



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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نکاح میں تھیں۔ ایک دن آپ ان کے یہاں
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عرصہ میں نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جو میرا
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Erdogan Raises Kashmir Issue at UNGA; Calls for Resolution as per UN Resolutions

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan raised the Kashmir issue at UNGA, urging resolution per UN resolutions, calling it indispensable for South Asian peace. He stressed dialogue for India-Pakistan disputes, reflected Kashmiri aspirations, and lent strong support to Pakistan's stance before PM Shehbaz Sharif.



MQM-P's Sattar Calls for Six Administrative Units in Sindh for Equal Development

Senior MQM-P leader Dr Farooq Sattar said six administrative units should be created in Sindh to ensure equal distribution of resources and development opportunities. Addressing a press conference, he said Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Larkana and other areas deserve equal development opportunities, adding decentralisation could transfer powers to the grassroots level.

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Called on

NEW YORK: Delegations of Pakistani Businessmen and Entrepreneurs called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

PM invites US-based Pak business community to invest in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday invited Pakistani business personalities and professionals based in the United States to invest in Pakistan, assuring them that the government was providing a conducive environment to promote investment and business activities.

The prime minister, while meeting delegations of Pakistani business personalities and professionals associated with information technology, artificial intelligence, automobiles, energy, construction and other sectors, said business personalities and professionals were Pakistan's ambassadors who, through their positive contributions around the world, enhanced the country's

image.

He said reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had helped address the issues faced by the business community.

The prime minister said the government was also taking measures on a priority basis to promote innovation in the agricultural sector for the development of the country's agriculture.

The business and profes-

sional delegations appreciated the reforms and initiatives being undertaken under the Prime Minister's leadership in agriculture, industry and exports, particularly the reforms in the FBR.

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Bilal Bin Saqib, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the

United Nations Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Ahmed Sheikh, Prime Minister's Spokesperson for Foreign Media Musharraf Zaidi, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation Chairman Syed Qamar Raza, Managing Director Overseas Pakistanis Foundation Afzaal Bhatti and relevant senior officials also attended the meetings.

GCC Secretary General lauds Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday met with GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Al Budaivi on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, the GCC Secretary General appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and

stability through dialogue and diplomacy, and acknowledged Pakistan's close partnership with the GCC and its member states.

DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-GCC relations and cooperation.

The two sides also discussed enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, energy, security, and other areas of mutual interest, and reaffirmed their commitment to working closely for regional peace,



Govt approves deployment of Rangers in Islamabad and Punjab

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved the deployment of Rangers in Islamabad and Punjab. An additional force of 3,000 Rangers personnel will be deployed in Islamabad.

Rangers will also be deployed across various districts of Punjab.

The deployment was authorized following requests from the Punjab Home Department and the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad.

The Punjab Home Department had also requested the deployment of the Army alongside the Rangers. Rangers' contingents will perform security duties in the Punjab districts of Attock, Jhelum, Lahore, and Rawalpindi.

Rangers have been authorized to take appropriate action in self-defence in the event of any threat or violent activity while on duty

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducts detailed tour of Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday conducted a detailed tour of various areas in Islamabad, reviewing the city's overall situation, civic amenities, and arrangements made for cleanliness and beautification.

Naqvi visited different schools, hotels, and other public places, issuing necessary directives to the concerned officials. He ordered the immediate removal of all kinds of encroachments in the federal capital, saying they would not be tolerated.

The minister also directed the concerned officials to come up with a plan to beautify all roads in the city. He further directed that special

attention must be paid to the beautification of roads, green belts, medians, and other open spaces.

Naqvi also ordered large-scale tree plantation in open spaces. "The city's greenery should be further enhanced," he ordered.



He directed that special focus should be placed on the city's beautification, and practical steps to further improve civic amenities must be accelerated.

The chief commissioner of Islamabad and relevant officials accompanied the minister on the occasion.

PTI Crackdown Intensifies as 37 Workers Arrested in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Police have detained 37 active workers and four local leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Lahore under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) law and in connection with cases related to the May 9 unrest.

According to police, 32 workers were detained under Section 3 of the MPO, while four leaders were arrested in connection with existing cases. Authorities said further arrests were being made from lists prepared to maintain law and order ahead of PTI's planned September 27 protest and possible march towards Islamabad.

The latest action comes after the detention of PTI founder's sisters Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, who were placed under 30-day detention orders.

Meanwhile, Islamabad authorities blocked major entry and exit routes with shipping containers and deployed thousands of security personnel ahead of the planned demonstration. PTI information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram claimed that nearly 1,500 party activists had been detained across Punjab and Islamabad.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said authorities would not allow anyone to shut down the capital.

Maldives People's Majlis Speaker calls on COAS Syed Asim Munir

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Speaker of the People's Majlis of the Maldives Abdul Raheem Abdullah called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ here at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Thursday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, including regional security and bilateral cooperation, were discussed, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The COAS underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to its brotherly relations with the Maldives and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening these ties for the



mutual benefit of both countries.

Abdul Raheem Abdullah appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability and expressed his desire to deepen bilateral engagement and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

PM Shehbaz meets Iran president in New York, discusses bilateral ties

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Thursday. The two leaders discussed Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations and the regional situation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi attended the meeting, while Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was also present.

The meeting took place amid intensified diplomatic efforts to revive dialogue between the United States and Iran. Pakistan has been pursuing a mediation role to help facilitate talks between



Washington and Tehran.

Speaking to reporters, Prime Minister Shehbaz said Pakistan remained focused on mediating an end to the US-Iran conflict. He said Pakistan had not lost hope and would continue efforts to reduce tensions and promote peace.

The prime minister described Pakistan as a sincere and honest mediator and said friendly countries were also supporting peace efforts. His UNGA address was rescheduled for 12:30am Pakistan time on Friday.

DPM/FM Dar, German FM discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday met with Foreign Minister of Germany Johann Wadepuhl on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the UNGA in New York.

During the meeting, the two sides felicitated each other on the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Germany, and reaffirmed the importance of sustained high-level engagement to further strengthen the longstanding and cordial bilateral relationship.

The two foreign ministers discussed ways to further expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, investment, economic relations, and business-to-business linkages. They also agreed to enhance cooperation in defence, education, skilled and people-to-



people contacts.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional developments. German Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability through dialogue and diplomacy.

They also discussed the situation in Palestine, and DPM/FM reaffirmed the importance of sustained international efforts towards a ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, and a just and lasting solution based on the two-State solution.

Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi takes oath as New AJK President in Muzaffarabad Ceremony

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi was sworn in as the new President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir at a ceremony held at the Presidency here on Thursday, formally assuming charge of the state's highest constitutional office. Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, administered the oath to the newly elected president. Earlier, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan read out the notification announcing Dr. Najeeb Naqi's election as president. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs



Amir Muqam, Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Rana Sanaullah, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Justice Sardar Liaquat Hussain, former prime ministers Raja Farooq Haider Khan and Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir, former federal minister Khurram Dastgir Khan, government ministers, members of the Legislative Assembly, senior civil and police officers and a large number of people from across Azad Kashmir. After the oath-taking, a smartly turned out police contingent presented a guard of honour to the newly elected president.

Tahaffuz-e-Harmain seminar

LAHORE: Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad addressing the Tahaffuz-e-Harmain seminar organized by International Khatam-e-Nabuwat Movement at Lahore Press Club in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

AJK PM Hails Dr Najeeb Naqi's Election as President

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gillani congratulated Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqi on his election as President of Azad Kashmir, describing it as a positive development for the region.

Addressing the AJK Legislative Assembly, Gillani thanked PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and other federal and parliamentary leaders for their support and cooperation.

He congratulated the people of Poonch, saying the election of a "son of Poonch" as president was a matter of pride and renewed hope for the region. He praised Dr Naqi and his family for their services to the people of Poonch and Azad Kashmir.

The prime minister reiterated his government's commitment to inclu-



sive governance, saying the opposition would be taken on board on issues of national importance and there would

be no political revenge.

Gillani said a comprehensive policy for development of Azad Kashmir would

be introduced. He also expressed hope that elections in seven vacant Poonch constituencies would be held soon.

Wani hails Erdogan as a fearless advocate of Kashmir cause

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prominent Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman Jammu and Kashmir National Front Altaf Hussain Wani has hailed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his fearless advocacy of the Kashmiris' just cause.

In a statement issued here today, the National Front leader said that President Erdogan has always raised his voice against the persecution of Muslims everywhere in the world and sought resolution of world disputes through dialogue and diplomacy as enshrined in the UN Charter.

Referring to Turkey's consistent support to Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination, Wani said that Turkey is one of the leading countries that has maintained a clear and categorical stance on the key issues facing the Muslim world. "Be it Kashmir or Palestine, Turkey has never shied away from calling a spade a spade and, without any ifs and buts, condemned foreign occupation," Wani said.

Citing President Erdogan's speech at the UN General Assembly, he said that Mr Erdogan's call for settling all disputes, including the Kashmir issue, through dialogue and within the framework of the UN Charter offers a pathway for permanent peace in the region and beyond.

Scholars Pay Tribute to Latif Scholar Muhammad Hussain Kashif

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Writers, researchers and scholars of Sindh paid tribute to renowned linguist and Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai scholar Muhammad Hussain Kashif at a ceremony marking his 16th death anniversary.

The event was organized by Sindhi Adabi Sangat Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase One in collaboration with the Sindhi Language Authority at Dr Nabi Bakhsh Baloch Hall.

Speakers described Kashif as a dedicated researcher and versatile scholar who made significant contributions to Latifiyat, the Sindhi language, dictionary work and curriculum development. They highlighted his detailed research on Shah Latif's poetry, including explanations of verses, difficult words and their linguistic roots.

Sindhi Language Authority Chairman Dr Sher Mehrani announced that books by Kashif falling within the authority's scope would be published, while other institutions would be approached for his remaining manuscripts.

Speakers also demanded that a government school in Chambar be named after Kashif and that his published works be made available online. His son Saleem-ul-Arif also urged authorities to publish his father's remaining books.



Political Stability, Consensus Essential for Economic Stability: Aman Shah

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan Provincial President Syed Aman Shah called for political stability, national consensus and a comprehensive economic policy to address Pakistan's economic challenges.

He said persistent inflation, unemployment, rising electricity and gas costs, and declining business activity were creating difficulties for citizens and the business community. He stressed that economic progress should translate into tangible benefits for the people through measures to control inflation, create employment, support small and medium-sized businesses and promote industry and trade.

Shah said Balochistan required special attention in national economic planning, highlighting the province's mineral resources, agriculture, coastline and other economic potential as areas that could generate jobs and development opportunities.

He also emphasized consistent policies and institutional coordination to restore investor confidence. According to him, political forces and national institutions should work together on a joint strategy for economic recovery and sustainable development.

He said the Awaam Pakistan Party would continue advocating for public welfare, economic stability and a prosperous Pakistan.



Workshop on Clinical Trials and Research Held at AMC/PGMI

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Medical experts have stressed the importance of continuous clinical research and trials for advancing medical science and improving healthcare outcomes.

The views were expressed at a workshop organized by PGMI, AMC and LGH to enhance the research capabilities of faculty members and postgraduate trainees in line with modern requirements.

Vice Principal Prof. Dr. Nadrat Sohail, MS LGH Prof. Dr. Faryad Hussain, workshop organizer Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Gul Malik and a large number of doctors and faculty members attended the event.

Guest of Honour Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif Naem, PhD in Molecular Biology, shared his expertise in genomics, gene therapy and medical research. He discussed the fundamentals of clinical research and trials, modern research methodologies and the importance of following international standards. Prof. Tayyaba Gul Malik emphasized the importance of sustaining academic and research initiatives for future generations. Prof. Nadrat Sohail reaffirmed the institution's commitment to evidence-based medical education and research.

Beyond the Degree: VC GCWUF Inspires UOK Students to Lead with Empathy, Integrity and Digital Ethics

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.), Vice Chancellor, Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF), emphasized the importance of digital ethics, emotional intelligence and soft skills during a session with facul-

ty and students of the University of Kamalia (UOK) titled "Beyond the Degree: Emotional Intelligence, Soft Skills and Digital Citizenship."

Addressing students, Dr. Ameen stressed that academic qualifications must be complemented by ethical digital conduct, empathy, integrity and

strong interpersonal skills. She encouraged students to become responsible digital citizens who use technology thoughtfully and ethically, while preparing themselves as compassionate and socially responsible professionals.

Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen was warmly received by UOK Vice

Chancellor Dr. Yasir Nawab; Dr. Arshad Hanif, President, Pakistan Poultry Association and Member Syndicate; and Dr. Ali Ejaz, Director ORIC.

Both Vice Chancellors signed an MoU to strengthen research and development cooperation. She was accompanied by Dr. Sadia Asim, Director ORIC; Dr.



Aisha Imtiaz, Incharge BIC; and Dr. Rizwana Batool, Additional Director External Linkages.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:34 am
Zohr 12:00 pm
Asr 4:19 pm
Maghrib 6:02 pm
Isha 7:25 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04

Zero Robbery, Street Crime Calls Reported in 39 Punjab Districts

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) said no Emergency 15 calls related to robbery, street crime or snatching were reported on September 20 in any of the 39 Safe City-covered districts of Punjab.

According to the authority, the development reflects the impact of technology-driven policing, coordinated monitoring and integrated law-enforcement efforts under the Safe Punjab initiative.

The PSCA, Crime Control Department (CCD) and district police are working together to strengthen crime prevention, surveillance and rapid response mechanisms. Safe City Operations Centres use video analytics, digital evidence and technology-enabled monitoring to support law-enforcement agencies.

A PSCA spokesperson said 43 Smart Safe City Centres across Punjab were providing continuous surveillance and operational support to police and other agencies. The centres monitor crime patterns, identify suspicious activities and assist authorities in taking timely action.

The spokesperson said the integration of advanced technology, continuous monitoring and coordination with police was strengthening the protection of citizens and their property. Technology-based measures would continue to be expanded under the Safe Punjab initiative.

Roundtable on Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Academia-Industry Linkages held at IPO-Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A roundtable on "Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer & Academia-Industry Linkages" was held at IPO-Pakistan Islamabad, organized by YES Pakistan with IPO-Pakistan and the HEC Task Force on ORICs & BICs, moderated by Muhammad Murtaza

Noor.

Prof. Dr. Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman, Chairman IPO-Pakistan, welcomed participants and stressed closer interaction between IPO-Pakistan and universities to aid research protection and commercialization. Keynote speaker Dr. Javaid Laghari highlighted strengthening institutional mecha-



nisms to convert university research into commercial products and stronger university-industry-public sector linkages.

Attendees included Prof. Dr. Mohammad Akmal, Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Dr. Abdul Basit and Dr. Muhammad Abubakar, alongside senior officials and university repre-

sentatives, who discussed IP protection, trademarks, research commercialization and technology transfer.

Participants proposed AI-based assistance for patent applications, closer coordination among IPO-Pakistan, HEC, Pakistan Science Foundation and universities, dedicated funding for patent costs, and joint Master Trainers

programmes for ORICs and BICs. They recommended factoring patents and commercialization into faculty promotion criteria and holding regular IP awareness and training sessions. Participants also pledged support for the YES Pakistan Summit, Expo & Awards 2026, set for 20-22 October in Islamabad.

Shipping containers at Jinnah Avenue

ISLAMABAD: A view of wall of shipping containers placed along Jinnah Avenue used to block the area ahead of upcoming PTI long march, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

British Council Delegation Visits National Textile University Faisalabad

Abdul MAJid

FAISALABAD: A two-member delegation comprising Ms. Caroline Vanessa Elizabeth Montgomery, First Secretary, British Council, Islamabad, and Ms. Sabiha Tamanna Ahmad, First Secretary visited the National Textile University, Faisalabad today.

The delegation visited the National Textile Research Center where they were briefed in detail about the advanced research being carried out in the textile sector. The delegation also showed keen interest in various laboratories and departments of the university.

Later, the delegation held a special meeting with the Rector / Vice Chancellor of



the University, Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood in his office. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding academic cooperation between the UK and National Textile University, joint research projects and student exchange

programs.

Rector Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the academic and research achievements and international linkages of the university. The delegation appreciated the

performance of the university.

On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Zulfikar Ahmad, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Ahsan Nazir, Dr. Muhammad Qamar Khan and Sardar Pervaiz Akhtar, PRO were also present.

Provision of Modern Facilities at Shrines of Saints is a Top Priority: Dr. Ehsan Bhutta



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta said providing modern, safe and dignified facilities to devotees at saints' shrines is a top Punjab Government priority, with development projects at major shrines reviewed fortnightly to ensure timely completion and quality. He made these remarks while inspecting ongoing works at the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA), after offering Fateha and prayers for the country.

Dr. Bhutta reviewed construction progress at the Data Darbar complex and later chaired a meeting at Hajveri Hall on the Data Darbar Mega Project, attended by NESPAK, Auqaf and engineering officials, where he was briefed on schemes, phases and timelines.

He directed that slab work be completed within one month, dismantling of the women's enclosure be expedited, and NESPAK provide required drawings promptly. Per Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman's instructions, he ordered accelerated work without compromising quality, stressing that Data Darbar is a major spiritual centre deserving secure, dignified facilities, with special attention to devotees' movement, cleanliness and security throughout construction.

Punjab College Pindi Gheb Student Secures Third Position in Rawalpindi Board

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Punjab College Pindi Gheb student Kirsma Tanzeel Kashif secured third position in the Pre-Medical Group in the Rawalpindi Board examinations, bringing honour to her parents, teachers and the city of Pindi Gheb.

Principal Punjab Group of Colleges Pindi Gheb Adnan Ishaq Khan said the achievement was the result of the hard work of the student and her teachers. He said the college faculty was working diligently for the academic development of students and expressed hope that the institution would achieve even better results in the future.

Kirsma Tanzeel Kashif said securing third position in the Rawalpindi Board was a great honour for her and attributed her success to the support of her parents and teachers and her own hard work.

She and Principal Adnan Ishaq Khan expressed these views during a special conversation with senior journalist and columnist Malik Faisal Munir and social figure Malik Asif Nadeem, who congratulated the student, her parents, teachers and the principal on the achievement.



LUMS Workshop Explores Repurposing Thermal Plants for Clean Energy Transition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) held a National Consultative Workshop on Renewable Energy Transition to discuss practical strategies for achieving clean, affordable and reliable electricity in Pakistan by 2040.

The workshop brought together experts and representatives from the Ministry of Energy, National Grid Company, ISMO, WAPDA, GENCOs, NEPRA, SIFC, CPPA-G, power producers, equipment manufacturers, academia and industry.

Participants identified five key priorities, including coordinating renewable generation with transmission development, expanding energy storage and demand-side measures, strengthening grid flexibility, securing essential grid-support services and assigning



clear institutional responsibilities.

A major focus was the possible conversion of suitable thermal power generators into synchronous condensers to provide grid services such as reactive power support, system

inertia and short-circuit strength. Participants stressed that each project should be assessed on technical feasibility, cost, location and delivery time.

Speakers called for a technology-neutral framework for procuring

ancillary services. LUMS will consolidate the workshop's recommendations, along with findings from an ongoing synchronous condenser pre-feasibility assessment, for publication before the end of 2026.

Seerah of Holy Prophet ﷺ Beacon of Guidance, Allama Riaz Hussain Shah

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah said that the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ are a source of guidance, justice, compassion and humanity for the entire world.

Addressing a weekly Quran and remembrance gathering at Idara Taleem-ul-Islamia, he urged Muslims to follow the Quran, Sunnah, and the exemplary character of the Companions and Ahl al-Bayt. Allama Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Qasim also addressed the gathering. He also called on youth to strengthen their religious and moral values and promote Islamic teachings through knowledge, character and good conduct.

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World Maritime Day: From Policy to Practice, Pakistan Charts a Course

Pakistan’s statement on World Maritime Day arrives with a theme that is unusually candid about the gap it seeks to close: “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence.” For a sector that has too often been treated as an afterthought in national economic planning, the acknowledgment that ambition must now translate into implementation is itself significant.

The maritime domain is not a peripheral concern for Pakistan. It underpins trade and commercial connectivity, feeds directly into regional and global defence linkages, and forms the backbone of the country’s still-nascent Blue Economy. With a coastline stretching along the Arabian Sea and access to critical shipping lanes, Pakistan possesses geographic advantages that many landlocked or poorly positioned states would envy. The question has never been about potential; it has been about execution.

On that front, the government’s stated commitments are reasonable and, if pursued seriously, overdue. Aligning national maritime practice with International Maritime Organization conventions is not merely a bureaucratic checkbox but a prerequisite for Pakistani ports, vessels and personnel to operate credibly within the global system. Similarly, the emphasis on professional training and internationally recognized certification for maritime personnel addresses a long-standing weakness: a modern maritime sector is only as strong as the workforce that runs it.

The environmental dimension deserves particular attention. Pakistan’s call for the international community to intensify focus on alternative maritime fuels and pollution prevention is well-placed, but it also applies pressure back home. Shipping is a notoriously difficult sector to decarbonize, and Pakistan’s own transition will require investment, regulatory discipline and regional cooperation that go beyond declaratory statements.

The push toward digital transformation, smart shipping, integrated port systems, and predictive technologies, is perhaps the most consequential of the commitments outlined, since inefficiency at ports remains one of the more tangible drags on Pakistan’s trade competitiveness. Pairing this digitization with strengthened cybersecurity is a sensible acknowledgment that modernization creates new vulnerabilities alongside new efficiencies.

None of this is achievable through rhetoric alone. The linkage drawn to Pakistan Vision 2047 suggests the government understands maritime development as a long-term structural project rather than a symbolic annual observance. Whether this year’s theme is remembered as a genuine turning point or another well-worded statement will depend entirely on whether the coming months bring visible investment, institutional reform and measurable progress at Pakistan’s ports and shipping lanes. Policy has been articulated. Practice is now the test.

The Human Cost of Economically Outcasting Iran

We are squeezing the Iranians like they have never seen,” United States Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent declared while the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly was under way in New York. Claiming that 80 to 90 percent of Iran’s external flights had been shut down, he said he was unsure how the Iranian representatives attending the United Nations would get home.

His remarks came one day after President Donald Trump used the General Assembly podium to threaten that he could “annihilate the Islamic Republic” if no agreement were reached, while calling upon other nations to join the United States in economically isolating Iran.

while calling upon other nations to join the United States in economically isolating Iran. Placed alongside Operation Economic Outcast—the whole-of-government campaign announced by the Treasury Department on August 24, 2026—these declarations reveal the intended scale of the pressure: not merely sanctions against selected officials, but the economic, financial and physical isolation of a country whose ordinary people will inevitably bear the consequences.

These measures raise an unavoidable question: can an economy be isolated so extensively without placing the prin-

cipal burden upon people who do not control the government, the IRGC or military decisions?

An economy cannot be neatly divided between a government and its population. When oil revenue contracts, currency depreciates and banks lose access to international settlement, the effects travel through wages, savings, pensions, prices and employment.

Restrictions on shipping and aviation affect commercial supply chains as well as government movement. Even when food and medicine are formally exempt, banks, insurers and transport companies may avoid lawful transactions because their fear penalties. The United Nations human-rights system has examined the resulting effects on access to medicines and the right to health in Iran.

Behind every economic indicator is a household. Iran has roughly ninety million inhabitants: children requiring milk and medicine, patients dependent on imported treatments, workers needing functioning businesses, and parents responsible for food, rent and education. They do not decide upon missile launches, direct military operations or determine which regional organization receives Iranian assistance. They cannot morally be treated

as responsible merely because they live under a government accused of objectionable conduct.

This distinction is central to the principle against collective punishment. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits collective penalties against protected civilians for acts they did not personally commit. Its underlying principle—individual responsibility rather than punishment by identity—illuminates the humanitarian problem created when economic pain is deliberately spread across an entire society.

International humanitarian law also prohibits using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. The legal threshold is not established merely because sanctions produce hardship; the conflict context, conduct and intent must be proved.

But the rule makes one point unmistakable: food, water, medicine and objects indispensable to civilian survival cannot legitimately become weapons against a population. Where sanctions, blockades or financial restrictions obstruct those essentials, humanitarian exemptions must work in practice, not merely appear in official documents.

The contradiction becomes sharper because American officials have repeat-

edly distinguished the Iranian people from their government and portrayed U.S. policy as supporting their freedom. Yet a policy intended to produce a subsistence economy inevitably reaches far beyond officials and commanders. Powerful institutions possess privileged access to hard currency, protected supply networks and state resources. Low-income families, small businesses, pensioners and patients have no comparable protection.

For ordinary Iranians, Washington’s declaration that their country must become an “economic outcast” is not an abstract foreign-policy slogan—it is a sentence imposed upon everyday life.

Economic warfare, sanctions and the naval blockade are crushing the value of wages and savings, driving inflation above 80 percent, producing shortages of gasoline and electricity, and pushing the rial to historic depths.

Families are abandoning meat and fruit, watching the price of traditional bread multiply, selling possessions to meet household expenses and giving up the ability to plan even the most modest future.

The cruel reality is that an economic campaign publicly presented as pressure upon Tehran’s leadership is reaching most deeply into the kitchens, medicine cabinets and empty pockets of people who neither formulate state policy nor command its military forces.

Continued on Page 7



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

Building Somalia’s Air Power, Expanding Pakistan’s Reach

The emerging defence partnership between Pakistan and Somalia represents far more than a conventional military arrangement. It reflects a convergence of strategic interests, institutional needs, and geopolitical realities. As Somalia rebuilds state structures after decades of conflict and instability, reviving its Air Force has become an important component of restoring national sovereignty and strengthening internal security. For Pakistan, the opportunity extends beyond defence exports; it lies in sharing a proven model of capacity building founded on affordability, sustainability, and operational experience.

This cooperation assumes greater significance against the backdrop of Africa’s evolving security landscape. Increasingly, African nations seek defence partners capable of delivering practical and cost-effective solutions rather than expensive military packages that create long-term dependencies. In this regard, Pakistan offers a compelling alternative.

Somalia’s principal challenge is not merely acquiring aircraft but rebuilding an aviation ecosystem. Air power cannot be created through platforms alone. Pilots must be trained, technicians developed, maintenance systems established, and operational doctrines institutionalised. Without these foundations, even advanced aircraft risk becoming expensive symbols rather than effective instruments of national security.

Pakistan’s experience is especially relevant in this context. Over the decades, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has earned recognition as one of the most professional and combat-tested air forces in the developing world. Its performance during regional conflicts and crises has

reinforced a tradition of operational excellence, while its contributions to friendly nations and international security efforts have enhanced its prestige. Equally noteworthy has been the PAF’s ability to maintain high standards of training, technological adaptation, and operational readiness despite financial and strategic constraints.

For Somalia, access to such expertise could prove invaluable. Pakistani military academies and aviation institutions can help cultivate the human capital essential for sustaining an effective air arm. Programmes for pilots, engineers, technicians, maintenance crews, and air traffic controllers would yield greater long-term dividends than acquiring hardware alone. Defence capability ultimately rests upon people and institutions as much as machines.

Beyond training, Pakistan can assist Somalia in developing the institutional architecture necessary for an operational Air Force. Logistics chains, maintenance regimes, operational planning procedures, and command-and-control structures often determine whether military capability remains viable over time. By transferring expertise in these areas, Pakistan can help Somalia establish a self-reliant force rather than one dependent on external support.

When it comes to equipment, Somalia’s requirements are unlikely to revolve around sophisticated combat aircraft. Its security challenges point instead towards versatile and affordable platforms capable of supporting counterterrorism missions, border monitoring, humanitarian relief, and logistical operations. Trainer aircraft could form the foundation for pilot development, while light transport aircraft would improve mobility across a country where

infrastructure constraints remain considerable. Utility helicopters for reconnaissance, casualty evacuation, troop transport, disaster response, and search-and-rescue missions would provide critical flexibility.

Equally significant are surveillance platforms and unmanned aerial systems. Modern security operations increasingly depend on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. Drones offer persistent monitoring at comparatively modest cost and can significantly enhance situational awareness. For a country confronting dispersed security challenges, such capabilities may prove more valuable than high-end fighter aircraft.

Pakistan’s attractiveness as a defence partner derives not only from what it can provide but also from how it developed its own capabilities. Unlike major powers endowed with vast defence budgets, Pakistan has strengthened its institutions while confronting terrorism, insurgency, border-security challenges, maritime threats, and natural disasters. These realities have fostered a pragmatic approach to defence planning that prioritises effectiveness, adaptability, and fiscal responsibility.

Another advantage lies in Pakistan’s distinguished record in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Pakistani personnel have served across Africa and beyond, gaining valuable experience in stabilisation missions and institution building. Somalia itself occupies a special place in Pakistan’s peacekeeping history. On 5 June 1993, Pakistani peacekeepers suffered significant casualties during the Battle of Mogadishu while serving under the UN flag. That sacrifice established a bond of shared history that lends contemporary cooperation a deeper human dimension.

The implications of Pakistan-Somalia cooperation extend beyond military modernisation.

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Rising fuel Prices: Why Are People still Silent?

In Pakistan, petrol and diesel prices are now rising almost every day, having a deep impact on the daily lives of ordinary people. The new price of petrol has reached approximately Rs. 389 per litre, while the price of High-Speed Diesel has risen to around Rs. 424 per litre. Since July 2026, petrol prices have increased by approximately 23 percent and diesel prices by around 18 percent. In April 2026, fuel prices also witnessed a significant increase, when petrol reached Rs. 458 and diesel Rs. 520 per litre. However, the current increase in petrol and diesel prices is not merely about the figures displayed at fuel stations. It means more expensive transportation, higher fares, rising prices of essential commodities, and increasing agricultural costs, all of which directly affect the lives of ordinary citizens.

Official inflation figures also point towards the seriousness of the situation. According to the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), weekly inflation increased by 0.49 percent during one week of September 2026, while overall inflation this year has been recorded at 10.64 percent, with increases in diesel and petrol prices having a significant impact. In August 2026, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was recorded at 11.1 percent, with transportation costs also contributing significantly to inflation. On the other hand, the Petroleum Development Levy and other taxes are also included in fuel prices. This means that, along with global crude oil prices and the exchange rate, local taxes and government policies also influence petrol and diesel prices. Therefore, the issue of fuel prices is not limited to the international oil market; it

also involves questions related to domestic fiscal policy. The question now is: when the impact of fuel prices has reached almost every sector of life, why is the public response still so weak?

Why, despite such continuous economic pressure, is there no significant public resistance in Pakistani society? There are examples from different countries where people have protested against rising fuel prices and taxes. In 2018, France witnessed the “Yellow Vest” movement, in which people reacted against increases in fuel taxes and the rising cost of living. In several other European countries, truck drivers, farmers and people associated with various sectors also protested against increasing fuel costs. These examples at least demonstrate that when an economic problem affects a particular group or sector in an organized manner, public unions, civil society, and political and non-political organizations can play a role in transforming that concern into a collective voice. In Pakistan, however, such organized and sustained movements appear to be relatively weak.

The reasons are not only political but also economic and social. For a daily-wage worker, spending a day protesting means losing a day’s income. A small shopkeeper, driver, farmer or low-income employee is already facing the costs of electricity, gas, food, education and healthcare. In such circumstances, finding the time and resources to protest and organizing ordinary people is not easy. Political divisions also create obstacles in transforming economic problems into a collective movement. When an economic issue becomes part of the blame

Continued on Page 7

Rwanda, Pakistan Sign Trade Cooperation Agreement at Investment Forum in Kigali

KIGALI: Rwanda and Pakistan signed a Trade Cooperation Agreement aimed at expanding bilateral trade and investment, promoting local production and strengthening business-to-business linkages, signed by Rwanda's Trade Minister Antoine Kajangwe and Pakistan's High Commissioner Naeem Khan at the Rwanda-Pakistan Investment Forum 2026, running September 23-25 in Kigali.

Under the agreement, both countries will boost trade facilitation, information exchange, and private-sector linkages, including cooperation in manufacturing and technology, with Rwanda seeking Pakistani investment in agro-processing, textiles and pharmaceuticals.



Rwanda's Minister said the deal would encourage production partnerships, value addition and job creation beyond conventional trade. Rwanda Development Board Deputy CEO Juliana Muganza noted bilateral trade reached \$236.4 million between 2023-2025, with seven Pakistani investment projects worth over \$2 million recorded in that period.

High Commissioner Naeem Khan highlighted opportunities for Pakistani imports of Rwandan tea, coffee, avocado and pulses, and for Pakistani companies in agricultural machinery, construction, hospitality, healthcare and education. The Forum also offers Pakistani businesses a platform to explore Rwanda as a production base and gateway to wider African markets.

Japan Donates Books to Bahria University Islamabad Under "Read Japan Project"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador H. E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi visited Bahria University's Islamabad Campus for the first time on September 24, meeting Rector Vice Admiral Abid Hameed to discuss further cooperation.

During the visit, the Embassy of Japan handed over around 100 books to the university under the "Read Japan Project," launched by the Nippon Foundation in 2008 and currently administered by the Tokyo Foundation to promote global understanding of Japan through literature. The English-language collection, selected by the university, covers Japan's history, politics, economy, security, international relations,



philosophy, literature, language and culture. Ambassador Akamatsu congratulated students and faculty, calling the

collection "a bridge of knowledge" and expressing hope that students would become the next generation of bridges between Japan and Pakistan. He noted growing interest in Japan among Pakistani youth and, looking ahead to the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year, said the books would offer valuable insights into Japan's culture and development. He also highlighted Japan's longstanding economic cooperation with Pakistan and its emphasis on education.

Rear Admiral Naeem Sarwar, Director General of Bahria University's Islamabad Campus, thanked the Nippon Foundation and the Japanese Embassy, saying the donation would help strengthen Japan-Pakistan relations through greater student understanding of Japan.

realme C100 Series with 8000mAh Battery Empowers Pakistan's Multi-Role Youth by Making Durable Champion More Accessible

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Today's youth do not live single-purpose lives, so why should their devices be single-purpose? One phone can become a classroom, an office, a studio, a gaming screen and a way to unwind, often within the same few hours. As young people take on more roles and bigger ambitions, having technology that can keep up with them has become less of a preference and more of a necessity.

This reflects realme's broader ambition of empowering the next generation. For realme, empowerment is not only about introducing new technology; it is about making reliable and practical experiences easier to access. The realme C100 Series brings this thinking to life by combining long-lasting power, durability, smooth performance and useful everyday features in a lineup shaped around how young people actually use their phones.

Chess in Schools Initiative Gains Momentum in Gujarat



GUJARAT: A major step has been taken to promote chess in government schools across Gujarat, with a Master Chess Training session organized for around 65 male and female teachers at Government Jamia High School.

Held under the patronage of Chief Executive Officer (Education) Akhtar Ali Khan, the training was arranged through the efforts of District Education Officers Rubina Nasir, Muhammad Farooq and Samreen Ashraf. The voluntary programme, organized by the Gujarat District Chess Association, focused on chess fundamentals, teaching techniques and practical gameplay.

Technical and practical instruction was provided by Muhammad Amin, Huzaifa Tariq, Zohaib Razzaq, Shaukat Hussain and Amir Hamza. Participants appreciated the initiative and praised District President Ehsan-ul-Haq and his team.

District Sports Officer Basharat Bhaddar said training government school teachers in chess was an important step toward promoting the sport at the grassroots level. He appreciated the association's voluntary efforts, saying such initiatives could help establish Gujarat as a model district for sports development.

Ethiopian Embassy, AIOU Launch Green Legacy, Begin Steps Toward Broader Partnership

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Oumer H. Oba and AIOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood launched the Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative at Allama Iqbal Open University on Thursday, planting seedlings to symbolize Ethiopia-Pakistan friendship.

During an interactive session with AIOU faculty, the Ambassador highlighted the initiative's role in curbing climate change, restoring forest cover, ensuring food security and building a green economy. He also outlined Ethiopia's historical ties with Pakistan, its fast-growing economy, demographic dividends, and cultural and tourism potential.

The Ambassador called for institutional linkages in scientific and vocational education, joint agricultural research, and faculty and student exchange programmes, pointing to Ethiopia's educational revolution and rising literacy rate, and urged academia to strengthen bilateral relations.

The AIOU Vice Chancellor praised Ethiopia's socio-economic development and long-standing bilateral relations, affirming commitment to educational cooperation and reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to strengthen ties with African nations. Both sides concluded the session resolving to build institu-



tional linkages between AIOU and its Ethiopian counterparts.



Compassion: The Healing Power Within Us and Our Relationships

Compassion is one of the most profound qualities of human life. It is more than kindness, sympathy, or simply feeling sorry for someone. Compassion is the ability to recognize suffering—within ourselves and in others—and to respond with care, understanding, courage, and a genuine desire to reduce that suffering.

My research on compassion in intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships explores how compassion connects the mind, body, emotions, and human relationships. Compassion is not a new concept in psychotherapy, spirituality, or psychology. For centuries, philosophers and spiritual traditions have recognized its importance. Contemporary psychology and neuroscience, however, have increasingly explored how compassion influences psychological well-being, social connection, and human behavior.

At its deepest level, compassion represents a form of love and awareness. It allows us to see ourselves and others with greater understanding rather than judgment. Compassion can therefore become an important foundation for personal growth, emotional healing, and healthier relationships.

What Is Compassion?

Compassion is characterized by feelings of warmth, love, affection, concern, and care for another person's feelings and well-being. It goes beyond simply understanding another person's experience. It involves an emotional willingness to be present with suffering and, when possible, to respond constructively.

Compassion is sometimes confused with kindness. Although the two are closely related, compassion often requires something more: the courage to remain present with suffering rather than turning away from it. Kindness may involve doing something helpful for another person, while compassion involves understanding suffering and responding to it with care.

Compassion also begins within ourselves. Self-compassion means treating ourselves with the same understanding and care that we might offer to someone we love. In a world where people frequently experience pressure, criticism, perfectionism, fear of failure, and emotional exhaustion, self-compassion can provide an important psychological resource.

When we learn to accept our own imperfections, we may become less defensive and more capable of understanding the imperfections of others.

The Neuroscience of Compassion

Modern neuroscience has provided important insights into compassion. Research suggests that compassion is connected with biological systems involved in caregiving, social bonding, emotional regulation, and affiliation. Human beings are biologically equipped with the capacity to care for themselves and others.

Compassion and empathy are related, but they are not identical. Empathy allows us to understand or share aspects of another person's emotional experience. Compassion adds a motivational dimension—the desire to care, support, and respond to suffering.

Research discussed by scholars such as Paul Gilbert, Tania Singer, and others suggests that compassionate states are associated with neural systems involved in social connection, reward, motivation, and caregiving. Compassion has also been associated with physiological and psychological benefits, including greater social connection, cooperation, trust, and tolerance.

Importantly, compassion is not simply a fixed personality characteristic. Research suggests that compassion can be cultivated and strengthened through practice. What we repeatedly practice can become stronger.

Mindfulness and compassion practices may therefore help people develop greater awareness of their emotions, thoughts, relationships, and responses to difficult experiences.

Compassion and Intrapersonal Relationships

One of the most important relationships in our lives is the relationship we have with ourselves.

People often speak to themselves in ways they would never speak to another person. Self-criticism, guilt, shame, perfectionism, and fear of failure can gradually create emotional distress. Self-compassion provides an alternative approach.

When individuals develop compassion toward themselves, they can acknowledge their difficulties without defining themselves by those difficul-

ties. They can make mistakes without believing that they are failures. They can experience pain without adding unnecessary judgment to that pain.

Research has associated self-compassion with psychological well-being and with lower levels of certain forms of emotional distress. It can also support resilience by helping individuals respond to difficult experiences with greater acceptance and emotional balance.

Self-compassion does not mean avoiding responsibility. Rather, it can provide a healthier foundation from which to take responsibility, learn from mistakes, and make meaningful changes.

Compassion and Interpersonal Relationships

Human beings are social beings. Our emotional and psychological well-being is deeply connected to our relationships with family, friends, colleagues, partners, and communities.

Compassion can strengthen these relationships because it creates space for understanding. When we listen compassionately, we do not immediately judge, criticize, or attempt to control another person. Instead, we try to understand what that person may be experiencing.

Compassion can also encourage cooperation, trust, belonging, and emotional safety. A compassionate relationship does not require agreement on everything. It requires the willingness

to recognize another person's humanity.

In my clinical experience, I have observed that people often need to feel heard before they are ready to explore solutions. Compassion creates that space. It communicates a simple but powerful message: "Your experience matters, and you do not have to face it alone."

Compassion in Psychotherapy

Compassion has an important place in psychotherapy and counseling. Mental health professionals regularly work with people experiencing trauma, grief, addiction, anxiety, depression, relationship difficulties, and other forms of psychological suffering. Continuous exposure to human suffering can also contribute to stress and burnout among clinicians.

For this reason, self-compassion is important not only for clients but also for therapists and counselors. A clinician who develops mindfulness and self-compassion may be better positioned to remain emotionally present without becoming overwhelmed by another person's suffering.

In my own counseling practice, I have incorporated brief mindfulness practices into individual and group sessions. Beginning with several minutes of mindful breathing, body awareness, or a five-senses meditation can help clients become more present in the moment. For some individuals, particularly those dealing with trauma or physical and emotional pain, cultivating awareness and compassion can become an important part of the therapeutic process.

Compassion does not replace evidence-based psychotherapy.

Rather, it can complement therapeutic approaches by creating a more humane, accepting, and holistic environment for healing.

Making Compassion Part of Everyday Life

Compassion does not have to begin with something extraordinary. It can begin with the way we speak to ourselves in the morning, the patience we show a family member, the way we listen to a colleague, or the willingness to pause before reacting to someone's behavior.

We can practice compassion by asking:

- Can I listen before judging?
- Can I understand before reacting?
- Can I be kinder to myself when I make a mistake?
- Can I recognize the suffering behind another person's behavior?

These small moments can gradually change the quality of our relationships.

Compassion is ultimately a way of being present with life. It connects self-awareness with human connection and transforms awareness into caring action. When compassion begins within us, it can gradually move outward into our families, relationships, workplaces, therapeutic settings, and communities.

In a world increasingly affected by stress, isolation, conflict, and emotional suffering, compassion offers a simple yet profound human possibility: to understand without judgment, to care without conditions, and to heal without losing our humanity.

Psychologist | Mental Health Professional | Mindfulness & Holistic Psychology Researcher, California USA



Analysis Pardeep Nanglu

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
170,498.94	172,232.51
Day's High	Day's Low
172,491.16	170,418.38
Index Value	Change
15,611,925,539	−1733.57
Percentage	Time
−1.01%	24 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,679.99	−25.27
Percentage	Time
−0.24%	24 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,396.46	−115.13
Percentage	Time
−0.22%	24 Sept, 1:48 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
65,513.99	+495.04
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	24 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.25	201.35
Bahrain Dinar	734.84	746.78
Canadian Dollar	196.73	201.75
China Yuan	38.25	38.97
Euro	316.58	320.98
Hong Kong Dollar	34.94	35.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	899.67	901.75
Malaysian Ringgit	68.25	69.15
NewZealand \$	157.46	161.05
Norwegians Krone	28.45	28.80
Omani Riyal	722.85	734.85
Qatari Riyal	75.15	76.75
Saudi Riyal	74	74.55
Singapore Dollar	216.65	222.60
Swedish Korona	28.50	28.95
Swiss Franc	338.50	343.85
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.90
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	76.40
UK Pound Sterling	373.25	377.65
US Dollar	278	278.25

Modern Petrol and EV Charging Station Planned at ASF City

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Chairman Malik Group of Companies and Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) Malik Khuda Baksh said electric vehicles were the future of Pakistan and his group was installing modern electric vehicle charging equipment across the country.

He was speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of Malik Energy Three Petroleum Services at ASF City, Jamshoro, on the Super Highway. The ceremony was attended by Fossil Oil Marketing Company CEO Saleem Butt, Lt. Col. (R) Jamshed Hayat Niazi, Malik Group Director Operations Ayesha Malik and other business representatives.

Malik Khuda Baksh said the modern petroleum and energy station would provide greater convenience to citizens and travellers commuting between Karachi and Hyderabad. He also called for a one-window operation to facilitate investors and resolve business-related issues efficiently.

OICCI Urges Investment, Export and Structural Reform Push as IMF Delegation Visits

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) urged Pakistan to build on macroeconomic stabilisation gains to boost private investment, exports, energy security and structural reforms, during a meeting with a visiting IMF delegation comprising Iva Petrova and Mahir Binici at the Chamber on Thursday.

OICCI flagged declining FDI—down around 32% to \$1.7 billion in FY26 despite an improved external position—and called for lighter regulatory burdens, stronger investor protection, better federal-provincial coordination, and greater domestic reinvestment to build investor confidence.

Minister IT Inaugurates Huawei's First National-Level Spare Parts Repair Center in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja

inaugurated Huawei's national-level Spare Parts Repair Center in Islamabad, aimed at building local repair capacity and strengthening Pakistan's telecom infrastructure, in the



presence of Huawei Pakistan CEO Ethan Sun.

The Minister said Digital Nation Pakistan aims to build a skilled, future-ready workforce, moving Pakistan from a technology consumer to a creator and exporter of digital solutions. She praised Huawei's investment and commitment to knowledge transfer, calling the center a step toward a more resilient telecom ecosystem.

Sun said the center reflects Huawei's vision of translating global technology into local capability for faster service and stronger

networks.

Spanning 16 repair desks, the facility supports over 180 equipment item codes across wireless, microwave, digital power and access-network technologies, staffed by more than 10 local specialists trained in China. It can process over 10,000 modules annually, repairing more than 6,000 components yearly at roughly 60% success rate, cutting replacement needs and overseas dependency while enabling swift response during emergencies affecting network continuity.

Souvenir

KIGALI: Chief, Pak-Africa Council,Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, presents an Ajrak to Rwanda's Federal Minister for Industry and Trade in Kigali, Rwanda.



Devsinc Hosts NIPA Delegation to Strengthen Public-Private IT Sector Linkages

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Devsinc, a leading Pakistani software development and IT services company, hosted a delegation from the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Lahore, as part of its 47th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC).

The visit to Devsinc's Global Delivery Centre brought together 31 senior BS-18 government officers from federal and provincial departments and public sector organizations, along with four NIPA faculty members. The course is a mandatory requirement for their promotion to BS-19.

Held under the theme, "IT Industry in Pakistan: Current Status, Potential, Challenges and Future Prospects," the visit featured a detailed briefing on Pakistan's technology sector. The engagement provided officers with practical insights into the IT industry's operations, growth



opportunities and challenges.

The interaction also aimed to strengthen cooperation between the public sector and technology industry and enhance policymakers' understanding of the sector's

requirements.

The visit was coordinated by Dr. Jawad Tariq Awan, Sponsor Directing Staff at NIPA, on behalf of Chief Instructor Mirza Khalid Amin.

foodpanda facilitates fully funded Umrah for delivery riders

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: foodpanda, Pakistan's leading food delivery and quick-commerce platform, has facilitated a fully funded 10-day Umrah for a selected group of its top-performing delivery riders. As part of the company's nationwide rider recognition program, the initiative honours riders across Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Multan, and Faisalabad for their exceptional operational dedication, consistency, and service excellence.

Ahsan Malik, Director

Logistics at foodpanda Pakistan commented, "Our riders are the bedrock of foodpanda, representing our brand on the frontlines every single day with relentless effort and resilience. Recognising their hard work is all about honouring their dedication with life changing experiences. Enabling our delivery riders to undertake this Umrah journey is a humble expression of our appreciation for their unwavering commitment, and we remain dedicated to investing in their well being, dignity, and personal fulfillment."

BAJK Celebrates SBP NOC as Key Milestone Towards Scheduled Bank Status.



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (BAJK) marked the grant of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) with a cake cutting ceremony in Muzaffarabad, hosted by the President & CEO, BAJK.

The event was attended by Mr. Khushal Khan, SI, T. St., Chief Secretary, Government of AJK and Chairman, BAJK Board of Directors, along with senior officials of the Government of AJK and BAJK management.

The SBP NOC for establishment of BAJK's registered office in Pakistan and incorporation as a company with the Securities and

Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) marks an important regulatory milestone in the Bank's transformation towards scheduled bank status.

BAJK expressed its appreciation to the State Bank of Pakistan for its regulatory guidance and consideration, and reaffirmed its commitment to completing the prescribed corporate, legal and regulatory requirements with SECP and SBP.

Chairman BAJK Board of Directors, Mr. Khushal Khan, SI, T. St., appreciated the progress achieved by the Bank and emphasized the importance of strengthening BAJK's contribution to the financial and economic development of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

easypaisa, Transsion Partner to Expand Digital Financial Inclusion Through Smartphone-App Integration

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa digital bank has partnered with smartphone manufacturer Transsion to pre-install the easypaisa app on over five million new smartphones across Pakistan, spanning Transsion brands Infinix, TECNO and itel, giving users instant access to digital banking upon device activation.

With 3G/4G device uptake at 71.6%, the partnership targets underserved and unbanked populations, many accessing smartphones and mobile internet for the first time. The agreement was signed by Farhan Hassan, Chief Digital Officer

at easypaisa, and Michael Wang, VP Global Partnerships at Transsion, in Islamabad.

Hassan said the deal embeds financial services at the point where users begin their digital journey, removing barriers and expanding formal financial inclusion. Muhammad Abdul Qadeer, Transsion Pakistan's Country Manager, said combining smartphone scale with trusted digital banking makes inclusion a natural part of the smartphone experience.

The collaboration is expected to boost customer acquisition, app penetration and user engagement. As Pakistan's first digital bank with over 60



million registered users, easypaisa said the initiative aligns with the State Bank

of Pakistan's inclusive growth vision and extends services to unbanked and

underbanked communities nationwide.

Chairman Senate Gillani meets Belarusian President Lukashenko, discusses strengthening bilateral cooperation

 **Kiran Asim**

MINSK: Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani held a high-level meeting in Minsk with President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, conveying greetings from Pakistan's people and Parliament and reaffirming the two countries' longstanding, friendly relationship.

Gillani highlighted the Islamabad Declaration of 2015 and the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation as key frameworks for bilateral ties, and referenced recent high-level exchanges, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's April 2025 visit to Minsk and Lukashenko's November 2025 visit to Pakistan.

On economic cooperation, Gillani called for translating existing understandings into concrete outcomes, urging greater business community engagement through investment forums and the Belarus-Pakistan Business Council. He pointed to Pakistan's geographic position as a gateway to South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East, and proposed cooperation in industry, technology transfer, and manufacturing.



The two leaders also discussed agricultural cooperation, including expanded Pakistani exports of rice, fruits and vegetables to Belarus, collaboration on seed production and livestock, and a proposed joint agricultural machinery testing facility. Additional areas of discussion included education, science, IT and vocational training, along with stronger university linkages.

Gillani emphasized parliamentary diplomacy's role in complementing executive relations, citing the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference held in Islamabad in November 2025. He also called for continued cooperation at multilateral forums, including the UN and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, expressing confidence that expanded engagement would further strengthen Pakistan-Belarus relations.

The Inner Reflection: Echoes of a Changing Climate: Pakistan's Battle for Survival

 **Unzila Siddiqui**

In recent years, the moment the month of March takes its leave, it feels as though we step directly into the scorching furnace of May. The temper of the seasons—once gentle, predictable, and balanced—has turned irritable, much like an ailing elder who flares up in anger one moment and breaks into helpless tears the next. All of us sense this shift, yet perhaps we have failed to grasp its gravity: this is not merely an increase in summer heat, but the ultimate trial of our land's survival, now reaching its final hearing in the court of time.

Literary circles once composed soft ghazals about the gentle rains of Sawan and sang songs welcoming the merciful clouds. Today, when thunder rumbles, a subtle anxiety knocks at our hearts instead of romance. The rains that were once the supreme symbol of life now arrive bearing the whip of destruction. We have witnessed with our own eyes how raging floodwaters erased entire settle-

ments from the face of the earth, and how lands that once yielded gold turned into barren wastes in the blink of an eye. This tragedy cannot be laid at the door of a single individual, institution, or era; it is the culmination of a collective negligence for which our generations are paying the price.

Our glaciers—shining like silver crowns along our northern frontiers—are quietly melting away. They continue to feed our rivers, even as they silently signal the fading of our presence from this soil. Scientists and environmentalists sit at global forums frightening us with complex statistics, but for an ordinary citizen, this threat is not an abstract declaration from an international conference. It manifests plainly as a parched farmland, a blistering city street, or a neighborhood yearning for a single clean drop of water.

The truth is that nature has never harbored enmity toward anyone; it merely seeks to restore its own balance. When we build concrete jungles along riverbeds and ruthlessly fell trees—poisoning the very air we breathe—nature's response

will inevitably match that severity. This is not a matter of political division or finger-pointing; it is a mirror forcing us to confront ourselves.

The crisis extends far beyond rising temperatures or recurrent floods; the real tragedy is that our agriculture, the lifeblood of our economy, cannot sustain this ruthless volatility. Crops of cotton, wheat, and rice no longer align with this new and merciless seasonal calendar. When a farmer watches a crop nurtured with sweat and blood perish under unseasonal rains or severe drought, it is not merely a harvest that dies—it is the dreams of a family and the food sovereignty of an entire nation that perish alongside it.

One often wonders: what inheritance are we leaving behind for our children? Soaring high-rises, expansive highways, and modern technologies? Yet, if they lack clean air to breathe and pure water to drink, of what use are these comforts? In our frantic race toward progress, we sidelined the fundamental truth that human existence remains irrevocably tethered to earth and water. If these are compromised,

every grand claim of survival falls apart.

This is not a moment for mutual blame, but for quiet self-reckoning. We must rise above regional squabbles over land and water, and begin to think as a unified nation. Environmental policies that currently exist only on paper must be brought to life on the ground. From urban planning to rural preservation, ecological balance must be prioritized in every decision. The choice now rests with us: do we hand over a lush, thriving Pakistan to coming generations, or leave them a region where daily survival becomes an ongoing struggle?

Before the sands of time slip entirely through our fingers, let us make peace with nature. Planting trees, conserving water, and keeping our environment clean are no longer just virtuous habits; they are the sole conditions for our survival on this earth. A struggling land is calling out to us, and listening to that call is our shared moral duty.

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The Human Cost of Economically Outcasting Iran

 **Continued from Page 4**

Declaring Iran an economic outcast therefore means casting millions of innocent human beings outside the protections of normal economic life—depriving parents of security, children of nutrition, patients of treatment and an entire generation of hope—in order to extract political concessions from a government far better equipped than its population to survive the punishment.

The United Nations General Assembly is presently giving deserved attention to civilian suffering in Gaza and to developments in the occupied West Bank. The same universal principles require close examination of harm to Iranian civilians. Human rights cannot depend upon the nationality of the victim or the geopolitical alignment of the government under which that person lives. Concern for a hungry child in Gaza is not diminished by concern for a child in Iran whose family cannot obtain food or medicine. Consistency strengthens humanitarian law; selective concern weakens it.

International organizations should document prices, nutrition, medicine availability,

household income and access to transport. Such safeguards would not settle the political disputes, but they could prevent civilians from becoming instruments through which pressure is applied to their government.

The Iranian people have no control over the confrontation between Washington and Tehran. They did not decide to impose sanctions, launch military operations or close the avenues of diplomacy.

Yet they are the people most exposed to collapsing purchasing power, unemployment, shortages of medicine, restricted travel and the daily struggle to place food on the table. They deserve the same concern extended to every population subjected to oppression, collective hardship or economic strangulation. Human dignity cannot be protected selectively, according to nationality, political convenience or strategic alliance.

The suffering of Iranian civilians must therefore become a sustained subject of discussion within the United Nations, international humanitarian organizations, human-rights institutions, academic forums, civil-society platforms and the global media.

Their hardship must be documented, debated and placed before the conscience of the world. International institutions should develop practical measures to protect access to food, medicine, remittances, transportation and other necessities of life, while pressing for diplomacy capable of ending the confrontation. Silence would leave millions of innocent people trapped between a powerful external campaign and a government whose decisions they do not control.

The international community has a legal, humanitarian and moral obligation to speak for them, to examine the consequences of the measures being imposed and to seek remedies that mitigate their suffering.

Iranian civilians are not instruments of war, bargaining chips or economic leverage. They are human beings, and their pain deserves the same recognition, urgency and protection demanded for suffering populations everywhere.

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Building Somalia's Air Power, Expanding Pakistan's Reach

 **Continued from Page 4**

Somalia occupies a pivotal position in the Horn of Africa, adjacent to maritime routes linking Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. The sea lanes near its coastline carry a substantial share of global commerce and energy shipments, making the region a strategic crossroads of international trade.

For Pakistan, deeper engagement with Somalia could become part of a broader outreach towards East Africa and the western Indian Ocean. Such engagement aligns naturally with Pakistan's increasing emphasis on maritime security, regional connectivity, and economic diplomacy. Enhanced cooperation could strengthen efforts against piracy, terrorism, trafficking networks, and other transna-

tional threats while creating opportunities for defence exports, commercial partnerships, maritime collaboration, and expanded trade. Diplomatically, it would reinforce Pakistan's engagement with a continent of growing geopolitical and economic importance.

Importantly, this partnership should not be misconstrued as military expansion. Contemporary geopolitics increasingly rewards cooperation rather than confrontation. Pakistan's comparative advantage lies not in extending military influence overseas but in sharing expertise accumulated through decades of institution building and professional military education.

Ultimately, Pakistan-Somalia defence cooperation is not about aircraft, weapons, or defence contracts alone.

At its heart lies the transfer of knowledge, professional competence, and institutional resilience. If pursued with vision and consistency, it can help Somalia rebuild credible air power while enabling Pakistan to emerge as a trusted security partner in Africa. In a century increasingly defined by connectivity, maritime trade, and strategic partnerships, the real measure of success will not be the number of platforms transferred, but the strength of the institutions built and the stability they help secure across one of the world's most consequential regions.

The writer is a retired Group Captain of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). He is a columnist, analyst, and TV talk show host who has authored 16 books on current affairs, including ten on China.

S. Consulate Celebrates 250 Years of American Independence



 **Asim Tanveer**

LAHORE: The U.S. Consulate General Lahore commemorated the 250th anniversary of American independence with a Freedom 250 reception under the theme "Let Freedom Ring," highlighting the longstanding U.S.-Pakistan partnership and shared opportunities for economic growth, security and innovation.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the event as chief guest, which brought together government officials, elected representatives, business leaders, educators, journalists, civic figures and diplomats. The ceremony opened with the national anthems of Pakistan and the United States and concluded with a jazz performance.

U. S. Consul General Stetson Sanders highlighted innovation, creativity, connectivity and opportunity as key pillars of the bilateral relationship. He cited U. S. investment in Pakistan's technology sector, including Google's Chromebook assembly initiative in Haripur, and praised Pakistani innovators and manufacturers.

Sanders said bilateral trade reached \$8.5 billion in 2025, describing it as a foundation for expanded economic cooperation. He also emphasized Punjab's universities, entrepreneurs and young innovators as important to the future of bilateral ties.

The reception featured Liberty Bell replicas decorated by Pakistani artists through the Consulate's Lincoln Corner network, symbolizing cultural and grassroots connections between the two countries.

Ahmed Mahmood Calls for Political Dialogue and Relief from Inflation

 **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Former Punjab governor Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood said the country's current political situation was sensitive and called for dialogue, parliamentary processes and democratic engagement to address political differences.

Speaking to the media alongside PPP South Punjab Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam and Chief Coordinator Abdul Qadir Shaheen, he referred to the PTI's announced September 27 protest and said political tensions should be reduced while keeping economic difficulties facing citizens in focus.

He said persistent inflation, unemployment and rising prices of electricity, gas, petroleum products and essential commodities were placing pressure on households, particularly lower- and middle-income groups. He urged the government to take practical measures to provide broader relief from rising petroleum costs.

Mahmood described the government's decision to provide targeted petrol relief to motorcycle, rickshaw and small-vehicle users as a positive step, while calling for measures that could benefit consumers more broadly.

He urged political parties to prioritize national stability and public issues and demanded measures to address inflation and unemployment.



Rising fuel Prices: Why Are People still Silent?

 **Continued from Page 4**

game between political parties, the attention of ordinary people can shift away from the actual issue. As a result, after every increase in prices, discussions, complaints and reactions appear on social media for a few days, but eventually the issue becomes part of everyday life.

Continuous inflation also has a psychological impact: people gradually begin to adopt survival strategies instead of resistance. They reduce their travel, try to cut household expenses and even limit spending on their

children's needs. Such measures may provide temporary relief, but they do not resolve the underlying problems, which continue to grow. We know that the government attributes price increases to global oil prices, wars, the import bill or exchange-rate fluctuations. Part of this debate is certainly connected with global circumstances, but an equally legitimate question is how much relief ordinary consumers receive through local taxes, the petroleum levy, government expenditures and the price-setting mechanism. The public should be clearly informed

about how much of the price of one litre of fuel represents the international cost of oil, how much consists of taxes and levies, and to what extent the government has the ability and justification to increase or reduce the price.

The impact of rising fuel prices extends far beyond the petrol pump. Higher diesel prices increase the costs of agricultural machinery, tube wells, transportation and the movement of goods. Higher petrol prices increase the monthly expenses of millions of people who travel by motorcycles,

cars, rickshaws and other means of transport. When transportation becomes more expensive, the impact reaches the markets and ultimately forces consumers to pay more. Therefore, the government needs to do more than simply increase or decrease fuel prices. It should make the entire fuel-pricing structure transparent to the public, consider targeted relief for poor and low-income groups, and adopt policies that do not transfer the full burden of shocks in the international market onto consumers. Similarly, political parties, labour

organizations, traders' organizations, civil society and the media must make economic issues a serious subject of public debate.

How long can the people continue to bear the burden created by the constantly rising prices of petrol and diesel? As inflation increases, incomes are not rising at the same pace, while basic expenses continue to grow. Every increase in fuel prices therefore takes something more out of the pocket of the ordinary citizen. However, it would also be wrong to consider public silence a solution to the problem. Silence does

not always mean consent; it may also be the result of helplessness, economic hardship, fear or political distrust. Therefore, the question should not only be why petrol has reached Rs. 389 or diesel Rs. 424 per litre. It should also be asked: how much of this price is the public paying, how much goes to the government, and who is responsible for providing relief? There is a need for greater government transparency and accountability and for a serious public debate on economic policies through which some relief can be provided to the people.

However, it should be remembered that public silence cannot always be taken for granted. If economic pressure continues to increase and the difficulties faced by the people are not effectively addressed, the possibility of strong public reaction cannot be ignored. Therefore, those in power should seriously consider timely and effective measures to provide relief to the people, so that the situation does not become more complicated and economic unrest does not turn into a wider social crisis.

Teacher, Columnist

Meeting on NJAC

ISLAMABAD: Honble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, NJPMC, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, chairing a meeting of the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) to



Finance minister explores financing for PLA, refinery upgrades, Reko Diq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday explored US financing opportunities for PLA aircraft, refinery upgrades and the Reko Diq mining project during his engagements in New York.

According to a press release issued by the finance ministry issued here on Thursday, the minister discussed the financing opportunities with US Export-Import Bank Chairman John Jovanovich, including a potential package for PLAs procurement of aircraft and engines, particularly Boeing 787 Dreamliners, as well as spare parts to bring

grounded Boeing 777 aircraft back into service.

Both sides agreed that work on a broader cooperation framework should continue while they prioritize specific transactions, including possible financing for aircraft pre-delivery payments. Refinery upgrades were also identified as another potential area for US EXIM Bank support.

On Reko Diq, the Finance Minister emphasized the project's importance to Pakistan's future exports and the cost of delays, and welcomed US EXIM Bank's continued commitment to the project.

Meanwhile, the minister also engaged with interna-



tional partners on digital transformation, aviation, refinery modernization and the Reko Diq mining project.

He participated in the Digital Cooperation Organization's High-Level Ministerial Dialogue, where he described digital transforma-

tion as a key part of Pakistan's transition from economic stabilization to sustainable growth.

He highlighted the development of digital public infrastructure and cashless payments, while stressing that connectivity must be

accompanied by up-skilling and re-skilling to help freelancers and other digital workers move into high-value services.

Noting the widespread adoption of virtual assets, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb outlined Pakistan's work on legislation, oversight and licensing, and emphasized practical uses beyond cryptocurrency, including cheaper and more seamless remittances and the potential tokenization of public debt and real estate.

He called for closer collaboration among DCO member states to share successful approaches and attract investment in the digital economy.

Pakistan, FAO Discuss Strengthening Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain held a meeting with Robert Simpson, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and FAO Representative Rebekah Bell to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food security.

The meeting focused on Pakistan's agricultural priorities and opportunities for collaboration in sustainable agrifood systems, food security, agricultural development and support for farming communities.

Rana Tanveer appreciated FAO's continued cooperation and stressed the impor-



tance of international partnerships in addressing emerging agricultural challenges. He called for enhanced knowledge-sharing, technical cooperation, research and innovation to improve productivity and strengthen the resilience of agrifood systems.

The minister highlighted opportunities involving modern technologies, climate-smart agriculture, improved food processing and youth-led initiatives across the agricultural value chain.

Both sides also discussed stronger institutional linkages and practical cooperation. Rana Tanveer reiterated Pakistan's commitment to working with FAO for sustainable agricultural growth, improved food security and stronger livelihoods for farming communities.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Highlights Investment Reforms at World Economic Forum

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh highlighted Pakistan's regulatory reforms, investor facilitation measures and investment opportunities during the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2026. The forum is being held in New York from September 21 to 24.

Addressing the Global Regulatory Innovation Platform, Sheikh said Pakistan was working to establish simple, clear and predictable regulations while maintaining safeguards for public interest. He said more than 500 regulatory reforms had been implemented across



about 30 sectors in coordination with federal and provincial departments.

The minister highlighted the Business Facilitation Centre in Islamabad, where 22 federal agencies operate under one roof. He said the centre had served 5,386 businesses, processed 4,555 approvals and NOCs, facilitated Rs5.08 billion in investment and supported 15,680 jobs during its first eight months.

Sheikh also highlighted opportunities in technology, renewable energy, manufacturing, agribusiness, minerals and logistics. He invited international investors to explore partnerships in Pakistan, particularly in sustainable, export-oriented and technology-driven sectors.

Axle Load Policy to Be Strictly Enforced, Says Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said the axle load policy would be strictly and uniformly implemented across the country, with no relaxation in prescribed weight limits.

During a meeting with a delegation of the All-Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance, led by Central President Malik Shehzad Awan, the minister directed officials to ensure effective enforcement of axle load regulations to protect roads and national highway infrastructure.

The meeting also discussed a proposal to authorize Motorway Police to register FIRs in cases of overloading. Khan directed that industries, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other relevant departments be included in consultations for a comprehen-

sive transport and axle load policy.

He instructed officials to resolve transporters' issues on a priority basis and maintain coordination with provincial governments. The next consultative meeting with transporters was scheduled for September



30.

Transporters also raised issues concerning cement factories and vehicles detained during protests. Shehzad Awan said the minister assured them that detained vehicles would be released and owners compensated, while agreements reached during the August nationwide strike would be implemented.

DPM Dar, Nepali FM review bilateral relations, mull over ways to boost cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday met with Foreign Minister of Nepal, Shisir Khanal on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where the two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation, including through the Political Consultations and Economic Consultations mechanisms.

The DPM/FM conveyed condolences over the loss and devastation caused by the recent flash floods

in Nepal, assuring that Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Nepal in this difficult time. Foreign Minister Khanal expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support and briefed the DPM/FM on the extent of the calamity and its impact on people and infrastructure, a DPM's Office news release said.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest and underscored the importance of continued coordination at multilateral fora, particularly the UN and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Both sides agreed to maintain contact to further expand bilateral cooperation.

Dr. Najeeb Naqi Khan Elected President of Azad Kashmir



ident of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) nominated candidate, was elected President after securing 32 votes. His rival, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, received 13 votes.

A total of 45 votes were cast in the presidential election.

The Secretary of the Election Commission performed duties as Presiding Officer during the polling process.

Dr Najeeb Naqi Khan's election followed the completion of voting by members of the AJK Legislative Assembly, with the results formally determining the new head of state.

The election took place amid the government's stated focus on development and governance in Azad Kashmir.

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held under the chairmanship of Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, during which polling was conducted for the election of the Pres-

CM Maryam Nawaz Congratulates Dr Najeeb Naqi on Election as AJK President

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has congratulated Dr Najeeb Naqi on his election as the 25th President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The Chief Minister also felicitated the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed her best wishes to President Dr Najeeb Naqi and prayed for his success in serving the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.