



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
علی رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو کسی کے لیے
اپنے آپ کو قربان کرنے کا لفظ کہتے نہیں
سنا، سو اس حدیث کی قیاس کے میں نے نبی
کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا، آپ صلی اللہ
علیہ وسلم فرماتے تھے: تیرا راء، اے محمد!
میرے سال باپ تم پر قربان ہوں، میرا خیال
ہے کہ یہ غزوہ احد کے موقع پر فرمایا۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6184)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**



Xi urges BRICS to Oppose Sovereignty Violations

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged BRICS members to oppose violations of national sovereignty and reject protectionism during a summit in India. Xi called on the 11-member group to resist interference in countries' internal affairs and contribute constructively to resolving international hotspot issues, according to China's state news agency Xinhua.



Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed on martyrdom day

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday paid tribute to Nishan-e-Haider recipient Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed on his martyrdom day, saying that his sacrifice, courage and service to the nation remain a source of pride for Pakistan

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 29, Sunday, September 13, 2026



www.dailyspokesman.net



@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 144

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Petrol shortage

RAWALPINDI: A fuel station along with Murree Road at Gulshan Dadan Khan area, closed due to petrol shortage. Daily fuel pricing mechanisms frequently cause artificial or systemic fuel station shortages. Due to daily price revisions, it disrupts the typical logistical flow, inventory management, and financial calculations of oil marketing companies (OMCs) and fuel dealers and also creating major daily hardships for citizens.



Photo: Online

Parliament Appropriate Forum to Debate Formation of New Provinces: Rana Sanaullah

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Advisor to the PM on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, said he was confident that all matters between the PPP and PML-N would be resolved amicably. Speaking at a press conference, he said the debate on forming new provinces should take place in Parliament rather than at economic forums or seminars, arguing this would make

discussions more result-oriented. He said involving leadership from all provinces and political parties would help resolve the issue better, and that PML-N would present its policy position whenever debated in the proper forum. He clarified that a referendum could only be held with approval from a joint session of Parliament, not by government decision alone. He added that the new-provinces debate could be taken up



in Parliament soon, and party office-bearers' opinions would be sought at a meeting later that day.

On Jamaat-e-Islami's long

march, Sanaullah said the party had historically protested within legal and constitutional limits, and hoped this march would stay peaceful, noting the government had taken its demands—particularly on reducing petroleum prices—seriously. He said PM Shehbaz Sharif was equally keen on providing relief through lower electricity bills, reduced load-shedding, and petroleum prices, having chaired a related meeting on Friday.

On PTI's planned long march, he said it was unlikely to remain peaceful, and law enforcement would act against any mob violating law and order.

He also said PML-N's Punjab organization would be completed down to the Union Council level within 30 days, as the party prepares for upcoming local government elections, which the Punjab government and Election Commission both intend to hold.

Pakistan condemns drone attacks on Saudi oil pipeline

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned drone attacks on the East-West Pipeline in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh and Madinah regions, describing them as a serious threat to regional peace and stability.

In a statement on Saturday, Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said the attacks targeting civilian infrastructure were a flagrant violation of international law as well



as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia.

He said the attacks posed a serious threat to regional peace, security and stability.

The spokesperson reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and prosperity, and reiterated Islamabad's solidarity with the Saudi leadership, government and people. He said Pakistan had consistently made and would continue to make earnest efforts to promote lasting peace and stability in the region.

JUI-F calls general council meeting in Peshawar on Sept 19

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has convened a meeting of the party's Central General Council in Peshawar on September 19 and 20.

According to the party spokesperson Aslam Ghauri, the meeting will discuss the growing debate over the creation of new administrative units and provinces and determine the party's position on the issue.

The preparations of provincial chapters for the upcoming local government elections will also be reviewed during the meeting.

The participants will deliberate on the country's alarming law and order situation and review the prevailing national and international developments.

The meeting will also formulate the party's future political strategy, the spokesperson said.

President's Private Visit Abroad Was Entirely Self-Financed: Spokesperson

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Aprosop reports appearing in a section of the media regarding the President's recent private visit abroad, the Spokesperson to the President has clarified that the visit was entirely private and all expenses related to it

were borne personally by President Asif Ali Zardari.

The aircraft for the visit was privately chartered by the President. All expenses relating to the aircraft, including the crew, parking and stay, as well as other associated expenses, were paid by the President himself.

PM AJK Pays Tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed on 61st Martyrdom Anniversary

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani has paid tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on the 61st anniversary of his martyrdom. In his message, the Prime Minister lauded the martyr's extraordinary courage, devotion to duty and commitment to defending the motherland during the 1965 war. He said Major Bhatti's sacrifice wrote an enduring

chapter of bravery in Pakistan's history and continues to inspire the nation. "Those brave sons of the soil who lay down their lives for the country are our true heroes," PM Gilani said, adding that martyrs have safeguarded Pakistan's freedom, sovereignty and national security with their blood. He noted that the supreme sacrifice of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed remains a shining example of patriotism and selflessness, and will continue to inspire future genera

JI Women Hold Protest Rally Against Petroleum Levy, Inflation in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Women activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) held a protest rally at Aabpara Chowk in Islamabad on Saturday against the petroleum levy, rising fuel prices, and inflation.

Addressing the rally, JI Ameer Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman said the government's continuous inflation and fuel price hikes were making life increasingly difficult for the common man, with even middle-class families struggling to meet expenses. He demanded abolition of the petroleum levy, alleging it had no link to international oil prices and accusing the government of imposing an "extortion-like tax," while privileges were granted to the elite.

He said women were especially affected by



strained household budgets covering education, electricity, and daily expenses, and criticized the ruling elite's lavish spending, demanding

transparency on their expenses, income sources, and tax returns.

Hafiz Naeem also criticized Punjab's education system, citing a 52% failure rate in ninth-grade exams as proof of policy failures, and called for a uniform, high-quality education system to end disparities between public and private institutions.

He announced that JI's sit-ins would continue, with a long march planned. "We will arrive from all directions... we will not relinquish our constitutional rights," he said, stressing the protests would remain peaceful and were aimed at securing the nation's future and rights.

Peaceful Resolution of Poonch Situation Top Priority: AJK PM

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Barrister Syed Iftikhar Gilani has said that restoring peace in Poonch through dialogue and mutual consultation remains a top government priority. He was addressing a delegation from the Awami Ittehad Forum Sudhanoti, which raised concerns over the prevailing situation, public grievances, and steps needed to restore peace and political activity in the region.

The delegation praised the people of Poonch for their patriotism and history of sacrifice, urging resolution through dialogue and political wisdom. They called for early restoration of peace, immediate elections in Poonch's seven constituencies, and an end to the prolonged internet suspension, which they said was harming businesses, education and daily life. Concerns were also raised over the reported relocation of government offices, fuel supply issues in Sudhanoti, the Panjar Kahuta check-post, and the three-month closure of flour mills in Pallandri, Tarar Khel



and Sudhanoti.

In response, the Prime Minister assured the delegation that no government office would be shifted from Poonch and that the region would receive equal development funding under the government's Rs100 billion plan. He pledged

action on the check-post issue, internet restoration, and uninterrupted fuel supply, while reaffirming that elections would soon bring Poonch's people back into the political mainstream.

Gilani commended the Forum's constructive role and stressed that

positive engagement was key to social progress. The delegation included representatives from PML-N, PPP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and various civic bodies, including Sardar Naseem Khan, Sardar Wajid Bin Arif Advocate, and Sardar Irshad Khan, among others.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Rana Sanaullah, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs, called on Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chaudhry Tariq Farooq.



Photo: Spokesman

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Consults Poonch Leaders on Sit-in and Law & Order

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, held detailed consultations with political and social leaders from Poonch at Mujahid Manzil.

The meeting focused on the ongoing protest sit-in in Poonch and the prevailing law-and-order situation. Participants called for a peaceful, dignified and negotiated resolution of the sit-in. They stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential food items and medicines to Poonch and urged immediate restoration of internet services in the area.

The leaders also proposed that the people and voters of Poonch be included in the electoral process without further delay. Those present



included former Kashmir Council member Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi, Sardar Irshad Khan, ex-DIG Sardar

Gulfranz Khan, former DG Health Sardar Mahmood Khan, Sardar Nishat Akbar, Dr. Irfan Ashraf, Sardar Saleem

Naz, Khawaja Muhammad Javed, Qazi Kamran Advocate, Sardar Abid Razzaq and Sardar Usman Ali Khan.

Sindh Is One and Will Remain One: Nisar Khuhro Rejects Division of Province

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

DADU: PPP Sindh President Nisar Khuhro has declared that "Sindh is one and will remain one," rejecting any proposal to divide the province or hand over Karachi to the federation.

Addressing an MRD martyrs' gathering in K. N. Shah, Dadu, Khuhro said the Sindh Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution against the division, constitutionally blocking the creation of a new province. He noted that any change to provincial boundaries requires a two-thirds majority in the provincial assembly, and vowed the Sindh Assembly would reject any such move by the National Assembly.

He alleged attempts were being made to target Sindh through division talks and urged federal ministers



to respect the Constitution and the Assembly's resolution.

Khuhro also criticized MQM-P, PTI and JI for not supporting the resolution, and credited PPP and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for protecting Sindh's

unity.

Participants adopted a resolution reaffirming resistance to any attempt to undermine Sindh's unity, and paid tribute to MRD martyrs for their struggle for democracy.

PMML, FPCCI Sign MoU for Professional Safety Training Nationwide

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) has announced plans to provide professional rescue and safety training to the business community across Pakistan following an MoU between PMML's Muslim Rescue Mission (MRM) and FPCCI.

The announcement was made during a one-day workshop at the FPCCI office in Islamabad, where instructors from MRM, Rescue 1122, Traffic Police and CDA Fire Brigade gave practical training in traffic safety, fire safety, disaster management and CPR. Participants also received hands-on drills for emergency response.

JKDFP Leaders Congratulate UNGA President, Urge Effective UN Role on Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR/ISLAMABAD: Leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) — Arshad Malik and Mehmood Ahmed Sagher — have congratulated the newly elected President of the 81st UN General Assembly and appealed for a more active UN role on Jammu and Kashmir.

In their letter, they welcomed the President's vision of "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All" and urged the UN to address the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

They highlighted alleged human rights violations in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, including restrictions on political freedoms, arrests, detentions, and pressure on journalists and activists.

The leaders expressed particular concern over the prolonged incarceration and health of political prisoners including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Masrat Alam Butt, Naeem Ahmad Khan, Hameed Fayaz and Qasim Fakto. They called for due process, fair trials, medical care and humane treatment in line with international law.

JKDFP urged the UNGA President to raise the human rights situation, advocate for prisoners, support UN human rights mechanisms, and push for implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the right to self-determination for Kashmiris.



District Administration Poonch Denies Ordering School Closures, Blames JAAC Pressure

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: The District Administration Poonch has clarified that no official notification has been issued by the AJK Government, Education Department, or district authorities to close educational institutions across the district.

According to the administration, after schools reopened post-summer vacation, elements of the proscribed Jammu & Kashmir Awami Action Committee (JAAC) have allegedly been intimidating school administrations and blocking government employees from entering institutions. Road-blocks, protests, and harassment have also been reported, including incidents of women being stopped for identification.

The administration said only 41 institutions in Rawalakot city are affected by security measures due to protest camps from Chandni Chowk to D-Chowk and around the bus terminal. Schools in Dareik, Hussain Kot, Khaigala, Thorar, Banjoosa and other areas remain closed despite no security restrictions.

Calling education vital, it noted Poonch once ranked 2nd in Pakistan but has suffered due to repeated strikes. It urged JAAC to publicly assure no obstruction and called on schools in affected areas to resume classes immediately.



Sindh's unity cannot be compromised, seminar demands new federal social contract



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: A seminar titled "Constitutional, Economic and Water Challenges Facing Sindh" organized by the Sindh United Lawyers Forum at City Court Karachi called for genuine federalism, provincial autonomy, equitable resource distribution, and a new federal social contract in Pakistan.

A resolution adopted demanded that Sindh's historical and territorial unity be protected and opposed any division of the province. It stressed good governance, empowered local governments, and constitutional reforms as solutions to public issues.

Speakers including Syed Zain Shah, Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed, Haseeb Jamal, and Aamir Nawaz Warraich warned against attempts to control Sindh's water, land, coal, gas and coastline, and expressed concern over new canals, corporate farming, and the 26th and 27th Constitutional Amendments.

The seminar urged protection of the Indus River and delta, assurance of Sindh's water share, and financially empowered local governments. Participants resolved to pursue constitutional, legal and democratic struggle to safeguard Sindh's rights, concluding that strengthening provinces is key to strengthening Pakistan.

Muslim Conference Rejects Indian Steps in IIOJK, Adopts Key Resolutions

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: The General Council and Central Working Committee of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, chaired by President and former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, adopted several key resolutions after hours of deliberations.

The meeting reaffirmed the July 19, 1947 Resolution for Accession to Pakistan as the basis of Kashmir's relationship with Pakistan. It categorically rejected all Indian measures since August 5, 2019 to alter the constitutional status and demography of Jammu and Kashmir, and expressed concern over the then Pakistan government's response.

Other resolutions condemned attempts to label Pakistan forces as "occupying," mourned civilian and security casualties, urged restoration of food, medicine and internet supplies in Poonch, and called for a negotiated resolution of the Poonch sit-in. The Conference also expressed reservations over the recent AJK elections and demanded Poonch's participation in the democratic process.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:24 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:32 pm
Maghrib	6:20 pm
Isha	7:44 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police

Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Punjab Reviews NAP Implementation, Focus on Countering Disinformation and Media Literacy



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The 4th meeting of the Information Steering/Review Committee was held under Punjab Information & Culture Minister Azma Bokhari to review implementation of the revised National Action Plan in Punjab and set future priorities.

Information Secretary Syed Tahir Raza Hamdani briefed on progress since the last meeting.

The committee reviewed steps to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, ensure responsible information dissemination, and counter disinformation, hate content, and anti-state narratives in a timely manner.

Addressing the meeting, Azma Bokhari said disinformation cannot be countered only reactively and stressed the need for a timely, fact-based, coordinated and proactive strategy.

She said all departments must work under a joint strategy with full coordination and highlighted the Information Department's role in NAP objectives.

Every City, Village's Development is Our Mission: Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said development and improvement of every city and village is the government's mission, expressing satisfaction that Pakpattan, long neglected, was now moving toward development. She said she was personally monitoring projects across every city and area, working round the clock to make Punjab the best province.

The CM shared these views during a meeting with MPAs from Pakpattan, including Farooq Ahmed Maneka, Chaudhry Javed Ahmed, Imran Akram, and Sardar Mansab Ali Dogar, where public issues and development needs were discussed.

The MPAs presented proposals for urban and rural development in Pakpattan and thanked the CM for launching electric buses and other projects, calling the bus initiative a "game changer of the decade." They also expressed gratitude for the city's beautification and the establishment of Nawaz Sharif Schools of Eminence in Arifwala.



The legislators noted that 15 environment-friendly electric buses were serving thousands of passengers across

three major routes: General Bus Stand Pakpattan to Arifwala, Bunga Hayat, and Noor Pur Sial.

CM Maryam Nawaz directed the MPAs to closely monitor the quality, pace, and transparency of ongoing projects, reaf-

firming that development of every city and village remained the government's foremost priority.

Cutting the cake

ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi along with Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan and others cutting the cake during an event of Pakistan-Africa Economic Council (PAEC) at local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Awami Quwwat Holds Oath-Taking Ceremony; Asma Butt Appointed President Punjab Women's Wing

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chairman of Pakistan Awami Quwwat, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, said the nation needs a clear vision, effective policies, and practical measures instead of false promises and traditional politics. Addressing the party's oath-taking ceremony, he identified education, technology, health, employment, women's empowerment, and Kashmir as key components of the party's manifesto, stressing the urgent need to provide young people with modern skills and dignified employment.

The ceremony, attended by central committee members and office-bearers, saw Asma Ismail Butt inducted as President of the Punjab Women's Wing. Butt said Khawaja's vision and selfless public service had inspired her to join the party, pledging to work alongside him and take the party's manifesto to people across the country. She said Pakistan Awami Quwwat had a clear vision for addressing public issues, particularly education, health, and basic rights.

Khawaja thanked Butt for her support,



saying he needed sincere and honest colleagues. Senior journalist Malik Shakeel Awan, along with Nabila Farghani and Raja Shafqat Mehboob Advocate, also

addressed the ceremony. Khawaja concluded by presenting Butt with the party flag and her appointment notification, after which she took the oath of office.

Pakistan Football Gets Major Boost as Saudi Firm Joins Lahore Qalandars, HRL Group

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan football received a major international boost as three-time PSL champions Lahore Qalandars and HRL Group entered a landmark partnership with Saudi investment company The Real Advice (TRA) to help establish and develop professional football in the country. The agreement aims to bring Saudi investment, expertise and international connections to Pakistan while keeping ownership and control of football programmes in Pakistani hands, supporting the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) in building the sport from grassroots



to a professional structure, including the proposed National League.

Under the deal, open trials will be

held across Pakistan to identify talent, coaches will receive specialised training, and a dedicated football training centre

will be established, alongside investment in women's football and youth development. The partnership will also create pathways for Pakistani players and coaches to Saudi Arabia and link Pakistani football to the AFC Asian Cup 2027 and FIFA World Cup 2034.

Lahore Qalandars owner Atif Naeem Rana said the same open-trial model that discovered cricket talent would now be applied to football. HRL Group Vice Chairman Jehanzaib Zahid said Pakistan had talent and passion but lacked investment and organisation, while TRA Chairman Muhammad Amir Khan cited Saudi Arabia's football progress as inspiration.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Pays Tribute to Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed on Martyrdom Anniversary

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid rich tribute to Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his martyrdom anniversary, recalling his valor in the 1965 war.

In her message, the CM said the martyrdom of a Shaheed becomes a message of renewed life for the nation. She noted that Major Aziz Bhatti displayed extraordinary courage while defending the motherland, leaving the enemy astonished.

"The entire nation is proud of Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed's supreme sacrifice for the defence of the motherland," she said.

Maryam Nawaz added that those who laid down their lives for Pakistan are the heroes of the entire nation, and their sacrifices will never be forgotten. She described Major Bhatti as an everlasting symbol of courage, patriotism and sacrifice, whose bravery is an example worthy of emulation.



Protection of Economic Rights of Traders Essential Alongside Beautification: Amin Aslam

Raaza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Former federal minister Malik Amin Aslam has said that while city beautification is welcome, the economic rights of traders, vendors and shopkeepers must not be ignored.

Speaking to media during a visit to ongoing development sites in Attock, he said millions were being spent to make cities attractive, but strangling business activities in the name of beautification cannot be justified.

Aslam stressed that beautification should provide citizens a clean and aesthetic environment, but planning must consider the difficulties of residents and the business community. He noted that the livelihoods of traders and vendors are linked to markets and roads, and measures harming them should be avoided.

He also flagged issues at hospitals where newly installed gates were blocking emergency access for patients and attendants, urging that unhindered healthcare access be prioritized.

Calling for consultation with traders, shopkeepers and vendors, Aslam urged the government and district administration to adjust projects so that urban beautification and business activities can continue side by side.

Rising Pakistan Forum Calls for Good Governance on Quaid-e-Azam's Death Anniversary



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rising Pakistan Forum has called for comprehensive reforms in the country's system of governance, stressing the need to address Pakistan's political, economic and social challenges. In a message issued after a meeting on the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on September 11, the forum said the nation was still striving to establish an effective system that could fulfil the vision of the country's founding leaders.

The forum leadership paid tribute to the leaders of the Pakistan Movement and urged political and social leaders, personalities and institutions to work collectively for national progress. It said the lack of good governance had created serious challenges and stressed the need to learn from Quaid-e-Azam's leadership, dedication and hard work.

The meeting was attended by Rakhshanda Tasneem, Dr Ghulam Ali, Mubashir Ahmed, Saima Bhatti, Khalid Bhatti, Sardar Imran Yasin and Chaudhry Javed Iqbal. Participants discussed national and international developments and proposed measures to strengthen governance.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
(jaffrani@adpluse.pk)

Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Procurement Reform: A Small Step Toward Governance That Actually Works

The Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Matters’ recent approval of amendments to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Ordinance and the introduction of new Public Procurement Rules, 2025, deserve more attention than such procedural news typically receives. Public procurement is where governance meets the taxpayer’s rupee most directly — and most often, where it goes astray. Any move to tighten or modernize the rules governing how the state spends money on goods, services and works is, in principle, a move worth welcoming.

Pakistan’s procurement system has long been criticized for opacity, delays and vulnerability to manipulation. Outdated rules create loopholes; loopholes create opportunities for favoritism and corruption. A revised regulatory framework, if implemented with genuine intent rather than as a paper exercise, could improve transparency, encourage competitive bidding and ultimately ensure that public projects are delivered on merit rather than connections. The inclusion of the Geographical Indication Act, 2020 in the relevant schedule is a smaller but equally sensible step, potentially strengthening protections for Pakistani products with regional and cultural significance in both domestic and international markets.

Equally instructive, however, is what the committee chose not to approve. The deferral of amendments to the Drugs (Research) Rules, 1978 signals appropriate caution. Rules governing pharmaceutical research carry direct implications for public health, and rushing such changes without full consultation would be irresponsible. Likewise, the decision to hold back amendments related to railway land — despite being briefed on rising revenue from its use — reflects a recognition that land management issues are often layered with competing claims, historical encroachments and administrative complexity that cannot be resolved hastily.

This pattern of approving what is ready while deferring what needs more scrutiny is, in itself, a reasonably mature approach to legislative housekeeping. Too often, Pakistani policymaking suffers from the opposite tendency: sweeping changes pushed through without adequate consultation, only to be reversed or challenged later.

That said, approval is not implementation. The real test lies ahead — in whether the new procurement rules are enforced uniformly across ministries and departments, whether the Procurement Regulatory Authority is empowered to act independently, and whether railway land, once consultations conclude, is managed for public benefit rather than private gain.

Legislative committees meeting quietly in ministry offices rarely make headlines, but their decisions shape the machinery through which billions of public rupees move each year. This one deserves to be watched closely — not just for what it approved, but for how faithfully those approvals are carried out.

25 Years After 9/11: Remembrance Must Strengthen the Pursuit of Peace

Twenty-five years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States and people around the world once again remember a day of extraordinary loss. The anniversary recalls not only the violence inflicted upon innocent people, but also the courage demonstrated by passengers, first responders, service members, public employees and ordinary citizens who moved toward danger to help strangers.

On that morning, 19 members of al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial aircraft. Two were deliberately flown into the World Trade Center towers in New York, and a third struck the Pentagon. Passengers and crew members aboard United Airlines Flight 93 resisted the hijackers before the aircraft crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The attacks killed 2,977 people from 90 countries: 2,753 in New York, 184 at the Pentagon and 40 aboard Flight 93. These figures do not include the 19 hijackers. Hundreds of first responders were among the dead, while many other people later developed illnesses connected to toxic exposure at Ground Zero.

The courage displayed amid the catastrophe remains one of its most enduring lessons. Their conduct demonstrated that heroism does not always begin with preparation, authority or recognition. It can arise when ordinary people recognize a responsibility toward others and choose to act. That spirit also appeared in the days following the attacks, when people donated blood,

supported bereaved families and volunteered in rescue and recovery efforts.

Newly declassified intelligence materials have continued to illuminate what officials knew about the broader threat from Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda before the attacks. At the same time, 9/11 has generated numerous competing conspiracy theories. Some allege that elements within the United States government had advanced knowledge and deliberately failed to intervene; others claim that American agencies actively facilitated the plot to justify subsequent wars and expanded state power.

Additional theories attribute foreknowledge or participation to Israel or Mossad, allege assistance from Saudi officials or other foreign actors, question whether controlled demolition caused the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings, dispute the accepted accounts of the Pentagon strike and Flight 93, or suggest that unusual financial transactions revealed advance knowledge.

These claims differ substantially and should not be treated as established facts, but their continuing circulation reflects enduring public suspicion about intelligence failures, possible undisclosed interests, who benefited from the attacks, and whether the complete story has ever been made public. Their existence therefore remains part of the wider historical and political legacy of 9/11, deserving

acknowledgment and careful examination without prematurely converting either suspicion or official conclusions into unquestionable truth.

Irrespective of finality of the conclusive findings, the attacks transformed security practices throughout the world. Airports adopted more intrusive screening procedures, intelligence agencies expanded surveillance and information sharing, and governments strengthened systems for tracking terrorism financing. The United States created the Department of Homeland Security, reorganized its intelligence structure and launched what became known as the “war on terror.”

The consequences extended far beyond American borders. Military operations in Afghanistan began in 2001, and the United States invaded Iraq in 2003. Counterterrorism operations subsequently expanded across parts of the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. These wars removed governments, disrupted militant organizations and produced political changes, but they also caused prolonged instability, displacement, economic destruction and enormous loss of life.

Brown University’s Costs of War project estimated that direct violence in the major post-9/11 war zones killed between 897,000 and 929,000 people during the first two decades after the attacks. That total included civilians,

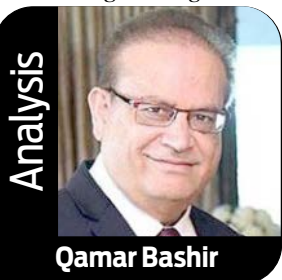
members of national militaries, opposition fighters, journalists, humanitarian workers and American and allied service members. The project estimated the financial cost at approximately \$8 trillion.

Those figures demonstrate why remembrance cannot be limited to a single country or nationality. The murder of civilians on September 11 was abhorrent. The suffering of civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Gaza, the West Bank and other conflict zones is also a profound human tragedy. Historical circumstances, legal responsibility and political causes differ from one conflict to another, but grief does not become less real when it crosses a border.

This principle does not erase the legal distinction between civilians and combatants. International humanitarian law specifically requires parties to armed conflicts to distinguish between them. Civilians may not be deliberately targeted, while all parties must observe the requirements of distinction, proportionality and precaution.

The universal value of human life should nevertheless remain at the center of public policy. A parent grieving in New York experiences the same fundamental human loss as a parent grieving in Baghdad, Kabul, Gaza, Kyiv or any other city affected by violence. Recognizing this shared humanity does not excuse terrorism, remove the right of states to protect their populations or settle disputes over the legality of particular military operations. It establishes a moral

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

September 11: A Turning Point in History, the Founder’s Passing, and a Changing World

Unzila Siddiqui

History, it is often said, is not merely a chronicle of months and years, but a continuous sequence of events that imparts fresh direction to human existence, both individual and collective. Certain dates transcend the geographical confines of a single nation, leaving an indelible imprint upon global politics, society, and the human consciousness. September 11 stands as one such date—engraved in the annals of history with profound sorrow, solemn reflection, and momentous historical turns. Whenever this day arrives, our minds are drawn simultaneously to the quiet departure of our great Father of the Nation and to the defining event of the twenty-first century that irrevocably altered the global landscape.

For Pakistan, September 11, 1948, remains a wound that time can never fully heal. It was the day when Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah breathed his last, returning to his Creator. The Founder’s passing was no ordinary event; it was the sudden bereavement of a nascent state losing its greatest pillar of strength. From the tranquil, cool breezes of Ziarat to the humid atmosphere of Karachi, the final days of the Quaid’s life endure as a testament to his matchless resolve, perseverance, and unwavering devotion to his cause.

He was a physician to the nation who remained completely unmindful of his failing health and physical frailty. Despite suffering from a severe pulmonary illness, he understood that millions of human beings had placed their trust in him, and that the dream of a separate homeland had materialized through his leadership. The adherence to law, grace, truthfulness, and profound steadfastness that defined his character served as his greatest strength. Unswayed by rhetorical flourishes or emotional slogans, he commanded

the respect of even his fiercest political adversaries through solid, dignified argument. When he departed from this world, he left behind a void that continues to be deeply felt today.

Yet, the march of history never ceases. Exactly fifty-three years after the passing of Quaid-e-Azam, on September 11, 2001, another event unfolded that shook the foundations of global politics and international relations. The catastrophic attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon fundamentally reshaped the landscape of the twenty-first century. The tragedy of 9/11 was not merely the collapse of iconic structures or the loss of thousands of innocent lives; it redefined the very concepts of global peace, security, and liberty.

The post-9/11 world emerged as an entirely transformed realm. International politics was swept by a fresh wave of fear, distrust, and heightened tension. The era initiated under the banner of the “War on Terror” bore its heaviest consequences upon our region. Pakistan, already grappling with internal and external challenges, found itself at the immediate epicenter of this global crisis. Furthermore, the event brought relations between Muslim societies and the West to a delicate juncture.

Precisely one year later, on September 11, 2002, as the world observed the first anniversary of that tragedy, Karachi became the center of international attention. On that day, the arrest of senior Al-Qaeda figure Ranzi bin al-Shibh in Karachi demonstrated how the reverberations of 9/11 had reached our own neighborhoods and cities. It affirmed that September 11 was no longer merely a chapter of distant history, but a date intertwined with our present reality and future path.

When viewed together, these historical markers on September 11 demand a comprehensive reflection. On one hand stands Quaid-e-Azam’s dignified, balanced, and principled vision—advocating the rule of law, equality, and national elevation through education. On the other lies the turbulent,

chaotic landscape of the twenty-first century, which plunged the world into an embrace of instability.

As we examine our present surroundings, we are confronted by how far we have drifted from the Founder’s principles. Had we sincerely adopted the path outlined by the Quaid Unity, Faith, and Discipline—we might have navigated these global tempests with greater fortitude and self-assurance. Quaid-e-Azam envisioned a Pakistan where every citizen, regardless of creed or ideology, enjoyed equal liberty and protection a state anchored in justice, perseverance, and merit.

For us, September 11 is not merely a day to turn historical pages or offer formal condolences. It extends an invitation to deep self-examination. It reminds us that while the Quaid’s personal task concluded in 1948, preserving his vision, safeguarding the nation from internal discord, and restoring its prestige within the international community remain our enduring obligations.

Similarly, drawing wisdom from global shifts and the aftermath of events like 9/11, we must foster tolerance, grace, and strategic insight as a nation. Through our pens, our thoughts, and our actions, we must cultivate an environment where intellectual and rational dialogue supersedes hostility and division.

On this September 11, let us make a quiet and sincere pledge. Let us pay tribute to our Founder not through words alone, but through meaningful conduct. Whether by upholding integrity and diligence in our respective professional fields or by standing as a gentle, dignified voice against intolerance in society, we must remain firm upon the principles handed down to us. History respects only those nations that honor past sacrifices while confronting present challenges with wisdom and resolve. The message of Quaid-e-Azam remains alive, and as long as we walk by its light, the beacon of hope will never dim.

The writer is analyst and she can be reached at unzilahalidsiddiquis@gmail.com

Pakistan’s Auto Policy 2026-31: Is It Fueling Progress or Just Subsidizing Luxury EVs?

Pakistan’s automobile sector is undergoing a significant shift, with new international brands, electric vehicles (EVs), hybrids and plug-in hybrids expanding options for consumers and bringing newer technology into the market. The government’s proposed Auto Policy 2026–31 seeks to attract investment, boost local production, promote exports, encourage technological advancement and foster a more competitive industry.

While these goals are widely seen as positive, the policy’s real success should be measured not by how many new companies enter Pakistan, but by its impact on taxpayers, consumers, jobs, exports, public finances and the broader economy. The proposal has reportedly received in-principle approval from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and is expected to move through the IMF, the Economic Coordination Committee, the federal cabinet and Parliament, making close economic scrutiny essential.

There is a strong case for promoting electric and hybrid vehicles, given Pakistan’s heavy spending on imported fuel and ongoing concerns about urban pollution and energy security. Wider EV adoption could eventually ease pressure on the country’s import bill. However, the more pressing question is not whether green technology deserves support, but who actually benefits from it and who bears the cost.

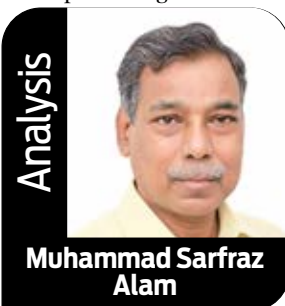
Reports suggest that certain new-energy

vehicles may be taxed at rates as low as 1%, compared to roughly 18% for conventional cars. Such incentives could boost demand, but they also carry a considerable fiscal cost. Rough estimates indicate that if around 50,000 new-energy vehicles are sold each year, the resulting tax gap could cost the government approximately Rs150 billion in forgone revenue — figures that require official confirmation but appear substantial given Pakistan’s ongoing struggle to meet tax collection targets.

Most electric and hybrid vehicles currently available or expected in Pakistan are priced between roughly Rs7 million and Rs30 million, putting them well out of reach for low- and middle-income households. This raises a critical policy question: should limited public revenue mainly make luxury vehicles cheaper for wealthier buyers, or should support instead target transportation options used by the majority of Pakistanis?

A genuine green transition, the analysis argues, should extend incentives to electric buses, rickshaws, motorcycles and scooters — modes of transport far more central to everyday life for most citizens than private electric cars. Electrifying public and commercial transport could lower operating costs for transit systems and reduce fuel and maintenance expenses for millions of drivers and commuters, delivering a much broader social benefit than subsidizing premium vehicles.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Muhammad Sarfraz Alam



Yemen Envoy Warns Houthi Takeover of Bab el-Mandeb Could Trigger Global Crisis

 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen, H. E. Mohammad Motaahhar Alashabi, said his country will not allow militias to rule any part of the state, asserting that Yemen will maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Speaking to media persons in Islamabad, he said some regional powers were supplying weapons, missiles and drones to the Houthis, and called on the international community to play its due role in restoring peace.

The Ambassador said Yemen's crisis was not merely a national issue but a global challenge, warning that instability at the Bab el-Mandeb strait—through which 60 percent of the world's marine trade passes—posed a threat to international security, drawing comparisons with the energy crisis triggered by tensions at the Strait of Hormuz, which had doubled oil prices.

He alleged foreign intervention was fueling armed militias in eastern and southern Yemen, claiming mercenaries were being recruited with promises of heaven in exchange for fighting the state. He questioned the source of the Houthis' missiles and drones, stressing that the Yemeni state itself lacked such weaponry.

Alashabi said Yemen had endured this conflict for 12 years and had repeatedly offered dialogue to restore peace and unity, but the Houthis had refused to engage. He warned



that a Houthi takeover of Bab el-Mandeb, following Hormuz tensions, would create a dangerous global blockade. On Pakistan's role, the Ambassador said Yemen valued its relationship with Pakistan and shared common interests, expressing hope that Pakistan could help defuse tensions and support dialogue for regional peace.

UN Human Rights System Requires Urgent Funding to Address Atrocities in Occupied Territories and Conflict Zones

 Spokesman Report

GENEVA: Experts and diplomats at a seminar hosted by the World Muslim Congress, on the sidelines of the 63rd session of the UN Human Rights Council, warned that chronic underfunding of the UN human rights system is undermining the international community's ability to protect populations in occupied territories and conflict zones.

Panelists—including former AJK President Sardar Masood Khan, former UN Independent Expert Alfred de Zayas, former Federal Law Minister Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Dr. Blerim Mustafa, Professor Octavia Chereze, Nimakta Farnadoo, and Altaf Hussain Wani—argued that financial constraints are weakening accountability mechanisms against oppressive regimes, linking underfunding of the OHCHR directly to rising impunity.

Special focus was given to Indian-occupied Kashmir, where speakers voiced concern over the silencing of local rights groups. They said inadequate funding has emboldened crackdowns on human rights defenders and called for India to be held accountable, urging a strengthened UN framework for justice.



Extending concerns to Palestine and other conflict zones, speakers warned that underfunded treaty bodies and Special Procedures compromise documentation of atrocities, enabling perpetrators to act with impunity.

The panel called for sustainable funding to ensure effective monitoring, protection of rights defenders, and consistent application of international law, warning that continued underfunding undermines accountability and justice for the oppressed.

D-8 Secretary-General Reaffirms Commitment to South-South Cooperation

 Spokesman Reeport

ISTANBUL: The Secretary-General of the Developing-8 (D-8) Organization, H. E. Sohail Mahmood, has reaffirmed the bloc's commitment to deepening South-South cooperation, marking the International Day for South-South Cooperation with a message celebrating solidarity and collective action across the Global South.

In a statement shared on social media, the Secretary-General said the day was an occasion to celebrate growing solidarity, the sharing of experience, and collective action for practical solutions among developing nations. He noted that the D-8, bringing together eight developing countries across three continents, serves as an important platform for South-South cooperation, facilitating the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and workable solutions in areas including trade, investment, technology, food and energy security, health, and sustainable development.

Referring to this year's theme, "Solidarity Rising: Global Alliance for Inclusive and Innovative Development," the Secretary-General said the organization remained committed to strengthening partnerships with the wider international community. He added that the



D-8 would continue working with all relevant partners and stakeholders to create opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration. The Secretary-General said such partnerships were essential for forging meaningful cooperation aimed at ensuring the progress and prosperity of member countries' peoples and communities.

The Commonwealth: One Family, One Future

You must have heard about the story of a man teaching his son the lesson of significance of collectivism over individualism, by the example of breaking stick one by one and then the bundle.

The world is struggling today with curse of individuality, to which Quran prophesied 1,400 years earlier as "Nafse Nafsan". And reasoning this Nafse Nafsan the world has strangled with uncountable chaos.

The Commonwealth of Nations! A notion of late Eighteenth Century which shaped to perfection in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of 56 member countries — mostly former territo-

ries of the British Empire. In which the member countries work together on democracy, human rights, development, education, climate, and trade based on shared values.

Today it has 2.7 billion people, about 1 in 3 people on Earth.

Let's say, the Commonwealth is not just a grouping of 56 nations. It is a family. Collective family.

From the islands of the Pacific to the cities of Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, we share more than history — we share values: democracy, development, and dignity.



Munaza Kazmi

In a world divided by borders and rivalries, the Commonwealth stands for something different: working together.

When one member faces climate disaster, others send aid. When youth need opportunity, we open scholarships. When small states feel unheard, we give them a seat at the table.

Talking about the role of Pakistan. From hosting Commonwealth youth summits in Lahore, to Pakistani doctors and teachers serving across member states, to Islamabad's push for climate finance for vulnerable nations, peace talks — Pakistan embodies the

Commonwealth principle of "leave no one behind."

Similarly, this is harmony in action, where every member countries add their efforts. It is compassion translated into policy. It is the belief that united growth is not charity, but common sense. A stronger Jamaica helps British trade. A resilient Bangladesh strengthens global food security. A prosperous Rwanda creates new markets for Canada.

Further, it means trade, not aid. It means solving debt, digital access, and food security together.

Empathetically, the global challenges of 2026 — climate change, debt, digital inequality — cannot be solved alone. But as a family, the Commonwealth proves that diversity does not have to



mean division. Different flags, one purpose. Different voices, one chorus. That is the Commonwealth way.

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	

Nepra Okays

\$58 Billion

Plan for Power

Generation in

Next 11 Years



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has conditionally approved the Integrated System Plan (ISP) 2025, envisaging around \$58 billion in investment in power generation and transmission over the next 11 years. The 45-page decision, issued Friday, included over 12 pages of dissenting notes from its three members, with Nepra raising concerns over project inclusions/exclusions and the bypassing of the Council of Common Interests.

The approved plan excludes battery storage systems (BESS) and a K-Electric transmission line planned for 2028. Under the low-growth base case, Pakistan will add 26,045MW of generation capacity, taking installed capacity to 62,657MW, at a projected cost of \$47.08 billion. Transmission investment will total \$10.65 billion, supporting new substations and network reinforcement.

The plan also addresses power supply challenges in Gwadar and Makran following disruptions to Iranian imports. Nepra rejected the proposed \$900 million BESS investment, directing a technical-economic study first. It also flagged conflicting projections on tariff impact, noting consumer-end tariffs could rise to Rs37.28 per unit by 2035 from Rs34 currently, and ordered this be quantified in the final report.

KP Governor urges stronger

business linkages with African

markets to boost Pakistan's economy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said Pakistan must develop strong business linkages with new international markets, including African countries, to transform its geographical position and natural resources into economic strength. He was addressing a ceremony organized by the Pakistan Africa Economic Council in Islamabad, attended by ambassadors, diplomats, business leaders, and government officials.

The Governor said new economic and trade directions with Africa could unlock major development opportunities, highlighting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's rich mineral, oil, gas, and water resources that could drive progress with greater investment focus. He praised Hamid Asghar Khan's role in promoting Pakistan-Africa relations.

Federal Minister for Defence Production Raza Hayat Hiraj said Pakistan must move beyond traditional markets to engage Africa's

emerging economies. Patron-in-Chief Hamid Asghar Khan called Africa a land of opportunity, noting Pakistan's respected brand image there due to its historic support for African independence movements, and identified potential in IT, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and education.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram affirmed the business community's readiness to expand trade with Africa, while SAPM Sardar Yasir Ilyas said enhanced trade would benefit Pakistani exporters and entrepreneurs. UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari praised Hamid Asghar Khan's appointment and vision for the Council, linking it to the foreign policy legacy of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood called African markets promising for Pakistani businesses, while Council Chairman Dr. Shehzad Malik said the platform aims to bridge Pakistan and Africa in trade and investment. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ata Jan Mablomov called for transforming historic ties into strong economic partnerships for mutual growth.



Meeting

HONG KONG: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets Sri Lanka's Minister for Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Development, Mr. Wasantha Samarasinghe, to discuss trade, connectivity, food security and technological cooperation on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Wheat crisis looms in Balochistan as

govt stocks run dry

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The risk of a wheat shortage is growing in Balochistan as government warehouses currently have no wheat stocks, raising concerns about supplies in the province, 24News-HD TV reported on Saturday.

According to the Food Department, the Balochistan government has approved the purchase of 500,000 bags of wheat to meet the province's requirements.

However, the Finance Department has yet to release the funds needed for the purchase.

Officials said that once the funds become available, the purchase of wheat from the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO) will be finalized.

The Food Department said it would



take around one month to purchase the wheat and transport it to local government warehouses.

Until then, the province could face supply pressures if it does not act quickly.

Chairman CCP Showcases Pakistan's

Competition Reforms at Int'l

Conference in China

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Farid Ahmad Tarar, represented Pakistan at the 2026 National Fair Competition Conference of China in Xi'an, presenting Pakistan's competition regime, institutional reforms and investment facilitation efforts. The two-day conference, hosted by China's SAMR, brought together competition authorities from China, Brazil, France, South Korea, Russia and other jurisdictions under the theme "Unified National Market, Fair Competition for the Future."

Tarar highlighted CCP's shift toward

proactive, intelligence-led enforcement, including its Market Intelligence Unit, which has identified over 225 potential competition cases. He noted CCP issued 121 merger clearance orders, facilitating around Rs29.65 billion in foreign direct investment, and granted 83 exemptions. He also outlined CCP's focus on digital markets, AI, and big data, with 2026-27 priorities including a Digital Markets Competition Framework and studies on e-commerce and fintech.

The Chairman held a bilateral meeting with SAMR Vice Minister Shu Wei to review the existing Anti-Monopoly Cooperation MoU and explore deeper technical



collaboration, including cartel detection, merger control, and staff exchanges, aimed at strengthening Pakistan-China trade and economic cooperation.

Sui Gas Task Force

Multan Region

Operations: 27 Meters

Disconnected, 390

Locations Inspected

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Acting on the directives of Jawad Khan Khakwani, General Manager of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), the UFG Control Task Force has intensified its ongoing campaign against gas theft, illegal usage, and technical violations in the Multan region. Recent and weekly operations show that 390 locations across Multan were inspected, resulting in the disconnection of 27 meters for serious rule violations.

Violations included 9 meters disconnected for illegal compressor use (6 earlier, 3 recently), illegal extensions removed at 6 locations, 4 meters disconnected for being installed upside down, 2 for commercial use, 2 for unauthorized relocation, 2 at consumers' own request, 1 for disconnection from the service line, and 1 case of direct gas theft through meter bypassing.

Officials said the primary objective of these sustained efforts is to eliminate gas theft, restore system pressure, promptly address

public grievances, and ensure uninterrupted, safe gas supply for consumers.

General Manager Jawad Khan Khakwani emphasized that consumer safety of life and property remains the organization's top priority, urging adherence to essential precautions. He advised consumers to check for gas odor before use and, if leakage or smell is detected, to immediately open all windows and doors while avoiding use of electrical or gas-operated appliances. He reaffirmed that strict, indiscriminate legal action against gas theft and illegal activities would continue to ensure safe and quality service delivery to all consumers.

Govt Weighs Proposal

to Reduce Petroleum

Levy Between Rs 5-10

per Liter

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering a proposal to reduce the petroleum levy by Rs5 to Rs10 per liter over 12 months, a move likely to create a revenue shortfall of Rs1,450 to Rs1,500 billion. The Ministry of Planning has forwarded the proposal to the Ministry of Finance, FBR, and State Bank for feedback.

According to official documents, petroleum levy collection stood at Rs1,557 billion in FY2025-26, with the FY2026-27 target set at Rs1,576 billion. If reduced, remaining revenue would fall to just Rs96-180 billion, requiring the FBR to generate roughly 2.3 times more revenue to bridge the gap, since the levy—unlike most FBR taxes—is not shared with provinces under the NFC Award.

Proposed alternatives include higher taxes on luxury goods, first/business class air travel and luxury vehicles (Rs200-280 billion), a surcharge on large corporate groups and high-income individuals

(Rs180-250 billion), and eliminating tax exemptions worth Rs450-650 billion, out of Rs2.35 trillion in total exemptions.

Other measures include reducing interest rates (a 2% cut could free up Rs700 billion to Rs1 trillion by lowering the Rs6,900 billion debt-servicing cost), taxing agricultural income (Rs120-200 billion), a 1% wealth tax on assets over Rs100 million (Rs100-160 billion), and a higher carbon levy (Rs130-200 billion).



Additional proposals involve AI-driven tax evasion detection using bank, utility and travel data (Rs200-350 billion), curbing customs and refund leakages (Rs50-100 billion), GIS/GPS-based urban property tax collection (Rs80-150 billion), and mandatory POS integration for large retailers (Rs150-250 billion).

IS Pakistan vs England Three Test Match Series

England Cricket Team Defeated Pakistan By Eight Wickets in the Third and Final Test Match and Win The Three Match Series 3.0



Asim Tanveer

BIRMINGHAM: The England cricket team defeated Pakistan by eight wickets in the third and final Test of the series. Pakistan has suffered a whitewash in England for the first time; following the loss at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium in Birmingham, they have effectively completed a hat-trick of defeats in the country. By winning the third Test by eight wickets, England secured a 3-0 victory in the three-match series.

On the fourth day, as England began chasing a target of 130 runs, Mohammad Abbas claimed two wickets in the very first over, sending both openers—Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley—back to the pavilion

for ducks. The dismissal of two players for just two runs created a brief moment of excitement, but this proved short-lived, as such early breakthroughs rarely alter the outcome when the target is modest. Joe Root, who had struggled throughout the series, demonstrated his class at a crucial moment by scoring his 69th Test half-century. He was well-supported by Cox, who batted responsibly; both remained unbeaten, with Cox scoring 59 runs and Root 62. Abbas finished with two wickets.

In the first innings of the match, Pakistan was bowled out for just 133 runs, while England responded by scoring 453. Pakistan batted significantly better in the second innings,

scoring 449 runs, which set a target of 130 for England—a goal they achieved with ease on the fourth day. All-rounder Razaullah Khan, making his Test debut for Pakistan in the third Test match, earned thunderous applause from the spectators for his fast bowling and a spectacular, explosive innings of 81 runs off 49 balls—featuring nine sixes. Pakistan completed a hat-trick of defeats in this series, having previously lost at Lord's and Leeds, and now suffering a loss at Edgbaston as well. The defeat in the third Test against England maintained the unwanted tradition of failing to win at Edgbaston, marking Pakistan's sixth loss in the nine Tests played there.



This is yet another dark, failure-ridden moment for Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and the team management. Under the current regime and its decisions, the

team is facing continuous failure on tours both at home and abroad, raising the question of whether the rot runs from top to bottom or if there are other underlying issues. To



prepare for English conditions, the Pakistan team should ideally be exposed to the weather and pitch conditions of such countries at least three months prior to a tour. In the past—from the 1980s era featuring players like Majid Khan, Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Zaheer Abbas, Mudassar Nazar, Mohsin Khan, and Wasim Raja, to the subsequent generation including

Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saeed Anwar, Shoaib Akhtar, Mushtaq Ahmed, and Inzamam-ul-Haq—players used to spend seven months of the summer playing county cricket in England. This experience ensured that the Pakistan team faced no difficulties playing on the fast pitches of England, Australia, New Zealand, and the West Indies.

Fakhar Zaman, Salman Ali Agha hit ton on opening day of President's Trophy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Khan Research Laboratories' Fakhar Zaman and Kingsmen Academy's Salman Ali Agha struck centuries on the opening day of the Rivaj Presents University of Lahore President's Trophy Grade-I 2026-27, which began at venues in Peshawar, Abbottabad, Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Saturday.

Fakhar scored a brisk 128 off 136 balls, including 16 fours and two sixes, after coming in at No. 3 against Ghani at Imran Khan Cricket Stadium, Peshawar.

His seventh first-class century helped KRL reach 371 for five in 86 overs at stumps.

Imran Rafiq remained unbeaten on 95 off 134 balls, while Asim Ali Nasir was not out on 51.

The pair added an unbeaten 101 runs for the sixth wicket after Imran had shared a 90-run partnership with Fakhar.

Mohammad Wasim Jnr took two wickets for Ghani, while Ghulam Haider also claimed two.

At Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Salman Ali Agha completed his 18th



first-class century, remaining unbeaten on 101 as Kingsmen Academy reached 257 for three in 75 overs against Markhor IT Solutions.

Salman, batting at No. 5, joined Mohammad Suleman after Kingsmen were reduced to 72 for three.

The pair steadied the innings with



an unbeaten 185-run partnership, with Suleman contributing 83 not out.

Markhor pacers Salman Aslam, Samama Riaz and Mohammad Ismail took the first three wickets. Ismail achieved a major milestone by claiming his 100th first-class wicket in his 27th match, dismissing Kingsmen captain

Mohammad Tayyab.

At Diamond Cricket Ground in Islamabad, Pakistan Television reached 131 for three in 45 overs against Oil and Gas Development Company Limited after overnight rain restricted play.

Mohammad Taha remained unbeaten on 53 off 108 balls, while Waqar Hussain scored 42. Sharoon Siraj was not out on 21.

In Rawalpindi, only 19 overs were possible at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, who elected to field against State Bank of Pakistan, reduced their opponents to 44 for three.

Shahnawaz Dahani, Shehzad Gul and left-arm spinner Ahamed Safi Abdullah took one wicket each as no SBP batter managed to cross the 20-run mark.

Scores at stumps, Day 1:

KRL: 371-5 (86 overs) — Fakhar Zaman 128, Imran Rafiq 95*, Asim Ali Nasir 51.

Kingsmen Academy: 257-3 (75 overs) — Salman Ali Agha 101*, Mohammad Suleman 83*.

PTV: 131-3 (45 overs) — Mohammad Taha 53*, Waqar Hussain 42.

SBP: 44-3 (19 overs) — Faham-ul-Haq 17.

Zone-VI Whites moved into Semi Final. Zone-II 2nd Consecutive Victory

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites moved into Semi Final after beating Zone-V Blues by 200 runs in their last Group "D" match and Zone-II Whites also 2nd Consecutive Victory in Group "A" after beating Zone-IV Greens in the RCAF Talent Hunt Program Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament here at various Grounds.



The highlights of the days play was brilliant Double Century 218 by Aitazaz Khan, 96 by Aaish Malik, 77 by Muhammad Imam, 67 by Younus Khan, Deadly Bowling by off Spinner Junaid Javed 6/8, slow left arm spinner Yahya Aslam 5/14 and right arm spinner Wasif Khan 5/43.

Scores in Brief: Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-V Blues by 200 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI Whites 260 all-out in 35.2 overs. Aaish Malik 96 14 x4 2x6, Younus Khan 67 7x4 2x6, Faisal Qurban 37. Wasif Khan (rlb) 5/43.

In reply Zone-V Blues 60 all-out in 21 overs. Yahya Aslam (sl) 5/14, Khuzaima Salal (mf) 3/15.

In the 2nd Match Zone-II Whites beat Zone-IV Greens by 348 runs at KPI Ground. Zone-II Whites 419/5 in 40 overs. Aitazaz Khan 218 35x4 3x6 (in 121 balls), Mohammad Imam 77 12x4, Ebad ur Rehman 47 5x4, Mohammad Fuzail 34 not out. Aman Jadoon 3/81.

In reply Zone-IV Greens 71 all-out in 29.2 overs. Junaid Javed (ro) 6/8, Hadi Babar (lmf) 3/11.

25 Years After 9/11: Remembrance Must Strengthen the Pursuit of Peace

Continued from Page 4

starting point: civilian life must not be treated as expendable.

That lesson is especially urgent in 2026. Armed conflicts continue to destabilize several regions, damage essential infrastructure and disrupt international trade. The continuing confrontation involving the United States and Iran has affected energy markets and navigation through the Strait

of Hormuz. Brent crude briefly reached approximately \$108 per barrel in September before easing, illustrating how rapidly regional warfare can impose costs upon people far from the battlefield.

History repeatedly shows that wars presented as short or decisive can become prolonged. Military planners can calculate targets, weapons and troop numbers, but they cannot reliably control every political, economic

and humanitarian consequence. Armed conflict can create new grievances, displace populations, weaken institutions and produce cycles of retaliation that outlast the leaders who initiated it.

The anniversary also asks societies to consider what "never forget" should mean. It must mean preserving the names and stories of those who died. It must mean supporting survivors, first responders and families still living with the physical

and emotional consequences of the attacks. It must mean honoring the passengers of Flight 93, whose collective action may have prevented the hijackers from striking another target in Washington.

But remembrance should also influence future decisions. If commemorations praise those who saved human lives while public policy accepts avoidable civilian suffering elsewhere, remembrance becomes

incomplete. The courage of 9/11 should inspire vigilance against terrorism, but also restraint, honesty and determination to prevent new generations from experiencing comparable grief.

The lasting tribute to the victims is therefore not an endless expansion of war. It is the patient construction of a world in which fewer families receive news that a loved one has been killed by terrorism, bombardment or military escalation. That requires

reliable intelligence, accountable government, protection of civilians, international cooperation and serious investment in diplomacy.

Humanity cannot restore what was taken on September 11, 2001. It can decide what meaning to draw from the loss. Twenty-five years later, the most worthy lesson is that courage should protect life, power should be restrained by law, and remembrance should renew the pursuit

of peace. The dead are honored not only when their names are spoken, but when the living work to ensure that the suffering experienced that day is not inflicted upon other innocent people.

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

Pakistan's Auto Policy 2026-31: Is It Fueling Progress or Just Subsidizing Luxury EVs?

Continued from Page 4

The scale of the potential revenue loss becomes clearer when set against other public spending needs. For comparison, the Higher Education Commission's entire annual budget is cited at around Rs35 billion — a fraction of the estimated Rs150 billion in annual tax revenue that could be forgone through EV incentives. This does not necessarily mean funds should be redirected from autos to educa-

tion, but it underscores the opportunity cost involved: every rupee lost to tax concessions is a rupee unavailable for healthcare, infrastructure, public transport or research. Tax breaks, therefore, should be treated and evaluated as a form of government spending.

By contrast, a proposed environmental levy on larger vehicles is presented as a more defensible measure. Vehicles between 2,001cc and 3,000cc could face a 10% levy, while those above

3,001cc could be taxed at 19.5%, a move expected to generate roughly Rs142.79 billion over five years. If these funds are transparently channeled into export promotion, research and development, and cleaner transport technology, the levy could serve as an effective policy tool, given that larger vehicles typically consume more fuel and generate greater environmental costs.

The central test for the Auto Policy is whether Pakistan

evolves into a genuine manufacturing and export hub, rather than simply hosting more foreign brands. True industrialization requires local value addition, component manufacturing, technology transfer, skilled employment, research investment and export capability — not just assembly or import of finished vehicles.

Incentives, the piece argues, should be tied to measurable outcomes, rewarding compa-

nies that build local production capacity and export potential over those solely importing vehicles for domestic sale.

Suggested priorities include linking incentives to local manufacturing, strongly supporting electric buses and commercial vehicles, offering affordable financing for electric two- and three-wheelers, accelerating charging infrastructure development, investing in automotive R&D, tying incentives to export

performance, and introducing transparent accounting for every tax concession granted.

Every major incentive, the analysis concludes, should be judged against three questions: how much revenue is lost, how many jobs and exports are gained, and who ultimately benefits.

Pakistan needs a modern and environmentally responsible auto industry — but one that is also fiscally sustainable and socially

inclusive. The goal should not be simply making expensive electric cars more affordable for those who already can afford them, but making the country's entire transportation system cleaner, cheaper and more accessible for all. In that sense, the Auto Policy 2026-31 is less about the auto sector alone and more a broader test of Pakistan's economic direction — and whether its green transition benefits ordinary citizens or only the affluent few.

National Conference

ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, addressing the audience at the National Conference on Judicial Wellbeing, "From Reform to Recognition: Building a Responsive District Judiciary," at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, on Saturday.



Photo: Online

Bilal Bin Saqib Calls for Global Cooperation on Digital Finance at UN Session Virtually

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and PVARA Chairman Bilal Bin Saqib called on UN Member States to move from discussing digital assets to building regulatory frameworks for the next generation of global finance. Addressing a UN Headquarters session on Digital Assets and Blockchain for Sustainable Development, he said digital assets and blockchain offer emerging economies a chance to

rebuild financial infrastructure around inclusion and access. He highlighted that 1.4 billion adults remain outside the formal financial system, and that remittance costs still exceed the SDG target, with closing this gap capable of returning billions to families annually. He noted digital identity could help small businesses and women entrepreneurs access credit, while tokenisation could mobilize capital for infrastructure and



renewable projects. However, Bin Saqib cautioned against treating technology as an automatic solution, citing risks like volatility, illicit finance, and regulatory divides between nations. He stressed that regulation must evolve alongside innovation, arguing it should be seen as "market-building rather than market-blocking," and urged deeper international cooperation, stating "no nation rises alone."

Fight against terror to continue until khawarij eliminated: Balochistan CM

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Important briefings on Balochistan's socio-economic sectors, minerals and mining, and law and order were held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The Ministry of Planning and Development briefed on the province's development strategy, covering governance, service delivery, effective fund utilization, and ensuring development benefits reach the public. Addressing the meeting via video link with national media anchors and journalists, Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said the fight against terrorism would continue until not a single terrorist remained in the



province, stressing complete unity between civilian and military leadership. "There is no ambiguity or confusion on this," he said, adding that security forces were working under difficult circumstances with full institutional coordination, and reiterating there would be no talks with those taking up arms against the state. He said terrorism was a national, not provincial, challenge requiring coordinated efforts. Separate briefings covered Balochistan's mining sector potential and ongoing projects, along with law and order measures including police reforms and integration of the Levies Force into the police.

Over 7,600 book private Hajj packages as 64,000 seats remain

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: More than 7,600 intending pilgrims have completed bookings under Pakistan's private Hajj scheme, while around 64,000 seats are still available. According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs spokesperson, 25 authorised Hajj companies have so far received Rs6.88 billion through the official Hajj portal. The private Hajj booking process is currently continuing through the Pak Hajj App and Hajj Portal, with November 20 set as the deadline for bookings. The 25 authorised companies have introduced more than 2,000 Hajj packages offering different options to pilgrims, the spokesperson said. The Ministry clarified that booking and payment for the private Hajj scheme can only be made through the Pak Hajj App and official Hajj Portal. The spokesperson urged the public to remain cautious and not deposit Hajj payments with any individual or company outside the official portal, warning pilgrims against possible fraud.

\$100,000 ransom: foreigner rescued, Nine kidnappers in handcuffs in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Saturday safely rescued a foreign national kidnapped at gunpoint from Sector G-8 for a \$100,000 ransom equivalent to around Rs27.7 million and arrested nine alleged kidnappers involved in the crime. An official told APP that the foreign national was kidnapped at gunpoint from Sector G-8 earlier in the morning, after which the kidnappers demanded \$100,000 for his release. SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza took immediate notice of the incident and constituted special police teams under the supervision of SP City Muhammad Khurram Ashraf to recover the abducted foreign national and arrest those involved. The teams used modern technical resources and human intelligence and conducted an intelligence-based operation to trace the kidnappers.



During the operation, police safely recovered the foreign national from the jurisdiction of Sihala Police Station and arrested nine alleged kidnappers. The official said the accused had also allegedly robbed other staff members of cash, expensive mobile phones and other valuables at gunpoint during the incident. Police also recovered three vehicles allegedly used in the crime, along with the snatched cash and mobile phones, from the arrested accused.

Further investigation was underway, while police were examining all aspects of the kidnapping-for-ransom case. SSP Qazi said strict legal action would be taken without discrimination against those involved in crimes threatening the lives and property of citizens, particularly foreign nationals. He said those involved in the serious kidnapping-for-ransom case would be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

PM Gilani says internet services will be fully restored in AJK within two days

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani has announced that internet services across the state will be fully restored in phases within two days. In a press statement, Iftikhar Gilani said DSL service in Muzaffarabad will be restored in the second phase. The internet services will also be fully restored in Bhimber and Mirpur districts. He said internet restoration in Azad Kashmir is being carried out in phases. Iftikhar Gilani said following the first phase, internet services will be restored in majority areas during the second phase, while the remaining areas will also be included in a phased manner. He said the first phase of internet restoration has been completed, and further progress will



be made in the second phase over the next two days. AJK PM said the measures to be taken under the 100-day reform plan will involve consultation with the public and all relevant stakeholders: Iftikhar Gilani. He lauded AJK Health Minister Dr. Mustafa Bashir Abbasi for getting active in the health sector. Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir urged the masses to give the new government sometime. He hoped that the government will meet the expectations of the people of the valley.

Pakistan Appoints First Ambassador to Armenia

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has appointed its first ambassador to Armenia following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in August 2025. Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan presented his Letters of Credence to Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan at a ceremony at the presidential palace in Yerevan, the Pakistan Embassy in the UAE said Friday. Khan concurrently serves as Pakistan's ambassador to the UAE and non-resident ambassador to Armenia. During the meeting, President Khachaturyan congratulated Khan on his appointment and expressed readiness to support efforts to strengthen Armenia-Pakistan relations and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



Khan conveyed greetings from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. Both sides highlighted potential for cooperation in trade, investment, education, culture, and people-to-people contacts. Pakistan and Armenia formally established diplomatic relations through a joint communiqué signed on August 31, 2025, announced by DPM/FM Ishaq Dar following talks with Armenian FM Ararat Mirzoyan.

NADRA Vaccination Certificate Mandatory for Int'l Travel from Sept 14

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has issued a travel advisory announcing that a NADRA-integrated vaccination certificate will be mandatory for all overseas travel starting September 14, 2026. According to the airline, passengers without this proof will not be permitted to board international flights, with the requirement applying to all outbound travelers, including Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. The directive comes from the federal Airport Health Department, and the Federal Government Civil Dispensary has been designated as the sole center providing vaccination services for international travelers. The mandatory vaccinations include polio, meningitis, yellow fever, and influenza, as confirmed by Dr. Syed Murtaza Shah Bukhari, focal person

for the Airport Health Department's Border Health Services. For Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, PIA advised getting vaccinated only at authorized government centers and obtaining the NADRA digital vaccination card before departure, with airlines instructed to verify certificates before boarding. PIA said airport vaccination facilities would be activated within days for travelers who haven't completed the requirement, advising those planning to get vaccinated at the airport to arrive at least six hours early. Travelers can apply for the certificate via the official NIMS NADRA website using their CNIC, issue date, or passport details, paying a Rs100 fee through debit/credit card, Jazz-Cash, or EasyPaisa to download a digital certificate with a QR code. Only NADRA-issued certificates will be accepted going forward.