



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے محمد بن من نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا
کہ مجھ سے میرے والد نے بیان کیا، انہوں
نے کہا ہم سے سعید بن ابی سعید نے بیان کیا
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کہ میں نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے
سنائی کہ محمد صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جسے
پہنچے کہ اس کی روزی میں فراتی ہو اور اس
کی عمر و زاری جائے تو وہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی کیا کرے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5985)
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US President Donald Trump said the suspects had been looking to do “big damage”

British counter terrorism detectives leading the investigation said police had received a call about three suspicious vehicles which appeared to be travelling towards RAF Fairford in the west of England in the early hours of Sunday. Five men were arrested by armed officers and later held on suspicion of preparation of a terrorist act.



Iran warns it will hit US vessels across Indian Ocean in any new war

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps IRGC Navy deputy for political affairs Ali Mohammadi issued the warning on Saturday in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, saying Iranian forces would “undoubtedly attack and strike” US vessels and destroyers, including in the Indian Ocean, if another war broke out.

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Alhamdulillah

Navy submarine PNS/M Hangor conducts its maiden live weapon firing, successfully engaging a designated long-range target with an anti-ship cruise missile in the North Arabian Sea.



Photo: ISPR

Palestine official social media highlights PM Shehbaz Sharif's UNGA address on children

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The official social media account of the State of Palestine has drawn widespread attention by spotlighting Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's emotional tribute to the children of Palestine during his address at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During his speech, the prime minister delivered powerful and moving remarks addressing the devastating loss of young lives in the ongoing conflict, condemning the humanitarian crisis, and reiterating Pakistan's steadfast solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The prominent acknowledgment by Palestinian official account on X underscores Pakistan's consistent diplomatic



support and active voice for Palestinian rights on major international platforms.

The X handle quoted relevant excerpt from the prime minister's

speech, “For generations, Palestinians, particularly women, children, and the elderly, have been subjected to occupation, eviction, suffering, and death. Last

year, Mr. President, I had shared with you the heart-wrenching story of Hind Rajab, an innocent Palestinian girl who was brutally shot by Israeli soldiers. This year, another tragedy weighs heavily on our hearts, your heart, and the world's heart. This time, it is the deafening cries of the sobbing mother of eight-year-old Wafaa Akila, who embraced martyrdom in this senseless aggression. What should have been the first day of her school, alas, became the last day of her life. Does not a child born in Gaza deserve the same life and the same future and the same dream as a child anywhere else in the world?”

“The tragedies of Hind Rajab, Wafaa Akila, and countless others will echo through history as an indictment of our collective silence, failure, and inaction,” he added.

PTI's Long March Call “Fizzles Out”: Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar said Saturday that PTI's long march call has fizzled out, calling it another setback for KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi. Addressing a press conference with PM Coordinator Ikhtiar Wali Khan, Tarar said PTI was unprepared for the march and that Afridi had lost credibility within his own party.

He reiterated his description of PTI as the “B-team of TTP,” accusing the party of failing to condemn terrorism, and cited 2026 KP statistics showing over 4,600 terrorist attacks, 400 personnel martyred and 1,500 injured, alleging provincial inaction.

Tarar extensively praised PM Shehbaz Sharif's UNGA address,

PNS/M Hangor Conducts Successful Maiden Live Weapon Firing, PM Lauds Navy's Operational Readiness

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a major demonstration of operational readiness, Pakistan Navy's newly inducted submarine PNS/M Hangor successfully conducted its maiden live weapon firing in the North Arabian Sea, accurately engaging a designated long-range target with an anti-ship cruise missile.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf witnessed the firing, praising the submarine's combat power and emphasizing the strategic importance of enhancing subsurface capabilities for credible maritime deterrence.

The milestone underscores the Navy's commitment to maintaining a modern, combat-ready force safeguarding national maritime

frontiers and regional peace.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the Pakistan Navy and its leadership on Sunday, saying the pinpoint accuracy achieved against a long-range target testified to the exceptional operational preparedness, professional expertise and high combat capability of the Navy's submarine force.

According to the PM Office Media Wing, Sharif reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring complete readiness of the armed forces against any challenge to national security.

He also lauded the professional performance of Admiral Naveed Ashraf and all personnel involved in the induction and operationalization of PNS/M Hangor.

Pakistan Rejects Afghan Taliban Allegations Over Nuristan Violence

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected allegations by Afghan Taliban authorities linking Islamabad to recent violence in Nuristan, calling the claims baseless and fabricated. In a fact-check issued Sunday, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting denied any involvement of Pakistani security forces or intelligence agencies in the Nuristan clashes or elsewhere in Afghanistan.

The ministry also dismissed claims that Pakistan was recruiting or training former Afghan security personnel or facilitating Daesh or other terrorist groups in Afghanistan, noting no evidence—identities, documents, communications or forensic proof—had been provided. A video circulating on social media as alleged proof was also dismissed, with the ministry saying it showed unarmed individuals whose appearance and equipment did not establish any Pakistani connection.

Pakistan pointed to UN and other international reports documenting the presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, saying such linkage attempts could not obscure the security threats posed by militants operating from Afghan soil. Islamabad urged Afghan Taliban authorities to take credible, verifiable action against these groups and honour commitments that Afghan territory would not be used for attacks against Pakistan or other countries, criticising attempts to shift blame onto Islamabad.

Mohsin Naqvi Orders Intensified Crackdown on Cybercrime

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday directed the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to intensify operations against online financial fraud, harassment, digital blackmail and organized cyber-crime networks. During his visit to NCCIA Central Zone Headquarters, he inspected the complaints cell, forensic laboratory and investigation wing, reviewing the complete process from complaint registration to action against accused persons.

Chairing a special meeting, Naqvi ordered indiscriminate action against groups involved in online fraud, fake accounts and digital blackmail, stressing cyber-crime criminals must be brought to justice regardless of location. He directed authorities to strengthen response mechanisms for financial fraud complaints to secure victims' funds and trace suspects swiftly, insisting citizens should not wait months for progress.

He ordered case-by-case review of pending complaints, elimina-

tion of delays, and enhanced digital forensic capabilities through modern tools and specialized training, noting that new cyber-crime methods require modern technology rather than traditional investigation approaches.

Naqvi said NCCIA was being developed into a modern cyber police force, directing special priority for complaints involving

online harassment and exploitation of women and children. He emphasized protecting citizens' data, privacy and financial interests as a fundamental NCCIA responsibility, and called for more effective public awareness campaigns on emerging fraud methods.

The DG NCCIA briefed the minister on Central Zone performance and cyber fraud trends. DG FIA, IG Islamabad Police and other officials attended.



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250 گرام

Azad Kashmir PM prioritizes character building alongside quality education for youth

 **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani has said his government was committed to equipping the younger generation with quality education and skills while making character building a key priority.

Prime Minister Gilani made these remarks during a meeting with Mahmood Ahmed, Founder and Executive Chairman of the Character Education Foundation who called on him here today.

Principal Secretary Adnan Khurshid was also present on the occasion. He said that reforms in education sector with the support of the Character Education Foundation would be included in the government's 100-day plan.

Stressing the need to inculcate ethics and a sense of responsibility among youth, he said modern education alone was not enough for sustainable development.

The prime minister said, "Along with character building, educational institutions must focus on equipping the



younger generation with knowledge, skills, leadership qualities, social responsibility and a spirit of national service".

On this occasion, Mahmood Ahmed briefed the prime minister on the foundation's educational and training activities and its CLE (Citizenship, Leadership and Entrepreneurship) model, which, he said, promotes moral values, social responsibility, leadership and practical life skills alongside traditional education.

The prime minister appreciated the foundation's educational and training services.

Old book stall

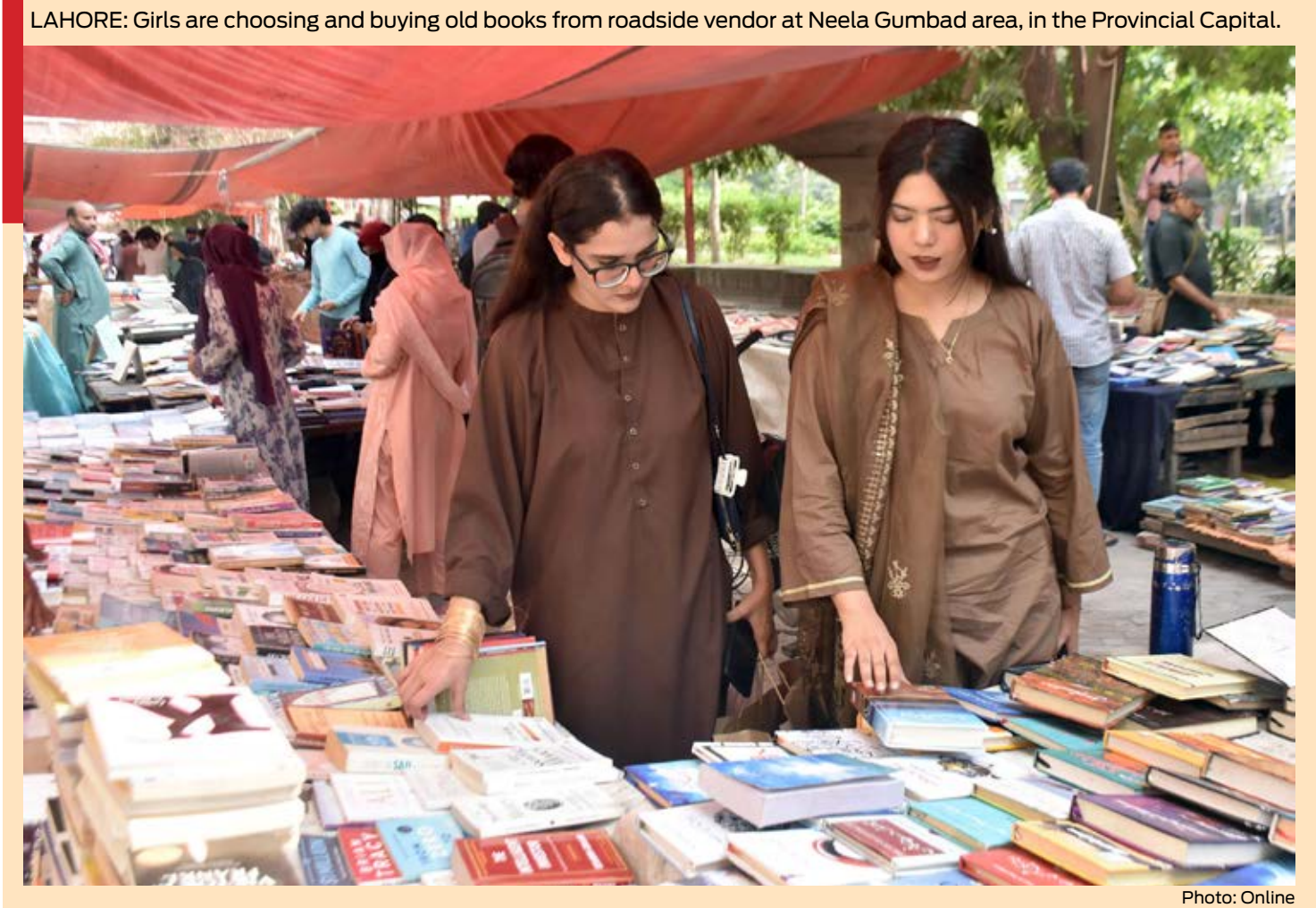


Photo: Online

Women University Multan Ranks Second Among Women’s Universities in Pakistan in UI Green Metric Rankings 2026

 **Iram Asim**

MULTAN: The Women University Multan (WUM) has achieved a distinguished standing in the UI Green-Metric World University Rankings 2026, ranking second among women's universities in Pakistan, 28th nationally, and 653rd globally with 6,597.5 points.

According to spokeswoman Miss Anum Zehra, the 2026 edition evaluated



2,016 universities from 110 countries.

Among women's universities, Fatima Jinnah Women University ranked 612th globally, followed by WUM at 653rd and GCWUF at 674th.

WUM performed well across seven categories: Setting and Infrastructure (725), Energy and Climate Change (1,300), Waste (625), Water (575), Transportation (1,297.5), Education (1,125), and Governance and Digitalization (950), with strong scores in Energy, Transportation and Education.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool said the ranking reflects WUM's growing international profile and collective efforts of students, faculty and staff, reaffirming commitment to sustainability, research and responsible resource management.

Kashmir Press Club delegation congratulates new AJK Assembly Speaker

 **City Report**

BHIMBER: A delegation of the Kashmir Press Club, led by

its President, Chaudhry Jameel Shafi, met Speaker of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Tariq



Farooq at the Pakistan Muslim League-Navaz (PML-N) District Secretariat in Bhimber.

The delegation included former Press Board of Governors member Nasir Sharif Butt, former presidents Chaudhry Jameel Malik and Shaukat Hussain, retired Tehsildar Raja Iqbal Inquilabi, Press Foundation member Chaudhry Atif Akram, Additional Secretary-General of the Kashmir Press Club Aftab Hussain Mirza, and Saeed Raj.

AJK PM Congratulates Newly Elected Office-Bearers of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Bureau Journalists Association

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir.**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Iftikhar Gilani has congratulated the newly elected office-bearers and members of the governing body of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Bureau Journalists Association (RIBJA).

The Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes to newly elected RIBJA President Syed Mujahid Naqvi, Senior Vice President Nusrat Abbas Shah, Vice Presidents Syed Asif Ali Hamdani, Farooq Ahmed, Muhammad Ishtiaq, Faisal Afridi and Mujahid Bhatti, General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Shafiq, Finance Secretary Haji Abdul Aziz, and the newly elected members of the governing body.

Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani expressed the hope that the new leadership of RIBJA would play its role in promoting responsible, constructive and positive journalism and work diligently for upholding professional journalistic values.



Senior Muslim Conference Leader Chaudhry Jameel Ahmed Tabassum Passes Away, Sardar Attique Condoles

 **City Desk**



RAWALPINDI: Chaudhry Jameel Ahmed Tabassum, senior leader of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and Chairman of the Overseas Investment Board, passed away today after a prolonged illness, having suffered a brain haemorrhage weeks earlier. His death has caused deep grief within Muslim Conference ranks.

Party President and former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan expressed profound sorrow, describing the deceased as a sociable, dignified and sincere political worker devoted to the party and the Kashmir cause. He highlighted Tabassum's valuable services in promoting the Kashmir issue and the Muslim Conference's position across the UK, Europe and beyond, noting he was widely respected for his good character and cordial nature.

Sardar Attique termed the loss a major setback for the party, saying his sincerity and commitment would long be remembered and the void left by his absence would be hard to fill. He prayed for the departed's elevation in Jannatul Firdos and for patience for his bereaved family.

Numerous party leaders, including Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jerall, Mehr-un-Nisa, Sardar Abdul Rashid Chughtai and others, also conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

Maryam Idrees hails PM’s Kashmir remarks at UNGA

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Member of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Maryam Idrees has welcomed Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's raising of the Kashmir issue during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The UN confirms that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the General Debate of the 81st session.

In a statement, Maryam Idrees said the Prime Minister had highlighted Pakistan's position on the Kashmir dispute and stressed that lasting regional peace and stability required its peaceful and just resolution. She said Pakistan had reiterated its support for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people and called on the international community to address the issue.

Maryam Idrees said Pakistan continued to raise Kashmir at international forums and urged practical steps in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. She described the Prime Minister's remarks as a message of continued political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry had identified Kashmir among the issues the Prime Minister was expected to raise at the UNGA.



Niaz Hussain Leghari Visits Zarwar Abdul Sattar Dars to Inquire After His Health

 **Bureau Report**

HYDERABAD: Zawwar Niaz Hussain Leghari, Secretary of the Religious Affairs Committee of the Auqaf Department at Roza-e-Masooma-e-Sindh, Agham Kot, visited renowned Sindhi researcher, author and religious scholar Zarwar Abdul Sattar Dars in Hyderabad on Sunday to inquire after his health.

He was accompanied by his son Ghulam Mehdi Leghari and other officials of Roza-e-Masooma-e-Sindh.

During the meeting at Dars' residence, the delegation was informed that he is suffering from a heart ailment and is expected to undergo bypass surgery next month. The delegation offered special prayers for his successful surgery and speedy recovery.

They paid tribute to Dars for his scholarly, research and religious contributions, particularly his extensive work highlighting the history and religious significance of Roza-e-Masooma-e-Sindh, the shrine of Bibi Khadija Maham (SA), and historic Agham Kot.

The delegation prayed for his complete recovery and long life to continue his scholarly and religious services.

Khanewal wins South Punjab’s First Indoor Double-Wicket Wheelchair Cricket Tournament

 **Quratulain Asim**

MULTAN: The South Punjab First Indoor Double-Wicket Wheelchair Cricket Tournament, organized by the Mainstream Association for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Sukh Development Foundation, has concluded with Khanewal winning the Championship Trophy after defeating Bahawalnagar in a thrilling final.

Teams from ten cities including Multan, Bahawalpur, Kot Addu, Muzaffargarh, D. G. Khan, Khanewal, Vehari, Bahawalnagar and Layyah participated. Winning and runner-up teams received cash prizes and trophies.

Distinguished guests included Kashif Minhas, father of international cricketers Sameer and Arafat Minhas, renowned surgeon Prof. Dr. Haroon Khurshid Pasha, Malik Anwar Ali (PML-N), and others. The event was supported by the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council and Pakistan Sports Association for Persons with Disabilities.

Speakers emphasized sports for inclusion of persons with disabilities. Mainstream President Nader Khan said the objective was to show that persons with disabilities can lead lives like anyone else if given opportunities.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:36 am
Zohr 11:59 am
Asr 4:15 pm
Maghrib 5:58 pm
Isha 7:21 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261070-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

National Assembly Speaker Congratulates Newly Elected RIBJA Office-Bearers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of the Rawalpindi Islamabad Bureau Journalists Association (RIBJA) for the 2026-27 term.

He felicitated President Syed Mujahid Naqvi, Senior Vice President Nusrat Abbas Shah, General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Shafiq, Joint Secretary Rizwan Tahir Chohan and other office-bearers, saying their election reflected members' confidence in their professional capabilities.

The Speaker expressed hope the new leadership would promote journalists' welfare, strengthen professional affairs and address issues faced by journalists in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

He highlighted journalism's role in democracy, public awareness and national affairs, noting that free, responsible and impartial journalism is vital for highlighting public concerns. He extended best wishes to the RIBJA leadership for their tenure.

Tourism Boosts Human Potential, Promotes Reflection and Contemplation: CM Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on World Tourism Day, paid tribute to all those committed to promoting tourism, saying Allah Almighty has invited mankind to travel across the earth and reflect upon His creation, with tourism helping develop human potential and promote contemplation.

She noted that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's recognition of Lahore as the Tourism and Cultural Capital this year was a welcome development, adding that Punjab possesses

tremendous tourism potential rivaling developed countries, with all possible resources being utilised for its promotion. She highlighted Punjab's historical, cultural and natural heritage as a global attraction, alongside sustainable measures to promote religious tourism.

The Chief Minister cited ancient forts, religious sites and picturesque valleys as key opportunities, noting the Murree Glass Train as a new attraction, alongside road expansions including Murree Mall Road, and the emergence of Kotli Sattian as a new destination. Maryam Nawaz said the govern-



ment aims to project Pakistan's positive image internationally through tourism, introducing the country's beauty to the world while creating employment opportunities and strengthening the local economy. She emphasised that tourist destinations across Punjab are being upgraded with modern facilities and rehabilitation, alongside sustainable initiatives for international promotion.

She concluded that tourism was creating economic opportunities for youth and local communities, and could prove to be a major milestone for Punjab's economy and culture.

Punishment

ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic warden moved on between the road divider after people wrong parked their vehicles along Margalla Road, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Team Pakistan Wins Gold at World Chess Olympiad 2026

Abdul Waheed Khan

SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN: Team Pakistan has won a gold medal in its category at the World Chess Olympiad 2026 in Samarkand, bringing recognition to the country's chess community.

The achievement reflects the players' talent, dedication and determination on the international stage. The performance was also hailed as a significant milestone for chess in Pakistan.

Pakistan Chess Federation (PCF) President Syed Zeeshan Naqvi was appreciated for his efforts to promote chess and provide Pakistani players with opportunities to participate in international competitions. Support for player development and greater exposure to global events has encouraged chess enthusiasts and competitors to pursue higher levels of performance.

Chess circles and sports enthusiasts congratulated Team Pakistan on the accom-



plishment and praised the players for their hard work and teamwork. They expressed hope that the success would encourage more young people

to take up chess and contribute to the sport's development across the country.

The gold-medal performance has been described by

supporters as a proud moment for Pakistan and a boost to efforts aimed at developing the country's chess talent and international presence.

Ahmed Zafar Wins Singapore Seniors Golf Title, Team Event with Brig (R) Omer Ijaz

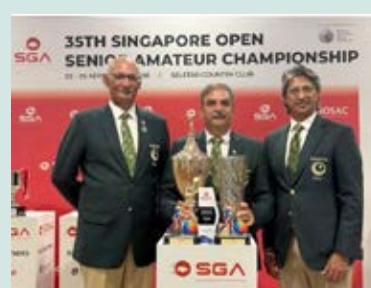
Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan's Ahmed Zafar Hayat clinched victory in the Singapore Seniors Amateur Golf Championship held at Seletar Golf Club from September 22-25, also winning the team event with Brig (ret'd) Omer Ijaz.

The competition featured senior players from 12 countries — Japan, USA, Malaysia, Myanmar, Hong Kong, India, Australia, UK, Austria, Singapore and Pakistan — in the 55-59 age bracket. The contest was tough, with each player at his best.

The Pakistan senior amateur team represented the country, and Ahmed Zafar Hayat and Brig Omer Ijaz brought laurels by winning the team title while Zafar Hayat also stood first individually, keeping Pakistan's flag high.

Credit was also given to Muhammad Abdullah for competitive play. Ahmed Zafar is from Lahore, while Brig Omer Ijaz and Muhammad Abdullah are from Rawalpindi.



DHO Islamabad Highlights Vital Role of Pharmacists



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: District Health Officer Islamabad Dr Syeda Rashida Batool attended a special event marking World Pharmacists Day 2026 as chief guest, organized by the Pakistan Pharmacist Association (PPA), Islamabad, AJK & GB, at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Held under the theme "Empowering Pharmacists for a Healthier Future," the event brought together pharmacists, healthcare professionals and representatives of professional organizations to highlight the profession's contribution to healthcare delivery.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Batool said pharmacists were an essential part of the healthcare team, with responsibilities extending beyond dispensing medicines to promoting their safe and effective use, providing medication-related guidance and improving patient outcomes.

She emphasized the need to empower pharmacists through professional development, capacity building, modern knowledge and stronger integration into healthcare teams.

Development works at Bibi Pak Daman Shrine, quality healthcare at Data Darbar Hospital must be ensured: Dr. Ehsan Bhutta

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has directed that ongoing Phase-II development works at Bibi Pak Daman Shrine in Lahore be completed



within prescribed timelines, while ensuring quality healthcare facilities at Data Darbar Hospital. During his shrine visit, he inspected progress on male and female Langar Khana, ablution facilities, window installation, plastering and basement concreting, with officials briefing him that the male Langar Khana's first-floor roof would be completed within 15 days. He directed officers and contractors to expedite construction while maintaining workmanship and safety standards, and offered Fateha at the shrine for the country's peace and prosperity.

Dr. Bhutta then inspected Data Darbar Hospital, visiting the Day Care Centre, Children's Ward, Medical Ward and Staff Hostel, reviewing medical care quality, medicine availability and cleanliness. He instructed the administration to maintain hygiene standards and ensure uninterrupted medicine supplies, urging resources be mobilized for prompt, compassionate patient care. He also planted a sapling as part of a plantation campaign, and later visited the Girls Vocational Training Institute, reviewing its learning environment and training facilities for students.

Weak Oversight Deepens Pakistan's Energy-Economic Crisis: Speakers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a roundtable on "Energy Security and Economic Challenges for Pakistan," organized by the Regional Insights Forum (RIF) on Friday, said Pakistan's energy and economic problems are increasingly viewed not as a one-off financial shock but as a recurring governance failure repeating with every change of government.

Speakers Prof. Dr Noman Sattar, Prof. Dr AZ Hilali and Dr Waseem Khokhar highlighted that power-sector circular debt stood at Rs1.84 trillion by end-June 2026, Rs221 billion above the IMF-agreed ceiling, while total public debt reached Rs83.3 trillion and external debt climbed to US\$137.6 billion by March 2026.



They identified a recurring pattern: successive governments negotiate IMF-backed energy-tariff and tax reforms, only for incoming administrations to delay or reverse them,

restarting the debt cycle. Weak regulatory oversight of distribution companies and independent power producers, overlapping federal-provincial mandates, and heavy reliance

on imported fuel compound the crisis. The human cost, they said, includes prolonged load-shedding, unaffordable tariffs pushing households toward unsafe energy sources, disrupted healthcare and schooling, and rising irrigation and fertilizer costs feeding food inflation, while industrial slowdowns squeeze job creation for young workers.

Speakers called for depoliticized tariff-setting, stronger regulatory independence, and targeted social protection for vulnerable households, urging the government to prioritize governance and political stability. Participants urged RIF to continue the discussion given its link to national human security and wellbeing.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
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Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
(jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone: +92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
Karachi Phone:021-33399390
Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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Access to Information: A Right Worth Defending in the Age of Disorder

Pakistan’s observance of the International Day for Universal Access to Information this year arrives with a theme that feels less academic than urgent: “Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age.” The framing acknowledges what most citizens already sense in their daily scroll through social media, that the challenge is no longer merely gaining access to information, but discerning which of it can be trusted.

This is a meaningful shift in emphasis. For much of the past two decades, the global conversation around access to information centered on breaking down barriers, opening government records, compelling institutional transparency, and empowering citizens against secretive bureaucracies. Pakistan’s own journey on this front is anchored in Article 19-A of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to information on matters of public importance, and institutionalized through bodies like the Pakistan Information Commission. These are not symbolic achievements; they represent real, if imperfect, mechanisms through which ordinary citizens can compel disclosure from public institutions.

But having a right to information means little if the information landscape itself is polluted. The proliferation of false and misleading content, amplified at a scale and speed no previous generation confronted, threatens to undermine the very trust that access-to-information frameworks were designed to build. It is one thing to have the legal standing to request a government document; it is another to navigate a digital environment saturated with fabricated claims, manipulated narratives and unverified rumor, often indistinguishable from legitimate reporting to the average reader.

This is why the government’s stated commitment to digitizing institutional records and strengthening communication channels between public bodies and citizens deserves genuine follow-through rather than mere acknowledgment. Digitization, done well, can make authentic information more accessible and harder to obscure. But digitization alone does not solve information disorder if the broader ecosystem, media literacy, fact-checking infrastructure, and institutional responsiveness, remains underdeveloped.

The responsibility here is necessarily shared. Government institutions must be timely and forthright rather than defensive custodians of information. Media organizations must uphold rigorous verification standards even as competitive pressures push toward speed over accuracy. Educational institutions have a role in equipping citizens, particularly young people, with the critical faculties to evaluate sources. And technology platforms, largely unaddressed in this framing, bear responsibility for the architecture that allows misinformation to spread faster than correction.

Pakistan’s commitment to this day should be measured not by the eloquence of official statements but by concrete indicators: how promptly information requests are honored, how transparent digitization efforts actually become, and whether public trust in institutions rises or continues to erode. An informed society is not built through declarations alone; it is built through the accumulated, unglamorous work of institutions choosing openness over convenience, year after year.

The World Refuses Washington and Netanyahu’s Distorted View

The confrontation at the United Nations exposed a widening divide: the United States and Israel’s leadership on one side, and a broad international rejection of their account of the Middle East conflict on the other. Washington and Netanyahu have constructed a narcissistic political worldview in which their fears command universal attention, their violence demands justification, and the suffering of others must remain subordinate.

They expect the world to see Gaza, Iran, and settlement expansion in the West Bank exclusively through their lens. The diplomats walking out as Netanyahu approached the podium delivered a blunt answer: the world cannot be ordered to see what they see, excuse what they excuse, or forget what they wish forgotten. Other nations can examine the destruction, hear the testimony, and reach their own conclusions. Military power cannot compel agreement, and repetition cannot turn a self-serving narrative into truth.

President Trump raised the prospect of annihilating Iran. Netanyahu defended Israel’s military campaigns, insulted departing diplomats, attacked Western governments, and berated the elected mayor of the city hosting him. Outside, protesters demanded an end to American arms supplies sustaining the destruction. Inside, Netanyahu demanded recognition of Israel’s right to defend itself while dismissing the objections raised against

its conduct. The contradiction could hardly have been more glaring.

Iran is a nation, not a target awaiting destruction. Its children, workers, teachers, and elderly people are not interchangeable with its government or military command. Threatening annihilation from a podium established to prevent catastrophic warfare mocks the institution’s purpose. What meaning does international security retain when the powerful threaten entire countries and then demand that everyone else demonstrate restraint?

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian answered with photographs of the dead: the assassinated Ali Khamenei and children killed at the Minab school. Washington accused Iran of terrorism; Iran’s president presented the victims of violence inflicted upon his country. Whatever judgement one makes about Tehran’s leadership, its children cannot inherit a death sentence because of their government. Their humanity requires neither American approval nor Israeli recognition.

Then came Netanyahu and his denunciation of the diplomats walking out as “moral cowards.” What courage, precisely, was he claiming? The courage to dismiss international condemnation? To ridicule

those refusing to applaud? The empty seats did not represent every nation, but they exposed the distance between his government’s self-justification and the judgement of many countries assembled before him. Insulting the audience could not answer the indictment.

Netanyahu’s international isolation is becoming a devastating indictment of his leadership. The International Criminal Court arrest warrant restricts his ability to travel to many countries, once-steadfast allies Britain, France, and Canada have imposed sanctions targeting Israeli settlements, and dozens of diplomats abandoned the chamber as he began speaking.

His government could purchase 500 billboards across Manhattan, but it could not purchase international legitimacy. Outside, protesters demanded an end to the weapons supplies sustaining Israel’s campaigns; inside, empty seats exposed the limits of his defiance. This is the humiliation of a leader who mistakes the capacity to inflict destruction for the authority to command respect. Calling his critics cowards cannot conceal the reality: he is leading Israel deeper into diplomatic estrangement while demanding that the world applaud the policies driving it there.

His attack on New York Mayor Zohran

Mamdani made that arrogance unmistakable. Netanyahu accused him of supporting Hamas, which Mamdani denied. A visiting prime minister has no mandate to supervise American democracy or dictate whom New Yorkers should elect. He may answer criticism, but his office grants him no authority over the city’s mayor. Americans owe a foreign leader neither political obedience nor silence. Friendship between countries cannot mean that American politicians become acceptable only when they satisfy the government of Israel.

Outside the United Nations, that criticism had a distinctly American voice. Protesters demanded an end to the arming of Israel and called for Palestinians and Iranians to be allowed to live. Police detained demonstrators, including actors Susan Sarandon and Hannah Einbinder, congressional candidate Darializa Avila Chevalier, and city council member Chi Ossé. These were people exercising their right to challenge policies supported by their own government.

Their presence shattered any convenient equation between Washington’s policy and unanimous American consent. Netanyahu could praise Trump inside the chamber; he could not make the dissent outside disappear. Americans are entitled to question where their weapons go, what their taxes sustain, and whether their country’s alliances advance peace or perpetuate destruction. No visiting

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Future Challenges for Academicians

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming education, research and academic administration. AI-based automated agents, including intelligent tutoring systems, virtual assistants, automated assessment tools and research-support applications, are becoming increasingly common in educational institutions. These technologies can improve efficiency, personalize learning and assist academicians in managing complex tasks. However, their growing influence raises an important question: How can trust in AI-based automated agents be established and maintained in higher education?

Trust is essential for the successful adoption of any technology. In academic environments, it becomes even more important because decisions related to teaching, assessment, research and student development can have lasting consequences. Academicians may hesitate to rely on AI systems when they do not understand how decisions are made or when systems produce inaccurate, biased or inconsistent results. Building trust therefore requires transparency, accountability and human oversight.

One major challenge is lack of transparency. Many advanced AI systems operate through complex algorithms that are difficult for ordinary users to understand. When an AI agent recommends a learning activity, evaluates an assignment or provides research information, academicians need to know why that recommendation or conclusion was produced. Explainable AI can help by providing understandable reasons behind automated decisions. Universities should encourage AI systems that allow educators to interpret and verify their outputs.

Accuracy and reliability are equally important. AI-based agents can process enormous amounts of information quickly, but speed does not guarantee correctness. Generative AI systems may produce

convincing but inaccurate information, sometimes known as hallucinations. In academic research, an incorrect reference, fabricated fact or misleading analysis can damage the credibility of researchers and institutions. Academicians must therefore verify AI-generated information through reliable sources before using or publishing it.

Another serious concern is bias and fairness. AI systems learn from data, and if that data contains social, cultural, linguistic or historical biases, automated decisions may reproduce them. This is particularly relevant for countries such as Pakistan, where educational conditions, languages and cultural contexts can differ from those represented in international datasets. AI tools used in Pakistani universities should be evaluated for cultural relevance and fairness so students and researchers are not disadvantaged.

Academic integrity presents another major challenge. AI can assist students in writing, research and problem-solving, but excessive dependence may reduce genuine learning and encourage academic dishonesty. Academicians should move beyond simply banning AI tools. Universities need clear policies defining acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI. Assessment methods should emphasize critical thinking, creativity, oral presentations, practical work and original analysis, encouraging students to become responsible users.

Data privacy is also central to trust. AI-based educational systems may collect information about students’ performance, behaviour, preferences and academic progress. If poorly protected, such information can create serious privacy risks. Universities must establish strong data protection policies, ensure informed consent where appropriate and clearly define who can access educational data. Academicians should also understand the risks of uploading research materials, student records or confidential information to external AI platforms.

Another future challenge is the changing role of academicians. AI is unlikely to eliminate teachers

and researchers, but it will change their responsibilities. Routine tasks may increasingly become automated, allowing academics to focus more on mentoring, critical thinking, creativity and research. This transition requires continuous professional development. Faculty members need training not only in using AI tools but also in evaluating their limitations, ethical implications and reliability.

Institutional leadership will play a crucial role in creating trustworthy AI environments. Universities should establish interdisciplinary committees involving academicians, IT experts, legal professionals and students to develop responsible AI policies. Regular audits, human review mechanisms and transparent reporting can help identify errors and prevent misuse. AI systems should support academic decision-making rather than replace professional judgment in sensitive matters.

For Pakistan, responsible AI adoption offers significant opportunities. AI can support students in underserved areas, strengthen distance and online education, assist researchers with data analysis and improve university administration. However, these benefits will remain limited if institutions lack digital infrastructure, trained personnel and clear ethical frameworks. Investment in faculty development, research capacity and digital literacy is therefore essential.

In conclusion, trust in AI-based automated agents will not be created simply by making systems more advanced. It will depend on transparency, accuracy, fairness, privacy, accountability and meaningful human oversight. Academicians must become informed users and critical evaluators of AI rather than unquestioning followers of automated recommendations. Universities that combine technological innovation with ethical responsibility can ensure that AI strengthens, rather than weakens, the academic mission. The future of education should be about using intelligent technologies responsibly to enhance human knowledge, judgment and creativity.

The writer holds a PhD in Media Sciences, Rawalpindi. Email: maliktariq.media@gmail.com



Analysis

Dr. T. M. Malik



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Regional Cohesion in AJK: All Three Divisions Represented at the Highest Levels

The three highest constitutional offices in Azad Jammu and Kashmir are held by representatives of its three divisions: President Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi of Poonch, Prime Minister Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani of Muzaffarabad, and Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq of Mirpur. Naqi, from Sadhnoti-Palundri, became the 25th president with 32 votes against Chaudhry Latif Akbar’s 13, filling the office vacant since Barrister Sultan Mahmood’s death in January. With more than three decades of political experience, he previously served as health minister from 2006–2011 and 2016–2021 and held education, IT, finance, and planning and development portfolios. His election was especially significant because security concerns prevented several Poonch constituencies from voting. Assembly members elected the president indirectly, unlike the phased July–August elections for the 53-seat Assembly; Speaker Farooq announced the result and Chief Justice Saeed Akram Raja administered Naqi’s oath in the presence of Gillani, Federal Minister Amir Muqam, and other dignitaries. Gillani, born in Muzaffarabad in 1980, became the 17th prime minister on August 28 with 30 votes against PPP’s Sardar Mukhtar Ahmed Abbasi’s 14. A SOAS graduate and Lincoln’s Inn barrister called to the Bar in 2005, he entered the Assembly through a 2011 by-election, retained his seat in 2016, served five years

as education minister, and returned on August 24 through a technocrat/professional reserved seat before receiving unanimous PML-N backing for the premiership. Farooq became the 16th Speaker with 32 votes against PPP’s Chaudhry Qasim Majeed’s 13, won from Bhimber against former prime minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, and previously served as senior-most minister, Public Accounts Committee chairman, Deputy Opposition Leader from 2016–2021, and minister several

times. Outgoing Speaker Chaudhry Muhammad Latif Akbar administered his oath, after which Farooq administered the oath to Deputy Speaker Ahmed Raza Qadri. The three are reported to be friends and colleagues, and their geographical distribution and prior experience have encouraged expectations of collaborative governance. The political setting remains challenging, however, with seven Poonch and Sudhnoti constituencies still unfilled because of security concerns, leaving 46 of 53 Assembly seats occupied and requiring completion of the electoral process, resolution of political grievances, and institutional normalization.

The PML-N’s dominance has facilitated the new government’s formation: of 38 directly contested constituencies, it won 25, PPP won 12, and the lone Awami Dast-o-Bazu MLA-elect joined the PML-N, giving the party 31 lawmakers in the 46-member Assembly excluding Speaker Farooq, compared with PPP’s 14. This majority

Continued on Page 7

 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	

New PTEA

Chief Demands

Reduction in

Production Costs to

Revive Investment,

Exports



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Newly elected Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) Chairman Rehan Naseem Bharara has demanded a reduction in rising production costs to revive investment and exports. Addressing the Annual General Meeting in Faisalabad, he said escalating costs were choking fresh investment, eroding competitiveness, and constraining export growth, urging an effective government strategy to restore industrial momentum.

Bharara cited heavy taxation, elevated energy prices, and high production costs as major challenges, noting the export sector has seen negative growth since the fiscal year began. He urged the government to redesign export policies to boost competitiveness and warned that increasing industry's cost burden could undermine export and employment growth.

Newly elected Vice Chairman Haris Yousaf stressed unity within the textile sector to push for economic consolidation and improved productivity, pledging the new leadership would pursue members' concerns at every forum.

Outgoing Chairman Sohail Pasha, presenting his annual report, called the government's clearance of outstanding refunds a positive step aiding liquidity, and praised exporters for withstanding economic pressures. Shields were presented to outgoing office-bearers, with many textile exporters attending the meeting.

Chairman Senate Emphasizes

Strong Partnership Between

Parliament and Business

Community for Economic Growth

Kiran Asim

KARACHI: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has stated that effective liaison and a strong partnership between the parliament and the business community are essential for the country's economic growth, the promotion of investment, and the stabilization of business activities.

The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani made these remarks while attending a luncheon hosted in his honor by Hamza Tabani, Chairman of the Tabani Group of Companies, at Tabani House in Karachi. Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi was also present on the occasion.

During the luncheon, detailed discussions were held on various matters, including Pakistan's economic future, the investment climate, business facilitation, and the role of the private sector in national development. Conversa-



tions also focused on further strengthening ties between the parliament and the business community and exploring new avenues for fostering economic growth and investment.

The Senate Chairman thanked Hamza Tabani for the lavish hospitality and appreciated the presence of prominent figures from the political, business, and financial sectors.

The event was attended by Members of the National Assembly Abdul Qadir Patel, Captain Asad Niazi, and Ikhtiar Baig; Senators Amir Waliuddin Chishti and Agha Shahzeb Durrani; and Member of the Sindh Assembly Jam Nawab. Prominent business personalities—including Aqel Karim Dhedhi, Ishtiaq Baig, Khalid Tawab, Rasheed Jan Mohammad, Hatim Tabani, and Atif Hanif as well as the CEO of Al Baraka Bank Amir Ali CEO Meezan Bank Babar Siddiqui and Paragon Construction, among others, also participated.

Banana arrivals

ISLAMABAD: Labourers unloading the bananas from truck at Fruit and Vegetable Market in the Federal Capital as supply chain becoming normal after PTI postponed its protest march.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

MEPCO Intensifies Crackdown

Against Electricity Theft

Commerce Desk

MULTAN: A comprehensive crackdown against electricity theft is continuing across the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) region, with MEPCO teams working alongside Rangers and police to detect illegal connections and take legal action.

MEPCO Chief Executive Jam Gull Muhammad Zahid said 2,750 electricity theft cases were detected during September 2026. FIRs were registered in 2,218 cases, while 1,053 cases were formally registered and 63 people arrested. Fines totaling Rs213.16 crore were imposed for theft involving 59.52 million units, of which Rs43.5 million has so far been recovered.



Chief Engineer Customer Services Syed

Jawad Mansoor Ahmed said operations were being conducted under the supervision of the MEPCO chief executive and Rangers commanders through surveillance, surprise inspections and evidence-based action.

During September 1-24, 337 electricity theft cases were detected in Multan Circle, while other circles, including Dera Ghazi Khan, Vehari, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar and Khanewal, also reported numerous cases.

Officials said the campaign would continue without discrimination and urged consumers to use electricity legally and report illegal connections or meter interference.

RCCI Urges FBR to Extend Tax Return

Filing Deadline Amid IRIS System Issues

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has called on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to extend the tax return filing deadline, citing severe technical problems with the IRIS online portal. RCCI President Usman Shaukat said heavy traffic has slowed the system significantly, making it difficult for taxpayers, practitioners, and businesses to submit

returns before the September 30 deadline.

He noted that uploading and submitting returns is taking considerably longer than usual, adding to stress and workload during the filing period's final days. Bank and institutional closures on weekends have further complicated matters, especially for taxpayers needing bank documents or certificates.

Shaukat said members and traders continue to report system glitches and

slow response times, stressing that taxpayers should not be penalized for technical issues outside their control. He urged FBR to promptly improve IRIS's performance and grant a deadline extension.

Citing past precedents where FBR extended deadlines under similar circumstances, Shaukat expressed hope the Board would adopt a facilitative approach in the interest of taxpayers and the wider business community.

Cotton Ginners Demand

Nationwide Campaign to

Save Cotton Economy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cotton

Ginners Association (PCGA) has called on the government to launch a nationwide "Grow Cotton, Save the Economy" campaign

and incorporate its recommendations into national policy. At its general body meeting in Multan, PCGA demanded closure of sugar mills in cotton zones, withdrawal of all taxes on cotton and by-products, abolition of sales tax on cottonseed and cottonseed cake, removal of fixed electricity taxes, industry status for ginning, and full implementation of the Cotton Control Act.

Sohail Mahmood Harl was elected unopposed as new PCGA chairman, pledging to fight for tax removal on cotton trade. UBG leader S. M. Tanveer noted Pakistan's GDP had fallen to \$450 billion amid declining

agricultural output and stagnant exports below \$30 billion.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted Pakistan's competitiveness gap, citing higher electricity costs than neighboring countries. Other speakers criticized excessive taxation and institutional corruption harming the sector, while one official noted improved cotton and cloth prices due to federation efforts.

Through unanimous resolutions, PCGA, FPCCI and industry bodies pledged joint efforts to revive cotton, calling it the backbone of Pakistan's agricultural economy.

Hyderabad Chamber

Office-Bearers

Declared Unofficially

Successful Unopposed



Muhammad Fahad Mian, Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui and Irfan Arbiani

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui, Muhammad Fahad Mian and Irfan Arbiani have been declared unofficially successful unopposed for the offices of President, Senior Vice President and Vice President respectively of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry for the 2026-28 term.

According to a notification issued by Secretary General and Returning Officer Furqan Ahmed Lodhi, the three candidates remained the sole contenders after other candidates withdrew their nomination papers.

The notification said candidates from the same group had initially submitted

nomination papers for different positions due to a mutual misunderstanding. Following consultation and resolution of the matter, Dr Muhammad Ismail Farouk Nami and Muhammad Kashif Sheikh withdrew their papers for the presidency, while Sikandar Ali Rajput withdrew his nomination for Senior Vice President and Muhammad Aslam Memon withdrew from the Vice President contest.

Consequently, Siddiqui, Fahad Mian and Arbiani remained the only candidates for their respective offices.

The final and official election results will be announced at the Chamber's General Body Meeting scheduled for September 30, 2026.

BMG Sweeps

KCCI Elections for

2026-28 Term

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Businessmen Group (BMG), led by industrialist Zubair Motiwala and contesting under the "Empower KCCI" banner, has secured a decisive victory in the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) elections for the 2026-28 term, according to provisional results.

The BMG-backed candidates secured approximately 90 percent of the votes cast in the Corporate and Associate categories, according to the KCCI Election Commission.

In the Corporate Category, Shahid Ismail of Premier Cables emerged as the leading candidate with 1,547 votes, followed by Zafar Saeed Baghpati, Aslam Pakhali, Faisal Jahangir and Ahsan Saleem, who each



received 1,537 votes.

In the Associate Category, Haji Asif Chaudhry and Amir Mansha jointly topped the results with 1,501 votes each, while Talat Mahmood secured 1,497 votes.

The election was held on September 26 with strong participation from the business community. The winning panel said the results reflected members' confidence in its leadership and agenda.

The newly elected Executive Committee is scheduled to assume office next month and is expected to focus on trade facilitation and business-sector issues.

Prevention is key to fighting rising heart diseases in Pakistan: Maj Gen (R) Prof. Muhammad Suhail Ameen

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA) organized an awareness ceremony for World Heart Day, highlighting the growing burden of heart diseases and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Pakistan. Chief Guest Maj Gen (R) Prof. Muhammad Suhail Ameen, Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University, stressed collective efforts, awareness and timely action for a healthier society.

PANAHA President Maj Gen (R) Masud Ur Rehman Kiani urged regular physical activity, healthy weight, avoiding smoking, reducing stress and adopting balanced diets, stressing reduced consumption of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats.

Health expert Munawar Hussain called for strong policy measures, particularly mandatory Front-of-Pack



Warning Labels (FOPWL), to help consumers identify unhealthy products and protect children and youth from NCDs.

PANAHA General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghumman highlighted progress toward FOPWL implementation, noting global adoption success, and reaffirmed PANAHA's commitment to working with government and stakeholders for stronger health policies.

Senior Executive Vice President Dr Abdul Qayyum Awan thanked participants and urged civil society to support PANAHA's efforts and evidence-based policies, including FOPWL implementation, to combat Pakistan's rising heart disease burden. Commandant AFIC-NIHD Maj Gen Nadir Khan also attended, expressing concern over the alarming NCD situation.

Sindhi Adabi Sangat Unity Day: Writers Vow to Foil Attempts to Divide Sindh

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindhi Adabi Sangat observed Unity Day and organized an All-Sindh Unity Mushaira at Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Baloch Hall, Sindhi Language Authority, vowing to foil attempts to divide Sindh and demanding elimination of fake branches.

Presided by renowned writer Madad Ali Sindhi with chief guest Muhammad Khan Abro, the event was hosted by Central Secretary General Ahmed Solangi. Guests of honour included Adal Soomro, Shabnam Gul, Dr. Mushtaq Phul, Taj Joyo, Abida Ghanghro and others. Speakers said Sangat is Pakistan's only organized, self-reliant literary organization, with writers publishing at their own expense and enduring imprisonment for Sindh's causes. Abro said he had no personal interest in elections and would sacrifice his life for Sindh's unity.

PTI's Long March Call 'Fizzles Out': Tarar

Continued from Page 1

highlighting his remarks on Palestine, Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein," condemnation of Islamophobia and Hindutva, warnings on the Indus Waters Treaty, and Makkah as Pakistan's "red line," calling it a statesman's speech.

He also criticized KP Assembly's proposed member privilege requiring prior permission for arrests, calling it a "political-crime nexus." Tarar ruled out governor's rule, advocating "Awami Raj" instead, and paid tribute to slain Captain Abu Zar Warriach, buried in Gujranwala.

Syed Babar Ali and the Forgotten Story of Institution-Building in Pakistan

Asghar Ali Tabassum

Syed Babar Ali's life offers a remarkable lesson in leadership, public service and institution-building. At nearly a hundred years of age, he remains intellectually active, optimistic and deeply committed to Pakistan. His recent conversation with Azam Jamil provides not merely reflections on the past but valuable lessons for a country facing institutional weaknesses, economic uncertainty and declining public confidence.

For many who have followed his career, Syed Babar Ali is best known for his role in building Packages Limited and for his contribution to the establishment of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). However, another important chapter of his life deserves greater recognition: his leadership of the National Fertilizer Corporation (NFC) during the 1970s.

The significance of his decision to lead NFC becomes clearer in its political and economic context. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's nationalisation programme had affected several businesses belonging to Syed Babar Ali's family. Nevertheless, when the government asked him to take responsibility for the newly established National Fertilizer Corporation,



he accepted the assignment. He became Chairman of NFC in February 1974 and devoted the next three and a half years to the organisation.

His commitment was substantial. Although he continued to live in Lahore, he later recalled that he visited Packages only once during his tenure at NFC. The decision demonstrated an important principle of public service: personal grievances should not prevent an individual from contributing to the national interest.

When Syed Babar Ali assumed charge, NFC was still a fledgling public-sector organisation. Its production base consisted of four fertilizer factories located at Multan, Daudkhel, Lyallpur—now Faisalabad—and Jaranwala. These plants could meet only a portion of Paki-

stan's fertilizer requirements. The government subsequently allocated significant resources for the expansion of domestic production, with approximately US\$500 million reportedly made available for new manufacturing facilities. Procurement was undertaken through competitive bidding and evaluation.

Under this programme, new fertilizer capacity was developed and a number of major enterprises emerged, including Pak-Saudi Fertilizers, Pak-Arab Fertilizers, Pak-American Fertilizers and Pak-China Fertilizers. These projects became important elements of Pakistan's agricultural infrastructure and contributed to the broader objective of reducing dependence on imported fertilizer.

The development of fertilizer marketing and distribution was another significant achievement. National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) was established in 1976 as an NFC subsidiary. Its objective was to develop an organised system for delivering fertilizer to farmers throughout the country.

This was a critical but less glamorous part of the agricultural supply chain. Fertilizer production alone could not improve farm productivity unless the product reached farmers at the right place, at the right time and at an affordable price. A nationwide dealer network was therefore developed to take

fertilizer closer to farming communities.

The NFC experience also illustrates the difference between creating an institution and preserving it. Over subsequent decades, NFC's fertilizer manufacturing plants were privatised. The corporation gradually lost the industrial assets that had originally justified its creation. Syed Babar Ali later expressed disappointment that although the board and chairman remained, the factories were no longer part of the organisation.

NFML, however, continues to exist as a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Industries and Production. Following the privatisation of NFC's production plants, it assumed responsibility for distributing imported urea through its nationwide network when required to maintain availability and help stabilise prices.

The later history of NFC raises an important question about Pakistan's institutional development. The country has often succeeded in creating organisations and launching ambitious projects, but preserving those institutions through political changes, administrative transitions and changing economic policies has proved much more difficult.

Syed Babar Ali's contribution to NFC is therefore significant because it represented a form of leadership different from his private-sector achievements. Pack-

ages was his own business environment, while LUMS emerged from a vision he helped develop. NFC belonged to the state. He entered an unfamiliar industrial sector, worked with public-sector professionals and managed substantial public resources with the objective of building national capacity rather than personal wealth.

When he resigned in 1977, the government's letter accepting his resignation recognised NFC's transformation from a fledgling corporation into an organisation actively implementing major projects aimed at moving Pakistan towards self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizer. His leadership and organisational abilities were specifically acknowledged.

A common philosophy connects NFC, Packages and LUMS: successful institutions require professional management, competent people, discipline and continuity. Syed Babar Ali has repeatedly highlighted Pakistan's shortage of capable managers and professionally managed institutions. His experience in NFC helped reinforce a belief that later contributed to his involvement in management education and the development of LUMS.

This philosophy remains relevant today as Pakistan considers agricultural productivity, food security, industrial

development and the performance of public-sector institutions. Syed Babar Ali has also continued to emphasise agricultural reforms, including quality seed, modern technology and an effective regulatory environment to improve farm productivity.

For those who witnessed the NFC expansion during the 1970s, the experience remains a reminder of what Pakistan was capable of achieving through professional leadership and institutional commitment. Lyallpur became Faisalabad, generations of employees retired, the fertilizer industry changed and NFC's manufacturing assets passed into private hands. Yet the central lesson remains relevant.

Pakistan's challenge is not simply to produce talented individuals; it is to create strong institutions that can survive beyond individual personalities. Syed Babar Ali's public service demonstrates the value of placing professional competence above patronage, national responsibility above personal grievances and long-term institution-building above short-term considerations.

His contributions to Packages, LUMS, education and industry rightly occupy an important place in Pakistan's history. But the story of NFC should not be forgotten. For those who witnessed even a small part of its development, it remains evide

The World Refuses Washington and Netanyahu's Distorted View

Continued from Page 4

leader can legitimately demand exemption from those questions.

His assault on Western governments followed the same pattern. Britain, France, and Canada had announced sanctions targeting Israeli settlements. Netanyahu accused their leaders of surrendering to antisemitic mobs. Measures directed at settlements became, in his telling, evidence of moral collapse. But opposition to settlement expansion does not constitute hatred of Jews. Antisemitism must be confronted; it cannot become a shield against

scrutiny of state policy.

Other responses were equally pointed. Qatar said Netanyahu's attacks diverted attention from responsibility for policies on the ground. Turkey's presidential communications director, Burhanettin Duran, said his accusations could not obscure Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe or international legal proceedings. The answer to criticism was accountability, not an expanding catalogue of enemies.

His treatment of settler killings illustrated the problem. The BBC reported his suggestion that perhaps two or three

people were killed annually, then cited UN figures recording hundreds of Palestinians killed in the context of settler attacks since the beginning of 2023. These are human beings, not inconvenient arithmetic. Minimising their deaths diminishes the violence confronting entire communities.

The pager display carried a menace beyond its reference to the operation against Hezbollah.

Before an institution dedicated to peace, Netanyahu brandished a reminder that communications devices could become instruments of assassination. The gesture could be read as a warning

to governments walking out or imposing sanctions: defy Israel and consider how far its reach might extend. Operations in Iran, Lebanon, and Syria gave that implied warning its chilling force. This was intimidation dressed as triumph—an exhibition of lethal capability that invited critics to contemplate consequences beyond the diplomatic chamber.

October 7 cannot provide permanent immunity from judgement. The murder of Israeli civilians and hostage-taking were atrocities. Their victims deserve justice. Palestinian children did not consequently lose

their rights. No atrocity authorises unlimited destruction, and no ancient religious promise can serve as a modern eviction order. Any vision of Greater Israel built upon Palestinian dispossession deserves rejection. That judgement concerns political domination, not Jewish identity.

Iran's nuclear programme also requires answers beyond slogans. Pezeshkian says Tehran was prepared to dilute highly enriched uranium and accept international verification. Those insisting upon war must explain why negotiated restraints cannot achieve their stated objective.

Americans deserve that explanation before more soldiers and resources are committed. Their country is not an inexhaustible military account for another government's ambitions. Every dollar consumed by destruction is unavailable for another public need.

The governments that walked out must likewise move beyond symbolism. Empty seats cannot feed children or protect families. Protest must produce action.

Washington and Netanyahu may insist upon their own account of this conflict. They cannot demand ownership of

everyone else's judgement. The dead, the displaced, and the bereaved remain visible beyond their carefully constructed lens. The walkout exposed the failure of their demand for unquestioning acceptance. The next test is whether the governments rejecting that demand will act with the courage their convictions require.

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

Regional Cohesion in AJK: All Three Divisions Represented at the Highest Levels

Continued from Page 4

enabled the PML-N to secure all three top offices without complicated coalition negotiations. Prime Minister Gillani also formed an eight-member cabinet—seven directly elected and one indirectly elected—comprising Raja Saqib Majeed and Dr. Mustafa Bashir Abbasi from Muzaffarabad, Sardar Mir Akbar from Bagh, Raja Riasat and Raja Umair Naem from Kotli, Waqar Noor from Bhimber, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq from Mirpur, and Birmingham-based businessman Chaudhry Abdul Rehman Arain from Kotli, elected to a reserved overseas-Kashmiris seat. Abbasi, Noor, Akbar and Sadiq are former ministers, while the others are new to cabinet, combining experience with new entrants and maintaining broad geographic representation. The eight-member size is notable because the previous PPP government had 20 ministers under an understanding with

the now-proscribed Joint Awami Action Committee, while the 2018 13th Amendment had limited the cabinet to 30% of Assembly strength, or 16 ministers, before that restriction was removed in June 2023; the smaller cabinet has therefore been associated with fiscal responsibility and administrative efficiency. Naqi's election also ended months of acting arrangements following Sultan Mahmood's death; although the constitution requires presidential election by a majority of the Assembly's total membership, the vote occurred while seven directly elected seats remained vacant. Gillani acknowledged the incomplete elections and said his government was seeking to hold polling soon, though no date had been announced. The JAAC, initially prominent over electricity prices and subsidized flour, had also challenged 12 refugee-reserved constituencies for Kashmiris living elsewhere in Pakistan, arguing that they give Pakistan-based

parties disproportionate influence; the Supreme Court ruled in June that the seats were constitutionally protected and could only be removed through constitutional amendment. The resulting tensions contributed to phased elections and postponement in the seven constituencies. Against this backdrop, the distribution of the presidency, premiership, and speakership among Poonch, Muzaffarabad, and Mirpur provides geographically broad representation, with Naqi connecting the presidency to Poonch, Gillani linking the executive to the capital division, and Farooq bringing Mirpur representation to the legislature, while federal and provincial representation from Amir Muqam and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has reinforced cooperation on development, public welfare, peace, order, and administrative support.

The personal friendships among the three leaders could

prove to be a valuable asset in navigating the inevitable challenges of governance. Political alliances built on genuine personal respect and shared vision tend to be more durable than those based solely on transactional calculations, and the fact that these three individuals are also deep friends suggests a level of trust and mutual understanding that can facilitate smoother coordination between the presidency, the prime minister's office, and the assembly speaker's office. Their relative newness to their current positions, while potentially a source of concern for those who value experience above all else, can also be an advantage in that they are less encumbered by the entrenched patterns of the past and more open to innovative approaches to governance. The description of them as not being from traditional cult politics is particularly telling in a region where personality-driven political movements

have often overshadowed institutional development. If these three leaders can succeed in establishing a more institutionalized and collaborative form of governance, they will have made a lasting contribution to the political maturity of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The warm reception that the new leadership has received from the people of AJK reflects a widespread desire for stability and effective governance after a period of political uncertainty and electoral challenges. The completion of the constitutional leadership structure with the president, prime minister, and speaker now in place has moved AJK into a new phase of parliamentary governance, and for a region that has experienced its share of political turbulence, this is a welcome development. The hope that the new government team will work more efficiently toward prosperity and betterment is not merely a platitude

but a genuine expectation based on the qualities and backgrounds of the individuals who have been entrusted with these high offices. Dr. Naqi's decades of public service, Gillani's legal training and ministerial experience, and Farooq's extensive parliamentary career all provide grounds for cautious optimism that the new leadership is equipped to address the pressing issues facing the region.

As the new government settles into office, the eyes of the people of AJK will be watching closely to see whether the promise of regional cohesion translates into tangible improvements in their daily lives. The challenges are substantial, including the completion of the electoral process in the remaining constituencies, the addressing of the grievances that led to the postponement of voting in Poonch and Sudhnoti, the management of the relationship with the federal government in a way

that maximizes benefits for the region, and the delivery of basic services and economic opportunities to a population that has high expectations. But if the new leadership can build on the foundation of regional cohesion that their tripartite representation represents, and if they can govern with the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect that their personal friendships suggest, then there is reason to believe that the coming years could mark a new chapter of progress and stability for Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The message that this sends to the rest of Pakistan is one of hope and possibility, that diverse regions can come together in shared purpose and that leadership can be both representative and effective. In a country that often struggles with regional tensions and political fragmentation, the example set by AJK's new leadership team is one that deserves attention and emulation.

Group photo

MOSCOW: Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization (D-8), Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Bakytzhan Sagintayev, and others pose for a group photograph at the Commission's headquarters in Moscow.



Photo: PID

71+ militants killed in Balochistan operations over 96 hours: ISPR

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's security forces killed more than 71 militants across Balochistan in a series of operations conducted over the past four days, the military's media wing, ISPR, announced on Sunday. The operations, based on intelligence reports, targeted hideouts of the India-backed Fitna Al Khawarij and Fitna Al Hindustan militant networks.

The largest action took place



in Shaban, Ziarat, near Quetta, where troops cleared multiple hideouts after intense gun battles, killing 33 militants and recovering large caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives. As operations intensified over the following 72 hours in the same area, 23 more militants were killed.

In a separate operation in Nushki on September 25, forces killed 11 India-sponsored militants after targeting another hideout. A further six Fitna Al Hindustan-linked

militants were killed during an operation in Mand, where weapons and ammunition were also seized.

ISPR described the operations as a major setback for India-backed Afghan proxies, noting that security forces had cleared significant territory and relieved local communities of the militant threat. Counterterrorism efforts will continue under the "Azam-e-Istehkam" campaign until the threat is fully eliminated, the statement added.

Lavrov Outlines Russia's Positions on UN Reform, Ukraine, US and Europe at UNGA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, speaking after the UN General Assembly's High-Level Week in New York on September 26, addressed several key issues. On UN Security Council reform, he said new seats should go to Asia, Africa and Latin America, not Western countries, which he called already overrepresented, and urged the incoming Secretary-General to represent all humanity impartially, not just the "golden billion."

On Ukraine, Lavrov denied any lack of trust from Russia's side, citing continued Istanbul talks and trilateral Abu Dhabi nego-



tiations with US participation, and blamed the other side for halting contacts.

He defended the Islamabad Memorandum as a fair, consciously signed deal worth revisiting.

Regarding the proposed Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity, he said no artificial deadlines were set, though the work shouldn't drag on given the continent's need for an externally-uninfluenced framework.

On US relations, Lavrov noted regular dialogue with the Trump administration as a sign of normality, while criticizing any approach demanding Russia's "strategic defeat." On Europe, he reiterated Russia has no intention of waging war, accusing Europe instead of preparing for conflict.

Pakistan to host SCO national coordinators meeting from today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host the first meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of National Coordinators (CNC) under its 2026-27 chairmanship in Islamabad from September 28 to 30, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday.

Pakistan formally assumed the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the 2026-27 term at the organisation's summit in Bishkek on September 1. It will host the next SCO Council of Heads of State summit in Islamabad in 2027.



The three-day meeting will be chaired by Pakistan's SCO national coordinator and attended by national coordi-

nators from member states as well as representatives of the SCO Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The coordinators will discuss the programme of activities under Pakistan's chairmanship, preparations

for upcoming SCO meetings and events, and other matters on the organisation's agenda.

Under its chairmanship theme, "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity," Pakistan has said it will focus on greater regional connectivity, innovation, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had earlier outlined priorities including information technology and artificial intelligence, energy, poverty reduction, disaster management, health, culture and sports during Pakistan's SCO chairmanship.

D-8 Secretary-General, Eurasian Economic Commission Chairman Discuss Economic Cooperation

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: The Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization (D-8) held a meeting with Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Bakytzhan Sagintayev at the Commission's headquarters in Moscow to discuss greater international outreach and opportunities for economic cooperation.

According to the D-8 Secretary-General, the meeting focused on the respective priorities and strengths of the D-8 and Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), as well as areas of common interest and complementarity.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance intra-bloc trade, regional economic cooperation and integration. They also agreed on strengthening mutual dialogue and developing a cooperative relationship between the two organizations.

The D-8 Secretary-General expressed appreciation to Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Faisal Niaz Tirmizi for facilitating the meeting and participating in the interaction.

The engagement was described as an important step towards expanding dialogue between the two regional groupings and exploring opportunities for closer economic and trade cooperation.

LHC Rules Money Laundering Cases Can Proceed Without Waiting for Tax Cases to Conclude

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Lahore High Court has ruled that money laundering is a separate crime in its own right, and the FBR does not need to wait for a person's income tax case to be fully decided before initiating a money laundering investigation.

The judgment was issued by a two-member bench comprising Justice Khalid Ishaq and Justice Hassan Nawaz Mahkdoom in Writ Petition No. 2928 of 2026 and related cases, which had challenged the powers of FBR's Directorate General of Intelligence & Investigation, Inland Revenue (I&I-IR). The Court dismissed all petitions.

The Court held that I&I-IR has full legal authority to register FIRs, investigate and prosecute under the Anti Money Laundering Act, 2010,

and that money laundering and tax cases are separate matters, with prosecution possible even without a prior conviction for the predicate offence. It ruled that the Anti Money Laundering Act, being a special law, takes precedence over general laws, and ongoing tax disputes cannot delay it. The Court also clarified that the Supreme Court's Taj International ruling applied only to sales tax matters and cannot block money laundering proceedings, while writ petitions cannot pre-emptively halt criminal investigations.

FBR said the ruling changes nothing for compliant taxpayers but strengthens action against those concealing illegal money, provided due process is followed. The case was pursued under the guidance of Director General (I&I-IR) Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui.

Pakistan Court acquits 7 more cops in 2018 killing of Nageebullah Mehsud

Bureau Report

KARACHI: An antiterrorism court in Karachi acquitted seven more policemen on Saturday in the 2018 staged-encounter killing of Nageebullah Mehsud and three others, extending a string of exonerations that began with former Malir SSP Rao Anwar. The ATC-VI judge cited lack of evidence after examining witnesses and hearing closing arguments.

The acquitted officers include two former station house officers, an assistant sub-inspector, two head constables and two constables. Prosecutor Anila Malik said over 40 witnesses had linked the accused to the crime, but defence lawyer Farzana Mateen argued none directly implicated them, citing contradictions and unproven participation in the alleged encounter.

Nageebullah was allegedly



abducted with two friends in January 2018 by Rao Anwar's subordinates and later killed along with three others in a staged encounter, then falsely labelled militants. A police inquiry had found Anwar and his team involved, but in January 2023 the trial court acquitted him and 17 associates on benefit of doubt, a ruling unchallenged by the state though appealed by Nageeb's brother. The present accused, absconders during the first trial, surrendered afterward and were released on bail in April 2026.

AI, technology offer new avenues to promote Pakistan tourism: PTDC MD

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director (MD) Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana has said that technology and artificial intelligence (AI) offer new and promising avenues for promoting Pakistan's tourism potential, particularly by engaging the country's youth in innovative ways.

Talking to APP on the occasion of World Tourism Day, he said Pakistan is blessed with some of the world's most beautiful natural landscapes as well as a rich historical and cultural heritage, offering enormous opportunities for the development and promotion of tourism.

He said this year's World Tourism Day theme, focusing on tourism and technology through artificial intelligence, highlighted the importance of embracing new technologies to transform the tourism sector.

Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana said PTDC is working with all stakeholders of the tourism industry and organizing various activities in connection with World Tourism Day.

Special attention was being given to Pakistan's youth and programmes are being introduced to encourage them to use AI and modern technology for promoting tourism.