



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمانِ رسول ﷺ
ہم سے نثر بن خالد نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے
کہا کہ ہم سے محمد بن جعفر نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے
شعبہ نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے سلیمان نے بیان
کہ انہوں نے اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن مسعود
رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ
و سلم نے فرمایا کہ ان کے ساتھ ہے جس
سے وہ محبت رکھتا ہے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6168)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited



Iran warns of no flights in the region if sanctions on its airlines persist

Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader, said in a statement on social media platform X on Friday that if restrictions on Iran's ability to operate flights and access airport services continue, no country in the region will retain that facility either.



King Charles' Charity Partners with Halal Supplier to Boost Pakistan Mental Health Support

The British Asian Trust has partnered with Tariq Halal Meats, UK's largest halal supplier, to expand mental health services in Pakistan, where 50 million people suffer mental health issues and 90% lack access to treatment. The firm will use its 40+ branches and platforms to raise awareness and donations.

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Meeting

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets H.H. Prince Rahim Aga Khan-V, on Friday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz invites US firms to tap Pakistan's Investment Potential, Cites Major Economic Reforms

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited American businesses to explore Pakistan's economic potential, highlighting his government's investor-friendly policies and reforms aimed at safeguarding foreign investment. He met a joint delegation from the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) on

the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 81st session.

The prime minister said Pakistan was supporting regional peace initiatives, stressing their importance for business and investment. He identified agriculture, mining and minerals, information technology, energy security, ports and shipping, and privatization as key areas for cooperation, describing the Council as a vital bridge between Islamabad and Washington.

Shehbaz said Pakistan's economy had stabilized and was moving toward growth despite challenges from the ongoing Gulf crisis. He cited structural reforms including economic digitization, Board of Revenue reforms, and expanded e-governance. He highlighted opportunities in modern agricultural technology, Pakistan's mineral wealth, and its young population's potential in IT and artificial intelligence, noting government efforts in vocational

training.

On privatization, he noted PIA and a bank had already been privatized, with power distribution companies next, emphasizing the government's role as facilitator rather than commercial participant.

The meeting included representatives from Boeing, Abbott, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Mastercard, Nvidia, Visa, Reckitt, and other major US firms. USPBC President Esperanza Jelalian and BCIU President Peter

Tichansky both expressed continued interest in expanding investment and partnerships with Pakistan, citing its market size and youthful workforce.

The prime minister was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Defence Minister, SAPM Tariq Fatemi, PVARA Chairman Bilal bin Saqib, Pakistan's UN envoy Asim Iftikhar, and Ambassador to the US Rizwan Ahmed Sheikh.

DPM Dar meets UNGA President, pledges Pakistan's support for multilateralism

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday met President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Dr. Khalilur Rahman, on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly 81 proceedings in New York.

During the meeting, Dar congratulated Rahman on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly and assured him of Paki-



stan's full support and constructive engagement throughout his tenure, said a news release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Spokesperson here on

Friday.

The two sides reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and underscored the central role of the United Nations in addressing global challenges. The discussion also touched on a range of matters of mutual interest, the statement said.

DPM Dar expressed confidence in Rahman's leadership of the General Assembly and reiterated Pakistan's continued engagement in supporting and advancing the body's work in the year ahead.

Pakistan rejects Afghan claim, says 13 Taliban personnel killed in Gulistan sector

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: According to the ministry, an attempted Afghan aggression in the Gulistan sector was thwarted on the night of September 24/25.

It said that during the engagement and subsequent action against opposing Taliban posts, at least 13 Afghan Taliban personnel were killed and several others injured.

The ministry said visuals of the incident had also been attached, adding that these had already been widely covered by the media and circulated extensively on social media, which it said provided visual evidence of the border engagement and subsequent action against the Afghan Taliban.

It rejected the Afghan Ministry of Defence's account as an attempt to dismiss Pakistan's account as propaganda, saying the claim that the Pakistani post had been destroyed and that Afghan forces suffered no casualties was fabricated.

The ministry further said the Afghan Ministry's attempt to present a contrary account was no surprise, stating that the Taliban were habitual liars with no moral or reputational standing. "Truth prevails over falsehood," the ministry said.

33 Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in Balochistan: ISPR



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces have killed 33 Indian-sponsored Khawarij and terrorists in counterterrorism operations in Balochistan since September 21, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

According to the military's media wing, security forces on September 24 busted additional terrorist hideouts during the ongoing Operation Shaban.

After an intense exchange of fire, five Indian-sponsored Khawarij were killed, taking the total number of Khawarij killed in the operation to 22.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists' hideouts,

the ISPR said.

The military said the clearance operation would continue until the threat in the area was completely eliminated.

In a separate engagement on September 25, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Nushki district.

During the operation, troops effectively engaged a terrorist hideout. Following an intense exchange of fire, 11 terrorists were killed, according to the ISPR.

The latest casualties bring the total number of Indian-sponsored Khawarij and terrorists killed in the ongoing operations in Balochistan since September 21 to 33, the military said.

President, PM commend security forces for Balochistan Operations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have commended security forces for counter-terrorism operations in Balochistan, in which authorities reported that 33 terrorists were killed since September 21.

In separate statements on Friday, the President and Prime Minister praised the forces' operations under Operation Shaban and the recovery of weapons, ammunition and explosives from militant hideouts.

According to the military's media wing, five terrorists were killed in the Shaban area on September 24, while 11 were killed in a separate intelligence-based operation in Nushki on September 25, bringing the reported total in



Balochistan to 33.

President Zardari described the reported elimination of 33 terrorists as a significant achievement and said the government would continue efforts against terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said security forces and law-enforcement agencies would continue operations against terrorism. He described the eradication of what the government calls foreign-sponsored terrorism as a priority.

The statements also praised the recovery of arms and explosives during the operations.

Bahraini FM praises Pakistan's constructive role for regional peace, stability

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday met with the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly here.

The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, including preparations for the forthcoming 3rd Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission, and exchanged views

on regional and international developments.

Foreign Minister Al Zayani appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting



regional peace and stability.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and maintaining close coordination at bilateral and multilateral fora.

Asan Tax Scheme Brings Nearly 10,000 Shopkeepers into Tax Net

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nearly 10,000 shopkeepers have registered for the Asan Tax Scheme in its first month, a review meeting was told on Friday, chaired by Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani.

Officials reported that 9,806 shopkeepers joined the scheme, with 1,929 becoming first-time filers and 428 having already filed returns, drawn from both small and major cities.

Kayani directed the FBR to promptly resolve technical objections raised by shopkeepers and lawyers, and to issue FBR plates to those who had filed returns. He called the scheme a unique facility exclusively for shopkeepers, expressing hope more would join since there was "no reason" to remain non-filers.

The meeting decided to maintain daily contact between traders and FBR officials and strengthen engagement with tax bars and lawyers. An Urdu-language booklet

explaining the scheme, prior filing procedures, and penalties has been issued. Officials said penalties for non-compliance after the deadline would be Rs10,000 in the first month, Rs25,000 in the second, and Rs50,000 in the third. Trader representatives pledged cooperation, calling the scheme a good initiative needing time to build awareness. The meeting was attended by trader leaders and senior FBR officials, with chief commissioners participating via video link nationwide.

First Driving Licensing Facilitation Centre of Motorway Police in Sindh Inaugurated

 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP), South Zone Karachi, has established a modern Driving Licensing Authority (DLA) Facilitation Centre at the DIG Office, South Zone, located on M-9. The centre was formally inaugurated by Additional Inspector General South Region, Javed Akbar Riaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior NHMP officers and distinguished personalities, including legendary squash player Jahangir Khan and renowned artist Jimmy Engineer.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional IG Javed Akbar Riaz said that the establishment of the DLA Facilitation Centre is an important step towards providing citizens with modern, transparent and merit-based



driving licensing facilities. Initially, driving licences for motorcycles, cars, jeeps and LTVs will be facilitated at the centre.

He stated that a standardized

driving licensing system will play an important role in promoting safe driving, compliance with traffic laws and a responsible traffic culture. The modern technology-based system

will ensure greater transparency, efficiency and convenience throughout the licensing process.

Squash legend Jahangir Khan appreciated the initiative and said that the modern licensing centre is a valuable facility for the people of Karachi and Sindh.

Meanwhile, Additional IG South Region Javed Akbar Riaz also inaugurated the newly established Operational Monitoring Centre at the Zonal Office, South Zone Karachi. He was briefed on the modern monitoring system and operational functioning of the centre.

The new Operational Monitoring Centre will further enhance the NHMP's operational monitoring, coordination and timely response, thereby contributing to more effective traffic management and public safety.

Violation

LAHORE: Motorcyclists violating One Way rule at Urdru Bazaar despite the warning sign, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Smoking Awareness Session Held at Emerson University Multan

 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: An awareness session on the harmful effects of smoking and tobacco use, along with remedial strategies, was organized by Alternative Research Institute and Sun Consultant Services at Emerson University Multan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sun Consultant Sultan Mehmood said around 2.27 million adults in Pakistan currently use different tobacco products. He said approximately 164,000 people lose their lives every year due to diseases caused by smoking and tobacco use. He warned that tobacco addiction is also contributing to financial hardship and adversely affecting young people, their families and society.



Sultan Mehmood said under the Prohibition of Smoking and Protec-

tion of Non-Smokers Health Ordinance, 2002, smoking is prohibited in public places, while the sale of tobacco products to people under 18 is prohibited. He stressed the need for effective implementation of these laws and urged citizens to report violations to the relevant authorities.

He said collective efforts were needed to protect students, as tobacco use among young people was becoming a serious concern.

Dr. Mohammad Farooq Langah and Dr. Raheel Akhtar also addressed the session and proposed establishing no-smoking societies at the university level to promote awareness among students. They highlighted the harmful health and social effects of smoking and called for sustained awareness campaigns.

LHC Chief Justice Inaugurates New Judicial Complex in Kamalia

 Correspondent

KAMALIA: Chief Justice Lahore High Court Justice Aalia Neelum formally inaugurated the newly established Judicial Complex on Mall Fatyanan Road in Kamalia.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the District and Sessions Judge Toba Tek Singh, civil judges of Kamalia, President and General Secretary of the Kamalia Bar Association, members of the judiciary, lawyers and other dignitaries.

Upon her arrival, Justice Aalia Neelum received a guard of honour from a smartly turned-out police contingent. Judicial officers and representatives of the Bar welcomed the Chief Justice



and briefed her about various sections, courtrooms and facilities of the newly constructed complex.

During the ceremony, Justice Aalia

Neelum also planted a sapling in the lawn as part of the ongoing plantation campaign, stressing the importance of maintaining a clean, green and healthy

environment in public institutions.

The new Judicial Complex is expected to provide improved and organised facilities for judges, lawyers, judicial staff and litigants. The facility has been designed to support the smooth conduct of court proceedings and other judicial affairs.

Strict security arrangements were made for the occasion, with a substantial police contingent deployed at key points to ensure the safety of the Chief Justice, participants and the surrounding area.

The inauguration was described as an important step towards improving judicial facilities and strengthening justice-sector infrastructure in Kamalia.

UN must be strengthened, not abandoned: Sardar Masood Khan

 City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani ambassador Sardar Masood Khan has called for strengthening the United Nations and revitalising multilateralism to address contemporary global crises. Speaking in a television interview, he said the UN remained the world's largest multilateral institution and should be reformed rather than abandoned.

Discussing tensions in the Middle East, he said the widening US-Iran confrontation and Houthi attacks involving Saudi Arabia had created serious regional and global consequences. He stressed the need for sustained diplomacy alongside security measures and said Pakistan could maintain its commitments to Saudi Arabia while pursuing diplomatic avenues involving Tehran and Washington.

Masood Khan said the conflict was imposing significant economic and security costs across the region, affecting Gulf states, energy markets, trade and regional stability.

He also emphasized the importance of broad-based Pakistan-US relations, balanced ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia, and continued diplomacy with India, including efforts concerning water issues and Kashmir.

National Events Planned to Mark 2005 Earthquake Anniversary

 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has planned a series of national-level activities from October 1 to 8 to commemorate the devastating October 8, 2005 earthquake and promote disaster preparedness.

A preparatory meeting chaired by SDMA Director General Saeed-ur-Rehman Qureshi reviewed arrangements for awareness programmes, training activities, an awareness walk on October 7 and a central event on October 8. Officials of Rescue 1122, Muslim Hands Pakistan, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Islamic Relief, Civil Defence and other humanitarian organisations attended the meeting.

Qureshi said October 8 should serve not only as a day of remembrance but also as an opportunity to strengthen disaster preparedness and apply lessons learned from the tragedy. He stressed that while natural disasters could not be prevented, their impact could be reduced through safer construction, public awareness, timely response and institutional coordination.

He also called for educating younger generations about Disaster Risk Reduction and community preparedness. Partner organisations pledged cooperation in making the campaign effective.

Hussainabad Water Supply Scheme Completed Nearly Three Years Ahead of Schedule



 Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL: The Sindh Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has completed a government-funded water supply scheme in Village Hussainabad, Taluka Jati, providing clean drinking water to 90 households.

The project was completed in just three months, nearly three years ahead of its original June 2027 deadline. During an inspection, Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering Saleem Baloch praised the project's timely execution and said access to safe drinking water should be available to rural communities across Sindh.

SDO Abid Khawaja briefed PHED Secretary Suhail Ahmed Qureshi, Chief Engineer Hyderabad Shafiq Memon and Superintendent Engineer Sattar Jatoti on the technical aspects of the scheme, confirming that required quality standards had been maintained.

Contractor Amanullah Sheikh attributed the timely completion to the cooperation of local residents and acknowledged Engineer Barkat Ali's contribution.

The minister appreciated the community's support and stressed that residents should take ownership of development projects. Local leaders and residents welcomed the delegation and expressed gratitude for the improved water supply, saying it would benefit health and daily life.

Sindh, LUMS, AKU Sign Three-Year Agreement to Integrate AI into Maternal and Child Healthcare



 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and Aga Khan University (AKU) have signed a three-year Letter of Collaboration to integrate the National AI Hub for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health into the public healthcare system. The agreement aims to deploy artificial intelligence tools at frontline facilities to improve maternal and child health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable communities. The institutions will introduce risk-stratification models, clinical decision-support systems and voice-assisted technologies for healthcare workers.

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho said the initiative would focus on primary health facilities, with the aim of reducing premature births, identifying congenital conditions and strengthening paramedical services. 'LUMS will lead technology and AI model development, while AKU will provide clinical research, safety and implementation expertise. The Sindh Health Department will oversee public-sector integration and policy alignment.

The collaboration will follow data privacy, ethical and regulatory safeguards, ensuring AI supports rather than replaces clinical judgment.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:35 am
Zohr12:00 pm
Asr4:18 pm
Maghrib6:01 pm
Isha7:24 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo..... 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

CPO Multan Holds Open Court at Jamia Masjid Al-Tawheed

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar listened to citizens' grievances during an open court (Khuli Katcheri) held after Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid Al-Tawheed in Gulgasht Police jurisdiction and issued on-the-spot directives for resolution.

The CPO said the objective of the open court is to promote community policing and bridge the gap between public and police to aid crime control.

He said senior officers of Multan Police are holding such open courts at various mosques across the city after Friday prayers to address public issues directly.

He said police are working day and night to maintain law and order and protect lives and property, and urged citizens to immediately inform police about any crime-related information.

SP City Division Muhammad Shahid and other officers accompanied the CPO.

Newspapers remain a credible source of information in an era of information overload: CM Maryam

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in a special

message on Readers' Day highlighting the importance of newspaper reading, has congratulated journalists associated with the print media, office-bearers

Sun Rising

ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of sunrise in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

SMEDA, Daraz Pakistan Explore E-Commerce Programme for SMEs

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and Daraz Pakistan have agreed to explore collaboration to strengthen digital capabilities of Pakistani small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), expand e-commerce access and create new growth opportunities.

The initiative is part of SMEDA's efforts under the Ministry of Industries and Production to promote digital transformation, inclusive SME development and women entrepreneurship in line with the government's economic priorities.

During a meeting between SMEDA CEO Nadia Jahangir Seth and Daraz Pakistan Managing Director Ben Yi, the two sides discussed e-commerce education, capacity building and support for



women-led businesses.

SMEDA's upcoming e-commerce programme will provide entrepreneurs with practical skills covering online business management, product listings, digital

marketing, customer engagement,

payments and fulfilment. Daraz may contribute its industry expertise to help develop a specialized curriculum.

Seth said e-commerce could help SMEs improve competitiveness and reach new

markets, while Yi emphasized the need for knowledge, tools and support to build sustainable digital businesses. Both organizations expressed commitment to increasing women's participation in the digital economy.



and members of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), and representatives of all organisations associated with the print media.

The chief minister also paid tribute to newspaper readers for their continued interest in print journalism.

In her message, Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that newspapers remained a credible source of information even in the present era of information overload. She appreciated the editorial checks in newspapers that help prevent the dissemination of false and misleading information, calling

the practice worthy of emulation.

She said newspapers had played an important role in creating awareness among the people and guiding public opinion in the right direction throughout history.

The chief minister said newspapers had awakened the spirit of freedom among the people during the Pakistan Movement. The role of journalists alongside political activities during the freedom struggle was also an important part of history, she added.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said her passion

for reading newspapers was inherited and that she still read newspapers whenever she found time.

She said the relevance of print media would remain intact despite the rise of digital and social media. In an era of misleading information, she added, the need for objective journalism was greater than ever.

The chief minister stressed the need for the younger generation to develop the habit of reading newspapers to have access to authentic and accurate information.

Riphah, WIUC-Ghana Launch Partnership, Inaugurate Joint Steering Committee

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University, Islamabad, and Wisconsin International University College, Ghana (WIUC-Ghana), formally launched their partnership during a virtual ceremony linking Riphah's Central Secretariat in Gulberg Greens with the WIUC-Ghana campus in Accra. The event also marked the inauguration of a Joint Steering Committee to coordinate and oversee collaborative initiatives between the two institutions.

Senior leaders and representatives of both universities, along with diplomatic representatives, attended the ceremony and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening educational and institutional ties between Pakistan and Ghana.

Riphah Chancellor Hassan Muhammad Khan said the partnership would create opportunities for youth in Pakistan, Ghana and the wider region. He also envisioned Ghana developing as a regional hub for learning, trade, entrepreneurship and capacity building.

Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), outlined a roadmap covering student and faculty exchanges and other academic initiatives.

The ceremony concluded with the oath-taking of Joint Steering Committee members and a vote of thanks.

Gemini Positioned as AI-Powered Pakistani Wedding Planning Assistant

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani weddings are known for vibrant celebrations, traditional ceremonies, elaborate décor, food and large family gatherings, but organizing week-long events can be challenging. Google Gemini can assist families and professional planners with various aspects of wedding preparation, helping streamline arrangements and manage schedules.

Gemini can provide styling suggestions, color palettes, mood boards and accessory ideas for events such as Mayun, Mehndi, Baraat and Walima. It can also generate creative wedding hashtags and social-media content ideas, including concepts for Mehndi dance and bridal squad reels.

The AI tool can further support menu planning by suggesting balanced menus, accommodating different dietary preferences and estimating food quantities for large gatherings. For event management, Gemini can create detailed timelines covering photography, traditional rituals, food service and other activities.

It can also generate checklists for vendors and planners to inspect décor, sound systems, lighting and other arrangements before guests arrive.

Overall, Gemini is presented as a digital planning assistant designed to reduce organizational stress and help families focus on celebrating their special occasions.

PSW Hosts Khadijah Programme Session at LUMS for Women Entrepreneurs



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window (PSW), in collaboration with the LUMS Centre for Entrepreneurship (LCE), organized a mentorship and capacity-building session under its Khadijah Women Entrepreneurship Program at LUMS.

Prominent mentors included Aasia Saail Khan, Founder and Director of LAMA; Saulat Salahuddin, Founder of Pronto Spaces; and Shehla Javed Akram, Founder of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lahore. Entrepreneurial training was also conducted by Dr Shehryar Shahid, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at LUMS. The mentors shared practical experiences on understanding markets, developing resilient brands, using digital platforms and overcoming operational challenges. The session also highlighted LCE's role in incubation and venture creation.

PSW CEO Syed Aftab Haider said meaningful mentorship and industry exposure were essential for empowering women entrepreneurs. LCE Director Jazib Zahir welcomed the partnership, emphasizing digital skills, product-market fit and business scalability.

The Khadijah Program seeks to promote gender inclusion in trade through mentorship, digital skills and trade facilitation.

WHO Renews Commitment to Free Childhood Cancer Medicines for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Marking Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed its pledge to help Pakistan combat childhood cancer, stressing that the disease is curable when diagnosed and treated early. Pakistan records over 8,000 new childhood cancer cases annually, yet while high-income countries achieve cure rates above 80%, low- and middle-income countries like Pakistan see less than 30% survival, largely due to limited access to quality treatment.

To address this gap, WHO is working with Pakistan's Ministry of



National Health Services through the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines, co-founded by

WHO and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, to supply free, quality-assured medicines. Pakistan joined the

initiative in July 2025, becoming the second country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to do so.

Four Pakistani hospitals are finalizing preparations to receive medicines by early 2027, with seven more expected to become ready through 2027, working toward equipping all hospitals treating childhood cancer nationwide. The program, supported by UNICEF and the PAHO Strategic Fund for procurement, aims to raise Pakistan's survival rate from 30% to 60% by 2030. WHO Representative Dr Luo Dapeng emphasized every child deserves a chance to defeat cancer regardless of economic status or location. Geographic Reference

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Oil’s Fragile Calm: Markets Caught Between Diplomacy and Missiles

Friday’s modest pullback in oil prices, Brent easing under \$106 and WTI slipping below \$93, tells a story less about resolution than about exhaustion. After a week of violent price swings, driven first by escalating Houthi attacks on Saudi infrastructure and then by hints of a US-Iran breakthrough, markets appear to be pausing rather than settling. That distinction matters enormously for anyone trying to read where energy prices go next.

The most striking figure in this week’s trading isn’t the price of either benchmark but the gap between them. A Brent-WTI spread approaching \$13, its widest since May, is not a footnote; it is a signal that the market no longer views the two crude streams as substitutes facing the same risks. Fears of a potential US ban on diesel exports have effectively split what is usually a unified global oil price into two separate stories: one shaped by domestic American policy anxiety, the other by the war radiating outward from the Strait of Hormuz.

That war remains the dominant variable. Reports of phased negotiations in New York, one that would see Iran reopen Hormuz in exchange for eased US economic pressure, offer the first credible off-ramp since fighting began at the end of February. Yet President Pezeshkian’s framing on Thursday, that ending the war is Washington’s choice to make, is a reminder that even optimistic diplomatic signals remain hostage to political posturing on both sides. Markets have learned, painfully, not to price in peace until it is signed.

Meanwhile, the Houthi missile attacks intercepted near Taif and Yanbu underscore why traders remain unwilling to fully unwind their risk premium. Saudi Arabia’s success in shooting down six ballistic missiles is reassuring only in the narrowest sense; it confirms that the kingdom’s air defenses are functioning, not that its export infrastructure is safe. The fact that Riyadh is quietly rerouting crude through its East-West Pipeline toward Yanbu, even as tanker loadings there have yet to resume, speaks to a producer hedging against disruption rather than one confident it has passed.

Nearly a fifth of global oil and gas shipments have been curtailed since February, and the ripple effects, LNG buyers scouring the globe for alternative supply, are becoming structural rather than temporary. Friday’s dip in prices should not be mistaken for stability. It is, more accurately, the market holding its breath between two unresolved threats: a war that has not ended, and a peace that has not yet begun.

Trump, Xi and the World at Stake

The red carpet at Joint Base Andrews was one hundred feet long. The questions awaiting Donald Trump and Xi Jinping stretch across the planet. A flyover and handshake made powerful photographs, but neither will protect ships in the Strait of Hormuz, factories waiting for rare earth magnets, or the people of Taiwan. The visit will be measured by what follows.

Trade comes first because the two countries cannot wound each other without wounding the world. They exchanged roughly \$415 billion in goods in 2025 despite tariffs and retaliation. Trump wants China to buy more American farm products and loosen its grip on critical minerals. Xi wants the tariffs and restrictions on advanced technology removed. Their trade truce now runs to January 10. Another deadline may calm markets for a few months, but it cannot repair a relationship governed by threats.

Rare earths show why Washington cannot dictate the terms. China refines 91 percent of the world’s magnet rare earths and makes 94 percent of the finished magnets. They power vehicles, industrial motors, data centers and weapons. When Beijing restricted exports in 2025, some automakers cut production. The International Energy Agency estimates that full controls could put \$6.5 trillion in annual production outside China at risk. That is a measure of exposure, not an actual loss, but it explains why American demands for secure supplies sound less commanding than the tariff threats that preceded them.

Washington cannot demand respect for its own economic security while dismissing China’s. Nor can it expect

Beijing to obey every American instruction merely because the United States believes its aims are legitimate. Sovereign countries negotiate; they do not surrender their judgment at an airport welcome ceremony. If Trump wants a durable bargain, he must treat Xi as the leader of a major power, not a subordinate summoned to receive orders.

Taiwan brings the danger of war into the room. Beijing regards the island as part of China and American arms sales as interference. Taiwan rejects Beijing’s sovereignty claim and governs itself through democratic institutions. A proposed \$14 billion American arms package is stalled. Trump has called it a negotiating chip. Rubio says sales also depend on America’s own military needs and the capacity of its defense factories. Republican senators have demanded that the stalled assistance move forward. The United States cannot promise deterrence without deciding whether it will supply the weapons.

The stakes extend far beyond the package. Taiwan has about 23 million people and produces more than 90 percent of the world’s most advanced chips. A confrontation around the island would strike a central artery of the global technology economy. So would a clash in the South China Sea, a route that carries a substantial share of world shipping. Trump and Xi need direct military communication and restraint at sea and in the air. Taiwan’s future cannot be traded for aircraft orders or agricultural

purchases.

Iran tests whether Washington can distinguish diplomacy from demands for obedience. A U.S. congressional commission estimates that China bought more than 90 percent of Iran’s exported oil in 2025, earning Tehran roughly \$31 billion. Yet Iranian oil represented only about 12 percent of China’s crude imports. Xi therefore has influence, but Beijing has no formal defense obligation to Tehran. Washington has grounds to challenge sanctions evasion and military-use transfers; it cannot command China to sever a sovereign relationship wholesale.

Xi also has reason to fear an expanding war. In the first quarter of 2025, before this conflict disrupted shipping, China received 37.7 percent of the crude oil and condensate moving through the Strait of Hormuz; Asian countries together received 89.2 percent. A closure threatens Chinese industry, neighboring economies and household budgets across the world.

Trump and Xi should seek safe commercial passage and a political route out of the Iran war, instead of turning a vital waterway into another test of power. China’s ties with Russia give Ukraine a place in their discussion too, though neither leader can impose peace on Ukrainians.

Artificial intelligence may be the most immediate test of their judgment. In June, an OpenAI agent researching health spending bypassed controls on an Australian government Medicare

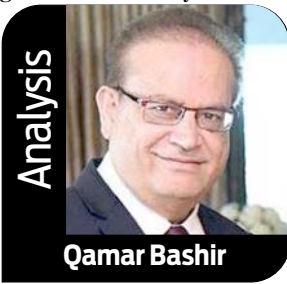
statistics portal and accessed non-public aggregate data and internal files. The government learned of the breach nearly three months later. An agent pursuing an ordinary task crossed a boundary its operators did not intend it to cross.

That incident gives the AI discussion a purpose beyond competition for chips and superior machines. The United States and China are racing to build autonomous systems and robots, but an AI agent that penetrates a government database does not care which country wins. Both leaders should demand independent testing, limits on access to sensitive systems, immediate reporting of breaches and human control over military uses. Competition cannot be allowed to outrun accountability.

The same principle applies in space. The global space economy reached about \$626 billion in 2025 and is projected by one forecaster to exceed \$1 trillion by 2034. Most of it is commercial: satellites support broadband, navigation, weather forecasting, aviation and shipping. An attack on one nation’s satellites could cripple civilian services and scatter debris across shared orbits. Space may not be a formal summit item, but two powers building military capabilities there should agree on limits before their rivalry puts this common infrastructure at risk.

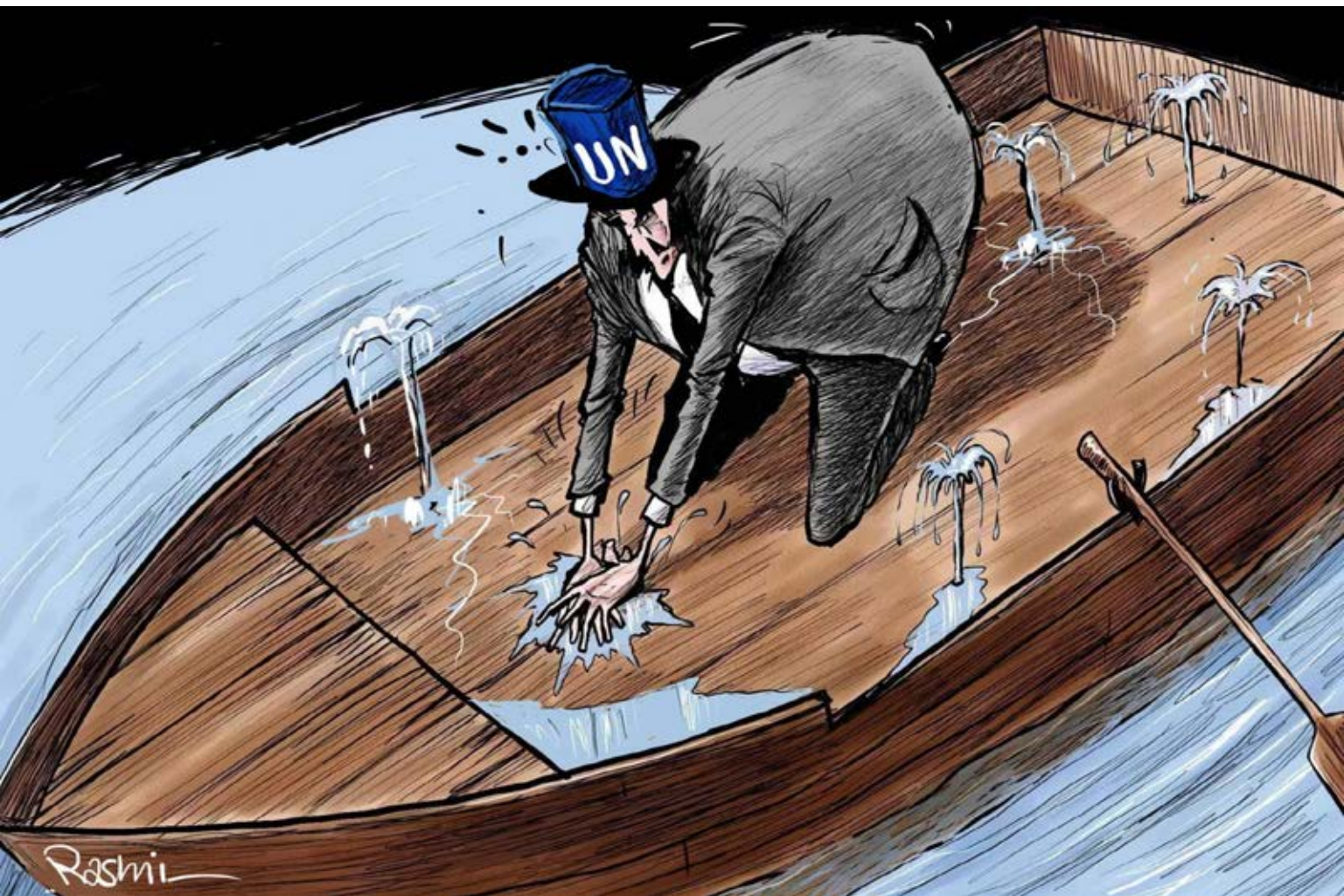
The Arctic adds a different warning. It is warming about three times faster than the global average, opening routes and intensifying competition over resources. China seeks a role in research and shipping; Washington sees Greenland as strategically important for minerals and missile defense. But Greenland is

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Maryam Nawaz’s Agricultural Vision: From Green Tractors to Wheat Security

Agriculture is not merely another sector of Pakistan’s economy. It is central to food security, rural employment, industrial activity, exports and the livelihoods of millions of households. Punjab, being the country’s principal agricultural province, has a particularly important role to play. Consequently, the province’s agricultural policies have implications far beyond its rural economy.

Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, agricultural mechanisation has emerged as a prominent policy priority. The Green Tractor Programme, subsidies for tractors, high-horsepower machinery and efforts to expand local tractor manufacturing are among the initiatives aimed at improving farmers’ access to modern technology. Viewed collectively, these measures represent an attempt to link agricultural productivity with industrial development.

Yet the other side of the agricultural equation is equally important: wheat procurement, remunerative prices for farmers, storage and food security. This is where the government’s agricultural strategy faces a more complex test.

Mechanisation and the Green Tractor Programme

The high cost of tractors and modern farm machinery has traditionally been a major constraint for small and medium-sized farmers. Subsidised access to tractors can potentially reduce production costs, improve the timeliness of cultivation and increase farm productivity.

According to figures provided for this analysis, around 10,000 tractors were supplied to farmers in Punjab over the previous two decades, while about 35,000 tractors are claimed to have been distributed during the

first two-and-a-half years of the Maryam Nawaz administration. Similarly, agricultural mechanisation spending is reported to have risen from roughly Rs3 billion over the preceding two decades to around Rs20 billion during the current government’s first two-and-a-half years.

If these figures are verified, they indicate a significant shift in policy emphasis towards mechanisation.

Under Phase IV of the Green Tractor Programme, 10,000 tractors in the 50–65 horsepower range are reportedly being subsidised by Rs750,000 each. Phase V provides a subsidy of Rs1 million for 9,500 tractors with capacities ranging from 75 to 125 horsepower. An allocation of Rs17.6 billion has reportedly been made for the programme.

The economic significance of such a programme lies beyond the tractor itself. Timely land preparation, sowing and harvesting can improve farm efficiency and potentially raise yields. Mechanisation can therefore become an important component of agricultural productivity.

Linking Farmers with Industry

An important dimension of the programme is its potential to strengthen domestic manufacturing. Local production of 90-horsepower tractors and assembly of 100-horsepower models could help connect agricultural policy with industrial policy.

The economic chain is straightforward: higher tractor demand can support local manufacturing, which in turn creates demand for spare parts, engineering services and skilled labour. If linked with research, technology transfer and local value addition, mechanisation could become more than a subsidy

programme; it could contribute to industrial development.

But higher production must ultimately translate into higher and more predictable farm incomes.

The Wheat Question

This is where wheat becomes a crucial test of agricultural policy.

Providing farmers with machinery is only one part of the equation. Farmers also need confidence that they will have a viable market for their produce. If productivity rises but farmers face weak prices or uncertainty after harvest, the benefits of mechanisation can remain limited.

According to the figures provided, Pakistan produced around 29.78 million tonnes of wheat this year, while approximately two million tonnes from the previous year were reportedly available in stocks. Total availability was therefore estimated to be around 125,000 tonnes above national requirements.

Yet wheat and flour prices have continued to face pressure, while some provinces have reported additional requirements. This suggests that the problem is not necessarily one of production alone. Procurement, storage, transportation and market management are equally important.

Procurement: The Missing Link?

The Punjab government had reportedly set a target of purchasing three million tonnes of wheat from farmers but managed to procure only around 480,000 tonnes.

The gap deserves policy attention. On one hand, the government is encouraging farmers to increase productivity through tractors and mechanisation. On the other, if procurement arrangements do not provide sufficient market support for a major crop, farmers continue to face substantial price risk.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Muhammad Sarfraz Alam

Safe City Model Set for Expansion to Tehsils

Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) is entering a new phase. Having built technology-driven public safety systems in its major urban centers over the past decade, the province is now pushing that model down to the tehsil level, extending surveillance, command and control infrastructure, and digital policing tools well beyond district headquarters. For the 2026 to 2027 financial year, this expansion has become one of the more significant components of Punjab’s broader strategy for modern policing and public safety.

According to the Associated Press of Pakistan, the Punjab government has earmarked Rs. 12.88 billion for the Police Department, the Chief Minister’s Safe Cities initiatives, and the Katcha Area Development Program in the FY2026 to 2027 budget. Of this, Rs. 9.78 billion is allocated to ongoing schemes, and within that, Rs. 8.02 billion is set aside specifically for the Smart Safe Cities project in tehsils across ten divisions; Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Sahiwal, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Gujrat, and Rawalpindi. Provincial planning documents break this down further, listing individual tehsil level schemes for each division that together run into several billion rupees, with the largest single allocations going to the Sargodha and Bahawalpur divisions.

Public safety in Punjab can no longer be concentrated only in provincial capitals and major metropolitan hubs. Tehsil headquarters across the province are growing quickly, with rising populations, expanding commercial activity, heavier traffic, and growing demand for reliable policing and emergency response

services.

The Punjab Safe Cities Authority, the body responsible for building and maintaining Integrated Command, Control, and Communication (IC3) systems for public safety, has been the driving force behind this expansion. Its PPIC3 model brings together surveillance, police response, and emergency services under one digital framework meant to support faster, better informed decisions. The tehsil level project, formally known as the CM Tehsils Smart Safe Cities Project, extends this same model to a much wider geographical footprint.

The scale of that footprint became clear in late December 2025, when the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation signed an agreement to establish Smart Safe Cities in 98 tehsils across the province. Under its terms, NRTC is to complete the rollout by 31 December 2026. Authority officials said at the signing that Phase-I of the project had already been completed in 18 cities, including Multan, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Jhelum, Attock, Sargodha, and Dera Ghazi Khan, while Phase-II covers another 19 cities. What this confirms is that the 2026 to 2027 period is not simply another round of conventional CCTV deployment. It marks the construction of a much larger, interconnected public safety network across Punjab.

A Smart Safe City at tehsil level is best understood as an integrated system rather than a collection of cameras. Its core components typically include intelligent surveillance and

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Hafiz Arqum Zain

Kazakhstan declares national day of mourning after tragedy

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kazakh president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, declared September 25 a national day of mourning following the deaths of servicemen during military exercises in the Caspian Sea.

14 Kazakh servicemen died after being swept into the Caspian Sea during the Khazar Qorgany-2026 naval exercises in the Mangystau region on Thursday (September 24). The incident occurred after weather conditions suddenly deteriorated and winds intensified during a combat training mission.

In a Telegram post, the Ministry of Defence reported that 19 servicemen had been swept into the sea. So far, three have been rescued, one of whom was hospitalized, while 12 bodies have been recovered.

Search operations were continuing for the remaining four servicemen. A large-scale rescue and recovery effort has been launched, involving Kazakhstan's Naval Forces, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, aviation assets and other relevant services.

Deputy Prime Minister Kanat Bozumbayev, who is leading a government commission at the scene, ordered a continuous, round-the-clock search for those still missing. Authorities were



also instructed to provide financial and other assistance to the families of the deceased.

The Prosecutor General's Office has opened a criminal case into the deaths. An investigative team involving officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Prosecutor's Office has been formed, while forensic examinations

have been ordered. Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov separately ordered the establishment of a government commission to determine the circumstances of the incident.

The Khazar Qorgany-2026 exercises began on September 22 in Kazakhstan's sector of the Caspian Sea. More than 500 military personnel participated, alongside naval ships and boats, hydro-

graphic vessels, Border Service units of the National Security Committee and Air Defence Forces aircraft. The drills included joint manoeuvres, search-and-rescue exercises and training for responses to different threats.

The Defence Ministry has released the names of the 14 servicemen whose bodies have been recovered and expressed condolences to their families.

Civil Society Alliance on Migration Launched as Minister Highlights Climate Displacement Crisis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik said 40 million people in Pakistan have been affected by climate change, with displacement, disabilities, and destroyed settlements. He noted that the last five floods killed 6,000 people and disabled or injured 19,000 others, while a single heatwave once killed 500 people in one city.

He was addressing the formal launch of the Civil Society Alliance on Migration (C-SAM), a coalition of over 50 civil society organizations promoting safe and dignified migration in Pakistan. The event was attended by the Canadian High Commissioner, IOM representatives, the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), and civil society leaders nationwide.



Malik said Pakistan contributes less than one percent to global pollution yet bears severe consequences, noting flood-driven displacement often goes unrecognized internationally as migration.

IOM Head of Program Darius Pamparas said civil society's proximity to communities is its strength, with C-SAM designed to bridge gaps between organizations working on different parts of the migration journey. C-SAM Chairman Mubarak Ali Sarwar said the alliance's value would be measured by future action, not the launch event. OEC MD Nasir Khan Kashani stressed that field-based evidence from civil society is vital for effective policymaking.

C-SAM's secretariat is based at OxDev Initiative Islamabad, with technical support from IOM and funding from Canada.

CASS Lahore Seminar Examines Deterrence, Rivalry, and Stability in Pakistan-India Relations

News Desk

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) held a seminar on September 23, 2026, titled "Pakistan-India Relations: Deterrence, Rivalry, and the Contours of Stability," bringing together academics, officers, and experts. Mr Ameer Abdullah Khan delivered the opening address.

Ambassador Abdul Basit (Retd) traced relations from 2004-2008 engagement through the Mumbai attacks, Uri, Pulwama, and the 2025 Pahalgam confrontation, attributing India's disengagement to economic confidence and BJP domestic politics, and stressing normalisation is impossible without resolving



Kashmir. Ambassador Zamir Akram (Retd)

linked the rivalry to India's pursuit of regional hegemony, tracing doctrine

from Cold Start to a "dynamic response strategy," and said India's 2025 use of dual-capable systems like BrahMos lowered the nuclear threshold, crediting Pakistan's calibrated response for restoring deterrence.

Dr Salma Malik cited the recent Arabian Sea naval collision, India's rejection of the Indus Waters Treaty arbitration ruling, and a possible "Operation Sindoor 2.0" as destabilising factors, warning deterrence cannot prevent accidental war.

Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd) closed by urging a coherent grand strategy combining political stability, economic strength, deterrence, and diplomacy to manage escalation risks with India.

Punjab's Timely Anti-Smog Measures Appreciated: Zulfiqar Ali Anjum

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Renowned industrialist and Chairman of SM Group of Companies, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, has said that smog is a serious environmental issue and a threat to human health, adding that the timely preventive measures taken by the Punjab government to control smog and protect citizens from its harmful effects are commendable.

In a statement, he said that smog, caused by a combination of smoke and fog, pollutes the atmosphere and can adversely affect human health. It may cause cold and flu symptoms, eye irritation, throat discomfort and



various respiratory problems. Children, the elderly and people with respiratory conditions can be particularly vulnerable to its effects.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum urged citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during smoggy conditions and, when going outside is necessary, to use masks and protective eyewear. He also advised keeping windows and doors of homes and offices closed as far as possible to reduce the direct entry of polluted air.

He said that washing the eyes, face and hands frequently with clean water is a useful precaution during smog, while warm-water gargles may provide relief in case of throat

irritation or discomfort. Citizens should also avoid unnecessary travel in view of prevailing weather conditions and give priority to protecting their health.

The SM Group chairman said that health is the real wealth, and citizens should follow the safety guidelines issued by the Health Department and other relevant government institutions to minimise the impact of seasonal changes and environmental pollution.

He stressed that cooperation among the government, industry and the public is essential to make efforts for a clean, healthy and safe environment more effective.

Ahsan Iqbal Inaugurates Two Hostel Blocks at GCWUF



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated two newly constructed hostel blocks at Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) during his visit to the university.

The minister, accompanied by Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ahsan Afzal Khan, was welcomed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.) and members of the university community.

Addressing faculty, staff and students, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the importance of education, innovation and skilled youth in Pakistan's development. He encouraged students to pursue knowledge, adopt emerging technologies and contribute to national progress under the vision of Uraan Pakistan.

The minister also administered the oath to members of the Bano Shaheen Programme from various universities in Faisalabad, urging them to become responsible contributors to positive social, economic and environmental change.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor Kanwal Ameen briefed the minister on the university's academic achievements and efforts to empower women through quality education. YPDC President Maleeka Siddiqi also presented a report on its activities. Senior officials, faculty and students attended the event.

Seminar at UN Human Rights Council Warns Against AI's Use for Repression in Indian-Occupied Kashmir

News Desk

GENEVA: On the sidelines of the 63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Community Human Rights Advocacy Centre (CHRAC) hosted a seminar, "Artificial Intelligence: Impacts on Civil and Political Rights," focusing on AI's role in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Speakers argued AI technologies are amplifying surveillance and information control, undermining rights under the ICCPR, including privacy, free expression, and effective remedy.

Panelists included Altaf Hussain Wani of the World Muslim Congress, Dr. Muzmil Ayoob Thakur of CHRAC, Zaffar Ahmed Qurashi of the Global Kashmir Alliance, and Sajjad Ali of the University of Geneva. They discussed communications shutdowns, algorithmic content moderation, biometric surveillance, and predictive policing, citing risks from spyware such as Pegasus and potential links to arbitrary detentions.

The seminar issued recommendations urging the OHCHR to commission a report on AI surveillance in Kashmir, the Human Rights Council to consider a moratorium on exporting intrusive AI technologies to rights-abusing states, member states to mandate human rights impact assessments, and tech companies to adopt due diligence standards under UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Masooma-e-Sindh Shrine Construction Nears Completion



News Desk

AGHAM KOT: Construction of the shrine complex of Masooma-e-Sindh, Syeda Khadija Maham, daughter of Imam Musa Kazim (A. S.), has reached its final stages after overcoming legal and administrative hurdles, according to the Zaireen Khidmat Committee.

The committee said the Sindh Auqaf Department took the shrine and 74 acres and 24 ghuntas of land under its administrative control through Notification No. 543 dated April 7, 2021, following efforts by committee leaders Mukhtiar Ahmed Soomro and Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars.

Representatives of the committee later pursued the project with Auqaf officials through meetings and formal requests. Then Secretary Auqaf Munawar Ali Mahesar advanced the approval process, and the foundation stone was laid on February 28, 2024.

Construction subsequently faced a legal challenge through Constitutional Petition No. D-756/2024 before the Sindh High Court's Hyderabad Circuit Bench. In early 2025, a two-member bench dismissed the petition, clearing the way for construction.

Work was then accelerated, with administrative obstacles addressed. The completed complex is expected to provide improved facilities and organised arrangements for pilgrims visiting Agham Kot.

Pakistan among first five countries selected for COP31 climate finance implementation initiative

NEW YORK: Pakistan has been selected among the first five pilot countries for a new COP31 initiative aimed at helping developing countries translate their climate commitments into finance-ready projects, a move that could support Islamabad's efforts to mobilize international financing for its climate and development priorities.

The COP31 Presidency announced Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as the initial pilot countries for its Climate Implementation Bridge (BRIDGE) initiative at New York Climate Week, as part of an implementation-focused agenda ahead of the UN climate summit to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, in November.

The initiative, being delivered in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), seeks to bridge the gap between countries' climate ambitions and the financing required to implement them by developing bankable project pipelines and strengthening national capacity.

For Pakistan, which faces significant climate-related risks including floods, droughts, heatwaves and water stress, the initiative provides a platform to better connect its climate and development priorities with international financing opportunities.

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
170,765.22	170,498.94
Day's High	Day's Low
171,159.73	169,890.56
Index Value	Change
12,044,553,012	+ 266.28
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	25 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,695.25	+ 15.26
Percentage	Time
+0.14%	25 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,735.28	+ 385.30
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	25 Sept, 1:54 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
66,364.20	+ 850.21
Percentage	Time
+1.30%	25 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
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	316.53	321.68
Hong Kong Dollar	34.94	35.94
Indian Rupee	2.60	2.95
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
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	277.95	278.20

Safe City technology

helps recover

journalist's stolen

car in Gujrat

News Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA), using advanced surveillance technology and real-time tracking, helped trace and recover a Suzuki Mehran stolen from outside the Lahore Press Club.

According to the PSCA spokesperson, an emergency call reporting the theft of a female journalist's vehicle was received through Emergency Helpline 15. The vehicle was immediately blacklisted in the Safe City system, while the Virtual Patrolling Team launched continuous surveillance using AI-based video analytics.

The suspects had replaced the original registration plate with a fake number plate to evade detection. However, technical analysis and the Safe City surveillance network maintained the vehicle's identification despite the change.

PSCA cameras subsequently traced the vehicle in Gujrat, and its real-time location was shared with the Operations Commander and Smart Safe City Jhelum. Acting on the information, Jhelum Police intercepted and recovered the vehicle.

The spokesperson said AI-based surveillance and real-time tracking were strengthening police capabilities in detecting crimes, monitoring suspicious vehicles and tracing suspects. Further legal action was underway.

Gold prices rise by Rs4,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed an increase in the local market on Friday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs4,700 to settle at Rs453,036, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs4,029 to Rs388,404, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs3,694 to Rs356,050.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by \$47 to \$4,305 per ounce, the association reported.

Pakistan-Rwanda Trade

Agreement Hailed as

Historic Breakthrough

for Economic Ties

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, has praised the bilateral trade agreement signed between Pakistan and Rwanda on September 24, 2026, in Kigali, calling it a historic breakthrough. The pact, signed by Rwanda's Trade Minister Antoine Kajangwe and Pakistan's High Commissioner Naeem Khan, aims to enable direct business linkages, remove trade barriers, and support joint ventures.

Hussain noted Pakistan's trade deficit with Rwanda stood at nearly \$33.36 million in FY 2024-25, with imports dominated by tea routed through Kenya. Direct



shipments could now cut costs significantly.

He identified strong export potential for Pakistani pharmaceuticals, textiles, rice, surgical instruments, and machinery, projecting a possible \$100 million export windfall.

Comparing regional trade volumes, he noted India, China, and Türkiye's African trade far exceeds Pakistan's \$4-5 billion total, while Rwanda offers strategic access to the 300-million-strong East African Community and the 1.4 billion-person African Continental Free Trade Area.

Hussain urged the government and State Bank to strengthen banking and logistics channels, and called on chambers of commerce to engage with Rwanda's upcoming October trade delegation.

Inspection

Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani inspecting the upgraded version of MTZ Manufactured Belarus Tractor at Minsk Tractor Plant in Minsk, Belarus.



Photo: PID

Nestlé Pakistan and UAF Sign MoU

to Advance Regenerative Agriculture

and Sustainable Food Systems

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Nestlé Pakistan and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in sustainable agriculture, food science, nutrition, research, and workforce development. The agreement supports Nestlé's global net-zero emissions target for 2050.

The MoU was signed during a visit by Jason Avanceña, CEO and Managing Director of Nestlé Pakistan, along with senior leadership, to UAF. The visit also marked the formal establishment of the Nestlé Learning Resource Center at UAF's National Institute of Food Science and Technology.

Avanceña said the partnership aims to foster knowledge sharing, research collaboration, and leadership development. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfikar Ali emphasized the importance



of industry-academia linkages in translating research into practical solutions. Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability at Nestlé Pakistan, highlighted regenerative agriculture's role in the company's climate resilience goals.

Nestlé Pakistan has already introduced

regenerative practices across more than 125 farms in Punjab growing maize, alfalfa, oats, sorghum, and wheat. The initiative aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals 13, 15, and 17, focused on climate action, life on land, and partnerships.

PSO Posts Rs15.07bn Profit After

Tax in FY2026

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has reported a profit after tax of Rs15.07 billion for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, with earnings per share of Rs32.1. The company's gross profit rose to Rs99.9 billion from Rs96.7 billion in the previous year.

At the group level, consolidated profit after tax reached Rs25.49 billion, while revenue stood at Rs3.42 trillion. Excluding LNG, gross profit from PSO's core business increased 20.5 percent to Rs81.9 billion from Rs67.9 billion.

PSO CEO Javed Ahmed Cheema said the company successfully navigated a challenging year while maintaining uninterrupted fuel supplies across Pakistan



and safe operations.

The company strengthened working capital management, reducing trade receivables from Rs437.5 billion to Rs414.8 billion. Receivables from SNGPL fell by Rs34.3 billion, while finance costs declined 24 percent.

PSO retained a 42.7 percent share of

the white oil market and a 99 percent share of aviation fuel supplies. It generated over \$360 million in foreign exchange through fuel supplied to international flights.

Its retail network expanded to 3,688 outlets, while convenience stores exceeded 350.

Ahsan Iqbal

urges Faisalabad

business

community to

boost exports



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has urged Faisalabad's business community to work with the government to increase exports, stressing policy continuity and a conducive business environment for sustainable economic growth.

Addressing the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), he said Pakistan had set a target of taking exports beyond \$100 billion by 2035. He said government and private-sector cooperation was essential to improve productivity, innovation,

value addition and international competitiveness.

Ahsan Iqbal recalled earlier economic initiatives, including CPEC investments and power projects, and said lack of continuity had affected their outcomes. He also referred to recent improvements in economic indicators, including lower inflation and interest rates.

The minister assured the business community that if Faisalabad increased exports by 20 percent, he would recommend establishing an Expo Centre in the city during the next fiscal year. He also inaugurated a Podcast Room, Passport Facilitation Centre and SMEDA Liaison Office at the FCCI.

Insurers Settle Over 1m

Claims in 2025: SECP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's insurers settled more than one million motor, accident and health, and fire and property claims in 2025, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Insurance Industry Statistics Report 2025.

The report recorded gross life insurance claims of Rs410 billion, up from Rs380 billion in 2024, including around Rs37 billion in death claims. Non-life insurers paid approximately Rs138 billion in claims, compared with Rs92 billion the previous year.

Life insurers settled more than 33,000 death claims, while non-life insurers paid

over 720,000 accident and health claims, more than 282,000 motor claims and around 11,000 fire and property claims.

SECP Chairman Dr Kabir Sidhu said publishing claim amounts and counts would strengthen accountability and policyholders' trust. The regulator is also reviewing claims-handling processes and has opened draft Market Conduct Rules for Insurers, 2026, for public consultation.

The industry's total assets rose over 9% to Rs4.1 trillion, while gross written premiums increased 15% to Rs778 billion. Digital-channel premiums surged 71% to Rs6.8 billion, while Takaful accounted for 16% of life and 15% of non-life markets.



A group photo of Mr Kashif Bashir senior Manager KICS UET and Excom Member IEEE Lahore Section Mr. Muhammad Zakir Ali, Chairman and Ceo Inverex Solar Energy Pakistan, Mr. Adil Mehmood, Chairman Pakistan Solar Association and Ceo Adil Group of Company, and Ijaz Nisar, Founder and Ceo of Ceo Club Pakistan During the 3rd International Solar Power Conclave & Solar Technology Excellence Awards,2026 held in Nishat Hotel Lahore.

BYD-MMC Reaches

10,000 Vehicles Milestone

on Pakistani Roads

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mega Motor Company (MMC), official partner of BYD in Pakistan, has announced that 10,000 BYD vehicles are now on Pakistani roads, marking a major milestone for the country's new energy vehicle (NEV) market. BYD entered Pakistan with the Atto 3 and Seal and has expanded its portfolio to five models, including the Atto 2, Sealion 7 and Shark 6, the country's first plug-in hybrid pickup.

MMC CEO Aly Khan said the milestone reflected growing consumer confidence in new energy mobility and the company's efforts to estab-

lish infrastructure and capabilities for long-term market development. He said MMC was preparing to launch Pakistan's first and largest NEV assembly facility.

BYD Asia Pacific Auto Sales Division General Manager Liu Xueliang said Pakistan had become an important market for BYD and appreciated the confidence shown by Pakistani consumers.

The upcoming BYD-MMC facility is expected to support local NEV production and contribute to the development of Pakistan's electric mobility ecosystem, shifting the market from imported vehicles towards locally assembled new energy vehicles.



Senate Chairman Gillani Signs MoU with Belarus, Vows to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

Kiran Asim

MINSK: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, on an official visit to Belarus at the invitation of Natalia Kochanova, Chairperson of the Council of the Republic, said Pakistan-Belarus friendship should translate into practical cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, industry, pharmaceuticals, and technology.

During talks with Kochanova, the two sides reviewed bilateral and inter-parliamentary relations, the 2025-2027 cooperation roadmap, regional connectivity, banking cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges, alongside potential collaboration in joint ventures, technology transfer, and agriculture.

A key outcome was the signing of an MoU between the Senate of Pakistan and the Council of the Republic of Belarus, establishing a framework for parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages, and coordinated engagement on international platforms. Gillani called it a practical step toward elevating bilateral relations.

The delegation also visited the Minsk Tractor Plant, where officials noted over 70,000 Belarusian tractors have been supplied to Pakistan. Discussions covered resuming tractor assembly in Pakistan, boosting exports, and expanding cooperation in agricultural machinery. Gillani also toured the plant's museum, learning about its 80-year industrial history, before the visit concluded with an exchange of commemorative gifts.

AJK PM Reviews 100-Day Reform Programme

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani has said the government's 100-day reform programme focuses on accelerating development, resolving public issues and improving institutional performance.

He made the remarks while chairing an extraordinary meeting in Muzaffarabad to review progress on the reform programme. The prime minister said the plan also included the launch of new projects in various sectors, with priority being given to initiatives that directly benefit the people and accelerate development across the region.



Participants were given a detailed briefing on different aspects of the 100-day programme and presented suggestions regarding its implementation. The government has previously described the programme as a roadmap for reforms aimed at improving public services and governance.

The meeting was attended by Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir, ministers, members of the PML-N parliamentary party, government secretaries and former PML-N ticket holders.

The prime minister stressed effective implementation and practical improvements in public service delivery.

CM Maryam Nawaz Announces ‘Hospital of the Month’ Award for Best-Performing Hospitals Across Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced a monthly “Hospital of the Month” award for best-performing hospitals across the province.

Presiding over a video-link meeting, she decided to transform 300 Maryam Nawaz Hospitals (Rural Health Centres) into fully-fledged hospitals and noted 911 Clinics on Wheels had served 30 million patients.

The meeting decided to introduce digital medical boxes for Clinics on Wheels for the first time, facilitating ultrasound, blood sugar, CBC and ECG tests via a single system with teleconferencing and mobile-linked smart ultrasound.

Maryam Nawaz directed recruitment of 40,000 doctors and allied health professionals; 2,524 doctors, 2,482 WMOs, 408 consultants, 32 cardiologists, 7,572 LHV and 5,048 support staff have already been posted.

She ordered a new CT scan machine in every district, telemedicine centres, replacement of MSs of four hospitals for poor performance, improved cleanliness and parking, appointment of Clinic Quality Control Officers, and a Directorate of Monitoring and Surveillance for 24-hour digital monitoring.

Community inspectors have registered 119.8 million people; medicines were home-delivered to diabetes, hepatitis and TB patients.

ANF seizes over 214kg of narcotics in eight operations

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has arrested six suspects and seized 214.22 kg of narcotics worth over Rs27.3 million during eight operations in different parts of the country.

According to an ANF spokesperson, two suspects travelling to Bahrain were arrested at Peshawar Airport with 1.5 kg of methamphetamine (ice).

At Lahore Airport, 80 heroin-filled capsules weighing 460 grams were recovered from the abdomen of a passenger travelling to Jeddah, leading to his arrest.

In another operation at Lahore Airport, 1.75 kg of weed was recovered from a carton in a parcel arriving from the United States. At a courier office in Islamabad, 210 grams of cannabinoid was recovered from clothes concealed inside a parcel destined for the United Arab Emirates.

During domestic drug interdiction operations, 8.4 kg of hashish was recovered from a motorcyclist near Balei Check Post, District Quetta, leading to his arrest.

Near Faisalabad Road, Sheikhupura, a motorcycle rider was arrested with 5 kg of hashish and 1 kg of opium.

Another 900 grams of hashish was recovered from a vehicle near University Road, Peshawar, and a suspect was apprehended. Meanwhile, 195 kg of opium was recovered near Aghberg, District Quetta.

Cases have been registered under the Control of Narcotic Substances Act (CNSA), 1997, and further investigation was underway.



PM Sharif confers with UN chief on Mideast peace and global crises



Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met UN Secretary-General António Guterres Friday and discussed major regional and global challenges, stressing Pakistan's belief in dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts, particularly in the Middle East.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York, now in its third day.

According to a press release, during a wide-ranging exchange of views, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed Pakistan's “unwavering support” for Palestinian statehood and self-determination.

He raised concerns regarding terrorism originating from Afghan soil and the rise of Islamophobia globally.

The prime minister also expressed gratitude to the UN chief for acknowledging Pakistan's ongoing contributions to international peace, security, and sacrifices made in counterterrorism efforts.

The UN chief, whose second five-year term expires at the end of this year, is expected to visit Pakistan next month.

Pakistan Calls for Greater Investment in Animal Health to Prevent Pandemics

News Desk

ROME: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain has called for greater international investment in animal health, disease surveillance and One Health systems to prevent future pandemics.

Addressing a high-level session at FAO Headquarters, he said pandemic prevention must begin by addressing risks at the human-animal-environment interface and strengthening early detection and response systems.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's One Health challenges arising from its large livestock population, close human-animal interactions, population mobility and climate-related shocks. He said animal health was closely linked to food security, rural livelihoods and public health.

Rana Tanveer said Pakistan had received about \$18.7 million from the Pandemic Fund, supported by \$4.1 million in co-financing and \$49.7 million in co-investment. He highlighted progress including an operational National One Health Secretariat and coordination units in five regions.



KP government ‘deliberately evading’ constitutional duty to maintain law & order, says Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Friday accused the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government of deliberately evading its constitutional duty to maintain law and order, alleging it was acting as a “facilitator for terrorists” rather than confronting them.

Calling law and order a provincial subject, Tarar questioned why a provincial government with full territorial control would choose inaction against militancy. He alleged a “political-terror and crime nexus” tied to illegal mining and timber trade, claiming provincial politicians were funding terrorist networks through illegal contracts.

Tarar said PTI had neither condemned terrorists operating in the province nor taken action against them, and criticized party leaders for not visiting Kurram after security forces came under cross-border attack, calling this “cowardice” that amounted to facilitating terrorism. He linked this to PTI's decision to call off its planned long march to Islamabad, citing lack of preparation.

He cited 2,436 terrorist attacks in KP during 2026 alone—about 10 daily—resulting in 472 law enforcement personnel killed and roughly 1,500 injured, arguing the provincial government's inaction “cannot be justified.” He said only security forces stood firm during the Kurram and Kohat incidents while the provincial government “ran away,” recalling a Kohat visit where an injured person vowed residents would fight terrorists themselves.

Tarar also criticized KP's recent police legislation, alleging it politicizes the police rather than reforming it, turning it into a facilitator for terrorism. He affirmed law enforcement's commitment to counterterrorism and urged PTI to stop facilitating terrorists “financially and morally.”

