

AJK PM Directs Formulation of Easy Loan Schemes for Youth and Skilled Workers

Abdul Majeed Tahir.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani has directed that loan schemes on easy terms be introduced to economically empower youth and skilled individuals and create new employment opportunities.

Chairing a meeting of the Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister directed that a comprehensive plan be prepared and submitted for promoting industry, expanding business activities and creating opportunities for self-employment. Minister for Tourism, Industries and Mineral Resources Abdul Rehman, Principal Secretary Sardar Adnan Khurshid and President Bank of AJK Ayaz Babar attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the Bank's performance, future plans, facilities being provided to the public and measures to further strengthen and enhance the institution's effectiveness.



President Bank of AJK Ayaz Babar briefed the Prime Minister on the Bank's performance and various initiatives. He informed that the application for scheduling of the Bank had been submitted after fulfilling all requirements of the State Bank of Pakistan. He said that scheduling would help

expand the Bank's scope of services and strengthen its role in the financial sector.

The Prime Minister directed that loan schemes be made more accessible, transparent and result-oriented in line with public needs, with particular focus on youth, skilled workers, small

businesses and individuals seeking to initiate home-based enterprises.

He emphasized that promotion of economic activity, encouragement of the business community and creation of dignified employment opportunities for youth were among the government's key priorities.

Sardar Attique called the Meeting of Central Working Committee/General Council of Muslim Conference.

Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has convened an important meeting of the Central Working Committee/General Council on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Aladdin Hall, Sixth Road, Rawalpindi.

This will be the first meeting convened after the recent electoral process for consultation with the party office-bearers and requested to kindly ensure your timely and active participation in the meeting, said

Condolence Gathering Held for Late CPO Abdul Razzaq Mangrio in Jamshoro

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

A condolence gathering for the Eesal-e-Sawab of late Chief Petty Officer Abdul Razzaq Mangrio was held at Jamshoro Housing Society Phase-II by his close friends.

The event began with Quran Khwani, followed by remembrances of his life, personality and service. Friends recalled that he stood by them in times of joy and sorrow and maintained a deep attachment to Sindh and Sindhi culture since his student days.

Speakers noted his dedication during service in the Pakistan Navy and later as Chief Security Officer at Cadet College Petaro, where colleagues respected him for his professionalism, duty and good character.

Zameer Hussain Abro, Attaullah Jamani, Mushtaq Ahmed Mangrio and others shared memories and expressed sorrow over his passing.

The gathering concluded with charity and Langar for the deceased's Eesal-e-Sawab, and prayers for forgiveness, elevation of his ranks in the hereafter, and patience for the bereaved family.



JKDFP condemns Human Rights Situation, Detentions and Demographic Changes in IIOJK

Bureau Report

SRINAGAR: Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Spokesperson of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), expressed grave concern over the political, human rights, religious, economic and demographic situation in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

He said measures since 5 August 2019 affecting land, property, political activity, religious institutions and leadership are having profound consequences for Kashmiris. He particularly warned against policies allowing land ownership by non-state subjects, calling for international scrutiny and citing Article 49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibits an occupying power from transferring its civilians into occupied territory.

Iqbal condemned the prolonged detention of leaders including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Yasin Malik, Masarat Alam Bhat and Aasiya Andrabi, and sought independent judicial review and immediate release where no credible case exists. He also raised concern over property seizures, restrictions on religious and educational institutions, and collective punishment.

He urged the UN, OIC, EU and international bodies to monitor detentions, protect religious and civil liberties, end property demolitions, restore political space, and resume India-Pakistan dialogue with Kashmiris as a party, stressing that lasting peace requires justice and self-determination.

Joint Awami Action Committee Calls AĴK-Wide Protest for September 9

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee has announced a complete shutter-down, wheel-jam and protest demonstrations across Azad Jammu and Kashmir today, September 9, 2026, citing incomplete implementation of agreements with the Government of Pakistan and AJK Government.

In a statement from Rawalakot, the Committee urged traders, teachers, lawyers, workers, students, women and citizens to join peaceful protests. It demanded full implementation of the December 4, 2025 agreement with Pakistan and AJK pacts.

Key demands include action on inflation, corruption, unemployment, electricity, taxes, tolls, internet/mobile services, and prices of essential commodities, plus better education, healthcare, roads and infrastructure. The Committee also raised concerns over encroachments, unlawful collections, and alleged use of force during past protests.

It stressed the movement is not against any political party, but for economic and civic rights through peaceful, constitutional means. The Committee appealed for observance of shutter-down and wheel-jam and directed its affiliates to organize demonstrations in cities, towns and villages.

Education for all

ISLAMABAD: Children and students participate in Literacy Walk organized by SOS Foundation, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

AJK PM Meets World Kashmir Forum Delegation

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani met a delegation of the World Kashmir Forum led by Chairman Dr. Haji Muhammad Rafiq Pardesi in Islamabad.

The delegation included Secretary General Sheikh Rashid Alam, Rafiq Salman, Hasnain Pardesi and other office-bearers. Principal Secretary Sardar Adnan Khurshid and Secretary Tourism Ansar Yaqoob also attended.

Discussions covered the Kashmir cause, promotion of tourism in AJK, investment opportunities, and greater cooperation with the private sector.

PM Gilani said tourism promotion, private investment, and optimal use of natural resources are government



priorities. He assured full support for investors and emphasized that developing AJK's tourism potential can drive economic growth, job creation,

and strengthen the local economy.

He appreciated Dr. Pardesi's work in highlighting the Kashmir issue internationally and praised the Forum's

Defence Day rally from Islamabad to Keran, Neelum Valley.

Dr. Pardesi congratulated the PM on taking office and presented gifts.

Multan Friends Group — A Galaxy of Leading Industrialists

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The Multan Friends Group is a galaxy of talented and accomplished industrialists, among them is a prominent, dynamic and respected business personality, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum.

The Friends Group has a clear mission: promoting Multan's industrial and economic development, uniting the business community, and effectively resolving the issues faced by industrialists and traders. The presence of industrialists standing united on a single platform reflects a strong spirit of unity, mutual respect and enduring business relationships.

The Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry elections 2026-28 are not

merely about choosing office-bearers; they are about determining the future direction of the Chamber and the business community. The time has come for change, for ending the sense of exclusion, and for opening the Chamber's doors to every eligible industrialist.

At the gathering, industrialists said that every eligible industrialist should have the right to membership, the voice of the business community must be heard, and the era of decisions made behind closed doors must come to an end.

"Our Mission: Multan's Economic Development"

"We are united for business and united for Pakistan."

Reflecting the spirit of unity, mutual respect and strong business

ties, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum said that the impact of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry elections is not limited to industrialists, factory owners or the business community; rather, it has far-reaching implications for the entire economy, employment, investment and national development.

He said the unity of the Friends Group is not merely an effort to safeguard business interests, but represents a collective struggle to strengthen Pakistan's economy, promote industry and trade, create new employment opportunities, encourage investment and contribute to national development.

"Friends Group is united not only for the growth of businesses but also for Pakistan's economic progress, prosper-



perity and a stronger future," he added. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum called

upon the business community to stand with the Multan Friends Group for a

strong, transparent, empowered and united business community.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:21 am
Zohr12:06 pm
Asr4:37 pm
Maghrib6:24 pm
Isha7:49 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

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

SLINA Expands Organizational Reach Across North America

News Desk

HOUSTON: The Shah Latif Institute of North America (SLINA) has approved a major restructuring plan to expand its literary and cultural activities beyond Texas to the wider North American region. A key meeting was held in Houston to discuss the organization's future direction, restructuring and expansion across the United States and Canada.

Formerly known as the Shah Latif Cultural Institute of North America (SLCIT), the organization has been active in literary and cultural activities for the past 16 years. The meeting, chaired by Chairman Mahmood Dahri and General Secretary G. Shabbir Jatoi, was attended by current and former members and office-bearers. Participants unanimously approved and formally adopted new By-Laws for SLINA. Under the new rules, a Board of Directors and office-bearers will be elected at the organization's next meeting.

The meeting also decided to make SLINA a membership-based organization and establish chapters in different US states and Canada to strengthen the Sindhi literary and cultural community across North America.

CM Maryam Nawaz pays tribute to Pakistan Navy personnel guarding maritime frontiers

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to every officer and sailor of the Pakistan Navy engaged in safeguarding the country's maritime frontiers and paid homage to its martyrs and Ghazis.

In her message on the occasion of Navy Day, the chief minister said the Pakistan Navy had demonstrated its outstanding

professional capabilities on every occasion and proved its superiority over the enemy.

She said the Pakistan Navy had achieved a historic success through a major operation on September 8, establishing its supremacy over the enemy. The Pakistan Navy submarine Ghazi had also created a remarkable chapter in the history of naval warfare in the Arabian Sea.



Maryam Nawaz said the Pakistan Navy was playing an exemplary role in promoting and protecting maritime trade. Despite tensions in the Strait of Hormuz amid the prevailing global situation, the Navy played a key role in ensuring the uninterrupted movement

of Pakistani-flagged merchant vessels.

The Pakistan Navy was also carrying out maritime diplomacy through its outstanding public service initiatives, she added.

The chief minister said the Pakistan Navy's modern naval assets, including

Hangor-class submarines, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, had made the force prominent globally in every respect.

She prayed that the Pakistan Navy would continue to uphold and carry forward its glorious maritime traditions with distinction in the future.

International Literacy Day Celebration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui addresses a ceremony in connection with International Literacy Day at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab Expands Health Cooperation with China, Links with Wuhan Institutions

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari said Punjab's health sector is being upgraded to global standards under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, with expanded cooperation with China in healthcare, health insurance, training, research and advanced treatment.

She said Punjab has signed agreements with Wuhan University, Taiping Health and other leading Chinese institutions to enhance cooperation in health insurance. Collaboration with Chinese insurance companies is expected



to improve Punjab's health insurance sector and introduce modern insurance models.

A Pakistan-China Joint Neurosurgery Training and Medical Tourism Centre has been established in Wuhan

with partners including Punjab Institute of Neurosciences, Zhongnan Hospital Wuhan and CPMA. The centre will promote medical training, research, academic exchange and provide opportunities

for Pakistani doctors to gain advanced training.

Azma Bokhari added that a Chinese health insurance delegation led by Professor Chen has shown keen interest in Punjab's health sector. Through the Punjab Health Connect Programme, global medical experts are being linked with Punjab's institutions, with focus on doctor training and expertise exchange.

She said Punjab is benefiting from China's advanced medical technology and human resource training, and efforts are ongoing for joint research and promotion of international investment in the province's health sector.

Punjab to Set Up Special Road Maintenance Squads in Every District

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to establish a Special Road Maintenance Squad in every district to ensure daily inspection, cleanliness, and timely repair of roads. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved the proposal during a video-link meeting with commissioners and deputy commissioners on Tuesday.

She directed authorities to implement strong monitoring of all development projects covering scope, timelines, quality, expenditure and progress. The CM ordered mandatory cat's eyes on specified urban roads and use of thermoplastic road markings for better durability and safety.

Concrete entrance gates at city and tehsil entry points will be replaced with landscaped green plots displaying the city's name. Medians must be landscaped, and electricity poles along designated roads should be illuminated or decorated. Proper lane markings, traffic signs and directional signage were also ordered.

Ms. Nawaz further directed that food streets be planned as separate commercial zones with parking and cleanliness, and that vegetable markets have improved sanitation and traffic management. She stressed adherence to approved designs and technical standards, energy-efficient lighting, and zero compromise on transparency and quality.



Rising Violence Against Girls and Children "Shameful for Government": Asifa Saleem Malik

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Political and social leader Asifa Saleem Malik, former PTI MPA ticket holder and ex-Focal Person Child Protection Bureau Multan, condemned the surge in sexual and physical violence, kidnapping and murder of girls and children across Pakistan, calling it intolerable and shameful for a civilized society.

Citing recent cases — including an 11-year-old in Multan, 6-year-old Wali Muhammad in Karachi, 8-year-old in Ferozewala, 18-month-old in Karachi, 5-year-old in Abbottabad, and 4-year-old Noor Fatima in Gujrat — she said kidnapping, torturing and killing innocent children is a heinous crime and a serious violation of human rights that pushes the nation's future into darkness.

Malik said silence emboldens criminals and stressed that state institutions must protect children. She demanded immediate, transparent and impartial investigations, severe punishment for culprits made a public example, and strong laws with effective implementation.

She urged the nation to unite against the crisis so no more innocent children become victims.



State-of-the-Art Library Inaugurated in Zhob to Revive Book-Reading Culture

Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: A state-of-the-art library was inaugurated at Pathfinder Public High School, a private institution, to promote book-reading culture among students.

According to the school administration, the library is aimed at providing a conducive environment for study and learning outside the classroom, and at broadening students' intellectual horizons while encouraging curiosity, creativity and independent thinking.

Former Deputy DEO Payo Muhammad Mandokhel formally inaugurated the facility by cutting the ribbon. The ceremony was attended by educationists, senior teachers, political and social figures including Abdullah Khan Nasar, Dr. Naseebullah Kakar, Ali Sherani, Prof. Mir Adam Babar, Haji Roz Muhammad, Haji Sahib Jan Mandokhel, Haji Sher Khan, Principal Muhammad Hassan Tunival, Faizullah Shah Hariphal and Saleem Mandokhail. School Principal Hazrat Wali along with staff and students welcomed the guests.

Speakers praised the initiative as a meaningful step to reconnect students with books. They said that even in the age of mobile phones and social media, libraries play a vital role in exposing students to literature, history, science, geography and cultures beyond textbooks, and in fostering the habit of questioning and learning.

In his concluding remarks, Hazrat Wali expressed hope the library would support self-study alongside classroom education, and thanked guests for supporting efforts to promote education.

Zardari Reviews Facilities at Hyderabad Central Jail

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh Provincial Minister Ali Hassan Zardari visited Central Jail Hyderabad to inspect facilities for inmates and review administrative arrangements. He inspected the jail kitchen, checking sanitation, food quality and meal preparation procedures. He directed the administration to ensure inmates receive quality and balanced food in accordance with the law.

The minister also met visitors who had come to see their relatives and listened to their concerns. He instructed the jail administration to make the visitation process more transparent, convenient and accessible, particularly for families travelling from distant areas.

Speaking during the visit, Zardari said prisons should serve as correctional institutions and emphasized



that the welfare and human rights of inmates were among the govern-

ment's priorities. He also directed officials to maintain effective security while

improving rehabilitation, correction and welfare measures for prisoners.

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Crypto Wealth Survives the Downturn, but Regulation Remains Key

The cryptocurrency market has once again demonstrated its extraordinary resilience. Despite Bitcoin retreating significantly from its October 2025 record high, the global pool of crypto wealth has continued to expand. The latest Crypto Wealth Report 2026 estimates that 135,694 people worldwide now hold digital assets worth at least \$1 million, while total crypto ownership has reached an estimated 742 million individuals.

These figures highlight a fundamental shift in the global financial landscape. Cryptocurrency is no longer a marginal experiment confined to technology enthusiasts. It has developed into a substantial asset class, attracting individual investors, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and increasingly sophisticated wealth managers.

Yet the figures should not be interpreted as proof that cryptocur-rency has become a risk-free investment. Bitcoin remains highly volatile, and its current price is still substantially below its previous peak. The fact that the latest downturn has been less severe than earlier crypto “winters” may indicate growing market maturity, but volatility remains an inherent feature of digital assets.

More significant than the number of crypto millionaires is the widening ownership base. Millions of people continue to hold digi-tal assets despite market corrections. This suggests that cryptocur-rency is becoming increasingly integrated into personal investment strategies and the broader financial system.

The growing portability of digital wealth also presents govern-ments with a new policy challenge. Digital assets can cross borders rapidly, while their owners remain subject to national taxation, financial regulations and legal obligations. Governments therefore face the difficult task of protecting investors and public revenues without discouraging technological innovation.

The emergence of crypto-friendly financial centres illustrates this competition. Singapore, the UAE, Hong Kong, the United States and Switzerland are among the leading jurisdictions in the latest global ranking. Their experience shows that clear regulations, technological infrastructure, innovation and predictable taxation can play an important role in attracting digital investment.

For countries seeking a share of the emerging digital economy, the lesson is clear: simply welcoming cryptocurrency is not enough. A credible ecosystem requires effective regulation, investor protec-tion, financial literacy, cybersecurity, taxation frameworks and in-stitutions capable of dealing with rapidly changing technology.

Pakistan, too, cannot afford to remain detached from this global transformation. At the same time, enthusiasm for digital assets must not replace caution. Cryptocurrency can create opportunities for in-vestment and innovation, but poorly regulated markets can expose ordinary citizens to substantial financial losses and fraud.

The future of crypto wealth will therefore depend not only on prices and technological innovation, but also on governance. The countries that succeed will likely be those that strike the right bal-ance between innovation and responsibility.

Cryptocurrency may be borderless, but regulation cannot be. The challenge now is to build financial systems that can accom-modate digital wealth without compromising economic stability, transparency and public trust.

When the West Sacrifices Secularism at the Altar of Religion

For countless people living in developing countries, the United States and Europe have represented a dream. This attraction is not based only on wealth, employment or a higher standard of living. More importantly, these societies have been regarded as places where the state does not discriminate among citizens on the basis of religion, color, race or creed. For people persecuted because of their faith, ethnicity, culture or way of life, migration to the West has promised safety from hatred, violence and official discrimination.

The foundation of this dream is secular government. Secularism does not mean hostility to religion or the exclusion of religious people from public life. It means that the state itself does not belong to one religion. A secular government protects Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, atheists and others under the same law. It asks citizens to obey the Constitution, not to adopt the religion or culture of the majority.

Today, however, a contrary narrative is gaining political power. Leaders and movements in the United States increasingly describe America as a Christian nation. President Donald Trump has promised to defend the “Judeo-Christian principles of our founding” and has declared that America is “one nation under God.” In Europe, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has stated even more directly: “Europe is a Chris-

tian continent, and this is how we want to keep it.” He has connected the preservation of this identity with opposition to immigration and the fear that Muslims will transform Europe’s ethnic and cultural composition.

Israel, meanwhile, expressly defines itself as a Jewish state. Its 2018 Nation-State Basic Law declares that Israel is “the nation state of the Jewish People” and that national self-determination in the state is “exclusive to the Jewish People.” It also describes Jewish settle-ment as a national value. The danger lies not in Judaism—or in Christianity or Islam—but in giving one religious or ethno-religious identity a constitutionally superior relationship with the state.

These declarations must be tested against the constitutional principles that made the West attractive. The U. S. Constitution neither establishes Christianity nor grants it privileged status: “respecting an establishment of religion,” while Article VI bars religious tests for public office. Although the Declaration of Independence refers to a Creator, the Constitution is the governing legal document and protects equal citizen-ship regardless of belief. Yet the tension persists: a 2024 Pew survey found that 13 percent of Americans supported

declaring Christianity the official religion, while 44 percent favored promoting Christian values without formal estab-lishment—a distinction that becomes dangerous when moral advocacy turns into state preference and the exclusion of other faiths.

European Convention on Human Rights. Article 9 guarantees everyone “freedom of thought, conscience and religion,” including the freedom to change religion and to mani-fest belief privately or publicly. The European Court of Human Rights has held that the state must remain a “neutral and impartial” organizer of religious life because pluralism is essential to democracy.

The Magna Carta is often invoked as a symbol of Western liberty and government under law, although it is not a modern constitu-tion or a comprehensive guarantee of religious equality. Its lasting importance is the principle that political authority is subject to law. The modern constitutional descendants of that principle are equal citizenship, due process, religious liberty and protection against arbitrary power. Religious nationalism undermines this inheritance when it divides lawful citi-zens into authentic members and toler-ated outsiders.

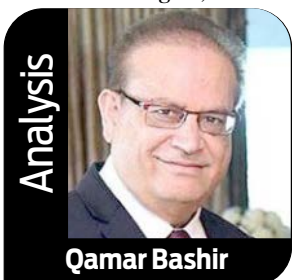
The consequences are visible in contemporary politics. During Zohran

Mamdani’s campaign for mayor of New York, opponents and online commen-tators connected his Muslim identity with terrorism, jihad and Sharia. Some called for his denaturalization or depor-tation, despite the absence of evidence that he intended to impose Islamic law. Mamdani nevertheless won the November 2025 election and became New York City’s first Muslim mayor. His victory affirmed constitutional inclusion, but the reaction exposed how readily a Muslim candidate’s faith could be presented as a security threat.

Michigan politician Abdul El-Sayed has faced similar attempts to associate his Muslim identity with extremism. Dear-born, a city with a large Arab-American and Muslim population, has become a national target for agitators warning about the supposed “Islamification” of America. Yet electing Muslim mayors, council members or police officials is not evidence of religious conquest. It is democracy: citizens exercising the same political rights that the Constitu-tion guarantees to Christians.

Nor is Sharia the governing law of Michigan, New York or any European country. Muslims may voluntarily follow religious principles in their private lives, just as Christians and Jews may consult their own traditions. Civil law never-theless remains supreme. Raising the specter of Sharia without evidence trans-forms a religious minority into a perma-nently suspect population.

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Nature’s Fury Strikes: Cloudburst Disaster Need for Better Early-Warning Systems

Cloudbursts represent one of nature’s most devastating and unpredictable meteorological phenomena, characterized by sudden, intense precipitation in a localized area over a short period. These extreme weather events can release hundreds of millimeters of rainfall within minutes to hours, triggering catastrophic flash floods, landslides, and infrastructure damage. In recent decades, the frequency and intensity of cloudburst events have increased globally, with mountainous and semi-arid regions particularly vulnerable to their destructive impacts. The cloudbursts remain inherently difficult to predict, implementation of comprehensive science-based early-warning systems is essential to mitigate their devastating consequences and protect vulnerable populations in susceptible regions.

Cloudbursts occur when atmospheric conditions align to produce extreme precipitation in a short timeframe, typically lasting between 15 minutes and several hours. Unlike conventional rainfall, which is distributed across large geographical areas, cloudbursts concentrate massive amounts of water in localized zones, overwhelming drainage systems and soil infiltration capacity. The meteorological mechanisms driving cloudbursts involve the convergence of moisture-laden air masses, orographic lifting in mountainous terrain, atmospheric instability, and trigger mechanisms such as surface heating or wind shear. When these factors combine, they create supercell thunderstorms or meso-scale convective systems capable of producing rainfall rates exceeding 100 millimeters per hour.

The consequences of cloudburst events extend far beyond immediate flooding. Flash floods resulting from cloudbursts erode river-banks, destroy agricultural land, and obliterate homes and infrastructure within minutes. Secondary hazards including landslides, debris flows, and flash flooding often follow the initial cloudburst, compounding disaster impacts. In mountainous regions, cloudburst-triggered flash floods can travel at velocities exceeding 5 meters per second, carrying boulders, trees, and debris that act as battering rams against structures and obstacles.

The primary challenge in addressing cloudburst disasters stems from the extreme difficulty in predicting these events with sufficient accuracy and lead time to enable meaningful preparedness measures. Cloudbursts are characterized by small spatial scales, short temporal development windows, and high variability in their intensity and duration. Conventional meteorological models, which operate at grid resolutions of 10 to 50 kilometers, lack the spatial resolution necessary to predict localized extreme precipitation events that may affect areas smaller than a few square kilometers. Additionally, the short development time of cloudbursts often forming within 30 to 60 minutes-provides limited time for forecasters to issue warnings even when atmospheric conditions appear favorable for extreme precipitation.

Current early-warning systems in many regions rely primarily on rainfall thresholds established from historical data, ground-based weather radar, and conventional meteorological forecasts. While these tools provide valuable information about general atmospheric condi-

tions, they frequently fail to detect impending cloudbursts until precipitation is already occurring. Ground- based weather radar, though useful for detecting active precipitation, may miss developing convective systems in areas with complex terrain or limited radar coverage. Furthermore, many regions vulnerable to cloudburst particularly in developing nations and mountainous areas lack adequate meteorological monitoring networks, making real-time detection of extreme precipitation events virtually impossible. This gap between atmospheric threat and forecasting capability creates a dangerous situation where populations in vulnerable areas have minimal warning before disaster strikes.

Addressing the cloudburst prediction challenge requires a multi-layered approach combining advanced meteorological technology, enhanced monitoring networks, and sophisticated data analysis techniques. High-resolution numerical weather prediction models, operating at grid resolutions of 1 to 4 kilometers, can better capture the localized atmospheric phenomena responsible for cloudburst formation. These models, when run frequently and updated with real-time observational data, show improved capability in detecting environments favorable for extreme precipitation. Advanced satellite technology, including geostationary satellites with enhanced temporal and spatial resolution, can provide continuous monitoring of atmospheric moisture, cloud development, and convective activity over vulnerable regions.

Dense networks of ground-based observations constitute another critical component of improved early-warning systems. Automatic weather stations, rain gauges, and weather radar installations, when properly distributed across mountainous terrain, provide real-time

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Beyond the Toothache: Who Is Qualified to Treat Your Teeth?

When a tooth starts hurting, reasoning often gives way to one urgent question: how can the pain be stopped? At that moment, few patients think about professional qualifications, registration, sterilisation or the legal status of a clinic. The nearest practitioner becomes the obvious choice. Others rely on experience, reputation or simply the fee.

But dentistry is not merely about extracting a painful tooth or fitting an artificial one. It is a medical profession requiring knowledge of anatomy, oral diseases, medicines, local anaesthesia, infection control, bleeding and possible complications.

This raises an important question: Is experience alone enough, or do professional qualifications, registration and proper infection control matter equally?

BDS and Experience Are Not the Same

The Bachelor of Dental Surgery, or BDS, is a recognised professional qualification involving formal education and clinical training in dental and oral diseases and their treatment.

Experience certainly has value. Someone who has worked for years in a dental environment may acquire considerable practical knowledge and manual skill. But experience and professional qualifications are not interchangeable.

A dental technician may be highly skilled in preparing dentures, crowns and bridges, while a dental assistant may be extremely proficient in preparing patients and instruments. Yet these roles are different from that of a qualified dental practitioner.

The distinction matters because the human mouth is not simply a mechanical workshop.

An incorrect diagnosis, inappropriate medication, poor infection control or an improperly performed procedure can have consequences far beyond the tooth itself.

What About Former Military Hospital Personnel?

Military hospitals have employed many experienced medical and dental support personnel. Some former employees may have spent years working alongside dental surgeons and may possess impressive practical knowledge.

Their experience deserves respect. But one principle must remain clear: Working alongside a surgeon is not the same as being a surgeon.

If an individual possesses a recognised dental qualification and valid professional registration, he or she may practise within the scope permitted by law. Previous employment with a qualified surgeon, however, does not by itself confer legal authority to practise independently as a dental practitioner.

For patients, the safest approach is simple: ask about the practitioner’s qualification and registration before treatment.

A Clinic Is More Than a Signboard

A respectable signboard, white coat or framed certificate does not automatically establish that a clinic is legitimate or safe.

Patients should consider three separate questions:

Is the practitioner qualified?

Is the practitioner professionally registered?

Is the clinic operating according to applicable healthcare requirements?

These questions are related, but they are not identical.

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Analysis

Ch. Muhammad Anwar Chohan

North Korean Embassy Marks 78th Founding Anniversary with Islamabad Reception

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Islamabad held a reception at a local hotel to celebrate the 78th anniversary of the country's founding, drawing government officials, former lawmakers, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the business community.

Barrister Aqeel Malik, Pakistan's Minister of State for Law and Justice, attended as chief guest. Also present were former Senate Chairman Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Kashmalia Tariq, and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador Turkmenistan's H. E. Atadjan Movlamov, along with members of the business community, friends of the DPRK, and journalists covering the event.

DPRK Ambassador Choe Chang Min and his spouse received guests as they arrived at the reception.

Pakistani Minister Extends Congratulations

In remarks marking the occasion, Barrister Malik conveyed congratulations to DPRK President Kim Jong Un and the North Korean people on the anniversary. He offered good wishes for the continued progress and well-being of the Korean people and reaffirmed Pakistan's interest in strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation with Pyongyang.

Malik also spoke to the broader value of peace, friendship and diplomatic engagement between nations, framing the anniversary as an occasion to reflect on those themes.

Ambassador's Address

DPRK Ambassador Choe Chang Min used his address to thank Malik and the assembled ambassadors, high commissioners and guests for joining the celebration of what he described as a historic day for his country, noting that September 9 marks the anniversary of the DPRK's founding.

The ambassador's remarks paid tribute to the country's founding leaders, crediting them with establishing the North Korean state and its political system, and praised what he called the current leadership's efforts to raise the country's international standing amid a difficult global environment. He said the government continues to prioritize national strength and self-defense capability in the face of what he characterized as unpredictable world conditions.

Turning to bilateral relations, Choe described the relationship between the DPRK and Pakistan as a long-standing and friendly one. He pointed to a meeting in December 1993 between North Korean founding leader Kim Il Sung and then-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was accompanied by Asif Ali Zardari — now



Pakistan's president — as a milestone that helped advance ties between the two countries.

The ambassador said his government, under its current leadership, is placing priority this year on deepening relationships with countries it considers friendly and independent-minded, and

said Pyongyang intends to keep developing its partnership with Islamabad regardless of shifting global circumstances. He pledged that the embassy would continue working toward that goal and toward friendly relations with other countries represented at the event.



vice mirrored at DPRK missions abroad, including in Islamabad.

Pakistan and North Korea have maintained diplomatic relations for decades, though bilateral engagement between the two countries has generally been limited in scope compared to Pakistan's ties with other regional partners. Tuesday's reception was presented by the embassy as an opportunity to underscore the historical relationship between the two states and signal North Korea's continued interest in engagement with Islamabad.

The event drew a modest but notable cross-section of Pakistani political and diplomatic figures, reflecting the routine but symbolically significant role such anniversary receptions play in maintaining diplomatic visibility for missions with smaller footprints in Islamabad's diplomatic circuit.

Photos by Asif Farooq

CASS Lahore Commemorates PAF Day with Discussion on Air Force Legacy

By Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) Lahore organised a special event titled "The PAF's Legacy: From the Spirit of 1965 to Marka-e-Haq" on September 7 to commemorate PAF Day. The event brought together PAF war veterans, serving and retired officials, academics and intellectuals.

PAF veteran Air Commodore Khalid Farooq Chishti (Retd) highlighted the evolution of the Pakistan Air Force, recalling the leadership of Air Marshals Asghar Khan, Nur Khan and Abdur Rahim Khan during critical periods of the 1965 and 1971 wars. He



linked their legacy to the technologically advanced PAF of today, emphasizing realistic training, modernization, professionalism and joint-services coor-

dination.

In his concluding remarks, CASS Lahore President Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) said PAF Day commemorates not only wartime victories but also decades of operational challenges, indigenous capability development and national defence. He highlighted the PAF's evolving multi-domain capabilities, including cyber, space, electronic warfare and UAV technologies.

The event concluded with an interactive discussion on air warfare, leadership, indigenous development and professional challenges, with participants appreciating CASS Lahore's initiative.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan People-to-People Ties to Be Strengthened

By Dr. Abdul Rehman Usama

TASHKENT: Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan H. E. Muhammad Mudassar Tipu welcomed a delegation of prominent Pakistani and Uzbek journalists and social media personalities at the Embassy of Pakistan, describing their visit as an important opportunity to strengthen people-to-people and cultural relations between the two brotherly countries.

The Ambassador said the delegation would experience Pakistan's scenic landscapes, rich cultural heritage, hospitality, natural beauty and cuisine during its upcoming visit. He expressed confidence that the journalists and social media personalities would use their intellectual insight and understanding of the historical and civilizational links between the two nations to present a



positive image of Pakistan.

Ambassador Mudassar Tipu emphasized that their reporting and writings could help bring the people of Pakistan and Uzbekistan closer and create stronger bonds of friendship. He hoped the visit would promote cultural understanding, expand people-to-people contacts and build new bridges between the two countries.

The visiting journalists expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the Embassy of Pakistan and pledged to highlight Pakistan's positive image. The delegation is scheduled to visit several historical, cultural and tourist destinations across Pakistan, providing them an opportunity to explore the country's diverse heritage and strengthen mutual understanding.

Beyond the Cockpit: Airpower Leadership in an Integrated Battlespace

By Maryam Abrar

Every Air Force Day, the nation remembers the Shaheens who rose into the skies when Pakistan faced danger. We remember their courage, sacrifice and indomitable spirit. Yet, the story of airpower is no longer written only in the cockpit. Behind every successful sortie, every timely interception and every decisive engagement lies something far greater: visionary leadership, technological superiority, rigorous training and an integrated operational architecture. The evolution of modern warfare has transformed the very meaning of airpower leadership. Victory is no longer determined solely by individual flying skill or classic dogfights. It is shaped by the ability to connect aircraft, sensors, weapons, artificial intelligence, data links, electronic warfare, air defence and command-and-control systems into one seamless battlespace.

From the cockpit to the command room, from the sensor to the shooter, modern air warfare is a contest of information, inte-

gration and decision superiority. Pakistan Air Force has travelled a remarkable distance in this transformation. The 1965 war remains a defining chapter in our military history. In an era dominated by visual-range engagements, PAF pilots confronted a numerically superior adversary with exceptional courage, flying skill and split-second judgment. The pilot was, in many ways, both the sensor and the decision-maker. What he could see, assess and act upon in those decisive moments often determined the outcome. But the battlespace of today is vastly different. Threats can be detected hundreds of kilometres away. Aircraft can engage without ever seeing each other. Sensors can be distributed across multiple platforms, information can be transmitted instantaneously and artificial intelligence can assist commanders in making sense of an increasingly complex battlespace. This is where the transformation of Pakistan Air Force under the visionary leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff PAF, assumes extraordinary significance. His approach to modernization has gone beyond



the conventional concept of simply acquiring new aircraft. The objective has been to develop a complete combat ecosystem—one in which platforms, weapons, sensors, networks, electronic warfare capabilities, air defence and command-and-control systems operate as an integrated whole.

The induction and advancement of platforms such as the J-10C, JF-17 Block III and upgraded Erieye AEW&C systems represent important milestones in this journey. But their true strength lies not merely in their individual capa-

bilities. Their real potential emerges when they become interconnected nodes of a secure, network-centric battlespace capable of generating a common and continuously updated operational picture. Modernization, therefore, is not simply about putting a more advanced aircraft in a hardened shelter. It is about creating the ability to see first, understand first, decide first and act first. This transformation has also demanded a corresponding transformation in training and leadership. Today's PAF pilot must be more than an accomplished aviator. He must understand sensors, networks, electronic warfare, data fusion, artificial intelligence and multi-domain operations. He must be capable of making rapid decisions in an environment where seconds can determine strategic outcomes.

The true test of such an architecture, however, comes not during peacetime exercises, but when the nation is confronted by war. That test came during Marka-e-Haq in May 2025, when Pakistan faced unprovoked aggression from the enemy. At a moment of national peril,

Pakistan Air Force emerged not merely as a force defending the skies, but as a Shield of Metal; standing between Pakistan and the aggression directed against its sovereignty. The response demonstrated the culmination of years of modernization, preparedness and doctrinal evolution. Advanced fighters, airborne early-warning capabilities, long-range weapons, secure communications, electronic warfare and integrated command-and-control came together to create a synchronized combat response. PAF's employment of J-10C and JF-17 platforms, supported by networked sensors and long-range engagement capabilities, demonstrated the changing character of air warfare. The battle was not simply fought between individual aircraft; it was fought across an interconnected battlespace where sensors, shooters, networks and commanders functioned as one force. The significance of Marka-e-Haq therefore extended well beyond the numbers or individual engagements. It demonstrated the operational value of multi-domain integration, where capabilities across the air, land,

space, cyber and electromagnetic domains can converge to generate decision superiority. It was a moment when years of preparation became visible.

The lesson is profound. The Shaheen in the cockpit remains at the heart of PAF's combat power, but today's Shaheen is empowered by an entire ecosystem surrounding him. His eyes are extended by sensors. His reach is amplified by precision weapons. His awareness is enhanced by data links. His decisions are supported by an integrated command network. His effectiveness is multiplied by technology, training and teamwork. This is the bridge between the legacy of 1965 and the battlespace of 2025 and beyond. The heroes of 1965 demonstrated what courage could achieve against overwhelming odds. The defenders of Marka-e-Haq demonstrated what that same courage, when combined with technology, preparation and visionary leadership, can achieve in the modern battlespace. On this Air Force Day, therefore, the nation salutes not only those who flew into harm's way but also those who had the foresight to prepare the Force for wars that



had yet to be fought.

From the legendary cockpits of 1965 to the network-centric battlespace of today, Pakistan Air Force continues to evolve—forged by courage, powered by technology, strengthened by training and guided by visionary leadership. And when the skies over Pakistan are threatened, that evolution assumes its ultimate purpose. The Shaheens rise. The networks awaken. The weapons systems respond. And the Shield of Metal stands firm. Because the legacy is not merely to defend Pakistan. It is to remain ready to defend it against every threat, in every domain, at every altitude and at every moment. Pakistan first, Pakistan always.

 Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
172,642.16	173,636.07
Day's High	Day's Low
173,736.19	171,490.63
Index Value	Change
15,205,992,660	−993.91
Percentage	Time
−0.57%	8 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,811.66	−10.47
Percentage	Time
−0.097%	8 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,845.72	−568.53
Percentage	Time
−1.06%	8 Sept, 1:27 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
65,269.33	+73.90
Percentage	Time
+0.11%	8 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	199.05	202.47
Bahrain Dinar	733.69	744.99
Canadian Dollar	198.82	204.81
China Yuan	38.27	38.99
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	322.48	325.46
Hong Kong Dollar	34.92	35.93
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.25
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.10	896.75
Malaysian Ringgit	68.10	68.95
NewZealand \$	162.05	165.99
Norwegians Krone	28.20	28.55
Omani Riyal	718.95	729.20
Qatari Riyal	74.86	76.15
Saudi Riyal	74.05	74.70
Singapore Dollar	218.97	224.10
Swedish Korona	28.45	28.95
Swiss Franc	343.15	347.85
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.95
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	76.58
UK Pound Sterling	375.75	378.70
US Dollar	278	278.50

inDrive wins four awards at Dragons of Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: inDrive, has won four awards at the Dragons of Pakistan 2026, recognising the brand's creative campaigns, strategic marketing and ability to connect with audiences through locally relevant ideas.

The brand's campaign "When Nani Calls You, You Find a Way" secured two awards, winning a Black Dragon in Brand Trials or Sales Generation and a Bronze Dragon in Marketing Discipline. The campaign was recognised for its ability to deliver business impact while combining a culturally relevant insight with a focused marketing approach.

inDrive also received a Bronze Dragon in Social Media, recognising its work in transforming social media from a platform primarily used to advertise rides into a space for storytelling and entertainment.

The brand also secured a Black Dragon for Creative Excellence in the Mural category for "People of inDrive", a campaign celebrating five Pakistanis whose choices had created a wider impact in their communities

Commenting on the recognition, Awais Saeed, Country Manager, inDrive Pakistan, said: "These recognitions reflect our approach to creating work that is rooted in local culture and built around ideas that people can connect with."

Sri Lankan Pineapples Introduced in Pakistan, Boosting Bilateral Trade

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Sri Lanka's high-quality pineapples have been officially introduced in Pakistan, marking a new development in bilateral trade and economic relations. A special launching ceremony was held in Karachi to formally begin commercial activities for the fruit, with diplomats, business leaders and representatives of the fruit and vegetable sector in attendance.

Businessman Sahal Jan, who hosted the event, said the initiative would provide Pakistani consumers with quality Sri Lankan pineapples while strengthening business-to-business links between the private sectors of both countries. He highlighted significant opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, fruits and vegetables.

Consul General of Sri Lanka Sanjeeva Pattiwala stressed the need to transform longstanding friendly relations into stronger economic and trade partnerships. He said increased cooperation in agriculture and related sectors could benefit businesses in both countries.

Chairman Pakistan Fruit and Vegetables Association Aslam Pakhali welcomed the import and expressed hope for further



expansion of agricultural trade. Syed Aman Shah said the new fruit variety would offer consumers greater choice while creating opportunities for importers, distributors and businesses.

Participants termed the initiative a positive step toward promoting bilateral friendship, trade, investment and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Environmental Friendly Vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz presenting keys of 50 environmental friendly Electric Vehicles to Federal Minister for Interior Moshin Naqvi; the EVs will be a part of "Capital Patrol", an initiative of Islamabad Capital Territory Police on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

DWP Group Celebrates Completion of Tameer-e-Mustaqbal Summer Internship Program 2026

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: DWP Group celebrated the successful completion of its Tameer-e-Mustaqbal Summer Internship Program 2026 with a graduation ceremony at Raya Golf & Country Club, Lahore.

The Summer Batch 2026 included 36 interns from across Pakistan — 17 in Lahore, 10 in Karachi, and 9 in Islamabad. Over the program, interns gained practical corporate exposure, worked on real assignments, and engaged with professionals across DWP Group's functions.

Senior leadership including Rohail Bashir, COO – Tech Division; Munib Khawaja, BU Head – SDE; Shakeela Qureshi, Head of HR; and Shoaib Younus, Head of Marketing attended and presented certificates. Mentors recognized included Hassan Javed, Muhammad Ejaz, Shakeel Javed, Shoaib Fazil, Umar Aziz, Usman Ahmad, Zahid Hussain, Imran Jabbar and Mohammad Abbas Rizvi.

DWP Group said the program aims to bridge academia and industry by providing hands-on learning, mentorship and professional development, empowering young talent to Innovate, Inspire, and Lead.

New initiative to facilitate safer evacuation of injured Baltoro porters

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Baltistan Association of Adventure Tour Operators (BAATO) and Petronet Aviation have agreed on a plan to evacuate injured porters from the Baltoro Corridor using the empty return legs of helicopter cargo-sling flights.

The agreement was reached during a meeting in Skardu between Petronet Aviation's Sohail Zarar Ali Khan, BAATO President Ayaz Shigri, Secretary Sakhawat Hussain and member tour operators.

Under the arrangement, helicopters flying cargo to the Baltoro region will be used to bring injured porters back on their otherwise empty return journeys. The two sides also agreed to coordinate mountain search and rescue, medical evacuation and cargo operations through a common operational system.

"Too many injured porters have had no way off the glacier," Sohail Zarar Ali Khan said.

"The helicopter is already going up with cargo. It comes back empty. That empty leg is how we bring them home," he said, adding that the Petronet Aviation-Rescue 1122 Gilgit-Baltistan MoU covering helicopter search and rescue and medical evacuation is currently awaiting approval from the Gilgit-Baltistan cabinet. The companies and tour operators said approval and signing of the MoU would complete the chain between rescue operations on the glacier and the emergency response service.



easypaisa & KTrade Partner to Simplify Digital Stock Market Investments through instant PSX Account Opening

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa digital bank and KTrade have partnered to simplify access to Pakistan's capital markets by enabling users to open a Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) investment account instantly through the easypaisa app. The initiative allows users to complete KTrade account onboarding digitally within around 10 minutes, eliminating traditional paperwork and barriers to stock market participation.

The partnership was unveiled in Islamabad in the presence of senior officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), National Clearing



Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL), Central Depository Company (CDC), easypaisa and KTrade.

According to the companies, the collaboration achieved the highest number of

investment accounts opened in a single day in PSX history, establishing a new benchmark for digital investor onboarding.

easypaisa President and CEO Jahanzeb Khan said the partnership extends the platform's financial inclusion efforts from payments and banking to investment opportunities. KTrade CEO Mahmood Ali Shah Bukhari said the initiative would make investing more accessible and convenient for millions of Pakistanis.

The partnership supports national efforts to increase retail investment, promote digital financial services and strengthen Pakistan's investment culture by providing secure and convenient access to capital markets.

SECP, Askari Bank Integrate Systems for Faster Corporate Account Opening

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Askari Bank Limited have completed an API integration to enable newly incorporated companies to open corporate bank accounts more quickly and with fewer documentation requirements.

Askari Bank is the first commercial bank to integrate its system with SECP's corporate registry under the initiative. The integration allows the bank to securely access authenticated corporate information directly from SECP, reducing manual verification and the repeated submission of company docu-



ments. The agreement was signed by SECP Commissioner Muzaffar Mirza and Askari Bank's Group Head Retail Banking, Shaikh Rashid Rauf.

The ceremony was attended by

SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Commissioners Muzaffar Mirza and Zeeshan Khattak, Executive Director Mubashir Saddozai, Registrar of Companies Arsalan Zafar, Askari

Bank President and CEO Zia Ijaz, Group Executive Operations Aslam Sadaruddin, and other officials.

The integration will allow Askari Bank to securely obtain authenticated

company information directly from SECP, reducing manual verification, repeated submission of documents and customer onboarding time. It will enable newly incorporated companies to swiftly operationalize by opening bank accounts and commencing business operations.

"This integration is part of SECP's ongoing digitalization and B-READY reforms aimed at simplifying business processes, improving access to reliable corporate information and making it easier to establish and operate businesses in Pakistan," Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said. SECP plans to extend similar digital integrations to other banks and financial institutions.

Saudi Arabia extends Rs. 150 million grant to modernise IIUI Academic Infrastructure

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Saudi Arabia has provided a Rs. 150 million developmental grant to the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) to modernise its academic infrastructure. The grant, announced in connection with Saudi National Day celebrations, will support improvements in classrooms, computer laboratories, information technology systems and other academic facilities.

Under the first phase, each faculty will receive a smart classroom equipped with an interactive board, digital podium and dedicated Wi-Fi, with a capacity of up to 30 students. Five computer laboratories will also be established, featuring 55 workstations and 220 computer systems, including desktops, VDI systems and laptops. CCTV, furniture and other essential facilities will also be provided.

IIUI said the initiative is part of a broader improvement drive led by Acting Rector/President Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, with particular focus on student welfare and infrastructure development. Renovation of student hostels is already underway.



The university expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia for its continued support, saying the grant would strengthen the learning environment, enhance digital education and help align IIUI with modern global academic standards.

Lahore Launches Huawei High-Tech Training Program – Batch II in Collaboration with NAVTTC, Huawei and CyberVision

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, has launched Batch II of the Huawei High-Tech Training Program in collaboration with Huawei, CyberVision and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) under the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program.

The program aims to equip Pakistani youth with industry-relevant skills in Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Solution Architecture, combining classroom instruction with practical laboratory work, capstone projects, industry exposure, assessments and Huawei certification preparation.



During the orientation ceremony, KICS officials emphasized the importance of discipline, regular attendance, practical learning and internationally recognized certifications for building successful technology careers. Trainees were encouraged to fully utilize KICS and UET

Lahore's academic, research and laboratory facilities. The instructional team will lead Tech Essentials, Artificial Intelligence and HCCDP Solution Architecture tracks. Training will continue until December 2026, while certification examinations are scheduled

to extend into January 2027. KICS said the second batch builds on the previous program's strong certification and employment outcomes and will further strengthen Pakistan's high-tech talent pipeline for opportunities in the national and global digital economy.

Anti-Corruption Team Catches Agriculture Official Taking Rs25,000 Bribe in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Attock, in a trap raid conducted under the supervision of a civil judge/magistrate, arrested a field assistant of the Agriculture Department for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs25,000 from a citizen.

According to an official spokesperson, Field Assistant Sajid Siddiqui was arrested during the raid after marked currency notes amounting to Rs25,000 were recovered from his possession.

The trap raid was conducted under the supervision of Civil Judge/Magistrate Abdul Khanki, while the ACE Attock team was led by Circle Officer Jehanzeb Khan.

The spokesperson said that the accused had allegedly demanded Rs25,000 from a citizen in exchange for an official favour. Following receipt of the complaint, the ACE arranged a trap and apprehended the official while he was allegedly receiving the marked cash. A case, FIR No. 03/26, dated September 7, 2026, has been registered against the accused at the Anti-Corruption Police Station, Attock.

Further investigation is under way, while the authorities said that legal proceedings would be conducted in accordance with the law.

Nature's Fury Strikes: Cloudburst Disaster Need for Better Early-Warning Systems

Continued from Page 4

data on atmospheric conditions and precipitation occurrence. Such networks enable rapid detection of rainfall intensification and initiation of warnings before significant impact occurs. Additionally, now casting systems that integrate satellite, radar, and surface observation data can provide short-term precipitation forecasts (0 to 6 hours) with greater accuracy than conventional forecasts, giving communities critical additional minutes to initiate protective actions.

Integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques offers promising advancements in cloudburst detection and prediction. These computational methods can identify complex atmospheric patterns associated with historical cloudburst events and recognize similar patterns developing in real-time, potentially providing earlier warning signals.

Furthermore, probabilistic forecasting approaches that communicate prediction uncertainty can help decision-makers understand risk levels and make more informed preparedness decisions.

Achieving effective early-warning systems for cloudburst disasters requires sustained commitment to meteorological infrastructure investment, international cooperation, capacity building in vulner-

Zone-IV Whites and Zone-V Whites Win in Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

Sports Report

KARACHI: Three more matches were decided in the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament here at various cricket Grounds of the City. Zone-IV Whites and Zone-V Whites Winning their 2nd match Consecutively after beating their opponents.

The highlights of the days play was some good batting by Asadullah 65, Ibrahim Shah 62, Muhammad Abu Huraira Faheem 58 and deadly bowling by off Spinner Muhammad Hussain Capturing 5 Wickets for 27 runs.

Scores in Brief: Zone-IV Whites defeated Zone-VII Blues by 8 Wickets at TMC Ground. Zone-VII Blues 74 all-out in 25.4 overs. Usaid Khan 29. Haris Khan (ob) 3/17, Kamil 2/7, Ayan Ahmed 2/17.

In reply Zone-IV Whites 76/2 in 6.2 overs. Masood Ali 33, Kamil 18.

In the 2nd Match Zone-V Whites beat Zone-VI Blues by 7 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI Blues 105 all-out in 31 overs. Moaz Yousufzai 20, Ibrahim Raja 17, Abdul Rehman (lb) 3/14, Muhammad Aqil (lb) 3/21.

In reply Zone-V Whites 106/3 in 18.4 overs. Asadullah 65 7x4 not out. Hasan Khan 2/22.

In the 3rd Match Zone-III Blues beat Zone-V Blues by 95 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-III Blues 225 allout in 29.3 overs. Ibrahim Shah 62 9x4 1x6, Hanan Naseem 43 8x4 1x6, Abdullah Khan 26, Muhammad Musab 21. Muhammad Nihal (ls) 3/37, Muhammad Shafay (mf) 3/51, Zayan Ali 2/39.

In reply Zone-V Blues 130 all-out in 29.3 overs. Muhammad Abu Huraira Faheem 58 11x4, Muhammad Shafay 19. Muhammad Hussain (os) 5/27, Haris Saleem 2/4, Hanan Naseem 2/25. Fixture for Wednesday 9th September: Zone-I Blues vs Zone-IV Greens (TMC Ground), Zone-II Blues vs Zone-VII Blues (KPI Ground), Zone-VI Whites vs Zone-IV Blues (KCCA Stadium).

SE Fruits & Vegetable gets PSX approval for IPO, set to raise up to Rs1.92bn

News Desk

KARACHI: SE Fruits & Vegetable Limited has received approval from the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for its initial public offering, paving the way for the horticulture exporter to raise between Rs1.2 billion and Rs1.92 billion to finance working capital and expand its processing and export capabilities.

The company plans to offer 30 million ordinary shares, representing 32.01% of its post-IPO paid-up capital, at a floor price of Rs40 per share. The strike price can rise by up to 60% through book building to a maximum of Rs64 per share.

At the floor price, the IPO would raise Rs1.2 billion, while proceeds could reach Rs1.92 billion at the upper end of the price band. Under the offering structure, 75%, or 22.5 million shares, will be offered through book building, while the remaining 25%, or 7.5 million shares, will be reserved for the general public. Topline Securities Limited and Growth Securities Limited are acting as lead managers to the issue.

The Sargodha-based company, formerly operating as Shaheen Enterprises, has been exporting kinnow, mango and potato since 1998 to markets across the Middle East, Far East, South Asia and Central Asia.

Around Rs940.2 million, or 78% of funds raised at the floor price, has been earmarked for working capital. Another Rs153.8 million is planned for cold-chain and processing expansion, Rs50 million for international offices in the UAE and Uzbekistan, Rs30 million for ERP and asset-tracking systems, and Rs26 million for solar energy and grid-related investment.

SE reported net revenue of Rs2.133 billion in FY2026, up 24% year-on-year, while profit after tax rose to a record Rs303.8 million. The company has remained debt-free since FY2024. Revenue and profit after tax recorded compound annual growth rates of approximately 28% and 31%, respectively, between FY2022 and FY2026.

When the West Sacrifices Secularism at the Altar of Religion

Continued from Page 4

The problem is measurable. The U.S. Department of Justice recorded 236 anti-Muslim hate incidents and 156 anti-Sikh incidents in 2023. In the European Union, a survey of almost 10,000 Muslims across 13 countries found that 47 percent had experienced racial discrimination within the preceding five years, particularly in employment and housing.

The same constitutional test must be applied to Israel. Israel emerged from Zionism, British rule in Palestine, European antisemitism culminating in the Holocaust, and the United Nations' 1947 proposal for separate Arab and Jewish states. It would be historically inaccurate to reduce its creation to a single Western plan for removing Jews from Europe. Nevertheless, defining

national self-determination as exclusive to one people raises a profound question about equality for Palestinians and other non-Jewish citizens and residents.

That concern is intensified by occupation and settlement. In a 2024 advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice concluded that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and that settlement activity must cease. United Nations satellite analysis later estimated that approximately 81 percent of structures in Gaza had been damaged by October 2025.

The conclusion is not that religion must disappear. Religion can inspire compassion, justice and service. The danger begins when it becomes a certificate of citizenship or a weapon for deciding who truly belongs. A Muslim, Jew, Christian, Hindu, Sikh or nonbe-

liever should not have to become culturally "like" the majority to receive equal protection.

The United States and Europe became dreams because they promised that law would stand above sectarian identity. If their leaders replace that promise with competing religious nationalisms, they will revive the divisions their constitutional systems were designed to restrain. Their future peace and prosperity therefore depend upon returning to the essential principle of secular democracy: the state has no favored faith, and every citizen stands equal before the law.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Michigan, USA

Beyond the Toothache: Who Is Qualified to Treat Your Teeth?

Continued from Page 4

The Hidden Risk: Infection Control

Perhaps the most neglected issue in dentistry is what happens to instruments between patients.

Dental instruments may come into contact with saliva, tissues and blood. If reusable instruments are not properly cleaned and sterilised between patients, infections may be transmitted. Hepatitis B and C therefore deserve public attention.

However, there is no justification for creating unnecessary fear. Not every inexpensive clinic is unsafe, and an expensive clinic is not automatically safe.

The real issue is the process.

Does an Autoclave Automatically Make a Clinic Safe? Not necessarily.

An autoclave is important, but sterilisation is a process, not simply a machine. Instruments must first be properly cleaned and prepared, then sterilised through an appropriate cycle, monitored and stored so that they are not recontaminated.

Patients should therefore feel comfortable asking: "Doctor, how are the instruments used on patients sterilised?"

This is a reasonable question about personal safety, not an accusation.

Fresh gloves and a new dispos-

able needle for every patient are essential, but they are not the entire infection-control system. Reusable instruments, dental handpieces and other equipment also require proper cleaning and reprocessing.

A spotless floor does not prove that an instrument is sterile. A white coat does not prove that infection-control standards are being followed.

What Should Patients Ask?

Before treatment, patients should ask:

What is the practitioner's professional qualification?

Is the practitioner registered with the relevant regulatory authority?

Does the clinic meet applicable healthcare requirements? Are new needles and fresh gloves used for every patient?

How are reusable instruments sterilised and stored? What happens if specialist treatment is required?

These are basic questions about patient safety. Affordable Does Not Mean Unsafe

Pakistan is a country where many families cannot afford expensive private healthcare. Dental treatment can place a particular financial burden on patients.

We should therefore never suggest that good dentistry is available only in expensive clinics.

Affordable treatment can be perfectly acceptable. Substandard treatment is not.

A modest clinic can provide safe care if it has a properly qualified and registered practitioner, appropriate equipment and effective infection-control practices. Conversely, modern furniture and high fees cannot guarantee safety.

The Standard Must Be the Same

For decades, many people have judged a dental practitioner by saying: "His hand is very good."

Manual skill and experience matter. But modern healthcare requires more than a skilled hand.

A dental surgeon, dental

practitioner, technician and assistant have different qualifications, responsibilities and legal authority. Recognising these differences is not an insult to anyone; it is a matter of protecting patients.

Regulatory authorities must ensure that professional registers remain meaningful, clinics comply with applicable standards, and unlawful practice is addressed. Patients, meanwhile, must become better informed, learn how to verify credentials and raise concerns when necessary.

Ultimately, the issue is bigger than a tooth.

The standard should be clear:

Recognised qualification. Professional registration. Competent practice.

Proper infection control. Patient safety.

A lost tooth can often be replaced. The consequences of a preventable infection may be far more difficult to undo.

So, before sitting in a dental chair, do not ask only:

"How much will it cost?"

Ask three more questions:

"Are you qualified?"

"Are you registered?"

"How are your instruments sterilised?"

These questions take only a few minutes. They may protect far more than your teeth.

Peace conference

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing the 8th International Interfaith Peace Conference on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Acting President lauds role of minorities in national progress

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has commended the vital role played by minorities in the progress and development of the country across diverse sectors, including defence, healthcare, education, politics and social welfare.

Addressing the Eighth International Interfaith Harmony Conference in Islamabad today, he said that protecting the rights of minorities is not merely a constitutional obligation but also a religious responsibility.

The Acting President said that it is an essential feature of any strong

society that people of different faiths can perform their religious rituals with complete freedom.

He said Pakistan is a multi-religious society where people of different faiths have the full right to live their lives according to their respective beliefs.

He termed the establishment of the Senate Minority Caucus a vital step towards bringing minorities into the mainstream and ensuring swift resolution of their issues.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that Pakistan gives priority to dialogue and diplomacy to address regional disputes effectively.

AJK PM directs full activation of Food Authority



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani has directed the full activation of the AJK Food Authority, stressing that public health must not be compromised. He called for strict and impartial action against those involved in food adulteration, sale of substandard or hazardous food, and violations of hygiene standards.

Addressing a meeting of the Food Department, the Prime Minister ordered stronger inspection and monitoring systems, emphasizing that enforcement should be visible

through effective field operations rather than remaining limited to paperwork. He directed regular monitoring of markets, hotels, restaurants, bakeries, milk outlets and other food establishments.

The Prime Minister also stressed that enforcement should remain fair and avoid unnecessary hardship. He instructed officials to seek technical assistance and benefit from the experience of the Punjab Food Authority to modernize AJK's food safety system. He assured that necessary resources and facilities would be provided to strengthen the Authority and ensure safe, hygienic and quality food for the public.

Italy to further strengthen ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador Ugo Ciarlatani paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad Tuesday.

While welcoming the newly arrived Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan and Italy enjoy excellent bilateral relations.

He conveyed his warm greetings to Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and fondly recalled his interactions with the Italian leader. He also expressed his pleasure at Prime Minister Meloni's completion of four uninterrupted years in office, which made her the Italian leader with the longest tenure.

The Ambassador thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him and said that he would make earnest efforts to further promote and strengthen Pakistan-Italy relations during his tenure. In this regard, he looks forward to working closely with the Government across all areas of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister assured the Italian Ambassador of Pakistan's full cooperation in building stronger ties between the two countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture, IT and Artificial Intelligence, industry, textile and people-to-people contacts.

Fully support all legitimate Saudi measures in response to Houthi aggression, says Ashrafi



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council and Secretary-General of the International Tazeeem-e-Harmain Sharifain Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, has strongly condemned the Houthi militia's targeting of Saudi Arabia's national resources, critical installations and civilian sites.

He said the Pakistan Ulama Council fully supports all legitimate measures taken by Saudi Arabia to protect its security, sovereignty, civilian population and national installations. Saudi Arabia is the land of the Two Holy Mosques, and its security is therefore of vital importance to every Muslim.

The people of Pakistan, religious scholars and leaders, and the wider religious community stand in complete solidarity with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin

Salman, the Saudi government and the Saudi people.

Ashrafi said Saudi Arabia has consistently pursued efforts to end the war in Yemen, promote political dialogue and achieve lasting peace. However, the Houthi militia's rejection of the peace process and continued actions that threaten regional security are unacceptable.

He stressed that Saudi Arabia has an established right to defend its territory, citizens, national resources and holy sites, and that its patience and restraint should not be mistaken for weakness.

He called upon the international community, the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Muslim countries to unequivocally condemn Houthi aggression and attacks on civilian installations, and to play an effective role in protecting regional peace and preventing such acts of aggression.

He further said Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations are rooted in faith, brotherhood and mutual trust. The people of Pakistan consider the security of the Holy Land - Haramain Sharifain to be their own security and will continue to stand alongside their Saudi brothers in the face of any aggression. APP

10-year plan for shark conservation unveiled

Maritime Minister says estimated \$3.8m to \$5m would be required during the first five years of plan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Tuesday announced Pakistan's first 10-year national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks, aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries management.

The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks Pakistan 2025-2035) will be implemented in three phases over the next decade under the leadership of the Marine Fisheries Department and oversight of a multi-stakeholder National Advisory Committee, the minister said in a statement.

He said an estimated \$3.8

million to \$5 million would be required during the first five years of the plan. The funding would come from government allocations, international donors and private-sector contributions.

The plan aims to restore shark populations, eliminate illegal finning, reduce bycatch mortality, protect critical habitats, improve coastal livelihoods and promote sustainable shark fisheries management by 2035.

It provides a framework for improving data collection and research, strengthening fisheries management and enforcement, and introducing measures including mandatory fins-naturally-attached policies and species-specific protections.

The plan also provides for

habitat protection through shark sanctuaries and mangrove restoration, measures to reduce bycatch across fisheries, and engagement with fishing communities through livelihood support. International cooperation, including through the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, is also part of the framework.

"Progress will be assessed through annual performance indicators, including landing-site monitoring coverage, completion of stock assessments, deployment of vessel monitoring systems and reductions in bycatch mortality. Formal reviews will be conducted every three years," he said.

According to the minister, the plan has been designed to reflect Pakistan's ecological, institutional and socio-

economic conditions while remaining aligned with the Food and Agriculture Organisation's International Plan of Action for Sharks and other international best practices.

The action plan covers all chondrichthyan species including sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras found in Pakistani waters, with particular attention to shark species targeted by fisheries or facing significant bycatch mortality.

"Although the primary emphasis is on sharks, the management frameworks, data collection systems and enforcement mechanisms established through the NPOA will also benefit other elasmobranch species, many of which face similar conservation challenges," Junaid Chaudhry said. He said development of the

national action plan fulfilled Pakistan's responsibility as a shark-fishing nation under international fisheries law.

Junaid Chaudhry said the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) encouraged countries to adopt national plans for shark conservation and management, minimize waste and promote sustainable fishing practices.

"Responsible management of marine resources must come first, with stronger measures to protect vulnerable shark species and those whose capture is prohibited," he said, adding that this was both a national responsibility and part of Pakistan's obligations under various environmental agreements.

Interior Minister pays tribute to Pakistan Navy on Navy Day

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Navy Day paid tribute to the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy, recognizing their services, sacrifices, and role in safeguarding the country's maritime frontiers.

He said the day is observed to honour the contributions of naval personnel who have served the nation with commitment and dedication.

In his message, Mohsin Naqvi said Navy Day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices and achievements of the Pakistan Navy.

He acknowledged the courage, professional competence, and commitment of naval personnel who have played a key role in protecting Paki-

stan's maritime interests.

The minister said September 8, 1965, remains an important chapter in the history of the Pakistan Navy. He noted that during the 1965 war, the Navy demonstrated its operational capability and responded effectively to enemy actions.

Referring to Operation Dwarka, he said the mission reflected the Navy's preparedness and determination during a critical period of the war.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that the Pakistan Navy made history by defending the country's sea borders on September 8, 1965.

He said the force fulfilled its responsibilities and contributed significantly to the national defense effort during



the war.

The interior minister also referred to the recent "Maarka-e-Haq, e-Haq" saying the Pakistan Navy remained alert and fully prepared throughout the situation. He added that the enemy did not dare launch an attack on Karachi, which reflected the Navy's readiness and defensive capabilities.

He said the entire nation takes pride

in the Pakistan Navy, which continues to guard the country's territorial waters and maritime boundaries.

Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Navy and said their sacrifices remain a valuable national asset. He emphasized that the services rendered by naval martyrs and veterans hold an important place in the country's history.

The minister further said that the Pakistan Navy's modern capabilities and professional standards are a source of pride for the nation. He added that the country will always remember the contributions of its naval personnel, including both martyrs and veterans, who have served Pakistan with dedication and commitment.

Pakistan Navy Commemorates Navy Day, Honours 1965 War Heroes

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Navy commemorated Navy Day, recalling the valour of its naval warriors during the 1965 War and honouring the enduring legacy of courage, professional excellence and sacrifice carried forward by successive generations in defence of the motherland.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff, in his Navy Day message, stated that historic Operation SOMNATH demonstrated how a resolute maritime force, driven by courage and conviction, could achieve decisive effects despite numerical



and material constraints. He said that the legacy of courage and conviction established during Operation SOMNATH continues to endure, as reflected once again in Pakistan Navy's successful deterrence against Indian Navy during Marka-e-Haq.

Navy Day commenced with Quran Khawani and special prayers for Shuhada. Chief of the Naval Staff, laid floral wreath at Shuhada Monument, Naval Headquarters Islamabad, and met with Shuhada families, acknowledging their sacrifices and resilience.

Navy Day commemorations were held across the country.