



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے آدم بن ابی ایاس نے بیان کیا کہ ہم
سے شعبہ نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے محمد بن زیاد
نے بیان کیا کہ ایک کس نے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ
عزہ سے سنا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے
فرمایا اے کاش کوئی کہتا ہے جس کی جڑوں یا ٹوٹی
کے پیٹ سے ہو ابو اور حرام کار کے لیے
صرف جہنم ہیں۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6818)

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PM Shehbaz to Visit UK, US from Sept 17: Sources

PM Shehbaz Sharif will depart for the UK on September 17 for a two-day visit involving key meetings, before heading to the US on September 19 to attend the UN General Assembly session. He is expected to hold bilateral talks with world leaders, including a possible meeting with President Trump, focusing on bilateral, regional, and global engagement.



Captain Sohail Chaudhry takes over as IGP Islamabad

Captain (retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry assumed charge of the office of IG Islamabad Police on Tuesday. The arrival of the new IG Islamabad at the Central Police Office was met with a warm welcome by officers and personnel. A dignified ceremony for the change of command was held at the Central Police Office.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-us-Sani 3, Wednesday, September 16, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 147 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: This handout photograph released by the Egyptian Presidency on September 15, 2026, shows Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (left) meeting with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo. AFP



Saudi, Egypt leaders urge free, secure Red Sea navigation in Cairo talks

AFP

CAIRO: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi called for free and secure navigation in the Red Sea during talks in Cairo on Tuesday, as the kingdom vowed to respond "firmly" to attacks by Yemen's Houthis.

The regional powers

discussed the threat posed by the Iran-backed group's control over the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a key shipping route vital to both Saudi oil exports and Egypt's Suez Canal revenues.

They called for "ensuring the freedom and security of maritime navigation" through the straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, the Egyptian presidency said, adding that Sisi

affirmed Egypt's support for measures taken by the kingdom "to protect its security and stability".

The Bab al-Mandab, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and the Suez, has become essential to Saudi oil exports this year after Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz during the Middle East war, throttling shipments via the Gulf.

Last week, the Houthis seized control of all of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab, threatening the last direct route to Asian markets for the world's largest oil exporter.

Since the Houthis declared a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia in July, the kingdom has relied more heavily on Egypt to export oil, chiefly through its Sumed pipeline.

Crude is transported from the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu to Egypt's Ain Sokhna, and carried overland through the pipeline to the eastern Mediterranean at Sidi Kerir.

But a recent drone attack, which Riyadh said was launched from Iraq, forced it to shut the East-West pipeline that feeds Yanbu, pushing global oil prices above the \$100 threshold.

PM directs utilising all-out resources for relief of people in rain-hit areas

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to use all available resources to provide relief to people in rain-hit areas and maintain effective liaison with relevant provincial departments and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs).

The prime minister, in a meeting with the NDMA Chairman Lt. General Inam Haider Malik, who called on him here, instructed relevant departments to enhance coordination to



ensure the smooth flow of traffic on link roads and bridges, as well

as the timely supply of relief goods during the rains.

During the meeting, the NDMA chairman briefed the

prime minister on the expected pattern of the ongoing monsoon season and overall preparedness to cope with heavy rains and potential flood situations, through mutual cooperation between provinces and institutions.

He told the prime minister that, as per his directives, the proactive measures have been taken by the relevant departments to monitor the monsoon season more effectively.

He assured that all relevant departments across the country were fully prepared for rescue and relief operations to cope with any emergency weather conditions.

PM stresses measures to boost exports, accelerate economic growth



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed the government to make export growth a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic development by expanding the number of sectors targeting international markets.

Chairing a meeting on improving exports and accelerating economic growth, the prime minister stressed raising Pakistani products to international quality standards, strengthening quality assurance and increasing value addition to improve global competitiveness. He also called for greater use of modern technology, research, innovation and digitalisation in export-oriented industries.

The prime minister directed authorities to remove admin-

istrative and business hurdles and make export procedures faster, easier and more transparent. The meeting reviewed measures to access new markets, diversify exports and improve competitiveness.

Officials briefed the meeting on efforts to conclude free and preferential trade agreements, promote horticultural exports and increase international procurement opportunities for Pakistani surgical and medical equipment manufacturers.

The government is also organising sector-specific exhibitions, aligning intellectual property laws with modern requirements and restructuring the Export Development Fund to support businesses. Efforts are underway to promote food, agriculture, minerals, health and textile exports.

Ishaq Dar, Natalie Baker discuss bilateral ties, regional situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker on Tuesday and discussed Pakistan-US bilateral cooperation and the prevailing regional situation with her.

According to Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan, the meeting focused on

matters of mutual interest and ways to strengthen engagement between the two countries.

Dar emphasised the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in achieving lasting peace and appreciated the positive trajectory of Pakistan-US relations.

The deputy prime minister also stressed the need for

Pakistan, Lebanon Agree to Boost Security Cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Lebanon have agreed to strengthen cooperation in security, counter-terrorism, drugs, illegal immigration, money laundering and cybercrime during talks between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Lebanese counterpart Ahmed Al-Hijjar in Islamabad.

The two ministers held a

one-on-one meeting followed by delegation-level talks, where they agreed to enhance intelligence sharing to tackle security threats and drug networks. Cooperation between police academies and training programmes was also discussed.

Both sides decided to sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation between their interior ministries and appoint focal persons

for better coordination. They also agreed to fully implement an existing MoU on counter-narcotics cooperation.

The ministers discussed regional developments, Pakistan's efforts for lasting peace and the possibility of visa-free entry for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

Naqvi expressed hope that the Lebanese minister's visit would open new avenues of bilateral



cooperation. Al-Hijjar described Pakistan as a brotherly country and said Lebanon was keen to

expand cooperation, particularly in internal security, while benefiting from Pakistan's experience.

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has said Islamabad will not be shut down despite discussions about political marches in September, stressing that citizens' movement would remain uninterrupted.

Speaking to the media at Parliament House, he said no "smart lockdown" plan had been discussed in a meeting chaired by the deputy prime minister and that the administration had been directed to ensure free movement. He also said the government was providing targeted subsidies

for three-wheelers and vehicles up to 800cc for three months.

Commenting on PTT's planned political activities, Tariq Fazal accused the party of repeatedly holding violent protests and said the government would not allow any political group to occupy public spaces. He referred to an Islamabad High Court ruling directing authorities to ensure unhindered movement for citizens.

He also criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister's conduct in Lahore, calling it political immaturity and stressing that all constitutional offices should be treated with dignity.

AJK PM directs `timely completion of five Danish schools



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Iftikhar Gilani, has directed authorities to ensure the timely completion of five Danish Schools being set up in the region under an initiative of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He gave these directions while chairing a high-level meeting to review progress on the project.

Federal Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training,

Nadeem Mehboob, briefed participants on construction and administrative arrangements. The meeting was informed that construction on the Danish Schools in Bagh and Bhimber is 83 percent complete, while work continues on schools in Haveli, Neelum, and Kotli. Besides quality education and modern learning environments, the schools will offer boarding facilities, along with sports, healthcare, digital libraries, IT facilities, and science and computer laboratories.

PM Gilani termed the initiative historic, saying it would provide quality education to talented but underprivileged children who otherwise lack access to good institutions due to limited finances. He said the project reflects the special commitment of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the people of Azad Kashmir, and would create better educational opportunities in remote and underdeveloped areas.

He assured full cooperation from the

PML-N government for the project's completion and directed officials to resolve all outstanding issues to meet the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Forests Col. (R) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Minister for Higher Education Azhar Sadiq, Chief Secretary Khushal Khan, Principal Secretary Adnan Khurshid, Secretary Schools Education Qazi Inayat, Secretary Higher Education Chaudhry Abdul Rehman, and other senior officials.

Muslim League Qayyum urges government not to block Islamabad Roads

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum Central Deputy Secretary Information Faisal Anwar has urged the government to avoid blocking roads in the federal capital and resolve public grievances through democratic and political means.

In a statement, he said a political party had been staging peaceful protests against the petroleum levy for a month, but the government had failed to respond adequately. He criticized recent increases in petroleum prices followed by the announcement of a Rs100 relief package, alleging that the measures were insufficient to provide meaningful relief to citizens.

Faisal Anwar expressed concern that if the protests developed into a long march, the government could spend millions on security while restricting movement in Islamabad by placing containers on roads. He warned that such measures could create further resentment among citizens and damage the government's political standing.

The Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum demanded immediate withdrawal of the petroleum levy and urged the government to listen to public concerns. Faisal Anwar stressed that dialogue and democratic solutions were necessary instead of restricting citizens' movement or turning Islamabad into a "container jail."

Four-Day Survivor-Centred Protection Training Begins in Hyderabad

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Legal Aid Society, in collaboration with Sindh Police Hyderabad and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has launched a four-day multidisciplinary training programme for the One-Stop Protection Centre and its referral partners at Hyderabad Police Headquarters.

The programme seeks to strengthen coordinated support for survivors by improving collaboration among police, legal assistance providers, medico-legal services and protection institutions through an integrated referral system.

Speaking on the opening day, SSP Hyderabad Shahzaib Chachar stressed effective coordination, timely referrals and a unified institutional response for survivors of gender-based and sexual violence. The training was organised by Legal Aid Society Provincial Justice Hub Lead Danish Ahmed Soomro and is being supervised by SDPO Cantt and Gender-Based Violence Cell head Paras Bakrani. The first day focused on gender, power and patriarchy, social structures of power, and sensitive communication and interviewing techniques for trauma survivors.

Participants include representatives from police, prosecution, women and child protection, social welfare, human rights, rescue services and medico-legal departments. The programme will continue until September 18, covering survivors' legal rights, evidence, consent, referrals, data protection and medico-legal procedures.

Seerah of Holy Prophet ﷺ Beacon of Light for Humanity: Riaz Hussain Shah

City Desk



RAWALPINDI: A weekly Zikr and Quran study gathering was held at Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia, Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, attended by a large number of men and women. Renowned scholar Allama Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Qasim addressed the gathering, while Patron-in-Chief Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah delivered a special address.

Allama Riaz Hussain Shah said the Seerah and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ were a source of mercy, guidance and light for humanity. He said the Prophet's teachings provided a complete model of justice, love, patience, forgiveness and service to others, adding that society could overcome its challenges by following the Holy Quran and Seerah.

He highlighted Hazrat Ali Al-Murtaza (RA) as an example of courage, knowledge, justice and truthfulness and urged Muslims to follow the noble examples of the Companions and Ahl-e-Bait (RA).

He also called upon youth to preserve their religious and moral identity in the social media era and promote Islamic values through knowledge, character and action. The gathering concluded with prayers for Pakistan's safety, prosperity and stability, the Muslim Ummah and the moral development of youth.

UK Action Against Illegal Israeli Settlements Welcomed

Abdul Majid



FAISALABAD: The Merkazi Ulema Council Pakistan has welcomed recent measures by the United Kingdom against illegal Israeli settlements and related activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the West Bank, describing them as a positive step in support of Palestinians.

Chairman Sahibzada Maulana Zafar Mahmood Qasmi said the Muslim Ummah had long opposed Israeli settlement expansion and welcomed Britain's decision, expressing hope that it would encourage further international action in accordance with international law.

He said foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE, Indonesia, Pakistan, Türkiye, Qatar and Egypt had welcomed the British decision, expressing hope that it would encourage further international action in accordance with international law.

Qasmi urged the United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to take practical measures for dismantling illegal settlements and ensuring accountability of those involved in settlement activities. He called for concrete international action to reverse demographic and geographic changes in the occupied territories and safeguard Palestinians' fundamental rights, freedom and right to self-determination.

Press conference

LAHORE: President All Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation (PASSCO) Union, Liaqat Ali Butt addressing a press conference at Lahore Press Club in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Acting AJK President Meets Kashmir Council Members

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Tariq Farooq met Members of the Kashmir Council, Khawaja Tariq Saeed, Advocate, Raja Shuja Khursheed Rathore, Younis Mir and Adnan Khalid, in Islamabad. The meeting discussed the overall political situation in Azad Kashmir and matters of mutual interest, with particular focus on public welfare, resolution of public grievances, and development of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Tariq Farooq stressed that all relevant institutions must effectively perform their role to promote development and ensure the provision of basic facilities to the people. He said stronger cooperation and coordination among state institutions could help resolve public issues and make the development



process more effective.

The Acting President said addressing people's problems remained among the government's foremost

priorities and assured that all available resources were being utilized for their welfare and well-being. The Kashmir Council members briefed

him on various issues and presented suggestions concerning development, public grievances and stronger institutional cooperation.

Sardar Attique Meets APHC Leadership in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference and former AJK prime minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan met the leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in Islamabad to discuss the Kashmir dispute, the situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and ways to strengthen international efforts for the Kashmir

cause.

The meeting, chaired by APHC Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, reviewed alleged human rights violations, the Kashmiri people's struggle for self-determination and the need for greater coordination among political and Hurriyat leadership. Safi stressed that communication, consultation and solidarity were essential to effectively present the Kashmiri people's voice internationally.

Sardar Attique said the Muslim Conference considered the Kashmir issue a fundamental pillar of its political struggle and would continue supporting the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. He also recalled his late father, Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, as a strong advocate of the Kashmir cause.

The participants agreed to enhance joint efforts, institutional contacts



and coordination to highlight the Kashmir issue globally and support a just and lasting resolution.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:27 am
Zohr 12:03 pm
Asr 4:29 pm
Maghrib 6:15 pm
Isha 7:39 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

SI Global, Dell
Technologies to
Accelerate Digital
Transformation
in Pakistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: SI Global Solutions and Dell Technologies have reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating digital transformation in Pakistan by expanding their 10-year partnership and providing advanced technology solutions and products.

Speaking at an event titled "Powering Possibilities Technologies," SI Global Solutions CEO Dr Noman A. Said said Pakistan must shift from being mainly a technology consumer to becoming a developer and exporter of technology. He called for greater investment in research and development and reforms in public procurement policies to support locally developed technologies, innovation, cybersecurity and technology transfer.

Dell Technologies Country Manager Naveed Siraj said technology adoption was increasing across Pakistan, making it important for businesses to select solutions suited to their needs. He stressed the importance of aligning government policies with technology adoption to benefit from emerging technologies and AI-driven business models.

Punjab launches
body-worn
camera project
for police field
force for the
first time

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of a Safe Punjab through effective and transparent policing, body-worn cameras have been introduced for the police field force across the province for the first time. On the Chief Minister's directions, training of field personnel for the use of these cameras has been completed, with the project initially launched in Lahore

and installation of docking points at police stations underway.

The cameras will be linked to Smart Safe City systems in 43 cities across Punjab, and will be worn by Punjab Police, Punjab Highway Patrol, Dolphin Force, and Traffic Wardens. Equipped with digital facial recognition, the devices will help identify suspects, enable automated reading of motorcycle and vehicle number plates, and generate instant threat alerts in emergencies. The cameras



also feature calling facilities, audio-video recording, photo capture, and built-in memory storage during duty.

After completing duty, officers will place the cameras at designated docking points, where recorded data will be automatically and securely transferred. A "Push-to-Talk" feature

will allow officers to contact the control room immediately, while an "SOS" button will enable emergency alerts. The cameras will connect to a central monitoring system, with live monitoring conducted at district Safe City control rooms.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said the

cameras would aid monitoring and help curb corruption, adding that ensuring public security, especially for vulnerable segments, is the true measure of success. She reaffirmed that protecting the life and property of every individual in Punjab remains the government's foremost responsibility.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to China Dr. Syed Ali Asad Gilani at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Khawaja Shahzaib Akram
Announces Support for Vision
Alliance

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Renowned business leader Khawaja Shahzaib Akram has announced his departure from PIAF and declared full support for the Vision Alliance in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry elections scheduled for September 23 and 24.

Addressing a press conference at Royal Palm attended by prominent members of the business community, he said he would actively work for the alliance's success.

Khawaja Shahzaib said they had made every effort to remain loyal to PIAF, but their loyalty had not been reciprocated, prompting them

to part ways with dignity and respect. He clarified that he had not formally joined another group but would wholeheartedly support the Vision Alliance.

He revealed that 27 PIAF Executive Committee members had also resigned and decided to join the alliance, while the Pakistan Phar-

maceutical Manufacturers' Association and other trade and industrial bodies had assured cooperation.

He said the Vision Alliance would focus on business welfare, promoting industry and trade, resolving sectoral issues and ensuring effective representation of the business community.

Auqaf Punjab Holds 41st
Provincial Hifz and Qira'at
Competitions in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta addressed the first session of the 41st Provincial Hifz and Husn-e-Qira'at Competitions at Khatam-un-Nabiyin University, Lahore, calling the Holy Quran a complete code of life and source of moral guidance. He stressed that understanding and applying Quranic teachings strengthens the Muslim Ummah and builds a conscious, morally resilient society, adding that the Punjab government is promoting Quranic education among youth.

Additional Secretary Nabila Javed, DG Religious Affairs Hafiz Anceesur-Rehman, and other officials attended. In the women's and girls' categories, Syeda Hafza Amjad topped Hifz-ul-Quran (Paras 1-30), Bushra Bibi secured first in Hifz-ul-Quran (Paras 1-20), while Fatima Amjad and Hamna Saleem won the Qariah categories for women and girls respectively. The second session, featuring male Huffaz and Qaris, will be held September 16 at the same venue. Provincial champions will represent Punjab at the National Hifz and Qira'at Competitions 1448/2026, with top performers eligible for international competitions. Certificates and awards were distributed to participants.

Interloop Limited Doubles Net
Profit to Rs 12 Billion, EPS
Rises to Rs 9.06

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Interloop Limited has delivered strong financial performance, with its net profit more than doubling to Rs 12 billion, compared to Rs 5.65 billion in the previous year. The company's earnings per share (EPS) also rose to Rs 9.06. Net sales increased to Rs 187.70 billion, while improved operational efficiency and lower financial costs contributed to boosting overall profitability. The company has also announced a final cash dividend of Rs 2 per share. These impressive results highlight Interloop's robust growth and enhanced financial performance.

KP Government Fails to
Address Public Issues, Says
Azma Bokhari

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Azma Bokhari criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, saying medical staff, teachers and other employees were protesting across the province while Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and his cabinet were touring Lahore.

In a statement, she said young doctors in Dera Ismail Khan were observing a strike over their demands, while the Medical Stores Association was also on strike, causing difficulties for patients and their attendants at government hospitals. She added that Gomal University employees were continuing their protest.

Azma Bokhari claimed that KP had effectively been without governance for the past two days, with doctors, medical stores workers and teachers holding protests. She said the provincial government should focus on resolving problems in KP instead of visiting Lahore.

The minister alleged that incompetence, inefficiency and corruption had left the province in serious distress. She further criticized the chief minister for allegedly focusing more on the political situation surrounding the Adiala Jail inmate than on the problems faced by the people of KP.

Two Arrested in Rs20.8bn
Wheat Misappropriation Case
in Hyderabad

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Hyderabad Division has arrested two absconding accused in a case involving alleged misappropriation, shortages and adulteration of wheat stocks, causing an estimated loss of Rs208.3 million to the government exchequer.

According to ACE officials, Case No. 07/2026 was registered against Muhammad Ali Magsi, Food Inspector and In-charge PRC, Hali Road, Hyderabad. The case relates to alleged irregularities in wheat stocks and financial losses to the government.

AKU, Sindh Government Mark Two Years of
Essential Health Services in Tando Allahyar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Aga Khan University (AKU), in partnership with the Sindh Department of Health and People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI), and with support from the Gates Foundation, held a province-wide symposium on September 15 to mark two years of implementing the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) in Tando Allahyar.

Tando Allahyar, with nearly one million residents and 78 percent living in rural areas, was selected as the pilot district for the 62-intervention EPHS package. Key achievements include daily digital health reporting through DHIS2 and EMR,



establishment of a Specialized Care Nursery at the District Headquar-

ters Hospital, training of nearly 500 Lady Health Workers, and introduction of General Anaesthesia services for the first time.

More than 55 health facility staff have received digital reporting training, while almost 30 percent of surgical procedures are now performed under General Anaesthesia. Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho stressed the need to make the model scalable and sustainable across Sindh.

Dr Sameen Siddiqi of AKU said lessons from training, digitisation, community engagement and service costing could guide implementation elsewhere and support progress towards Universal Health Coverage. Representatives from 13 districts and development partners attended the symposium.

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Democracy's Unfinished Business: What International Democracy Day Should Mean for Pakistan

Every International Day of Democracy invites the same round of solemn declarations — reaffirmations of constitutional order, tributes to fallen leaders, renewed pledges to uphold the people's will. These words matter, but they matter only if they are tested against the reality of how democracy is actually practised, not merely how it is remembered.

Pakistan's democratic story has genuine milestones worth honouring. The unanimous adoption of the 1973 Constitution under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto remains the country's foundational democratic achievement — a document that built a federal parliamentary system, enshrined fundamental rights and gave the provinces a framework of autonomy that continues to hold the federation together, however imperfectly. Benazir Bhutto's assassination, and the sacrifices of countless political workers and ordinary citizens across decades of martial law and authoritarian interruption, are part of the same continuous struggle to keep that constitutional promise alive.

But democracy is not a monument to be visited once a year; it is a daily discipline. The most important line in any such commemoration is the reminder that democracy does not mean unchecked majority rule — that a functioning democratic order requires the majority to genuinely listen to, and accommodate, minority voices and dissenting opinions. This is not a rhetorical flourish. It is the actual test of whether a democracy is real or merely procedural. Elections alone do not make a democracy; what happens between elections — whether institutions remain accountable, whether dissent is tolerated rather than criminalised, whether minorities and the politically weak have genuine standing — is where the real verdict is delivered.

Pakistan's recent political history offers reasons for both hope and unease on this score. Parliament continues to function, courts continue to hear cases, and political competition remains vigorous. Yet the space for dissent has too often narrowed under pressure, and the accommodation of minority political voices — whether ethnic, religious or simply oppositional — remains inconsistent at best.

The observation that “what is a minority view today may become the majority view tomorrow” is worth taking seriously precisely because it cuts against the instinct of every ruling coalition to treat opposition as illegitimate rather than as a natural feature of democratic life. A society that tolerates only the views currently in power is not building democracy; it is merely rotating who gets to silence whom.

Commemorating democracy is easy. Practising it — through restraint, tolerance of noise and disagreement, and a genuine willingness to be held accountable — is harder, and is the only tribute that ultimately counts.

Pakistan's Military: A Potential Engine of High-Value Exports

Pakistan's armed forces have frequently attracted international attention, sometimes for their military performance and sometimes because of controversies surrounding their domestic influence and use of national resources. Those political debates are important, but they are not the subject of this article. The purpose here is to examine a different question: can Pakistan transform the capabilities accumulated by its Army, Navy, Air Force and defense-industrial institutions into a powerful source of strategic influence, exports and foreign exchange?

Pakistan possesses one of the developing world's most extensive military ecosystems. It includes experienced personnel, military academies, defense manufacturers, aviation and shipbuilding facilities, research organizations, and an expanding base of expertise in missiles, radar, electronic warfare and unmanned systems. Properly governed and commercially developed, this ecosystem could become an important pillar of Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan already exports textiles, sporting goods, surgical instruments, rice and other traditional products. These industries remain essential, but many operate in highly competitive markets with narrow profit margins. Defense and aerospace products belong to a different category. They are technologically sophis-

ticated, command higher prices and generate continuing revenue through maintenance, training, spare parts and modernization contracts. A successful defense sale can create economic activity lasting decades.

The JF-17 Thunder combat aircraft is Pakistan's most visible defense product. Jointly developed with China, it demonstrates Pakistan's ability to manufacture, assemble, maintain and modernize an advanced aviation platform. It offers countries with limited budgets a multirole aircraft supported by training, simulators, maintenance facilities and weapons-integration options.

Pakistan Aeronautical Complex can build on this achievement by becoming a regional center for aircraft maintenance, component production and technical training. Many developing countries cannot afford the cost or political conditions attached to the most advanced Western aircraft. Pakistan can serve part of this market with affordable systems, provided that it delivers consistent quality, transparent contracts and reliable after-sales support.

Land systems provide another significant opportunity. Pakistani industries manufacture or maintain tanks, armored vehicles, artillery, small arms,

ammunition, communications equipment and specialized military vehicles. The Al-Khalid tank demonstrates the country's ability to integrate complex armored-platform technologies. Export packages can combine equipment with crew instruction, maintenance training, spare parts and upgrades tailored to each customer.

The maritime sector should receive equal attention. Pakistan's naval institutions have experience in shipbuilding,

intelligence, electronic protection and counter-drone systems can all become valuable exports.

The most strategically important dimension of Pakistan's military power, however, is its nuclear deterrent. Pakistan is the only Muslim-majority country possessing nuclear weapons. That capability was developed primarily to deter existential aggression against Pakistan, but its significance now extends beyond South Asia.

This strategic weight must not be confused with the commercial sale or transfer of nuclear weapons, materials or sensitive technology. Pakistan's nuclear capability is not an ordinary export commodity. Its potential value lies instead in extended deterrence: the possibility that Pakistan's strategic strength could reinforce collective-defense commitments and discourage a major attack upon its closest partners.

This question has become particularly important in the Middle East, where Israel maintains a longstanding policy of nuclear ambiguity and is widely understood to possess nuclear weapons. Middle Eastern states confronted by severe regional instability naturally seek credible protection against existential threats. Pakistan's deterrent gives it a special position in such discussions — not as a promoter of nuclear war, but as a possible counterbalancing power intended to prevent one.

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

From Borders to Narratives: Pakistan, Kashmir and the Information Age

In every battle fought with India, Pakistan had to hold the lines, obliterate the tanks and protect national borders. Years have passed, and we still instinctively remember those wars as a story of soldiers, sacrifice, and territorial resolve. The dilemma is that the strategic environment in which those soldiers fought has changed absurdly and is no longer what it was decades earlier. Now nuclear arsenals have left limited space for large-scale

tary capability cannot address is the underlying political dispute that is producing the conflicts.

Kashmir has never been only a dispute over territory. It is political, because the aspirations of Kashmiris rarely sit at the centre of debates held in their name. It is also legal, shaped by UN Security Council resolutions and by arguments drawn from international humanitarian law, with each side tending to cite the parts that suit its position. And it is a human issue, visible in civilian harm and in the way that harm affects how outside audiences judge claims to legitimacy. A state can have significant military capability and still struggle to turn that into political outcomes if it cannot convince others what is happening and why it matters.

More and more, the dispute is being contested in a space where Pakistan's performance has been uneven: narrative formation. International news coverage, think-tank writing, diplomatic messaging, and competing readings of history often determine how a crisis is understood long before any negotiation produces results. Pakistan may have defensible legal arguments on certain points, but arguing is not the same thing as presenting it effectively. A weak narrative position does not erase realities on the ground, but it can reduce their political and diplomatic weight. It is not that Islamabad lacks commitment; rather, it has held a firm stance for decades. The gap is sustained, evidence-based communication, and the habit of responding after attention has already moved elsewhere.

A similar pattern appears in Pakistan's

diplomacy. For years, Pakistan has tried to internationalise Kashmir through the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and bilateral channels. At different moments, each forum has offered some room to raise the issue. The harder question is whether this effort has produced lasting external pressure on India. A more effective approach would expand outreach beyond the usual partners and lean more consistently on documented evidence rather than rhetorical assertion. It would also mean more direct engagement with international media and research institutions, instead of relying mainly on embassy statements that tend to receive limited attention outside the region.

There is also an implication that needs to be stated plainly: external credibility is partly tied to domestic practice. A state asking for international backing on political rights, self-determination, and civilian protection in Kashmir needs to be able to point to its own record on comparable principles. This is not meant to dismiss Pakistan's stated position. It is about the conditions under which that position becomes durable rather than simply declaratory.

One reading of past crises is that Pakistan endured by holding its position on the ground. The more relevant lesson now is wider than that. Security is not just territorial control. It also involves sustaining influence across diplomatic, legal, and informational domains. Military forces at the border still matter, but in a dispute like Kashmir, outcomes may also turn on legal processes, public communication, and the judgments of international audiences who have no direct exposure to the Line of Control.

The author is a research assistant at Kashmir Institute of International Relations.

Dream of political stability

It is often believed that engineering political stability is the solution to a nation's economic and security challenges. The idea of this so-called stability is used to justify the suppression of dissent, stifling of political opposition, and the disregard for democratic principles and transparency in societies. Recent developments in Pakistan seem to prove this observation correct.

The ruling elite has a firm grip on power, and has successfully bypassed parliamentary integrity in its attempt to maintain 'political stability'. The media often portrays serene images and photos and footage of cultural events in major cities, suggesting that all is well. Yet, sceptics argue that addressing the basis of Pakistan's political turmoil is necessary for this manufactured calm to find its way to true stability.

Pakistan's rulers have long lived under the delusion that they can consolidate their grip on power by manipulating parliament and the judiciary; in the process, they often sideline the consent and representation of political parties and rights movements. Such movements and parties are seen as peripheral because they seek certain rights and privileges in exchange for taking part in legislative business. The Balochistan National Party (BNP) of Sardar Akhtar Mengal and the National Party of Dr Abdul Malik are examples of this.

However, the rulers only consider the demands of such parties if their support is crucial for passing laws. The means employed to secure BNP's votes for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment is one recent example.

In their efforts to maintain 'political stability', the rulers have bypassed parliamentary integrity.

Since independence, power politics in Pakistan have always revolved around personalities. This has led to the entrenchment of dynastic politics, which not only weakens political and democratic institutions but is also heavily responsible for failures of governance. These dynasties resist the establishment

only when excluded from power; mostly, though, they are not averse to collaborating with each other and sharing power. In this arrangement, the establishment's influence has grown. Political dynasties remain content as long as their political and business interests are secured.

There is an undeniable nexus between power politics and the economy; power-sharing directly influences economic reforms in all sectors — ranging from agriculture and industry to services. Meanwhile, the challenges faced by marginalised groups and rights movements are linked to internal security, which is often overlooked by the ruling classes. The latter's illusion of having secured political stability will remain an illusion until voices from the peripheries are accommodated.

Describing these movements and dissenting voices as having been tainted by foreign influence or being traitorous has not addressed the core issues; instead, actions by security institutions driven by such perceptions have compounded the challenges. The economy, particularly in terms of foreign investment, is still very fragile, and can be further affected by deterioration of the security situation.

Political instability in Balochistan and KP's merged districts has triggered discontent, providing insurgents and terrorists the space to exploit local grievances. Data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies on recent terrorist activities in the country highlights the concerning expansion of militant influence, especially in KP and Balochistan. In October alone, 100 lives were lost in 48 terrorist attacks — 35 in KP, and nine in Balochistan, and more minor incidents in Sindh and Punjab. These regions have become focal points for militant operations, and reflect a dangerous strategy by these militant groups to destabilise areas where operational freedom may be greater due to geographical or sociopolitical factors. Though less frequent, incidents in Punjab and Sindh signal efforts to expand influence beyond traditional strongholds.

Continued on Page 7

Indonesian Navy Chief Praises Pakistan Navy's Regional Security Role During Islamabad Visit

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Admiral Dr Muhammad Ali, Chief of the Indonesian Navy called on Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters,

the dignitary was presented Guard of Honour and laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional maritime security and bilateral naval cooperation were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to enhance coop-

eration through training, reciprocal visits and joint naval exercises. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts towards regional maritime security.

During his visit to Karachi, Admiral Dr Muhammad Ali also interacted with Pakistan Navy Field

Commanders, Managing Director Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works, visited Pakistan Navy Fleet Unit and Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC). The visit will further strengthen Pakistan-Indonesia defence and naval cooperation.



NEPRA's new power tariff framework faces transparency, cross-subsidy questions from industry, experts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Energy experts, industry representatives, and regulatory specialists called for greater clarity, predictability, and non-discriminatory treatment of consumers under Pakistan's newly finalised Use of System Charges (UoS) framework, at a seminar jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC), examining NEPRA's UoSC determination underpinning the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM).

Muhammad Ayub, former MD of NTDC, said network infrastructure charges should be based on multi-year loss calibration studies, recommending at least a 10-year assessment for new transmission lines. He also warned that newly formed provincial electricity regulators in Sindh, KP, and Punjab could complicate coordinated market implementation.

SDPI's Ubaid-ur-Rehman Zia said the seminar would examine gaps following market liberalisation reforms. Muhammad Usman Bin Ahmad of ADS presented a technical breakdown of UoS components and their impact on industrial consumers. PREC's Ramsha Panwhar said the framework remained a work in progress, calling for greater transparency and revision of the standard cost component.

Rehan Javed of FPCCI's Energy Advisory Committee questioned repeated revisions to proposed charges and said policy inconsistency was discouraging investment. Hasnat Khan of the Pakistan Solar Association said the cross-subsidy methodology lacked clear definition, while SDPI's Muhammad Umer called for a long-term, roughly 10-year phased roadmap tied to DISCO performance.

Pakistan, IAEA sign safeguards agreement for Chashma-5 Nuclear Power Plant

Spokesman Report

VIENNA/ISLAMABAD:

In a significant milestone for Pakistan's nuclear power program, PAEC Chairman Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar signed the Safeguards Agreement for Chashma Unit-5 (C-5) with IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi at the Agency's Vienna headquarters, on the sidelines of the 70th IAEA General Conference. The ceremony was witnessed by CAEA Chairman Shan Zhongde.

The agreement, unanimously approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in March 2026, marks a key step toward implementing safeguards for C-5 and reflects international confidence in Pakistan's commitment to peaceful nuclear use and non-proliferation obligations.

Construction of C-5, with a gross capacity of 1,200 MW(e), is progressing rapidly, including early completion of its dome placement, and the unit is scheduled for commissioning in 2028. It will add low-carbon, low-cost electricity to the national grid, supporting energy security and climate goals. Pakistan currently operates six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 MW(e), maintaining over 90 percent average capacity factor and more than 100 reactor-years of safe operational experience.

Separately, Pakistani and Chinese delegations held bilateral talks on nuclear cooperation, led by Dr. Anwar and Mr. Shan respectively, with Ambassador Mohammad Kamran Akhtar Malik also attending. Dr. Anwar further participated as keynote speaker at two China-organized side events on nuclear science applications.



APAG, Maker of Soya Supreme, Marks New Chapter with PSX Listing



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Agro Processors & Atmospheric Gases Limited (APAG), the manufacturer behind Pakistan's household cooking oil brand Soya Supreme, celebrated its listing on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) with a Gong Ceremony at its PSX headquarters. With a 45-year heritage, APAG has grown into a diversified consumer brands company, with a portfolio including Soya Supreme Cooking Oil & Banaspati, Soya Supreme Olive Cooking Oil, Malta, Smart Sauces, Supremo, and Taqat Margarine.

The public offering comprised 58.049 million ordinary shares, representing 15% of post-IPO paid-up capital. Of these, 43.537 million shares were offered through Book Building at a floor price of PKR 32.00 and ceiling of PKR 44.80, with the strike price set at PKR 33.00. The Book Building portion was oversubscribed 1.84 times, while the General Public portion was oversubscribed 1.83 times, drawing PKR 878 million against PKR 479 million offered.

PSX Shareholder Director Ahmed Chinoy called the listing, the 12th of the calendar year and 4th of the fiscal year, a reflection of strong investor confidence in Pakistan's consumer sector and capital market resilience. APAG CEO Ahmad Aziz Ghulamhussain described the listing as a proud milestone and the start of a new chapter, outlining ambitions to expand the company's brand portfolio into new categories and global markets. He thanked employees, consumers, investors, PSX, SECP, KTrade Securities, HBL, and other partners for supporting the process.

Called on

MULTAN: Renowned international columnist, poet, writer and intellectual Khalid Masood Khan, General Secretary, called on Jafar Baloch, Station Director Radio Pakistan Multan. A group photo with the program staff of Radio Pakistan Multan Centre was taken on the occasion. Senior Producer Mirza Athar Latif and Fayyaz Ahmad Awan were also present.



Study in Malaysia Education Fair 2026 Draws Strong Response from Pakistani Students in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) successfully hosted the Study in Malaysia Education Fair 2026 in Islamabad on September 15 and 16, attracting hundreds of students, parents, education professionals, and academic institution representatives. The fair gave Pakistani students the chance to interact directly with leading Malaysian universities and explore undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional study programmes, along with information on scholarships, admissions, student visas, accommodation, and campus life. University representatives also offered one-on-one counselling to attendees.

The event was inaugurated by Malaysia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, H. E. Dato Muhammad Azhar Mazlan, who highlighted the longstanding ties between the two countries and stressed education's role in strengthening bilateral relations, expressing confidence that such



initiatives would boost cooperation in education, research, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges.

Students showed strong interest throughout the day, engaging in detailed discussions on admissions and career pathways, with several advancing their applications on the spot. EMGS representatives said Pakistan remains a growing market for Malaysian higher education, citing the country's multicultural environment, internationally oriented programmes, and globally relevant skill development opportunities.

The Islamabad fair is part of EMGS's broader outreach effort to position



Malaysia as a top study destination, following an earlier stop in Karachi. The three-city programme will conclude in Lahore on September 19 and 20.

The Islamabad event concluded positively, with attendees welcoming direct access to information from

Malaysian universities. Organizers noted that the continued engagement between EMGS, Malaysian institutions, and Pakistani students reflects growing potential for deeper educational cooperation and people-to-people connections between Malaysia and Pakistan.

OIC and COMSTECH Join Hands to Advance AI, Science, and Technology in Muslim World

ISLAMABAD: OIC Secretary-General H. E. Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed and OIC-COMSTECH Coordinator-General Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary held a key meeting at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah to discuss strengthening scientific, technological, academic, and healthcare cooperation among OIC member states.

Dr. Choudhary congratulated the Secretary-General on

his appointment, expressing confidence his leadership would enhance the OIC Secretariat's effectiveness. The Secretary-General praised COMSTECH and Pakistan's contributions to the Palestinian cause, particularly the offer of 5,000 fellowships for Palestinian students and scholars, and expressed interest in meeting Palestinian scholars during his upcoming Pakistan visit.

He also called on COMSTECH

to lead an OIC-wide AI initiative, stressing that the Muslim world should become a developer and innovator in AI rather than merely a user, while ensuring Islamic ethical principles guide its development. He said he would discuss enhanced science and technology support with Pakistan's Prime Minister, COMSTECH's Co-Chairman, acknowledging Pakistan's leadership role within the OIC.

Dr. Choudhary briefed him on COMSTECH's initiatives in science, education, healthcare, AI, and capacity building, including the Health Africa Programme and efforts on pandemic preparedness, women-focused initiatives, water resources, and food security. Both sides emphasized convening the COMSTECH General Assembly and Executive Committee soon.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the OIC Secretariat's support for COMSTECH, recognizing its role as a key institution



and innovation across OIC member states.

advancing science, technology,

and innovation across OIC member states.

 Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
169,392.32	167,970.65
Day's High	Day's Low
169,988.11	169,189.29
Index Value	Change
10,650,171,183	+ 1421.67
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	15 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,658.13	−39.44
Percentage	Time
−0.37%	15 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,980.71	−440.49
Percentage	Time
−0.84%	15 Sept, 1:16 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
63,484.10	−8.89
Percentage	Time
−0.014%	15 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.25	201.55
Bahrain Dinar	733.68	743.98
Canadian Dollar	199.04	204.75
China Yuan	38.27	38.99
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	321.56	325.53
Hong Kong Dollar	35.00	35.97
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.25
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.05	896.85
Malaysian Ringgit	68	68.85
NewZealand \$	159.63	162.99
Norwegians Krone	28.20	28.55
Omani Riyal	718.92	729.45
Qatari Riyal	73.90	74.58
Saudi Riyal	73.95	74.50
Singapore Dollar	217.57	223.10
Swedish Korona	28.45	28.95
Swiss Franc	338.09	342.85
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.97
U.A.E Dirham	75.60	76.43
UK Pound Sterling	375.59	379.78
US Dollar	278	278.35

PCDMA Invites Chinese Investors to Establish Joint Ventures in Pakistan

 **Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan has invited Chinese manufacturers and investors to establish joint ventures and production facilities in the country, particularly in dyes, chemicals, agro-chemicals, biotechnology and other value-added sectors, as Islamabad seeks to shift Pakistan-China economic cooperation towards joint industrial production.

The invitation was extended by Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) Chairman Salim Valimuhammad while representing Pakistan at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) and the IBI 99 Global Business Linkage Festival in Beijing. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, Senator Rana Mahmoodul-Hassan, Muhammad Asif Khatri and Muhammad Jawwad Iqbal also attended.

Valimuhammad said the next phase of cooperation between the "iron brothers" should focus on building industries together rather than mainly trading finished products. He noted that Pakistan imports over \$1.5 billion worth of dyes and chemicals annually, around 85 percent from China, highlighting significant potential for local manufacturing.

Gold-Trade Gold prices fall by Rs4,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a sharp decline in the local market on Tuesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs4,000 to settle at Rs449,336, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs3,429 to Rs385,233, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs3,143 to Rs353,143.

In the international market, the price of gold fell by \$40 to \$4,268 per ounce, the association reported.

PTCL, ConnectHear Partner to Improve Sign Language Accessibility

 **Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has partnered with Pakistani accessibility technology company ConnectHear to install SILA, an AI-powered sign language agent, at PTCL customer care centres in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

The initiative aims to make customer services more accessible to Deaf and Hard of Hearing customers. Through SILA, customers will be able to communicate their queries and requirements in sign language and interact directly with customer service representatives without depending on a human interpreter.

PTCL Chief Marketing Officer Amad Khan



said the partnership had evolved from staff training and awareness to using technology to remove accessibility barriers. He said meaningful connectivity required ensuring that everyone could participate with dignity and independence.

ConnectHear CEO and Co-founder Azima Dhanjee said the collaboration demonstrated how sustained technology-driven action could integrate accessibility into everyday services.

The companies have previously worked together on SUNO, an AI-powered early-warning system that delivered emergency alerts in Pakistani Sign Language through WhatsApp during natural and man-made disasters.

The partnership reflects PTCL and ConnectHear's shared commitment to using technology to promote inclusion, accessibility and equitable participation for the Deaf community.

Raja Bazaar Submerged

RAWALPINDI: A view of flooded Model Raja Bazaar after morning downpour in the city.



Photo: Online

SECP Calls for Digital Transformation to Expand Insurance Coverage

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu has stressed the need for digital transformation to expand insurance coverage, improve claim settlement and provide affordable insurance products to the public.

Speaking at an SECP Talk Series session, he said Pakistan's insurance industry had assets of around Rs4 trillion and annual premiums of Rs708 billion, but insurance penetration remained only 0.7 percent of GDP. Only 0.85 percent of premiums were generated through digital channels, highlighting significant growth potential.

Dr. Sidhu announced plans for an "Insured Pakistan" digital platform and said regulatory reforms were being introduced for timely and transparent claim settlement. He also stressed adoption of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.



He noted that around 97 percent of vehicles were operating without insurance and said digital verification and enforcement could increase third-party motor insurance coverage substantially.

Industry leaders said digital integration could help insure all vehicles by

2030.

Participants also highlighted the sector's potential to mobilize Rs200-500 billion for infrastructure and stressed development of pension, annuity and long-term savings products to strengthen retirement protection.

9th Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit to Convene Ministers, Global Executives on September 17

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Nutshell Group will host the 9th edition of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit (LIIBS) 2026 on Thursday, September 17, at a local hotel in Islamabad. Themed "The Next Move," this year's summit brings together federal ministers, global institutional leaders, and Pakistan's top corporate executives for high-level dialogue on the country's economic, technological, and geopolitical direction,

building on last year's theme, "Navigating the Unknown," by shifting focus from uncertainty toward concrete strategic action.

The summit opens with an inaugural session, "The Next Move: Reading the Moment," featuring addresses by Bilal Azhar Kayani, Muhammad Ali, and Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, alongside a keynote by Lucia Real Martin of ACCA. Five strategic dialogues follow throughout the day, covering geopolitics and geoeconomics,

business and technology, AI and digital transformation, and capital and finance, featuring leaders from institutions including the IFC, UNDP Pakistan, BASF, VEON Group, easypaisa, SAP, S&P Global, foodpanda, Mashreq, and Al Meezan Investment Management, among others.

The event concludes with a session titled "Pakistan's Moment of Choice," featuring former Caretaker Prime Minister Senator Anwarul-Haq Kakar, Federal Minister

Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, former Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, and other senior business and media figures.

LIIBS 2026 is supported by Coca-Cola Pakistan and a wide range of partners spanning technology, research, sustainability, hospitality, and banking sectors, including ABACUS, Systems, S&P Global, ACCA, Serena Hotels, FFC, PTCL Group, Faysal Bank, Meezan Bank, TCS, and Hilton Pharma, reflecting broad corporate participation in the summit.

GREE Ranked No. 1 Globally in Premium Residential AC Sales

 **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: GREE Electric Appliances Inc. has been ranked No. 1 globally by sales volume of premium residential air conditioners in 2025, according to a Market Position Statement issued by international research and consulting firm Frost & Sullivan in July 2026.

The premium category covers residential air conditioners priced within the top 20 percent of units sold in their respective regional markets, with consumers

prioritizing energy efficiency, quiet operation, smart features, design and build quality.

GREE's global position is supported by decades of research and development and 50 independently assessed world-leading technologies covering compressor design, system engineering, artificial intelligence and acoustics. Its AI-based energy management technology can improve annual efficiency by up to 23 percent, while its SilenzX series operates at 15 dB(A) indoors.

BingX Makes KOL Trading Legends Finalists Available on Copy Trading



 **Commerce Desk**

PAKISTAN: BingX has announced that five finalists of its KOL Trading Legends futures trading competition for crypto content creators are now available on its Copy Trading platform. The competition featured traders operating with the same starting capital and under identical market conditions, with their positions and performance displayed on a public leaderboard.

The three-day qualifying round held from August 24 to 26 narrowed the field to five finalists, who competed in a 60-minute live final on September 8 using

BingX VST demo funds. The competition carried an 18,000 USDT prize pool.

Ashtrix won the title with a 212.25 percent return and received 10,000 USDT, followed by Joshua Kasi with 4.93 percent, CPDOTSOL BlckSquare with 0.88 percent, Chris NtraderPH with minus 1.80 percent and ultm8x with minus 27.33 percent.

BingX Chief Strategy Officer Kevin Lee said the competition aimed to provide greater transparency about traders' performance and risk. Copy Trading allows users to mirror Lead Traders' positions, with capital subject to market risk.

Islamabad Business Leaders Head to Polls for High-Stakes ICCI Election Today

 **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The stage is set for the much-awaited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Election 2026-28, as all the eligible voters will exercise their right to vote today (Wednesday) to elect 28 members of the Chamber's Executive Committee.

The election generated considerable enthusiasm within Islamabad's business community, with candidates and their supporters actively reaching out to voters and presenting their programmes and priorities

for the Chamber's future. The keen interest surrounding the contest reflects the importance attached by the business community to effective representation, strong advocacy and a progressive role for ICCI.

A total of 57 candidates are in the running for the Executive Committee seats, comprising 30 candidates from the Associate Members (AM) Class and 27 candidates from the Corporate Members (CM) Class. The voters will elect 14 candidates from each class, who will form the core of the newly elected Executive Committee.

The Economy of Compassion How Charity Builds Nations Beyond Wealth

This is a snowy evening in Copenhagen and an old lady entered a neighborhood supermarket with her shopping bag. When it comes time to pay at the cashier, she discreetly pays for her groceries and some of the necessities for an anonymous family. The cashier simply dropped the second receipt into a small volunteer collection box and the volunteers did their rounds to collect supplies from families in need in the community. As givers need no appreciation rather, they believe the words of Booker Washington: “Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others”

Giving is not only practiced during crises in Denmark, Finland, Norway and other Nordic countries, it is part of civic life. These countries are always a source of admiration for their successful economy, standard of living, good educational systems and effective public institutions. The success is normally attributed to innovation, good governance and sound public policy. One of the other things that often is not recognized is a strong culture of giving. For the most part, societies built on trust, low inequality, and social cohesion have been a result of charity, philanthropy and volunteerism. They have given power to the State — not taken it away.

Charity is only viewed in a moral and/or religious sense. The moral aspect, keeping economic feature, cannot be unheeded. Charity is not only an act

of kindness, but also an investment in human capital to bring social stability and long-term national prosperity.

Economics is a subject that is frequently debated and used in arguments like taxation, inflation, investment, exports and industrial development. These are all of course critical ingredients in development. Economies are, however, man-made. If significant parts of the population are not able to gain access to education, health care, skills development and economic opportunity, a nation cannot become productive. Such voids can be filled by charity, when it is used judiciously and well directed. In the modern economic research the function of human and social capital is also undeniably recognized as one of the most important factors of development. Consider education, earning a scholarship for a well-educated student from a low-income family is more than a monetary award. It could be an investment that would produce in the future a new engineer, doctor, entrepreneur or teacher. That graduate will be a part of the labor force, pay taxes, will be an employer, and an innovator. The economic value of the donation is far greater than it is just a donation. This is true of health services as well. Families that have to pay high health expenses are likely to be stuck in a vicious cycle of poverty. Some of these pressures are eased by charitable hospitals and health foundations which enable persons to stay at work instead

of going “on the run” with untreated disease. Likewise, the philanthropy for vocational training and microenterprise provides opportunity for a person to be economically self-supporting. It is not just about of relying on assistance for an indefinite period, but also about beneficiaries turning into actors during the production, consumption and investment process. This definition extends charity beyond mere income re-distribution to being an enabler of economic activity.

he world's greatest philanthropic institutions are good example of this. Bill Gates is not only committed to eradicating human suffering, he has donated billions of dollars to public health and education, and promised to improve long-term economic outcomes. In Europe and North America, universities, research laboratories, hospitals, museums and innovation centers are supported by charitable foundations, and they remain active in generating knowledge and productivity decades ago, right up to the present.

It is also imperative to enhance awareness about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and corporate philanthropy. Charitable campaigns are often considered as tools for brand promotion or public relations. In fact,

strategic philanthropy is not just a moral responsibility; it is also good business. Businesses help build the very foundations of long-term economic productivity and inclusive growth by supporting education, skills development, public health and community welfare. These investments create a trained workforce, increase consumer spending capacity and provide stable, prosperous communities. These initiatives bring social dividends that eventually become commercial dividends, in turn bringing social and business benefits. But the key to any corporate philanthropy program's success is transparency. Effective giving is based on public trust. But organizations that support high ethical standards by independent audits, measurable results and responsible financial management raise the confidence of donors and stakeholders even higher. If they know that their giving is being handled and directed with integrity, they will be more inclined to give generously. Transparency, in turn, helps to protect philanthropy, enhances its ability to contribute to sustainable social and economic progress.

Future of Pakistan is sure to rely on judicious economic management, structural changes and political

stability. However, increased GDP and fiscal indicators are not the only measures of development. It must also be adjudicated how much a society invests in its people. It is not charity that made the Nordic countries prosperous. Rather they became wealthy through the power of generosity, creating institutions, their communities, and opportunities.

Luckily, Pakistan has one of the world's best traditions of philanthropy. Every year a considerable amount of money is donated to the world as Zakat, Sadaqah, welfare institutions, religious trusts and humanitarian activities. Citizens prove really generous during floods, earthquakes and other emergencies. Despite an excellent culture of philanthropy, the real challenge of Pakistan is to motivate people to give more, not just more — to give in a way that makes meaningful economics in the peace time. Making charity more than a gesture of kindness — moving from a one-off act of kindness to a long-term partner in the education, health, skills and innovation agenda. It can turn into a driving force of national development.

Charity should be made catalyst for economic growth. Schools, colleges, universities, technical education, scientific innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital literacy bring bigger return on investment in the long term than the short-term relief. Each scholarship granted, each vocational center established, every small business that gets the

funding, will help to build the economy's productive capacity.

The majority of universities and colleges are endowed by individuals and also enjoy public funding from all around the world. Similar traditions could be fostered in Pakistani universities. Endowment funds, program of gifts by alumni and community partnerships would not only remove financial difficulties for meritorious students, they would also enrich research capacity and encourage innovation. The graduates who are provided with assistance today, could be the scientist, entrepreneur or future policy maker.

Question is if someone wants to give but nothing is left to give after fulfilling his own expenditure then will he be deprived to give?. The answer lies in the quote by Steve Goodier: “Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love, or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give”. In short, not every charitable act involves giving financial aid, civic engagement and time, knowledge, and mentorship can yield the same transformative results.

The writer is a Professor of Economics and Chairperson of the Department of Sports Sciences at Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan. She can be reached at azrabatool@bzu.edu.pk.



Analysis

Dr Syeda Azra Batool

The Uniform and the Pen — Two Guardians of Society

The police and the press may appear to belong to two entirely different worlds, yet both have a profound connection with society. One protects citizens through the enforcement of law, while the other serves society by informing the public, highlighting problems and holding institutions accountable. In their own ways, both contribute to peace, security and social reform.

One carries a uniform; the other carries a pen.

Both institutions, however, are frequently criticised. The police are often portrayed as a harsh department whose personnel are sometimes accused of misconduct, corruption or misuse of authority. Journalism, too, carries the unfortunate stigma of yellow journalism, sensationalism and even blackmail. There may be individuals who justify such criticism, but it would be unfair to judge an entire institution by the actions of a few.

The real challenge is to distinguish between individuals and institutions. The importance of the police becomes most obvious when a citizen faces danger. In cases of theft, robbery, murder, kidnapping, violence, accidents or any threat to public safety, people ultimately turn to the police. Without an effective law-enforcement system, ordinary citizens would find it extremely difficult to feel secure in their homes, workplaces, markets and

on the roads.

The duties of a police officer are also unlike those of an ordinary profession. Police personnel can be called upon at any hour, on any day and under any circumstances. They perform duties during extreme weather, festivals and emergencies. They confront dangerous criminals, respond to violent incidents and sometimes put their own lives at risk to protect others.

Standing in the line of fire is not an easy responsibility.

Yet recognising the sacrifices of the police does not mean placing the department beyond criticism or accountability. Authority must always be accompanied by responsibility. A good police officer not only protects the law but also respects the dignity of the citizen. Complaints of misconduct or abuse of authority must be investigated so that the actions of a few do not damage the reputation of thousands who perform their duties honestly.

The same principle applies to journalism.

A responsible journalist is, in his own way, a guardian of society. He may not have a uniform or official authority, but he has the power of information, questions and the written word. Journalists often reach places where ordinary citizens hesitate

to go — accident sites, disaster zones, conflict areas and locations where criminal or powerful interests operate.

At times, reporting a truth can create serious difficulties. A story exposing a land mafia, drug network, criminal group or influential interest may invite pressure, threats or intimidation. Yet a professional journalist must remain committed to public interest.

But journalism, too, cannot be without limits. Freedom of the press is inseparable from responsibility. Criticism should be based on facts, allegations should be verified, and the viewpoint of the other side should be sought. Personal attacks, deliberate misinformation and using journalism for private gain cannot be defended in the name of press freedom.

The relationship between the police and the press should therefore be based neither on blind praise nor unnecessary hostility. A police officer should not regard every journalist's question as an attack, while a journalist should not treat every police action with suspicion.

Good policing deserves recognition,

just as wrongdoing deserves scrutiny. This balance is essential for public confidence. The police need the media to communicate their legitimate achievements and public-safety initiatives, while journalists need access to accurate information in order to report responsibly. Neither institution should seek the other's favour; both should seek the public interest.

There is no place for sycophancy, just as there is no justification for hostility without evidence.

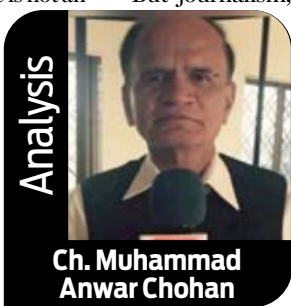
The police must remain within the boundaries of law, professional conduct and human dignity. Journalism must remain within the boundaries of truth, ethics, law and professional responsibility.

A society becomes stronger when its institutions do not see one another as rivals but as professionals performing different responsibilities for the same public.

The police strive to protect society from crime and disorder; journalism strives to keep society informed and its conscience awake.

The uniform and the pen therefore need not stand on opposite sides. If both are guided by integrity, responsibility and public service, they can become two powerful pillars of a safer, more informed and more just society.

The real strength of both institutions lies not merely in their authority, but in the public trust they earn through their conduct.



Analysis

Ch. Muhammad Anwar Chohan

Dream of political stability

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As militants attempt to regroup and to increase their violent tactics in KP, local communities have become very vocal about their fears. Protests have persisted for months since the Taliban's resurgence in Swat and the surrounding areas. Residents, often supported by social and political groups, have organised rallies, gatherings, and jirgas to express their concern at the re-emergence of militant groups and the rising arc of violence in their areas. They have also

been vocal about their distrust of the government and security forces, and have criticised their inability to ensure durable security. This growing disillusionment underscores the urgent need to adopt a more comprehensive approach to counter violence and public grievances.

Our ruling circles must broaden their political perspective to genuinely include peripheral political and rights movements, including those from Balochistan, KP, and Sindh, in the national discourse.

Many of the rights movements

have appeared willing to negotiate and work within the existing political framework if respectfully approached by a government that has genuine intentions. A serious, inclusive dialogue could pave the way for meaningful reforms and reduce discontent. The ruling elite's commitment to such an approach would signal a shift from superficial gestures to a more sustainable, participatory model of governance.

Given our rulers' assertion that Pakistan is now on the path of stability and economic growth,

there should be no hesitation on the government's part to engage dissenting voices from Balochistan and KP. Sadly, our history is witness to the fact that whenever Pakistan appears to stabilise, the arrogance of the power elites tends to rise. This pushes the country back onto a slippery slope. The post-9/11 economic growth, for example, eventually dissipated due to Gen Musharraf's misadventures in Balochistan and the creation of a judicial crisis. Power circles must rethink their approach.

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Zone-IV, Zone-II Whites Reach U-15 Cricket Semi-Finals

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-IV Whites and Zone-II Whites have qualified for the semi-finals of the Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after impressive victories in their respective group matches.

At KPI Ground, Zone-IV Whites defeated Zone-III Whites by 225 runs, completing victories in all their Group C matches. Batting first, Zone-IV scored 349 for seven in 40 overs, with Masood Ali producing a spectacular unbeaten 201 off his innings, including 24 boundaries and 10 sixes. Kamil Khan scored 49 and Huzaifa Tariq 47. Zone-III were dismissed for 121 in 23.4 overs, with Haris Khan and Turab Ali taking three wickets each for Zone-IV.

At KCCA Stadium, Zone-II Whites beat Zone-VII Whites by 109 runs to qualify from Group A. Zone-II posted 218 for seven, led by Aitizaz Khan's 83 and Muhammad Imam's 55. In reply, Zone-VII were bowled out for 109 in 27.1 overs, with slow left-arm spinner Hadi Baber taking four wickets for 26 runs.

The first semi-final between Zone-I and Zone-II Whites will be played on September 16, while Zone-IV face Zone-VI on September 17



Pakistan women's cricket team departs for Japan for Asian Games

ISLAMABAD, SEP 14 (APP):The Pakistan women's cricket team has departed from Dubai for Japan to participate in the Asian Games 2026. According to details, wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali was unable to travel with the squad due to her mother's illness.

Pakistan will field a 14-member women's cricket squad in the Asian Games.

Ishaq Dar, Natalie Baker discuss bilateral ties, regional situation

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regular engagement between Islamabad and Washington on issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Dar referred to the upcoming 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, saying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would lead the Pakistani delegation

to the session.

The meeting comes as Pakistan and the United States continue diplomatic engagement on bilateral cooperation and regional developments.

Both sides exchanged views on the current regional situation and discussed the importance of continued diplomatic contacts.

Pakistan's Military: A Potential Engine of High-Value Exports

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Pakistan could therefore develop an extended-deterrence doctrine under strict national command and control. Such a doctrine would make clear that its purpose is to prevent existential aggression, not facilitate adventurism or provide a license for offensive war. It would involve no transfer of nuclear weapons and no surrender of Pakistan's decision-making authority. Any strategic response would remain subject to Pakistan's sovereign leadership, rigorous safeguards and the gravest possible threshold.

This protective role could strengthen wider economic and

defense relationships. Countries benefiting from credible security cooperation are more likely to enter long-term arrangements for conventional weapons, air and missile defense, joint exercises, intelligence coordination, maintenance services and military training. Strategic deterrence would consequently serve as an umbrella beneath which lawful conventional-defense partnerships and industrial cooperation could grow.

Pakistan's most immediately exportable military asset may still be its human capital. Its armed forces have accumulated experience in conventional operations,

counterterrorism, mountain warfare, aviation, maritime security, engineering, logistics, disaster relief and peacekeeping. Pakistani personnel have served extensively in United Nations missions. Military academies and specialist schools can translate this experience into structured programs for partner countries.

Foreign officers already attend Pakistani institutions, but professional military education could be expanded into a coordinated service-export sector. Courses could cover staff planning, pilot instruction, naval operations, cybersecurity, military medicine, engineering and peacekeeping.

Mobile training teams and advisory missions could supplement instruction delivered inside Pakistan.

The economic benefits would extend far beyond the armed forces. Defense production supports engineers, technicians, software developers and skilled industrial workers. It can stimulate metallurgy, electronics, telecommunications, precision machining, aviation services and advanced materials. Military technologies can also generate civilian applications in transportation, agriculture, emergency response and communications.

Success will require dependable

quality, punctual delivery, warranties, documentation, intellectual-property protection and continuing customer support. Pakistan also needs transparent civilian laws, parliamentary oversight, end-user safeguards and anti-corruption standards. Weapons must not be supplied where there is a serious risk of unlawful aggression, terrorism or abuse against civilians.

Private companies and universities should be integrated into this national enterprise. A productive defense economy should generate civilian innovation and employment rather than remain a closed commercial domain. Its earnings should help finance education, research, infrastructure and broader industrial development.

Pakistan therefore has an opportunity to build something greater than a conventional arms-export business. It can offer a layered security ecosystem comprising strategic deterrence, combat aircraft, land systems, maritime platforms, drones, maintenance, training and joint production. Its nuclear capability can provide a defensive counterbalance at the highest level, while conventional exports and professional services address the practical requirements of partner states.

If managed responsibly, Pakistan's military ecosystem can protect the country, reinforce the lawful defense of its allies and become a formidable foreign-exchange engine. Its governing principle must remain unambiguous: strength exists to deter aggression and preserve peace, with force reserved for the last resort when Pakistan or an ally confronts a genuine existential threat.

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.

Security arrangements

ISLAMABAD: Heavy shipping containers arriving at Embassy Road for the roads blocking due to security reasons ahead of upcoming Jamaat-e-Islami, and PTI long march protests in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Araghchi to visit China for talks with Wang Yi amid US war

Reuters

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will visit Beijing this week and meet with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

The two men – who also met on the sidelines of the BRICS conference in Delhi last week – will hold talks on Wednesday, the ministry said, as Beijing seeks to mediate in Iran's months-long war with the United States.

China is a top economic partner of Iran, buying much of its oil output, and also an important diplomatic backer.

The talks between their foreign ministers come just one week before an expected trip by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Washington, where he



will meet President Donald Trump.

The war in Iran will be a closely watched topic at that meeting, among other thorny issues ranging from trade

to competition over artificial intelligence.

Report of Chinese help denied
Beijing refuted reports this week

that Chinese entities supplied Tehran with satellite images of a military base housing US troops in Jordan, before and after an Iranian strike killed three American soldiers.

"We firmly oppose groundless suspicion and accusations without evidence," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a regular news conference on Monday.

The reports by the Wall Street Journal threaten to deepen tensions between Washington and Beijing ahead of the expected Trump-Xi meeting next week.

Trump has warned Beijing not to sell weapons to Iran, and Washington sanctioned three China-based satellite companies in May for enabling Iran's military operations.

Dar reaffirms Pakistan's continued support for Lebanon's sovereignty

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

He expressed the desire to further strengthen bilateral ties, including cooperation in law enforcement and people-to-people contacts.

The DPM/FM received Interior Minister of Lebanon Ahmad Al-Hajjar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The DPM/FM was joined by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, and senior MoFA officers, the Foreign Office



Spokesperson said in a press release.

The two ministers discussed

Pakistan-Lebanon relations and law-enforcement cooperation and welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons as an important milestone in bilateral legal cooperation.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest.

Minister Al-Hajjar appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability and congratulated Pakistan on the signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

Both expressed desire to further expanding bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Government Allows Export of 200,000 Tonnes of Sugar

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain has directed sugar mills to ensure timely payments to sugarcane growers while stressing that farmers' interests remain a government priority.

Chairing a high-level meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board, the minister reviewed the country's sugar supply, available stocks and domestic requirements. Representatives of all provinces, farmers and the Sugar Mills Association participated in the meeting and discussed the situation from the perspectives of consumers, growers and the sugar industry.

After reviewing available data and domestic requirements, the meeting decided to allow the export of 200,000



tonnes of sugar.

Rana Tanveer said the export decision was taken after carefully assessing domestic needs

and available stocks, adding that the government would continue monitoring the market to ensure sufficient

supplies for consumers. He emphasized the need to maintain a balance between the interests of farmers and

the sugar industry and called for greater coordination among federal and provincial authorities, growers and millers.

PM reiterates federal government's resolve to continue work for KP's development, people's welfare



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated the federal government's resolve to continue working for the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the welfare of its people.

He was talking to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, who called on him at the Prime Minister House.

During the meeting, they discussed

matters relating to law and order and the overall political situation in the country.

The meeting also stressed the need to further promoting harmony between the provincial and federal governments and address public issues in the province.

Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Engineer Ameer Muqam and Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah were also present.

Pakistan, Canada Agree to Accelerate Investment Pact, Expand Trade Cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Canada have agreed to accelerate negotiations on the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) and expand bilateral cooperation in agriculture, mining, clean energy, aviation and value-added industries.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Tarik Ali Khan at the Ministry of Commerce. Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul and senior officials also attended.

Both sides agreed that the next round of FIPA negotiations, expected in the first week of October, would focus on resolving outstanding issues and advancing the agreement. The Canadian High Commissioner described FIPA as a key step towards attracting investment by providing greater legal protection and dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Minister Jam Kamal assured Canada of Pakistan's full support and



directed officials to hold preparatory consultations. He said both countries were ambitious about establishing a strong framework for long-term economic cooperation.

The meeting also explored opportunities in renewable energy, mining, agriculture, food processing and aviation. Both sides discussed joint ventures in dairy, canola processing, fruit concentrates and other value-added sectors to boost exports.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's strategic location and connectivity with China, Central Asia and the Middle East as opportunities for Canadian businesses. Both sides agreed to facilitate business delegations and pursue tangible outcomes from upcoming negotiations.

New AJK President to be elected on September 24

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The new president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) will be elected on September 24, AJK Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal announced on Tuesday.

Unveiling the election schedule at a press conference, the Chief Election Commissioner said candidates would submit nomination papers on September 19 from 10am to noon, with scrutiny to be conducted the same day. The final list of candidates will be issued on September 23.

Candidates can withdraw their

nomination papers until 11:30am on September 23. Polling will take place at the AJK Assembly Secretariat on September 24 from 10am to 1pm. Counting of votes and announcement of results will follow on the same day.

Justice (retd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal said the election would be conducted on the basis of a majority vote. Senior Member Khawaja Muhammad Ahsan and Member Syed Nazir-ul-Hassan Gilani also accompanied him during the announcement.

The election schedule formally sets the process for choosing AJK's next president.

AJK PM Directs IT Board to Enhance Public Service Delivery Through Technology

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Ifikhar Gilani directed the Information Technology Board to leverage technology for transparent, efficient and timely government service delivery. Chairing an IT Board meeting in Muzaffarabad, he emphasized that public service remained the government's core focus and stressed using modern technology to simplify official procedures for citizens.

He announced the establishment of a Complaint Cell to ensure timely grievance redressal and improve institutional performance, directing offi-

cials to develop an effective, transparent mechanism for registering, monitoring and resolving complaints so citizens can track them without unnecessary visits to government offices.

Secretary IT and Information Muhammad Rashid Hanif briefed the Prime Minister on ongoing initiatives, including IT Excellence Centres, computerization of land records, the One Window Operation, and the proposed Complaints Cell.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Sardar Adnan Khurshid, Secretary IT and Information Muhammad Rashid Hanif, Deputy Secretary Malik Hamid Siddique, and other concerned officers.