

CM Maryam Nawaz’s ‘Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar’ Project Enters UN Scroll of Honour

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif’s flagship project, ‘Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar’, has been selected for another prestigious international award and is among the five most successful housing programmes in the world.

The ‘Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar’ programme has been selected for the United Nations Scroll of Honour Award, with UN-Habitat announcing the conferment of the award in recognition of the programme’s efforts to provide safe and adequate housing opportunities to low-income families.

The programme was selected following a competitive and comprehensive review of housing projects being implemented across the world. The award will be presented to ‘Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar’ at the global World Habitat Day event on October 5.

The UN Scroll of Honour Award



ceremony will be held next month in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, while special seminars and workshops on housing and urban development will be held in Muscat from October 6 to 8.

Only five programmes from around the world are selected for the UN Scroll of Honour Award each year.

Under the ‘Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar’ programme, loans worth Rs260 billion have been disbursed for the construction of more than 200,000 houses. The programme also has the distinction of being Pakistan’s largest and first fully digital housing finance scheme.

In the first phase, loans exceeding Rs196 billion were disbursed for 134,439 houses, while in the second phase, loans of more than Rs62 billion were provided for 65,000 houses.

Around 125,000 families have already moved into houses constructed under the ‘Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar’ programme.

Condolences

ISLAMABAD: Dr Musadik Malik meets Nepalese Ambassador Rita Dhital to convey Pakistan’s condolences and discuss support for Nepal’s ongoing relief and recovery efforts.



Photo: PID

Grand Welcome for Newly Elected AJK Lawmaker Maryam Kashmiri in Kotla

Bureau Report

KOTLA: Newly elected AJK Assembly Member Maryam Kashmiri received an enthusiastic welcome across Constituency Kotla, with receptions at multiple locations turning into large public gatherings. PML-N workers and residents greeted her with flower petals, drumbeats and slogans in her native Union Council Rajpian.

Grand receptions followed at Kahori Bridge, Syedna Siddique Akbar Chowk, and Dhora Battal Bazaar, organized by local PML-N leaders including Abdul Ghafoor Abbasi and Syed Waqar Kazmi. A packed gathering in her native village Riyali drew prominent local figures, followed by a luncheon



at Barkhana attended by PML-N Women’s Wing members and residents.

Addressing the crowds, Kashmiri thanked constituents for their warmth and pledged to prioritize justice, education, public order and women’s empowerment. She expressed gratitude to PML-N leadership, including Nawaz Sharif, PM Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, and AJK’s Prime Minister and party president, for entrusting a grassroots worker with a reserved Assembly seat. Calling the position both an honour and responsibility, she vowed to work toward Kotla’s development and resolving public issues, pledging that “serving the people will remain my foremost priority.”

Gujranwala Commissioner Lauds Kharian Press Club for Responsible Journalism

Anwer Chohan

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Muhammad Ali, Gujrat Deputy Commissioner Noor-ul-Ain Qureshi and Kharian Assistant Commissioner Ahmed Sher Gondal visited Kharian Press Club, where they were welcomed by President Syed Tanveer Naqvi, General Secretary Aftab Ahmed Nazar and other office-bearers. Commissioner Ali praised the club’s unique status and local journalists’ role in promoting positive, responsible reporting, calling journalism a vital bridge between the public and administration. He urged journalists to prioritize fact-based coverage and commended the club’s arrangements, saying an active press club fosters constructive engagement



in society.

Naqvi thanked the officials for their visit and affirmed the club’s commitment to impartial journalism centered on public issues, while also communicating the administration’s welfare initiatives to citizens. Nazar called the visit an honour for the journalistic community, noting the club’s role in highlighting public concerns and valuing its liaison with the administration.

The deputy and assistant commissioners also interacted with journalists, stressing responsible journalism. Officials toured the club’s facilities before concluding the visit, with the club reaffirming its commitment to strengthening cooperation with the administration.

CM Punjab condemns drone attack near Makkah

Bureau Report

LAHORE,: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has strongly condemned the drone attack in Makkah, terming the incident deeply distressing.

In a statement, she said the pain caused by an attack at a sacred place like Makkah was unbearable for Muslims across the world.

“Makkah holds a place of profound love and reverence in the hearts of every Muslim,” the chief minister said, expressing deep sorrow over the incident.

SCO Needs Stronger Mechanism to Counter Terrorism: Masood Khan

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani Ambassador Sardar Masood Khan said the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) must build stronger regional mechanisms to counter terrorism, especially threats from Afghanistan, calling it a shared challenge for Pakistan, China, Russia and Central Asian states. Discussing the recent SCO meeting hosted by Pakistan, he called the joint condemnation of strikes against Iran significant, noting India joined such a statement for the first time. He described the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) as an appropriate forum for regional security concerns.

Khan stressed Pakistan remains among terrorism’s principal victims, facing continued attacks in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said Afghanistan has remained a standing SCO agenda item since 2001, with China concerned about militants operating from its territory and Russia wary of terrorism and narcotics spreading toward Central Asia and Europe. He noted RATS identifies terrorism, separatism and extremism as “three evils” but said the SCO lacks adequate mechanisms to counter them.

On defence ties, Khan said Pakistan supported Saudi Arabia with JF-17s and drones, though triggers for the Pakistan-Saudi-Türkiye mutual defence pact remain undefined.



Hyderabad Reviews Preparations for September 21–27 Polio Campaign

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi



HYDERABAD: A Divisional Task Force meeting chaired by Divisional Commissioner Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi reviewed preparations for the seven-day SNID polio campaign set for September 21–27. DIG Tariq Razzaq Dharejo joined via video link along with health officials, WHO representatives, and deputy commissioners and SSPs from all nine districts.

WHO officials reported about 93 percent readiness, with training to be completed by Friday and core planning finished across all districts, though micro-plans needed improvement. Abbasi noted Hyderabad’s environmental samples had turned negative after four months but flagged recent positive samples as concerning, directing special focus on Hyderabad and Sujawal. He stressed proper vaccination procedures, drop quality, mobile team monitoring, and follow-up on 330 non-responsive cases, plus identifying malnutrition-affected families for health support.

DIG Dharejo called for security agency involvement in sensitive areas, migrant populations and the coastal belt, directing extra personnel to Tando Muhammad Khan, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal and monitoring of new settlements in Hyderabad and Jamshoro. Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon said specific union councils were prioritized to reverse the positive samples, with all deputy commissioners pledging full implementation.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s democratic ideology still alive, say PPP veterans

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK,: Veteran Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) workers Haji Muhammad Maskin Farooqi, Muhammad Umair and Haji Noor Muhammad alias Gulshan have said that the democratic ideology of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is still alive and they remain committed to his political vision.

Talking to the media, they said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto laid a strong foundation for the democratic system in Pakistan by giving the country the Constitution of 1973, while Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto rendered historic services for the restoration of democracy, protection of people’s rights and empowerment of women.

Haji Muhammad Maskin Farooqi, a veteran PPP worker from Pindi Gheb, said Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto waged a historic struggle for the restoration of democracy and the rights of the people. He said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto sacrificed their lives for the supremacy of democracy.



Rawalpindi Hotels Reject Forced Closure Amid Protest Concerns: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Inter-City Hotel Association President Sheikh Abdul Waheed has rejected any move to forcibly close Rawalpindi hotels, declaring businesses will not shut down under any circumstances. He urged police and the district administration to fulfill their own responsibilities rather than target hotels, stressing the industry has no political affiliation and no connection to any protest, existing solely to provide accommodation and services to visitors.

Questioning the proposed September 19 closure, he asked why hotels and business centers in Islamabad, where protests are reportedly headed, face no similar restrictions, adding that Rawalpindi’s traders should not repeatedly bear the economic burden.

Waheed said the industry is ready to fully cooperate with government and law-enforcement authorities, including refusing accommodation where legally required, but will not accept business closures as a solution. He noted all hotels use the Hotel Eye System linked to IGP Punjab, Special Branch and Rawalpindi Police, with guest data accessible to police, who can also inspect rooms under the law when needed. He urged authorities to keep the industry out of political matters while it continues lawful cooperation.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:28 am
Zohr 12:03 pm
Asr 4:28 pm
Maghrib 6:13 pm
Isha 7:37 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Ayaz calls for stronger parliamentary action to address climate change

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday called for stronger parliamentary leadership, democratic accountability and international cooperation to effectively address the growing challenges posed by climate change.

Addressing the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, Ayaz Sadiq also referred, without naming any country or delegation, to issues relating to sudden flows of water in rivers and the withholding of water, highlighting the broader implications of water-related challenges in the context of climate change.

While Ayaz Sadiq was addressing, members of the Indian delegation started to create disorderliness during the speech.

The chair intervened and called for decorum and order so that the speech could continue. Even after some time, The Jamican Speaker and host of the meeting has also grabbed a mic from a member of Indian delegation while he was talking. This made Indian delegation a laughing stock in the hall.

Failed SOEs Cost Pakistan Rs832bn in 2024-25; Privatisation Vital: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, said state-owned enterprise (SOE) losses reflect a deep structural crisis requiring urgent reform. Referencing a September 14 Cabinet Committee on SOEs meeting chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, he noted profitable SOEs earned Rs423.3 billion during July-December 2025 while loss-making entities lost Rs342.8 billion, with total SOE losses reaching Rs832.8 billion in FY2024-25 and 11 SOEs alone draining Rs705 billion.

He said cumulative losses of failed commercial SOEs have surpassed Rs6.5 trillion as of December 2025, with daily losses now reaching Rs2.5-3 billion, up from Rs40-90 billion annually in the 2000s. Government support since then

has exceeded Rs10-12 trillion, while SOE debt has grown 38-fold to Rs9.57 trillion, including Rs2.16 trillion in sovereign guarantees and over Rs2.03 trillion in unfunded pension liabilities.

Hussain attributed over 85% of long-term losses to power sector DISCOs, alongside struggling entities like NHA, PIA, Pakistan Railways and Pakistan Steel Mills, the latter still incurring costs despite closing in 2015. He cited PIA's December 2025 privatisation as a cautionary example, noting hundreds of billions in legacy debt had to be absorbed by a state-backed holding company to make it viable for buyers.

He warned the current Rs80.5 billion net surplus depends heavily on a few profitable entities like oil, gas and financial firms subsidizing failing ones, while the public endures poor services. Calling the Finance Division's Central Monitoring Unit a positive step, he urged the government to pursue transparent privatisation and structural reforms per PM Shehbaz Sharif's directives.



Group photo

KARACHI: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari, MNA, in a group photograph with the delegation of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), led by Representative and Country Director WFP Pakistan Ms. Anita Hirsch, following their meeting.



GCWUF and NTU Sign MoU to Strengthen Academic and Research Collaboration

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: GC Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) and National Textile University (NTU) signed an MoU to promote collaboration in entrepreneurship, research and fashion design.

The agreement was signed by GCWUF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.) and NTU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood. Both called the partnership an important step toward strengthening institutional ties and creating meaningful academic and professional opportunities. Director External Linkages GCWUF Prof. Dr. Ayesha Sameen and Director ORIC NTU Dr. Ahsan Nazir signed as co-signatories. The ceremony was held at GCWUF.

Under the MoU, both universities will



facilitate joint research, academic exchange, and professional development for students and faculty. The collaboration will also encourage innovation, knowledge sharing

and creative initiatives in areas of mutual interest.

Senior officials from both universities attended the ceremony.

NUML Commemorates Defence and Martyrs Day with Seminar on National Unity and Youth Role

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) organized a seminar to commemorate Defence and Martyrs Day, highlighting sacrifices of Pakistan's forces and the role of national unity and youth in progress.

Distinguished poet and educationist Professor Jalil Aali and Dr. Arshad Mehmood Nashad, Head of Urdu Department, AIOW, were guest speakers. Rector NUML Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mehmood Kayani along with deans, directors, faculty and students attended.



Dr. Nashad said Pakistan is the outcome of long struggle and sacri-

fices, and despite challenges, unity and adherence to forefathers' values will lead to success. He stressed preserving national identity and heritage.

Prof. Jalil Aali highlighted youth as the most dynamic segment, urging them to uphold unity, responsibility and patriotism through knowledge and character.

Rector Kayani said youth are Pakistan's future and must not lose hope, adding that spirit of sacrifice for motherland will never shake.

A documentary tribute to martyrs was screened. The event concluded with presentation of souvenirs and a group photo.

Aaqib Javed Outlines Youth Development Pathway During Faisalabad U-17 Camp Visit



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Director High Performance Aaqib Javed visited the Under-17 Skills Development Camp in Faisalabad, where he met coaches and players and spoke on the 'Straight Drive with Salman Butt' show.

He said Pakistan's cricket structure comprises four tiers: Under-15, Under-17, Under-19 and First-Class. The top 30 players from the Under-15 tournament will receive specialized training in Sialkot.

Aaqib stressed that training should go beyond batting and bowling. Under-15 and Under-17 players will undergo Level 1 coaching courses to understand technique, balance and fundamentals from an early age. He said mental conditioning and psychology will be integrated into development programs at Under-15 and Under-17 levels, while language courses will also be provided to overcome language barriers.

At Under-19 level, coaching, training and psychology will be elevated to Level 2. The PCB will support top players at every stage from Under-15 to Under-19. A clear pathway has been established from school cricket to regional level, leading to First-Class and Grade-II cricket after Under-19.

Awaam Pakistan Party Rejects Proposal for Smart Lockdown and Transport Restrictions



News Desk

KARACHI: Provincial President of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan, Syed Aman Shah, has strongly reacted to proposals for a smart lockdown and restrictions on transportation, saying the country is already facing inflation, unemployment and serious economic difficulties.

He said restricting business and economic activities for three days a week would paralyze the country and aggravate hardships, primarily affecting ordinary citizens, daily-wage earners and workers. If a worker cannot work even for one day, his household budget is affected, he noted.

Shah said the party rejects such measures and urged the government to avoid policies that slow down employment, businesses, industry, trade and transportation. Strengthening the economy requires facilitating business activities, creating investment opportunities and providing better employment, he said.

He added that rising prices of electricity, petrol, gas and essential commodities have already severely hit purchasing power. If the government wants to provide relief, it should reduce unnecessary expenditures, control inflation and increase jobs rather than restricting mobility.

He stressed that emergency decisions must consider public interest, ground realities and economic consequences, and require consultation with workers, transporters, shopkeepers and small businesses.

Khurram Jaffrani Visits Aaghosh Homes, Pledges Support for Special Orphan Girls' Home



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Renowned philanthropist and CEO of Adpulse IMC Pvt Ltd, Khurram Jaffrani, visited Aaghosh Homes Trust and pledged support for its proposed dedicated home for orphan girls with physical and intellectual disabilities.

He was received by Secretary General Muhammad Jazib and Trustees Shakeel Baig and Manzar Naqvi. President Shagufta Saba briefed him about the Trust's humanitarian services providing shelter, food, healthcare and dignity to abandoned elderly women, and highlighted the urgent need for a purpose-built home for special girls requiring lifelong care and rehabilitation.

During a detailed tour, Jaffrani met elderly resident mothers and special girls, interacted warmly, and distributed gifts to all residents. He showed special affection for a one-and-a-half-year-old baby girl, daughter of a young resident with intellectual disability.

Moved by the Trust's work, Jaffrani assured regular visits and support for establishing the specialized facility offering shelter, medical care, therapy, education and protection.

Aaghosh Trust, serving shelterless mothers for nearly 25 years, thanked him for his compassion and called for philanthropists and corporate support to turn the vision into reality.

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Listening to the Bar: Words Must Now Meet Action

The meeting between Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and delegations of lawyers from Layyah, Mianwali and Piplan is, on its face, a routine courtesy call — bar representatives raising local grievances, a minister offering reassurance. Yet such meetings carry weight beyond their modest scale. They are a reminder that the health of Pakistan’s justice system depends not only on judges and legislation, but on the working conditions and professional standing of the lawyers who sustain it every day, often in under-resourced district courts far from the spotlight of Islamabad or Lahore.

Senator Tarar’s acknowledgment that lawyers play an important role in promoting the rule of law and ensuring access to justice is not controversial — it is self-evident. Lawyers are the first point of contact for ordinary citizens seeking redress, and in smaller districts like Piplan or Layyah, the bar often functions as the backbone of local legal infrastructure. When district bar associations raise concerns, they are usually speaking not for an elite few but for hundreds of practitioners navigating overburdened courts, delayed case disposal, inadequate facilities and, in many cases, financial precarity.

What matters now is what follows the meeting. Pakistan’s legal fraternity has, for years, voiced recurring concerns: judicial vacancies, poor courtroom infrastructure in smaller cities, delays in case disposal, and the absence of adequate welfare mechanisms for lawyers, particularly those practicing outside major urban centers. A minister’s assurance that “the government is taking all possible measures” is welcome, but it is also a familiar refrain — one that risks becoming ritual unless paired with a transparent, time-bound follow-up.

If this meeting is to mean something beyond a courtesy photograph, the Ministry of Law and Justice should consider publishing a clear record of the issues raised by each delegation, along with a timeline for addressing them. Bar councils, for their part, should press for follow-up engagement rather than treating such meetings as an endpoint.

Access to justice is not built through periodic meetings alone; it is built through sustained reform — in court infrastructure, judicial appointments, and the everyday working conditions of the profession. The Layyah, Mianwali and Piplan delegations deserve more than a sympathetic hearing. They deserve visible, measurable follow-through. Anything less reduces an important institutional dialogue to a formality.

Pakistan: Merit in Theory, Patronage in Reality

Nations do not rise simply because they are blessed with resources or a favorable location. They rise because they commit, in practice and not just in principle, to fairness and transparency. Merit is the foundation of that commitment — a system in which people advance because of ability, character and effort, not connections. As a constitutional promise, it means every citizen deserves an equal chance to compete. Where it takes hold, it drives innovation, rewards excellence and gives people a reason to invest in their own education and skills.

Germany, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and, more recently, China all illustrate what disciplined, merit-driven governance can achieve. Pakistan, by contrast, has never lacked talent — yet it keeps falling short, because merit is routinely traded away for favoritism, family ties and outright corruption. Even a sitting federal interior minister has described the governance system as having effectively broken down, no longer equipped to meet the country’s challenges.

This is not for lack of legal grounding. The Constitution itself promises equal treatment: Article 25 guarantees equality before the law, and Article 27 bars discrimination in public appointments. But across politics, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, the economy and education, the reality diverges sharply from that promise. Public Service Commissions at both federal and provincial levels were designed as neutral, merit-based recruiters — yet political interference has become business as usual within them.

What has taken hold instead is a system where jobs, opportunities, contracts and social standing flow from loyalty, wealth and family networks rather than competence or integrity.

This is no longer just an administrative flaw; it has become a structural weakness eating into the state’s political, social and economic foundations. The IMF’s 2025 governance diagnostic for Pakistan pointed to exactly this: persistent corruption risks, weak institutions, scattered oversight, uneven accountability and a fragile rule of law — all of it corroding both economic performance and public confidence.

Nowhere is this more visible than in politics itself, where dynastic and family-based control of major parties keeps power concentrated in a narrow set of hands. Jobs, contracts, transfers and development projects too often become currency for rewarding political loyalty rather than tools for public benefit, while bureaucratic decisions bend to political pressure. Accountability, meanwhile, has long been applied selectively — a pattern that only deepens public distrust in institutions meant to enforce it.

The social costs are just as severe. When outcomes depend on connections rather than merit, the idea that hard work and education can lift someone up starts to collapse. A qualified young person with real skills can still lose out to someone with the right family name or political backing. The result is a demoralized generation, rising brain drain, and in some cases a drift toward radicalization — a generation watching influence consistently beat preparation. Women and religious minorities, who often lack access to these same networks, bear an even heavier share of this burden.

The economy tells a similar story. Pakistan’s troubles run deeper than a simple shortage of money; they stem from institutional weakness born of favoritism, showing up as low investment, a narrow industrial base, mounting debt, poverty, unemployment, inflation and lopsided distribution of resources. Real improvement would require steady policy, export growth,

investment in people, tax reform, industrial modernization and leaner government spending — all backed by institutions capable of protecting stability. Instead, a culture of demerit and weak accountability has left these priorities largely unaddressed.

Recruitment bodies illustrate the decay starkly. Agencies such as the Sindh Public Service Commission have become emblematic of institutional breakdown — marred by leaked papers, abruptly cancelled exams, rigged interview scores, fraudulent domicile claims and entrenched favoritism. State-owned enterprises tell a parallel story: bodies meant to hire on competence instead often hire on connections, turning constitutionally mandated merit institutions into engines of dysfunction that shut out qualified young people and hobble governance, especially in Sindh.

The experience of Germany, Japan, China and the United States offers a real template — not for blind imitation, but for adaptation. These countries built durable prosperity on merit, professionalism, transparency and institutional accountability. Pakistan can draw on those lessons while shaping them to its own political and social realities: competitive recruitment, professional administration, real checks and balances, and independent accountability mechanisms.

The ultimate goal should be a society where success is earned through ability, education, honesty and effort — not birth, connections or bribery. When merit genuinely anchors public appointments, corruption loses its grip, institutions gain independence, and public resources are handled honestly. Eliminating the culture of demerit is not a bureaucratic tweak; it is a foundational requirement for building a modern, democratic and just Pakistan — one where opportunity is decided by competition and oversight, not by who someone knows.

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Analysis
Zahid Karim

Weaponizing Space Endangers the World—and America Itself

The United States’ acknowledgment that it has deployed weapons in orbit should provoke international alarm and renewed diplomatic action. Space is indispensable to modern life, supporting navigation, communications, weather forecasting, scientific research, and essential infrastructure. Extending military confrontation into this environment exposes humanity to consequences beyond the control of any single government. The immediate challenge is to prevent this disclosure from becoming an invitation to further deployments and instead make it the starting point for a comprehensive international agreement against space weaponization.

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink confirmed on September 14 that America possesses “on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action.” Washington describes these capabilities as protective. Yet an assurance of defensive intent cannot determine how rival governments respond. Weapons presented as safeguards by one country may become the justification for counter-measures elsewhere. The danger lies in this accelerating cycle: each deployment encourages another, while every participant insists that responsibility rests with someone else.

China warned against turning outer space into a battlefield, while Russia called for its demilitarization. Their

objections deserve consideration alongside scrutiny of their own military activities. No government can credibly demand restraint while exempting itself. Equally, Washington cannot resolve the dangers created by rival capabilities simply by expanding its own. The relevant question is whether these choices produce lasting security or establish an increasingly unstable environment in which suspicion, secrecy, and preparations for conflict reinforce one another.

The capacity to destroy satellites is already established. The United States, Russia, China, and India have demonstrated destructive anti-satellite capabilities. China destroyed its Fengyun-1C weather satellite in 2007; the United States intercepted USA-193 in 2008; India conducted Mission Shakti in 2019; and Russia destroyed Cosmos-1408 in 2021. These demonstrations make clear that threats to orbital infrastructure are neither imaginary nor confined to one country. They also show why allowing such competition to expand carries serious consequences.

The potential for proliferation extends further. Missile development, satellite launches, tracking systems, and spacecraft operations provide foundations that countries can draw upon in developing military space capabilities. Iran’s

ability to launch satellites illustrates why the discussion cannot stop with the four countries that have demonstrated destructive interceptions. Launch capability does not automatically establish an operational anti-satellite weapon: targeting and interception require additional capabilities. Nevertheless, the spread of relevant expertise increases the importance of restraint before further governments commit to weapon development.

Nor does every attack require physically destroying a satellite. Jamming, cyber operations, directed-energy systems, and spacecraft operating near other satellites can threaten communications and other orbital functions.

The Secure World Foundation’s 2026 assessment examines counter-space developments in thirteen countries: the United States, Russia, China, India, Australia, France, Germany, Iran, Israel, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. Their capabilities and stages of development vary, but the breadth of these programmes demonstrates that the danger extends well beyond the four countries that have demonstrated destructive satellite interceptions. Disruption need not produce an explosion to cause serious harm: interference with navigation, communications, or timing signals can expose civilian

infrastructure to the consequences of military confrontation.

Destructive attacks add the enduring danger of debris. Fragments can threaten other spacecraft, including those belonging to countries uninvolved in the original confrontation. Russia’s 2021 test endangered International Space Station crews, according to NASA. Such consequences undermine the idea that an orbital engagement can always remain limited to its intended target. Depending on altitude and other conditions, debris can persist, spread risks, and complicate future operations long after the political dispute that caused it has changed.

The civilian implications are substantial. Navigation, emergency response, transport, telecommunications, and financial networks use satellite services or satellite-derived timing. Not every internet connection passes through orbit, but disruptions to these supporting functions can affect people far beyond the immediate theatre of conflict. A damaged military asset and a disrupted civilian service may be linked through shared infrastructure. The public therefore has a direct interest in decisions too often discussed exclusively through the language of deterrence, military advantage, and national prestige.

America has compelling reasons to prevent this escalation. Its substantial investment in space systems creates advantages, but also assets requiring protection. Countries with fewer satel

Continued on Page 7



Analysis
Qamar Bashir



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

Rabi ul-Awal: A Season of Love for the Beloved ﷺ

Rabi ul-Awal, the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar, holds profound spiritual significance for Muslims worldwide. This sacred month marks the birth of Prophet Muhammad, the most beloved figure in Islam, whose life and teachings continue to inspire billions of adherents across centuries and continents. The celebration of Rabi ul-Awal transcends mere commemoration; it represents a season of profound love, reflection, and spiritual renewal for the Muslim ummah. The month invites believers to reconnect with the essential teachings of the Prophet, to emulate his exemplary character, and to strengthen their commitment to Islamic principles.

The birth of Prophet Muhammad, known as Mawlid al-Nabi, occurred on the twelfth of Rabi ul-Awal in the year 571 CE in Mecca. This date marks not merely a personal anniversary but a pivotal moment in human history when, according to Islamic belief, Allah sent His final messenger to guide humanity toward righteousness and salvation. The Prophet’s birth is celebrated across the Muslim world during Rabi ul-Awal, transforming the entire month into a period of spiritual heightened awareness and devotional practice. Many Islamic scholars emphasize that the significance of Rabi ul-Awal extends beyond the biographical details of the Prophet’s birth to encompass the broader message of divine guidance that he brought to mankind. The month serves as an annual reminder of the Prophet’s mission to establish justice as the foundations of human society.

The Prophet Muhammad’s (P. B. U. H) life was marked by extraordinary challenges

and remarkable achievements. Born into the Quraysh tribe of Mecca, he received his first revelation at the age of forty from the Angel Gabriel in the cave of Hira. Throughout his twenty-three-year prophetic mission, he faced fierce opposition from the ruling elite of Mecca, endured personal hardships, lost beloved family members, and yet maintained unwavering commitment to his divine calling. The Prophet’s (P. B. U. H) perseverance, compassion, and wisdom became the model for Islamic conduct and ethics. His teachings addressed not only religious matters but also social justice, family relations, commerce, governance, and environmental stewardship. Rabi ul-Awal, therefore, becomes an opportunity for Muslims to reflect upon these comprehensive teachings and to consider how they can incorporate Prophetic wisdom into their contemporary lives.

In Islamic tradition, love for the Prophet (P. B. U. H) occupies a central place in religious faith and spiritual development. The Quran itself instructs believers to follow the Prophet and emphasizes his role as the final messenger and seal of all prophets. The concept of loving the Prophet is not merely emotional but foundational to Islamic belief; it represents a commitment to follow his Sunnah, or practiced example, and to embody the values he exemplified. During Rabi ul-Awal, this theological principle transforms into lived practice as Muslims worldwide engage in various forms of commemoration and spiritual activities.

The expression of love for the Prophet (P. B. U. H) takes numerous forms across Muslim communities. In many regions, believers gather in masjids and community centers to listen to

Continued on Page 7



Analysis
Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

DG ISPR says Makkah defence intended for collective deterrence

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that the Makkah Defence Alliance — a tripartite agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye — has no regional aspirations and it is intended for collective deterrence.

The military spokesperson made the remarks during an interview on Al Arabiya English's programme 'Global News Today', during a conversation with the host, Tom Burges Watson. During the show, aired during the early hours of Wednesday, Lt Gen Chaudhry was asked about Pakistan's commitments under the agreement. Director General Inter-Services Public Relations, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has said that Pakistan is committed to regional peace and stability and will continue its efforts for a negotiated and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

He said Pakistan is playing the role of an objective and honest broker in efforts to promote peace between Iran and the United States, owing to its longstanding relations with both countries.

He said Pakistan's leadership, both



political and military, has been reaching out to all parties to help prevent the situation from escalating and to encourage a negotiated outcome.

The DG ISPR said Pakistan has no vested interest in the Iran-related dispute and its sole objective is to prevent the conflict from spiralling horizontally or vertically.

Answering a question, he said Pakistan's relations with the United States, Iran, China and other countries are independent and based on mutual

benefit, adding that Islamabad seeks to enhance areas of convergence while managing differences.

On the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia-Turkiye defence agreement, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said it formalises decades-old strategic relationships among the three countries. He said the agreement is defensive in nature and based on collective deterrence, with no offensive or aggressive element.

He said the agreement is complementary to the three countries' existing rela-

tions with other countries and alliances and is aimed at maintaining regional peace and stability.

The DG ISPR said the three countries can consider new partners in the future, provided they share a vision of regional peace, stability, security, non-aggression, non-interference and collective deterrence.

On Pakistan-India relations, he said military conflict between two neighbouring nuclear-armed countries is not an option and called for communication and engagement on the basis of equality, mutual respect, sovereignty and established international norms.

Regarding Afghanistan, the DG ISPR said Pakistan's objective is to ensure that there is no terrorism or interference emanating from Afghan territory. He said terrorist groups are operating from Afghanistan and using the space there for recruitment, training, arming and launching attacks inside Pakistan.

He said Pakistan reserves its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and will continue taking necessary measures to protect the lives, honour and property of its citizens. The DG ISPR said Pakistan will continue its counter-terrorism efforts, which have been ongoing for the past two decades.

Palestinian Flag Raised at Newham Town Hall in Solidarity Ceremony

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

The Palestinian flag was raised at Newham Town Hall during a ceremony attended by Newham Mayor Forhad Hussain and Palestinian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Husam Zomlot, marking solidarity with the Palestinian people amid the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. James Asser MP for West Ham and Beckton, council staff, local councillors and representatives from various political parties also attended.

Mayor Hussain offered condolences to Ambassador Zomlot over the loss of family members, including seven-year-old Sidra, and said the flag was

raised "with pride" to honour Palestinian identity and rights. He welcomed the Labour Government's recent steps on the issue and pledged to keep advocating for lasting peace, while reaffirming Newham's stance against Islamophobia, antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

Ambassador Zomlot thanked Newham for its solidarity, calling it a "uniquely diverse part of London," and stressed the importance of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank knowing they have not been forgotten.

James Asser MP described Newham as "the world in a single borough," highlighting its tradition of supporting



communities worldwide. The event brought together civic, diplomatic and community representatives to express

solidarity and draw attention to the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza and the Palestinian territories.

Russian Ambassador Pledges Increased Scholarships for Pakistani Youth

Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert P. Khorve pledged to expand scholarships for Pakistani students proficient in Russian, offering opportunities for higher education, research, training and employment in Russia. Addressing a certificate distribution ceremony for the Russian Language Course at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), he said educational cooperation could strengthen bilateral ties, calling language promotion an effective way to bring the two countries' peoples and institutions closer.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said AIOU is fostering Pakistan-Russia relations through language and cultural promotion, describing graduates as potential educational and cultural ambassadors. He noted the university also offers Turkish and Japanese courses, aiming to prepare students for global educational and



professional opportunities beyond mere degrees.

Registrar Raja Umer Younis announced the ceremony marked graduation of the ninth and tenth batches of the three-month Russian course,

with the eleventh and twelfth batches starting soon. Director International Collaboration and Exchange Dr. Zahid Majeed said AIOU is actively strengthening cooperation with Russian institutions, noting several graduates

secured Russian scholarships last year, with more opportunities being pursued.

The ceremony concluded with certificate distribution to students who completed the course.

Murtaza Solangi Urges 85% Graphic Health Warnings and Comprehensive TAPS Ban to Protect Youth

Spokesman Report

The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) organized a session in Islamabad on Strengthening Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) regulations and increasing Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) on cigarette packs, describing these as among the most effective, cost-efficient measures to curb youth tobacco use.

Addressing the session as Chief Guest, Murtaza Solangi, Spokesperson

to the President of Pakistan, warned that tobacco continues to kill globally, claiming over 8 million lives annually. He stressed that without bold action — including a comprehensive TAPS ban and raising GHW coverage to at least 85% — the toll would continue to rise, and that such measures reduce the appeal and visibility of tobacco products among youth.

MNA Huma Akhtar Chughtai noted that youth remain exposed to indirect promotional tactics like attractive packaging, event sponsorships

and online content that make tobacco appear less harmful. While acknowledging Pakistan's progress in tobacco control, she said much work remains and voiced full support for expanding GHWs to 85% and strengthening TAPS regulations.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar of SPARC said countries enforcing complete TAPS bans had seen significant declines in tobacco use among children and youth, calling for a total ban on all direct and indirect promotional means and consistent enforcement.



Anees Sukhera of CTFK echoed calls to close TAPS regulatory gaps and expand GHWs to 85% for a safer, tobacco-free future.

Prof. Dr. Matiur Rahman highlighted tobacco's burden on public health and the economy, calling for a

shared national commitment to health and well-being.

The session was attended by key stakeholders including Sajjad Ahmed (DG Operations Broadcast, PEMRA), Dr. Waqar (Director, Prime Minister's Youth Program), Muhammad Aftab

Ahmad (Tobacco Control Cell), along with government officials, journalists, academics, civil society members, media professionals and youth ambassadors, all focused on implementing 85% GHWs and enforcing TAPS regulations nationwide.

PANAH Raises Concerns Over Lack of Consultation on Heated Tobacco Legislation

The Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) has voiced serious concerns after the Senate Health Committee approved legislation bringing new and emerging tobacco products under a legal and regulatory framework without consulting health experts. PANAH stressed that decisions with public health implications should only be made after hearing doctors, medical organizations and public health institutions, recalling that a previous tobacco-related law it had challenged was recommended for repeal by a special Senate committee, which had urged stakeholder consultation in future.

PANAH General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghumman said the organization contacted the Senate Health Committee Chairman upon learning of the bill, requesting an opportunity to present scientific evidence on health risks. After initial inattention, PANAH escalated the matter to the Senate Chairman, who directed the committee to hear its position. However, instead of a formal committee hearing, the Chairman proposed a meeting between PANAH and the bill's sponsoring senator, which PANAH pursued repeatedly but which was postponed indefinitely despite the Chairman's own attempts to facilitate it.

PANAH subsequently wrote again, arguing the matter required formal committee discussion rather than a private meeting, and appealed to all committee members for a briefing opportunity along with broader stakeholder consultation. Despite these efforts, PANAH and other health stakeholders were never invited to present evidence, and the bill was approved without their input, raising concerns about transparency.

Ghumman said listening to health experts on such legislation is "not merely an option" but essential to responsible lawmaking. PANAH insisted tobacco and nicotine policy must rest on independent scientific evidence and disease prevention, not measures that normalize or expand product availability.

CM Punjab's Team Reviews Preparations for Cancer Care Facilities Inauguration at Nishtar



Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Inspection Team conducted a detailed visit to the PET-CT, Cyclotron and Cancer Centre at Nishtar Hospital, Multan, reviewing infrastructure, technical arrangements and operational readiness ahead of the facilities' inauguration. Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Mehraz Khakwani briefed the team, stressing that operationalizing these facilities safely and effectively for patients is the top priority, and directed teams to maintain coordination and professional standards.

Also present were Additional Secretary South Punjab Ehsan-ul-Haq, Medical Superintendent Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan, and Oncology Head Dr. Rana Atiq. The team reviewed the PET-CT and Cyclotron units' technical readiness, Cancer Centre departments, patient facilities, and planned diagnostic and oncology services, emphasizing patient safety and service quality. Dr. Atiq briefed officials on the facilities and inauguration arrangements, while Ehsan-ul-Haq stressed effective coordination.

The PET-CT and Cyclotron facilities mark a major milestone for cancer care in South Punjab, aiding diagnosis, disease-spread assessment and treatment planning through nuclear medicine. The university reaffirmed its commitment to modern, patient-centered oncology services for the region.

U.S. hands back 36 smuggled antiquities to Pakistan

NEW YORK: Thirty-six antiquities stolen from Pakistan and smuggled to the United States were returned to the Government of Pakistan on Monday, and they will now be brought back home.



A ceremony at the New York County District Attorney's Office marked the handover.

Pakistan's Consul General in New York, Amir Ahmed Atozai, signed the agreement.

The agreement pertains to the repatriation of 36 artifacts, including a Grey Schist Figure of Yakshi dated to the 4th Century C.E. and 35 Terra-cotta Fertility Figures dated 2700-3000 B.C.

Speaking at the occasion, the consul general expressed appreciation to the Antiquities Trafficking Unit of the District Attorney's Office for their continued support.

Cultural heritage is part of the common heritage of humanity, Atozai said, adding that lawful recovery and return of artifacts enable future generations in Pakistan and around the world to study, appreciate and learn from these extraordinary testimonies to human civilization.

 Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
168,021.80	169,392.32
Day's High	Day's Low
169,382.01	167,849.70
Index Value	Change
13,835,869,460	−1370.52
Percentage	Time
−0.81%	16 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,688.47	+30.34
Percentage	Time
+0.28%	16 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,127.57	+34.46
Percentage	Time
+0.066%	16 Sept, 1:36 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
63,923.00	+438.90
Percentage	Time
+0.69%	16 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.61	200.45
Bahrain Dinar	734.24	744.98
Canadian Dollar	198.06	203.75
China Yuan	38.27	38.99
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	320.52	324.53
Hong Kong Dollar	35.00	35.97
Indian Rupee	2.60	3.12
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	884.86	894.89
Malaysian Ringgit	68	68.85
NewZealand \$	158.48	162.15
Norwegians Krone	28.25	28.60
Omani Riyal	719.14	729.45
Qatari Riyal	74.97	75.69
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.50
Singapore Dollar	217.65	223.15
Swedish Korona	28.45	28.95
Swiss Franc	338.25	342.95
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.95
U.A.E Dirham	75.50	76.40
UK Pound Sterling	374.26	378.78
US Dollar	278.05	278.30

NEF, MEHD

Join Hands

to Strengthen

Education for

Vulnerable

Children



 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Education Foundation (NEF) and Maan Education & Health Development (MEHD) have signed a Letter of Understanding to collaborate on improving access to quality education and strengthening learning environments for children from marginalized and vulnerable communities. The partnership will support community and non-formal education schools through improved infrastructure, WASH facilities, child protection, school safety, community engagement and learning resources.

NEF Managing Director Tahira S. Shaikh said the collaboration would help provide underserved children safer, more supportive learning environments, stressing every child deserves the opportunity to learn and realize their potential. MEHD Chairman Muhammad Nisar Khan said the partnership reflects a shared commitment to improving education access for children facing social and economic barriers.

Under the LoU, the organisations will explore school rehabilitation, essential facilities, WASH interventions, child protection, disaster preparedness, community mobilisation and support for orphaned and vulnerable children, aiming to boost enrolment, retention and stronger protection mechanisms.

NEF, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Federal Education, has worked since 1996 to expand equitable education access, currently operating 355 community model schools across AJK and ICT serving over 11,000 students free of cost.

Finance Minister

Aurangzeb

Addresses

Pakistan

Investment

Roundtable in

London

 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan High Commission in London hosted the “Pakistan Invest-

ment Roundtable,” bringing together leading investors and global financial firms. Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb delivered the keynote address, joined by SBP

Construction

FAISALABAD: Construction work for the Faisalabad Masstransit Authority Orange Line metro project is actively underway on Jhang Road.



Photo: Online

Pakistan-Korea Cooperation Boosts

Certified Potato Seed Production

 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain said Pakistan-Korea agricultural cooperation is strengthening local production of disease-free, quality potato seed, reducing import dependence. Addressing a programme on the Pakistan-Korea Collaborative Project at NARC, he said aeroponic technology would ensure healthy planting material and boost yields, with Pakistan targeting 160,000 tonnes of certified seed potato annually.

Implemented with Korea's KOPIA programme, the project focuses on certified seed production, aeroponic infrastructure and technical capacity building. Hussain said technologies would be transferred to farmers and the private sector, strengthening the potato value chain, and pledged continued Pakistan-Korea collaboration in smart agriculture, horticulture, livestock and mechanization.

Korea's Ambassador praised the long-standing bilateral cooperation, calling the



project a practical example benefiting farmers directly, and expressed support for further collaboration in technology and knowledge sharing.

PARC Chairman Dr. Murtaza Hassan Andrabi said the partnership was

strengthening Pakistan's seed system and introducing modern technologies, with potential for expansion into mechanization and livestock. Participants reviewed project progress and toured NARC's aeroponic and screen-house facilities.

House of Habib and foodpanda

entered in strategic partnership

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: House of Habib and foodpanda have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under this strategic agreement, foodpanda for Business will provide its corporate benefits solution, Business Premium Deals, to all 12 companies within the House of Habib Group. The initiative will give approximately 2,400 employees access to exclusive food discounts and other benefits at selected restaurants, without the company incurring any administrative or financial costs.

Commenting on the partnership, Arslan Mahmood, Director of Finance at foodpanda Pakistan, said, “Our partnership with House of Habib demonstrates how platform technology can modernize corporate welfare. By eliminating financial subsidies and complex approval processes, we



are enabling progressive organizations to reward their workforce effortlessly, while also improving organizational culture and workplace satisfaction.”

The agreement highlights foodpanda's

continued expansion in the B2B digital solutions sector, helping organizations across Pakistan leverage quick-commerce infrastructure to improve employee satisfaction and engagement.



Governor Jamil Ahmed, Advisor to Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad, and High Commissioner Tipu Usman.

Aurangzeb reaffirmed the government's commitment to macroeconomic stabilization and structural reforms aimed at empowering the private sector, noting fiscal consolidation had delivered a primary surplus, deficit compression, and improved revenue mobilization.

He highlighted SOE reforms, privatization, energy sector reforms, financial transparency, and ease of doing business as pillars reinforcing macroeconomic stability.

He stressed that expanding the tax base and enforcement was essential for growth,

noting discretionary powers of tax authorities had been eliminated with no preferential treatment, while the salaried class faced no additional taxes. Aurangzeb acknowledged setbacks from last year's country-wide floods and the Middle East war's impact on global oil prices.

He said Pakistan was “open for business,” citing renewed international investor interest and successful completion of all IMF reviews on schedule, validated by three rating upgrades. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session where the Minister discussed Pakistan's economy, investment climate, and sectoral opportunities with financial institution representatives.

Customs Agents

Alliance sweeps APCA

elections, defeats

BMG-backed panel

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Customs Agents Alliance-backed panel has won all seats in the annual elections of the All Pakistan Customs Agents Association, securing a clean sweep against the panel backed by the Businessmen Group (BMG).

According to the election results, a total of 494 votes were cast. In the Associate Class, the Customs Agents Alliance-backed panel secured 321 votes, while the BMG-backed panel received 41 votes. Another 63 votes were recorded as mixed votes.

In the Corporate Class, 60 votes were cast, with the Customs Agents Alliance

securing victory on all seats.

The results showed that all candidates nominated by the Customs Agents Alliance were elected with clear majorities, while the entire BMG-backed panel failed to secure any of the seats.

Following the announcement of the results, Customs Agents Alliance leaders, including Asif Sakhi and Khurram Ejaz, along with leaders and supporters, celebrated the victory and congratulated one another.

The alliance leadership said they would continue their efforts for the welfare of customs agents, resolution of business-related difficulties and addressing issues confronting the trade community.

SECP Proposes Reforms

to Strengthen Insurance

Guarantees

 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed reforms to make insurance bonds and guarantees safer, clearer and more reliable, particularly for construction projects, government contracts, public procurement and trade.

The proposed framework covers bid and performance bonds, mobilization advance guarantees and customs guarantees issued by insurers. These instruments provide financial protection to government departments, project owners and commercial entities if a contractor or business fails to meet its contractual obligations. The reforms propose clearer conditional and unconditional guarantee

contracts, stronger solvency and reserving requirements, risk-based pricing, mandatory indemnification agreements and adequate reinsurance arrangements. They are intended to reduce contractual ambiguity, claim-settlement delays and prolonged litigation.

SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said the reforms would strengthen risk management and insurers' financial capacity, improve contractual clarity and enhance public confidence in insurance-backed bonds and guarantees.

The SECP has invited insurers, contractors, businesses, government entities and other stakeholders to submit comments on the Consultation Paper, which is available on its website.

19 Pakistani Companies

Set to Showcase Beauty

Products at Beautyworld

Middle East 2026

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: East 2026, a leading international trade fair for the beauty and personal care industry, will take place from 6 to 8 October 2026 at Dubai World Trade Centre, bringing together beauty brands, manufacturers, distributors and industry professionals from around the world. The 30th edition of Beautyworld Middle East will showcase the latest innovations, product developments and emerging trends across the global beauty industry, alongside dedicated programmes covering beauty, fragrance, cosmetics and skincare, bringing together leading brands, manufacturers, distributors and

industry professionals from around the world. A total of 19 Pakistani companies will participate in the exhibition, presenting a diverse range of cosmetics, skincare, personal care and beauty products. The participating companies are Al Keynat (Noorani), Basit Traders (BNB Global), Beauty Icon/Fabcos International, Bio Cos International, Goree Cosmetics, Herbioun Naturals, Junaid Jamshed Pvt. Ltd., Kass Cosmetics, Life Care Cosmetics, MMC Cosmetics, Metromilan, Montis, Nexton/I&K, Poonia Brothers (Faiza Beauty Cream), SB Cosmetics Pakistan, Shaheen Cosmetics (Face Fresh), Shanss Cosmetics, Steg Laboratories and Universal Distributors.

Chairman Senate Gillani inaugurates ballot for free Hajj facility for Senate employees

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani inaugurated a ballot for a free Hajj facility, sponsored by Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, for two Senate Secretariat employees in BPS-01 to BPS-07. The ballot was held at the Senator Service Centre, Parliament House, attended by Secretary Senate Syed Hasnain Haider, senior officers and a large number of employees.

Speaking on the occasion, Gillani said Hajj is a fundamental pillar of Islam and a sacred act of worship, noting that every Muslim aspires to visit the Holy



Kaaba, and that performing this obligation is a matter of great honour and joy. He congratulated the two employees selected through the ballot and prayed for a safe and blessed journey for them and their families.

Gillani also praised Senator Chishti for extending the free Hajj facility to lower-grade Senate employees, saying such welfare initiatives boost morale while enabling employees to fulfil important religious obligations.

Senator Chishti additionally donated Rs. 1 million to the Senate Employees Welfare Fund, reaffirming his commitment to the welfare of Senate staff.

Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament. Zone-II Whites beat Zone-I Whites to Qualify for the Final

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to fine all-round Performance by Syed Hussain Imam first he score unbeaten 40 with the help of 3 boundaries and then he got 2 wickets for 17 runs, Deadly bowling by Hadi babar 3/23 and some good batting by Atizaz Khan 43 with 5 fours and a Six Zone-II Whites moved into Semi Final after beating Zone-I Whites in the First Semi Final of Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium.

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

Scores in Brief:

Zone-II Whites beat Zone-I Whites by 54 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-II Whites 204/7 in 40 overs. Atizaz Khan 43 5x4 1x6, Syed Hussain Imam 40 3x4 not out, Ebad ur Rehman 32, Atif Khan 32 1x4 3x6, not out, Arish Ali 18. Faiz Khan (rl) 3/26, Muhammad Qasim 2/36.

In reply Zone-I Whites 150 allout in 39 overs. Arman Shahzad 40 4x4 1x6, Faiz Khan 25, Jazzim Ali Khan 23, Muhammad Qasim 19. Hadi Babar (lo) 3/23, Muhammad Mohib Nasir 2/13, Syed Hussain Imam 2/17.

Overseas Jhelum Foundation Holds London Fundraiser for DHQ Hospital Jhelum

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

JHELUM: The Overseas Jhelum Foundation organized a fund-raising event in Walthamstow, London, to support the improvement and expansion of healthcare facilities at Civil Hospital Jhelum (DHQ), with particular focus on maternal and child healthcare. The gathering drew prominent political, social and business figures, community leaders and members of the Pakistani diaspora with roots in Jhelum.

The campaign's central focus is developing the Gynaecology and Maternity Department at Civil Hospital Jhelum, aimed

at improving children's healthcare facilities and expanding the hospital's overall capacity. The programme opened with Quran recitation by Qari Mahmood Farashwi, followed by a Naat presented by Syed Khalid Hussain Shah, setting a dignified tone before the fundraising proceedings began.

Addressing the gathering, Foundation Patron-in-Chief Chaudhry Pervaz Akhtar, originally from Jallo Chak, Jhelum, and now based in Birmingham, outlined the foundation's welfare objectives. He said the foundation had already contributed to a maternity ward and a 50-bed

healthcare facility, and was now focused on a larger project: establishing a 400-bed Children's Ward to significantly expand paediatric healthcare capacity. He urged collective support from overseas Pakistanis and the Jhelum community for the initiative.

Prominent attendees included Chaudhry Shaukat Ali, Chaudhry Mehboob, Chaudhry Raza Cheema, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chaudhry Dilpazeer, Chaudhry Yaqoob, Chaudhry Munaf Gujjar, Raja Shakir Kayani, Junaid Khan, Khawar Bilal Butt, Rehman Khokhar and Adil Iqbal Advocate, alongside other



community members and guests. Speakers praised the foundation's efforts, emphasizing the historic role overseas Pakistani

community members and guests. Speakers praised the foundation's efforts, emphasizing the historic role overseas Pakistani



stanis play in supporting healthcare, education and community development in their hometowns. They expressed hope the initiative would inspire further contributions and lead to sustainable healthcare facilities in Jhelum, stressing that coordinated

community projects could deliver long-term benefits beyond individual donations.

Organizers thanked all guests, donors and volunteers, appealing for continued cooperation to achieve the foundation's goals for Civil Hospital Jhelum.

The Price of Artificial Progress: Let Us Return to Nature Before It Is Too Late

Human civilization has made remarkable progress. Technology has made our lives faster, easier, and more connected. But in our race toward modernity, we must ask ourselves an important question: Are we making life better, or are we slowly making life more dangerous for ourselves and future generations?

Look around us. Many once natural things are gradually being replaced by artificial, chemical, processed, and highly commercial alternatives. The consequences may not always be visible today, but they could become much more serious in the years ahead.

Consider our wheat, one of the most important foods in our daily lives. Heavy use of pesticides and chemicals in agriculture raises serious concerns about soil, water, food quality, and human health. Traditional and locally adapted seeds are also becoming less common. If we continue losing agricultural diversity, future generations may face a world where natural and resilient crops are increasingly difficult to find.

Water provides another powerful example. Our elders once stored

drinking water in clay pots, allowing it to remain naturally cool and fresh. Today, pollution, plastic containers, industrial waste, and chemical contamination have transformed the way we experience this basic necessity of life. Water, which should be the purest gift of nature, is becoming a growing concern.

Our food has changed dramatically as well. Traditional butter, naturally produced honey, fresh milk, vegetables, fruits, eggs, fish, and other foods are increasingly affected by modern production methods. In many places, people worry about adulteration, excessive chemicals, artificial feeding, and food produced primarily for speed and profit rather than quality.

Chicken is another example. Modern poultry production has made meat cheap and readily available, but extremely rapid growth and intensive farming raise questions about animal welfare, nutrition, and the quality of the food reaching our tables. Similar concerns exist in fish farming, where farmed fish can increasingly replace naturally caught fish from rivers, lakes, canals, and seas.

Milk has traditionally been consid-

ered a complete and valuable source of nutrition. Yet adulteration and poor production practices can turn a wholesome food into a health concern. We must not allow commercial interests to destroy our trust in the foods that sustain us.

Even our clothing tells a story. Cotton was once strongly associated with natural farming and durable fabric. Today, intensive pesticide use, environmental damage, and changing production methods can affect both the quality of cotton and the health of agricultural communities. We need development, but development that does not destroy the very resources upon which it depends.

Our way of cooking and living has also changed. Earlier generations cooked meals over wood or traditional fires and used locally available ingredients. Today, modern fuels and appliances have made cooking easier and faster. Technology itself is not the

enemy; the real danger comes when convenience becomes more important than health, sustainability, and balance.

The same transformation can be seen in transportation. Horses and other traditional means of travel once operated without the enormous fossil-fuel consumption associated with modern transport. Today, vehicles have transformed society, but fuel emissions contribute to air pollution, climate change, and environmental degradation. We cannot simply abandon modern transportation, but we must urgently move toward cleaner and more sustainable alternatives.

Instead of depending on air conditioners (AC) to escape the heat, let us plant more trees to create natural shade, reduce the temperature, absorb carbon dioxide, and breathe cleaner, fresher air. A tree is nature's own air conditioner without electricity, pollution, or expense. Our children deserve a green and breathable planet, not a polluted world created by our careless choices.

Perhaps the most important lesson is that progress should not mean abandoning nature.

Our mothers and grandmothers often performed physically demanding work and managed childbirth and family responsibilities under extremely difficult circumstances. Modern medicine has saved countless lives, and we should never reject medical progress. At the same time, we should examine why modern lifestyles have produced new health challenges. We should combine the best of traditional wisdom with the best of modern science rather than blindly choosing one over the other.

We do not need to return completely to the past. We need to return to balance.

Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Modern Agriculture, medicine, transportation, and industry can all serve humanity when used responsibly. But technology must remain our servant, not become our master. We must protect natural seeds, fertile soil, clean water, healthy animals, nutritious food, clean air, forests, rivers, and biodiversity.

The future generation deserves more than technological convenience. They deserve a planet where they can

breathe clean air, drink safe water, eat trustworthy food, and live in harmony with nature.

The choice is still in our hands. Let us support farmers who protect the soil. Let us reduce unnecessary chemicals. Let us preserve traditional seeds and knowledge. Let us demand honest food production. Let us protect water and natural ecosystems. Let us use modern technology wisely while respecting the wisdom accumulated by generations before us.

Nature gave us life; technology should help us protect it, not replace it.

If we continue turning everything natural into something Artificial without considering the consequences, future generations may inherit wealth in technology but poverty in nature. That would be the greatest failure of our progress.

Let us therefore move forward but with wisdom. Let us embrace useful innovation while returning to the principles of natural, healthy, sustainable living wherever possible.

The future is not waiting for us to choose between progress and nature. It is waiting for us to learn how to protect both.

Rabi ul-Awal: A Season of Love for the Beloved ﷺ

Continued from Page 4

scholarly lectures about the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) life, virtues, and teachings. Islamic devotional songs, praising the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) character and mission are composed and performed. Families organize study circles to read and discuss the Sirah, the biography of the Prophet (P. B. U. H), thereby introducing younger generations to his example. These practices serve multiple purposes: they educate believers about Islamic history, strengthen community bonds, and provide structured opportunities for spiritual reflection and emotional connection to the

Prophet's (P. B. U. H) legacy.

The veneration expressed during Rabi ul-Awal must be understood within the Islamic framework of Tawhid, the oneness of God. Islamic scholars emphasize that love for the Prophet is inseparable from obedience to God's commands and does not constitute a form of worship that would compromise Islamic monotheism. Rather, the Prophet serves as the supreme model through which Muslims understand and practice ALLAH's will. This distinction is crucial in understanding the proper expression of devotion during Rabi ul-Awal, as it differentiates

Islamic commemoration from practices that might elevate the Prophet to a status incompatible with Islamic theology.

Rabi ul-Awal is observed with considerable variation across different Muslim communities worldwide, reflecting cultural diversity while maintaining spiritual consistency. In many Muslim majority nations, the month is marked by public holidays, festive decorations, and official celebrations. Masjids are illuminated with special lighting, and streets in Muslim neighborhoods are adorned with banners celebrating the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) birth. In countries such as Egypt,

Jordan, Malaysia, and Pakistan, Rabi ul-Awal celebrations often include public processions, cultural performances and religious gatherings that attract thousands of participants.

The practice of reading and reflecting upon the Quran takes on special significance during Rabi ul-Awal. Many Muslims increase their Quranic recitation during this month, recognizing that the Quran is the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) greatest legacy and the ultimate source of guidance he brought to humanity. Islamic study groups focus on Quranic verses that specifically mention the Prophet or describe his virtues and mission. This

emphasis on Quranic engagement grounds the celebration firmly within Islamic orthodoxy, ensuring that devotion to the Prophet remains connected to the fundamental Islamic source of authority and guidance.

Charitable activities and social service initiatives also characterize Rabi ul-Awal observances. Many Muslim organizations interpret the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) teachings about mercy, compassion, and social responsibility as particularly relevant during this commemorative season. Feeding the poor, providing medical services to underserved communities, supporting educational initia-

tives, and engaging in environmental conservation projects become ways in which believers embody the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) values and extend their love for him through practical action. This approach transforms personal devotion into communal benefit and social advancement, consistent with the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) emphasis on practical righteousness and community welfare.

The Prophet's (P. B. U. H) character, known in Islamic tradition as his Akhlaq, represents the practical application of Quranic principles. The Quran itself praises the Prophet's character, stating that he was sent as

a mercy to the worlds. During Rabi ul-Awal, Islamic educators and spiritual guides often focus on specific Prophetic (P. B. U. H) virtues and encourage believers to cultivate these characteristics in their own lives. Whether it is the Prophet's (P. B. U. H) dedication to family responsibilities, his just treatment of employees and servants, his integrity in business dealings, or his patience in adversity, each aspect of his life becomes a subject of study and aspiration for devoted Muslims.

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Weaponizing Space Endangers the World—and America Itself

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lites may calculate that threatening an opponent's infrastructure offers disproportionate leverage. That does not guarantee their success; it does expose the weakness of assuming that technological leadership ensures immunity. An arms race could force Washington into increasingly expensive efforts to protect systems against threats encouraged by the competition itself.

Existing law provides important but incomplete restraints. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty prohibits nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in orbit and reserves celestial bodies for peaceful purposes; it does not ban all conventional orbital weapons.

The 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty prohibits nuclear explosions in space for its parties. The Moon Agreement reinforces peaceful-use restrictions but lacks

participation by the United States, Russia, and China. Registration, liability, and rescue treaties provide additional governance, not a comprehensive weapons prohibition.

Bilateral and UN initiatives likewise leave gaps. The U. S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty restricted space-based missile-defense systems, but American withdrawal took effect in 2002. Russian-Chinese proposals for broader restrictions have not

become binding treaties.

General Assembly Resolution 77/41 urges commitments against destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite testing, rather than banning every space weapon. Rival Security Council proposals failed in 2024. This history demonstrates unfinished diplomacy, not the impossibility of agreement.

The present disclosure should trigger a renewed international initiative. A UN resolution could establish broad political support

for a comprehensive prohibition and begin negotiations addressing deployment, testing, threats, and attacks against space systems.

Definitions, verification, and legitimate civilian technologies would require careful treatment. A General Assembly resolution would not itself impose a universally binding ban, but it could establish expectations and a negotiating mandate. Enforceable commitments would then require an appropriate legal instrument

and effective implementation.

The United States should lead that effort alongside other space powers. Preserving space serves American interests and the interests of countries whose citizens depend on services they do not control. Leadership should be measured by the ability to prevent catastrophe, not merely prepare for confrontation. A comprehensive, verifiable agreement would protect humanity while reducing dangers to Amer-

ican infrastructure and people. The opportunity now is to turn an alarming announcement into diplomatic momentum before competition creates consequences that no government can readily reverse.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding implementation of reforms in PIMS.



Photo: PID

Finance Division Clarifies SOE Performance, Rejects Media Misinterpretation of Fiscal Flow Decline

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Division has rejected media interpretations linking the decline in net fiscal flow to deteriorating financial health of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), clarifying that fiscal flows and SOE financial performance are distinct measures. While fiscal flows capture Government-SOE transactions, financial performance is assessed through profitability and operational indicators.

During H1 FY2025-26, profitable SOEs generated Rs423.3 billion in aggregate

profits, while losses remained contained at Rs342.8 billion, reflecting progress under ongoing reforms. SOEs remained net contributors, generating Rs839.8 billion in inflows against Rs804 billion in Government outflows, yielding a positive net fiscal flow of Rs35.8 billion. Increased outflows stemmed largely from equity injections and circular-debt restructuring, while dividends rose 26% and tax contributions rose 10%.

The Division stressed that fiscal-flow movements shouldn't be read as standalone indicators of



SOE profitability, and that six-month comparisons overlook structural reforms already underway. These include cessation of Utility Stores Corporation opera-

tions, winding up of PASSCO, privatisation of First Women Bank and PLA, and privatisation processes for nine electricity distribution companies (FESCO, GEPCO,

IESCO, LESCO, MEPCO, HESCO, SEPCO, PESCO, and HAZECO), with strong investor interest in the first batch.

Governance reforms are also strengthening independent boards, accountability and transparent oversight. The Division said the reform direction remains clear: a smaller SOE footprint, stronger governance, improved commercial discipline and reduced fiscal risk, with challenges being addressed through restructuring, closure, privatisation and performance management tailored to each entity.

Nawaz Sharif names Najeeb Naqi as PML-N candidate for AJK president

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has nominated Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan for the post of president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

According to PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, Nawaz has directed Dr Najeeb Naqi to submit his nomination papers for the presidential election.

According to media reports, Dr Najeeb Naqi hailed from Pallandri in Sudhanoti district of Azad Kashmir.

He has been elected to the AJK Legislative Assembly on



five occasions and has held many ministerial portfolios, including health, education, information technology, finance, and planning and development.

He was elected from constituency LA-21 Sudhanoti-Poonch on a PML-N ticket in 2016 and served as AJK health and finance minister from 2016 to 2021.

He was elected again from the constituency in the 2026 AJK general election and currently serves as a PML-N member of the assembly.

The nomination comes after the recent AJK elections, in which the PML-N emerged as the largest party and subsequently formed the government.

LHC Fines Woman Rs100,000 for Unnecessary Contempt Petition Against CM Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore High Court Chief Justice Aalia Neelum fined petitioner Ashba Kamran Rs100,000 for filing an unnecessary contempt petition against Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz and other officials, citing an error in the case details and wasted court time. The fine was imposed during Wednesday's hearing, attended by Additional Advocate General Muhammad Naveed Sheikh and Assistant Advocate General Waqas Umar on behalf of the Punjab government.

During proceedings, Kamran



questioned whether the Constitution and Supreme Court orders applied

equally to all citizens, alleging paragraphs nine to 11 of a Supreme Court

order remained unimplemented. She cited former PM Yousaf Raza Gilani's removal as precedent for disobeying court directions. The chief justice reminded her the case was a contempt petition and asked for the underlying petition number, but Kamran could not justify the discrepancy in the number provided.

Citing the error and wasted judicial time, Chief Justice Neelum imposed the fine, stating the matter would proceed only after payment. The petition names Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, the chief secretary, and the Punjab Assembly speaker as respondents.

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PM Directs PIMS Overhaul, Orders Short-Term Measures Within Three Months

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed authorities to implement all short-term remedial and fire safety measures at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) within three months, in line with international standards and the inquiry report on the recent fire incident.

Chairing a meeting on PIMS improvement, the PM reviewed the fire inquiry report and performance audit by the Ministry of National Health Services. The audit found only 39.7% compliance against an acceptable target of 90%. The ministry briefed that implementation of 37 proposed measures is already

underway.

The PM instructed to seek assistance from PKLI for fire safety systems, incorporate proposals from the WHO report, and ensure free medicines and facilities for patients. He also ordered deployment of reputed human resources and a comprehensive long-term action plan to uplift PIMS.

He further called for an audit of Polyclinic Hospital and its restructuring, and directed the CDA to enforce fire safety measures in all government and private hospitals in Islamabad, along with fire safety audits of all government and private buildings.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers and senior officials.

Pakistan Protests 'Provocative' Indian Naval Manoeuvres in Its EEZ



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan summoned the Indian High Commission's Charge d'Affaires on Wednesday, lodging a strong protest over a "highly provocative and unacceptable" action by an Indian Navy vessel in Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone on September 15. The Foreign Ministry said the incident occurred during Pakistan Navy's biennial SEASPARK-26 exercise, when the Indian vessel carried out aggressive manoeuvres dangerously close to a Pakistani naval ship, resulting in contact between the two.

Islamabad described the incident as a serious violation of international

law and the 1991 bilateral Agreement on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troop Movements, warning it risked escalating regional tensions. The Indian envoy was told Pakistan "strongly rejects" the action and urged New Delhi to strictly adhere to international law and bilateral agreements on preventing incidents at sea.

Pakistan's High Commission in New Delhi will lodge an identical demarche with India's Ministry of External Affairs. Islamabad also called on the international community to press India to abandon its "belligerent posture," stating the region "can ill-afford" to remain hostage to India's pursuit of conflict.

CCP and NAB Sign Addendum to Strengthen Cooperation Against Corruption and Cartels

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have signed an Addendum to their foundational Memorandum of Understanding of May 14, 2025, to combat collusive tendering, anti-competitive practices and corruption.

The addendum was signed by Ms. Marryum Pervaiz, Secretary CCP, and Mr. Muhammad Tahir, DG (SID) NAB, in the presence of Chairman NAB Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed and CCP Chairman Mr. Farid Ahmed Tarar at NAB Headquarters, Islamabad.

The supplementary agreement deepens collaboration under PACA, focusing on capacity-building, specialized training and technical cooperation. While the original MoU aimed to tackle market distortion and procurement cartels, the expanded partnership now includes joint workshops on competition law and anti-corruption, exchange of experts and investigators, and joint detection of bid rigging and market manipulation.

Both institutions will also partner on research, policy dialogues, and shared training modules and case studies. All other terms of the original MoU remain unchanged.

Shaza makes surprise visits to petrol pumps on second day of PM Fuel Relief Scheme

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has made surprise visits to various petrol pumps in Islamabad on the second day of the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme.

During the visits, the minister interacted with citizens and sought their feedback on the implementation of the relief scheme.

Shaza makes surprise visits to

petrol pumps on second day of PM Fuel Relief Scheme

She said the scheme would start rolling out across the country from Wednesday. The minister also briefed citizens about the registration process and procedure for obtaining subsidised petrol.

She directed the Islamabad administration and petrol pump owners to ensure that eligible citizens received the facility without interruption.