

PM prioritizes public grievance resolution in Muzaffarabad Meetings

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gillani has said that resolving the problems of ordinary citizens was

the top priority of his government. He made the remarks while speaking to various public delegations that called on him here today.

PM Iftikhar Gillani said that the government would draw up a compre-



hensive plan to address public grievances.

He said the issues brought to his notice would be reviewed and practical steps would be taken for their resolution. The prime minister said development priorities would focus on projects that directly benefited people and improved access to basic facilities.

He also said the government would remain accessible to the public and

ensure that genuine grievances were addressed in a timely and effective manner.

Delegations from all union councils of Muzaffarabad, along with representatives of youth and women from different areas, met the prime minister and congratulated him on assuming office.

The visitors also apprised him of problems confronting their respective areas.

CCTV cameras installation

ISLAMABAD: Safe City workers installing CCTV cameras on a road in Sector G-7 of the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Sardar Attique Pays Tribute to Professor Abdul Ghani Bhat

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has paid rich tribute to late Professor Abdul Ghani Bhatt, former Chairman of the Muslim Conference in Srinagar and former Chairman of the APHC, remembering him as a distinguished Kashmiri leader, scholar and advocate of peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute. He recalled Bhatt's decades-long association with the Muslim Conference, his role in its 1980s revival in Srinagar, and his subsequent leadership in the Muslim United Front and APHC.

Attique recalled personal interactions during Musharraf's government, including Bhatt's meetings with Sardar



Abdul Qayoom Khan, and his 2005 Muzaffarabad visit where he addressed the AJK Council and Assembly, advocating peaceful resolution and Kashmiri participation in the peace process.

Calling Bhatt a scholar and committed leader whose contributions remain part of Kashmir's history, Attique termed his death a loss to the Kashmiri political community and offered condolences to his family and associates.



Former AJK Secretary Chaudhry Khursheed Ahmed Passes Away



Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Chaudhry Khursheed Ahmed, former Secretary Information and Senior Member Board of Revenue, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, passed away, with his funeral prayer offered at Central Eidgah, F-1, Mirpur, before burial. A large

gathering of political, judicial, administrative and government figures attended, including Acting President and Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, former AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, PPP AJK President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, former Chief Justice Azam Khan, several former ministers, senior

officials, commissioners, bureaucrats, lawyers and community leaders.

Chaudhry Tariq Farooq described the deceased as a person of outstanding qualities, recalling his deep personal association with him and expressing sorrow over his passing. Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin and other speakers reflected on the

inevitability of death and recalled their longstanding ties with him, praising his distinguished bureaucratic career in Azad Kashmir.

Chaudhry Khursheed Ahmed had served AJK's administration in several key positions. Attendees paid tribute to his services and extended condolences to his bereaved family.

Rawalakot: Educational institutions to reopen from 21st

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: A meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Poonch Mumtaz Kazmi has decided that all educational institutions in Poonch district will reopen from September 21. The meeting was attended by district education officers and representatives of the Private Schools Association.

As an initial step, classes for grades 9 and 10 will resume first, with other classes to follow in subsequent phases. Deputy Commissioner Kazmi assured that the district administration would provide security to all educational institutions to ensure a safe environment for students and staff.

He also pointed out that Rawalakot is a winter station, with only around two and a half months remaining in the current academic year, making it essential to promptly resume educational activities to minimize academic loss. The decision reflects the administration's effort to balance security concerns with the pressing need to keep students on track before the onset of winter closures in the region.

Advocate seeks withdrawal from Yasin Malik's Srinagar Case

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Advocate Abu Adil Pandit, counsel for Yasin Malik, has filed an application before the Special TADA/POTA Court in Srinagar on September 19, seeking permission to withdraw as his lawyer in the case currently pending there. The application states this step follows instructions from Malik and a written submission he filed before the court, in which he indicated he does not wish to contest further proceedings. Malik has clarified this decision should not be seen as an admission of guilt or acceptance of the prosecution's allegations, maintaining he has been falsely implicated.

Pandit's withdrawal application is limited strictly to the Srinagar proceedings; he will continue representing Malik in two separate CBI cases before the TADA Court in Jammu, relating to the killing of Indian Air Force personnel and the alleged abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed.

The court will now decide whether to permit the withdrawal, with the request not amounting to any judicial determination. The next Srinagar hearing is scheduled for October 17, 2026.

Terrorism from Afghan soil must come to an end: Sardar Masood Khan

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Pakistani Ambassador to the US, China and the UN, and former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said Pakistan's demand for verifiable action against terrorism before restoring border crossings and transit trade remains central to normalising ties with Afghanistan. He said Pakistan had raised this issue since 2021, engaging China, Qatar and Türkiye to press Afghan authorities against allowing TTP to operate from their soil.

Khan said restored relations require credible, verifiable commitments to end support for TTP, noting past assurances had failed to build confidence. He cited UN reporting confirming TTP and Al-Qaida's presence in Afghanistan and rising attacks against Pakistan.

Expressing concern over Afghanistan becoming a terrorism hub affecting Pakistan, China and Central Asia, Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's non-interference stance and solidarity with Afghans. He suggested improved relations could enable Afghanistan's participation in CPEC and regional trade connectivity, benefiting both nations' shared futures.

AKAB School for the Blind, Mirpur, providing new opportunities for visually impaired children

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: AKAB School for the Blind, Mirpur, has become a centre of hope for around 130 visually impaired students from AJK and across Pakistan, offering Braille education, a Braille printing press, computer literacy, assistive technologies, a library, sports facilities and free hostel accommodation for those from remote areas. The school provides books, uniforms, meals, transport, scholarships and support for higher education, including up to PhD level.

District Information Officer Khizar Hayat, along with UK-based journalist Sajid Yousaf, visited the institution and met Patron-in-Chief Professor Muhammad Ilyas Ayub, touring classrooms, the Braille press, library, hostel and sports ground.

Professor Ayub said the school aims to make visually impaired children confident, independent and productive citizens through modern education, character building and philanthropist-supported welfare services, ensuring no child is denied education due to financial constraints.

Sajid Yousaf praised the institution's facilities and pledged continued support, while Khizar Hayat lauded AKAB's administration and staff for equipping students with education, confidence and skills for a dignified future.

Tribute to Professor Abdul Ghani Butt on His First Death Anniversary

Arshad Iqbal Advocate.

The Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) pays heartfelt tribute to Professor Abdul Ghani Butt, former Chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

The late Professor Abdul Ghani Butt was a seasoned, visionary and statesmanlike Kashmiri leader who devoted his life to the political struggle for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and for a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute. His political wisdom, intellectual depth and unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause will always be remembered with respect and honour.

As a prominent leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Professor Abdul Ghani Butt made significant contributions towards articulating the Kashmir cause at political and diplomatic forums. He consistently emphasised dialogue, political engagement and a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. His measured approach, political understanding and commitment to peaceful means earned him respect among his colleagues and political circles. Professor Abdul Ghani Butt's political and intellectual contributions constitute a valuable legacy of the Kashmir movement. His lifelong commitment, political insight and services to the cause of Kashmir will continue to serve as a source of inspiration and guidance for future generations.

The leadership and workers of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party express their heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family, colleagues and associates of the late Professor. They pray that Almighty Allah grants him forgiveness, blesses him with the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and grants patience and strength to his family and loved ones. Ameen.

The writer is Spokesperson of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP)



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:32 am
Zohr12:01 pm
Asr4:22 pm
Maghrib6:0 pm
Isha7:30 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

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

National Consensus Essential to Overcome Crises: Syed Aman Shah

KARACHI: Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan Provincial President Syed Aman Shah has called for national consensus and a joint strategy to steer Pakistan out of its crises. Talking to journalists, he said political forces, national institutions and all stakeholders needed to set aside differences and prioritize national interests over personal, party and group interests.

He said Pakistan was facing economic, political and administrative challenges and stressed that political stability was essential for economic development and sustainable peace. He urged all institutions to strengthen the country while remaining within their respective constitutional domains.

Syed Aman Shah said national problems could not be resolved by any single political party or institution, emphasizing mutual consultation, transparent governance and collective decision-making. He called for practical measures to address public concerns, create employment opportunities, reduce inflation, improve law and order and strengthen the economy.

He expressed hope that political forces and national institutions would play constructive roles in the broader national interest, peace, stability and progress.

Violence, unrest are enemies of Pakistan's development and prosperity: Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that those who resort to violence and unrest are enemies of the development and

prosperity of the country.

In her message on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, the chief minister paid tribute to the courage and sacrifices of officers and personnel of the Pakistan Armed Forces deployed to



guard the country's borders and maintain peace.

She also appreciated the services of police personnel and other security forces who remain actively engaged round the clock to maintain law and order across Punjab.

Maryam Nawaz paid rich tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for peace and saluted the Ghazis for their services and sacrifices.

In her message, the chief minister said that the International Day of Peace reminds us of the resolve to uphold tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

"Sustainable peace is indispensable for the development and progress of Pakistan," she said, adding that peace is a fundamental requirement for development and prosperity.

"Peace brings forth the flowers of prosperity and spreads happiness everywhere," she said.

The chief minister said that every individual would have to play a positive and meaningful role in promoting peace in society, as peace is a fundamental necessity for development and prosperity.

She said the Punjab government was

committed to promoting peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony.

"Those who choose the path of violence and unrest are enemies of the development and prosperity of Pakistan," Maryam Nawaz said.

She further said that peace was not merely the absence of war; rather, it meant living with justice, love and respect.

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, the chief minister prayed to Allah Almighty for lasting peace and prosperity everywhere in Pakistan and around the world.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: The Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi presenting a souvenir to Maj. Gen. Mohammad Shahzad Khan, Chief Instructor, National Defence University (NDU), at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday.



Four-Day Polio Vaccination Campaign Launched in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Dr Mudassar Ahmed Shah inaugurated the four-day Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) polio campaign by administering drops to children at Government Asfandiyar Bukhari District Hospital.

The campaign will continue from September 21 to 24 across 36 union councils in Attock, Hassan Abdal and Hazro tehsils, targeting 182,174 children under five. The Health Department has deployed 1,133 teams, comprising 1,033 mobile, 74 fixed and 26 transit teams, along with 36 Union Council Medical Officers and 212 Area In-charges.

Dr Mudassar directed officials to ensure that no child was missed, stressing effective monitoring, timely field presence and



achievement of vaccination targets. He urged parents to cooperate fully with polio teams and ensure their children receive the vaccine.

Chief Executive Officer Health Dr Asad Ismail, Medical Superintendent Dr Jawad

Elahi and other health officials attended the inauguration. Officials said coordinated efforts were essential for protecting children from the crippling disease and ensuring complete campaign coverage across the district.

Two Killed, Three Injured as Rickshaw Plunges into Ravine in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Two people, including a woman, were killed while three others sustained injuries when a passenger rickshaw went out of control and plunged into a deep ravine in the Basal area of the Kala Chitta hills in Attock, police and Rescue 1122 sources said on Monday.

According to rescue officials, the accident occurred when the rickshaw reportedly lost control and fell into the ravine. Upon receiving information, teams of Attock police and Rescue 1122 rushed to the site and launched a rescue operation.

The bodies of the two deceased and the three injured were recovered from the ravine and shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Jand, where the injured were provided medical treatment and medico-legal formalities were completed.

IJT Marks 58th Founding Day, Reaffirms Commitment to Female Students

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Islami Jamiat-e-Talibaat Pakistan Nazima-e-Aala Halima Saadia, in her message marking the organization's 58th founding day, said the organization had completed more than five decades of efforts focused on the intellectual and moral development of female students.

She said the journey was dedicated to enlightening students with an understanding of faith, raising their awareness and preparing them to contribute to the development and reform of society.

Halima Saadia described the anniversary as an opportunity to express gratitude to Allah Almighty and renew the organization's commitment to its mission. She said IJT would continue working to equip female students with religious understanding, intellectual maturity and strength of character.

She emphasized that generations play a fundamental role in nation-building and that female students have an important part in this process. Referring to prevailing intellectual confusion and cultural challenges, she said the organization considered its responsibility increasingly important and would continue encouraging students to pursue knowledge and promote the message of faith.

One-Window Facility Launched at Rawalpindi Excise Department

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Director Excise and Taxation Rawalpindi Nauman Khalid has launched a One-Window Facility at the Excise and Taxation Office to facilitate citizens and provide them with convenient and timely government services.

Under the new system, dedicated staff have been deployed at the reception gate to receive applications and complaints from citizens and forward them to the relevant sections for necessary action. The department aims to resolve applications and public complaints within two days, helping citizens avoid repeated visits to the office.

Nauman Khalid will personally supervise the facility to ensure timely action on applications and complaints. He said facilitating citizens and providing them relief was the department's top priority, adding that efforts would be made to make the process more transparent, efficient and effective.

AIOU Hosts International Workshop on Multimodal Dataset Development for Pakistani Languages

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) hosted a one-day international workshop on "Development of Multimodal Datasets for Pakistani Languages," where experts stressed that high-quality linguistic datasets are essential for preserving and representing Pakistani languages in AI-driven

technologies.

The inaugural session, chaired by Professor Dr. Syed Amir Shah, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, highlighted that standardized multimodal datasets would strengthen linguistic research, education and language technology development. He commended the Department of English and Forum for Language Initiatives

(FLI) for the initiative.

Fakhruddin Akhunnzada, FLI Executive Director, noted that of Pakistan's roughly 80 languages, many face survival challenges; data on six languages has already been collected, with local communities trained in documentation. Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan, Chairman, Department of English, said multimodal data on Pashto, Punjabi,



Hazaragi, Saraiki and others had been gathered for research and AI applications.

Dr. Maisam Ali of Indiana University, the project's Principal Investigator, said

comprehensive data was collected swiftly through teamwork, aiding future AI integration. Dr. Rashida Imran emphasized collaboration among universities, institutions and communities to

preserve Pakistan's linguistic heritage.

The workshop, organized by AIOU's Department of English with FLI, was part of the university's ongoing professional training programme.

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From Economic Stabilisation to Sustainable Growth

Pakistan’s economy appears to be entering a phase in which the central challenge is no longer simply restoring stability, but converting that stability into sustainable growth, investment, exports and employment. The September 2026 Monthly Development Update presented by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal highlights several encouraging indicators, but also underlines the considerable work that remains.

The reported improvement in manufacturing, exports, remittances and foreign investment provides grounds for cautious confidence. Large-Scale Manufacturing grew by 3 percent in July FY2026-27, while goods and services exports reached \$7.3 billion during July-August, up 9.2 percent from the previous year. Services exports, particularly ICT, are becoming increasingly significant. Remittances also rose to \$7.3 billion during the first two months of the fiscal year, while net foreign direct investment increased to \$494 million during the same period.

Yet these gains should not obscure the pressures confronting ordinary households. Average CPI inflation rose to 10.2 percent during July-August, with food and transport prices registering particularly high increases. Price stability therefore remains essential. Economic recovery cannot be considered complete if its benefits are not reflected in household purchasing power and living standards.

The government’s emphasis on fiscal consolidation, improved revenue collection and more disciplined development spending is important. Equally significant is the need to ensure that public investment produces measurable results. The reported savings achieved through scrutiny of development projects demonstrate the value of stronger oversight and efficient allocation of scarce resources.

Pakistan must now concentrate on expanding its export base and moving beyond traditional low-value sectors. Greater investment in technology, industrial productivity, research, innovation and value addition can help create stronger and more competitive industries. The growing contribution of ICT exports offers an example of the opportunities available to a young, increasingly digital economy.

Finally, economic progress requires continuity and a predictable environment for investment. Political and social stability, transparent policymaking and effective institutions are important for maintaining investor confidence and sustaining reforms.

The country has made progress, according to the indicators presented. The real test now is whether that progress can be translated into durable prosperity, productive employment and broader economic opportunity. Stability should be regarded not as an end, but as the foundation for Pakistan’s next phase of development.

How Trump Ditched Saudi Arabia?

Friendship is tested not during ceremonies, state dinners or commercial negotiations, but in moments of danger. When a country faces missiles, drones and attacks on its critical infrastructure, it discovers whether its powerful partner’s security promises carry real weight or are merely diplomatic language.

The contrasting treatment of Israel and Saudi Arabia by the United States has now brought this uncomfortable reality into sharp focus. Washington has repeatedly mobilized its intelligence, naval, air and missile-defence capabilities to protect Israel. Yet when Saudi Arabia requested direct American military assistance against escalating Houthi attacks, President Donald Trump declined to open another front and limited American support largely to intelligence and targeting assistance.

Neither Israel nor Saudi Arabia has a NATO-style mutual-defence treaty with the United States. In practice, however, Israel enjoys something approaching an operational American defence guarantee, while Saudi Arabia remains principally a customer, investor and regional partner whose protection is conditional.

For decades, Israel has received approximately \$3.8 billion annually under the ten-year US-Israel security assistance memorandum signed in 2016. That agreement provides \$33 billion in Foreign Military Financing and \$5 billion for missile defence through fiscal year 2028. After the October 7, 2023, attacks, additional emergency appropriations, weapons transfers and regional US military deployments expanded American support considerably.

This relationship goes far beyond selling weapons. The United States shares high-level intelligence with Israel, replenishes its military stocks, deploys forces to the region and has directly helped intercept missiles and drones aimed at Israeli territory. Regardless of the economic or military cost, Washington has demonstrated that it is prepared to participate actively in Israel’s defence.

Saudi Arabia’s relationship with Washington is fundamentally different. The kingdom receives negligible conventional foreign aid because it is a wealthy country. Instead, it purchases American weapons, finances military cooperation and hosts or supports US strategic infrastructure. Its importance rests on energy, investment, arms contracts, intelligence cooperation and its geographical position—not on an unconditional promise that American forces will defend it.

Saudi Arabia pledged hundreds of billions of dollars in investments, purchases and commercial cooperation with the United States. The White House announced a \$600 billion Saudi commitment in May 2025, including a defence-sales framework valued at nearly \$142 billion. These headline figures, however, combine investments, procurement plans, memoranda and long-term commercial intentions; they should not all be interpreted as money already transferred into the American economy.

Nevertheless, the scale of Saudi economic engagement is enormous. Riyadh has purchased American aircraft,

air-defence systems, missiles, training and technical support while investing in American technology, energy and infrastructure. Yet when the kingdom faced a direct security emergency, commercial importance did not translate into the level of military protection routinely extended to Israel.

The recent Houthi escalation has demonstrated that distinction. Missile and drone attacks have threatened Riyadh, Yanbu and Saudi energy infrastructure. Saudi authorities reported intercepting an attempted ballistic-missile attack on the capital, while the Houthis claimed strikes against several sensitive and petroleum-related targets threatening to Saudi cities and oil-export capacity.

But when Saudi Arabia, which has done much more than Israel has ever done for the USA, sought direct US military action against the Houthis, Trump refused point blank to undertake offensive strikes. President even when attacks unsettled Saudi and other Gulf markets.

Whereas, while defending Israel, Trump is ready to sacrifice its own soldiers and prestige and billions of billions of dollars of expensive military hardware, but when it comes to helping Saudi Arabia against legitimate targets, it started giving lame excuses such as it does not want to become trapped in another prolonged Yemen campaign, risk greater confrontation with Iran or expend scarce interceptors and precision weapons indefinitely. But from Riyadh’s perspective, the refusal exposes the limi-

tations of decades of dependence upon the American security umbrella.

Saudi Arabia is suffering from a war it neither initiated nor initially wanted. Disruption around the Strait of Hormuz threatens its eastern export routes, while Houthi pressure jeopardizes infrastructure and navigation toward the Red Sea. Any sustained interruption of the East-West Pipeline or ports serving those routes would damage Saudi revenue, increase global oil prices and undermine the kingdom’s ambitious development programme.

The kingdom must now ask a difficult question: were American bases and deployments in the Gulf established primarily to protect Gulf states, or to protect wider US interests—including Israel, shipping routes and Washington’s regional military position? The evidence suggests that these facilities do not constitute an automatic guarantee that America will fight whenever a host government comes under attack.

There is an immense possibility that the United States or Israel could have secretly enabled Houthi attacks in order to weaken Saudi Arabia, which is the signature modus operandi of Israel to fracture and weaken any Muslim country in the middle east which now or in distant future could threaten implementation of Israel’s greater Israel project.

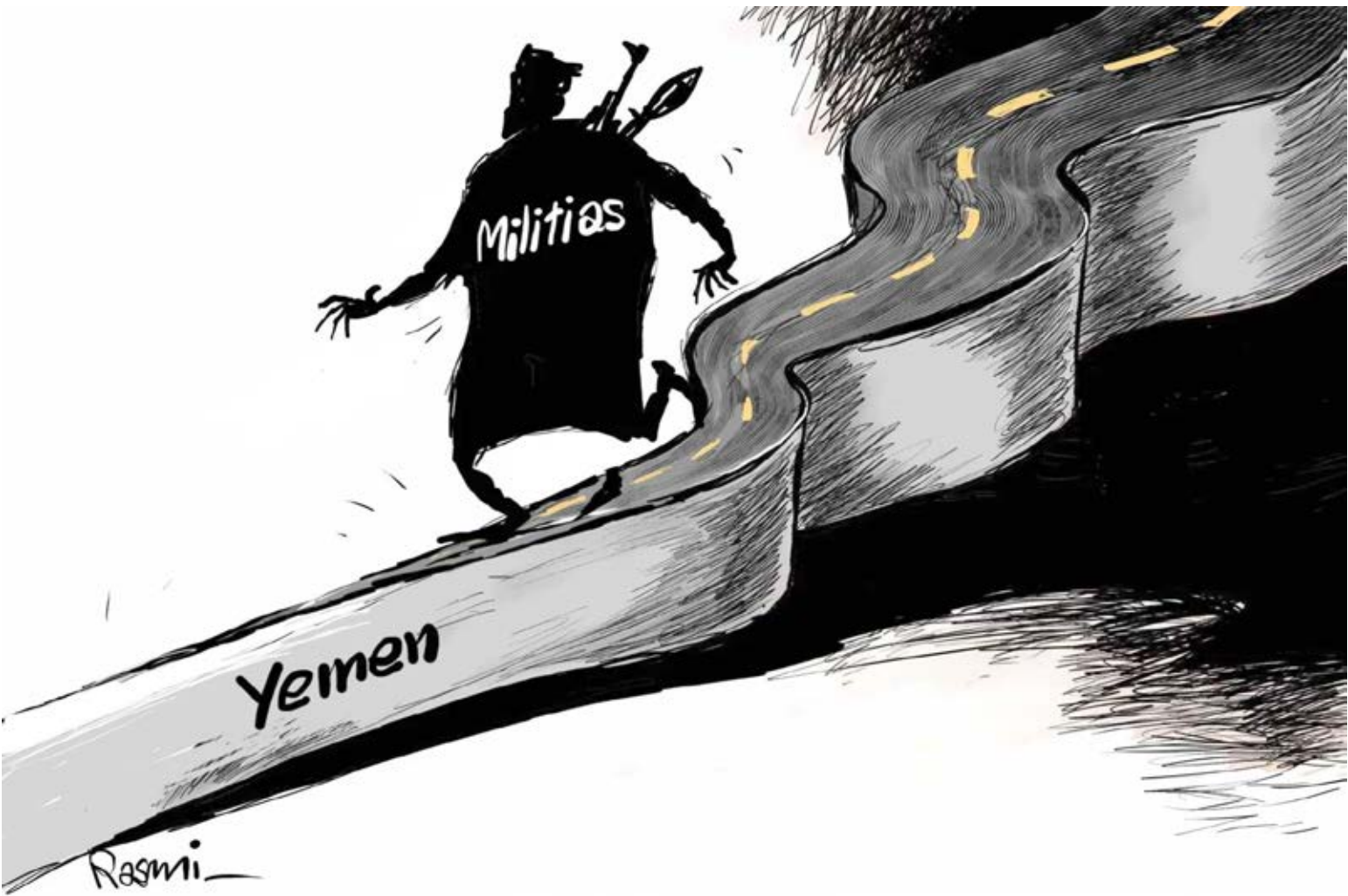
Riyadh must therefore avoid falling into an escalation trap. A widening confrontation with the Houthis would impose greater costs upon Saudi cities, infrastructure and development than upon a movement experienced in surviving air campaigns and operating from difficult terrain. A simultaneous

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Settler colonialism cloaked in democracy

The International Day of Democracy, established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2007, was observed on 15 September with much fanfare across the world. The day was marked by renewed pledges to reaffirm and uphold the universal principles of democracy. For the people of Kashmir, however, the occasion serves as a stark reminder of a democratic right that has been denied to them for decades.

While India presents itself as the world’s largest democracy, the people of Kashmir continue to be denied the right to have a say in their own political future. For India, the repeated invocation of democratic values arguably serves as a fig leaf for maintaining its control over what remains a UN recognised disputed territory awaiting final settlement.

The long-outstanding dispute, with its serious political and security ramifications, continues to hang over the region like a sword of Damocles. Generations of Kashmiris have grown up waiting for a political settlement, despite a series of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions acknowledging their right to self-determination.

Bertrand Russell, the prominent British philosopher and social and political critic of the 20th century, in his book “New Hopes for a Changing World” had reflected on global conflicts, international relations, and the attitudes of Western and regional powers; their approach towards plebiscite and the principle of self-determination, highlighting how strategic interests could take precedence over UN resolutions and the wishes of local populations.

Regarding Indian approach vis-a-vis Kashmir, Russell had made a pointed observation: “The high idealism of the Indian government in international matters breaks down

completely when confronted with the question of Kashmir.”

Decades later, Russell’s observations continue to resonate in the Kashmir context, as India continues to approach the dispute through a security-centric and highly centralised framework rather than through a political process that meaningfully addresses the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. New Delhi’s handling of the Kashmir question remains marked by restrictions on political space, a heavy security presence, and the continued absence of a conflict resolution mechanism that addresses the political aspirations of the people of the region.

What makes Russell’s observation particularly relevant today is the contradiction between the rhetoric of democracy and the principle of self-determination. Democracy is not all about elections or institutions; it is also about giving people a meaningful voice in decisions that shape their political future.

For Kashmiris, the unresolved question of their political future continues to stand as a painful reminder of the gap between these democratic ideals and their lived experience.

India’s imperialistic presence in the region continues to pose a serious existential threat to its majority community, which, behind the façade of so-called democracy, faces systematic marginalisation, disempowerment, and exclusion from the region’s political and administrative landscape.

The democratic institutions that are supposed to give people a meaningful voice in shaping their own affairs have instead been transformed into instruments of settler colonialism by India’s present day communal regime.

Following its controversial decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35-A, the region has witnessed a gradual erosion of democracy and

democratic institutions. This erosion has manifested on the ground in multiple ways, including growing restrictions on the fundamental freedoms, guarantees, and democratic processes essential to the functioning of representative government.

Even the Legislative Assembly, which once exercised substantial powers over regional matters, has seen its authority significantly curtailed. Its role has been reduced to that of a municipality and its ability to legislate on key matters of governance severely constrained.

On the other hand, the legitimate voices of the people have been silenced under a regime of black laws, further shrinking the space for political expression and dissent. The black laws such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) have been effectively used to suppress democratic dissent and dissenters. Particularly, the Kashmir-based rights groups, who have historically played a vital role in documenting state repression, have increasingly faced restrictions under the FCRA and other notorious laws.

What is sold by India to the world is in fact a form of settler colonialism, cloaked in the guise of so-called democracy. It is being carefully executed and implemented by advocates of the one-nation theory, who want to turn Kashmir—a Muslim majority state—into a minority by implementing Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan slogan coined by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee—a prominent Hindutva icon for the RSS and BJP.

It was under this slogan that the BJP, after assuming power in 2014, launched an extensive campaign for what it described as the “mainstreamisation” of J&K. This so-called mainstreamisation ultimately led to fragmentation of the disputed region. The decision of splitting the state was taken in brazen violations of the UNSC resolutions.

Continued on Page 7

How Tobacco Brands Bypass Flavor Restrictions to Reach New Consumers

Dr. HU Khan

Flavors are an important consideration in the regulation of tobacco and nicotine products because they can influence the sensory experience and appeal of these products. In recent years, a few jurisdictions have introduced restrictions on flavors in tobacco and nicotine products, particularly as part of broader efforts to reduce product attractiveness and protect young people from tobacco and nicotine use.

As flavor restrictions develop, regulators are also beginning to consider products that can be used to add flavor to tobacco products after purchase. These products are commonly referred to as flavor accessories and may include flavor capsules, cards, drops, sprays, flavored filter tips, rolling paper and other products designed to alter the taste or aroma of tobacco.

A 2025 World Health Organization (WHO) information sheet identifies flavor accessories as an emerging regulatory consideration. Unlike conventional flavored tobacco products, some flavored accessories do not contain tobacco or nicotine themselves. As a result, they may not fall within existing definitions of tobacco products or existing flavor restrictions. This can create a regulatory gap where legislation regulates the flavor characteristics of the tobacco product but does not address a separate product that can be used to add flavor to it.

WHO’s review of online markets identified 120 unique flavors across 13 categories in nine countries. These included menthol and mint, fruit and berries, tropical fruit, candy, dessert, sweet flavors, beverages, herbs and spices, coffee and tea, alcohol-related flavors, nuts and floral

flavors. Menthol/mint and fruit flavors were available across all nine countries examined, although the availability of other flavor categories differed between markets.

The significance of this issue is not simply the number of available flavors. It is also the fact that these products can potentially provide an alternative way of obtaining flavored tobacco experiences where certain flavors are restricted in tobacco products themselves. However, the evidence should be interpreted carefully. The available evidence does not establish that flavor accessories directly increase tobacco consumption or cause young people to initiate tobacco use. The more established concern is that these products can provide an additional means of introducing flavors into tobacco products.

The online market is particularly relevant because digital platforms can make a wide range of products accessible to consumers across different locations. WHO’s review identified various marketing features used by online retailers, including product imagery, colors, flavor descriptions and links to social-media platforms. WHO also reported that 54% of the websites reviewed did not require age verification. This highlights an area for regulatory consideration, particularly where products are specifically designed for use with tobacco products.

Evidence from the Netherlands provides an example of how flavor accessories may be used following a flavor restriction. Research conducted after the European Union’s menthol-cigarette ban found that some smokers continued to use flavor accessories to obtain a menthol-like experience with smoking. In the study, 42.5% of post-ban menthol smokers reported using flavor accessories, compared

Continued on Page 7

Russian Citizens cast ballots in 2026 State Duma Elections at Embassy in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Pakistan provided Russian citizens residing in or temporarily staying in Pakistan with an opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote in the 2026 elections for deputies to the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament.

A polling station was established at the Russian Embassy in Islamabad on September 20. A total of 130 Russian citizens cast their ballots, including officials of the Embassy and Trade Mission and their family members, as well as Russian citizens residing in or temporarily staying in Pakistan.

Two observers appointed by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were present at the polling station. According to the observers, the voting process proceeded smoothly and in accordance with established procedures.

Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev, who also chairs the Precinct Election Commission, highlighted the arrangements made to facilitate voting.

“Given the traffic restrictions currently in place in Islamabad, the

Embassy, in close coordination with the Pakistani authorities, took additional steps to inform Russian citizens about the voting arrangements and provided convenient transportation to the polling station. Every effort was made to ensure that Russian citizens living in Islamabad and the surrounding areas could exercise their right to vote,” he said.

Olga Starkova, an observer from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, commended the work of the election commission at the Russian Embassy in Islamabad.

“I would like to commend the efficient work of the election commission at the Russian Embassy in Islamabad. No violations of the established voting procedures were identified,” she said.

Another observer, Natalia Zhilina, said the voting process was conducted calmly and that all necessary procedures were followed.

“Voting proceeded calmly, with all the necessary procedures duly followed. It is worth noting the responsible attitude demonstrated by both the organizers and the voters,” she said.

The Russian Embassy in Pakistan thanked all Russian citizens who exercised their constitutional right to vote and participated in the parliamentary



elections, describing their participation as an expression of civic responsibility.

General Information about the State Duma Elections

Elections to Russia’s State Duma, the lower house of Parliament, are held every five years.

In the 2026 elections, a total of 450 seats were contested. Of these, 225 seats were elected through federal party lists, while another 225 were contested in single-member constituencies, where candidates nominated by political

parties and independent candidates could compete.

Ten political parties appeared on the federal party-list ballot:

1. United Russia
2. Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF)
3. Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR)
4. A Just Russia — For Truth
5. New People
6. Rodina (Motherland)
7. Communists of Russia



8. Russian Party of Pensioners for Social Justice
9. Greens
10. Party of Direct Democracy

According to the Russian Central Election Commission, voter turnout stood at approximately 56.6% as of

9:00 p.m. Moscow time on September 20, exceeding the turnout recorded in the previous State Duma election.

In addition to voting at polling stations, Russian citizens were able to cast their ballots remotely through the vybory.gov.ru portal.

Gaza Ceasefire Toll Surpasses 1,390 as Israeli Strikes Persist, UN Cites Occupation Complicity

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Israeli forces continue striking civilian areas in Gaza despite the ceasefire, bringing post-agreement deaths to 1,390 and total fatalities since October 2023 to 73,910. UN experts warned that continued international ties with Israel sustain the occupation. The documentary NAZA, featuring 24 military insiders, details Israel’s alleged use of AI systems with pre-calculated civilian casualty thresholds to target homes.

Structural collapses threaten displaced Gaza families, with over 8,000 victims still trapped under rubble; a Gaza City collapse killed 21, including 11 children. Around 2,000 damaged buildings remain at risk, with recovery hampered by blockades on machinery and fuel. Euro-Med Monitor documented 60 Palestinians killed by armed quadcopter drones since October 2025, reportedly under permissive engagement rules.



Israel advanced tendering for the 3,401-unit E1 settlement project near Jerusalem, while a new outpost emerged near Beit Iksa. West Bank

checkpoints reached 925, the highest in two decades, with UN Women reporting severe safety and livelihood impacts on women. The West Bank

recorded 305 military assaults and 113 settler attacks in one week, with total casualties since 2023 reaching 1,206, including 254 children.

Safe City response leads to arrest in child harassment case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority’s Virtual Centre for Child Safety helped facilitate the prompt arrest of a suspect allegedly involved in harassing a minor girl in Baghbanpura, following a complaint received through Police Emergency Helpline 15.

According to the press release, the girl’s mother reported that her daughter had allegedly faced harassment and inappropriate behaviour by a man while travelling to and from school. The Virtual Centre immediately coordinated with police by establishing a conference call between the mother and relevant officials.

Following the information provided through the Safe City system, police arrested the alleged suspect and registered a case on the complaint. Further legal proceedings are underway.

A Safe City spokesperson said the Virtual Centre provides immediate assistance, guidance and coordination with police in child-safety cases. The spokesperson urged parents to educate children about personal safety and report threats or suspicious behaviour promptly. Citizens can call 15 and press 2 to connect with the Virtual Centre for Child Safety.

KIIR urges OHCHR intervention over alleged unlawful seizure of properties in Kupwara

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Kashmir Institute of International Relations, led by Chairman Altaf Hussain Wani, has submitted an urgent appeal to the OHCHR concerning the attachment of ancestral properties in Kachama, Kupwara district, reportedly ordered under India’s Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The seized properties belong to Abdul Majid Qureshi and Parvaiz Ahmad Qureshi, labeled “proceeds of terrorism,” though the Institute claims this reflects state-sponsored persecution rather than legitimate counter-terrorism.

The appeal details that Abdul Majid Qureshi fled to AJK after his brother Mustafa’s killing by security forces, while Parvaiz, Mustafa’s son, was allegedly tortured before relocating in 2018. Approximately 15 kanals of land are attached under FIR No. 276/22.

The Institute raised concerns over UAPAs’ alleged weaponization against refugees, arbitrary property deprivation, collective punishment, and violations of India’s ICCPR obligations. It urged OHCHR to investigate the attachments, press India to suspend enforcement pending independent review, monitor UAPAs’ application in IIOJK, and facilitate access for human rights observers.

Wani called the action “a grave injustice” against a persecution victim, urging immediate international action to protect rights and ensure accountability. The Institute offered to provide supporting documentation to OHCHR investigators.

Nine CPUs, Three Monitors Stolen from Makhdoom Moeen Thattvi Library

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: In a displeasing incident that took place late on Sunday night, a few unknown thieves reportedly stole nine Central Processing Units (CPUs) and three LCD Monitors from the Makhdoom Moeen Thattvi Library located within the premises of the Thatta Press Club.

President of Thatta Press Club, Iqbal Jakhro, while lamenting the theft incident, stated that unknown thieves had lurked into the library late

at night to commit the theft.

“They dislodged the back door of the library and intruded into the library,” mentioned Jakhro, adding that the library was established in 2022 by the Thatta Press Club to facilitate the students of Thatta and help them improve their educational skills.

He further said that the library had the capacity to accommodate more than 50 students at a time with a variety of books available besides digital facilities.

Dr Shahid Siddiqui, a noted



journalist of Thatta, called it an onslaught on the educational development of Sindh.

He further said that these tactics could not prevent them from contributing positively

to society.

The incident was also condemned by seasoned journalists including Muhammad Iqbal Khawaja, Wahab Sheikh, Yousif Dayo among others.

Later in the day it was revealed that a Non-Cognizable (NC) report of the incident was registered against unknown thieves at the Thatta Police Station and a delegation of the Thatta Press Club had also met SSP Thatta Adeel Chandio who assured them of complete coordination in the matter.

How Tourism Promotion Services is Quietly Shaping Pakistan’s Tourism Future

When we consider tourism in Pakistan, our mind images the peaks of Hunza, the valleys of Swat, seashore of Gawadar, food of Karachi or the Mughal heritage of Lahore. What we rarely contemplate is, about who builds the infrastructure that makes this tourism possible.

For over five decades, one company has been doing exactly that.

Tourism Promotion Services (Pakistan) Limited, or TPS-Pakistan, was established on March 19, 1969, as an unlisted public limited company. Which operates under a name more familiar to travellers: “Serena Hotels”. However, it is a subsidiary of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), which holds 95.47% shareholding.

TPS mission from the start has been different from a typical commercial hotel chain.

Since, it seeks to develop tourism potential in selected areas in the developing world, particularly in underserved regions. TPS builds, rehabilitates and manages hotels and lodges that contribute to economic growth in an environmentally and culturally sensitive manner.

Considering Pakistan, TPS philosophy is visible on the map. While most five-star brands cluster in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, TPS-Pakistan runs a network of ten hotels including its flagship Islamabad Serena Hotel — a member of the Leading Hotels of the World — and properties in less-travelled areas such as Faisalabad, Quetta, Altit, Gilgit, Peshawar, Shigar, Khaplu, Sost and Hunza.

Nevertheless, these are areas which require accommodation of an international standard to support tourism and business development, but which are often ignored by commercial chains. By

placing Serena properties there, TPS-Pakistan created the first reason for international conferences, business delegations and high-end leisure travellers to stay.

Moreover, TPS-Pakistan’s model is built on what development economists call “ripple effects”.

Serena Hotels are designed to cause ripple effects in the local economy — from site selection, design and construction stage through to its responsible day to day operations.

Which means, Local Architecture, Global Standards: The distinctive traditional expression of local cultures and architecture blended with modern amenities is the main feature of these

hotels. Serena Hunza uses stone and wood craft from the valley, Serena Quetta reflects Baloch motifs, Serena Peshawar revives Peshawari handicrafts.

Jobs and Skills: The company places priority on the hiring and training of local residents for employment at all levels. In Gilgit-Baltistan where youth unemployment pushes migration to cities, this has created a local hospitality workforce.

Environmental and Cultural

Conservation: The policy at each hotel is to minimise the impact on the local environment while seeking to maximise socioeconomic benefits, including promotion of local crafts, heritage, responsible sourcing, and environmental responsibility programs for guests and schools.

Seemingly, Pakistan saw a reported 300% increase in international tourists in recent years according to PTDC estimates, and domestic tourism has exploded post-COVID. But without quality, safe and culturally respectful accommodation, that boom cannot sustain.

TPS-Pakistan has established itself as one of the world’s leading hospitality brands offering quality accommodation, unique holiday and conference solutions, cultural heritage and adventure tourism.

Let’s say, in a country where the image of tourism has long been hampered by security perceptions, a brand that is both Pakistani-owned and internationally recognised as Serena has become a trust signal. For foreign embassies, development agencies, and corporate travellers, the presence of a Serena is often a green light to visit a region.

As Pakistan prepares for adventure tourism pushes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and eco-tourism projects around dams and waterfalls, the need for models like TPS-Pakistan — where profit is tied to local benefit — will only grow.

It does not run billboards saying “Visit Pakistan.” It simply builds the place where a visitor can come, feel safe, feel the culture, and want to come back.

Analysis



Munaza Kazmi

 Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
171,153.16	169,043.19
Day's High	Day's Low
171,732.62	171,732.62
Index Value	Change
10,982,708,973	+ 268.58
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	21 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,739.01	+ 79.88
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	21 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,976.58	+ 293.94
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	21 Sept, 1:39 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
65,018.95	+ 882.70
Percentage	Time
+1.38%	21 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

DWP Group

Secures HVAC

Contract for Lahore

Medical & Dental

College



 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: DWP Group's MEP Division has secured the complete HVAC scope for Lahore Medical & Dental College, further expanding the group's presence in Pakistan's healthcare sector.

The project includes the supply and installation of Gree VRF systems, Sital Klima hygienic air handling units and Japan Sanyo elevators, providing an integrated HVAC and vertical transportation solution designed to meet the demanding requirements of a modern healthcare and academic facility.

The project reinforces DWP Group's focus on delivering high-end, pharma-specific HVAC solutions emphasizing hygiene, operational reliability, energy efficiency and precise environmental control. Through its collaboration with Sital Klima, the group continues to introduce advanced hygienic HVAC technologies and specialized solutions for healthcare and pharmaceutical facilities across Pakistan.

DWP Group has been operating in the HVAC sector since 2005 and has partnered with globally recognized brands in heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Since 2010, it has provided products, solutions and services across the sector.

The Lahore Medical & Dental College project represents another step in DWP Group's contribution to the healthcare industry, supporting modern facilities with specialized systems designed to provide reliable and high-performance environmental control.

High fuel prices

becoming existential

crisis for industrial and

transport sectors: Mian

Zahid Hussain

 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President of PBIF and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, has praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's targeted fuel relief program for motorcycles, rickshaws and cars up to 800cc, calling it timely support for low-income citizens amid inflation from the US-Iran war. However, he warned that industrial and commercial fuel prices remain dangerously high, threatening the survival of the industrial and transport sectors.

With petrol exceeding Rs389 per litre and diesel at Rs424, he said soaring logistics costs are inflating raw material and



consumer goods prices, straining manufac-

turing already burdened by heavy taxes and high electricity tariffs. He cautioned that elevated energy costs compared to regional competitors like Bangladesh, India and Vietnam are eroding Pakistani exports' competitiveness, worsened by global disruptions in the Middle East, Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb.

Hussain urged the government and Finance Ministry to introduce targeted fuel subsidies for commercial transporters and industries, accelerate the \$6 billion refinery upgradation projects, and transition swiftly to the CTBCM for cheaper electricity, stressing that protecting industry is essential to safeguarding the national economy.

Agreement

ISLAMABAD: EU Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Raimundas Karoblis, and Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Mr. Muhammad Humair Karim, sign agreements between Pakistan and the European Union on Monday.



Photo: Online

IESCO Privatisation Attracts Strong

Investor Interest

 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission received 10 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from domestic and international investors for the proposed privatisation of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), marking the next phase of DISCOs Batch-I privatisation.

The interested parties include three Turkish companies and several leading Pakistani business groups and consortia. Investors are seeking to acquire 51 to 100 percent shareholding in IESCO along with management control.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation and Privatisation Commission Chairman Muhammad Ali said the strong response reflected investor confidence in Pakistan's electricity distribution sector and the government's commitment to a transparent and competitive process.

The submitted EOIs and Statements of Qualification will now undergo evaluation against approved prequalification criteria. Successful applicants will proceed to due diligence through access to a Virtual Data Room.

IESCO is one of three DISCOs in Batch-I, alongside FESCO and GEPCO.



The commission said the privatisation aims to improve operational efficiency, modernise infrastructure, strengthen customer service and reduce losses, supporting a more financially sustainable power sector.

Engro Corporation

Board Announces

Junaid Iqbal as

Successor to President

and CEO, Effective

April 2027



 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro Holdings Limited announced that Engro Corporation's Board of Directors has approved Junaid Iqbal, currently Advisor to the CEO of Engro Holdings, as successor to Ahsan Zafar Syed for the role of President and CEO, effective April 2027. The move reflects Engro's next growth phase, building on six decades of industrial strength while creating new value-generating platforms.

Iqbal brings experience across technology, finance

and media, having scaled Careem's Pakistan and Saudi businesses and served as Global Head of Careem Pay, alongside earlier work repositioning Elixir Securities and supporting HBL's privatization transaction.

The Board thanked Syed for his contributions, including the EVTL agreement, thermal asset reintegration, and the Deodar and EPCL deals, noting Engro's consistent recognition among PSX's leading companies under his leadership. Syed will complete his term before being elevated as Counsel to the Chairman of Engro Holdings.

The coming months will ensure a structured transition, with Iqbal engaging closely with Engro's operations under Syed's mentorship before formally assuming the role in April 2027, reflecting Engro's commitment to strong governance and leadership continuity.

SE Fruits and Vegetable

IPO Book-Building

Commences

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The two-day book-building process for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of SE Fruits and Vegetable Limited began today and will run until September 22, giving investors a chance to participate in the public offering of the export-oriented, Shariah-compliant company. The company is offering 30 million ordinary shares, representing 32.01% of its post-IPO paid-up capital, at a floor price of Rs40 each, with the strike price permitted to rise up to 60% to a maximum of Rs64 per share, potentially raising between Rs1.20 billion and Rs1.92 billion.

Of the total issue, 75% (22.5 million shares) is being offered to institutional

and high-net-worth investors through book building, while the remaining 25% (7.5 million shares) will be offered to the general public on September 28-29. Topline Securities Limited and Growth Securities Limited are Joint Lead Managers.

Proceeds will strengthen working capital, enabling larger seasonal procurement and higher export revenue. The company earned around US\$4 million in exports during FY2026, targeting US\$18 million in FY2027. Based in Sargodha and formerly Shaheen Enterprises, the firm has nearly three decades of experience exporting kinnow, mangoes, potatoes and other produce to over 22 countries.

inDrive, Fly Jinnah

Reward Driver with

Saudi Arabia Trip

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: inDrive and Fly Jinnah have partnered to reward a top-rated driver with an international trip to Saudi Arabia in recognition of his dedication and consistent airport rides through the platform.

Kashif Naeem, identified as a high-frequency and highly rated airport driver, was selected for the reward after regularly helping passengers travel to and from airports. The trip, held in late July, included an all-inclusive Umrah pilgrimage and a day exploring Jeddah, marking his first international travel experience.

Kashif said the opportunity was a memorable

reward for his years of hard work and driving with inDrive. He expressed gratitude to both companies, particularly for the opportunity to perform Umrah during the trip.

Awais Saeed, Country Manager of inDrive Pakistan, said drivers work hard every day and deserve recognition for their dedication. He said Kashif's journey demonstrated how perseverance can lead to meaningful opportunities.

The company said its commitment in Pakistan extends beyond affordable mobility, with initiatives aimed at empowering, recognising and celebrating drivers and their contributions.

Pakistan International

Auto Show (PAPS) 2026

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Messe Frankfurt successfully participated in the Pakistan International Auto Show (PAPS) 2026, held from 18-20 September 2026 at the Lahore International Expo Centre. The three-day exhibition brought together automotive manufacturers, parts producers, suppliers, technology providers and industry professionals from across Pakistan.

The 21st edition of the

fair provided a platform for industry stakeholders to explore the latest developments in automotive technology, components, after-market solutions and mobility, while creating opportunities for business networking and knowledge exchange.

At the show, the Messe Frankfurt team engaged with visitors and industry representatives and showcased its global Automechanika portfolio, including Automechanika Frankfurt, Autom-

echanika Dubai and Automechanika Istanbul.

Messe Frankfurt Pakistan extends its sincere appreciation to the organizers of Pakistan International Auto Show (PAPS) 2026 and all visitors who visited the Messe Frankfurt stand during the exhibition. The company remains committed to connecting Pakistani businesses with international markets and creating new opportunities for global business through its international exhibitions.



1st CM Inter-Club Women’s Hockey begins

 Sports Desk

LAHORE: First CM Punjab Inter-Club Women's Hockey Tournament exploded into action when DG Sports Punjab M Tariq Qureshi inaugurated the event by playing a shot at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

He also unveiled the tournament trophy at the inaugural ceremony where women hockey teams from across the country participated in a march past. As many as 12 women hockey club teams from across Pakistan are participating in the tournament.

Olympian Khawaja Junaid, Director Sports Munawar Hussain, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed, Saman Waheed, Sonia Khan also attended the opening ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Qureshi said that the holding of the first CM Punjab Inter-Club Women's Hockey Tournament is a welcome initiative. "Sports Board Punjab is



continuously organising events to promote the game of hockey across the province".

He said that an ADP scheme is being

introduced to provide better nutrition to athletes and support their physical development. "Punjab is also going to organise the CM Punjab Youth

Games in which hockey has also been included. These games would be a suitable platform for young hockey players to showcase their talent".

New Hopes for Better Future in Asia-Pacific Countries, Conference in Jinan Shandong China new ways

Asia-Pacific countries want that no member country included among its members should be left behind in the journey of development. Asia-Pacific countries will cooperate with each other to tackle common challenges for the bright future of future generations. The three major challenges facing the humanity, including the foremost issue of elimination of environmental pollution, the second major issue of poverty reduction, and the third major issue of improving public health, will be tackled through joint efforts.

Gao Zhiyong, Deputy Director General and First class inspector of the Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan Overseas Chinese and foreign Affairs committee of Beijing of CPPCC said in this speech, In Asia-Pacific countries, the protection of the waters of rivers, lakes and seas will be done jointly.

Geng Jing, Vice president of China NGO for International Exchanges emphasize Efforts will also be joint for the protection of glaciers present in Pakistan, China and Nepal.

Conference of Asia-Pacific countries was held in Shandong province of China. More than 200 delegates and experts from 40 countries participated in the conference. 38 delegates from Pakistan participated. The Pakistani delegation was led by Mr. Abdul Razzaq, who is also Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Planning. Abdul Razzaq appreciated China's efforts to increase mutual cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries and assured China of full cooperation from Pakistan. Abdul Razzaq also presented the vision of Prime

Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif to the delegates of Asia-Pacific countries. He said that Pakistan wants Asia-Pacific countries to increase mutual cooperation for development, prosperity, eradication of poverty, reduction of environmental pollution, improvement of public health, better care of special and disabled children, and for increasing employment opportunities.

Hector Villagran Cepeda formal Minister of Transport and public works of Ecuador, Honorary Professor Beijing language and culture university said during his speech that

Asia-Pacific countries will have to make joint efforts to reduce marine pollution. Asia-Pacific countries will move forward like a community and will benefit from each other's experiences for poverty reduction. The past and culture of Asia-Pacific countries may be different but the future is one, development will be joint, the struggle against environmental pollution will now have to be done jointly.

A professor from QUFU Normal University Xian Guang said that mutual experiences, mutual viewpoints, mutual suggestions will have to be respected, exchange of information between educational institutions will have to be improved, dialogue with each other will have to be increased, each other's weaknesses will have to be removed.

Li Meirui Dean of Taishan Culture Research said that Asia-Pacific countries do not want to see anyone left behind in the Era of development.

Song Qing Shanghai Association of Social Organization for International exchanges said that joint efforts will have to be made for physically and physically disabled children, efforts for experiences, funding, training and awareness for youth suffering from mental and physical disabilities will have to be accelerated.

Raquel Leon De La Rosa President of the Mexican Association for International Sinology said that if Asia-Pacific countries develop jointly, then common flowers will bloom.

Cheng Hao, Chairman of Canal Walk Organizing committee, said that the protection of lakes will be joint, water protection in Asia-Pacific countries will be joint, Asia-Pacific countries will jointly tackle the challenges of environmental pollution.

Melsam Ojha President of Nepal China Academy emphasize for joint efforts will have to be made for the protection of glaciers in the region.

Moderator Chen Guang, Chairman of Beijing Youth bride Foundation, said that Asia-Pacific countries should make joint efforts keeping a one-year challenge, unite voluntary efforts during one year and present a review of their performance in the same conference to be held after one year. In the conference, Wang Yao, Professor of Performing Arts, said that although the past and culture of Asia-Pacific countries are definitely different, but now the future will be the same. Asia-Pacific countries will become each other's

support to deal with environmental pollution, reduce poverty and remove public health problems. Joint efforts will be made for mentally and physically disabled children. The younger generation needs to resolve each other's issues. Pakistan and China are best friends of each other, but in Asia-Pacific countries there may be differences of language, culture and past, but now it is necessary to respect the viewpoint of the younger generation, so that the future is better. Arman Papyan, Youth Project Coordinator, UNA Russia, said that this conference will help in finding different solutions to deal with challenges faced at the global level.

The world is facing new natural disasters every day, the disaster in the glacier of Nepal is a new example of it. Now it is important for the whole world to unite to deal with such difficult situations. In the conference, the delegates of China and Pakistan took the stand that efforts should be made that no member country is left behind in the journey of development. In the joint declaration of the conference, it was reiterated that the youth of Asia-Pacific countries will be given full opportunity to benefit from each other's experiences, suggestions and viewpoints. Member Countries of Asia-Pacific need to be enhance Scientific Research and Modern AI Technologies to curb Environment pollution, Natural disaster Rick management.

Writer Shoaib Nizami journalist in Islamabad Pakistan, for Economy, Development and Environment Protection. He can be reached at shoaib.nizami92@gmail.com

Rukhsana Rajput meets cricket legend Javed Miandad in Karachi



 Abdul Majid

KARACHI: Chairperson of the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council (PWCC) Rukhsana Rajput met legendary cricketer and outstanding batsman Javed Miandad at his residence in Karachi.

During the meeting, Rajput expressed her gratitude to Miandad for taking the time to meet her and for extending his encouragement and support for wheelchair cricket.

Javed Miandad conveyed his best wishes for the future of wheelchair cricket in Pakistan and appreciated the PWCC's continued efforts to promote the sport and improve opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The cricket legend also shared his views on the Asia Cup, emphasizing that the tournament should be hosted entirely in Pakistan rather than being shifted to another country. He said the return of foreign cricket teams to Pakistan would be a matter of great honor and pride for the nation.

Three-Day National Polio Campaign Begins in Multan

 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A three-day special national polio campaign has commenced in Multan district, with 777,710 children targeted for vaccination. On the first day, around 300,000 children received polio drops. Deputy Commissioner Dr Faisal Saleem said 4,399 teams are participating in the campaign, including 4,021 mobile, 230 fixed-site and 148 transit teams. Monitoring is being carried out by 833 area in-charges and 135 Union Council Medical Officers.

Special teams have been deployed at hospitals, railway stations, the airport, bus stands and other public locations to ensure that no child under five misses the vaccination. Officials and Assistant Commissioners are also monitoring the campaign's arrangements and team performance.

Danyal Chaudhry inaugurates new block at Rawalpindi Kachehri

 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry inaugurated the newly constructed Chaudhry Zamurd Hussain Block at Rawalpindi Kachehri.

Speaking at the ceremony, he said young lawyers would be provided modern facilities, including IT centres and access to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, to help them meet the changing requirements of the legal profession.

Barrister Danyal emphasized the importance of strengthening the professional capabilities of young lawyers and said technology-enabled legal services would improve efficiency and effectiveness. He also highlighted plans to introduce a modern bar management system to improve administrative affairs and service delivery.

President Rawalpindi Bar Association Tariq Mehmood Sajid Awan, Vice President Shazia Hashmi, General Secretary Qamar-ul-Haq Niazi, other office-bearers, senior lawyers and a large number of legal practitioners attended the event. The Parliamentary Secretary described the new block as an important addition to the Kachehri's infrastructure, saying it would provide an improved working environment for lawyers and litigants.

How Trump Ditched Saudi Arabia?

 Continued from Page 4

confrontation with Iran would be more dangerous still.

The United States has shown Saudi Arabia the precise limits of their relationship. Washington will sell weapons, provide intelligence and cooperate when American interests coincide with Saudi needs. It may not, however, fight Saudi Arabia's wars.

That realization should not lead Riyadh toward reckless confrontation. It should lead to strategic independence. If even the world's greatest military power cannot impose a sustainable solu-

tion through force, Saudi Arabia should not sacrifice its economy and national transformation by attempting the same. Its strongest response is to escape the trap, mend regional fences and prevent other powers from deciding when, where and against whom the kingdom must fight.

The most appropriate immediate initiative would be for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to convene an emergency summit, bringing together Iran, Saudi Arabia, the GCC states, Yemen's internationally recognized government, representatives of the Houthis and other influential Muslim coun-

tries.

The OIC should provide a neutral platform on which every party can state its security concerns, political objectives and conditions for ending hostilities. Through mediation, compromise and reciprocal concessions, the participants could formulate a practical roadmap for de-escalation.

Whenever two or more Muslim countries fight, the result is not merely an individual national loss but a collective loss for the entire Muslim ummah. Even if one side gains more in a negotiated settlement, its gains remain within the Muslim world; continued warfare,

by contrast, destroys Muslim lives, economies and strategic strength for the benefit of outside powers.

The Muslim countries must therefore stop exhausting one another and redirect their combined diplomatic, economic and political influence toward securing justice for the Palestinian people, including a viable two-state solution that enables Palestinians to live in freedom, security and dignity.

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

Settler colonialism cloaked in democracy

 Continued from Page 4

The terrible consequences of bifurcating the state and stripping it of its special constitutional status are a product of the persistence of advocates of the one-nation theory, who have consistently refused to recognise the disputed status of J&K. This totalitarian diktat has not only caused immense suffering for the Kashmiri people but has also further complicated an already protracted and unresolved dispute.

Despite all these machinations, the broader Kashmir question remains still unresolved, while the political aspirations of the Kashmiri people remain firmly alive.

The question, however, remains: how long can the Indian state use the so-called democracy as a fig leaf to advance its settler agenda?

Tailpiece: Decades of political uncertainty, institutional erosion, and shrinking space for dissent have only deepened the crisis. A lasting solution cannot come through coercion or centralised control; it requires a credible political process that respects the rights, dignity, and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

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How Tobacco Brands Bypass Flavor Restrictions to Reach New Consumers

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with 4.4% of smokers overall. The study focused on adult smokers and should not be interpreted as evidence that flavor accessories cause tobacco initiation among young people. Instead, it provides evidence that some consumers may use these products as an alternative means of adding flavor following restrictions on flavored tobacco products.

The emergence of flavor accessories raises an important question for tobacco-control frameworks: should regulation consider only the contents of a tobacco product, or should it also consider products specif-

ically designed to modify that product? A regulatory approach that considers the intended use and function of an accessory could help identify potential gaps in existing legislation. This does not necessarily mean that all flavor accessories should be treated in the same way as tobacco products. Rather, their relationship with tobacco products, intended use, marketing, distribution and potential public-health implications can be assessed when developing appropriate regulations.

Possible measures could include clearly defining flavor accessories within relevant legislation; reviewing whether

products specifically designed to add flavor to tobacco products should be restricted; applying appropriate controls to their advertising, promotion and points of sale; strengthening age-assurance requirements for online sales; monitoring online marketplaces and emerging products; and periodically reviewing regulations as new products and delivery methods enter the market.

Age verification can be an important component of online regulation, but it should not be viewed as a substitute for broader product regulation. Similarly, any restrictions should be clearly defined and

supported by evidence so that businesses, consumers and enforcement authorities can understand which products are covered.

For Pakistan and other countries in South Asia, flavor accessories represent an emerging issue that may be considered as tobacco-control frameworks continue to evolve. As new products and accessories become available, periodic regulatory review can help identify areas that may not have been anticipated when existing legislation was developed. A forward-looking approach could examine whether products designed specifically to add flavor to

tobacco or nicotine products are adequately covered by existing legal definitions, as well as how such products are marketed, sold and distributed, particularly through online platforms.

The objective should be to ensure that tobacco-control measures remain clear, evidence-based, proportionate and adaptable to changes in the market. Any new restrictions should be developed through appropriate legal and regulatory processes and informed by available scientific evidence.

The emergence of flavor accessories illustrates a broader consideration for tobacco regulation: the consumer experience

of a tobacco product can be influenced by products beyond the tobacco product itself. Flavor restrictions may address flavors incorporated directly into tobacco products, while separate accessories can potentially modify the product after purchase. The available evidence does not yet establish that flavor accessories directly cause higher rates of youth tobacco initiation. However, evidence shows that these products are available in online markets, offer a broad range of flavors, and can be used to add flavor to tobacco products.

For policymakers, this provides a basis for further

assessment rather than a predetermined regulatory response. Monitoring the availability, marketing and use of flavor accessories can help determine whether existing regulations adequately address them and whether additional measures are warranted.

Ultimately, the regulatory question is not only what is contained in a tobacco product, but also what products are available to modify their taste and sensory characteristics after purchase. Considering this wider product environment can help ensure that tobacco-control frameworks remain relevant as the market continues to change.

National Security and War Course participants

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with participants of National Security and War Course 2026-27 form National Defence University at Parliament House in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

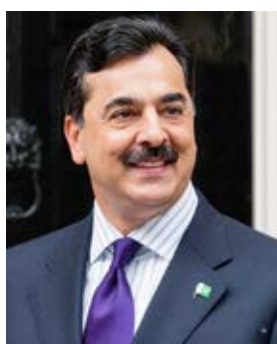
Chairman Senate Gillani calls for greater global investment in peace, dialogue and human dignity

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, addressing the 1st International Peace Summit 2026 of the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) as Chief Guest on the International Day of Peace, called for greater global investment in diplomacy, dialogue, justice, education, development and human dignity. Reflecting on this year's theme, "Invest in Peace — For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day," he stressed diplomacy before

confrontation, dialogue before escalation, education before extremism and development before despair.

Speaking to an international gathering of leaders, parliamentarians, diplomats and peace advocates, Gillani said peace was not merely the absence of war but the presence of security, justice, dignity, opportunity and hope. Expressing concern over conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti and other regions, he stressed that geopolitical considerations must not overshadow human



suffering, noting that behind every statistic lies a human life, a displaced family's home, or a child's interrupted future due

to a destroyed school.

Gillani emphasized that peace, security and development are inseparable, calling for a broader security concept protecting human dignity, education, economic opportunity and social inclusion. Highlighting parliamentary diplomacy, he said dialogue serves as an instrument of responsible statecraft, with parliaments offering platforms to resolve differences through debate rather than violence. Referencing the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, he noted that parliamentary

diplomacy could strengthen cooperation, conflict resolution and trust among nations.

The Chairman Senate reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peaceful dispute resolution, respect for sovereignty and international law, multilateral cooperation and UN peacekeeping efforts. He urged the international community to choose dialogue over confrontation, education over extremism, development over despair, and humanity over hatred, stressing that peace must be built every day, everywhere, for everyone.

Uzbek Media Delegation Visits Army Museum, Shooting Gallery and Wagah Border

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A nine-member Uzbek media delegation visited the Army Museum Lahore, Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery and Wagah Border, exploring Pakistan's military heritage, historical legacy and contemporary defence facilities.

At the Army Museum, Brig Umer Khalid (retd), Director Army Museum Lahore, briefed the delegation about its historical significance and collections spanning prehistoric, Gandhara, Islamic, Sikh and Hindu-Buddhist periods. The visitors took particular interest in military equipment, weapons and memorabilia linked to the 1965 and



1971 wars.

The delegation appreciated efforts to preserve Paki-

stan's historical and cultural heritage and the military legacy reflected in the museum's exhibits.

At the Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery, officials briefed the visitors about its facilities. The delegation participated in supervised shooting at mid- and long-range distances and archery activities.

The Uzbek media representatives later visited Wagah Border and witnessed the parade and traditional flag-lowering ceremony. They appreciated the disciplined display and vibrant atmosphere. The visit provided an opportunity to explore Pakistan's historical, cultural and tourism potential.

Hundreds of flights cancelled as Typhoon Dujuan nears Japan

BAKU: Typhoon Dujuan forced the cancellation of at least 275 flights in Japan on Monday and prompted warnings of potentially record-breaking rainfall as the storm nears Tokyo, according to the Economic Times.

The typhoon, which is accompanied by high winds, has also led to the early closure in the capital of one of the world's biggest video game trade fairs and knocked out power for thousands.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) warned on Sunday that rain and winds were expected to intensify even before the typhoon's

arrival.

"The total rainfall through Tuesday could exceed the average monthly rainfall for September, resulting in record-breaking heavy rain," the agency said.

The typhoon's wind speeds were at 144 kilometres (89 miles) per hour as the storm was approximately 110 kilometres from Hachijojima, one of Tokyo's farthest islands.

On Monday, more than 4,000 households in Chiba, next to Tokyo, were without power, while the JMA and local authorities warned residents of heavy rain and possible landslides.

Tariq Fazal pays tribute to six soldiers martyred in Hangu

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry paid tribute to six soldiers who embraced martyrdom while defending the country in Hangu.

In a statement, he described the fallen soldiers as brave sons of Pakistan who sacrificed their lives for the country, stressing that their sacrifice was above political affiliations.

Dr Tariq Fazal expressed concern over the absence of any representative of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government at the funeral prayers of the martyrs. He termed the absence regrettable and said it raised serious questions.

The minister said security personnel in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continued to make sacrifices in the



fight against terrorism, while political leadership should prioritize public safety. He emphasized that the funerals of martyrs should be occasions of national unity rather than political division.

He said the people and security personnel of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa deserved respect, solidarity and support, adding that political leaders should stand with those defending the country and province.

Russian Embassy Polling in Pakistan Concludes Successfully: Ambassador Khorev



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev said voting at the polling station established at the Russian Embassy in Pakistan had concluded successfully, with 130 Russian citizens casting their ballots.

He said those who voted included Embassy and Trade Mission leadership and staff, their family members, and Russian citizens residing in or temporarily staying in Pakistan.

According to Ambassador Khorev, observers from the Civic Chamber of Russia present at the polling station noted that voting was conducted in

accordance with established procedures and that no violations were identified.

He said the voting took place amid heightened protest activity and partial traffic restrictions in Islamabad. In coordination with Pakistani authorities, the Embassy took additional measures to inform Russian citizens and arranged convenient transportation to the polling station.

Khorev thanked Russian citizens who exercised their right to vote in the elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation's ninth convocation, describing their participation as a demonstration of civic responsibility.

DPM/FM Dar expresses condolences over death of Sheikh Ahmed

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Monday, expressed his deep grief over the death of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, brother of UAE Vice President and Prime Minister; and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, brother of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. His long years of service to Dubai's security and development, and his contribution to the UAE Armed Forces, will be long remembered," the DPM/FM posted



on his X handle.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan, and on his personal behalf, the DPM/FM extended heartfelt condolences to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Al-Maktoum family and the people of Dubai and UAE.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and bless the bereaved family with patience.

PM AJK Iftikhar Gillani condemns Hangu attack, honors six martyred soldiers

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gillani on Monday strongly condemned the Hangu terrorist attack and paid eulogizing tributes to six Pakistan Army personnel who embraced martyrdom in the attack. He said the sacrifices of Captain Abuzar Farooq, Lieutenant Shiraz Babar, Sepoy Shakeel Ahmed, Sepoy Muhammad Usman Aziz, Sepoy Hamza and Sepoy Ghulam Sajjad would always be remembered. The officers and soldiers who laid down their lives for the defence of the country are heroes of the entire nation", he said. The prime minister prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and for patience and fortitude for their bereaved families. He said that the entire nation stood



with the armed forces in their fight against terrorism.

"The matchless sacrifices made by the Pakistan army for peace and stability would never go in vain", he added. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the terrorist attack.

Dr. Safdar Abbasi, Naheed Khan Condemn Kohat Police Lines Mosque Attack

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Senator and Pakistan Peoples Party Workers President Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's political aide Naheed Khan expressed deep sorrow over the suicide attack and firing at the mosque in Kohat's old Police Lines during Friday prayers. They extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred police personnel and civilians and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. They demanded immediate, concrete and effective action against terror-



ists, their facilitators and support networks, along with the best medical treatment for the injured and financial and practical assistance for the victims' families.

They said targeting innocent civilians and police personnel was highly condemnable and stressed that the sacrifices of security personnel would never be forgotten.