and administrative measures as evidence of political stability. Yet such displays cannot substitute for addressing the underlying political aspirations of the Kashmiri people or resolving the dispute in accordance with international law. What is presented as normalisation therefore risks becoming a carefully managed narrative designed to shape international perceptions rather than a genuine political settlement.

The fiction cracked publicly on 19 August 2026, when US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor arrived in Srinagar, met New Delhi’s appointed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and obligingly told reporters that Jammu and Kashmir is “an important part of India.” The remark was not an accident. It was the precise outcome India had engineered: a Trump administration envoy, visiting a territory India controls by force, reciting the Indian government’s preferred characterisation on camera. Pakistan was right to treat it as what it was — a diplomatic provocation. The Foreign Ministry summoned US Chargé d’Affaires Nathalie Baker within hours, issued a formal demarche and categorically rejected the statement as factually incorrect, irresponsible and contrary to UN Security Council resolutions. Ambassador Gor’s words do not reflect a formal revision of established US policy on Kashmir’s disputed status. They reflect

the success, for one news cycle, of India’s relentless lobbying to have its illegal occupation validated by the world’s most powerful government.

That occupation is older than the ambassador’s visit, and its illegality predates every Indian administrative arrangement imposed since 2019. UN Security Council Resolution 47 of 1948 guaranteed the Kashmiri people a free and impartial plebiscite to determine their own political future. No such plebiscite has ever been held. India’s response to this binding international commitment has been seven decades of delay, deflection and, ultimately, the 2019 revocation — a unilateral constitutional manoeuvre that the UN Secretary-General’s office noted with “concern” and which no UNSC resolution has ever endorsed or legitimised. What India calls integration, international law calls the permanent alteration of a disputed territory’s status without the consent of its people.

New Delhi’s answer is to point to Omar Abdullah’s government and J&K’s October 2024 elections as evidence of democratic normalisation and popular acceptance. But elections without meaningful executive authority cannot constitute genuine democracy. Abdullah’s government remains constitutionally subordinate to a Lieutenant Governor appointed by New Delhi, who retains control over police, public order and key administrative matters. The elected government’s repeated demands for the restoration of full statehood remain unresolved. On 5 August 2026, seven years after the constitutional changes, Kashmiris were still seeking judicial intervention for the restoration of statehood. Political participation cannot be presented as consent when elected representatives remain institutionally constrained.

India’s resistance to independent scrutiny reinforces this contradiction. The OHCHR’s 2018 and 2019 reports called for an independent international Commission of Inquiry, yet India has rejected such calls. Independent journalists continue to face significant restrictions, while international human rights mechanisms have not been granted unimpeded access to investigate conditions in the territory. Such restrictions raise serious questions about transparency and accountability.

Pakistan’s position remains that the Kashmir dispute must be resolved in accordance with international law, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the freely expressed will of the Kashmiri people. Its protest against Ambassador Gor’s remarks therefore reflects opposition to the premature normalisation of a contested dispute.

The international community must distinguish stability from legitimacy. Elections under constrained political authority are not self-determination; diplomatic visits do not settle sovereignty; and prolonged restrictions on independent scrutiny cannot substitute for genuine accountability. Kashmir requires a political settlement grounded in law, representation and the people’s freely expressed will.

Kashmir is not India’s to administer into permanence, and it is not the world’s to forget because India has grown powerful enough to make forgetting convenient. The aspirations of the Kashmiri people — their right to determine their own future, guaranteed by international law and denied by Indian policy for three-quarters of a century — do not expire. The world must stop rewarding the patience of the oppressor and start honouring the rights of the oppressed.

The writer is a graduate of BS International Relations from the International Islamic University Islamabad and a Research Assistant at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR).

Beyond Four Provinces: Rethinking Governance in Pakistan — A Way Forward

Pakistan is asking an old question again: should we have more provinces?

The question has new weight. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal recently said Pakistan must rethink how it governs. His suggestion was direct: either create 15 more provinces, or empower about 160 district governments.

The logic is hard to ignore. A country of over 240 million people cannot be run well when all power and money are locked in four provincial capitals far from most citizens.

This debate deserves serious attention. But it must not become another round of redrawing lines for political gain. The real question is not how many provinces we have on paper. The real question is: “how do we bring government closer to people?”

A Country That Has Outgrown Its Structure

Pakistan’s population has grown far beyond the map we are using.

The 2023 census tells the story. Punjab: 127.7 million. Sindh: 55.7 million. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 40.9 million. Balochistan: 14.9 million.

Punjab alone is bigger than most countries. It is reasonable to ask whether four provinces can still deliver services, justice, and development at this scale.

There are clear benefits to smaller administrative units:

Closer to the People: Local leaders see problems first and can respond faster.

Fairer Distribution: Neglected areas get their own voice and budget instead of waiting for

crumbs from the center.

Real Accountability: It is easier to question a mayor or district chairman than a minister sitting 500 km away.

This is why Southern Punjab has demanded its own province for decades. This is why governing all of Balochistan from Quetta does not work. This is why KP’s merged districts and Hazara have different needs. And this is why Karachi cannot be run the same way as rural Sindh.

The Problem With Just Splitting Provinces

But creating new provinces is not a cure-all.

A new province means a new governor, chief minister, assembly, secretariat, and departments. That means new buildings, new staff, new pensions, and new recurring costs.

In today’s economy, Pakistan cannot afford to add more layers of government without proof they will work better.

There is another risk. If we create 15 provinces but keep the same centralized bureaucracy, we will just have more offices and more politicians. Citizens will still wait months for a road, a school, or a hospital.

The Better Option: Real Local Government

The stronger option is already in our Constitution.

Article 140-A requires provinces to devolve power to elected local governments. Political, administrative, and financial authority should sit with local representatives. This has never been done properly.

Instead of starting from zero, we should fix

Continued on Page 7

British-Pakistani Urologist Dr Muhammad Shabi Ahmed Conferred Tamgha-i-Imtiaz

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Leading British-Pakistani consultant urologist and Professor of Urology, Dr Muhammad Shabi Ahmed, has been conferred Pakistan's prestigious Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence) in recognition of his outstanding public and professional services in the United Kingdom and Pakistan spanning nearly three decades.

The national civil award was conferred on Dr Ahmed by President Asif Ali Zardari as part of Pakistan's civil awards. The official record of the Presidency lists Dr Ahmed among the recipients of the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz.

Based in Birmingham, Dr Ahmed is widely recognised for his contribution to urology and has been credited as one of the pioneers of minimally invasive kidney stone removal procedures in the United Kingdom.

Alongside his clinical career, Dr Ahmed has played a prominent role in the British urological profession. He has served in senior positions within the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS), including Trustee



and Vice President/Treasurer. He also became the first Pakistani graduate to serve on the BAUS Council in the organisation's 80-year history.

Dr Ahmed maintains strong academic and professional links with Pakistan. He serves as a Visiting/Honorary Professor at Dow University of Health Sciences and the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), contributing to medical

education and the development of urological expertise.

He is also a founder member of the Association of Pakistani Physicians in the UK, reflecting his longstanding involvement with the British-Pakistani medical community.

The conferment of the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz is being regarded as recognition of Dr Ahmed's nearly three decades of service to patients,



the medical profession and wider communities in both Britain and Pakistan.

Pakistani IT Firms Eye Saudi Investment and Collaboration Opportunities

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistani technology professionals and business leaders in Saudi Arabia have offered investment, partnerships and collaboration opportunities to Pakistani IT companies and startups seeking to expand in the Kingdom. The opportunities were highlighted at the "Pakistan Tech Meetup" in Riyadh, organized by Majlis-e-Pakistan alongside the fifth edition of LEAP 2026.

The event brought together Pakistani technology professionals, investors, entrepreneurs and startup founders based in Saudi Arabia. Patron-in-Chief of Majlis-e-Pakistan Saqib Zubair said the Pakistani business and technology community in Saudi Arabia was committed to helping local IT firms establish operations, access financing and explore emerging opportunities under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

IT exporter and Hexalyze CEO Saad Shah said the rapidly growing GCC market, particularly Saudi Arabia, offered significant opportunities for Pakistani technology companies. He emphasized that partnerships with established Pakistani businesses in Saudi Arabia could help startups enter the market more efficiently while reducing costs and operational challenges.

Chairman P@SHA Sajjad Syed welcomed the increasing number of



Pakistani IT companies establishing subsidiaries and offshore offices in Saudi Arabia, calling it a positive development for technology exports. He stressed stronger institutional and business linkages between Pakistan's

IT sector and Pakistani professionals in the Kingdom.

More than 50 IT companies participated in the meetup, which featured business discussions and panels on investment, technology and market

opportunities. The event provided a platform for participants to build partnerships, explore investment prospects and strengthen Pakistan-Saudi technology and business ties.

Federal Universities' Vice Chancellors Meet at Bahria University to Strengthen Collaboration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bahria University hosted the 4th monthly meeting of Vice Chancellors / Rectors at its Head Office in Islamabad. The delegation was received by Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral Engr. Abid Hameed HI(M). Participants were briefed on Bahria University's academic ecosystem across its campuses, along with recent initiatives in research, digital infrastructure, and student development. The group also visited the Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence, where they received an overview of its research direction, ongoing projects, and role in advancing AI-driven teach-



ing, research, and industry collaboration. In his closing remarks, the Rector emphasized the evolving role of universities in tackling national challenges through knowledge, innovation, and responsible leadership. He stressed that higher education institutions must deliver quality education while contributing to society and instilling civic responsibility in students. He added that such direct engagements help universities share best practices so "good practice travels faster across the sector." The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, and effective governance to strengthen collaboration among Pakistan's universities.

Attock: Meeting Reviews Measures to Prevent and Control Dengue

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner (Municipal Services) Anil Saeed chaired a meeting on dengue prevention and control at the Municipal Committee Hall.

Heads and representatives of various district-level departments attended the meeting, including the Chief Executive Officer (Health), Chief Officer of the Municipal Committee, Municipal Committee officials and representatives of other concerned departments.

The meeting reviewed in detail the measures being taken to prevent dengue, ongoing control activities and the performance of the relevant departments.



Speaking on the occasion, ADC Municipal Services Anil Saeed directed all concerned departments to discharge their responsibilities with dedication, seriousness and effectiveness in accordance with the directions of the Chief Minister of Punjab. He said dengue

was an important public health issue and all institutions must work in close coordination under an integrated strategy to control the disease.

He stressed the need for all departments to further improve timely surveillance of dengue larvae, cleanli-

ness and sanitation measures, preventive operations and public awareness activities in their respective areas. He made it clear that no negligence or dereliction of duty would be tolerated.

The ADC directed the concerned institutions to complete their activities within the stipulated time and ensure effective field monitoring so that potential dengue threats could be addressed promptly and citizens protected from the disease.

He further urged all officers to perform their duties in accordance with the Punjab government's directives and make every possible effort to eliminate dengue, ensuring the protection of the lives and well-being of the public.

Senior Pakistani Diplomat Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman earns PhD in Deradicalization Studies

Spokesman Report

JEDDAH: Pakistani Diplomat Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman Earns PhD on Deradicalization from NDUJeddah, September 2026Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman, a Grade-20 officer of the Police Service of Pakistan and senior official at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah, has earned a PhD from National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad for his research on deradicalization in Pakistan. Formerly Inspector General of Islamabad Police and CCPO Peshawar, he conducted extensive research on Pakistan's efforts to counter extremism, focusing on deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals linked to extremist ideologies. His study compared Pakistan's post-9/11 programs with international models and examined deradicalization initiatives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa prisons. It found similarities between conventional prisons and specialized centers, proposing that with reforms, selected prisons could serve as effective rehabilitation facilities. The research argues Pakistan needs a locally grounded framework addressing ideological, psychological, social and economic drivers of extremism, not just security measures. It recommends combining law enforcement with vocational training, psychological support and societal reintegration. Consul General Syed Mustafa Rabbani and the Pakistan Journalists Forum in Saudi Arabia congratulated him, praising his service to Pakistan and the community.



FPCCI warns rising trade deficit threatens economic stability

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Ikram Sheikh has expressed serious concern over Pakistan's widening trade deficit during the first two months of Fiscal Year 2026-27. He said the deficit increased by 18.1 percent to \$7.1 billion in July-August, compared with \$6.025 billion during the same period last year.

The FPCCI chief said the sharp rise in imports compared with exports posed a threat to Pakistan's macroeconomic stability and foreign exchange reserves. He attributed the situation primarily to the high cost of doing business, which was making Pakistani industries increasingly uncompetitive in international markets.

He identified high interest rates as a major obstacle, saying expensive financing was restricting private-sector credit, limiting working capital and discouraging industrial modernization. He also criticized rising electricity tariffs, capacity charges and cross-subsidies, which he said were increasing production costs and preventing export-oriented industries from expanding.

According to Sheikh, disruptions and high costs of gas supplies, along with elevated petroleum prices, were further increasing manufacturing and transportation expenses. These factors, he warned, were weakening domestic production and encouraging dependence on costly imports.

The FPCCI president urged the government to immediately consult the business community and develop a crisis-response strategy. He called for a significant reduction in the policy rate, rationalization of electricity and gas tariffs in line with regional competitors, and targeted relief on petroleum levies for goods transportation.

He warned that without urgent measures, industrial closures, declining export orders and further pressure on the national economy could undermine Pakistan's FY27 export targets.

IPAK unveils next-generation packaging films at 3P Pakistan, eyes higher-value exports

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: International Packaging Films Limited (IPAK) has unveiled a new generation of advanced flexible packaging films at 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan 2026, highlighting its growing focus on value-added, sustainable and export-oriented packaging solutions.

The company showcased its latest portfolio at Expo Centre Lahore, where the exhibition is being held from September 3 to 5, 2026. The new range includes coated films, AlOx transparent barrier films, ultra-high-barrier metallized films, low-temperature sealing, aroma barrier, high heat resistance and Retortable Films, next-generation BOPE, functional-oriented films and circular packaging solutions Mono-PE, Mono-PP, Mono-PET and PCR films).

Designed for food, FMCG and other consumer-facing industries, the products focus on improved barrier performance, shelf life, recyclability and material efficiency.

The launch marks a further move by IPAK into specialised and higher-value packaging applications, creating opportunities to serve both domestic manufacturers and international customers with more technically advanced products.

The development also carries wider significance for Pakistan's export sector. Higher-value barrier coated and functional films can help local manufacturers move beyond conventional commodity products, support export diversification and generate additional foreign exchange.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
175,328.82	174,929.68
Day's High	Day's Low
175,418.29	174,515.38
Index Value	Change
16,286,224,298	+ 399.14
Percentage	Time
+0.23%	4 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,831.09	− 0.43
Percentage	Time
−0.0040%	4 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
53,419.65	− 266.46
Percentage	Time
−0.50%	4 Sept, 2:56 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
65,020.94	+ 806.46
Percentage	Time
+1.26%	4 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	199.03	202.45
Bahrain Dinar	733.64	744.95
Canadian Dollar	198.79	206.79
China Yuan	38.27	38.99
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	322.98	326.96
Hong Kong Dollar	34.97	35.97
Indian Rupee	2.60	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.05	896.65
Malaysian Ringgit	68	68.85
NewZealand \$	162.74	165.80
Norwegians Krone	28.20	28.55
Omani Riyal	718.92	729.15
Qatari Riyal	74.95	76.05
Saudi Riyal	74.00	74.65
Singapore Dollar	217.35	223.10
Swedish Korona	28.45	28.95
Swiss Franc	343.15	347.85
Thai Bhat	8.30	8.90
U.A.E Dirham	75.70	76.53
UK Pound Sterling	376.42	380.63
US Dollar	277.95	278.45

PSX, UK
MOBILIST Join
Hands to Promote
Sustainable
Finance

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has partnered with the United Kingdom's MOBILIST programme to attract greater private investment for Pakistan's sustainable development and climate transition through products listed on the exchange.

MOBILIST is a development finance programme that uses public markets to mobilise private capital for sustainable development in emerging and developing economies. Under the partnership, MOBILIST will work with PSX issuers and market intermediaries to identify investment products eligible for financial and technical support.

The programme will provide equity capital, technical assistance and advisory services to help Pakistani businesses pursue initial public offerings (IPOs) and develop new listed products. The collaboration is aimed at encouraging more sustainable businesses to access Pakistan's capital markets and secure financing for growth.

UK Deputy High Commissioner Karachi Alison Blackburne said the partnership would help mobilise private investment towards businesses addressing climate and development challenges in Pakistan. She highlighted the Parwaaz Green Action Bond as an example of how innovative development finance can use public markets to attract private capital.

PSX Managing Director and CEO Farrukh H. Sabzwari welcomed the partnership, saying eligible businesses would gain access to investment, technical expertise, advisory support and greater visibility during their journey towards listing.

He said the collaboration would help bring more sustainable businesses into the public market and expand opportunities for financing projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and net-zero commitments. The initiative is expected to support sustainable economic growth while strengthening Pakistan's broader climate and development agenda.

GSP+ Continuation Beyond
2028 Vital for Pakistan's
Export Growth

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum Mian Zahid Hussain has said that continuation of Pakistan's GSP+ status with the European Union beyond 2028 is a national economic priority. He said the facility, enjoyed since 2014, has provided preferential or zero tariffs to thousands of Pakistani products, particularly benefiting the textile and

garments sector.

He noted that Pakistan's exports fell by 5.93 percent to \$30.139 billion in FY2025-26, while imports rose by 8.14 percent to \$69.761 billion, widening the trade deficit. However, exports to the EU remained relatively stable at around \$9.089 billion. He stressed that Pakistan still has considerable potential to expand its share in European markets.

Mian Zahid highlighted the need to address

non-tariff barriers, particularly strict European sanitary and phytosanitary standards that have limited Pakistan's seafood exports. He called for modernization of fish harbours, cold-chain facilities, hygiene systems and traceability to unlock greater export opportunities.

He urged Pakistan to diversify beyond major European markets and explore Central, Eastern and Northern Europe. He also warned that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement could reduce



Pakistan's existing tariff advantage.

He appreciated the economic diplomacy of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and broader diplomatic efforts, stressing that Pakistan must use GSP+ as an opportunity for transformation through better productivity, value addition, branding, sustainability and lower production costs.

RTC on Agricultural

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairs the third session of the Strategic Dialogue Series on "Unlocking Pakistan's High-Value Export Potential", a roundtable conference with agriculture sector stakeholders, on Friday.



Photo: PID

PAEC, PSO Forge Strategic
Partnership for Efficient Fuel Supply



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) have signed an agreement for the provision of PSO fleet cards and bulk supply of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) to PAEC.

The agreement covers two key areas — provision of PSO fleet cards and bulk supply of POL and lubricants at discounted rates. It is expected to provide operational and financial benefits to PAEC while ensuring a reliable, streamlined and efficient fuel supply mechanism.

The agreement marked an important

milestone in strengthening the professional relationship between PAEC and PSO, which has spanned over four and a half decades. It isn't merely a commercial arrangement but also represented a shared commitment to efficiency, transparency, economy and mutually beneficial cooperation.

PIBF Launches
Nationwide Signature
Campaign Against
Petroleum Levy

Commerce Desk

The Pakistan International Business Forum (PIBF) has launched a nationwide "Say NO to Petroleum Levy Tax" signature campaign, aiming to mobilize the business community against rising petroleum taxation. Announced in Lahore, the campaign seeks signatures from businessmen, traders, industrialists, and sector representatives to build collective pressure for reducing the levy.

PIBF leaders, including Central President Dr. Mushtaq Mangat, Secretary General Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer, Lahore President Abdul Wadood Alvi, and Muaz Qazi, said high fuel costs raise transportation, production, and logistics expenses, ultimately driving up consumer prices and weakening purchasing power. Dr. Mangat noted that businesses already face high energy costs, rising inputs,

and weak demand, warning that further fuel taxes would hurt competitiveness and job creation.

PIBF's core demand: reduce the Petroleum Levy to protect business, industry, and consumers. Tanveer called for a review of the levy structure, while Alvi emphasized fuel's role as a fundamental economic input across all sectors. Qazi said PIBF would engage chambers of commerce, trade associations, and entrepreneurs nationwide to join the campaign.

The leadership clarified they aren't opposing taxation broadly, only excessive petroleum taxes harming productive sectors. They called for meaningful government-business consultations to craft a sustainable taxation policy balancing revenue needs with investment, industrial growth, and employment, urging immediate federal action for relief.

Islamabad Police and
PSO Foil Fuel Theft
Attempt on Pipeline,
Two Arrested



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police, in coordination with Pakistan State Oil (PSO), foiled an attempted fuel theft from the Sihala-Attock Refinery Limited (ARL) pipeline in the early hours of Wednesday morning, arresting two suspects and recovering approximately 1,000 liters of stolen High-Speed Diesel.

At around 4:30 a.m., PSO's monitoring system at Sihala Terminal detected an abnormal pressure drop along the pipeline. Acting on intelligence and real-time surveillance, PSO's security team promptly alerted Islamabad Police, leading to a joint operation at the site within thirty minutes.

atation at the site within thirty minutes.

The joint teams caught the suspects in the act, dismantled an active illegal tapping clamp installed on the pipeline and arrested two individuals. The operation also resulted in the recovery of approximately 1,000 liters of High-Speed Diesel stored in drums and cans, a loader vehicle and illegal tapping equipment.

The arrested suspects, recovered fuel and vehicle were handed over to Sihala Police for registration of a formal case and further legal proceedings. The pipeline site was secured and restored to safe operating condition.

MG Pakistan Hosts
“Experience More
Karachi”, Launches All
New MG HS Petrol

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: MG Motor Pakistan hosted "Experience More Karachi", an exclusive brand event for customers, partners, media and enthusiasts to experience its latest products and vision for modern mobility.

The highlight was the introduction of the All New MG HS Petrol. Priced at PKR 8,999,999, MG announced an introductory price of PKR

8,799,999 for a limited time, with a booking amount of PKR 1,500,000.

The event also showcased the full HS range — HS Hybrid+, HS Super Hybrid and the new HS Petrol — alongside the All New MG ZS range, MG4 Urban EV and MG U9.

The lineup reflects MG's expanding presence across SUVs, electrified mobility and urban transportation,

giving customers more choice in powertrains and needs. For the first time in Pakistan, MG also displayed the IM5, a globally positioned model.

While not yet launched locally, it offered a preview of MG's evolving design, advanced technology and future mobility direction. Jianqiang Shao, CEO of MG Motor Pakistan, said Karachi has always embraced what is next.



He added that with the new HS Petrol joining the portfolio, MG is bringing global technology, design and

innovation closer to Pakistani customers. "Experience More Karachi" reinforced MG Pakistan's focus on premium

experience, performance, efficiency, safety and technology, marking a new chapter in the brand's growth in Pakistan.

Youth Given Direct Role in Punjab Sports Policy

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar chaired the first introductory meeting of the Sports Board Punjab (SBP) Advisory Board at the National Hockey Stadium, marking a new initiative to involve young people directly in sports policy and decision-making.

For the first time in Pakistan, university students have been included as members of the SBP Advisory Board. The initiative aims to ensure that sports policies reflect the needs, interests and abilities of young people. Students from several leading universities participated in the meeting and presented proposals on improving sports facilities, identifying talent, organizing university competitions and promoting modern and emerging sports.

Khokhar said youth participation was essential because young people were the future of Pakistan. He described the advisory board's first meeting as the beginning of a new era in which students would have a direct voice in shaping sports development in Punjab. He said viable suggestions from students would be incorporated into the Sports Department's policymaking and future planning.



The minister also announced efforts to establish a Sports City in Punjab, offering comprehensive sports, entertainment and modern facilities under one roof. He further pledged effective implementation of the sports quota system in universities, including private institutions, to help talented athletes pursue higher education.

All Advisory Board members will also be included in relevant committees of the Punjab Sports Department. The board will serve for one year and submit recommendations for sports promotion across the province.

Khokhar said the government was committed to providing youth with better opportunities and world-class sports facilities.

Three More Matches were decided in Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-I and Zone-III 3rd Consecutive Victories after beating their opponents in the First Phase of RCAF Talent Hunt Programme Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament here at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was some good batting by Maoz Yousuf Zai 83, Wara Muzammil 57, Muhammad Qasim 56, Muhammad Rafay Mazhar 52 and deadly bowling by Medium Pacers Ibrahim Maqbool 4/30 and Wajid Khan 4/33.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:
Zone-I Whites beat Zone-VI Blues by 3 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI Blues 160 all-out in 38.3 overs. Maoz Yousuf Zai 83 11x4, Shahmeer Khan 30. Wajid Khan (mf) 4/33, Muhammad Qasim 2/14.
In reply Zone-I Whites 164/7 in 32.1 overs. Muhammad Qasim 56 4x4 1x6,



Jazzim Ali Khan 38. Hunain Khan (sl) 2/30, Youssha Malik 2/31, Shahmeer Khan 2/32.

In the 2nd Match Zone-III Whites beat Zone-II Blues by 3 Wickets at KPI Ground. Zone-II Blues 132 allout in 38.3 overs. Muhammad Zakwan Fareed 28, Danish Akmal 22 not out, Ammar Asghar 21. Ibtisam Maqbool (mf) 4/30,

Rana Mubashir 2/14.
In reply Zone-III Whites 136/7 in 31.2 overs. Khizar Hayat 28 not out, Gilchrist 26. Danish Akmal (ob) 3/22, Tabish Abbasi 2/21.

In the 3rd Match Zone-IV Blues beat Zone-V Blues by 90 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-IV Blues 209/7 in 40 overs. Wara Muzammil

57 8x4, Muhammad Rafay 52 5x4, Nifras Bin Ashfaq 39, Abdullah Khan 29. Muhammad Wasif Khan (ls) 3/34, Muhammad Nihal (ls) 3/45.

In reply Zone-V Blues 119 all-out in 25.5 overs. Muhammad Abu Huraira Fahim 35. Ayan Tariq (lmf) 3/20, Muhammad Muneeb (sla) 3/20, Abu Bakar (lmf) 3/36.

Balochistan's Population Growth Puts Pressure on Public Services

Rafiullah Mandokhel

QUETTA: Rapid population growth is intensifying pressure on Balochistan's already limited health, education and water resources, with marginalized communities bearing the greatest burden. The province, which covers nearly 44% of Pakistan's

landmass, recorded the country's highest provincial population growth rate of 3.2% annually between 2017 and 2023. Its population rose from 12.34 million in 2017 to 14.89 million in 2023.

The growing population is placing additional strain on healthcare facilities, particu-

larly in rural areas such as Zhob, where government hospitals receive hundreds of patients daily. Balochistan also faces serious maternal and child health challenges, while limited access to family planning services, cultural barriers and misinformation continue to restrict reproductive healthcare.

Education is similarly affected. Overcrowded classrooms, poverty and large family sizes make it difficult to provide quality education. With a literacy rate of around 42% and an estimated 3.5 million children out of school, education remains a major challenge.

Water scarcity is another pressing concern. In remote areas,

declining groundwater levels and drying wells force women and children to travel long distances to collect water. Development experts warn that population growth is worsening existing problems, including poverty, inadequate infrastructure, school dropout and unplanned urban expansion.

CM Punjab Youth Games to be the biggest sporting event in the history of Punjab: DG Sports



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi has chaired an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Friday to review preparations of upcoming CM Punjab Youth Games.

Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed, senior officials of School Education, Higher Education, Literacy and Home Department attended the meeting in person while all divisional and district sports officers of province participated in the meeting online.

The officials of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) briefed the meeting on the online registration process for the CM Punjab Youth Games.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that the CM Punjab Youth Games would be the biggest sporting event in the history of Punjab province. "Operational and organising committees had already been constituted for the smooth conduct of the CM Punjab Youth Games".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that around 62,000 educational institutions would participate in the CM Punjab Youth Games. "More than five million athletes from across the Punjab province are expected to take part in the mega event. Our target is to register 15 million people for these games," he said.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that online registration for the CM Punjab Youth Games has commenced. "The CM Punjab Youth Games would be organised with the support and cooperation of various departments and institutions of the Punjab government".

Pakistan women begin Junior Asia Cup campaign with 2-0 win over Hong Kong

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Junior Women's Hockey Team made an impressive start to their campaign at the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2026, defeating Hong Kong China 2-0 in their opening match of the Challenger Pool in China on Friday.

Shariqa emerged as the star performer for Pakistan, scoring both goals to secure a comfortable victory for the national side.

She opened the scoring in the 34th minute with a field goal before adding her second in the 48th minute to put Pakistan firmly in control.

Pakistan displayed attacking intent throughout the match while maintaining disciplined defending and effective team coordination. The national side successfully kept Hong Kong China from finding the net and completed the match with a clean sheet.

The Pakistan Junior Women's team wore jerseys sponsored by Alaska Batteries during the match.

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani congratulated the players and officials on their impressive performance and expressed the hope that the team would maintain the winning momentum in the upcoming matches.



Beyond Four Provinces: Rethinking Governance in Pakistan — A Way Forward

Continued from Page 4

what we have:

1. Make Districts Real: Give districts elected leaders, clear powers, and guaranteed funds. No more ad-hoc budgets.
2. Hand Over Services: Put primary schools, basic health units, water, sanitation, local roads, and municipal planning under local councils.
3. Let Provinces Do Bigger Work: Provincial governments should focus on policy, regulation, and large projects, not on fixing streetlights.

This creates direct accountability. When a clinic has no medicine or garbage is not picked up, citizens know exactly who to ask. They should not have to travel to a provincial capital.

The Legal and Regional Reality
Changing provincial borders is difficult. Article 239 requires a two-thirds majority in Parliament and in the relevant Provincial Assembly. Imposing new provinces from Islamabad will not work.

We need agreement from provinces and trust from the

public. And we need different answers for different places: Punjab: Could function as North, Central, and South zones for better administration.

Sindh: Needs a modern system for Karachi and a separate plan for rural districts.

Balochistan: Needs deep decentralization because of its size, with central coordination on security and resources. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Needs a model that works for both settled areas and merged districts.

Gilgit-Baltistan & AJK:

Because of their unique status, they need separate arrangements, not standard provincial solutions.

The Money Question

Before we create even one new province, we need numbers on the table.

What will it cost to set up new secretariats? What will be the annual bill for salaries and pensions? What savings, if any, will come from better service delivery?

Citizens have a right to know whether reform means better governance, or just a bigger

government.

A National Commission on Administrative Restructuring can do this work. It should include constitutional lawyers, economists, demographers, and civil society. It should judge every proposal on:
- Population and geography
- Local revenue and economic potential
- Access to schools, hospitals, and courts
- Direct feedback from people in public hearings
The commission should compare both models honestly:

new provinces versus empowered districts. The answer may be a mix. Some areas may need new provinces. Others may need strong local government within existing provinces.

Conclusion:

Closer Government, Not Just More Government

Pakistan does not need more layers. It needs government that is closer, faster, and answerable to the people.

We must move past emotional debates about maps and names. The only test that matters is simple: Will this make life easier

for an ordinary citizen?

Will a child get to school faster? Will a patient get medicine at the local hospital? Will a road get fixed without bribes? Will budgets be transparent?

If the answer is yes, then we should do it. If the answer is no, then changing the map will change nothing. The citizen's daily struggle will remain exactly the same.

Dr. H. U. Khan is Executive Director, Excellence Consultants Policy Institute and writes on international Affairs.

Israel and the U. S.: All Set to Starve Iran?

Continued from Page 4

This is the strategic nightmare now developing. If American and Israeli pressure devastates Iran, Tehran may respond by expanding attacks against military facilities, shipping and infrastructure throughout the Gulf. Iran could be destroyed while simultaneously inflicting enormous damage upon neighboring economies. Everybody loses.

The assumption that sufficient suffering will automatically produce a government favorable to Washington is equally dangerous. Iranian

history should discourage such confidence. Foreign intervention helped overthrow democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh in 1953. A quarter-century later, the Shah—Washington's principal regional ally—was swept away by a revolution that produced a government dramatically more hostile to the United States.

Destroying today's Iranian state would offer no guarantee that tomorrow's Iran would be moderate. The opposite could occur.

If central authority fractures, organized government

and conventional armed forces could give way to militias, underground networks and radical organizations. A centralized adversary can negotiate, sign agreements and enforce them. A fragmented landscape of armed groups may produce decades of asymmetric warfare. Iraq, Libya, Syria and Afghanistan should have taught the world that destroying institutions is much easier than constructing stable replacements. There is also a moral question America cannot escape.

For generations, the United States presented human rights,

civilian protection and international law as essential elements of its global leadership. American influence came not only from aircraft carriers and dollars but from universities, technology, culture, diplomacy, alliances and the belief—sometimes justified, sometimes contested—that American power represented certain universal principles.

That soft power is an enormous strategic asset. Every civilian casualty, every image of devastated infrastructure and every Iranian family pushed toward desperation risks consuming another portion of

it. The Muslim world therefore cannot remain a spectator.

Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Pakistan, Qatar, Oman, the UAE and other influential states should urgently seek an emergency session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The purpose should not be rhetorical condemnation. It should be the construction of a serious diplomatic initiative demanding both Israel and USA to stop this unfortunate war of choice otherwise face kinetic, economic, investment, trade and diplomatic offensive from all the Muslim states whether

small or big.

The Middle East is approaching an escalation trap in which every strike supposedly justifies another strike, every sanction invites counter-measures and every temporary pause becomes an opportunity to replenish weapons and identify new targets. Sooner or later, somebody must interrupt that cycle.

If diplomacy fails and military destruction combined with economic suffocation, history may judge that Iran was not the only casualty. The victims could include regional stability,

the global economy, America's soft power and the possibility of a generation of peace in the Middle East.

The time to prevent that outcome is now—before pressure intended to change Iran ends up destroying far more than Iran.

The writer is a former Press Secretary to the President of Pakistan, former Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, former Press Attaché to Malaysia, and former Managing Director of SRBC. He is currently based in Michigan, USA.

Keynote Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, delivered a keynote address at the "Mobilizing Private Capital: National Strategic Dialogue on PPPs and Privatisation," organised by the Asian Development Bank, and highlighted Pakistan's economic transformation, structural reforms and the importance of private capital for investment-led growth and lasting economic stability.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz Reaffirms Pakistan's Strong Support for Multilateralism and UN Role

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to render strong and abiding support for multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in global affairs.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador Olara Otunnu, candidate for the position of UN Secretary-General, at the Prime Minister House. Ambassador Otunnu



was accompanied by Ruhakana Rugunda, Special Envoy of the President of Uganda and former Prime Minister of Uganda.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, SAPM Tariq Fatemi, and Foreign Secretary Amb. Amna Baloch were also present.

The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and stressed the need for respect for inter-

national law and international treaties. He expressed hope that the next UN Secretary-General would focus on the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, development, and human rights in a balanced and interconnected manner.

Ambassador Otunnu expressed gratitude for Pakistan's enduring contributions to multilateralism and to all three UN pillars, and appreciated Pakistan's leadership role in ongoing efforts for international peace and security.

AJK PM Iftikhar Gillani meets Acting President Tariq Farooq to discuss political landscape



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Iftikhar Gillani, met with

Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Tariq Farooq. President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Shah Ghulam Qadir, was also pres-

ent on the occasion.

During the meeting, the overall political situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and matters of mutual interest were discussed.

CM Maryam Nawaz: Punjab Leads in Wildlife Conservation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said Punjab is emerging as a model for wildlife conservation, citing major initiatives launched under the provincial government.

Key achievements highlighted for Wildlife Day include: rescue of 50,000 birds, 1,020 wild animals and 30 bears; 14,700 challans issued and 1,050 FIRs registered; and Rs205 million recovered in fines.

The province has declared 104 Wildlife Protected Areas, established 3 Wildlife Rehabilitation Centres, and for the first time created a 544-member Wildlife Rangers force with formal



patrolling. New measures include AI-based thermal drone surveys to

identify safe habitats, including for the Punjab Indus Dolphin in a declared

sanctuary from Jam Pur to Guddu Barrage.

Other steps: 13 new rescue vehicles, Wildlife Hospital on Wheels, Mobile Veterinary Clinics, a veterinary hospital complex, GPS collar trackers, and 950 complaints resolved via Helpline 1107.

The CM noted 920 GIS maps and digitization of 108 protected areas, 7 community sanctuaries, 7 private reserves, and the first Wildlife Students Internship Programme with Rs60,000 monthly scholarship. Lahore Safari Zoo has added new facilities and rare species. She added that outdated wildlife laws were amended and eco-development launched at Murree, Bansra Gali and Changa Manga.

Sindh Assembly Passes Resolution Rejecting Any Move to Divide Province

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly has passed a resolution by majority vote opposing any division of Sindh or the creation of new administrative units in the province.

Presented by PPP leader Nisar

Ahmed Khuhro, the resolution was unanimously approved. Following the vote, PPP lawmakers stood with banners reading "Sindh is the motherland."

The resolution declares that "Sindh is one and will remain one" and rejects every proposal seeking to divide the province, alter its boundaries, or sepa-

rate any district, division, or area. It states that any attempt to detach part of Sindh or place it under federal administration will be opposed.

The assembly asserted it will exercise its constitutional authority over any proposed change to Sindh's boundaries and called for respect for the rights

and territorial integrity of all federating units. It urged the federal government and all political parties to respect the democratic decision of Sindh's people.

The resolution will be sent to the President, Prime Minister, Chairman Senate, and Speaker of the National Assembly.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Envoy Nizamani briefs acting president Gilani on regional security



Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: In a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani was briefed on the regional security situation, especially matters affecting Pakistan's peace and stability.

In a separate meeting, Dr Muhammad Shahid Amin Khan, World Chairman and Ambassador at Large, International Human Rights Commission, also called on Mr Gilani and presented him the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Lifetime Achievement Award.

In another meeting, Malik

Naseem Labar, PPP City President for Multan, called on Mr Gilani and apprised him of political matters related to Multan and South Punjab.

Ali Syed, Chairman of National Insurance Company Limited, paid a courtesy call on Mr Gilani and apprised him of the performance, overall progress and key initiatives of the company.

During a meeting with Farzand Ali Wazir, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter and senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), matters regarding KP's overall law and order situation and party affairs came under discussion.

SSP Korangi, 3 other officers held negligent in DHA violence case



Bureau Report

KARACHI: An inquiry into the alleged assault of a brother and sister in Karachi's DHA has found SSP Korangi Fida Janwari and three other police officials guilty of negligence.

According to sources, the inquiry committee submitted its report to the Additional Inspector General, recommending action against SSP Fida Janwari under the Efficiency and Discipline Rules 2020 for administrative negligence.

Three other Korangi district officials were also held responsible: Darakhshan SHO Rashid Ali, Investigation Officer Imran Darakhshan, and Police Mobile Officer Aftab Mangi. The committee recommended legal and departmental proceedings against them.

The report further recommended that the case registered against the affected family be classified as a 'B class' case and dropped, and that a fresh case be registered on the family's complaint against those allegedly involved in the assault.

Sources said the committee recommended registering a case against two women and a man seen in the video footage, who are allegedly close relatives of SSP Fida Janwari.

The committee called its investigation transparent and said all aspects were examined. The report has now been forwarded to the AIG, who will decide on further action.

The incident gained attention after a video of the alleged assault surfaced on social media, raising questions about police response and accountability.

Islamabad police completes PIMS fire incident inquiry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Police have completed an inquiry report on PIMS fire incident and sent it IG. The report will be sent to the interior ministry. It included written statements and locations of the named officers. CCTV footage of PIMS Hospital and footage of Safe City are also part of the report. According to the report, the police took written statements from former ED PIMS Imran Sikanadar and Professor Dr Saadia.

The statements of the doctors were also recorded. According to sources, the statement of nurse Razia Parveen, who saved a newborn, was also recorded. A decision to register a case will be made after final permission from the interior ministry.

The Islamabad High Court heard a petition for a judicial inquiry into the PIMS tragedy. The court merged the petition with an already pending case.

ISPR Internship Programme students visit Pakistan Military Academy Kakul



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Students of ISPR Internship Programme 2026 visited Pakistan Military Academy Kakul as part of study tour.

During the visit, the students observed cadets' parade, training activities and various departments of the academy.

A special interactive session was also held between the students and the Commandant of Pakistan Military Academy Kakul.

The students also interacted with cadets and lady cadets and discussed various aspects of their training.

The students described their visit to Kakul Academy as an excellent experience, particularly observing the cadets' education, training, discipline and professional preparation.