



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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وآلہ وسلم
سیدنا ابیہ قاسم نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ
ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ میں نے کلمہ اس طرح سنا ہے
تھے جسے کلمہ کہتے تھے «اللہم ربی
أعوذ بک من البخل وأعوذ بک من
الجبون، وأعوذ بک أن تورثنی أرذل
العمر، وأعوذ بک من فتنة الدنيا.
وعذاب القبر» «اے اللہ! میں تیری
پناہ مانگا ہوں بخل سے اور تیری پناہ مانگا ہوں
دنیا کی آزمائش سے اور قبر کے عذاب سے۔»
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Trump touts achievements amid midterm anxiety

President Donald Trump listed halting refugee admissions and making English the official U. S. language among his top achievements, as Republicans face tough midterm elections in November. Trump is trying to lift his sagging approval ratings, with polls showing an unpopular war in Iran and resulting fuel and price hikes are damaging his party's prospects ahead of the vote.



UN Condemns Mosque Bomb Attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The United Nations Secretary-General strongly condemned the bomb attack at a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that reportedly killed at least 16 people, including police officers, and injured more than 50. He offered condolences to victims' families, wished the injured recovery, urged accountability and justice, and expressed UN solidarity with Pakistan against terrorism and extremism.

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A large plume of black smoke

ISLAMABAD: Large plume of black smoke rises from the fuel storage depot at King Khalid International Airport, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday. Picture taken with a mobile phone.



Photo: Reuters

Smoke and flames erupt near Riyadh Airport after Houthi attack alert

Agencies

RIYADH: A large plume of black smoke was seen near Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on Saturday after booms were heard overnight and Saudi Arabia issued alerts warning of potential aerial attacks around the capital, amid escalating Houthi hostilities. Reuters footage showed a massive column of smoke rising near the airport

highway and terminal building, with flames visible behind what appeared to be fuel storage tanks.

Saudi civil defence sent phone alerts overnight warning of danger in Riyadh and nearby Al-Kharj, later issuing an all-clear Saturday morning. A Reuters journalist in Riyadh's Olaya district reported hearing booms before the all-clear. These were the first such alerts in Riyadh since the Houthi escalation

began in July, though some had been issued earlier this year following the US-Iran war.

The Houthis, who control Yemen's most populous areas and much of the north, have targeted Saudi Arabia since declaring a naval blockade in July, striking Saudi vessels in the Red Sea, cities, energy infrastructure, and shipping — threatening global oil supplies and the key Red Sea export route while the

Strait of Hormuz remains blocked.

On Friday, Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group foiled unspecified "criminal attempts" in Sanaa, blaming Saudi Arabia and vowing retaliation. The Iran-aligned group, which seized Yemen's entire Red Sea coast this month, claims Saudi forces have launched hundreds of recent airstrikes against it.

The UN Security Council on Friday condemned Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, including strikes affecting civilian and energy infrastructure that injured civilians, including women and children, while also condemning Houthi military escalation within Yemen.

No official Saudi government comment was immediately available regarding the smoke or overnight alerts.

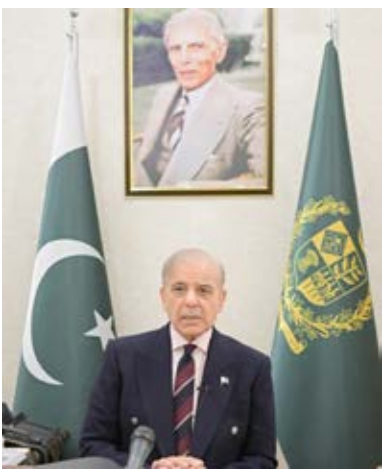
PM Special Relief Scheme continues; PM desires expanded outreach

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Relief Scheme has been successfully rolled out across Pakistan, with petrol being provided at a discounted rate of Rs100 per litre under the scheme.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is personally monitoring every aspect of the relief scheme and has directed that its outreach must be further expanded.

He has also instructed the relevant authorities to ensure that the petrol subsidy is provided to beneficiaries with dignity, convenience and without any hurdles.



In the light of feedback received from across the country, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took another important decision to further facilitate beneficiaries of the scheme.

"Upon the prime minister's instructions, motorcycleists, as well as owners of Qingqi and rickshaws who purchase less than five litres of petrol, will also be entitled to a discount of Rs 500 against a single token within a week," PM Office Media Wing, Saturday, said in a press release. One token will be issued every week, with a total of four tokens to be issued in a month.

Users of vehicles up to 800cc will continue to receive a discount of Rs100 per litre on 10 litres of petrol every 10

days, as per earlier decision. Accordingly, three tokens for 10 litres of petrol will be issued each month.

The prime minister had earlier announced that registration messages for individuals eligible to benefit from the scheme would be made completely free of charge.

He also directed that 20-year-old motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqi rickshaws should be included in the fuel relief scheme, and implementation of the same decision took place.

All motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqi rickshaws registered on or after January 1, 2006, are now eligible for registration under the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme.

Planning Minister calls for inclusive, domain-specific civil service recruitment

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has emphasised the need to make civil service recruitment more inclusive and domain-specific.

He was presiding over a multi-party consultative session on civil

service reforms in Islamabad on Saturday.

The Minister said that the civil service must establish meritocratic leadership by linking appointments and promotions more closely with competence and demonstrated performance.

He said digital literacy has

become indispensable for public administration and civil servants must be prepared to use artificial intelligence to improve decision-making, productivity and public service delivery.

On this occasion, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted a framework for civil service reforms aimed at



building a specialised, merit-based, accountable and technology-enabled public administration

capable of responding effectively to Pakistan's contemporary development challenges.

Dar Speaks to Araghchi, stresses uninterrupted oil supply and safe shipping routes



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar spoke by phone with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday to discuss the regional situation, according to the Foreign Office. Dar emphasized the importance of uninterrupted petroleum supply and safe passage for maritime vessels, calling it critical for developing countries and global supply chains, and reaffirmed that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only path to regional peace. The two agreed to continue cooperation and meet again during the UN General Assembly session in New York.

The call comes amid growing concern over disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb, both vital trade and energy routes, following Iran's tightened control of Hormuz since February and Houthi seizure of Bab-el-Mandeb alongside a Saudi naval blockade.

Separately, the US has approved visas for Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Araghchi and their delegation to attend the UNGA session, though under strict travel restrictions. Dar arrives in New York today for meetings including the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir and G-77, alongside PM Shehbaz Sharif, arriving from London.

Afghan National Identified Among Kohat Police Lines Attackers



News Desk

KOHAT: Investigators probing the terrorist attack on the Kohat Police Lines have identified one of the two suicide bombers as an Afghan national, according to security sources. The bomber was identified as Mutee-Ullah, while the identity of the second attacker is still being verified.

Security forces killed all eight terrorists involved in the attack after completing a clearance operation on Saturday. According to police, some militants had entered the Special Branch building after the initial assault and were subsequently eliminated by

responding forces.

The attack began on Friday with a suicide bombing at the mosque inside the Police Lines, followed by an assault on the Special Branch building. Security forces cordoned off the area and continued the clearance operation for a second day.

The death toll has risen to 23, including 17 police personnel and six civilians, while more than 100 people were injured. Several senior police officers were among those killed. The CTD Additional Inspector General, who supervised the operation, was also injured after militants threw a grenade at him.

Govt, JI begin fifth round of talks on petroleum levy

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The fifth round of talks between the government and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) over the proposed abolition of the petroleum levy began in Lahore.

A government delegation headed by Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal reached Mansoor to hold talks with Jamaat-e-Islami leadership.

The delegation also includes Prime Minister's Advisor Rana Sanaullah Khan and Punjab Provincial Minister Khawaja Salman.

JI's negotiating team is being led by Deputy Emir Liaqat Baloch.

Other members include acting secretary general Nazir Ahmed Janjua, Lahore emir Zia-ud-Din Ansari, special assistant to the emir, and others.

The negotiations over the abolition of the petroleum levy began on September 7, with the two sides holding multiple rounds of talks since then.

JI has announced a "Super Long March" for September 20 if the government fails to abolish the petroleum levy.

Najeeb Naqi Khan submits papers for AJK President election

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: PML-N presidential candidate Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan on Saturday submitted his nomination papers for the election of the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). He submitted the papers to Chief Election Commissioner

Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal in Muzaffarabad.

Dr. Naqi was accompanied by AJK Prime Minister Iftikhar Gillani, PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir, former prime minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan and other senior party leaders, ministers, legislators and former ministers.



According to the schedule announced by the AJK Election Commission, the presidential election will be held on September 24.

Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan, a native of Palandri, is an experienced politician who has served several terms as a member of the AJK Legislative Assembly. During his political career,

he has also held several important ministerial portfolios.

The submission of his nomination papers formally places his candidature in the upcoming presidential election, with the election process now proceeding according to the schedule announced by the Election Commission.

Negligence

MUZAFFARABAD: Students travelling on Suzuki van in dangerous way may cause any serious incidents, in the State Capital.



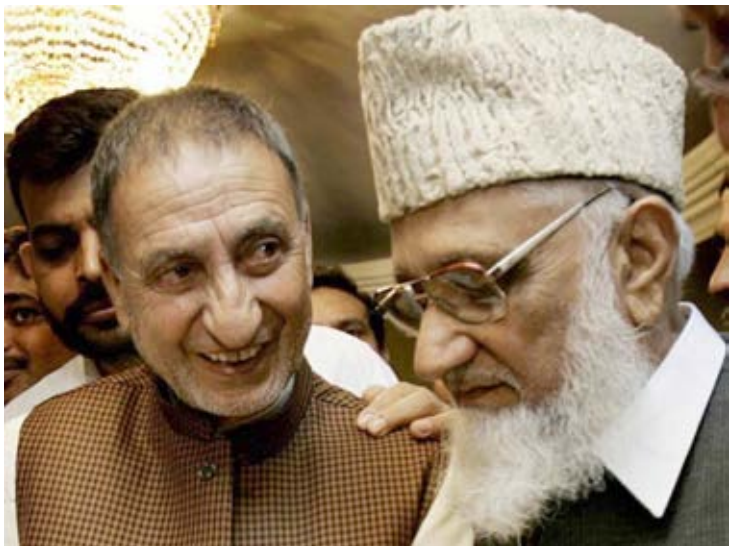
Photo: Online

Abdul Ghani Butt's Intellectual and Political Legacy Remembered

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: Vice Chairman of Tehreek-e-Shabab-ul-Muslimeen Jammu & Kashmir and former All Parties Hurriyat Conference Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt has paid tribute to veteran Kashmiri leader, scholar and former APHC chairman Professor Abdul Ghani Butt on his death anniversary.

Mushtaq Ahmed Butt recalled Professor Butt's contributions as an educator, political thinker and scholar, highlighting his analytical approach to the Kashmir dispute and emphasis on dialogue, moderation and political engagement. He said Professor Butt considered historical developments, ground realities and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir



important factors in understanding the dispute.

He also highlighted Butt's role in educating successive generations and contributing to political discourse through reasoned debate and strategic thinking.

Mushtaq Ahmed Butt called on the international community, United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and human-rights bodies to continue monitoring developments in Jammu and Kashmir through impartial mechanisms. He stressed the importance of a peaceful political process that considers the rights and aspirations of the people concerned.

He said Professor Butt's intellectual and political contributions would continue to be remembered with respect.

Peace Jirga Discusses Rawalakot Situation, Calls for Meaningful Dialogue

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: An important Peace Jirga was held in Islamabad to discuss the prevailing situation in Rawalakot. The jirga was chaired by Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, Member of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and ex AJK Minister Information.

The gathering was attended by former President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Yaqoob Khan, along with Sardar Hassan Ibrahim, Sardar Amir Altaf, Sardar Khaliq Wasi, Sardar Khitab Azam and other prominent personalities.

The participants agreed that a sustainable solution to the prevailing situation should be sought through meaningful and purposeful dialogue with the Awami Action Committee, rather than through the use of force or further escalation.

On the occasion, Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah assured the participants that



efforts were continuing to resolve the issues at the earliest through mutual understanding, reconciliation and

consensus.

He expressed hope that positive progress would be made soon and

that the prevailing situation would be resolved peacefully through dialogue and collective efforts.

Property Seizures: a New Tool of Repression in Kashmir

Spokesman Report/Agencies.

SIRINAGER: Across IIOJK, the attachment, confiscation and demolition of Kashmiris' properties has emerged as a serious human-rights concern.

Properties are being attached or seized on various legal and security pretexts, creating fear and economic pressure.

Three more properties were recently attached in Kupwara and Shopian, amid a wider pattern of property-related actions.

Since August 2019, hundreds of properties have reportedly been seized or attached under various proceedings. Homes have also been demolished during military and security operations, leaving families displaced and economically vulnerable.

Property confiscation, demolitions and forced displacement raise serious concerns over land, livelihood and demographic rights.

Such measures must not become instruments of collective punishment or political coercion.

The international community must scrutinize property seizures, demolitions and forced evictions in IIOJK and ensure protection of civilians, property rights and fundamental freedoms.

CM Maryam Nawaz working day and night to fulfill promises to the people: Sheikh Aftab



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: MNA and Supreme Judicial Commission member Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz continues working with dedication to fulfill her commitments to the public, speaking at a ceremony launching a new Rescue 1122 welfare initiative in Attock district.

Under the scheme, aligned with PM Shehbaz Sharif's vision, Rescue 1122 will transport deceased persons from hospitals to their homes, easing the financial burden on poor families who previously relied on costly private ambulance services. Ahmed noted Attock city had only one hearse van, prompting him to raise the issue with PM Shehbaz Sharif and pursue land acquisition near the hospital and COMSATS University. He praised CM Maryam Nawaz's initiative to provide an ambulance in every tehsil for this purpose.

District Emergency Officer Dr. Mian Muhammad Ashfaq thanked Ahmed and other officials, confirming an ambulance has been assigned to every tehsil, and expressed gratitude to CM Maryam Nawaz for the scheme. Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Saeed and other local dignitaries also attended the event alongside Rescue 1122 personnel.

PSCA intensifies technology-driven crackdown to curb smog and environmental pollution across Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has stepped up its technology-driven crackdown on smog and environmental pollution, using AI-powered cameras, drones and virtual patrolling through Smart Safe City Centres to monitor pollution-causing activities across Punjab.

A PSCA spokesperson said 1,327 environmental violations were detected over the last three days. Of 637 vehicles found transporting construction material without protective tarpaulins, 390 were fined and 146 warned. Additionally, 507 smoke-emitting vehicles were identified, leading to 406 challans and 29 warnings, while 756 e-challans were issued via Safe City cameras for excessive vehicle smoke.

Monitoring also flagged 120 violations related to barbecue smoke and chimney emissions, resulting in four fines and 100 warnings, and 54 cases of brick kiln smoke emissions, leading to three fines, one kiln sealing and 21 warnings. The spokesperson said crop-residue and waste burning are being continuously monitored via cameras and drones, with violations reported to relevant authorities.

Citizens were urged to report environmentally harmful activities through Emergency Helpline 15 or the "Connect to PSCA" feature on the Public Safety App for timely action.

CBD Punjab accelerates development at NSIT City

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has accelerated development activities across NSIT City, Pakistan's first and largest IT city, with infrastructure and construction projects progressing toward their scheduled completion.

Under Infrastructure Package One, plastering and installation of Aluminum Composite Panel sheets at the main entrance gate are underway, while tile installation and cobblestone work along the central road median and public areas are nearing completion.

A major milestone has also been achieved at the Celestia IT & Office Tower, where reinforcement work for the final slab casting on the 20th floor is in progress. Glazing, structural glass fitting and ACP cladding are also advancing on the building's exterior. Lighting system testing on the ground and first floors has been completed, while HVAC integration and electrical installations continue.

Medical Entrance Test to be held at five centres in Multan today

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: On the directives of the Punjab government, the Medical Entrance Test will be held in Multan tomorrow, Sunday, September 20.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Faisal Saleem chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the Medical Entrance Test. SSP Operations Muhammad Haider was also present.

The meeting was informed that five centres have been established in Multan for the test: the University of Southern Punjab, Times University, Women University Multan, Multan University of Science and Technology, and Mian Nawaz Sharif Agriculture University Multan.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Faisal Saleem directed the concerned departments to ensure all possible facilities for candidates and their parents during the examination. He ordered comprehensive security arrangements at all centres and directed officials to make adequate parking arrangements. He also directed that cleanliness be maintained at the examination centres and their surrounding areas, while shaded areas, drinking water and other essential facilities should be provided for parents.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:30 am
Zohr 12:02 pm
Asr 4:25 pm
Maghrib 6:09 pm
Isha 7:33 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80

PMML condemns Kohat mosque blast

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Leaders of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) have condemned the blast during Friday prayers in Kohat, describing it as a serious act of violence and expressing solidarity with security institutions in the fight against terrorism.

PMML President Khalid Masood Sindhu, Secretary General Saifullah Qasuri and other senior leaders paid tribute to security personnel for killing seven militants, including the suicide bomber, following the attack. They expressed condolences to the families of those killed and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The leaders called for strict action against terrorist groups under the National Action Plan, saying stronger measures were needed to prevent further attacks and protect citizens. They said those targeting worshippers and civilians posed a threat to the country and its people.

The PMML also urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to strengthen security arrangements and address public concerns. The leaders said their party would continue efforts to unite and mobilise the nation against terrorism, while honouring the sacrifices of security personnel.

CM Punjab says development focus extends to all 41 Punjab districts

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said the province's development focus was no longer limited to any particular city but extended to all 41 districts.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the Punjab Assembly and ticket-holders from Multan, she said development projects were being planned for the first time according to population ratios.

The chief minister said modern green electric buses had been introduced in far-flung areas of Punjab before being launched in Lahore. She also said a cancer ablation machine imported from China had been installed at Nishtar Hospital, Multan, after its introduction at Mayo Hospital, Lahore, and treatment had already begun.

She said the machine would provide non-surgical cancer treatment not only to patients from Multan but also to those from other provinces.

The meeting discussed development projects and public issues in Multan. The lawmakers thanked CM Punjab for the construction of the Jalalpur Pirwala and Noraj Bhutta flood protection embankments in a record time.



The chief minister agreed to a proposal for construction of a bridge over the Chenab between Shujaabad and Khan Garh and directed the authorities to examine a proposal for converting the existing jail site into a public park. She

also ordered expansion and redesigning of Khanewal Road.

The chief minister directed that lawmakers be kept involved in development projects in their respective constituencies until their completion.

The lawmakers expressed support for the chief minister and praised her government's development and law-and-order measures. They said the benefits of development had started reaching the people and described the government's

flood response and measures against land-grabbing groups as significant steps.

They said Punjab had emerged as an example of development and that the chief minister had taken a lead in the province's development.

Waiting for customers

RAWALPINDI: A vendor sparkling watering on salad ingredients to keep them fresh in the street of city.



Photo: Online

JI Announces Super Long March Against Petroleum Levy

Abdul Majid

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Provincial Emir Javed Kasuri has demanded the immediate abolition of the petroleum levy, describing it as an unjust burden on the public. Addressing a press conference in Faisalabad, he said JI's "Super Long March" would begin from Karachi by train and proceed from Multan through the GT Road to Lahore before moving towards Islamabad.

Kasuri said the movement would remain peaceful and constitutionally and democratically conducted, citing JI's sit-ins at more than 40 locations over the past 34 days without violence or property



damage. He warned that any use of force to obstruct the march would make the government responsible for the consequences.

He criticized the government

for imposing an Rs80-per-litre petroleum levy and Rs5 climate levy, along with other taxes. He said the government collected more than Rs1,550 billion in petroleum levies last year and

had set a target of Rs1,700 billion for the current year.

Kasuri said the march could only be averted through complete abolition of the petroleum levy.

Experts call for coordinated action to strengthen mandatory food fortification in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) seminar on "Mandatory Food Fortification in Pakistan" said 63 percent of Pakistanis could not afford a minimum healthy diet in 2025, ranking the country 106th out of 123 on the Global Hunger Index. They noted 40 percent of children under five remain stunted, with widespread micronutrient deficiencies among women and children.

SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said roughly 25 percent of Pakistanis are food insecure and stressed advocacy, legislation and gender-sensitive policymaking. Health Services Academy Vice-Chancellor Dr Shahzad Ali Khan called for evidence-based advocacy and stronger engagement with policymakers. GAIN's Farrah Naz urged "breaking invisibility" around nutrition data and highlighted oil and wheat fortification as



priorities.

Nutrition International's Zameer Haider cited successful salt and oil fortification models, while WFP's

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif flagged implementation gaps among small chakki mills, noting only a fraction of Pakistan's roughly 70,000 chakkis

have needed equipment. SDPI's Saifa Waris reviewed Pakistan's fortification history, noting the 2025 Federal Food Fortification Bill remains pending.

Azma Bokhari condoles death of senior stage actor Asif Iqbal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has expressed deep sorrow over the death of senior stage actor Asif Iqbal, who passed away after suffering a heart attack.



In her condolence message, the provincial minister said Asif Iqbal's death was a great shock for his family and the theatre community. She acknowledged his long-standing contribution to theatre and his services to the performing arts.

Azma Bokhari said the late actor had developed a distinctive identity in the theatre industry through his unique style of dialogue delivery and acting. She added that his artistic contributions would continue to be remembered by audiences and colleagues.

The minister expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family, praying that Allah Almighty grant forgiveness and mercy to the deceased and give patience and strength to his family to bear the loss.

She also recognized Asif Iqbal's role in enriching Pakistan's theatre tradition through his long career and distinctive performance style.

PPP South Punjab condemns drone attempt targeting Makkah

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) South Punjab leaders have strongly condemned an alleged attempt to target Makkah Al-Mukarramah with a drone, describing it as a serious threat to the sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques and regional peace.

PPP South Punjab President and former Punjab Governor Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood, Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam and Chief Coordinator Abdul Qadir Shaheen said any hostile action directed toward the Holy Kaaba would affect the religious sentiments of Muslims worldwide. They stressed that the Two Holy Mosques must remain protected from armed conflicts and military activities.

The leaders expressed support for Saudi Arabia's security and sovereignty and commended its defence system for intercepting the drone before it entered Makkah's restricted airspace. They called on Muslim countries and the international community to take practical measures to safeguard the holy sites.

The PPP leaders said Pakistan stands with Saudi Arabia in protecting Makkah and Madinah and urged unity among Muslim nations to preserve their sanctity and security.

Chairman CDA reviews Islamabad Expressway East, E-12 development; 58 illegal units sealed, 290 Kanals retrieved

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Soahil Asaraf and Chief Commissioner Islamabad conducted a detailed field inspection of Islamabad Expressway Service Road East Project and Sector E-12 on Saturday and reviewed progress of major infrastructure and anti-encroachment operations.

The Chairman directed concerned formations to accelerate pace of work, remove all bottlenecks and ensure timely completion while maintaining quality, safety and construction standards.

During inspection of Islamabad Expressway Service Road East Project, the Chairman reviewed rehabilitation and infrastructure works at various sections and received comprehensive briefing from officers and project teams regarding implementation, site conditions and measures to remove impediments.

He was briefed on the enforcement operation against illegal, unauthorized and non-conforming buildings along the Service Road East being carried out by Building Control Section and Enforcement Directorate in coordination with District Administration and Islamabad Police.

According to briefing, CDA has so far taken action against 58 construction units found in violation of building control regulations, including 34 units along Sohan-Iqbal Town stretch and 24 units along Korang Bridge-Korang Police Station and Gulberg Greens stretch. Further illegal units have been identified and survey in remaining areas is continuing.

The briefing revealed several commercial buildings were involved in non-conforming use and lacking mandatory fire-safety arrangements. Notices were issued to owners to rectify violations, complete fire-safety measures, obtain approvals and clear government dues, but despite expiry of stipulated period, several failed to comply, leading to enforcement action as per law.

The Chairman directed strict compliance with fire-safety requirements including approved building plans, emergency exits and fire equipment, and effective traffic management to minimize inconvenience for commuters. He said Expressway East is a major initiative to improve connectivity, traffic flow and road capacity between Islamabad, Rawalpindi and adjoining areas.

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Reforming the Steel Frame: Pakistan's Overdue Civil Service Reckoning

Pakistan's civil service has long carried the weight of a colonial inheritance built for law and order and revenue collection, not for steering a modern economy through digital transformation, climate stress and demographic pressure. The consultative session chaired by Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, bringing together political rivals and allies alike around a shared reform framework, deserves recognition — not because it is new, but because it may finally break the pattern of reform reports gathering dust.

The diagnosis offered is sound. A recruitment system that sorts officers into occupational groups by examination score alone, with little regard for academic background or the technical demands of the ministry they will serve, cannot produce the specialised expertise that sectors like health, finance or agriculture require. Generalist administrators, however capable, cannot substitute indefinitely for domain knowledge in an era of AI-driven governance and complex fiscal management. The proposal to build professional cadres with real career pathways in specialised fields is a necessary correction, decades late.

Equally welcome is the emphasis on meritocratic promotion tied to demonstrable performance rather than seniority, and the push for measurable, outcome-based accountability. A bureaucracy evaluated on tenure rather than delivery has little incentive to innovate. Key performance indicators, if implemented honestly and not reduced to box-ticking, could shift the culture of Pakistan's administrative apparatus in a meaningful way.

The call to loosen the stranglehold of elite English-language proficiency in recruitment also merits attention. A civil service that filters out talented candidates for want of polished English, rather than functional competence, has been quietly excluding capability drawn from outside Pakistan's traditional elite educational pipelines. Widening that gate is not a dilution of standards; it is a correction of a flawed one.

Yet the real test lies ahead. Pakistan does not lack for reform commissions — it lacks for reforms that survive a change of government. The presence of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Abdul Aleem Khan and Asad Umar at the same table, endorsing a framework born of nearly a year's deliberation and 46 recommendations, suggests an attempt at durable, cross-party ownership rather than another partisan initiative destined for reversal.

Asad Umar's suggestion that the effort be named after the minister risks reducing an institutional project to a personal legacy question. The proposal's success should not hinge on nomenclature but on implementation discipline that outlasts any single minister, government or political era. That is the only report card that will matter.

Pakistan Needs Constitutional Governance More Than New Administrative Units

As Pakistan enters its 79th year, the debate over creating new provinces and administrative units has again gained political prominence. However, the central question is whether Pakistan's governance problems are rooted in its administrative geography or in the way the existing constitutional system is implemented. Pakistan's political history suggests that changing the number or size of provinces alone cannot resolve persistent governance challenges.

The country has experienced parliamentary and presidential systems, military rule, elected governments, constitutional amendments and administrative reorganisations. Yet questions surrounding constitutional supremacy, institutional authority, political representation and accountability have continued. The experience of the 1950s and 1960s, followed by the political crisis that culminated in the separation of East Pakistan in 1971, demonstrated that a federation requires political trust, meaningful representation and respect for electoral mandates, not merely geographical arrangements.

The 1973 Constitution established a parliamentary and federal framework, fundamental rights, provincial autonomy

and a bicameral legislature. However, the subsequent political history demonstrated that constitutional provisions alone cannot guarantee constitutional government. Their effectiveness depends on institutions respecting constitutional limits and accepting them as binding.

The current debate gained renewed attention in September 2026 following remarks by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi regarding the possible resetting of Pakistan's administrative structure and creation of new administrative units. Subsequent statements indicated that any new unit should be considered through public opinion, political consensus and constitutional and legal procedures. The discussion should not, however, be interpreted as a final government decision or an approved constitutional change.

A crucial distinction is between a new province and an administrative unit within an existing province. Creating a province would affect political representation, provincial assemblies, administrative machinery, finances, public assets, employees, revenue collec-

tion and relations with the federation. Administrative reorganisation, by contrast, could bring government closer to citizens without fundamentally changing the federal structure.

The key consideration should therefore be the practical impact on citizens. Any restructuring should answer whether public services would improve, schools and hospitals become more accessible, policing become more accountable, local governments receive meaningful authority and resources, development funds be distributed transparently, and citizens gain easier access to elected representatives and public institutions. Without clear answers, changing administrative boundaries could simply rearrange the map without improving governance.

Article 140-A of the Constitution is particularly relevant because it requires provincial governments to establish local-government systems and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to elected local representatives. Genuine devolution could address many problems asso-

ciated with administrative distance by giving local governments clearly defined functions, adequate resources and meaningful authority.

The article does not argue that new provinces or administrative units are necessarily unnecessary. There may be legitimate administrative, demographic or developmental reasons for restructuring. However, such proposals should be assessed on evidence rather than political rhetoric. Population, geographical size, fiscal capacity, revenue potential, infrastructure, water resources, employment, education, healthcare, administrative expenditure and political representation all require careful examination.

There is also a significant constitutional requirement. Under Article 239, an amendment affecting the limits of a province requires approval by at least two-thirds of the total membership of the provincial assembly concerned before proceeding to the President. Political advocacy and constitutional change are therefore separate processes. Parties may campaign for restructuring and seek public support, but actual constitutional changes must follow prescribed procedures.

The broader governance challenge is unlikely to disappear simply by creating

Continued on Page 7



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

The China Question: When Economic Growth Becomes National Power

China's rapid rise over four decades transformed it from an isolated, poor nation into a global industrial, tech, and political power. This shift was no accident—it was driven by a long-term strategy that systematically linked economic growth with foreign policy to reinforce each other. The turning point came in 1978, when Deng Xiaoping initiated the era of reform and opening up. Instead of abandoning state direction, China gradually opened up to foreign investment, encouraged private enterprise, and set up Special Economic Zones. This steady, practical strategy successfully transitioned the country from a rural farming society into a modern, market-driven industrial powerhouse.

China's extraordinary growth was therefore built on a simple but powerful principle: learn from the world without becoming dependent on the world. Beijing welcomed foreign capital, technology and markets while simultaneously building domestic industrial capacity. Its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001 accelerated this process, integrating Chinese manufacturing into global supply chains and expanding its access to international markets.

But factories alone cannot explain China's rise. Behind the economic transformation was an enormous investment in infrastructure, education, human capital, science and technology. China built highways, ports, industrial zones, railways and cities at a speed rarely witnessed in modern history. Millions of people moved from agriculture into manufacturing and services, creating an

enormous productive workforce. The result was not merely higher national income; it was a profound restructuring of Chinese society.

China's foreign policy evolved alongside this transformation. For decades, Beijing generally avoided unnecessary confrontation and emphasized self-control means autonomy, non-interference, economic cooperation and a stable international environment. The underlying calculation was strategic: China needed peace and access to global markets more than it needed ideological confrontation.

This does not mean that China's foreign policy has remained passive. As its economic weight increased, its diplomacy became more ambitious. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) represents perhaps the clearest expression of this new approach. Through infrastructure, trade and connectivity, China sought to expand economic relationships across Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond. Beijing presents the BRI as a platform for cooperation and development rather than a military alliance.

The deeper significance of the BRI is that China increasingly understands power not simply in military terms, but through trade routes, ports, technology, investment, finance, infrastructure and diplomatic relationships. In this sense, Chinese foreign policy has become an extension of its economic strategy.

China's rise also challenges the traditional assumption that modernization must follow a single Western political and economic path. Beijing has pursued what might be called pragmatic state capitalism: markets generate wealth, private firms create dynamism, but the state retains a strong role in strategic sectors and long-term planning. The success of this model has attracted attention throughout the developing world, even as questions remain about debt, demographics, inequality, property markets, political freedoms and the sustainability of high-speed growth.

Perhaps the most important lesson of China's experience is not that every country should copy China. It is that national transformation requires consistency between domestic priorities and foreign policy. China opened its doors without surrendering its strategic direction; it entered global markets while building domestic capabilities; and it converted economic interdependence into diplomatic influence.

China's story, therefore, is not simply the story of a country becoming rich. It is the story of a state learning how to convert population into productivity, productivity into wealth, wealth into technology, technology into strategic influence, and influence into a new conception of global power.

The world is now confronting the consequences of that transformation. China is no longer merely participating in the international order—it is increasingly seeking to shape it. Whether the emerging era becomes one of confrontation or coexistence will depend not only on Beijing, but also on how other major powers respond to China's extraordinary rise.

The real question of the twenty-first century is consequently not whether China has risen. It is what the world will do with a China that has learned how to turn economic development into national power.

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The Woes of Education in Pakistan

Before entering the teaching profession, I spent several years in corporate communication, working extensively with English-language media, writing, editing and professional communication. Over time, I became increasingly aware of the fear English creates for many students—not simply the fear of the subject, but the fear of making mistakes, being judged and ultimately failing.

I began to wonder: could I help turn English from a source of anxiety into a tool for confidence, expression and opportunity?

That question eventually brought me from the corporate world into a government school classroom.

The transition was hardly glamorous. Polished offices gave way to modest classrooms, dusty floors and a scarcely equipped staff room.

Yet I came with a simple hope: to make a difference.

Years later, I sometimes find myself asking a painful question:

Am I a failed teacher?

The question has become harder to ignore after the recent Grade Nine results. I have considerable professional experience in English language teaching and a master's degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Yet a result sheet cannot capture everything that happens inside a classroom. A teacher may plan lessons, identify learning gaps, work with struggling students and keep trying—and still be judged by a single number.

This is not an argument against accountability. Teachers must be accountable.

But can the performance of an entire education system really be reduced to the performance of individual teachers?

Poor results demand attention. They should lead to honest reflection and corrective action. But they

should also make us look beyond the classroom door.

Outdated curricula, rote learning, examination patterns, gaps in teacher training, limited resources, weak assessment practices, parental disengagement and inadequate use of technology all influence learning outcomes. When a complex problem is reduced to a single culprit, we may punish a symptom while leaving the disease untreated.

Teachers, too, must look inward. No teacher is beyond improvement. Professional respect cannot become an excuse for complacency.

But accountability works best when it is accompanied by support, professional development, meaningful feedback and the resources needed to improve. Blame may identify a target; support builds capacity.

Perhaps the deeper problem lies in what we choose to measure.

If students are trained mainly to memorise guidebooks and reproduce predetermined answers, examinations may measure memory more than understanding. In language learning, a memorised essay may earn marks, but it does not necessarily produce a student who can communicate confidently, think critically or express an original idea.

So we should ask an uncomfortable question: When an examination rewards conformity more than understanding, should the examination system itself not be examined?

A good examination should test what a student understands, not merely how much a student can remember.

Recent efforts to strengthen examination integrity and curb cheating are welcome. But examination integrity requires more than surveillance. It also requires trained evaluators, transparent procedures,

Continued on Page 7

D-8 Secretary-General Sohail Mahmood Represents Bloc at Boao Forum for Asia in China



ISTANBUL: D-8 Organisation Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood participated in high-level Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) events in Haikou, China, from September 15-17, marking D-8's first-ever representation at the forum. He joined the Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation Roundtable and the Global Health Forum, gathering nearly 300 participants from over 30 countries.

Mahmood spoke on accelerating regional economic integration toward FTAAP, emphasizing openness, connectivity, and D-8's poten-



tial for stronger trade linkages across Asia. At the Global Health Forum, he outlined priorities for equitable global health governance, highlighting D-8 members' strengths in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and digital health.

On the sidelines, he held bilateral meetings with BFA Secretary-General Zhang Jun to strengthen institutional cooperation, and with Bangladesh's Health Minister Sardar Md. Sakawat Hossain to advance D-8 health initiatives ahead of a ministerial meeting in Türkiye. He also toured Hainan's innovation hubs, including Haikou Bio City and Hainan University Science Park.

Mahmood thanked BFA leadership, Hainan authorities, and Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, for their support in facilitating the visit.

Kashmir Delegation Addresses UN Human Rights Council, Alleges Systematic Rights Violations in Indian-Occupied Kashmir

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: A delegation representing a coalition of international human rights organizations and civil society groups addressed the 63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council under Item 3's General Debate, raising concerns about the human rights situation in Indian-Occupied Kashmir. The delegation included representatives from United Villages, the World Muslim Congress, the Community Advocacy Centre, International Action for Peace and Sustainable Development, and the Commission on Health and Human Rights Promoters.

Speakers alleged shrinking civic space, digital surveillance, land grabs, and demographic engineering, along with claims of systemic torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, gender-based violence, and curriculum manipulation aimed at erasing Kashmiri history and identity. They described these as a coordinated effort to suppress political dissent and cultural identity in the region.

The delegation urged the interna-



tional community not to remain silent and called on the UNHRC to establish an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate the alleged violations and hold those responsible accountable under international law.

Indian police officer 'punished' for saying 'Assalamualaikum, 'Inshallah', and Jazakallah

Web Desk

HYDERABAD: Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Bushra Bano, against whom a right-wing organisation filed a complaint with the West Bengal Home Secretary, has been transferred.

The transfer order was issued on Monday, September 14, by the state government. Bano's transfer comes after she posted a video, sharing her journey of joining the civil services. She greeted with "Assalamualaikum," "Inshallah" and signed off with "Jazakallah."

The Hindu Legal Fund filed a complaint with the government, alleging the officer did not say Vande



Mataram or Jai Hind.

"A serving officer representing the Indian state should maintain neutrality and use national expressions in public communication," read their X post, demanding an enquiry against her.

IPS Bushra Bano's video largely focused on her journey from an assistant professor in Saudi Arabia to one of India's most prestigious government posts.

She is a 2021-batch IPS officer from the West Bengal cadre. Her first posting was as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Hooghly Rural.

In June this year, she was promoted to Additional Superintendent of Police (Addl SP) and is currently posted in Kharagpur.

Condemnation of Terrorist Attack in Pakistan



Esmaeil Baghaei, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a mosque near a police center in the city of Kohat, in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, during Friday prayers—an attack that resulted in the death and injury of dozens of people. He extended his condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the government and the Muslim people of neighboring Pakistan.

Reiterating the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled stance of firmly condemning all forms of terrorism and violent extremism, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson emphasized that terrorist and violent acts against civilians and security personnel have absolutely no justification.

Baghaei also underscored the necessity of strengthening cooperation and coordination among regional countries to effectively and consistently combat terrorism.

PIACL renews IOSA registration for 12th consecutive time

Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) has successfully renewed its registration under the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) Program for the 12th consecutive cycle, reaffirming the airline's continued commitment to internationally recognized standards of operational safety, security, quality, and regulatory compliance.

IOSA is an internationally recognized safety assessment program developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to evaluate the operational management and control systems of airlines against established global aviation safety standards and requirements.

PIACL's renewed IOSA registration is valid for two years, until 11 September 2028. The renewal follows the successful completion of PIACL's first Risk-Based IOSA (RBI) Audit, conducted from 8 to 11 June 2026.



The Risk-Based IOSA methodology places enhanced emphasis on the identification and assessment of operational risks, while evaluating the effectiveness of an airline's operational control and safety management systems. The successful completion of the RBI Audit and subsequent renewal of IOSA registration represents an important milestone in PIACL's continued focus on strengthening safety performance and operational resilience.

The comprehensive audit covered key areas of PIACL's operations and management systems, including Flight Operations, Cabin Operations, Ground Handling, Cargo Operations, Security, Safety Management System (SMS), Quality Assurance, and other applicable operational and organizational functions.

The successful renewal demonstrates PIACL's continued adherence to internationally recognized aviation safety, security, quality, and operational requirements. It also reflects the airline's sustained efforts to strengthen its Safety Management System, Quality Assurance processes, operational controls, risk management framework, security arrangements, and regulatory compliance mechanisms.

Commenting on the achievement, PIACL management acknowledged the collective efforts of the airline's operational departments and the Corporate Quality & Safety Assurance (CQSA) team, whose professionalism, technical expertise, audit preparedness, and commitment to continuous improvement contributed to the successful completion of the IOSA renewal process.

Portugal Envoy outlines roadmap for stronger Pakistan ties



ISLAMABAD: Portugal's Ambassador to Pakistan, Paulo Miguel Guedes Domingues, has highlighted key areas for expanding cooperation between Pakistan and Portugal, pointing to tourism, education, culture, trade and people-to-people links as major drivers of future relations.

The ambassador noted that around 50,000 Pakistanis live in Portugal and more than 600 Pakistani students study there, reflecting growing connections between the two countries.

In an exclusive interview with APP, Ambassador Paulo said Pakistan and Portugal possess rich cultural traditions, historical heritage and diverse landscapes, but tourism exchanges remain below their full potential.

He said both countries should bring together travel operators, airlines, and tourism agencies to raise awareness of travel opportunities. He also stressed the importance of digital platforms and cultural activities in promoting tourism.

Speaking about Pakistan's tourism sector, the ambassador said the country has significant potential, particularly in its northern regions. He added that Portugal could share its experience in tourism development, destination promotion and hospitality training.

Vietnam IT Ministry to harness digital tools in child protection drive

News Desk

Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology has issued a plan to implement the national programme on child protection and the prevention and reduction of unlawful child labour for the 2026-30 period.

The ministry will work with the Ministry of Health and relevant agencies to implement Party and State guidelines and policies, as well as international commitments, on safeguarding children's rights and legitimate interests and ensuring that they live in a safe, friendly, healthy and equitable environment.

The plan sets several key targets, including ensuring that all families with children receive child protection knowledge and skills through various channels. All pupils will also be taught life skills and how to protect themselves from child abuse, school violence and online violence, as well as how to prevent child labour, with guidance tailored to their age.

It also aims to ensure that all abused children, those at risk of violence, exploitation or abandonment, and those in other special circumstances are registered in the child database system, which will be connected to relevant databases for shared use.

To achieve these objectives, the ministry will work with the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies to improve legal regulations, mechanisms, policies, standards and guidelines on child protection.

They will also strengthen legal education and public awareness of child protection while improving the capacity of those working in the field.

The ministry will organise science and technology communications activities, either independently or in co-ordination with other agencies, to disseminate knowledge and skills and mobilise society to uphold children's rights

and fulfil child protection responsibilities.

These activities will harness information technology, digital transformation and the reach of online platforms, with content tailored to different target groups, regions and localities. Priority will be given to remote, border and island areas, disadvantaged communities and areas inhabited by ethnic minority groups.

The ministry will also strengthen international co-operation and promote the use of information technology and digital transformation in child protection.

In particular, it will work with the Ministry of Health and relevant agencies to update, standardise and share child-related data with relevant database systems while ensuring information security and protecting children's personal data.



Children using laptops in a classroom setting, part of a digital literacy program.

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
169,043.19	168,021.80
Day's High	Day's Low
169,576.52	168,222.91
Index Value	Change
13,474,387,451	+ 1021.39
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	17 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,816.14	+ 127.67
Percentage	Time
+ 1.19%	17 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT + 1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,801.41	+ 339.51
Percentage	Time
+0.66%	17 Sept, 1:45 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
64,136.25	+ 213.25
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	17 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	73.8	74.5
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	278.3

Cotton Bale Arrivals
Rise 19.17% to 2.39
Million as of September
15, 2026: PCGA

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) Chairman Sham Lal Manglani and executive members announced that 2,388,682 bales of cotton had arrived at the country's ginning factories by September 15, 2026, up from 2,004,384 bales in the same period last year — a 19.17 percent increase of 384,298 bales.

Punjab received 860,942 bales, up 24.73 percent (170,688 bales) over last year's 690,254, while Sindh received 1,527,740 bales, up 16.25 percent (213,610 bales) from 1,314,130. A total of 2,207,183 bales of lint cotton were produced from cotton received so far, with 412 ginning factories currently operational nationwide, including 205 in Punjab, which produced 788,261 bales.

CCP Imposes PKR
60 Million Penalty
on Edible Oil Tanker
Owners' Association
for Cartelization

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has fined the All Pakistan Edible Oil Tanker Owners Association (APEOTOA) PKR 60 million — PKR 30 million each for price fixing and market allocation — for violating Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, through fixing transportation charges and allocating business via a restrictive queue system.

The case stemmed from a suo motu enquiry launched in August 2024 after CCP surveillance detected circulars fixing edible oil transport rates from Karachi ports, followed by a February 2025 search and inspection. Investigators found APEOTOA revised rates 89 times between 2019 and 2025, in coordination with matching circulars from the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA), with APEOTOA representatives confirming an inter-association rate-setting agreement.

Federal Minister Highlights Karachi's Economic Role, Pushes Export-Led Growth and Investment Reforms

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh addressed a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, stressing that Karachi, contributing around

60 percent of national revenue, deserves political importance matching its economic weight. Drawing on his 1987 tenure as Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, he called for accelerated investment, industrial growth and export expansion to drive sustain-



Economic Forum during the UN General Assembly session to showcase Pakistan's investment potential. He also outlined Board of Investment efforts to cut regulatory hurdles and improve ease of doing business.

Comparing defence budgets, he noted India spends roughly \$85 billion versus Pakistan's \$10.5 billion, while highlighting that around 120 million Pakistanis remain below the poverty line, underscoring the urgency for economic reform. Sheikh noted he has drawn no ministerial salary for two and a half years while paying substantial taxes.

Constructions

RAWALPINDI: A view of work on up-gradation of sewage line infrastructure in Ganj Mandi area.



Photo: Online

Chery Master Pakistan Launches Chery Q at PKR 5.554 Million



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chery Master Pakistan has launched the Chery Q at a limited introductory price of PKR 5,554,000 during the Pakistan Auto Show 2026, marking the company's move into fully electric mobility. Customers purchasing the vehicle during the offer will also receive a complimentary 7kW home charger worth PKR 100,000.

The Chery Q features a 42.7kWh battery, up to 400km NEDC range and 9.4km/kWh efficiency. It includes six airbags, Level 2 advanced driver-assistance systems with 21 functions, a 540-degree camera, automatic parking, mobile-app controls, voice commands and a 15.6-inch display supporting Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Chery Master said the Q is designed to

combine spaciousness, technology, safety and lower running costs in an accessible electric vehicle. The company highlighted its relevance for households using solar energy.

The launch follows Chery Master's introduction of three plug-in hybrid models in Pakistan. The company said it plans to expand its dealership network from 14 outlets in eight cities to 20 dealerships across 12 cities within six months.

SECP disposes of 98% adjudication caseload, imposes rs4.73 billion in penalties

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has cleared 98 percent of its adjudication backlog, issuing decisions in 573 cases and imposing penalties exceeding Rs4.73 billion for violations of the Companies Act and other applicable laws.

Following the appointment of Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, the Commission reviewed 953 of 969 available Adjudication Recommendation Notes, concluding 573 cases through reasoned orders, while remaining recommendations were processed through strengthened case management, clearing the entire backlog.

Proceedings covered listed, unlisted and private companies, along with regulated entities such as

securities brokers, insurers and Non-Banking Finance Companies, for violations of the Companies Act, Securities Act and other regulations. The Commission also issued 117 adjudication orders against State-Owned Enterprises for corporate and regulatory violations.

Major violations included failure to submit financial statements, delayed annual general meetings, non-disclosure of mandatory information, breaches of financial-reporting and governance requirements, and failure to appoint female and independent directors.

Chairman Sidhu said SECP is ensuring timely, transparent, evidence-based adjudication, with priorities including expeditious case disposal, strengthening rule of law, promoting regulatory compliance, and protecting investors, particularly minority shareholders.

Hyderabad Chamber President Urges One-Month Extension in Tax Return Filing Deadline Over New Forms, IRIS Portal Issues

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: Muhammad Saleem Memon, President of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, has urged the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue and FBR Chairman to extend the September 30 deadline for filing Tax Year 2026 Income Tax Returns to October 31, citing difficulties from new return forms and technical issues on the IRIS portal.

Memon noted the final electronic return forms were notified only on September 2, 2026, leaving taxpayers little time to compile records and reconcile Wealth Statements, despite Rule 34A requiring forms to be available by January 31. He said increased disclosure requirements demand additional time for accurate compliance,



while taxpayers and consultants face login problems, error messages, and validation issues on the IRIS portal.

Memon stressed the request is not aimed at avoiding tax obligations but at ensuring accurate, transparent filing, which would also improve the quality of data collected by FBR. He urged authorities to grant the extension and ensure no penalties or surcharges are imposed on returns filed within the extended period.

Veteran Engineers Forum Reviews WAPDA Town Phase 3 Progress

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The 48th meeting of the Veteran Engineers Forum was held at a local hotel, chaired by President Engineer Nasir Ayaz, with General Secretary Engineer Mirza Muhammad Sharif serving as moderator. Forty-one engineers from different disciplines attended the meeting.

President of the WAPDA Employees Housing Society (MEPCO), Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti, said significant progress had been made toward resolving issues related to WAPDA Town Phase 3. He expressed hope that

positive developments would be announced within the next two to three months, allowing long-awaiting allottees to begin construction of their homes. He added that other outstanding housing society matters were also being addressed.

Three new members—Engineer Muhammad Asghar Ghallo, Engineer Noor-ul-Hassan Dogar and Engineer Mudassar Hussain—were welcomed into the forum.

Engineer Nasir Ayaz Gurmani said the inclusion of new members was encouraging. He also announced that the forum's Golden Jubilee celebration, scheduled for February 2027,



would be held on a grand scale.

The gathering also featured the distribution of "Mumtaz Nama," a biography of former

forum president Engineer Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, while Engineer Rana Ayub presented poetry. The event concluded with a prayer.

Second edition of the expanded Schools Tournament was officially inaugurated by Chairman PCB

 **Tahir Amin Malik**

Beaconhouse School registered a 20-run win over Aitchison College in the opening match of the PCB Talent Hunt Programme for Schools season two here at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore on Saturday night.

The second season of the schools cricket tournament will see 1400 schools from 100 districts across Pakistan taking part in 2900 40-over matches from September to December this year.

Beaconhouse defended their 244-run total by dismissing Aitchison for 224 in 38.2 overs as all of their seven bowlers at least picked up a wicket each.

Aitchison's decision to bowl first after winning the toss did not immediately pay dividends as Beaconhouse opening pair of Aliyar Yasin Khan (31, 36b, 4x4s) and Shehryar Bhatti (23, 30b, 2x4s, 1x6) put on 58 runs. Aitchison struck back with three quick wickets in a span of 23 balls to reduce Beaconhouse to 69-3

in 13.4 overs.

At this juncture Abdul Rameez (37, 40b, 3x4s, 1x6) and Rai Ali Amjad (47, 58b, 3x4s, 2x6s) arrested the collapse with a 74-run stand. Aitchison finally got the breakthrough in 26th over but that brought half-centurion Yaqoob (51, 41b, 2x4s, 3x6s) to the crease who helped his team finish the innings with a flourish in tandem with Mohammad Adil (28, 17b, 4x4s, 1x6).

For Aitchison, Hassan Muddassar dismissed four batters for 28 runs, Mughees Asif picked up three for 59.

In turn, Aitchison kept losing wickets at regular intervals as none of the partnerships in their innings crossed the 53-run mark. No.5 batter Sufiyan Siraj top scored with 50 off 41 balls, while he was supported by skipper Daud Tauqir (39, 55b, 4x4s), Abdul Wassay (32, 27b, 5x4s, 1x6) and Umer Rashid (31, 43b, 1x4, 1x6).

With Aitchison 166-5 in 31.1 overs, Zunnurain walked in and did his best

to open up the chase giving his team a chance but his 23-ball 42 not out including five fours and two sixes were insufficient to take the team over the line. With 16 balls left in the bag, he also ran out of partners as Beaconhouse romped to victory.

Scores in brief

PCB Talent Hunt Programme for Schools – Season 2 – Match 1 – Beaconhouse School beat Aitchison College by 20 runs at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Beaconhouse 244-8, 40 overs (Yaqoob Khan 51, Rai Ali Amjad 47, Abdul Rameez 37, Aliyar Yasin Khan 31, Mohammad Adil 28, Shehryar Bhatti 23; Hassan Muddassar 4-28, Mughees Wasif 3-59)

Aitchison College 224 all out, 38.2 overs (Sufiyan Siraj 50, Zunnurain 43, Daud Tauqir 39, Abdul Wassay 32; Sikander Ali 2-34, Haammad Younas 2-39)

Player of the match – Yaqoob Khan (Beaconhouse)



‘Privilege is not cruelty. It is amnesia.’

 **Momina Ahmad**

Growing up in the developed and of the most populous cities of Punjab, Rawalpindi, I seldom questioned the conveniences that shaped my daily life. I've never had to struggle for anything. Everything was provided right when I needed. Reliable internet, nearby schools along with accessible health care and paved roads seemed ordinary. They seemed as just a normal part of the environment around me. But turned out this life has been a utopia I was living in all along but I never realized until one day I visited my hometown in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the frontier region of FAIA, Tank. Visiting after a decade opened my eyes. How 10 years passed and nothing changed.

Everything seemed right there at its place. Scrutinizing the poor conditions of roads, the lack of sanitation and deteriorating school conditions, I began to contemplate how differently life folds for everyone in Pakistan and how this potent abstract “privilege” blinds us throughout our lives. The difference in access to opportunities was striking.

The villages near to Tank, Gul Imam, Shah Alam, Gira Shahbaz that I visited had the similar conditions. The schools are remote for those who come from mountainous areas nearby such as south Waziristan. For some children, attending 6 hours of school required long walks. Then, there is a fear subduing the parents too, these

desolate roads linking the backward areas are not secure after all.

Patrolling starts after dusk and children returning from schools have to stay alert from the sight of Talibs, especially girls have to cover themselves from head to foot including their hands and lower their gazes while walking. Access to educational resources that many urban students including I have taken for granted such as prestigious libraries of schools, stable internet connections and extracurricular activities are limited in Tank. But surprisingly despite these challenges that remain within, I still encountered students who are eager to learn and ambitious

The contrast doesn't exist in education but rather extends beyond. Health care facilities are fewer and in remote areas, no local clinics, no proper doctors to be found. Many deaths from the past three years have been caused due to lack of proper health facilities. On the other hand, the transportation through which one could access these facilities is less reliable.

Coaches are more often used but their conditions are not safe enough for a woman alone to travel in. Electricity is available for 8 hours per day and for the rest 16 hours, people have to bear without fans in scorching summers. These differences when one thinks about, may appear small but together, they shape people's opportunities, aspirations, and quality of life.

What struck me the most was not just the existence of these disparities,

but rather my own surprise at discovering them. I belong from there, my parents were born and so were their parents yet I had been disconnected to the conditions experienced by the people of my own Pakhtunkhwa.

The answer lies in “privilege” itself. As far as one deems privilege, it's not merely “wealth” alone. In reality, it encompasses the advantages we inherit through our location and access to environment. When opportunities become readily available, it becomes easy to assume that they are universally available too. This blindness arises from the bubbles we Pakistanis in urban areas are living in. Urban Pakistanis frequently interact with those people who share similar lifestyles.

As a result, we are less aware of the struggles faced by the communities beyond our circles. Recognizing privilege is important but at the same time it doesn't mean that we start feeling guilty for the advantages we possess but rather we have to acknowledge the fact that our experiences are not universal. My experience in visiting one of the backward areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa did not provide all the answers to Pakistan's development challenged but it did teach that the greatest barrier to comprehending inequality is the privilege that prevents us from seeing it. We cannot fix what we refuse to see and we cannot observe what our privilege has taught us to ignore.

The writer is Undergraduate student of international relations, National defense university

ICCI proposes long term economic master plan to turn Islamabad into global business hub

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad has all the ingredients to become far more than Pakistan's administrative capital, it can emerge as a regional centre of investment, innovation, technology and international commerce, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Sardar Tahir Mehmood said on Saturday.

Speaking to visiting business leaders, he said Islamabad's diplomatic community, highly educated workforce, institutional strength, modern infrastructure and international exposure give the city a distinctive platform to connect Pakistan with global markets, said a press release.

Yet, he noted, these advantages have not been brought together under a unified economic strategy capable of attracting international businesses, investment, technology and high-value services.

“Islamabad has the location, the talent, the institutions and the international connectivity; what it needs now is an economic vision that brings these strengths together and turns them into opportunity, investment and growth,” he added.

He proposed the formulation of a long-term Islamabad Economic Master Plan to establish a clear economic identity for the capital, with priority sectors including technology and IT-enabled services, digital trade, investment, business tourism, international conferences, education, healthcare, financial services and other knowledge-intensive industries.

They deserve support.

And they deserve the professional respect that enables them to serve their students better.

Perhaps real educational reform begins when we stop looking for someone to blame and start looking for something to change.

The writer is educator, social awareness advocate and the voice behind several online campaigns aimed at reviving empathy, civic responsibility and moral consciousness among young people. He writes regularly on educational reform, social challenges, character-building and the need to nurture thoughtful and responsible citizens. He tweets @ToleranceAdvocate.

PFF names 23-member squad for FIFA Asean Cup 2026

 **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced a 23-member Pakistan national team squad for the FIFA ASEAN Cup 2026 in Indonesia.

The squad brings together players travelling from Pakistan as well as members of the national team based abroad, said a press release.

Head coach Nolberto Solano will lead the Shaheens as they compete in the inaugural FIFA ASEAN Cup, which brings together teams from across the ASEAN region.

The 23-member squad includes Yousuf Butt, Hassan Ali, Saqib Hanif, Abdullah Shah, Abdul Rahman, Ali Khan, Ali Agha, Hayyan Khattak, Ali Uzair, Alamgir Ghazi, Ali Raza, Abdul Samad Arshad, Kaleem Ullah, Shayek Dost, Abdullah Iqbal, Easah Suliman, Mohib Ullah, Mamoon Khan, Mohd Fazal, Haris Zeb, Umer Nawaz, Abdul Samad and Ali Khan.

The FIFA ASEAN Cup 2026 will provide Pakistan with an opportunity to compete on a new international platform and further strengthen its preparations against teams from the ASEAN region.

Earlier PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani also visited Jinnah Stadium Islamabad to meet the national team during their training camp for the ASEAN Cup. The PFF president spoke about the preparations and also reviewed the arrangements for the team.



Mikaeel Ali bags ITF J200 doubles title

 **Sports Desk**



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's No. 1 internationally ranked junior Mikaeel Ali Baig has captured the ITF J200 doubles title in Miki, Japan, becoming what is believed to be the first Pakistani junior in more than three decades to win a title at this level since Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi.

Playing unseeded alongside his partner from Botswana, Mikaeel produced an outstanding run, defeating the No. 2 seeds, No. 3 seeds and No. 1 seeds, before defeating the top-seeded Australian pair 7-5, 6-2 in the final, said a press release.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din Tufail, Secretary-General PTF, and the entire PTF management have extended their heartfelt congratulations to Mikaeel on this outstanding achievement and for raising Pakistan's flag high on the international stage.

The PTF leadership also congratulated Mikaeel's parents and family, whose unwavering support, dedication, and sacrifices have played a vital role in his success.

The Woes of Education in Pakistan

 **Continued from Page 4**

modern assessment methods and appropriate use of technology.

The Grade Nine results should therefore be a wake-up call—not merely for teachers, but for the entire education system.

We need to ask:

Are our curricula preparing students for today's world?

Are our examinations testing understanding or memory?

Are teachers receiving meaningful professional development?

Do schools have the resources and technology they need?

Are evaluators equipped to assess different forms of learning and expres-

sion?

And are parents and communities playing their part?

These are not excuses.

They are questions of reform.

Teachers should be partners in that reform. They are closest to the classroom and often see learning problems before anyone else does. Their experience should help shape policy, not simply be invoked when results disappoint.

Education cannot be repaired through blame alone. It requires better curricula, stronger teacher development, thoughtful assessment, appropriate technology and meaningful parental engagement.

Most importantly, it requires a

culture in which accountability and trust can coexist.

A nation that wants better students must also create better conditions for those who teach them.

Teachers are not merely employees within an education system. They are entrusted with shaping the knowledge, character and aspirations of the next generation. Their shortcomings deserve scrutiny, but so do the shortcomings of the system in which they work.

So perhaps the question should not simply be:

Who failed?

The more important question is:

What must change so that everyone can succeed?

Teachers deserve accountability.

Pakistan Needs Constitutional Governance More Than New Administrative Units

 **Continued from Page 4**

another administrative tier. If political authority remains concentrated, local governments remain financially dependent, accountability is inconsistent, institutions operate beyond their constitutional spheres and elected mandates remain vulnerable to institutional conflict, a new province could inherit many existing problems. A new map does not automatically create a new political culture.

The debate should therefore focus on the type and quality of governance that proposed provinces or admin-

istrative units would provide. If the objective is administrative efficiency, district, divisional and local-government performance should be assessed. If representation is the goal, representative mechanisms should be strengthened. If economic development is intended, the fiscal viability of proposed units should be established. Regional grievances should be addressed through meaningful political and constitutional guarantees.

Administrative restructuring also carries the risk of becoming divisive if framed around regional or linguistic identities. The country's consti-

tutional history shows that institutional crises have involved multiple factors, including political decisions, judicial interpretations, institutional interventions, administrative practices and struggles over authority. Reform therefore cannot be limited to one institution or one level of government.

The article calls for a stronger constitutional culture in which elections remain the legitimate means of transferring political power, Parliament retains its central representative role, opposition is recognised as an essential part of parliamentary democracy, judicial deci-

sions remain grounded in law and the Constitution, accountability follows consistent legal standards, the media can question those in power, and state institutions operate within their constitutionally defined spheres.

Administrative reform can still play an important role. If a proposed unit demonstrably improves public services, strengthens representation, reduces administrative distance and makes government more accountable, it can be considered through the constitutional process. Before any decision, transparent studies should examine population, territory,

revenue, expenditure, infrastructure, service delivery, water, employment, education, healthcare and fiscal relations with the federation. Citizens should also have a clear understanding of what they would gain.

Ultimately, Pakistan's experience suggests that the country may need to focus less on repeatedly changing political arrangements and more on making the existing constitutional framework work effectively. Administrative boundaries can change and provinces can be reorganised when constitutional requirements are fulfilled, but long-term stability depends on

constitutional restraint, institutional accountability, public participation and trust in representative government.

The real measure of governance is therefore not the complexity of Pakistan's administrative map but the quality of the relationship between citizens and the state. The central question is whether government can deliver education, healthcare, security, justice, employment and basic services effectively and accountably. If changing the map contributes to those objectives, it can be considered through constitutional means. If existing prob-

lems of centralisation and weak accountability simply move into new boundaries, the result would be a new map rather than a new system.

Pakistan's future stability will ultimately depend less on the number of provinces than on whether power is exercised as a public trust, institutions remain within constitutional limits, resources are distributed transparently and the popular mandate is respected. Before changing the map, Pakistan must therefore consider whether it is prepared to improve the quality of governance itself.

Fuel Tokens SMS Approval

ISLAMABAD: DPM/FM senator Ishaq Dar chaired National Steering Committee on Fuel Subsidy, Committee approved the redemption of fuel tokens through SMS for stations located in areas without internet connectivity



Photo: PID

DPM chairs meeting on PM’s Special Fuel Relief Scheme

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Steering Committee on Fuel Subsidy has approved the redemption of fuel tokens through SMS for stations located in areas without internet connectivity. The approval was granted at a meeting of the Committee to review the

implementation of the Prime Minister’s Special Relief Scheme in Islamabad today, with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair. Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and the provinces shall furnish lists of such stations without internet connectivity so they may be brought onto the scheme without delay.

The Committee was informed that the overwhelming majority of fuel stations across the country are now operational on the system, and citizens are redeeming fuel tokens. Registration continues nationwide through SMS on 9771. The State Bank of Pakistan informed the Committee that

all payment claims received over the past three days have been settled in full, with claims received each day processed the same day. Ishaq Dar directed that every fuel station which is open and operating be brought onto the system, and that stations found permanently closed or dealing exclusively in diesel be iden-

tified and removed from the list, so the coverage of the scheme reflects the position on the ground. Ishaq Dar appreciated the provincial administrations and acknowledged the cooperation extended by the State Bank of Pakistan, noting that the relief must continue to reach the intended beneficiaries without hindrance.

Three Palestinians, including Gaza health official’s son, killed in Israeli fire

Wafa

GAZA: Three Palestinians, including the son of Gaza Health Ministry Director-General Munir Al Bursh, were killed in Israeli army fire in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, according to a medical source, as violations of a ceasefire agreement continued. Basir Al Bursh was killed in a strike targeting him in the Al Zahra neighbourhood west of Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, the source told Anadolu. Another Palestinian was killed in an Israeli drone strike on the Shujaiya neighbourhood east of Gaza City, while a Palestinian girl died from wounds sustained earlier in Israeli army fire north of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, the source said.



Meanwhile, Israeli military vehicles intermittently opened fire east of Jabalia

refugee camp, although no injuries were reported, witnesses said.

Israeli forces also opened fire in the Al Shakoush area southwest of Khan Younis in

southern Gaza, while drones dropped bombs in the area. Israeli helicopters also opened heavy fire south of Al Mawasi, west of Khan Younis, and in neighbouring areas of Rafah, according to witnesses. Gaza’s Health Ministry said the latest Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement that took effect on October 10, 2025, have killed 1,386 Palestinians and injured 4,784 others. The ministry says nearly 74,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 174,000 wounded in Israeli military operations in Gaza since October 2023. The conflict has also caused widespread destruction across the enclave, with the ministry saying about 90% of civilian infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed.

JUI leadership reviews political strategy, security situation of country



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The two-day meeting of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Central General Council began at Mufti Mahmood Centre in Peshawar. According to party spokesperson Aslam Ghauri, JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman is chairing the meeting, which is being attended by more than 1,000 members, including central and provincial leaders. JUI spokesperson said the meeting is discussing proposals concerning

administrative units and the possible creation of new provinces. Preparations by provincial party organisations for the upcoming local government elections are also part of the agenda. The meeting will review the country’s security situation, as well as domestic and international developments. According to the party, participants will also discuss and formulate the JUI’s political strategy for the coming period.

Iran Says Diplomacy Continues to Revive Islamabad Agreement



TEHRAN: Iran has said international diplomatic efforts are continuing to resolve outstanding issues and revive the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), while stressing that implementation depends on reciprocal commitments. Iranian Interior Ministry spokesman Ali Zeynivand said international mediation was underway to address disputes and restore the agreement. He maintained that the MoU had been approved by Iran’s Supreme National Security Council and confirmed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, making it an official state decision. Zeynivand said Iran’s diplomatic engagement remained active, citing

President Masoud Pezeshkian’s participation in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS meetings, alongside other consultations. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei reiterated Tehran’s “commitment for commitment” position, saying Iran would not unilaterally fulfil obligations if it believed the agreement had been violated or no longer served its national interests. The Islamabad MoU, signed in June 2026, was intended to ease tensions between Iran and the United States and establish a framework covering issues including maritime restrictions, the Strait of Hormuz and regional military activity.

Punjab CTD arrests 23 terrorists in 158 intelligence-based operations

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted 158 intelligence-based operations across Punjab in one month, arresting 23 terrorists, according to a CTD spokesperson. The spokesperson said a dangerous terrorist linked to India’s Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) was also arrested from Sahiwal. The arrested terrorists were identified as Hidayatullah, Muhammad Mujahid, Tasleem Hasnain and Tariqullah. Explosive material, seven improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 26 detonators and 48 feet of fuse wire were recovered from the possession of the arrested terrorists, the CTD spokesperson said. According to officials, 22 cases have been registered against the arrested terrorists. The CTD spokesperson further said that 4,601 combing operations were conducted across Punjab during the month, resulting in the arrest of 402 suspects. A total of 166,553 people were checked during the combing operations, according to the CTD.

Gwadar Airport to remain closed on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: New operating hours have been issued for Gwadar Airport, under which the airport will remain closed on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, while flight operations will continue during specified hours on the remaining days. According to the new schedule, Gwadar Airport will remain oper-

ational on Monday and Thursday from 2:15pm to 4:45pm. On Tuesday, the airport will operate from 7:30am to 9:30am and again from 12:30pm to 2:15pm. Similarly, Gwadar Airport will remain operational on Sunday from 10am to 1:30pm. The new operating schedule will remain in effect until December 30, 2026.

According to the schedule, civil or military aircraft seeking to operate flights from Gwadar Airport outside the specified operating hours will be required to inform the airport administration 24 hours in advance. Sources said prior notification has also been made mandatory to facilitate the operations of unscheduled civil and non-civil aircraft.

Four AJK council seats fall vacant as members’ terms end



Bureau Report

Four seats on the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Council have fallen vacant following the completion of the terms of four council members in Muzaffarabad. Shuja Khurshid Rathore, Khawaja Tariq Saeed, Muhammad Younis Mir, and Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan have stepped down from their positions

after completing their five-year terms. The four members had taken oath as members of the Kashmir Council on August 23, 2021. The Election Commission is expected to announce the schedule for elections to the four vacant seats in the first week of October. The council is currently awaiting the official schedule for the fresh elections.