



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم کو سحر سے نروں، انہیں ہمارے منہ سے،
انہیں ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے کہی کریم
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ ہند (منہ)
انسان کو کوئی چیز نہیں دیتی تو میں (رب) نے
اس کی تقدیر میں نہ لکھی ہو بلکہ وہ تقدیر دیتی
ہے جو میں (رب) نے اس کے لیے مقرر کر
دی ہے، البتہ اس کے ذریعہ میں بخش کمال
نکولیں۔
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6609)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**



Federal govt weighs to replace IGP Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi

Federal government is planning to change Inspector General Police Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi. Sources said that DIG Sohail Chaudhry may be appointed as the new IG Islamabad. Ali Nasir likely to be appointed as Director General NCCIA. Sohail Chaudhry had also met the Prime Minister two days ago.



New spell of rain, thunderstorm, hailstorm predicted during Sept 12-17

The Meteorological Department states that the weather system could intensify further on September 14. Rain, strong winds, thunderstorms, and isolated hailstorms are expected in Azad Kashmir from September 12 to 17. Rain is expected in various areas, including Muzaffargarh, Neelum Valley, Rawalakot, Poonch, Bagh, Kotli, and Mirpur.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 28, Saturday, September 12, 2026



www.dailyspokesman.net



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 143

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting on Power load shedding

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Power load management on Friday.



Photo: PID

PM takes notice of load-shedding, directs no area to face outage of over two hours

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday took notice of increasing electricity load-shedding across various cities, expressing displeasure and directing that no area should face outages exceeding two hours.

Chairing a review meeting on power load management, the PM was informed that

regional tensions, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz, along with transportation difficulties affecting RLNG supply, had reduced electricity generation, necessitating load management to balance demand and supply.

The Prime Minister directed immediate measures to address the RLNG supply disruption, considering the regional situation and future requirements, and instructed that all avail-

able resources be utilized effectively to prevent load-shedding beyond two hours in any area.

He also ordered the establishment of Consumer Grievance Redressal Committees at the DISCO level to address public complaints, directing that these committees include public representation and become functional within one week.

The meeting was informed that consumers could register

complaints via helpline 118, receiving a token number and expected resolution time upon lodging a complaint. It was further noted that, aside from six consumers in Rajanpur district, no one nationwide was currently facing power disruption due to monsoon rains.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan

Cheema, Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaiz Leghari, Advisor to the PM Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, and other senior officials.

Quetta Corps Commander briefs media on Balochistan security situation

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Corps Commander Quetta Lt Gen Rahat Naseem Khan on Friday held a special meeting with representatives of Pakistan's media and briefed them in detail on the current security situation and challenges facing Balochistan.

During the meeting, the media delegation was informed about measures being taken to restore peace and law and order in the province and efforts to address ongoing security challenges.

The media representatives also inspected weapons and ammunition seized from terrorists during security operations.



The meeting also discussed ongoing measures for promoting peace and stability in Balochistan.

The Corps Commander Quetta said security measures would continue until the last terrorist is eliminated, stressing that all possible steps were being taken to establish lasting peace and stability in the province.

He said the government and security forces would continue efforts to maintain law and order while ensuring that Balochistan's journey towards development continues.

Later, the media delegation visited CMH Quetta, where its members met and inquired about the health of soldiers wounded during ongoing counterterrorism operations in Balochistan.

Petrol, diesel prices rise for fifth straight day



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government raised petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) prices by Rs5.02 and Rs5.28 per litre, respectively, on Friday, marking the fifth straight increase in petroleum prices.

The new prices will remain effective from Saturday, September 12, until Monday, September 14, 2026.

The price of petrol rose from Rs370.80 to Rs375.82 per litre, while diesel increased from Rs398.04 to Rs403.32 per litre.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) revised the ex-depot prices of petroleum products under the government's pricing mechanism.

61st Martyrdom Anniversary of Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Observed

Naveed Ahmad Khan



ISLAMABAD: The 61st Martyrdom Anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, is being observed on Saturday. Born in Hong Kong in 1928, he moved to Ladiyan village, Gujrat, before Pakistan's independence and joined the Army in 1950, commissioned in the Punjab Regiment.

During the 1965 Indo-Pak War, as company commander at Burki, Lahore, he stayed with his forward platoon and defended the strategic BRB Canal for five days under constant enemy fire, ultimately being martyred by an enemy shell.

President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute, saying Major Bhatti immortalized his name through his sacrifice in the 1965 War, calling it a

shining example of commitment to national defense and a source of pride and inspiration for the nation and younger generations. He affirmed that Pakistan would always honor its martyrs as the foundation of its freedom and sovereignty.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also paid tribute, stating that Major Bhatti's courage in repelling enemy attacks for five days thwarted plans to capture Lahore. He praised Pakistan's Armed Forces for standing as an unbreakable wall against hostile threats, affirming that the nation stands united with its forces in defending the homeland.

Top Pakistan Military Leaders Honor Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed on 61st Martyrdom Anniversary

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, General Syed Aamer Raza, NI (M), S Bt, Commander National Strategic Command on behalf of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, solemnly commemorate the 61st martyrdom anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider and pay rich tribute to his exceptional courage, leadership and supreme sacrifice.

During the 1965 War, Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed defended the Burki sector near Lahore with extraordinary valour, holding his ground against relentless enemy assaults for five days and nights. His resolute leadership and indomitable

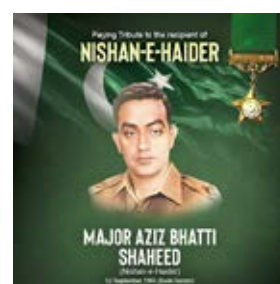


table spirit halted the enemy's advance and became an enduring symbol of courage, duty and sacrifice. His legacy lives on as an inspiration to the nation and generations of Pakistan's defenders.

Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed's selfless devotion to duty, unwavering courage and supreme sacrifice remain an enduring inspiration for generations. The Armed Forces of Pakistan reaffirm their steadfast resolve to defend the country's sovereignty and security with the same courage, determination and spirit of sacrifice that he embodied.

DPM/FM Ishaq Dar reviews preparations for ECO COM to be held on Nov 15-16



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting to review preparations for the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), to be hosted by Pakistan on 15-16 November 2026.

During the meeting, the DPM/FM was briefed on the preparations, including the

proposed programme and agenda, participation, logistics and other arrangements. He reviewed the preparations in detail and provided guidance on key aspects of the upcoming COM meeting.

The DPM/FM underscored the importance of Pakistan attached to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and its role in advancing regional trade, connectivity and economic cooperation. He directed all concerned to ensure comprehensive preparations for a productive and successful COM meeting in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and all concerned officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

JI Announces Long March to Islamabad on Sept 20 Against Oil Levy

Bureau Report

GUJRANWALA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has announced a long march towards Islamabad on September 20 against the levy and other taxes on oil prices. Addressing JI workers on Friday night, he said the federal government repeatedly asked for more time and told JI that it could not reduce petrol prices. He warned that "a sea of millions" will march on Islamabad,

and stated, "if the levy and extortion are not abolished, the issue will be decided on the streets of Islamabad." JI will enter the capital "from all directions" for the rights of 250 million people. Hafiz Naeem criticized the PML-N government, alleging factory workers have no rights in sugar mills and accusing CM Maryam Nawaz of exploiting women, citing 6,500 reported sexual assault cases in Punjab. He also accused the CM of living in luxury in London at public expense and

challenged her to disclose the trip's costs. He further claimed that the Sharif family declares lower income than an ordinary businessperson. He questioned the government's justification of global price hikes while imposing levies, saying the burden could be eased by reducing interest rates. He alleged those in power cannot confront the banking, sugar, flour and IPP "mafias" and asked if the Establishment was directing the government to collect levies instead of cutting interest rates.

Punjab Minister Inaugurates Modern Veterinary Facilities at Multan Hospital

 **Bureau Report**

MULTAN: Provincial Minister for Livestock and Agriculture Ashiq Hussain Kirmani inaugurated a state-of-the-art X-ray machine, operation theater, surgical facilities, and a mobile veterinary unit at the Advanced Civil Veterinary Hospital, Multan. The event was attended by MPA Salman Naeem, Secretary Livestock Punjab Ahmed Aziz Tarar, Commissioner Multan Amir Karim Khan, and Special Secretary (South) Asad Naeem.

After inspecting the facilities and receiving a briefing, Kirmani said the new X-ray machine would enable timely diagnosis of animal diseases and bone-related issues, while the operation theater would improve treatment of complex cases. He said the initiative reflects Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision



to develop Punjab's livestock sector and ensure farmers' prosperity through forward.

doorstep veterinary services.

Kirmani emphasized livestock's vital role in Punjab's economy, noting millions of families depend on the sector. He said modern technology and improved diagnostics being introduced by the Livestock Department would help reduce farmers' financial losses through effective, timely treatment.

He highlighted that mobile veterinary units would extend services to farmers in remote areas, safeguarding animal health while boosting rural incomes and economic stability. The Minister directed officials to ensure high-quality, timely veterinary care using the new facilities and reaffirmed the Punjab government's commitment to introducing further modern facilities and welfare measures for livestock farmers going

Talking to media

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with Governor Sindh, Syed Nehal Hashmi talking to media after paid homage to Quaid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his death anniversary, at Quaid's mausoleum in the Provincial Capital on Friday.



Photo: Online

Media Urged to Put Population Stabilization at the Centre of Pakistan's Development Debate

 **Rafiullah Mandokhel**

QUETTA: The Population Council, supported by UNFPA, convened a Media Coalition on Population meeting under the theme "Media for Informed Action on Population Stabilisation," bringing together over 30 journalists to discuss the newly notified National Population Council (NPC) and barriers to family planning access.

Dr. Ali M. Mir, Country Director, Population Council, called population a cross-sectoral issue linked to water, food security, and women's empowerment, noting per capita agricultural



land has fallen nearly 80% since 1965. Kazim Salman, Deputy Chief (Population), Ministry of Planning, briefed participants on the NPC, chaired by the Prime Minister with Chief Ministers

and key federal ministers, now expanded to cover health, education, youth, women's labour participation, skills, and social protection. Dr. Iram Kamran presented results

from the "Karain Zindagi Aasaan" voucher model in Rahim Yar Khan, which reached 22,000 women, raising contraceptive use from 53.5% to 59% and reducing unmet need among poor women, now being scaled to 14 Punjab districts.

Journalists discussed girls' education, women's employment, and healthcare gaps. Dr. Mir stressed insulating the NPC from political change, citing Indonesia and Bangladesh. UNFPA's Dr. Ghulam Farid Khan noted family planning funding rose from PKR 20 billion to PKR 45 billion, urging sustained media focus on the issue.

NIH Team Visits DHQ Teaching Hospital Mirpur to Assess Public Health Reference Laboratory Plans

 **Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: On the directions of AJK Health Minister Dr. Mustafa Bashir Abbasi, a team from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Islamabad, visited Divisional Headquarters & Teaching Hospital Mirpur to assess arrangements for establishing a Divisional Public Health Reference Laboratory.

Led by Molecular Biologist Sadia Majeed of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System, along with NIH engineers, the team inspected the hospital's existing laboratory and proposed premises for the new facility, taking necessary measurements.

Medical Superintendent Professor Dr. Ejaz Ahmed briefed the team on



the hospital's laboratory and diagnostic facilities, with Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Maria Zulfikar also present. Pathologist Dr. Muhammad Kaleem detailed ongoing diagnostic services and existing systems.

Hospital administration called the proposed laboratory a significant step toward strengthening medical and diagnostic services across Mirpur Division, with particular emphasis on improving diagnostic facilities at the hospital.

The reference laboratory is expected to enhance modern diagnostic services and enable timely, reliable disease diagnosis. Officials said the initiative would boost the hospital's diagnostic capacity while providing quality, modern diagnostic services to the people of Mirpur Division at the local level.

National Climate Journalism Training Workshop Concludes in Islamabad



 **City Report**

ISLAMABAD: A two-day National Climate Journalism Training Workshop, jointly organized by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and German Red Cross, concluded in Islamabad.

More than 30 journalists and field reporters from climate-vulnerable areas including Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated.

The workshop, arranged by PRCS's Climate Change Adaptation and Media & Communications Departments with German Red Cross, focused on climate change, its humanitarian impacts, and responsible, fact-based climate reporting.

Sessions covered climate science, policy, data journalism, human-centred storytelling, and mobile journalism. Trainers included Aniba Waqar and Abdul Razzaq Khatak. Participants also did practical exercises and received editorial feedback.

PRCS Chairperson Farzana Naik said journalists can amplify voices of affected communities and highlight local solutions. Secretary General Muhammad Ubaidullah Khan stressed that strengthening journalists' capacity is vital to improve communication between communities, policy-makers and stakeholders amid growing climate impacts across Pakistan.

MEPCO Sets Performance Targets and Launches AI Training for Staff



 **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: MEPCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Gul Muhammad Zahid has said clear performance targets are being set at all levels to improve operational efficiency. Officers have been assigned objectives according to their roles and will be evaluated against them.

Addressing a certificate distribution ceremony at MEPCO Headquarters, he stressed that human resources are key to progress. Despite budget constraints, priority is being given to training, capacity building and consumer services. High-performing officers will be recognized, while merit, performance and rule adherence will guide promotions.

Chief HR & Career Planning Officer Mian Muhammad Sohail Afzal announced the launch of an AI training program for management and staff. He said AI tools can streamline file processing, reporting, data analysis and correspondence. Officers were urged to treat the training as a necessity, not a formality.

Certificates were awarded to senior HR and Admin officers. The ceremony was attended by CFO, GMs, Directors and training staff.

Fire & Safety Awareness and Training Programme Held at Hamdard University Karachi



 **Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Hamdard University Karachi organized an important Fire & Safety Awareness and Training Programme to educate faculty members and staff about fire prevention, safety measures and effective response to emergency situations.

During the training session, Salman Siddiqui, In-charge of the Fire & Safety Department, provided comprehensive awareness and practical guidance to the participants in a highly effective and engaging manner. He highlighted the importance of taking timely, sensible and appropriate measures during any unforeseen or emergency situation to protect human lives and property.

Salman Siddiqui also briefed the participants on essential procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, safe evacuation practices, the proper use of firefighting equipment and the importance of remaining calm and taking prompt action during emergencies. He also responded to various questions raised by faculty members and staff and provided comprehensive and satisfactory answers.

The programme was successfully organized with the valuable cooperation of Kaleem Ghiyas, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences; Ubaid Zaidi, Administrator; Maqsood Alam; Saqib; Hammad; and Bilal, Security In-charge, whose efforts and support were highly appreciated.

On the occasion, Kaleem Ghiyas expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Salman Siddiqui and all faculty members and staff who participated in the programme. He emphasized that such training programmes play an important role in promoting a safe, responsible and prepared environment within the institution.

The training session concluded with a practical Fire Drill, during which participants were trained to respond promptly and systematically to an emergency situation. The drill included practical demonstrations of emergency evacuation procedures and essential safety measures.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:24 am
Zohr12:05 pm
Asr4:33 pm
Maghrib6:22 pm
Isha7:45 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 Inquiry 117
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
RDA5555864
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
E-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank

Fire Safety Arrangements Fully Completed at LGH's Neonatal Neurology Unit

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In line with Punjab Government directives, Lahore General Hospital (LGH) has completed comprehensive and fool-proof fire safety arrangements at its Neonatal Neurology Unit (NNU) to prioritize newborn safety. MS LGH Prof. Dr. Faryad Hussain said there will be no compromise on patient safety and SOPs are being strictly followed. The NNU is now equipped with emergency exit doors, complete fire kits, modern extinguishers, fire balls, fire blankets, and fire masks. Smoke alarms and oxygen sensors are operational 24/7. He added that Biomedical and Electrical engineers conduct regular inspections to prevent faults and short circuits. Emergency exit routes are checked daily and the unit is under 24-hour CCTV surveillance. The NNU staff undergo regular fire drills and practical training for swift evacuation. Dr. Faiza Khalid noted the NNU has 47 beds with round-the-clock newborn care, while Dr. Sundas Tahir said daily safety reviews are conducted per Specialized Healthcare Department SOPs to ensure the safest medical facilities.

CM Maryam Nawaz Directs MPAs to Ensure Quality and Transparency in Development Projects

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with MPAs from Sahiwal district on September 11 to discuss political and development matters. The MPAs present included Wilayat Shah, Qasim Nadeem, Arshad Malik, Nadeem Aslam Lodhi, Rana Riaz Ahmed, and Muhammad Hanif. During the meeting, the CM directed the MPAs to closely monitor the quality and transparency of ongoing development projects in their constituencies. She also announced that 14 additional electric buses would soon be introduced in Sahiwal. The MPAs praised the Chief Minister's public welfare initiatives, calling the beautification of Sahiwal city a historic achievement. They commended the Punjab government's development work across cities, towns, and villages under the Punjab Development Project, and specifically highlighted the establishment of

10 Nawaz Sharif Schools of Eminence in Sahiwal Division, along with sewerage and drainage improvement projects. The MPAs noted that, for the first time, genuine public problems were being addressed with special focus, and praised the electric bus initiative as exemplary. They pointed out that the buses were already benefiting thousands of commuters across various Sahiwal routes, including Arifwala Bypass, Yousafwala, Noor Shah, KFC Bypass, General Bus Stand to Kameer, Adda Sabeel, and Bala Mor. In response, CM Maryam Nawaz thanked the MPAs for their support and stated that development initiatives had now been extended beyond major cities down to the village level. She emphasized that the Nawaz Sharif Schools of Eminence would offer equal educational opportunities to children from both underprivileged and affluent backgrounds, adding that their standards would match those of leading private schools.



Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Matters at the Ministry of Law and Justice.



Photo: PID

CM Punjab Champions League Men's and Women's Finals to be Played at Gaddafi Stadium on Sept 18

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi announced that the men's and women's finals of the CM Punjab Champions League will be held at Gaddafi Stadium on September 18. The men's final will feature Lahore Strikers versus Multan Mavericks, while Indus Invincibles will face Potohar Pride in the women's title clash. Qureshi shared this while chairing a meeting at National Hockey Stadium to review final match arrangements, attended by PCB Director Domestic Osama Sharoon and other officials. Several top sports figures are expected at the finals. He noted that numerous national and international cricketers took part in the tournament, calling it a major platform for competitive cricket and emerging talent, with several fresh players discovered through the league. Qureshi described it as one of the major cricket events in southern Punjab, with matches held in Multan, Bahawalpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan, drawing thousands of enthusiastic fans. He added that the tournament, organized in collaboration with the Pakistan Cricket Board, gave young players a valuable opportunity to showcase their skills.



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Annual Sports Day 2026 Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Government Happy Dale School Nazimabad

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Annual Sports Day 2026 was celebrated with great zeal at Government Happy Dale Girls'/Boys Secondary School, Nazimabad No. 4, Karachi. Students took part with full energy in various sports competitions, physical activities, and a special mass display, which was a major highlight of the event. Chief Guests included Ali Hussain, Secretary Regional Cricket Association Karachi & COO Organic Meat Company Limited, and Musharraf Ali Rajput, Chairman Technical Board & Chairman Board of Secondary Education. Other dignitaries present were directors, district officers, and education officials from Karachi Central. Students demonstrated discipline, teamwork, self-confidence, and sportsmanship, earning appreciation from the audience. Prizes, medals, and certificates were awarded to top performers, while female students who secured A-1 grades in Matriculation also received special honors. School Administrator Ms. Haseen Fatima praised sports for building health, discipline and leadership. The event was hosted by Aqeel Hussain and Syed Naveed Ahsan and concluded in a vibrant atmosphere.

Google WeatherNext 3 Sets a New Benchmark for AI Weather Forecasting



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Google DeepMind and Google Research have introduced WeatherNext 3, an advanced AI-powered global weather forecasting model engineered to deliver localized, real-time climate intelligence at unprecedented resolution. By directly ingesting live geostationary satellite mosaics and real-world ground station data, WeatherNext 3 eliminates traditional reliance on slow, compute-heavy numerical approximations. The result is an operational system that produces fresh forecasts every hour of the day at up to 5-kilometer spatial resolution—roughly five times sharper than its predecessor. WeatherNext 3 has already rolled out powering weather experiences within Google Search, Gemini app, Google Maps, Google Maps Platform Weather API, and Google Earth Engine starting today. The update dramatically improves longer term forecasts. When planning a day or more ahead, people will see up to 50% more accurate precipitation forecasts — with the greatest improvements in regions where forecasts have historically been less reliable.

Global Youth Impact Summit 2026 Concludes in Porto with Historic Youth Declaration

News Desk

KARACHI: The Global Youth Impact Summit 2026 (GYIS 2026) concluded in Porto-Gaia, Portugal, on September 6, with the signing of the Porto Youth Declaration by over 50 youth delegates from more than 45 nations. Organized by the Council for Global Affairs & Development (CGAD), the four-day summit brought together young leaders, diplomats, civil society representatives, and entrepreneurs to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs).

The declaration emphasized climate action, education, economic opportunity, gender equality, inclusion, and peace-building, recognizing youth as active contributors rather than mere beneficiaries of development. Distinguished participants included Belgian Ambassador Bart Lammens, Kosovo Ambassador Edona Maloku Bërdyna, Philippine Ambassador Paul Raymond Cortes, and GYIS President Alyson Reneau. Key outcomes included an endorsed

SDG Leadership Framework prioritizing nine goals for youth-led action, strengthened global youth networks, and innovation proposals from the Summit's Innovation Lab. Organizers announced GYIS 2027 will be held in Paris. Reneau said the summit united diverse voices committed to positive change, while CGAD described the declaration as "a movement" representing fifty young voices from 45+ nations speaking for a fairer, more sustainable world. The summit



builds on momentum from the earlier Youth Forum on Global Goals held in Istanbul.

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When the Classroom Floods: Climate Change Is Now an Education Emergency

A new UNICEF analysis delivers a sobering statistic that deserves far more attention than it has received: more than 171 million students worldwide — one in ten children from pre-primary through upper secondary school — had their education disrupted by climate hazards in 2025 alone. This is not a distant, abstract threat. It is a present-tense crisis, unfolding in flooded classrooms, heat-shuttered schools, and storm-damaged buildings across 106 countries. The numbers tell a stark story. Storms disrupted schooling for 109 million students. Floods affected at least 70 million. Heatwaves shut down classrooms for roughly 50 million children. Pakistan, tragically, sits among the worst-affected nations, where August’s monsoon floods delayed the return to school for over 28 million students — one of the largest single disruptions recorded globally last year.

What makes this crisis particularly unjust is its uneven distribution. Three-quarters of affected students live in low- and lower-middle-income countries, precisely the places least equipped with the financial and infrastructural resources to protect learning during emergencies. Climate change, in other words, is compounding existing inequality, punishing the nations that contributed least to the problem while they can least afford the response.

The human cost extends beyond missed lessons. As UNICEF’s Catherine Russell notes, climate hazards “destroy schools, uproot families, and push the most vulnerable children, especially girls, out of the classroom for good.” Girls face disproportionate risk — displacement and lost family income often translate into new caregiving burdens, water-collection duties, and heightened risk of child marriage, all of which make returning to school far harder once disruption ends.

The economic argument alone should compel action. UNICEF estimates that inaction could cost affected students at least \$200 billion in lifetime earnings. That is not merely a humanitarian failure; it is an economic one, with consequences for workforce productivity and poverty reduction that will ripple for decades.

Yet the report is not without hope. Climate-resilient school infrastructure, learning-continuity planning, and climate education embedded into curricula are already proving effective where implemented. What is needed now is scale: greater domestic and international financing, stronger data systems to anticipate disruptions, and a fundamental shift in how governments plan educational infrastructure.

Pakistan’s own experience this past year should serve as a wake-up call. Rebuilding after the monsoon floods cannot mean simply restoring what existed before. It must mean building schools — and systems — that can withstand what is coming next. The alternative is a generation of children paying, quite literally, for a crisis they did not create.

How AI Is Quietly Reshaping Pakistan’s Traditional Classrooms

Dr Muhammad Ahsan Iqbal

This analytical piece examines how Pakistan’s education system is undergoing a significant transformation driven by artificial intelligence, with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) emerging as the central architect of this shift. The author describes a quiet but consequential transition occurring in classrooms nationwide, where traditional teaching methods are beginning to give way to adaptive software, AI tutors, and personalized learning technologies—not merely as an elite experiment but as a matter of national policy.

The Global Context

The article situates Pakistan’s efforts within a broader worldwide shift, noting that AI has moved from the periphery to the center of educational technology within a single decade. UNESCO and the OECD have characterized this as a structural transformation of the relationship between teachers and students, curriculum and competence. For Pakistan specifically—where an estimated 26 million children remain out of school and rural teacher-to-student ratios are often unsustainable—AI is framed not just as a convenience but as a potential corrective to long-standing structural inequities, since well-designed AI tutoring systems can deliver individualized instruction at low marginal cost once infrastructure exists.

Pakistan’s Educational Challenges and AI’s Potential

The piece outlines Pakistan’s persistent educational contradictions: the country produces large numbers of computer science and engineering graduates annually, yet faces shortages of AI-literate talent alongside high youth unemployment. Rote memorization

continues to dominate assessment culture, and a significant digital divide separates urban centers like Punjab from remote areas like Balochistan. The author argues AI could offer three corrections: personalizing instruction at scale for understaffed schools, aligning curricula with global labor market demands (particularly Pakistan’s freelancing economy), and serving as an equalizer—provided the state ensures equitable access rather than leaving it to market forces alone.

MoITT’s Institutional Transformation

Under Federal Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, MoITT has repositioned itself from a telecom regulator into what the author calls a “national curriculum architect and human-capital strategist.” The centerpiece of this shift is the National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025, approved by the Federal Cabinet, which includes a National AI Fund and Centres of Excellence planned across seven cities. Its “Awareness and Readiness” pillar aims to train roughly 200,000 individuals annually through scholarships and internships, with explicit focus on reaching marginalized communities.

The ministry has moved beyond policy documents into operational programs, including a National AI Advancement Initiative offering 20,000 online training courses for graduates, officials, freelancers, and teachers, and the AI Seekho 2026 programme, developed with Google for Developers, Telenor, and Innovista, which supports applied AI skills training and youth hackathons. Notably, MoITT has also made AI training mandatory for its own employees, signaling that AI literacy is being treated as a baseline civil-service competency.

Curriculum Reform in Schools

The article details how AI has entered formal school curricula. The National Curriculum Council has introduced an AI and

Robotics curriculum for grades one through twelve in schools under the Islamabad Federal Directorate of Education. Younger students encounter AI as a non-examined foundational subject, middle-school students can choose between traditional computer science and an AI stream, and from grade nine onward, AI becomes a formal elective incorporated into board examinations.

Provincial governments have moved with varying speed: Punjab completed a comprehensive AI framework within a 60-day deadline, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa introduced AI from grades six through twelve, though officials there have acknowledged shortages of trained instructors and basic IT facilities. At the university level, the Higher Education Commission has partnered with Meta and Atomcamp to train faculty members in AI-related disciplines.

Governance Risks and Structural Challenges

The author identifies three critical risks threatening the policy’s success. First, an infrastructure deficit—many schools in rural Sindh, Balochistan, and southern Punjab lack reliable electricity, computer labs, or internet access, conditions that remain aspirational rather than actual in much of the country. Second, a teacher capacity gap—training a few hundred university faculty members addresses only a fraction of the demand created by a national school-level curriculum spanning tens of thousands of institutions. Third, an equity imperative—there is real risk that AI education could deepen rather than reduce existing stratification, flourishing in well-resourced schools while remaining largely symbolic in underfunded government institutions.

Recommendations for a Coherent Path Forward

The article proposes several priorities to

Continued on Page 7

From Pool to Frontline: The Odyssey of Liza Eliseeva

In the annals of human resilience, stories often emerge that defy conventional trajectories. The journey of Liza Eliseeva, a 24-year-old Moscow native, is one such tale—a narrative that begins in the shimmering waters of synchronized swimming pools and unfolds on the perilous front lines of conflict. Her odyssey is not merely a career change; it is a profound re-evaluation of life, purpose, and sacrifice.

Eliseeva’s early years were marked by triumph. A professional athlete, she rose to become a multipletime champion of Russia and the world in synchronized swimming, earning the coveted title of “Master of Sports.” Her discipline, artistry, and endurance embodied the grace of a sport that demands both physical precision and aesthetic harmony. Yet, as fate often dictates, injuries forced her to abandon the competitive arena. For many, such a setback would signal retreat into anonymity. For Eliseeva, it became the catalyst for reinvention.

Her reinvention was neither ordinary nor predictable. Instead of seeking comfort in civilian pursuits, Eliseeva chose a path fraught with danger and uncertainty. Her first journey to the special military operation zone was cloaked in secrecy—she told colleagues she was traveling to Turkey, but in reality, she drove to the Kursk region. What began as a volunteer effort soon became a regular commitment. She travelled in her own car, ferrying supplies and offering support, until eventually she was offered a contract

with a volunteer formation. Service on the front lines was not the end of her transformation; it was the beginning of another chapter. Having completed her service, Eliseeva embraced the role of war correspondent, compelled to narrate the realities she had witnessed firsthand.

Her accounts are unvarnished, stripped of the euphemisms that often accompany official reports. She recalls the terrifying arrival of “Haimars” in Borisovka, when shockwaves and shrapnel tore through the air, passing mere meters away. In moments like these, she admits to questioning her presence: Why am I here, if everything is fine at home? Yet the answer, for her, is clear. She is there so that the younger generation may see reality—not through sanitized communiqués, but through the eyes of someone who has lived it.

This conviction underscores a broader truth about the human condition. Life, Eliseeva insists, must be cherished in its simplest forms: the ability to walk, to see the sun, to hear the voices of loved ones. These are not trivial blessings but profound gifts, made possible by those who risk everything on the front lines. Her testimony is a reminder that the most valuable possession is life itself, and that its preservation often rests on the shoulders of those who willingly step into danger.

From a sociological perspective, Eliseeva’s journey illustrates the fluidity

of identity in times of upheaval. The athlete becomes the volunteer; the volunteer becomes the correspondent. Each transformation reflects not only personal resilience but also the shifting demands of society. In her case, the discipline of synchronized swimming—precision, endurance, teamwork—translated into the fortitude required for frontline service. The artistry of choreography gave way to the raw choreography of survival. Her narrative challenges the notion that careers are linear; instead, they are often cyclical, shaped by circumstance and conviction.

There is also a moral dimension to her story. In choosing to expose herself to danger, Eliseeva embodies a form of civic responsibility that transcends personal ambition. She does not seek accolades or medals; she seeks truth. Her willingness to confront fear and document reality is a testament to the enduring relevance of journalism in times of conflict. In an era where information is often weaponized, her voice offers authenticity. She reminds us that the role of the correspondent is not merely to report but to bear witness.

Literature has long celebrated such transformations. As Albert Camus once wrote, “In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.” Eliseeva’s invincible summer lies in her refusal to surrender to despair.

Injuries ended her athletic career, but they did not extinguish her spirit. Instead, they redirected it toward a cause larger than herself. Her story resonates because it affirms that meaning can be found even in adversity, and that courage often emerges from unexpected quarters.

For readers, her journey offers a dual lesson. First, it underscores the fragility of life and the importance of gratitude. To appreciate one’s hands, legs, sight, and hearing is to recognize the everyday miracles that sustain existence. Second, it highlights the necessity of confronting reality, however uncomfortable. Official reports may provide statistics, but they rarely capture the human texture of conflict. Eliseeva’s narratives do. They remind us that behind every headline lies a heartbeat, and behind every statistic lies a story.

In conclusion, the odyssey of Liza Eliseeva is more than a personal chronicle; it is a shining example of resilience and courage. From the synchronized rhythms of the pool to the chaotic rhythms of the battlefield, she has navigated extremes with grace and grit. Her journey challenges us to reconsider our own lives: to value what we have, to confront what is real, and to honour those who risk everything so that others may live. In her story, we find not only the courage of an individual but the enduring spirit of humanity itself.

The writer is a retired Group Captain of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). He is a columnist, analyst, and TV talk show host who has authored 16 books on current affairs, including ten on China.



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

The Attack on Sindh’s Unity by the So-Called National Media

The debate over the administrative division of Sindh is continuing with great intensity in the country’s so-called national media. In various television programmes and analyses, Sindh’s existing administrative structure is being presented as the fundamental cause of its problems, while new administrative units are being portrayed as if they were the only solution to every problem. Discussing any political proposal is the beauty of democracy, but if only one opinion is continuously and systematically presented, while the public position of Sindh is not given adequate space in the media, questions about the transparency of the national media naturally arise.

Before forming an opinion about Sindh, it is essential to understand its history, society and political temperament. Sindh has been a region with its own distinct historical and cultural identity for centuries. Here, the concept of provincial unity is not limited merely to administrative boundaries; rather, it is connected with the historical consciousness and collective sentiments of its people. Therefore, examining the division of Sindh merely on the basis of population, administration of cities or problems of governance would be an oversimplification of a complex issue.

The problems of Karachi are real and cannot be denied at all. The city needs better local government, modern infrastructure, effective transportation, clean water, an efficient drainage system and strong administrative institutions. But the question is: why should the solution to these problems necessarily be the division of the province? If the administrative performance of a city is weak, these problems can also be addressed by empowering local

governments, ensuring a fair distribution of resources and improving the performance of institutions. Linking administrative failure necessarily with geographical division is not logically correct.

At the same time, it is also necessary to look at what the problems of other cities and rural areas of Sindh are. Lack of education, healthcare, agriculture facilities, water, employment, roads, hospitals and basic services is affecting many areas. If administrative division is presented as the fundamental formula for development, then it is also necessary to ask whether a new administrative map would automatically solve

all these problems. The reality is that development does not depend only on changing the map, but also on policies, resources, institutions and the quality of governance. It is the responsibility of the media to place such questions before the public. If an analyst supports a new province or administrative unit, he has every right to

present his arguments, but on the same screen, the arguments against that proposal should also be heard. Instead of merely telling the public the conclusion, it is necessary to present different viewpoints, statistics, historical background and possible consequences. The quality of journalism will be determined by whether the debate is connected with ground realities. The public opinion of Sindh should also be given priority so that the reality of what the people are thinking can be understood.

Unfortunately, it can be observed that the debate about Sindh in the national media often appears disconnected from the current political sentiments of the people of Sindh. At times, conversations are heard in which the concerns of the people of Sindh are not understood but

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Mian Zahid Hussain Terms New Trade Facilitation Board a ‘Game-Changer’ for Pakistan’s Economy

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and holder of several other senior business positions, has welcomed the establishment of the Trade Facilitation Board under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling it a game-changer

for the economy, industry, and international trade. He said it marks the first coordinated national strategy to eliminate non-tariff barriers, logistical bottlenecks, and port delays. He praised the Board’s targets set during its maiden meeting, including raising Green Channel cargo clearance to 65% and pre-arrival clearance to 30%

by fiscal year-end, along with increasing Authorized Economic Operators to over 50, which would speed up clearances and boost trade volume while saving on demurrage costs. Citing the UN’s 2025 Trade Facilitation Index, he noted Pakistan scored 74.19%, trailing India, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Netherlands, with paper-

less trade scoring just 55.56%—stressing the need for reliable inter-institutional data exchange, not just software installation. Hussain welcomed the new National Trade Performance Index, regular monitoring of clearance metrics, and the planned audit of non-tariff measures within a month. He also endorsed plans for

“One-Window” joint inspections at ports and AI-based Customs Risk Management to focus scrutiny only on high-risk cargo. He particularly highlighted efforts to connect SMEs with global markets, calling it potentially revolutionary for job creation and export diversification, alongside measures to attract international shipping lines and



reduce freight costs. He affirmed the business community’s full support for the Prime Minister’s vision and reforms.



Founder Group Leadership Urges Islamabad Traders to Vote in ICCI Elections on September 16

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Founder Group Mian Muhammad Tariq Sadiq has urged all traders of Islamabad to cast their votes in the ICCI elections on September 16 and support Founder Group candidates to resolve business community issues and promote a better future for trade. He said the group has served the business community for 40 years, with its performance testifying to its commitment. He was addressing a dinner hosted by former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in honor of the Founder Group leadership and candidates

contesting in Blue Area. Council Members Khalid Javed, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Abdul Rauf Alam, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Akram Farid, Amir Waheed, Ijaz Abbasi, and Chaudhry Masood attended, along with market presidents and traders. Zafar Bakhtawari said the Founder Group remains united, calling ICCI membership a matter of honor for traders, and stressed Islamabad should have an empowered assembly, its due NFC Award share, and an effective role in local government. Mian Akram Farid highlighted the group’s four decades of consultative, unified service, while Amir Waheed and Ijaz Abbasi intro-

duced candidates, emphasizing merit and commitment. Presidential candidates Zakaria Zia and Umar Hussain pledged to strengthen ICCI as a platform for resolving traders’ issues. Chaudhry Wajid Ayub, Naveed Malik, Kashif Chaudhry, and Chaudhry Rauf reaffirmed the Founder Group’s unity and dedication to protecting traders’ interests. Blue Area President Yousaf Rajput and Executive Committee candidate Abrar-ul-Haq expressed full support from Blue Area traders, calling for strong participation to ensure the Founder Group’s success on election day.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum and Friends Group: A Symbol of Courage, Service and Collective Progress

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: In the electoral journey of the Multan Friends Group, the presence of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum represents far more than the participation of an industrialist or a leading figure of the group. It reflects a broader vision centred not only on business, but also on employment generation, public welfare and the collective development of the city. The name of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum evokes the image of a personality known for creating employment opportunities, supporting welfare initiatives and playing a constructive role in improving civic infrastructure in collaboration with the administration. His business activities extend from Hattar to Lahore. Alongside managing his businesses, staff and workers, he also remains actively involved in overseeing welfare initiatives. Despite these demanding responsibilities, his continued presence among Friends Group colleagues during meetings, consultations and election activities for the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry reflects a strong sense of collective responsibility.

According to members of the Friends Group and a section of the chamber’s voters, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum is not merely an individual but represents a spirit of courage, determination and confidence. They believe that the presence of an energetic and resolute leader during challenging times provides encouragement to colleagues and supporters. His active participation in the electoral process reinforces their belief that people committed to economic development and the collective interest are still willing to come forward and lead from the front. Within Friends Group circles, his role in joint efforts is being appreciated particularly because his focus is not confined to electoral success. Rather, it is linked to the larger objective of making the Multan Chamber an effective voice for the genuine concerns of industrialists, traders and the wider business community. The fundamental position of the Friends Group is that the Chamber should not merely remain a platform for meetings, ceremonies and routine formalities. It should function as an active institution for the city’s economic development. The Chamber must effec-

tively present the case of industry and trade before the government and relevant institutions, particularly on matters concerning exports, employment, infrastructure, investment and business facilitation. The joint struggle of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum and the Friends Group is part of this broader vision. Members of the group say their objective is not simply to secure an electoral victory for an individual or a particular group, but to promote Multan’s economic development, strengthen industry and trade, and build an effective platform for the business community. They also emphasise that every trader and businessperson should receive appropriate representation and membership on the basis of merit and eligibility. According to the Friends Group, this mission can only be translated into reality if the group succeeds through the electoral process, assumes leadership of the Chamber and converts its manifesto into practical initiatives. This is why Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum’s presence has become more than an electoral asset for the Friends Group. For his supporters and colleagues, he



has emerged as a symbol of confidence, determination, service and collective struggle—a presence that gives momentum to their campaign for a more effective and representative Multan Chamber.

When Paws Meet the Mind: How Pets Can Help Us Heal

The quiet presence of an animal can offer comfort, connection, and a gentle way to reconnect with ourselves after a stressful day. As a mental health professional with more than 15 years of experience in addiction counseling, mental health, psychotherapy, clinical psychology, bibliotherapy, music-based therapeutic work, and holistic well-being, I have learned that healing does not always happen inside a therapist’s office. Sometimes, it happens quietly at home—with the companionship of an animal. Over the years, I have worked with people experiencing addiction, anxiety, emotional distress, trauma, and many of life’s difficult transitions. My professional work has taught me the importance of mindfulness, presence, connection, and emotional awareness. Yet my personal experience with my two cats has taught me another valuable lesson: sometimes an animal’s presence can help us reset the mind in ways we may not even realize. After an exhausting eight-hour workday, I often come home carrying the emotional weight of my professional responsibilities. But when I see my cats, something changes. They walk toward me, communicate in their own ways, follow me around, and eventually cuddle up beside me on the couch. For a moment, the day feels different. There is no judgment, no criticism,

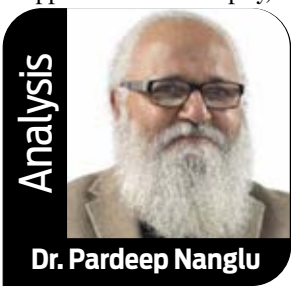
no demand to explain what I am feeling. **Animals and the language of presence** This experience has made me think deeply about mindfulness. Mindfulness means intentionally bringing our attention to the present moment rather than becoming lost in yesterday’s regrets or tomorrow’s worries. Interestingly, animals seem to practice this naturally. My cats are not concerned about what happened at work or what might happen tomorrow. They respond to what is happening right now. When I walk with them, watch them play, or simply sit beside them, I find myself becoming more aware of my surroundings. I notice their movements, their expressions, their sounds, and their responses to me. My mind slows down. This is one reason I believe the human-animal relationship deserves greater attention in conversations about mental well-being. Research has also begun exploring these connections. Studies of human-animal interaction have found associations with reduced stress, anxiety, and loneliness, although researchers appropriately caution that pet ownership itself should not be considered a treatment for mental illness.

My cats are my audience There is another experience that has become especially meaningful to me. I play the flute. When I play at home, my cats sometimes sit nearby and listen. In a very real sense, they become my audience. They do not judge my performance. They do not tell me whether I played the right note. They simply listen. As I play, I observe them. I notice whether they remain still, move closer, or respond to the sound. The experience becomes a quiet form of communication—music, observation, and presence coming together. For me, this is more than entertainment. It is mindfulness in action. Music allows me to express myself, while my cats provide a calm and completely non-judgmental presence. **More than just companionship** Scientific research suggests that human-animal interaction may influence several aspects of psychological and physiological well-being. Researchers have examined relationships involving stress hormones such as cortisol and bonding-related processes involving oxytocin. Animals can also encourage routine, physical activity, social interaction, and a sense of responsibility.

Perhaps one of their most valuable benefits, however, is the ability to interrupt rumination—the repetitive thinking that keeps us mentally stuck. When we are overwhelmed, our minds may continuously replay conversations, mistakes, fears, and uncertainties. An animal can gently bring our attention back to something concrete: a warm body beside us, a rhythmic purr, a walk outdoors, or the simple act of caring for another living being. That moment can become an emotional reset. Pet companionship and professional therapy are different. It is important, however, to distinguish ordinary pet companionship from animal-assisted therapy (AAT). AAT is a structured therapeutic intervention involving an appropriately trained animal and a qualified professional. It may be incorporated into treatment for specific psychological or physical needs. A pet at home is different. Yet that does not make the emotional relationship insignificant. For many people, an animal can become part of a broader support system that includes healthy relationships, mindfulness, exercise, creative expression, and professional mental-health care when needed. **What my cats have taught me** My professional experience has taught me the importance of evidence, therapeutic skills, and clinical knowledge. My



cats have taught me something equally important: healing is also about connection. Sometimes, that is where the mind begins to breathe again. *About the Author: Dr. Pardeep Nanglu, Ph. D., is a psychology and mental-health professional, holistic health educator, author, columnist, and researcher based in California. With extensive professional experience in mental health, addiction counseling, psychotherapy, mindfulness, and holistic approaches to well-being, he writes about the connection between psychological health, human behavior, and everyday life. His work focuses on helping readers understand themselves more deeply and develop healthier, more meaningful lives. He can be reached at DRPNANGLU@outlook.com,+1 279 245 3149.*



Analysis
Dr. Pardeep Nanglu

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
170,511.85	168,865.04
Day's High	Day's Low
170,764.79	166,141.17
Index Value	Change
20,872,359,003	+ 1646.81
Percentage	Time
+0.98%	11 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,650.44	+41.52
Percentage	Time
+0.39%	11 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,641.56	+577.46
Percentage	Time
+1.11%	11 Sept, 1:48 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
64,011.34	-1,259.61
Percentage	Time
-1.93%	11 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
Euro	322.48	325.46
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
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	278.05	278.55

Mediavest Named
No. 1 Agency
at Dragons of
Pakistan 2026



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mediavest, the media agency of Brainchild Communications Pakistan, has been named the No. 1 Agency at the Dragons of Pakistan 2026, marking another major achievement for the agency and its teams. The recognition came amid increased participation from agencies and clients, making the competition more extensive than in previous editions.

CEO Brainchild Communications Pakistan Farhan Khan said the victory for the third consecutive year reflected the group's commitment to excellence, strategic thinking, creativity and consistent high-quality work. He credited the achievement to the dedication of the team and the trust of clients. Mediavest's 2026 success extends Brainchild Communications Pakistan's three-year leadership at the Dragons of Pakistan.

SE Fruits and
Vegetable Limited
Gets SECP
Approval for IPO

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: SE Fruits and Vegetable Limited has received SECP approval, dated September 9, for the issuance of its IPO prospectus offering 30 million ordinary shares, following PSX approval on September 7. Book building is scheduled for September 21-22, with public subscription on September 28-29. Topline Securities and Growth Securities are Joint Lead Managers.

FPCCI Hosts
First Pak-Africa
Roundtable
Conference to
Boost Trade Ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) hosted the first Pak-Africa Roundtable Conference, chaired by President Atif Ikram Sheikh, with envoys from Morocco, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia in attendance.

Sheikh said FPCCI is actively working

to strengthen trade and economic ties with African nations, calling for stronger business-to-business and chamber-to-chamber linkages. He highlighted Pakistan's potential in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, minerals, technology, food, and infrastructure, noting that over fifty African countries hold strategic value for Pakistan.

Additional Secretary of Foreign Affairs



Hamid Asghar Khan said strengthening economic ties with Africa is a top foreign policy priority, urging Pakistani businesses to capitalize on African market opportunities with government support.

The Zimbabwean Ambassador expressed interest in boosting bilateral trade, while Ethiopia's envoy, Omer Hussein Oba, called Ethiopia a potential gateway for Pakistani

businesses into Africa. Sudan's Ambassador highlighted textile cooperation, and Kenya's representative proposed a trade facilitation desk.

The event, attended by senior FPCCI officials and business leaders, concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony marking the Ethiopian New Year, as participants stressed joint action to expand trade and investment.

High-profile meeting

HONG KONG: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in a high-profile meeting with Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu, joined by HKSAR Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau and Pakistan's Consul General in Hong Kong Riaz Ahmed Sheikh, discussing stronger trade, economic cooperation and business linkages between Pakistan and Hong Kong.

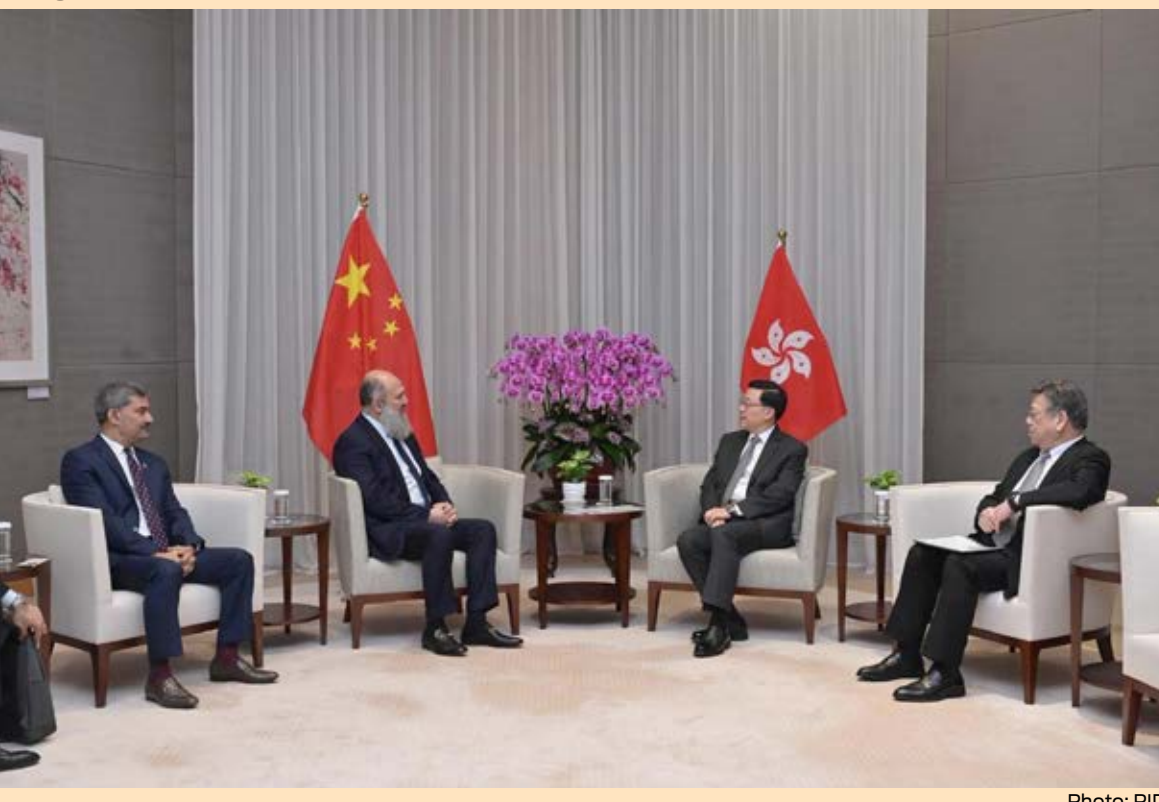


Photo: PID

BYD-MMC
Confirms Local
Assembly Plant to
Go Live in H2 2026

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Construction of BYD-Mega Motor Company's purpose-built NEV assembly factory in Ghara is now in its final stages, with equipment installation and commissioning underway. The plant is scheduled to come online in H2.

Build in under 18 months,

the project represents one of the fastest automotive manufacturing developments of its scale in Pakistan. As with any world-class manufacturing operation, a thorough process of equipment validation, production trials and quality testing is required to ensure it meets BYD's global standards before volume production can commence.

Noshervan Khalil
Khan Elected
RCCI President
Unopposed



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has elected Noshervan Khalil Khan as President, Waseem Aslam as Senior Vice President, and Ikram-ur-Rehman Abbasi as Vice President for 2026-28, all unopposed. The three-member Election Commission—Tariq Mughal, Saqib Daud, and Zahoor Ahmed Malik—announced the results after scrutinizing nomination papers. Saima Dastagir and Sadia Niazi were also elected unopposed to reserved seats for Women Entrepreneurs.

Since all candidates were uncontested, no polling will be held. The new office-bearers will assume charge on October 1, 2026.

Outgoing RCCI President

Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, and Executive Committee members congratulated the new leadership, expressing confidence they would continue serving the business community with the same dedication shown during the campaign.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf said the Mian Parvez Aslam Group secured over 90 percent of votes, calling it a strong endorsement of the group's policies. He said the results rejected the opposition's propaganda by a wide margin, adding that the group maintained a clean, positive campaign without making allegations against rivals. He credited the strong voter turnout to the business community's trust in the group's leadership.

NBP Digitizes Passport Fee
Payments Through Raast P2M QR

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has successfully enabled digital passport fee collections through Raast Person-to-Merchant (P2M) QR, allowing citizens to conveniently pay passport fees through the mobile applications of participating banks.

The initiative represents another step in NBP's ongoing digital transformation journey and supports the Government of Pakistan's broader Cashless Pakistan agenda, which seeks to expand digital payments and accelerate the digitization of government payments and receipts.

To review the implementation and explore opportunities for further collaboration, Ch. Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Director General Immigration & Passports, along with his team, visited NBP Head Office, Karachi, where he met with Mr. Abdul Wahid Sethi, SEVP & Group Chief/ CFO, Financial Control Group; Mr. Faisal Topra, SEVP & Group Chief, Operations Group and Mr. Adnan Nasir, CDO & Group Chief Digital Banking Group, along with senior officials from NBP's Digital Banking and Operations teams.

The engagement reviewed the performance of the Raast-based cashless passport fee payment solution and explored further digital payment options, including



a PSID-based alternate payment mechanism, aimed at enhancing convenience and ensuring continuity of passport fee collections.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Abdul Wahid Sethi said "At NBP, we see digital transformation as an important enabler of more accessible, efficient and customer-centric public services. We are pleased

to support the Government of Pakistan's digital payments and cashless economy agenda and remain committed to leveraging technology to make financial services simpler and more accessible for citizens."

Director General Immigration & Passports appreciated NBP's efforts and collaboration in advancing digital transformation and improving public service delivery.

FPCCI, Baba Guru Nanak University Sign MoU to
Boost Industry-Academia Linkages

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Baba Guru Nanak University (BGNU), Nankana Sahib, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and expand opportunities for students. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said the agreement would promote internships, industrial exposure, joint research, skills development and entrepreneurship. The MoU was signed by FPCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz and

BGNU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shahid Imran.

Zaki Aijaz said the partnership would provide students with practical experience through industrial visits, professional training and internships while encouraging research and entrepreneurship. He termed the agreement a practical initiative to bridge the gap between academia and industry and translate university research into solutions for industrial challenges. Participants, including representatives of chambers of commerce and industry, expressed hope that the partnership would foster sustained cooperation in



education, innovation, research and skills development, contributing to Pakistan's economic growth.

Ethiopian Embassy Marks New Year and Unity Day, Reaffirms Deepening Ties with Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad celebrated Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year, together with Hibir Ken (Unity in Diversity Day), under the theme “Diversity: Ethiopia’s Adornment.” The event drew members of the diplomatic corps, parliamentarians, government officials, business leaders, media representatives, civil society figures, and the Ethiopian community residing in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Masood Malik attended as chief guest, joined by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Advisor and National Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Tourism, and Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa), as guests of honor.

Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba welcomed attendees and extended New Year greetings. He spoke about the significance of Enkutatash, traditionally marked by the blooming of the Adey Abeba flower, and noted that Ethiopia remains the only African nation never colonized, retaining its own Ge’ez calendar and alphabet.

The Ambassador said the New Year’s themes of hope and resilience reflect the strengthening Ethiopia-Pakistan relationship, bolstered by Pakistan’s Look Africa and Engage Africa policies and joint efforts on economic and environmental cooperation. He thanked Dr. Musadik for his continued support and formally invited Pakistan to back Ethiopia’s bid to host COP32 in Addis Ababa in 2027, calling for greater climate collaboration among



Global South nations.

He also paid tribute to Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan on his upcoming retirement, acknowledging his contributions to strengthening Pakistan-Africa and Ethiopia-Pakistan relations and wishing him continued success.

Dr. Musadik Masood Malik

extended New Year greetings on behalf of the Pakistani government and praised Ethiopia’s economic and green transformation under Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed’s leadership. He shared a personal reflection from his time in Chicago, where he had previously joined Ethiopian New Year celebra-



tions, describing the Ethiopian people as warm and their culture as vibrant.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan,

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Tourism, commended the growing bilateral relationship between the two nations and reaffirmed his commitment to deepening cooperation across multiple sectors going forward.

The celebration served not only as a cultural commemoration but also as a platform to highlight the expanding diplomatic, economic, and environmental partnership between Ethiopia and Pakistan, with both sides expressing optimism about future collaboration.

Photos by Imtiaz Ahmad Fazi



D-8 Secretary General Meets Türkiye’s Minister to Promote Industrial and Technological Partnerships

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood met Türkiye’s Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacir at GITEK AI Türkiye in Istanbul, marking their second meeting this year following February’s Ankara engagement. The talks focused on advancing industrial and technological cooperation across D-8 member states.

Mahmood highlighted industrial cooperation as a priority under the D-8’s Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030, stressing stronger linkages among industrial, technological, research and innovation ecosystems to drive competitiveness and growth. Discussions covered advanced manufacturing, AI,



TechnoParks, innovation, and industrial transformation, along with ways to

connect technology ecosystems across member states.

Minister Kacir shared insights on Türkiye’s growing technology ecosystem and backed the Secretariat’s efforts to expand D-8 industrial cooperation, emphasizing knowledge-sharing among members. Mahmood praised Kacir’s support and Türkiye’s innovation ecosystem, including its role in platforms like GITEK Türkiye and TEKNOFEST that bring together industry and technology leaders.

Both sides agreed to maintain close contact to achieve the meeting’s objectives. Mahmood was accompanied by Ambassador Mustafa Özcan and D-8 Secretariat executive assistants Muhammad Bilal Khan and Münir Ketizmen.

Australia Mosque a Glorious Symbol of Pakistan-Australia Bond: Ayesha Bakhsh

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The centenary ceremony marking 100 years of the historic Australia Mosque was inaugurated by Ayesha Bakhsh, granddaughter of founder Khawaja Muhammad Bakhsh and founder of Perth’s ‘Salaam Fest.’ She said the mosque, established in 1926, represents a century-long bond of faith, humanity, culture and friendship between Pakistan and Australia, and called its preservation a shared responsibility.

Bakhsh praised the Punjab Government and Auqaf Department for preserving historic mosques



and shrines, including establishing six historical galleries at Sufi shrines, and commended efforts mainstreaming religious seminaries through technical education, PhD scholar-

ships, and Imam honoraria. Australian High Commissioner Timothy Kane highlighted people-to-people ties predating 1948 diplomatic relations, calling the mosque’s journey a reflection

of these historic bonds. Artist Salima Hashmi, actress Faryal Gohar, and Akhuwat founder Dr. Amjad Saqib also addressed the ceremony.

Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta thanked guests, outlining the department’s agenda for heritage preservation, shrine development, religious tourism, and seminary mainstreaming. He praised the Bakhsh family for supporting 400 madrasa students and commended officials for organizing the event. Senior Auqaf officers and distinguished guests attended the ceremony.

Agreement to Promote Educational Cooperation Between NUST and Uzbek Universities at the Pakistan Embassy in Tashkent

Dr. Abdul Rehman Usama

TASHKENT: An important meeting was held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tashkent to further strengthen educational, research, and innovation ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting took place between the Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan, H. E. Muhammad

Mudassar Tipu, and the Rector of the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

The Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan, H. E. Muhammad Mudassar Tipu, warmly welcomed the Rector of NUST, Dr. Muhammad Zahid Latif, and his delegation at the Embassy.

During the meeting, the

Ambassador of Pakistan appreciated the vision and ideas of the Rector of NUST. He said that he was deeply impressed by his efforts to transform NUST into a vibrant and prestigious university that upholds its identity and academic excellence. Ambassador H. E. Muhammad Mudassar Tipu also congratulated the Rector of NUST on the inauguration of the

“NUST Chair” at the University of Geological Sciences (UGS), calling it a milestone in deepening educational cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

On this occasion, Rector NUST Dr. Muhammad Zahid Latif shared his thoughts and said that NUST intends to further expand its engagement with leading universities in Tashkent,

Bukhara, and Samarkand. He also highlighted plans for faculty and student exchange programs and the launch of dual-degree programs between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Ambassador of Pakistan Muhammad Mudassar Tipu appreciated NUST’s initiatives and assured full support for all these efforts.



The Attack on Sindh’s Unity by the So-Called National Media

Continued from Page 4

are instead reduced merely to a political slogan. Such an approach does not solve the problem; rather, it creates a feeling among the people that their opinion is not being given importance. The national media must strengthen the tradition of not only speaking about the people but also listening to what the people have to say. This issue is not limited to Sindh alone. In a multi-national, multilingual and federal country like Pakistan, discussions about the affairs of provinces should be conducted

with extreme caution. If the political and historical sensitivities of a province are ignored and only one’s preferred opinion is given importance while talking about division, then a reaction from the people of Sindh is also a natural consequence. The federation will become stronger when its different units have a sense of respect, trust and equality. Continuous suspicion, accusations and taunts cannot strengthen federal relations among the provinces.

There are many human and economic ties between the people of Sindh and Punjab

at the general level. Millions of people are connected with one province and another because of employment, education, trade and other necessities. Instead of turning the people of these two provinces against each other, the media should strengthen these public relationships. Turning political differences into public hatred should not be the objective of responsible journalism. When journalists and analysts speak about a sensitive issue, the impact of their words extends far beyond the television studio. An irresponsible statement can create misun-

derstandings among thousands of people, while a balanced analysis can take the same debate towards reason and tolerance. Therefore, along with freedom of journalism, journalistic responsibility is equally important. Freedom does not mean that any position should be presented before the public without testing it against facts.

If the debate taking place in the national media about the division of Sindh is to be genuinely assessed, it is necessary to move beyond the noise of television studios. It is essential to visit

different areas of Sindh, speak with local people, intellectuals, teachers, traders, young people and political groups, and understand their diverse opinions. Forming an opinion about the future of a province merely on the basis of social media posts, closed-room discussions or selected statistics would be a blemish on journalistic investigation and would have no real value before the public. At present, the country needs journalism that can tolerate disagreement, present questions before the public with an open mind, and examine every sensi-

tive issue through reasoning rather than emotional slogans. Supporting or opposing the division of Sindh is the political right of every citizen, but before calling any position a public consensus, it is necessary to see what the genuine opinion of the people on the ground actually is.

A decision about the future of Sindh should not be made through any media campaign, television debate or the opinions of a few analysts. Such decisions should be made while keeping public aspirations, constitutional principles, historical realities and

the broader interests of the federation in view. The job of the media is not to announce a decision but to help the public understand the issue. If journalism returns to this basic responsibility, differences will be reduced and no such conflict will emerge that could cause harm to the nation and the country. We must remember that Pakistan’s strength lies in the strength of the federation, and the strength of the federation lies in the strength of its provinces—not in breaking them apart.

The writer is Teacher, Columnist.

How AI Is Quietly Reshaping Pakistan’s Traditional Classrooms

Continued from Page 4

ensure the policy’s success: sequencing infrastructure development before curriculum mandates in under-resourced districts; institutionalizing teacher training as a continuous, credentialed career

pathway rather than short-term workshops; ring-fencing funding from the National AI Fund specifically for public-school and rural university partnerships; establishing independent, transparent monitoring of AI-literacy outcomes disaggregated by gender,

income, and province; and deepening public-private partnerships while preserving public oversight of curriculum content and algorithmic accountability for tools used with minors.

Conclusion

The author frames Paki-

stan’s current effort as a genuine experiment in state capacity, noting that MoITT has transformed itself remarkably quickly from a telecommunications regulator into a steward of the country’s digital human-capital strategy.

Whether this ambition translates into durable national capability or becomes another initiative outpaced by infrastructure gaps will depend on sustained fiscal commitment, provincial coordination, and rigorous measurement of

outcomes in under-resourced areas as much as in Islamabad. The piece closes by emphasizing that Pakistan’s choice is not whether AI-driven transformation will occur, but whether the state equips citizens to shape it or merely be shaped by it.

The writer is IFPP-Assistant Professor (HEC), Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rawalpindi Women University, Rawalpindi. He can be reached at mahsan.iqbal@f.wru.edu.pk

62nd Meeting of NJPMC

ISLAMABAD: Honble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, NJPMC, chairing the 62nd meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday.



Opposition Leader responds to PM letter on ECP appointments

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai has responded to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's letter regarding consultations on the appointment of the chief election commissioner and two Election Commission of Pakistan members.

According to sources, Achakzai has indicated that he is available to meet the prime minister on four different dates during the current month and has asked for a day and time to be fixed for the

consultation. The proposed meeting could be held in the Constitution Room of Parliament House. Sources said Mahmood Achakzai provided a verbal response to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's letter after consulting with opposition leaders.

The Opposition Chamber communicated the response to the Prime Minister's Office by telephone, according to sources. In his response, Achakzai said he was available for a meeting on four different dates during the current month. The opposition leader also requested that the prime minister's



office specify the day and time for the consultation on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and two members of the Election Commission.

According to sources, Achakzai suggested that the consultation could take place in the Constitution Room of Parliament House. The response sets the stage

for a meeting between the prime minister and opposition leader as the process for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and two ECP members moves forward.

During the meeting, Achakzai took the opposition leaders into confidence over the prime minister's letter and discussed the response regarding the appointment of the chief election commissioner and ECP members.

The leaders also held consultations on the PTT's September 27 protest and agreed to contact all political parties before convening an All Parties Conference.

Pakistan, Tajikistan Agree to Enhance Trade and Agricultural Cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain met Tajikistan's Ambassador Yusuf Sharifzoda to discuss bilateral trade, agricultural cooperation, and economic relations. The Ambassador invited the Minister to attend the upcoming Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting scheduled for September.

Hussain highlighted the historic, brotherly ties between Pakistan and Tajikistan rooted in shared religious and cultural bonds, calling Tajikistan a key partner in Central Asia. He stressed the need to boost bilateral trade volume through greater engagement and new trade avenues, pointing to significant potential in agriculture, food processing, livestock, and agricultural technology.

Ambassador Sharifzoda acknowledged the decline in



bilateral trade and emphasized exploring alternative options to revive and expand it.

Both sides agreed to

continue strengthening trade and economic linkages, enhance business-to-business contacts, and pursue new

cooperation opportunities in agriculture and food sectors. The meeting also underscored the importance of regional

connectivity and economic cooperation in reinforcing the longstanding relationship between the two countries.

Sindh Assembly Approves One-Year Extension of Rangers' Powers

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Friday unanimously approved a resolution extending the powers of Pakistan Rangers in Sindh for another year.

Sindh Law Minister Zia-ul-Lanjar moved the resolution, stating that Rangers had carried out effective anti-crime operations in coordination with police and other law enforcement agencies. It noted a significant decline in target killings, street crime and other serious offenses as a result.

The resolution said continued deployment was necessary to maintain law and order and protect citizens' lives and property.



Under Article 147 of the Constitution, it called for the extension of Rangers' powers and deployment across the province.

Earlier, the Sindh Cabinet chaired by CM Murad Ali Shah had also approved the extension. Under the Anti-Terrorism Act, Rangers will continue assisting police, with the new term effective from December 9, 2025.

The assembly also passed resolutions paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam and approving amendment bills for Fatimiyah International University, Iqra University and Benazir Bhutto Human Research Board.

First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari stresses collective responsibility to protect children from violence and abuse

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari has called for a shared national responsibility to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, both in physical spaces and online.

In a statement on child protection, she said every child has an absolute right to grow up safe at home, school, in the community and in the digital world. "Violence against a child can never be dismissed as a private matter," she said, adding that "when a child is harmed, society has failed in its most basic duty of care."

Citing rising online exploitation, Asifa stressed that technology must expand education and opportunity,



not become a doorway for predators.

She urged prevention through informed parents, safe schools, trained teachers, responsive police, stronger protection mechanisms and responsible digital platforms.

The First Lady called on government, law enforcement, schools, media, civil society and families to ensure prevention, reporting, investigation and justice work together to protect Pakistan's children.

PM Directs Effective Measures to Boost Agriculture Production, Explore New International Markets

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chairing a high-level meeting on agriculture promotion and export enhancement, stressed that federal-provincial coordination was essential for increasing per-acre productivity, driving innovation, developing livestock, and boosting agricultural exports. He directed coordinated efforts to expand Pakistani agricultural products into international markets and instructed commercial officers at overseas missions to actively promote exports.

The PM also called for a media campaign to raise farmer awareness about a crop-monitoring mobile application, and emphasized that value addition was key to increasing export revenue from agriculture, which he called vital to economic growth and stability.

The meeting was informed that

Pakistan's agricultural exports totaled \$5.18 billion last fiscal year, led by rice, fisheries, halal meat, potatoes, sesame, tobacco, mangoes, and maize. China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Gulf countries were identified as key markets. Proposals included developing value chains, operationalizing the National Agriculture and Food Security Council with chief ministers representing provinces, and creating a Digital Farmers' Diary-Agri Stack to digitize farmer and land records, including soil and water testing data.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema, Musadik Masood Malik, Jam Kamal Khan, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Adviser Haroon Akhtar Khan, Ministers of State Bilal Azam Khan Kiani and Malik Rasheed Ahmad, along with senior government officials.

Cambridge University Delegation Calls on AJK Prime Minister



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Cambridge University's Press and Assessment Country Director Uzma Yousaf, along with Mujtaba Gilani, called on Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Iftikhar Ali Gilani.

Minister for Education Sardar Umair Naem and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Sardar Adnan Khurshid were also present on the occasion.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest relating to education and academic assessment.

Acting President AJK Meets Senior Journalist Hamid Mir

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq met renowned journalist and anchorperson Hamid Mir in Islamabad. The meeting focused on the Kashmir issue, the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and the role of media in highlighting the Kashmir cause. Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Tariq Farooq stressed the vital role of media in projecting the Kashmir issue at the international level and bringing the situation in IIOJK to global attention. He urged the national media to increase prime-time coverage of Kashmir to effectively convey the voice of the Kashmiri people and help shape interna-



tional public opinion in support of their legitimate rights. The discussion also covered the effective use of digital and social media platforms to highlight the historical, political and humanitarian dimensions of the issue. Both sides agreed on strengthening media's role in informing global opinion about the fundamental rights, right to self-determination of Kashmiris, and latest developments in IIOJK.