



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
پہاؤ سے اور دوسری طرح کی خرید و فروخت
سے منع فرمایا تھا۔ اشتیال صماء اور ایک
کپڑے میں اس طرح احتیاد کرنے سے کہ
انسان کی شرمگاہ کوئی چیز نہ ہو اور عااست
اور متابعت سے۔ اس روایت کی متابعت
معمر، محمد بن ابی حفصہ اور عبد اللہ بن بدیل
سے زہری سے کی ہے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6294)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**

KP Governor Warns Governor's Rule Possible if Situation Worsens
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said a war-like situation prevails in the province and that Governor's Rule could be imposed if it deteriorates further. Speaking during doctors' protest at Khyber Teaching Hospital, he said he has no personal desire to impose it, but would act if the President advised.



AJK PM Orders Early Launch of Digital Portal for Online Public Services

AJK Prime Minister Barrister Mftikhar Gillani has directed authorities to operationalise the official AJK Digital Portal at the earliest, aiming to make services easy, fast and transparent. The platform will cut paperwork and office visits, offering services online to residents and the global AJK diaspora.

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Called on

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of the U.S. Afghanistan War Commission, led by Co-Chairs Shamila N. Chaudhary and Dr. Colin F. Jackson, calls on Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.



US Afghanistan War Commission delegation calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of the U. S. Afghanistan War Commission, led by Co-Chairs Shamila N. Chaudhary and Dr. Colin F. Jackson, called on Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.

According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the delegation is reviewing the United States' 20-year engagement in Afghanistan. Discussions covered matters of mutual interest, including Pakistan's support, the regional security environment and develop-

ments in Afghanistan, with a focus on perspectives relevant to the Commission's work.

The Field Marshal shared Pakistan's perspective on the security dynamics that shaped the conflict and highlighted the challenges Pakistan faced during the prolonged war in Afghanistan. He stressed the importance of incorporating the regional perspective and Pakistan's experience when assessing the strategic, diplomatic and operational dimensions of the conflict.

The delegation acknowledged Pakistan's longstanding role and sacrifices during the conflict and appreciated its continued contribution to regional peace and stability.

US, Iran may hold separate talks with mediators today

Reuters

NEW YORK: Qatari mediators are expected to hold talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi in New York, and separately with the US side, on Monday or Tuesday, an official briefed on the negotiations told Reuters. The effort is a fresh push to end the war. Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency confirmed that Araqchi would meet the mediators on Monday morning, New York time, to examine the latest proposals and views on the current situation.

The talks are expected to focus on an amended version of a seven-day proposal Iran presented last week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Araqchi remains in New York after attending the Assembly. It was not immediately clear who would represent the US.

Under Iran's plan, all hostili-



ties in Iran and Lebanon would end, billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets would be released, sanctions on Iranian oil would be lifted, and the US blockade on Iranian ports would end. Tehran would then allow the Strait of Hormuz to reopen, and the two sides would resume talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he had rejected the proposal, arguing that Tehran wants a swift deal because of severe economic pressure. He told Axios on Sunday, however, that he expected US negotiators to engage in further talks this week.

Araqchi said mediators had not formally conveyed a US rejection and that Iran was awaiting Washington's definitive position. He added that reopening the Strait of Hormuz depends on Iran's conditions being met, and that only a negotiated solution can end the impasse.

Emergency in KP possible if constitutional requirements met: Azam Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Monday that an emergency could be imposed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa if circumstances met the requirements laid down in the Constitution.

"The Constitution is very clear regarding the imposition of an emergency," the law minister said.

Tarar said that if circum-

stances arose in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa requiring such a step under the Constitution, an emergency would be imposed.

"If the constitutional requirements are met, then this will certainly take place," he added.

His remarks came amid intensified criticism by federal ministers of the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government over its handling of terrorism and the security situation in the province.

Cabinet committee approves amendments to FIA Act, PPC and Civil Servants Act

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on the Settlement of Legislative Affairs approved proposed amendments to several key laws, including the Federal Investigation Agency Act, Pakistan Penal Code and Civil Servants Act, during a meeting chaired by Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar.

According to an official statement, senior officials from the relevant ministries, departments and divisions attended the meeting.

The committee reviewed various legal and administrative matters placed before it and directed the ministries concerned to incorporate required amendments and recommendations.

It approved proposed amendments to the FIA Act, 1974, subject to the inclusion of the

committee's recommendations and necessary modifications.

The committee also approved proposed amendments to the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, subject to necessary changes and recommendations.

Proposed amendments to the Civil Servants Act, 1973, were also approved subject to the incorporation of required modifications.

The committee, however, deferred consideration of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

It also approved proposed amendments to the Immigration Rules, 1979.

Meanwhile, a proposal to increase fines for overloading under the National Highway Safety Ordinance, 2000, was withdrawn, according to the official statement.

Four terrorists killed in Dera Ismail Khan intelligence-based operation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed four terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, security sources said.

According to the sources, security forces closely monitored the movement of the terrorists before targeting them during the operation.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and Afghan currency was recovered from the slain militants, the sources added.

Security officials said operations against terrorism were continuing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the government's Azm-e-Istehkam framework. Pakistan's government has repeatedly said it remains

committed to eliminating militant groups operating in the country.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the security forces for the operation and commended their professional capabilities.

Naqvi said the security forces had foiled what he described as the designs of "Indian-sponsored terrorists". The allegation reflects the Pakistani government's stated position and was not independently verified in the information available for this report.

He said operations against militants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would continue under Azm-e-Istehkam.

"The entire nation stands with the security forces to eliminate the scourge of terrorism," Naqvi said.

Indian delegation in Islamabad to attend SCO Coordinators' Meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of National Coordinators from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states has begun in Islamabad, with an Indian delegation arriving in Pakistan to participate in the meeting, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Monday.

This visit marks the arrival of any Indian delegation in Pakistan during the two years.

India's National Coordinator Alok Amitabh Dimri is leading the Indian delegation, while Pakistan's National Coordinator is chairing the meeting.

Sources said matters relating to cooperation and coordination among SCO member states will be discussed during the meeting.

The SCO summit is scheduled to be held in Pakistan next year.

Tarar demands year-wise account of KP counterterrorism funds, criticises PTI govt



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has demanded a year-wise account of the funds allocated to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the NFC framework for counterterrorism, questioning how they were used amid continuing security challenges. He spoke at a press conference alongside Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry.

Tarar asked why Safe City surveillance systems and a forensic laboratory had not been set up in the province, forcing samples to be sent to Lahore. He also questioned the continued use of unregistered and non-custom-paid vehicles, saying a proper registration

system could help trace vehicles used in attacks, including VBIEDs. He said the federal offer of bullet-proof vehicles had not been accepted and asked whether police had adequate protective gear and modern weapons.

He said that despite about 12 and a half years in power, the PTI-led government had failed to take ownership of counterterrorism or create a Counter Terrorism Department like Punjab's. He criticised Chief Minister Sohail Afridi for prioritising political activities and questioned the province's response to drone activity and firing from Afghanistan. He also linked illegal mining, timber and related activities to a political-terror-crime nexus.

Tarar praised Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti's approach, opposed provincial authority to recruit DSPs directly, and called for a coordinated national response involving the federal government, armed forces and political parties.

AJK PM Gilani vows strict implementation of 100-Day Plan to improve governance and service delivery

 **Bureau Report**

BHIMBER: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani has said the government's 100-day plan will be implemented to improve over-all governance and service delivery and to address public grievances. He was speaking at a meeting attended by Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq.

The meeting reviewed in detail the performance of various departments, including education, health, electricity and roads. Officers briefed the Prime Minister on ongoing development projects and their progress.

Gilani reiterated that his government's top priority is to provide relief to the common man and resolve public problems at their doorsteps. He directed officers to keep the doors of government offices open to the public, treat visitors with courtesy, and listen to and address their problems on a priority basis. He warned



that people should not face unnecessary hurdles or delays in government offices, and said all institutions must improve their performance so that the benefits of government initiatives reach people directly.

He described governance, institutional performance, quality of public facilities and service delivery as key priorities, and urged the government machinery to play its full role in implementing policies and the public

welfare agenda.

The Prime Minister also directed the authorities to ensure timely completion of projects, resolve public problems and make effective use of available resources.

Preparation for winter

ISLAMABAD: A worker arranging quilts at his workplace as the weather starts becomes change, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

AJK PM Gilani Calls Danish School System a Landmark Step for Quality Education

 **Bureau Report**

BHIMBER: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani has described the establishment of the Danish School System in AJK as a landmark initiative that will greatly improve educational opportunities for children across the territory. He made the remarks after inspecting the under-construction Danish School in Bhimber.

The Prime Minister thanked Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for establishing five Danish Schools in AJK, saying they will give middle-class children a modern learning environment. He said the government will continue taking steps to further improve the education sector and provide quality facilities to the



younger generation.

Gilani also acknowledged Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq for his significant contribution to setting up the Bhimber school. He called for timely reso-

lution of the problems of residents living near the school and directed the authorities to assess their needs and act accordingly.

During the visit, he was briefed on the project and informed that 86

percent of construction is complete, with teaching set to begin by next February.

Speaker Tariq Farooq and ministers Col (retd) Waqar Noor, Saqib Majeed and Umair Naeem were present.

Grow Green Network and NDF Urge SBP to Launch Concessional Financing for EVs

 **Bureau Report**

NAWABSHAH: Grow Green Network, Indus Consortium and National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) have called on the State Bank of Pakistan to introduce a special concessional financing policy for electric vehicles (EVs) and reduce reliance on imported gas-fired power plants.

The demand was made at a public forum titled "Freedom from Imported Fuels: Energy Security and Clean Mobility" held in Nawabshah, attended by policymakers, bankers, energy experts and civil society.



Speakers including Abid Lashari, Rafiq Ahmed Bular and others said

disruptions in imported RLNG supplies and rising fuel prices have pressured power generation and transport.

They urged affordable EV loans, support for converting motorcycles and rickshaws to electric, special financing for university students especially females, and expansion of renewable-powered charging infrastructure.

The forum also urged reviewing RLNG plants, tackling Rs. 1.67 trillion circular debt, and investing in solar, wind, battery storage and grid modernization to make electricity affordable and ensure energy security.

AJK PM Iftikhar Gilani Receives Rousing Welcome on Maiden Visit to Bhimber



 **Bureau Report**

BHIMBER: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani paid his first visit to Bhimber city on Monday at the invitation of Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, and was warmly received by local residents.

On arrival, he was welcomed by Speaker Farooq, along with assembly members Chaudhry Rukhsar Ahmed and Chaudhry Razaq, and Raja Babar Ali Zulgarnain and Raja Maqsood. Earlier, he was given a grand reception at the Jatlan entry point, Dheri Watan and Bab-e-Kashmir bridge, where enthusiastic Pakistan Muslim League (N) workers raised slogans in his favour and showered him with flower petals. Gilani thanked party workers, officials and the public for their warm welcome.

He was accompanied by ministers Colonel Waqar Ahmed Noor, Saqib Majeed and Advocate Umair Naeem, former minister Mushtaq Minhas, Chaudhry Mohsin Aziz, members of the executive council and others.

PTI's Bukhari calls Afridi's new long march date an effective strategy, dismisses rumours

 **Raaza Naqvi**



ATTOCK: PTI Member of the Punjab Assembly Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's decision to announce a new date for the long march is an effective political strategy. Speaking to the media in Attock, he described the party's protest as part of a peaceful democratic struggle to raise public issues and demand political rights.

He urged party workers to stay calm, avoid provocation, and continue their activities within the bounds of the Constitution and law, saying political issues can be resolved through dialogue and tolerance.

Bukhari called on the government to take serious and positive steps to ease public hardship, remove blockades and restore normal life. He expressed concern over the closure of educational institutions and the disruption of routine activities, and asked for measures to minimise inconvenience to citizens.

Addressing rumours surrounding the postponement of the protest, he dismissed claims that Imran Khan had decided to remove Afridi as chief minister, saying no confirmed decision or official announcement had been made. He also termed reports of governor's rule and changes in party leadership as rumours, adding that any such decision would be credible only when formally announced by the competent party leadership.

PM urged to highlight Kashmir issue at UN, expose Indian Terrorism: PMML

 **Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) President Khalid Masood Sindhu has urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to prominently highlight the Kashmir issue during his address to the UN General Assembly and present Pakistan's stance on terrorism and regional peace.

He said Pakistan wants peace and has suffered heavily from terrorism for many years, alleging India-backed terrorism has caused serious losses, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and called for presenting evidence before the world.

Sindhu said Pakistan made major sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and the international community should recognize its efforts.

He also urged the PM to highlight Kashmiris' right to self-determination, reiterating Kashmir's vital importance to Pakistan, and to raise voice against Israeli atrocities in Palestine.

PHEC Chairperson's Wife Laid to Rest in Shahkot Amid High-Profile Attendance

 **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Scores of people attended funeral prayers of the wife of Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairperson Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan on Sunday in Wapda City at Faisalabad. She had died on Saturday. She was the elder sister of Sahiwal RPO Rana Ayaz Saleem. Later, she was buried in Shahkot, Nankana Sahib.

Quran khawani for her was hld on Monday at 4 pm in Jamia Mosque, Wapda City, Faisalabad. Among those who participated funeral prayers were also Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan, PM's Special Assistant Rana Ihsan Afzal, former HEC chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, RPO Sheikhpura Athar Ismail, and Vice Chancellors of Government College University Lahore Prof Dr Umar Choudry, UAF Dr Vice Chancellor Zulfikar Ali, Arid University Rawalpindi Vice Chancellor Dr Qamar Zaman, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University Multan Vice Chancellor Dr Asif Ali and Kamalia University Vice Chancellor Dr Yasir Nawab.

SKANS School of Accountancy Honors Top Intermediate Achievers in Multan

 **Quratulain Asim**

MULTAN: The SKANS School of Accountancy held a ceremony to honor students who secured outstanding positions in the Intermediate examinations. Students, parents, teachers and guests attended, with columnist and Sitara-e-Intiaz recipient Shakir Hussain Shakir as chief guest.

Principal Habibullah said the students' success reflected their hard work and their teachers' guidance, and advised them to choose careers based on their interests, aptitudes and the demands of the modern era. He stressed that Accounting and Finance offer vast employment opportunities in business, banking, industry and the corporate sector.

Accounting educationist Muhammad Yousuf Siddiqui urged students to look beyond traditional professions and seriously consider Accounting, Finance and Business. Shakir Hussain Shakir congratulated the achievers and said practical skills, discipline and perseverance must accompany academic success. Calling youth a nation's most valuable asset, he said acquiring professional and contemporary skills is indispensable in an era of advanced technology and AI.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:37 am
Zohr 11:59 am
Asr 4:14 pm
Maghrib 5:57 pm
Isha 7:20 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police
Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886

**PSCA
Detects 1,038
Environmental
Violations in
Three Days,
Issues 1,277
E-Challans in
Anti-Smog Drive**

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In line with the Chief Minister's vision for curbing smog, the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has intensified its technology-driven crack-down on activities contributing to air pollution. Over the past three days, AI-based cameras, video analytics, drone surveillance and virtual patrolling detected 1,038 violations, leading to 1,277 e-challans and other legal and administrative actions.

According to a PSCA spokesperson, 519 vehicles carrying uncovered construction material were detected, resulting in 301 challans and 118 warnings. Action was also taken against 405 smoke-emitting vehicles, with 295 challans and 66 warnings issued.

Sixty-three cases of barbecue smoke and chimney emissions led to 44 warnings. Of 29 brick kiln violations, one drew a fine and six warnings. Eleven industrial emission cases resulted in seven warnings, while eight incidents of waste burning and three of crop-residue burning were also identified.

The spokesperson said the 43 Smart Safe City Centers across Punjab continuously monitor and track environmental violations, strengthening efforts to improve air quality.

Access to Information is the foundation of a better democratic society: CM Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister



Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the right to accurate and timely information is the foundation of a better democratic society. In a special message on the International Day for Universal Access to Information, she said access to information is essential for transparent governance, public trust and better decision-making.

She said accurate and timely information empowers citizens, strengthens trust between the public and the government, and makes decision-making more trans-

parent. Access to information, she added, is a fundamental right of every citizen and the foundation of an empowered society.

The chief minister said the Punjab government fully upholds transparency, accountability and citizens' right to information. Ensuring transparency in government affairs and making institutions accountable to the public are among its foremost priorities. She noted that corruption can be effectively curbed through free and transparent access to information, which is indispensable for

accountability and good governance.

Maryam Nawaz said the Punjab government is using modern technology to give citizens immediate and easy access to official information, and is taking practical steps to ensure public facilitation, transparency and merit.

She said the objective of Digital Punjab is to bring information and government services to citizens' doorsteps, adding that informed citizens can make better decisions and contribute to building a stronger society.

Illuminating underpass

ISLAMABAD: Margalla Enclave Underpass on Park Road has begun attracting public attention not only for easing traffic movement but also for its illuminated interior and colourful artwork, with commuters stopping to photograph the newly developed facility, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Commissioner Multan Reviews Rs4.5 Billion Multan-Lodhran Road Project, Orders Faster Work

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Kareem Khan visited the 62-kilometer Multan-Lodhran road project, currently under construction, to review progress. Officials briefed him on various road sections, the road base, construction materials and the status of associated structures.

The project is being built at a cost of Rs4.5 billion and is scheduled for completion by January 2027.

The Commissioner directed that construction be accelerated without any compromise on quality. He instructed that work on associated structures, service roads and drainage systems proceed alongside the main road, and said the project



must be finished within the stipulated timeframe with strict quality standards.

He also ordered the immediate relocation of Sui gas lines,

electricity poles and PTCL optical fiber lines to suitable locations along the route.

Khan said that once the road is complete, travelers will

be able to reach Lodhran from Multan in 45 minutes, with the onward journey from Lodhran to Bahawalpur taking another 25 minutes.

CM Maryam Nawaz Welcomes PML-N Victory in NA-168 Bahawalpur By-Election

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed gratitude over PML-N's victory in NA-168 Bahawalpur by-election.

The CM congratulated Malik Munir Iqbal Chanarr on his win and thanked the people of the constituency for their confidence and support.

"The people of NA-168 Bahawalpur have endorsed the politics of development and public service," she said.

She said the by-election result reflects public confidence in the Punjab government's welfare projects and is tantamount to a referendum on its performance.

"The people have overwhelmingly endorsed and reaffirmed the government's initiatives in this referendum," she added.

DIG Ali Wasim holds open court in F-8 Markaz to address traders' and citizens' issues



Abdul Waheed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President Anjuman-e-Tajirani F-8 Markaz, Muhammad Saeed Khan Swati, appreciated Islamabad Police's open courts initiative for resolving traders' and citizens' problems at their doorstep. He said the initiative allows citizens to directly present complaints to senior officials, ensuring timely resolution and strengthening police-community trust. An open court was held at F-8 Markaz under Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ali Wasim, where Swati, traders and citizens participated and presented issues. Swati also praised DIG Ali Wasim's public-friendly initiatives and SHO Margalla Ali Imran's effective administrative strategy.

Swati Appreciates DIG Ali Wasim's Public-Friendly Initiatives

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Saeed Khan Swati highly appreciated DIG Ali Wasim's public-oriented approach, saying the presence of senior police officials among citizens, listening to their concerns and issuing immediate instructions was a positive development that provides relief and strengthens public confidence in police. He also praised SHO Margalla Police Station Ali Imran for his effective administrative strategy and efforts to address public concerns. Swati expressed hope that under DIG Ali Wasim's leadership, Islamabad Police would continue to prioritize traders' concerns, prevent crime and further improve law and order in the federal capital.

Artistic Services of Asif Iqbal Will Always Be Remembered: Shazia Rizwan, Asma Butt

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: MPA and Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan and Dolphin Communication CEO Asma Butt said late actor Asif Iqbal, popularly known as "Phaanaan," would always be remembered for his valuable contributions to the arts.



A condolence reference was organized by Dolphin Communication at Rawalpindi Arts Council, attended by a large number of artists from Rawalpindi and Islamabad. A special prayer was offered for the deceased.

Asma Butt said Asif Iqbal was a talented actor whose services would remain memorable. Shazia Rizwan said he earned a distinguished place through his artistic abilities.

Asma Butt expressed condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

Senate Chairman Gillani Lauds Business Community at REAP Luncheon; Free Eye Camp Announced for Multan

Kiran Asim

KARACHI: Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) Group Chairman Abdul Rahim Janoo, who is also CEO of Hina Rice Export Company, hosted a luncheon in honour of Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. Attendees included former Prime Minister Muhammad Mian Soomro, former REAP Chairman Malik Muhammad Jahangir, Senior Vice Chairman Jawaid Jillani, Tabani Group Chairman Hamza Tabani and other business leaders.

Gillani appreciated the business community's role in promoting economic activity, investment, employ-



ment and social development. He stressed the need for continued interaction among Parliament, the govern-

ment and the private sector to create greater opportunities for growth and public welfare.

Janoo briefed him on REAP's activities and contribution to the economy, and said the association's annual awards ceremony would be held later in the day. He also highlighted the business community's philanthropic work, particularly the Baba Farid Free Eye Camp in Pakpattan, which offers free check-ups, diagnostics, cataract surgeries, medicines and glasses.

Gillani urged that such services be extended to other regions and requested a similar camp in Multan. Janoo announced that one would be organized there, which Gillani welcomed, commending the business community for complementing government efforts.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
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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Pakistan’s Call in Abu Dhabi: Development, Justice and Shared Responsibility Against Crime

At the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Abu Dhabi, Pakistan’s Ambassador to the UAE, Shafqat Ali Khan, delivered a national statement that deserves attention well beyond the conference hall. It argued that crime cannot be fought by law enforcement alone, and that the tools of the twenty-first century cut both ways.

Ambassador Khan began by thanking the UAE for its hospitality, then turned to the changing nature of crime. Socio-economic inequality and underdevelopment, he noted, continue to feed criminality, while the misuse of digital platforms and artificial intelligence is opening frontiers that legal systems have barely begun to map. His answer was a renewed commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, recognising that development and the rule of law reinforce each other. Societies with opportunity and fair institutions are harder for criminal networks to exploit.

That diagnosis carried a practical demand. Developing countries need stronger international cooperation, national capacity-building, and real technical assistance and technology transfer. Without these, the gap between well-resourced states and everyone else becomes a gap criminals can use. Pakistan also stressed that emerging technologies must be developed and used in a safe, secure and responsible manner.

On narcotics, Pakistan spoke from experience. The Ambassador pointed to its long-standing counter-narcotics record, including major seizures and its poppy-free status. He voiced concern over a possible expansion of opium cultivation and synthetic drug production in Afghanistan, and warned of the deepening nexus between narcotics and terrorism, a link with serious consequences for regional security.

He also urged firmer global action on corruption, money laundering and illicit financial flows, with effective asset recovery and no safe havens for criminals. On human trafficking and migrant smuggling, Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to combat both, while observing that safe, regular and affordable migration pathways can undercut the smugglers’ business model.

Perhaps the most notable part of the statement was its concern over rising Islamophobia, racism and xenophobia. The Ambassador called for credible measures against hate speech, stronger legal protection for victims, and greater mutual understanding and respect. Hatred is itself a driver of violence and division, and it belongs on the criminal justice agenda. The Crime Congress meets only once every five years, which makes each edition an important moment to set direction. Pakistan’s message is that effective responses must combine cooperation, capacity, accountability and fairness. The test for the international community is whether pledges made in Abu Dhabi translate into resources, shared technology and political will. Criminal networks already operate across borders without hesitation. The response must do the same.

A Call for Sustainable Peace: UN’s Role in Building a Peaceful World

The United Nations, established in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II, was created with a singular and paramount mission to maintain international peace and security. More than seven decades later, the world continues to face unprecedented challenges to stability, ranging from armed conflicts and terrorism to climate change or pandemic threats that know no borders. In an era marked by growing geopolitical tensions, humanitarian crises, and the emergence of complex, asymmetrical conflicts. The relevance of the United Nations in fostering sustainable peace has become increasingly critical. Sustainable peace represents more than the mere absence of conflict it encompasses the establishment of conditions that promote justice, economic development, and social cohesion while addressing the root causes of violence.

Sustainable peace extends beyond the cessation of armed hostilities to encompass a comprehensive framework that addresses structural inequalities, promotes inclusive governance, and ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities. According to the United Nations’ own definition articulated in various peace-building strategies, sustainable peace involves the prevention and resolution of conflicts through addressing their underlying causes including poverty, inequality, resource scarcity, and poor governance. The importance

of this holistic approach became evident following the Cold War, when numerous ceasefire agreements and peace treaties failed to establish lasting stability because they did not adequately address the socio-economic or political grievances that had fueled conflict in the first place. The UN has increasingly recognized that sustainable peace requires investments in education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and democratic institutions not merely the deployment of military forces to separate warring parties.

The interconnected nature of contemporary challenges underscores the necessity for sustainable peace frameworks. Climate change, for instance, exacerbates resource scarcity and can trigger mass migration, thereby creating conditions conducive to conflict. Similarly, economic inequality and lack of opportunity, particularly among youth populations, create vulnerability to radicalization and recruitment into armed groups. A sustainable peace approach recognizes these connections and seeks to create resilient societies capable of withstanding and managing tensions without resorting to violence. This represents a paradigm shift from traditional peacekeeping operations, which often focused narrowly on military intervention, toward comprehensive peace-building initiatives that address

the multifaceted dimensions of conflict and instability.

The United Nations maintains a substantial peacekeeping apparatus comprising military and civilian personnel deployed across multiple regions to monitor ceasefires, separate combatants, and create conditions for political dialogue. As of recent years, the UN has maintained approximately 13 peacekeeping operations across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, involving nearly 100,000 military personnel and civilian staff United Nations Department of Peace Operations, 2023. These operations represent a tangible manifestation of the UN’s commitment to conflict resolution and stability maintenance. The peacekeeping model, established through the UN Charter and operationalized through successive General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, has evolved to encompass not only military monitoring but also civilian protection, rule of law promotion, and transitional justice mechanisms.

Peacekeeping operations have demonstrated both remarkable successes and significant limitations. In regions such as Mozambique, East Timor, and more recently in portions of the Balkans, UN-led initiatives contributed substan-

tially to the transition from conflict to relative stability and democratic governance. These successes typically occurred when peacekeeping operations were accompanied by robust international support, clear mandates, sufficient resources, and genuine commitment from local stakeholders to peace processes. Conversely, operations in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Syria have revealed the constraints inherent in the UN’s structure and the challenges posed by modern conflicts characterized by non-state actors, sectarian dimensions, and the involvement of powerful external states with conflicting interests. The peacekeeping model, while necessary, has proven insufficient as a standalone mechanism for achieving sustainable peace, necessitating integration with broader peace-building and development initiatives.

The UN’s peace-building architecture, formalized through the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005, represents a critical evolution in the organization’s approach to sustainable peace. The Peacebuilding Commission serves as an intergovernmental advisory body that brings together relevant stakeholders, including the Security Council, General Assembly, World Bank, and affected countries, to support peace consolidation efforts. This mechanism acknowledges the necessity of integrating security initiatives with development programs, governance reforms,

Continued on Page 7



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

How We Can Keep Our Girls Safe From Rape–In Pakistan and Around The World

 **Zunaira Riaz**

The safety of our girls is the responsibility of every home, society and state, both in Pakistan and around the world, and it cannot be ensured by restricting girls but by reforming men and the system. True protection begins at home and in schools where we must teach our sons respect, consent and boundaries instead of only telling our daughters to stay silent, stay inside and cover themselves, and every child must be taught about good and bad touch and given the confidence to speak up without fear of being blamed. Society must change its mindset and stop victim-blaming, because asking what a girl was wearing, where she was going or why she was outside only protects the criminal, while safe public spaces with proper lighting, CCTV, safe transport, and a culture where bystanders do not stay silent when harassment happens can prevent many crimes before they occur. At the same time, the law must be strong, fast and equal for all, as Pakistan’s Anti-Rape Act and similar laws worldwide will only work when investigations are quick, DNA evidence is used properly, fast-track courts deliver justice in months not years, and powerful offenders are punished like ordinary ones, along with proper medical, legal and psychological support for survivors through women police officers, crisis centers and helplines like 1099. In this digital age, online safety is also crucial, so girls must be educated about privacy, blackmail and reporting harassment

to FIA Cyber Crime and other authorities. Ultimately, a society’s honor is not measured by how much it hides its girls, but by how safely and freely its girls can walk, study and work with their

The safety of girls is not just a women’s issue, it is a human issue.

Every girl has the right to live, study, work and walk freely without fear. To stop rape, we need action at three levels: at home, in society, and from the law.

Start at Home and School

Safety starts with education.

- Teach sons, not just daughters: We often tell girls “don’t go out, don’t wear this”. We must also teach boys respect, consent, and self-control from a young age. A boy who respects women will become a man who protects them.
- Good and Bad Touch: In Pakistan, we hesitate to talk about this, but every child in school should be taught what is a good touch and a bad touch, and that they should immediately tell a trusted adult.
- Open Communication: Parents should make home a safe space where a daughter can share anything without fear of being blamed.

Role of Society and Community

- Don’t Blame the Victim: When a rape happens, society asks “what was she wearing, why was she outside?” This mindset protects the criminal. We must shift the blame from the girl to the criminal.
- Safe Public Spaces: Streets, public transport, schools, and workplaces should be safe. Better street lights, CCTV cameras, women-only transport options, and strict action against

harassment in public places can help a lot.

- Bystander Intervention: If we see a girl being harassed in a market, on a bus, or online, we should not stay silent. One voice can stop a crime.

Strong Law and Quick Justice

- Fast and Fair Justice: In Pakistan, laws like Anti-Rape Act 2021 exist, but cases take years. In many countries, the same problem exists. Quick investigation, DNA testing, and fast-track courts will create real fear in criminals.
- No More Silence for killers Law should be equal for a poor man and a powerful man. When people see that even influential rapists are punished, crime will decrease.
- Support for Survivors: A rape survivor needs medical help, psychological counseling, and legal support, not social boycott. We need more women police officers, crisis centers, and helplines like 1099 in Pakistan and Madadgar 1098.

Online Safety

Today rape threats and blackmailing start online. Girls should be taught to never share private pictures, to keep social media private, and to report any harassment on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp immediately to FIA Cyber Crime. We cannot protect our girls by locking them inside homes. We protect them by making the outside world safer. A safe Pakistan and a safe world is only possible when men and women work together, when we teach respect instead of fear, and when justice is certain and quick. The honor of a society is not in how much it covers its girls, but in how safely its girls can walk with their heads held high.

How New Delhi’s Security Grid Stifles Women’s Development in IOJK

When geopolitical analysts evaluate the protracted conflict in Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), the discussion almost always centers on troop ratios, border management, and New Delhi’s macroeconomic adjustments. Yet, the truest indicator of an occupying state’s impact on a society lies in its human development indices. In IOJK, this reality is mapped out by a systemic crisis: the deliberate disruption of Kashmiri women’s access to basic education and independent economic survival. Behind India’s international public relations campaigns of “normalization” and “integration,” the heavy security apparatus acts as a concrete, quantifiable barrier designed to hold back the region’s female population.

The most visible empirical marker of this structural containment is the stark regional gender literacy gap. According to demographic data from the Census, the average literacy rate in the region stands at a mediocre 67.16%. However, looking closely at the gender breakdown reveals an intense disparity: while male literacy reaches 76.75%, female literacy lags profoundly at just 56.43%. This 20-point deficit is a direct consequence of a hostile, hyper-militarized environment.

In rural and border districts, human development is frequently halted by the practical realities of New Delhi’s security measures. Unpredictable security protocols, sudden curfews, digital communication blackouts, and pervasive surveillance mean that when lines of transit are choked by local authorities, young girls are the first to be restricted to their homes. Proximity to dense networks of security checkpoints turns a routine walk to a secondary school or a university campus into a high-risk logistical challenge for female students. By weaponizing the physical geography of daily life, the state apparatus effectively truncates a young woman’s educational pipeline before it can yield formal economic returns.

This forced educational deficit directly feeds into long-term economic marginalization, visible in the region’s declining labor dynamics. Data from the Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) points to a troubling trend: the overall female labor force participation rate (LFPR) in the region has faced a steady

downward slide, dropping sharply from 39.86% to 31.61%. The contraction is felt most severely in rural areas, where female participation plummeted by roughly 13 percentage points (from 46.98% down to 33.71%).

Without access to secure higher education or specialized vocational training, the vast majority of economically active women in IOJK are systematically pushed out of the mainstream formal sector. According to regional labor metrics, over 80% of working women who remain outside the urban structure are confined to the informal economy, specifically seasonal subsistence agriculture or traditional, survivalist cottage industries like spinning, pashmina weaving, and artisanal embroidery.

While these traditional crafts demonstrate incredible individual resilience, they leave women highly vulnerable to economic shocks. By operating in an informal sector starved of direct state investment and isolated from stable international markets, these women work without basic labor protections or minimum wage guarantees. Instead, they remain dependent on middle-tier supply chains and volatile local trading conditions, heavily restricting their financial autonomy and ensuring they remain socioeconomically dependent.

For any policy framework to bring genuine progress, international observers must see past New Delhi’s top-down political slogans concerning regional “empowerment” and legislative overhauls. True advancement cannot be measured by decrees made in a distant capital; it must be measured by the security and freedom a young girl has to attend school without passing through an intimidating foreign security cordon, and the structural support a woman receives to participate in a sovereign, formal economy.

Until international bodies hold the occupying administration accountable for prioritizing control over human advancement, the female population of IOJK will remain trapped by the structural limitations of a conflict forced upon them. Genuine development begins when the global community recognizes that the highest cost of this long-standing occupation is the systematically denied potential of half its population.

The author is a researcher at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations Islamabad.

Malaysian PM Praises OIC-COMSTECH Efforts, Discusses Science and Technology Summit in Malaysia

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has appreciated OIC-COMSTECH's efforts to address future challenges facing the Muslim world. During a meeting with OIC-COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, the possibility of Malaysia hosting a Science and Technology Summit was

also discussed.

The interaction took place on the sidelines of the International Future Conference 2026, which Anwar inaugurated at ISTAC, International Islamic University Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur. Organised by OIC-COMSTECH with IIUM, the two-day event (Sept 28-29) is themed "Shaping the Future Through

Knowledge, Innovation, and Civilisational Leadership" and brings together about 180 participants.

In his keynote, Anwar said the Muslim Ummah needs the determination to master its intellectual heritage, the courage to question established assumptions, and the willingness to explore uncharted fields. He stressed



that advances in artificial intelligence and digital transformation must remain tied to ethical, cultural and societal values, with science developing alongside philosophy, history, morality and the humanities.

OIC Assistant Secretary-General

Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokhar said member states share a responsibility to build a future driven by knowledge while safeguarding human dignity and sustainable development. Prof. Choudhary called the conference a key platform for preparing the Muslim

world for rapid change.

The conference has six pillars: AI and space technologies; climate change and energy transition; future economies and Islamic social finance; halal technology; youth and leadership; and the future of education.



The Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, held a series of engagements in Moscow aimed at expanding the organization's international partnerships and exploring new avenues for regional trade and economic cooperation.

His key meeting was with Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), at the Commission's headquarters. The two sides discussed the priorities of the D-8 and the Eurasian Economic Union, the complementarities between their economic agendas, and opportunities for greater intra-

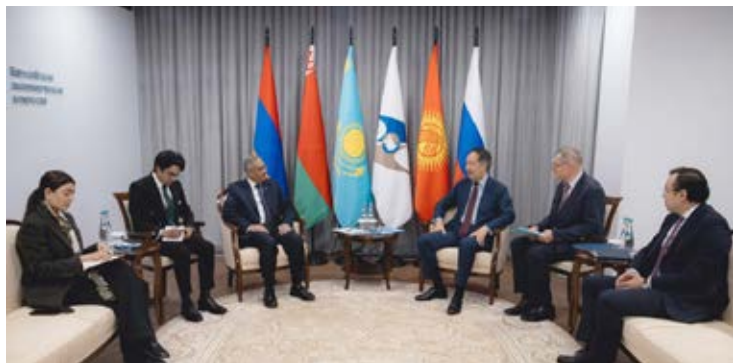
D-8 Secretary-General Deepens Outreach in Moscow, Opens Dialogue with Eurasian Economic Commission

and inter-regional trade. They agreed to strengthen dialogue and build a cooperative relationship focused on practical areas of common interest.

The Secretary-General also met Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, Special Presidential Envoy Zamir Kabulov, and Dr. Kirill Babaev, Director of the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICCA RAS), and interacted with academic, think-tank, media and policy circles. He outlined the D-8's evolution since its founding

in 1997 and its expanding sectoral cooperation.

The visit was made at Dr. Babaev's invitation for ICCA RAS's 60th anniversary celebrations. The Institute conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Ambassador Mahmood in recognition of his contributions to international cooperation and Pakistan-Russia relations. He dedicated the honour to all those working for peace and solidarity, and thanked Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, and his team for their support.



Bridges Across Borders: A Traveler's Journey Through China's Heart

Shamaila Awais

Some journeys inform. Others transform. My eight days in the People's Republic of China — moving through the lively province of Hubei, the historic cities of Wuhan and Xiangyang, and finally the imperial grandeur of Beijing — belonged unmistakably to the second kind.

I travelled as part of a high-level delegation, and what began as a diplomatic itinerary on paper unfolded, day by day, into something far more personal: a window into a civilization sprinting toward the future while holding its past close, and a quiet reminder of how deep the friendship between our two countries really runs.

Stepping Into Diplomacy

The trip opened not with sightseeing but with substance. I found myself seated in rooms where the course of two nations was being discussed in real time — first at the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum, then at the Meeting of the CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism. These were not ceremonial formalities; they were working sessions where the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan was visibly, tangibly alive.

Around the table sat IDCPC Minister Liu Haixing, IDCPC

Vice Minister Sun Haiyan, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, alongside parliamentarians from both countries. Listening to the exchange, I kept returning to one thought: this relationship has never been merely transactional. It is visionary, built on mutual respect and a shared sense of where the region is headed.

That evening carried even more weight. We marked the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China with a reception and a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony. Watching it, I understood that seventy-five years of friendship isn't just a milestone to celebrate — it's a foundation to build on. The speeches that followed, from leaders on both sides, felt less like protocol and more like genuine commitment.

Hubei: Walking Through Classrooms and Future Plans

Away from the formal halls, some of the most memorable moments of the trip happened on two university campuses: Hubei University of Arts and Science and Xiangyang Polytechnic University.

Walking between lecture halls and labs, what struck me wasn't just the quality of the facilities — it was the energy in the students' faces. Curious, confident, clearly being prepared for a real-world



economy rather than just an exam. The industry-oriented way the curricula were designed felt like something worth bringing home and studying properly.

Conversations with faculty and administrators kept circling back to the same idea: academic cooperation between our two countries could do as much for the relationship as any high-level forum. Young people building friendships through shared classrooms — that's a kind of diplomacy too.

Inside China's Innovation Engine

No trip through modern China is complete without seeing its technology up close, and this one delivered in full. At Xiaomi Appliances, I watched intelligent systems woven into everyday objects with a kind of effortless-ness that only comes from years of refinement.

But nothing quite prepared me for getting behind the wheel of one of China's electric vehicles.

The acceleration, the intelligent interface, the sheer engineering precision — it wasn't a showroom fantasy. It was a working demonstration of a country that decided technological self-reliance would be a national priority, and then simply delivered on it.

Fields That Feed a Nation: The Xinyang Model

One of the most thought-provoking stops took me far from the city skyline, to the Xinyang Jinmei Kelin Agricultural Industrial Park. Here, the fields are not simply fields — they're laboratories of efficiency and scale.

Standing among the crops, it was easy to see how modern agriculture, properly backed by technology and infrastructure, can do three things at once: grow the economy, create jobs, and protect food security. For a country like Pakistan, where agriculture is the backbone of so many livelihoods, the lessons on offer here felt genuinely



invaluable, not just impressive to look at.

Beijing: Walking Through History

Every journey through China eventually leads to Beijing, and the capital did not disappoint. Stepping through the gates of the Forbidden City felt like stepping through time itself.

Wandering its courtyards and long red corridors — the same paths where emperors once walked — was humbling in a way that's hard to put into words. What stayed with me most was China's evident commitment to preserving this heritage, not as a museum piece frozen in the past, but as a living part of how the country understands itself.

Wuhan: The City That Stole My Heart

If Beijing is China's grand statement, Wuhan is its warm embrace. Of every place on this journey, Wuhan left the deepest mark on me, and I say that without hesitation.

It's a city that has mastered balance. Wide, clean boulevards and modern infrastructure sit comfortably beside lush green parks and the quietly breathtaking sweep of East Lake. The weather was kind during our visit, the streets were full of energy, and the people were genuinely, unguardedly welcoming.

An evening spent exploring the shopping district near the Wanda Hotel gave me a real glimpse into everyday urban life here — busy, optimistic, and deeply community-minded. And at China-Paki-

stan Friendship Square, I found myself genuinely moved. It isn't a monument to the past. It's an invitation to the future, standing right there in the middle of the city.

Wuhan has figured out something many great cities never quite manage: how to grow fast without losing the quality of everyday life. I left already planning to come back.

Reflections on the Road Home

Nine days. Two provinces. Three cities. Dozens of conversations I'll carry with me for a long time. And one conclusion I keep returning to: the China-Pakistan relationship isn't just alive — it's evolving, deepening, and opening up new ground for both peoples.

From the halls of high-level diplomacy to university lecture rooms; from the precision of a Xiaomi assembly line to the timeless grandeur of the Forbidden City; from the working fields of Xinyang to the tranquil shores of East Lake — this trip was a masterclass in what a nation committed to progress can build.

China's development model isn't something to admire from a distance. It's something to study, engage with, and, wherever it fits, learn from. This journey gave me exactly that opportunity, and I'm deeply grateful for it.

The writer is Manager Operations and Digital Media Affairs at Pakistan-China Institute

Under the Same Moon: A Festival of Friendship, Harmony and Shared Humanity

Analysis



S. M. Hali

As the full moon ascends over Islamabad, millions around the world celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, or Zhongqiu Jie, one of China's

most cherished cultural traditions. More than a seasonal celebration, it is a timeless reflection on family, friendship and human connectedness. In an age increasingly marked by geopolitical tensions, social fragmentation and digital isolation, the festival's enduring symbolism offers a reassuring reminder: though distances may separate us, shared values and genuine friendships continue to unite us beneath the same sky.

For centuries, Chinese families have gathered under the autumn moon, sharing mooncakes, exchanging greetings

and expressing gratitude for life's blessings. The full moon, radiant and perfectly round, symbolises reunion, harmony and prosperity. Yet the festival's significance extends far beyond cultural custom. It embodies a universal truth recognised across civilisations: human fulfilment depends less on material abundance than on the quality of our relationships.

The enduring appeal of the Mid-Autumn Festival lies in its simplicity. It celebrates the bonds that sustain families and communities, reminding us that life's most meaningful treasures



cannot be measured in economic terms. At a time when technology connects people across continents yet often leaves them emotionally isolated, such traditions acquire renewed relevance. They encourage reflection, gratitude and a deeper appreciation of the relationships that enrich our lives.

For those of us living in Islamabad, this message carries a special resonance. Pakistan and China enjoy a friendship frequently described as "higher

than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans." While often repeated in diplomatic discourse, this sentiment draws its strength not merely from statecraft but from decades of trust, cooperation and people-to-people interaction. Beyond strategic partnerships and economic collaboration lies a more enduring foundation: genuine friendship between ordinary citizens.

This year's Mid-Autumn greetings brought home that reality in a particularly touching manner.



A Chinese friend wrote to me: "Though we may be in different neighbourhoods, we are both in Islamabad, sharing the same bright moon. May our sincere friendship last forever." Within these simple words resides a profound truth. Friendship is not defined by physical proximity; it flourishes through mutual respect, shared experiences and sincere goodwill.

The moon has long occupied a special place in the literary

and philosophical traditions of humanity. Across cultures and centuries, poets have gazed upon the same celestial companion and found inspiration in its permanence. The celebrated Chinese poet Su Shi expressed the hope that those separated by distance might still share the moon's beauty together. Similar sentiments echo through Persian, Arabic and South Asian poetry, where the moon symbolises

Continued on Page 7

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
170,425.62	170,765.22
Day's High	Day's Low
171,126.52	170,120.49
Index Value	Change
8,909,785,874	-339.60
Percentage	Time
-0.2%	28 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,684.88	-10.37
Percentage	Time
-0.097%	28 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,606.70	-221.92
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	28 Sept, 1:41 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
65,877.62	-486.59
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	28 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193.8	201.03
Bahrain Dinar	735.2	750.24
Canadian Dollar	195.09	202.93
China Yuan	38.25	38.97
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	316.44	322.73
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	75.65	76.5
UK Pound Sterling	368.3	376.3
US Dollar	278	278.20

Pakistan Customs
and PSW Advance
Digital Trade
Verification
Through ValidAP
Integration with
Hong Kong Customs



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has moved closer to trusted digital trade with the operationalization of Pakistan Single Window's (PSW) integration with ValidAP, a block-chain-based document verification platform developed and hosted by the Customs and Excise Department of Hong Kong, China.

The integration, operational since 25 September 2026, allows electronic trade documents issued through PSW to be independently verified for authenticity and integrity using cryptographic technology. The underlying document and its sensitive information are neither transmitted to nor stored on the platform.

The initiative follows a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Pakistan Customs and Hong Kong Customs on 18 May 2026. Pakistan is the first country to join ValidAP, and this is its first implementation of ValidAP-based verification.

ValidAP creates a unique digital fingerprint, or "hash," of each document, enabling authorities to confirm it is genuine and unaltered.

The integration links Pakistan's digital trade infrastructure with an emerging regional approach to electronic document verification. It can reduce reliance on paper-based checks and support faster, more secure processing of trade documentation, while preserving the confidentiality of trade information.

Minister for IT Visits Huawei Global
Support Center in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, visited Huawei's Global Support Center (GSC) in Islamabad, where she received a briefing on its operations, toured the facility and interacted with young Pakistani engineers and technology professionals supporting global ICT operations. She was received by Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei Pakistan, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud, CEO AI & Cloud, Huawei Pakistan, and senior management of the GSC.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the Huawei GSC reflects Pakistan's growing potential as a global hub for technology and IT-enabled services. Describing the model as "exports without shipping containers," she noted that Pakistani professionals are increasingly delivering high-value digital services to international markets from within the country. She pointed to Pakistan's young workforce, with around 68 percent of the population under the age of 30, and stressed the need to turn this demographic strength into skilled human capital and global economic opportunities.

Recalling the Huawei-Pakistan training partnership agreed during the Prime Minister's visit to China, the Minister appreciated Huawei's



commitment to train 300,000 young Pakistanis in ICT skills. She called for stronger collaboration among government, industry and academia to build a sustainable technology talent pipeline and connect young Pakistanis with international opportunities.

During her interaction with women engineers at the Centre, the Minister acknowledged their contribution to Pakistan's digital economy and underscored the importance of creating greater opportunities for women in the technology sector.

Mr. Ethan Sun said Huawei was proud to contribute to Pakistan's digital development by strengthening local technical expertise and creating opportunities for Pakistani professionals to participate in the global digital economy.

Inspection

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Farah Naz Akbar visited various petrol pumps in Islamabad to review arrangements for the Rs. 500 special relief scheme announced by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



Photo: Online

SE Fruits and Vegetable
Limited Opens IPO
Subscription to
General Public

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Public subscription for the initial public offering (IPO) of SE Fruits and Vegetable Limited opened today and will run through Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

Shares are offered at Rs 40 each. The minimum application is 500 shares, requiring Rs 20,000, and investors may apply for more in multiples of 500.

The IPO comprises 30 million ordinary shares, equal to 32.01 percent of the company's post-IPO paid-up capital. Of these, 22.5 million shares were allocated to the book-building portion

and 7.5 million to the general public. The total issue size is Rs 1.2 billion. The book-building portion was over-subscribed 1.6 times.

Under the revised regulations, applications must be submitted electronically, and physical submission at bank branches is no longer permitted. Investors can use available electronic IPO platforms or participating banks' digital channels, subject to their bank's facilities.

SE Fruits and Vegetable Limited is an export-oriented, Shariah-compliant company engaged in exporting kinnow, mangoes and potatoes.

Shahzad Ali Shah
Elected Member of
Lahore Chamber
Executive Committee

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shahzad Ali Shah has been elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in recent elections.

Business leaders including Muhammad Qasim Khan, Syed Ali Raza, Malik Nadeem, Tasawwar Hussain and others congratulated him, calling him an active and dedicated leader who has worked for traders' issues.

They expressed hope he would continue efforts for traders' welfare and promotion of business activities.

In the same elections, Ali



Hassam was elected President. Shahzad Ali Shah termed it an honor to work under his leadership and vowed to play his full role for resolving traders' problems, improving business environment and safeguarding business community interests.

Jubilee Life Insurance Partners with
Oladoc to Expand Digital Access to
Takaful Protection

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance Company Limited - Window Takaful Operations has entered into a strategic digital collaboration with Oladoc, allowing users of the healthcare platform to explore Jubilee Life's voluntary, annually renewable Term Takaful solutions.

The arrangement places financial protection at the point where healthcare and protection needs meet. Available plans include the Jubilee Hospitalization Cash Reimbursement Takaful Plan, Personal Accident Takaful



Plan, Income Protection Takaful Plan, Health Takaful Plan and Cancer Cover Takaful Plan. Together, they address

Director, Sales and Marketing at Jubilee Life, said digital partnerships help make protection simpler and easier to access by reaching consumers through channels already part of their daily lives.

Syed Ali Raza Sherazi, Head of Commercials at Oladoc, said access to financial protection complements the digital healthcare services users already rely on, bringing healthcare and protection closer together.

The partnership is another step toward making health and financial protection more accessible, convenient and digitally enabled for consumers across Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain backs cotton
ginners' demands, warns of \$2
billion import bill

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: PBIF President and former Provincial IT Minister Mian Zahid Hussain has endorsed the demands of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), made at a meeting in Multan on September 26. Calling cotton the backbone of agriculture and exports, he said its sharp production decline is badly hurting the economy.

He urged that sugar mills in cotton zones be shifted immediately, sales tax on cotton, cottonseed and cottonseed cake be abolished, fixed charges in electricity bills be removed, and the Cotton Control Act be strictly enforced. He also called for an urgent "Grow Cotton, Save the Economy" campaign and industry status for ginning



so it can access competitive power and gas rates.

Citing the USDA's September 2026 report, he said 2026-27 production is

projected at just 4.9 million bales against a 9.6 million target, while spinners need 10 million. Pakistan would have to import over 5 million bales, costing about \$2 billion, straining foreign exchange reserves. Production fell from 7 million bales in FY2023-24 to 5 million in FY2024-25 and 5.6 million in FY2025-26, while imports stayed above 6 million. He blamed a roughly 33 percent drop in cotton acreage over the past decade.

He noted that industrial electricity costs 14 cents per unit in Pakistan versus 8 cents in neighbouring countries, and called allowing sugar mills in cotton zones a strategic mistake. He warned that without relief and climate-resilient seeds, Pakistan will lose its global market share, deepening unemployment and poverty.

foodpanda partners
with Dettol to elevate
delivery hygiene

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: foodpanda, Pakistan's leading delivery and quick-commerce platform, has partnered with Dettol (Reckitt) to execute a specialised hand hygiene initiative across its pandamart dark store network.

To reinforce doorstep safety and protect both delivery partners and consumers, dedicated Dettol Handwashing Stations were installed across pandamart fulfillment centers. Under this protocol, delivery riders are encouraged to thoroughly sanitise and wash their hands before picking up and handling customer



orders.

The initiative establishes heightened sanitisation protocols for delivery riders at a crucial moment, as seasonal flu and airborne viral infections spread rapidly. The initiative successfully combined pandamart's reach with Dettol's germ-protection expertise, translating corporate social responsibility into public health protection across Karachi neighbourhoods.

Medicam Group to keep sponsoring RCAK Talent Hunt Programme as Woodward Trophy U-17 begins

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Chairman of Medicam Group of Companies, Khalil Ahmed Nanitalwala, has said the group will continue sponsoring the Regional Cricket Association Karachi (RCAK) Talent Hunt Programme and work shoulder to shoulder with the association to promote cricket. He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Woodward Trophy U-17 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium. He said he was delighted to rejoin the programme after 26 years, alongside his son Nadeem Omar, the association's President.

Former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed urged young players to play for their clubs, noting that club cricket teaches a great deal. He recalled representing Zone VI in earlier Medicam-backed Talent Hunt tournaments. RCAK Vice President Syed Muhammad Talha called the Nanitalwala family's support for cricket exemplary. Tournament Committee Chairman Khalid Nafees advised players to focus on educa-



tion alongside the game. Joint Secretary Muhammad Touseef Siddiqui said the first phase, the Touchme Trophy Under-15 tournament, concluded successfully, and thanked Nanitalwala for his long-standing cooperation.

In the opening match, Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-V Green by 303 runs. Batting first, Zone-VI scored 390 for 2. Soman Kabir made an unbeaten 167 and Rayan Khan scored 100, sharing a 252-run opening stand, while Abdullah Javed

added an unbeaten 68. Zone-V Green were bowled out for 87, with Durrain Faraz taking 4 for 26 and Soman Kabir 2 for 1.

Several cricket officials and guests attended the ceremony.

Agri. Experts Paid Rich Tribute to Dr. Amir Muhammad

Muhammad Saeed Chushti

ISLAMABAD: A special reference was held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad to pay tribute to renowned scientist, educationist and institution-builder Dr. Amir Muhammad for his outstanding contributions to agricultural research, education and institution-building in Pakistan.

The speakers recalled Dr. Amir Muhammad's significant role in the advancement of agricultural education, scientific research and the establishment and development of national research institutions. He served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, the founding Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and the founding Director of the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB).

Later, he played an important role in the formation of PARC and in developing an integrated agricultural research system at the national level. As Vice Chancellor, Dr. Amir Muhammad contributed significantly to strengthening academic

programmes, introducing the semester system in undergraduate and higher-degree programmes, and restoring academic stability at the university.

He earned a degree in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford and received several honours in recognition of his scientific and national services. He was also conferred the Hilal-i-Imtiaz in 2026 in recognition of his contributions.

The speakers said Dr. Amir Muhammad's legacy was not confined to the positions he held, but could also be seen in the institutions and scientific environment that he helped establish and strengthen. His contributions to agricultural education, laboratory

research, agricultural innovation and institution-building at the national level remain particularly significant. The main speakers includes, Dr. Zulfikar Ali, Vice Chancellor, UAF, Dr. Aftab Ahmad Maroof Rector FAST-NUCES and Dr. Abdul Rashid former Director General, NARC, Dr. Ikram-ullah Khan, Dr. Khalid Mahmood Paid Rich Tribute to the (Late) Dr. Amir Muhammad. At this occasion the family of Dr. Amir Muhammad was also present who thanked all the friends and colleagues of Dr. Amir Muhammad.

The reference concluded with a prayer for the forgiveness and eternal peace of the departed soul.



Kamalia SHO suspended and arrested after video shows alleged mistreatment of woman vendor

Correspondent

KAMALIA: Imran Ghafoor, Station House Officer (SHO) of Saddar Kamalia Police Station, has been suspended and arrested following the alleged mistreatment of a female street vendor, including allegedly hitting her with a shoe. A video of the incident went viral on social media, prompting Punjab IG Rao Abdul Kareem to take immediate notice.

According to police, a call to the Emergency Helpline 15 reported that a woman selling goods from a roadside cart was allegedly involved in stealing from houses in the area. The SHO reached the spot with police personnel, where the alleged misconduct took place and was recorded by a bystander.

On the IG's directions, District Police Officer (DPO) Toba Tek Singh Akhlaq Ullah Tarar suspended the SHO. FIR No. 583/26 was registered against him at Saddar Kamalia Police Station, and a departmental inquiry has been initiated to examine the video and other evidence.

The DPO said misconduct, violence against citizens and misuse of authority will not be tolerated, and that no police official may take the law into his own hands. He directed personnel to respect citizens' dignity and fundamental rights and handle every complaint strictly according to law.

Lahore Tops Pak-China Friendship Games with 31 Golds as Rs55 Million Prize Money Awarded



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pak-China Friendship Games concluded with a colourful closing ceremony attended by male and female athletes from all provinces. Punjab Sports Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar, the chief guest, distributed Rs55 million in prize money among the winning teams.

Lahore Division finished first with 31 gold medals, followed by Faisalabad with 11 and Rawalpindi with five. In the Chinese Tai Chi competition, a highlight of the games, Punjab, Balochistan and Islamabad took the top three places.

Faisalabad won the boys' athletics title and Lahore the girls'. Lahore also won both basketball and gymnastics titles and the football crown, with Bahawalpur runners-up. Faisalabad took both volleyball titles, while Rawalpindi won boys' badminton and boys' wushu. Sargodha won girls' badminton. Lahore also claimed girls' table tennis, girls' wushu, boys' weightlifting and boys' tennis. Boys competed in 11 disciplines and girls in eight.

The minister said around 2,000 athletes took part and that all winners would receive scholarships on behalf of the Punjab Chief Minister. He said the games had gained international popularity, with articles published even in India, and noted that the CM and the Spanish ambassador had agreed to promote football.

Senior sports officials and many young athletes attended.

Kotli Journalists Propose Counter-Narrative Task Force to Combat Fake News

City Desk.

KOTLI: A consultative meeting of journalists from across Kotli district was held under the auspices of the Information Department to discuss ways to prevent the anxiety and unrest caused by fake news, misleading information and unverified social media content.

Participants agreed on the need for stronger coordination among journalists, the Information Department, the district administration and other institutions. Journalists pledged to help identify, verify and refute false content, stressing that checking the source and authenticity of news before sharing it is a core professional responsibility. They also said government institutions should provide timely and authentic information on sensitive matters so that information gaps are not filled by unverified sources.

The meeting proposed a Counter-Narrative Committee or Task Force of journalists, responsible social media practitioners, social workers and experts, aimed at verifying facts rather than promoting any viewpoint. Shehzad Rathore backed a formal task force and urged that rebuttals follow journalistic and legal requirements. He also called for tehsil-level representation. Raja Talib proposed regular meetings and a dedicated WhatsApp group for rapid identification of fake news. Syed Sajid-ul-Rab urged engaging knowledgeable citizens reluctant to speak out.

Other proposals included a coordination committee with Information Department, administration and journalist representatives, a joint code of conduct, quarterly meetings and a documented roadmap. Participants also noted that social media campaigns sometimes target journalists' reputations, and called for a more proactive role by the AJK Press Foundation on journalists' professional and security issues.

Those who attended the meeting included Press Club President Shahnawaz Butt, Secretary Muhammad Rizwan Qureshi, Syed Sajid-ul-Rab, Shehzad Rathore, Bashir Baig, Ansar Baig, Amir Khokhar, Zulfikar Dogra, Yasir Hassan, Shah Hussain, Umar Butt, Muhammad Asif Malik, Atiq Malik, Raja Nisar Azam, Raja Talib, Manzoor Bashir, Amir Yasir and Faisal Munir.

At the end, District Information Officer Shaukat Ali Malik thanked the participants for attending the meeting.

Arshad falters again as Sri Lanka's Pathirage strikes gold

KARACHI: Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem endured another disappointing outing on Monday, finishing fourth in the men's javelin at the 20th Asian Games in Nagoya, while Sri Lanka's Rumesch Tharanga Pathirage produced a late surge to claim gold.

Arshad, who won Olympic gold in Paris with a record 92.97 metre throw, struggled to find his rhythm throughout the competition. He opened with 76.69 metres, fouled his second attempt and managed 80.29 metres on his third before fouling each of his final three throws.

Sri Lanka's Pathirage left his best until last, launching the javelin 88.55 metres with his sixth and final attempt to secure the gold medal.

He had also occupied the summit position with 88.33m which he managed in his fourth attempt.

India's Yashvir Singh took silver with a personal-best 85.72 metres, while compatriot Rohit Yadav claimed bronze with 84.35 metres.

Under the Same Moon: A Festival of Friendship, Harmony and Shared Humanity

Continued from Page 6

longing, affection and unity. Different languages and cultures converge upon remarkably similar emotions, revealing the common threads of human experience.

This universality is particularly significant in today's polarised world. Headlines are frequently dominated by conflict, competition and division. Public discourse often emphasises differences of nationality, ideology and identity. The Mid-Autumn Festival offers

an alternative perspective. It reminds us that beneath surface differences, people everywhere cherish family, friendship, peace and belonging. These shared aspirations constitute the moral foundation of human coexistence.

For Pakistanis, the festival's values are immediately recognisable. Our own traditions place immense emphasis on family cohesion, hospitality and communal harmony. Whether during Eid celebrations, weddings or family gatherings,

the focus remains on strengthening social bonds and expressing gratitude for companionship. In this sense, the Mid-Autumn Festival feels less like a foreign celebration and more like a familiar expression of values we ourselves hold dear.

Equally important is the role of cultural exchange in strengthening Pakistan-China relations. Enduring partnerships cannot be sustained solely through infrastructure projects, trade agreements or strategic convergence. They require cultural under-

standing, emotional affinity and human interaction. Festivals such as Zhongqiu Jie serve as bridges between societies, fostering mutual appreciation and bringing peoples closer together.

As the moon shines over Islamabad tonight, it illuminates more than rooftops and city streets. It illuminates a larger truth about our shared humanity. The same moon that watches over Pakistan shines upon China and countless other lands. It does not recognise borders, political systems

or differences of language. Its light falls impartially upon all, reminding us that humanity shares a common destiny on an increasingly interconnected planet.

Perhaps that is the festival's most enduring lesson. Unity begins not with grand declarations but with simple gestures: a greeting exchanged, a friendship cherished, a family reunited and a moment of gratitude offered. Such acts may appear modest, yet they possess the power to build trust where suspicion exists,

understanding where misconceptions prevail and friendship where distance once seemed insurmountable.

As families gather and friends exchange warm wishes, the Mid-Autumn Festival reminds us that true prosperity is measured not merely by wealth but by the quality of the relationships that give meaning to life. Under the same bright moon, we are reminded that humanity's greatest strength lies in its capacity for compassion, understanding and friendship.

May the full moon bring happiness, harmony and good health to all. More importantly, may the spirit of fellowship it symbolises continue to illuminate pathways towards greater understanding, enduring friendship and lasting peace.

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

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presenting a souvenir to H.E. Han Sungho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, on Monday.



Iran’s Supreme Leader Says US Will Be Forced Out of Middle East as Talks Stall

AFP

ISLAMABAD: Iran’s supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said the United States would be forced to leave the Middle East after suffering “painful blows,” according to a written statement carried by state television. He did not explicitly name the US. Khamenei has not been seen in public since the Middle East war began in late February.

He said the enemy no longer ventures beyond the Arabian



Sea after blows from Iranian fighters and the “guardians of the Strait of Hormuz,” and predicted the Arabian Sea

would soon be rid of their presence.

The remarks came as Iran’s delegation in New York for the UN General Assembly reportedly has no plans for further talks with Washington. State news agency IRNA, citing an unnamed source, said Iran’s positions had been conveyed clearly via a Qatari mediator and that the delegation would return to Tehran on Tuesday.

Trump publicly rejected Iran’s latest proposal on

Saturday but told Axios he expected talks to resume. Tehran says it awaits a formal US response.

Iran is demanding a seven-day regional ceasefire including Lebanon, the unfreezing of assets, an end to oil sanctions and the lifting of the US naval blockade. Fighting has subsided, with no US strikes on Iran since September 1, though Tehran continues targeting commercial vessels in Hormuz.

DG NCCIA reviews Faisalabad circle performance, orders quick disposal of public complaints

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reviewed the monthly performance of the Faisalabad Circle and directed officers to ensure quick and merit-based disposal of public complaints.

DG NCCIA reviews Faisalabad circle performance, orders quick disposal of public complaints

An official told to media on Monday that the meeting was attended by the Additional Director and other officers of the Faisalabad Circle.

The meeting was briefed on the circle’s monthly performance, progress in cases under investigation, measures to prevent cybercrime and disposal of public complaints.

DG NCCIA Rizvi individually asked officers about their respective areas of work and provided guidance to the



further improve the investigation of cybercrime cases.

Rizvi directed the officers to deal with citizens politely

and respectfully and ensure that their complaints were addressed without unnecessary delay.

He also directed that delays in investigation should be avoided and transparency, merit and rule of law should be ensured at every level.

The DG said better investigation and timely action on complaints were important for providing relief to citizens and improving the agency’s performance.

Islamabad steps up dengue surveillance as over 65,000 homes found with larvae

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA), in coordination with the Islamabad administration and the city’s health department, has intensified dengue prevention and vector-control operations, with mosquito larvae detected and mechanically eliminated in 65,011 homes during surveillance of more than 1.24 million houses.

According to figures released by the CDA on Monday, field teams had conducted 1,915,999 visits across the federal capital by the end of epidemiological week 38, while 13,834 mosquito breeding sites had been identified and eliminated.

The authority said the dengue situation in Islamabad remained under control as of Sept 28, with surveillance, larval control and targeted operations continuing in high-risk areas.

The data showed that field teams had carried out 601,912 dengue awareness



activities, 231,013 larviciding activities and 140,436 outdoor surveillance operations. Larvae were also detected and eliminated at 1,534 outdoor locations. In urban areas, around 530,049 houses have undergone repeated surveillance, with follow-up inspections conducted at 15-day intervals

to monitor and eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites.

Around 300 field workers are engaged in vector-control operations in urban areas, while more than 600 personnel are working in rural areas, according to the CDA.

Sanitary patrols and field teams are

inspecting residential and commercial areas, vacant plots, rooftops, gardens, flowerpots and other places where stagnant water may accumulate.

The authority said the operations focused on identifying and eliminating breeding sites through mechanical source reduction and appropriate larval-control measures to reduce the risk of dengue transmission.

The CDA and the Islamabad health department have urged residents to cooperate with field teams and ensure that water does not accumulate in their homes, rooftops, gardens, flowerpots, containers or surrounding areas.

Residents have also been advised to remove stagnant water promptly, particularly during the high-risk dengue season, to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

The authorities said surveillance, public awareness campaigns and targeted vector-control operations would continue across the capital.

President Zardari condoles death of Dr Mahathir Mohamad’s wife



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed deep sorrow and condolences over the passing of Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, wife of former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The president conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his family and the people of Malaysia on the sad occasion.

President Zardari said that Tun Dr Siti Hasmah’s long and distin-

guished service in the fields of medicine, public health and social welfare would be remembered with respect.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the departed soul and grant strength and patience to Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss, according to a statement issued by the President House Media Wing.

Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, the wife of former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, died on Monday (Sep 28) at the age of 100.

Hasmah was a doctor who used her platform as the former prime minister’s wife to advocate for maternal health, family planning, literacy, drug abuse prevention and mental health.

She had celebrated her 100th birthday on Jul 12. The following month, she was recognised by ASEAN Records as the Oldest Living Spouse of a Former Prime Minister.

Health steering committee reviews ongoing initiatives



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal to review the committee’s mandate, ongoing initiatives and matters related to the health sector.

Health steering committee reviews ongoing initiatives

The meeting discussed progress in various areas, issues being faced in the implementation of ongoing initiatives and the proposed course of action to achieve the set targets.

The participants reviewed relevant

matters in detail and exchanged views on improving coordination among concerned institutions to ensure effective implementation of the committee’s decisions.

Syed Mustafa Kamal directed all relevant institutions to strengthen coordination, ensure timely completion of ongoing measures and take effective steps for achieving the agreed targets.

The meeting also emphasized continued coordination among relevant stakeholders to ensure that planned health initiatives were implemented efficiently and within the stipulated timelines.

Supreme Court grants research officer more time in harassment petition



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday granted senior research officer Dr Waseem Tariq more time to submit additional documents in his petition over alleged harassment, observing that one should not act as both complainant and judge in the same matter. The bench comprised Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

The petitioner said he had been accused of harassment by Estate Office employees, and that an inquiry against him found nothing adverse. Justice Afghan observed that the real issue concerned the allotment of a house and suggested the petitioner might have exerted pressure. Justice

Mandokhail said it would be better for him to focus on his work.

The court expressed displeasure at the petitioner repeatedly speaking during the hearing. He said he was pursuing the matter because of an allegation concerning the office of the Chief Justice, and that his reputation had been damaged. Justice Mandokhail said the impression should not be created that the court had favoured him, while Justice Afghan remarked that the petitioner should not risk losing his job as well. Justice Afghan added that it would have been better if a counsel had appeared for him.

The court granted time for the documents and adjourned the hearing indefinitely.