



A Leading National Daily



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نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا قیامت کے دن میرے صحابہ میں سے ایک جماعت مجھ پر چڑی کی جائے گی۔ پھر وہ عرش سے دو کر دیئے جائیں گے۔ میں عرش کروں گا: اسے میرے رب! یہ تو میرے صحابہ ہیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ فرمائے گا کہ جنہیں معلوم نہیں کیا انہوں نے تمہارے بعد کیا کیا پھر میں بخاری ٹھیں؟ لوگ (دین سے) اٹنے قدموں واپس لوٹ گئے تھے۔
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Xi Urges Confidence and Concrete Steps for China's National Rejuvenation

President Xi Jinping called on the nation to move forward with confidence toward national rejuvenation, describing it as unstoppable. Speaking at a Great Hall of the People reception marking the PRC's 77th anniversary, he cited rapid growth and social stability as achievements, and urged innovation-driven development and a strong start to the 15th Five-Year Plan.



Sindh CM, Balochistan PPP leaders call on Bilawal

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a series of meetings in Karachi with senior political figures and government officials at Bilawal House, where matters relating to the political situation and departmental performance were discussed.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-us-Sani 18, Thursday, October 1, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 162 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

77th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq cutting the cake during a ceremony on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, ay local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PM Shehbaz Reaffirms Resolve to Build Closer Pakistan-China Community at China's 77th National Day Ceremony

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to move forward hand in hand with China towards an even closer Pakistan-China community with a shared future in the new era. He was addressing a ceremony in Islamabad marking the 77th National Day of the People's Republic of China. The Prime Minister congratulated President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people, saying China has played a pivotal role in global peace, stability and development, and achieved unprecedented progress in human development, infrastructure, science, technology and innovation. He said the two countries' iron-clad friendship has withstood earthquakes, storms and floods. Shehbaz Sharif said the two sides are entering the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, focusing on industrialization, Special Economic Zones, information technology and artificial intelligence, agriculture, and mining and minerals. He noted that the first group of 1,000 Pakistani agricultural graduates has completed training in China, while another 1,000 are ready to depart, calling it a valuable investment in the country's youth.

He described relations with China as an anchor of Pakistan's foreign policy, recalled his May conversation with President Xi, and said Pakistan remains committed to implementing the consensus reached between the two leaderships. Quoting a Chinese saying, he said a bosom friend afar brings distant lands near. Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong called the two countries all-weather strategic cooperative partners. He said Pakistan is playing an increasingly important international role and has championed multilateralism. He added that the Prime Minister vigorously defended Pakistan's national interests at the 81st UN General Assembly session, and that the two nations have stood together like brothers through thick and thin, with practical cooperation across various sectors.

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Khawaja Asif: 'Any enemy of Saudi Arabia is an enemy of Pakistan'



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Saudi Arabia's security, saying Islamabad would stand with the Kingdom against any threat. "Any enemy of Saudi Arabia is an enemy of Pakistan," he said in an interview with a foreign media outlet. Asif condemned the Houthis' attacks on the Kingdom, saying there was no doubt in Pakistan's mind that the group was committing aggression. He added that Pakistan would respond to threats whether they came from the Houthis, another country or any other organisation. His remarks followed renewed cross-border attacks and the signing of the Makkah trilateral agreement by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on August 7. Later called the Makkah Defence Alliance, the pact provides for collective security, treating an armed attack on one member as an attack on all. Asif said it means whatever resources Pakistan has would be available to Saudi Arabia if its security is threatened. The Houthis have launched repeated missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia since announcing a naval blockade in July, targeting vessels in the Red Sea, airports and energy facilities. Saudi air defences have intercepted many projectiles. Asif also said Iran does not acknowledge the Houthis as its proxy, noting that state-backed armed groups can eventually become independent actors.

Tarar questions PTI's strength, accuses KP govt of governance failure



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attallah Tarar said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has become politically weak and questioned whether Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has enough political strength to lead a long march. Speaking to the media, Tarar said governance failure was evident in KP and alleged that the provincial government had failed to stop terrorism. He said the province receives funds every year through the National Finance Commission for counterterrorism, yet major attacks had occurred in Kohat and Dera Ismail Khan. He urged the provincial government to set politics aside and focus on affected areas. Tarar called talk of imposing governor rule premature, while alleging that healthcare, education and other sectors in the province had deteriorated. He said he had visited Kohat, Charsadda and Peshawar, as well as the home of Constable Faheemullah, and saw the failure firsthand. Political activity could continue, he said, but citizens' security should take priority. "People are losing their lives in KP; politics should not be more important than their lives," he said. He further alleged that the Afghan government was supporting terrorism, saying Pakistan had responded strongly and would continue to do so. On preventive detentions, he said action under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (3-MPO) law was being taken in accordance with the law.

DPM Dar reaffirms commitment to inclusive SCO chairmanship

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to an open, inclusive and constructive SCO Chairmanship, guided by the 'Shanghai Spirit' of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation and common development. He expressed the resolve while addressing the National Coordinators of SCO Member States, along with senior representatives of the SCO Secretariat and SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad today.

Ishaq Dar welcomed the National Coordinators to the first meeting of the Council of National Coordinators under Pakistan's Chairmanship. The Deputy Prime Minister underlined the theme of Pakistan's Chairmanship, "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation, and Shared Prosperity". He stressed the need to translate the SCO's shared vision into practical cooperation and tangible outcomes. The Deputy Prime Minister also highlighted preparations to host the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Islamabad next year and called for close coordination among member States to ensure a successful Chairmanship.



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SCO national coordinators reaffirm commitment to practical cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of National Coordinators under Pakistan's chairmanship concluded in Islamabad on Wednesday with consensus on strengthening coordination and practical cooperation among member states, the Foreign Office said. The three-day meeting was held from September 28 to 30, bringing together national coordinators from SCO member states and representatives of the SCO Secretariat. According to the Foreign Office, participants reviewed the programme of proposed activities under Pakistan's SCO chairmanship and discussed progress on key initiatives as well as preparations for upcoming SCO meetings and events. The meeting also focused on strengthening coordination among member states and ensuring effective implementation of the priorities of Pakistan's chairmanship. Pakistan's theme for its SCO chairmanship is "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity."



Islamabad Bar delegations call on Law Minister Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister, Azam Nazeer Tarar, met delegations from the Islamabad Bar Council and District Bar Association in



Islamabad to discuss issues facing the legal community and matters concerning the legal profession, reported 24NewsHD TV on Wednesday. The Islamabad Bar Council delegation was led by Aleem Abbasi, while the District Bar Association delegation was headed by Chaudhry Naeem Gujjar. The meeting discussed issues facing bar associations and lawyers, including facilities for bar associations and other matters related to the legal profession. The federal law minister said the legal community plays a vital role in the judicial system and the delivery of justice. He said the government was taking steps to address the legal community's concerns and improve the legal sector. He stressed that effective coordination with lawyers and bar associations was essential for improving the legal and judicial systems. Qasim Abbasi, General Secretary of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association, Raja Rizwan Abbasi of the Pakistan Bar, and Prosecutor General Manzoor Ahmed Jajja also attended the meeting.

AJK Chief Justice says Pakistan-Kashmir bond ‘Indelible’ at Supreme Court Bar Reception

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, said the bond between Pakistan and Kashmir is unbreakable, declaring, “We are Pakistanis first and Kashmiris thereafter.” He was speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBA) in Islamabad, attended by AJK Supreme Court judges Justice Raza Ali Khan and Justice Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry, along with senior lawyers and Bar officials.

The Chief Justice thanked Pakistani bar associations for their long-standing support, noting he had spent much of his life in Pakistan and once served as a Bar finance secretary. He said his focus since taking office has been judicial reform, and that the AJK Supreme Court is now disposing of cases from 2025-26. He



also called for amending Bar Council rules so lawyers enrolled in Pakistan's Supreme Court and High Courts can appear in their AJK counterparts, and said a similar ceremony may be held

in Mirpur.

SCBA President Haroon ur Rashid and Pakistan Bar Council member Ahsan Bhoon praised his services and stressed strengthening ties between

the two legal communities. Shields were exchanged, certificates were given to newly enrolled lawyers, and the visiting judges received traditional Sindhi Ajrak and caps.

Fatiha

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman and relatives offering Fatiha for Kashif Umar who was killed in Somali pirates indiscriminate firing on the abducted crew outside his home in the Provincial Capital. Three Pakistani sailors were among five crew members killed after Somali pirates opened indiscriminate fire on the abducted crew of the Honour 25 while fleeing the vessel, while four sailors were injured.



Photo: Online

Sardar Attique calls for unity and stronger focus on Kashmir Cause

 **Bureau Report**

GHAZIABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: A large number of workers and office-bearers of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference from Bagh's eastern and western constituencies met former AJK prime minister and Muslim Conference President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan to discuss the political situation in Azad Kashmir.

Sardar Attique said the state must come first and politics later, stressing that the struggle concerned both the rights of Azad Kashmir's people and freedom for people in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Kashmir dispute remained unresolved and efforts to undermine it would weaken the freedom movement.

He questioned the transparency of recent AJK elections and said the



Muslim Conference would continue its struggle despite remaining outside the Legislative Assembly. He urged party workers to maintain unity and

solidarity and strengthen institutions. Sardar Attique called for constructive political efforts to address current challenges and urged the government

and people to jointly adopt a strong and effective position on the Kashmir issue while pursuing regional development.

Sardar Masood Khan Calls for Reforms to Boost Investment and Trade

 **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former ambassador Sardar Masood Khan has called for addressing Pakistan's systemic barriers to foreign investment, exports, ease of doing business and technological development to unlock the country's economic potential.

Speaking at the Center for Law and Security (CLAS), he said declining foreign direct investment remained a major challenge compared with several regional economies. He identified weak industrial production, limited value chains, inadequate exportable surpluses and insufficient intellectual



property protection as key constraints. Sardar Masood Khan stressed the

need for institutional expertise and stable leadership in economic poli-

cymaking, warning that frequent changes at senior levels could affect effective administration. He also said Pakistan needed to improve its international economic image and better highlight opportunities offered by multinational companies operating in the country.

Discussing technology, he noted growth in Pakistan's startup and free-lancing sectors but called for stronger infrastructure and policies. He identified corruption, complex taxation, political instability, limited financing, inadequate education, bureaucracy and governance weaknesses as major challenges requiring sustained reforms.

AJK President Meets Khurram Dastgir, Hamid Mir

 **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan held separate meetings with former federal minister Khurram Dastgir Khan and senior anchorperson and analyst Hamid Mir.

The meetings covered matters of mutual interest, Pakistan's political situation, the Kashmir issue and the overall regional situation. Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan stressed the need for an effective international voice to support a just and lasting resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

The AJK president said the human rights situation in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir required immediate attention from the international community. He also highlighted the role of international media and global public opinion in raising awareness about the Kashmir issue.

Dr. Najeeb Khan said the people of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir shared strong historical, religious and emotional bonds, while Pakistan's political, moral and diplomatic support remained important for the people of Kashmir.

Khurram Dastgir Khan and Hamid Mir congratulated Dr. Najeeb Khan on assuming office and conveyed their best wishes for his tenure.

JKDFP condemns repeated transfer of Shabir Ahmad Shah to Delhi

 **Bureau Report**

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) spokesperson Advocate Arshad Iqbal has condemned the re-transfer of party Chairman Shabir Ahmad Shah from Jammu to Delhi, describing it as unjust treatment of an elderly and ailing political prisoner.

Arshad Iqbal said the 74-year-old Shabir Ahmad Shah suffers from multiple health problems and has reportedly been advised by doctors to avoid long-distance travel. He said repeated transfers between Jammu and Delhi could further affect his health.

The JKDFP spokesperson said courts had granted Shah bail in several cases, but he continued to face transfers linked to other proceedings, resulting in prolonged detention and repeated travel.

He urged authorities to consider Shah's age and medical condition, stop unnecessary transfers and ensure adequate access to medical treatment, family members and legal counsel.

Arshad Iqbal also appealed to international human rights organisations and relevant United Nations bodies to take note of Shah's prolonged imprisonment and health concerns and support protection of his fundamental human and legal rights.



AKAB School for Blind Students Achieve 100pc Success in Grade 9 Exams

 **Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: Visually impaired students of AKAB School for the Blind, Mirpur, have achieved a 100 percent success rate in the Grade 9 annual examinations conducted by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Mirpur.

According to the results, Ansa Rabbani secured the highest 497 marks out of 600, followed by Tooba with 460, Ammar Aslam with 448 and Amina Haq with 428 marks. Other successful students included Haseeb Jahangir, Noor-ul-Ain, Farhan Zaheer, Talha Mahmood and Atiq Jahangir. Patron-in-Chief Professor Muhammad Ilyas Ayub congratulated the students, parents and teachers, saying their achievement was a source of pride for the entire AKAB family. He said children with disabilities possessed great potential and could excel when provided with equal opportunities, guidance and encouragement.

He appreciated the dedication of teachers, hard work of students and support of philanthropists. He reaffirmed AKAB's commitment to providing visually impaired children with quality education, modern technology and opportunities for dignified, self-reliant lives.



Central Prison and Liaquat University Hospital admins discuss healthcare facilities for prisoners

 **Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Superintendent Central Prison Hyderabad, SSP Shahabuddin Siddiqui, met Medical Superintendent Liaquat University Hospital Hyderabad, Dr Syed Irshad Hussain Kazmi.

During the meeting, matters related to the treatment of under-trial prisoners, timely medical facilities and improved coordination between the prison and hospital administrations were discussed.

The meeting focused on ensuring timely referrals and treatment, early consultation with specialist doctors, prioritizing emergency cases, and improving follow-up and continuity of medical care.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen coordination to ensure timely and appropriate medical facilities for under-trial prisoners.



PMA Attock Opposes FBR Tax Policies, POS Linkage

 **Raaza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Attock has opposed Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) taxation policies affecting private hospitals and clinics and the proposed linking of private healthcare facilities with the Point of Sale (POS) system.

PMA Attock President Col (Retd) Dr Sajjad Naqvi chaired a meeting at Medicare Hospital, attended by senior doctors and medical representatives. He said private hospitals and clinics across Attock and its five tehsils had observed a complete strike to highlight their concerns.

Dr Naqvi said POS linkage could increase healthcare costs and place an additional burden on low- and middle-income patients, besides creating unnecessary administrative and documentation requirements. He also highlighted inflation, taxation and rising operational expenses faced by doctors and medical staff. The PMA president urged the government to review taxation policies affecting private healthcare in consultation with the medical community. He also called for the early establishment of a medical college in Attock to improve medical education and healthcare opportunities for local residents.





Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:38 am
Zohr 11:58 am
Asr 4:12 pm
Maghrib 5:54 pm
Isha 7:17 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9260044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Seminar on Digital Democracy Held at Punjab Assembly

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: A special seminar titled "Digital Democracy in Action" was held at the Punjab Assembly to discuss the effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and modern digital technologies in parliamentary affairs.

Presided over by Punjab Public Accounts Committee Chairman Syed Ali Haider Gillani, the seminar was attended by a visiting UK delegation comprising experts in AI and digital technologies.

The British delegation briefed participants on potential AI applications to improve legislative efficiency, introduce innovation in parliamentary affairs and align public representation with modern requirements.

Punjab Assembly members also gave the delegation a tour of the Assembly premises and explained parliamentary procedures, the legislative process and modern operational systems.

Punjab launches 33 Mobile Police Stations to Bring Services to Citizens' Doorstep

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday inaugurated mobile police station vans equipped with modern facilities and technology, aimed at delivering police services directly to citizens.

According to a briefing by Home Secretary Ahmad Javed Qazi, the initiative covers 33 mobile police stations across different districts, including six vans dedicated to women's matters. The chief minister inspected one of the vans, observed its operations, and

interacted with staff, asking a senior station assistant and a female public guide about the service procedures.

Each van will be staffed by a sub-inspector as in-charge, a field supervisor, a senior station assistant, and male and female constables.

The vans will offer 14 police-related services, including FIR registration, online e-tagging, reports of lost documents such as CNICs, cards and chequebooks, criminal record checks, and registration of tenants and private employees. They will also provide character certificate verification and licence



services, including learner, driving, renewal, duplicate and international licences.

The vans will visit universities and girls' colleges on a schedule, while deployment in other areas will draw on data from the police emergency helpline 15. Visit schedules will be publi-

cised through social media and other channels, with announcements made in mosques before a van's arrival. Operations will follow official SOPs, with station house officers and beat officers supervising in the field.

The chief minister said the initiative would bring policing to people's

doorsteps with dignity and respect, narrow the gap between the public and police, and save time and travel costs, particularly in remote areas. She added that dedicated staff at the Pink Mobile Police Stations will handle sensitive cases involving harassment, violence and abuse against women and children.

Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), presents a shield to Naveed Ahmed Khan, Editor Daily The Spokesman and Daily IMROZE in recognition of his journalistic services, as the Vice President looks on. Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran President Ajmal Baloch, and former Vice President Naveed Malik are also present



FASP Magnolia chapter holds monthly meeting and floral art demonstration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The FASP (Magnolia Chapter) held its monthly meeting, which began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Kehkashan Khwaja, followed by the reading of the previous meeting's minutes by Bushra Maqsood.

The highlight of the meeting was a floral art demonstration by Huma Ehsan, a dedicated FASP Islamabad member since 2006 and a fitness professional since 1994. Her demonstration, titled "Honouring Grass," showcased the versatility of grass and



various techniques for transforming it into creative floral art elements. Huma presented nine

exquisite floral arrangements, demonstrating exceptional artistry, balance and precision. She also explored different varieties of grass found across Pakistan, reflecting extensive research, creativity and meticulous preparation.

The demonstration was followed by an engaging workshop in which members created their own floral exhibits using bundles of grass provided to them. Vice President Yasmin Salman thanked the demonstrator, while Farhat Zaman presented Huma Ehsan with a token of appreciation.

28 tons of flour seized in attempted smuggling to KP

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Food Department has foiled an attempt to smuggle nearly 28 tons of flour from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recovering the commodity from four heavy vehicles intercepted at Ghazi Interchange on the GT Road.

According to officials, Food Department teams stopped the vehicles and recovered approximately 28 tons of flour allegedly being transported illegally to KP. District Food Controller Attock said the recovered flour had been shifted to government warehouses.

Deputy Director Food Attock Shams Abbas said the flour would be sold to the public through markets at official government rates. He added that legal action would be taken against mill owners allegedly involved in the attempted smuggling.

Food authorities said surveillance had been intensified in Punjab's border areas and check posts, with CCTV cameras being used for monitoring. They said all available resources would be utilized to prevent the illegal transportation of wheat and flour to other provinces.

Inflation Makes Two Daily Meals Difficult for Low-Income People: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

City Desk



RAWALPINDI: President Anjuman Tajran Liaquat Road Rawalpindi and Inter-City Hotel Association Sheikh Abdul Waheed has expressed concern over rising inflation, saying it has severely increased difficulties for the public, particularly low-income groups.

He said meeting daily household expenses and even affording two meals a day had become increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens. Referring to figures for the end of September 2026, he said weekly annual inflation had reached 11.92 percent, while the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics had also recorded a further increase during the recent week.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said people earning between Rs20,000 and Rs30,000 per month were among those most affected. Rising electricity tariffs and prices of essential commodities had further intensified their financial difficulties. He urged the government to take immediate measures to control inflation, reduce electricity tariffs and lower prices of essential commodities to provide relief to the public and business community.

ISSI and Sri Lanka's SASSRI Sign MoU to Deepen Research Cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the South Asia Sustainability and Security Research Institute (SASSRI) of Sri Lanka during a simple ceremony at ISSI. The agreement forms part of ISSI's international outreach to build cooperative institutional mechanisms, particularly with regional partners.

The MoU aims to strengthen institutional cooperation in research, policy dialogue, joint publications and events on issues of mutual interest. Concrete steps suggested include joint events, policy papers and researcher exchange programmes. The ceremony was attended by the leadership of both institutions, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Colombo, Major General Dr. Nayyar Naseer, and Sri Lanka's Deputy High Commissioner in Islamabad, A. Christy Ruban.

Participants highlighted the long history of fraternal Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations, spanning diplomatic, defence, cultural and humanitarian fields. They agreed that a prosperous, connected South Asia requires closer regional ties through sustained engagement and dialogue, and specifically stressed the need to revive the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Leaders of both think tanks pledged to work together to shape better policy discourse and informed public opinion in their countries.

DC Inaugurates Plantation Drive in Toba Tek Singh

Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: Deputy Commissioner Maham Asif Malik inaugurated a plantation campaign titled "Plant Trees, Prosper," organised by the District Council under Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Green Punjab vision.

During the inauguration, saplings were planted around the Green Electric Bus Charging Station and along the Saim Canal. Additional Deputy Commissioner Municipal Services Dr Tariq Usman, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Shafiq Dogar, District Council Chief Officer Anwar Baig Sial, Assis-



tant Conservator Forest Officer Kamran Salamat and other officials attended the ceremony.

Maham Asif Malik said trees were essential for reducing pollution, improving the environment and ensuring a healthy future for coming generations. She said the campaign aimed to expand green belts and green spaces across the city.

The deputy commissioner directed officials to ensure proper maintenance and protection of newly planted saplings. She also urged citizens to participate by planting trees at homes, streets and other available spaces to help make Toba Tek Singh cleaner and greener.

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Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

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A Small Track Toward a Bigger Promise: Balochistan’s Peoples Train

Public transport rarely makes headlines until it works. The inauguration of the Jinnah Peoples Train Service, linking Kuchlak and Sariab through Quetta, deserves attention precisely because it delivers something ordinary citizens in Balochistan have long lacked: a safe, affordable and reliable way to move around.

The numbers are impressive. A 32-kilometre track was restored in 120 days at roughly Rs. 3 billion, while the coaches were built in four months at the Pakistan Railways Carriage Factory in Islamabad. In a country where infrastructure projects routinely stretch across years and budgets balloon along the way, such speed is worth acknowledging. It shows what is possible when a provincial government and a federal institution align their priorities rather than trade blame.

That cooperation may be the project’s most valuable lesson. Federal Railways Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presented the train as a joint achievement, and the model is worth repeating. Balochistan’s vast geography and scattered population have too often meant neglect by default. Shared ownership between Islamabad and Quetta is one way to change that.

The benefits could be real for students, workers, traders and women, who often bear the heaviest burden of unreliable and costly transport. Seven stations, several of them upgraded with solar power, new furniture and better facilities, suggest that passenger dignity was considered alongside speed.

Yet a ribbon-cutting is the beginning, not the end. Railways in Pakistan have a history of launching services with fanfare, only to see them fade through poor maintenance, irregular schedules and thin ridership. The Jinnah Peoples Train will be judged not by its opening day but by its hundredth: whether trains run on time, fares stay within reach, stations remain clean and security is dependable.

Authorities should publish clear timetables, track ridership, and consider extending the route if demand justifies it. Integration with local bus and rickshaw networks would help commuters complete their journeys, not just the rail portion.

If sustained, this modest 32-kilometre line could become a template for urban rail in Quetta and other provincial centres. The tracks are laid. What matters now is the discipline to keep the trains running.

Why is Trump a Dictator?

Trump was elected legitimately, and his supporters deserve representation. But every president governs a country larger than his constituency. Congress, courts, journalists and universities have responsibilities independent of presidential approval. Treating their independence as an obstacle to overcome carries authoritarian implications.

Retired federal judge Mark Wolf’s resignation provides a powerful framework for understanding these concerns. A Reagan appointee with four decades on the bench and approximately fifty years in public service, Wolf relinquished his lifetime appointment in November 2025 has spoken now.

He believed the administration’s assaults on equal justice had made silence intolerable. He accused Trump of directing the Justice Department to pursue perceived political enemies while failing to investigate possible corruption involving presidential allies and people enriching the president and his family.

Wolf also condemned Trump’s practice of calling judges corrupt and demanding their impeachment after unfavorable rulings, warning that such attacks undermine confidence in judicial independence.

He said the president’s inflammatory comments had coincided with death threats against judges and growing anxiety for their families. Citing reports that court orders were not always being properly obeyed, Wolf warned that judicial decisions lose their protective force when the executive can disregard them.

At Brandeis, he emphasized collec-

tive civic action and the ability of young people to hold their elders to higher standards. His warning places a fundamental question: can the institutions entrusted with enforcing the law still hold the president and those closest to him accountable?

The Iran war exposes the consequences of concentrated executive power. In his May 1, 2026 letter to Congress, Trump declared that the hostilities beginning on February 28 “have terminated,” citing the April 7 ceasefire. The administration relied on that position to argue that the War Powers Resolution’s 60-day deadline no longer required congressional authorization. Yet military action continued into September without specific congressional authorization.

Trump’s treatment of foreign governments reveals a troubling preference for coercion over consent, extending from adversaries to longstanding allies. American forces seized Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro in January 2026 and transported him to New York to face criminal charges, which he denied; the operation prompted the United Nations secretary-general to question its conformity with international law.

Trump subsequently threatened a takeover of Cuba. He also vowed to use economic pressure to make Canada America’s 51st state, pursued control of Greenland, and threatened additional tariffs on eight European countries over their opposition to that ambition.

Separately, his 2025 trade agreement imposed a 15 percent tariff on most European Union goods. Relations deteriorated further when he called NATO allies “cowards” for withholding support for the Iran war, while European governments questioned involvement in a conflict they had not chosen.

Trump banned CNN, MS NOW and Politico from White House grounds after denouncing their coverage as “fake news,” subsequently arguing that their reporting threatened national security.

The administration cited stories concerning White House security infrastructure and an alleged leak investigation; the outlets argued that they were being punished for their editorial content. This illustrates the danger of making journal-

istic access dependent on presidential approval. Journalists serve the public by asking uncomfortable questions, and penalizing unfavorable coverage undermines citizens’ ability to scrutinize their government.

Trump’s crackdown on immigrants brought an expanded federal enforcement presence into communities and military support onto American streets. In Los Angeles, Trump deployed National Guard troops and Marines over state and local objections. Immigration raids and the deployments fueled demonstrations that spread to other major cities, intensifying confrontation between Washington, local authorities and residents. The human consequences extended

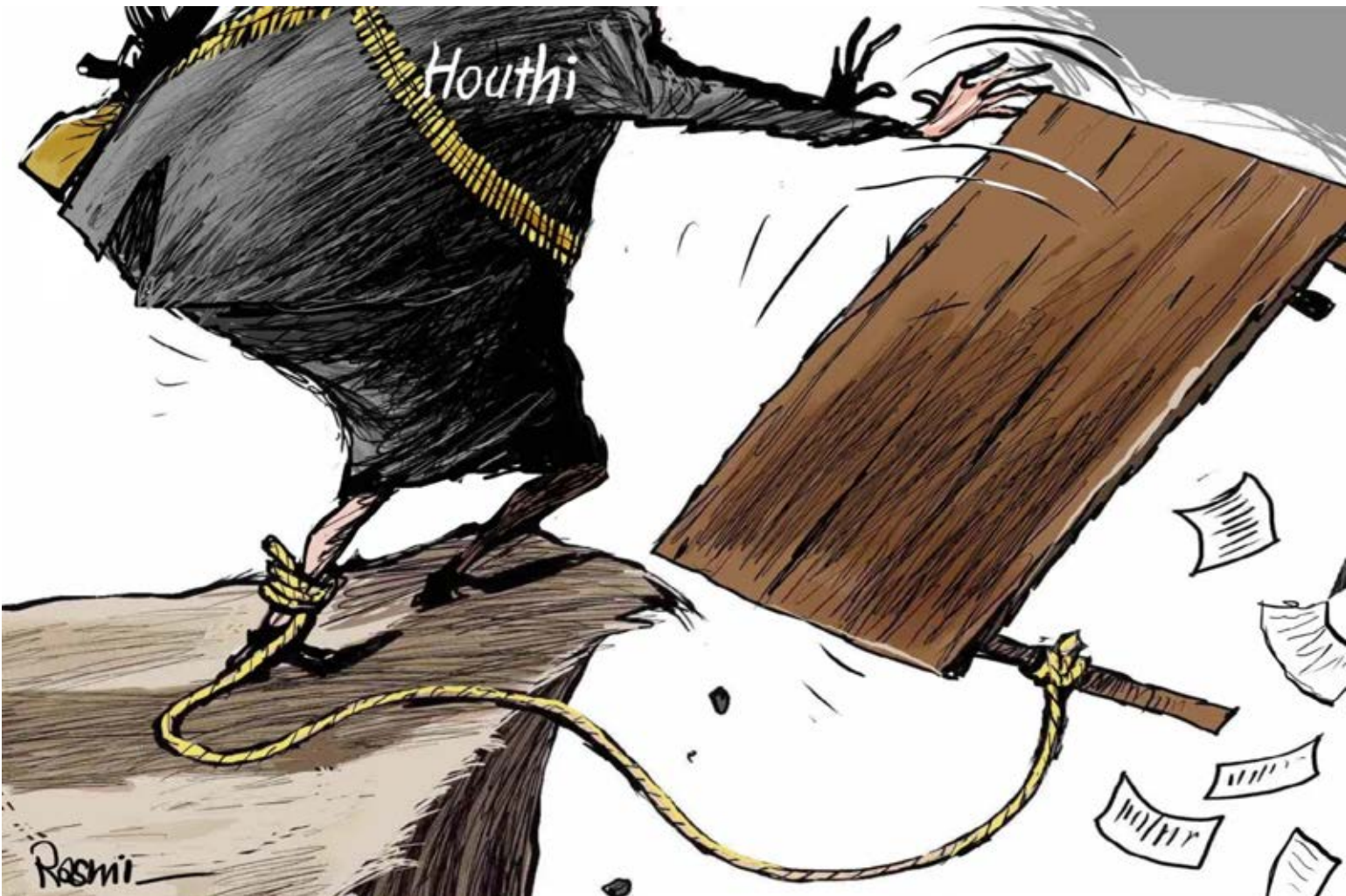
beyond those targeted for deportation. Federal immigration officers fatally shot American citizens Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, provoking investigations and nationwide outrage. Separately, the death of Cuban immigrant Geraldo Lúnas Campos in immigration detention was classified as a homicide by the medical examiner.

Trump’s stock market manipulation extended to amass a lot of wealth for his closet family members, close associates and Trump-linked companies. In August, Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Robert Garcia cited more than 17,000 stock trades worth up to \$1.56 billion across the periods examined, questioning transactions overlapping with government decisions.

Family ventures broaden these concerns. A Senate resolution introduced in February challenged approval of advanced artificial-intelligence chip exports to the United Arab Emirates following a reported \$500 million UAE-linked investment in World Liberty Financial. The sequence does not prove an exchange of money for favors, but demands examination of whether commercial interests influenced national-security decisions.

Congressional investigators also questioned federal support for Vulcan Elements, a company backed by Donald Trump Jr.’s investment firm, alleging White House intervention. Separately, PBS reported that Jared Kushner’s Affinity Partners disclosed more than \$6.1 billion in assets while he had resumed diplomatic work. Those assets are not his personal fortune. The concern

Continued on Page 7



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

A Name is a Lifelong Identity: Write It Correctly

In Pakistan, many children and young people face unnecessary difficulties because their names and their fathers’ names are written incorrectly, incompletely, or differently in official records.

This is a problem that deserves serious attention from fathers, parents, primary school teachers, and computer or data-entry operators across Pakistan. A small mistake made today can become a big problem tomorrow.

Fathers Must Take the First Responsibility: The first responsibility lies with the father and parents. When a child is born and his or her name is decided, parents must think carefully about the future. The child’s name should be clear, complete, and consistently written in all official records.

For example, writing “Muhammad Akram” is clearer and more practical than writing only “Akram.” As in passports and tickets name can easily be entered like First name “Muhammad” and last name as “Akram.” Sometimes a single name create difficulties later when the child needs a passport, visa, airline ticket, university admission, scholarship, employment record, professional registration, document attestation, or international application, if name does not match in every document one can suffer.

Parents should make sure that the father’s name is written correctly and consistently. The spelling should be checked before submitting any form or registration document.

Parents must understand one simple fact: their child will carry this name throughout life.

Primary Teachers Can Prevent Future Problems: Primary school teachers also have

a major responsibility. The primary school is often where a child’s educational record begins. Therefore, Primary teachers should carefully check the child’s name and father’s name at the time of admission.

Teachers should guide parents when they notice an incomplete name, unclear spelling, or a difference between documents. They should encourage parents to use the same correct name in school records, examination forms, certificates, and other documents.

Teachers should not simply enter whatever is written in front of them without checking.

Five minutes of careful attention at primary level can save a student from years of trouble.

Computer Operators Must Be Careful: Computer and data-entry operators also carry an important responsibility. They work in schools, colleges, universities, examination boards, government offices, banks, hospitals, and many other institutions.

While entering data, they must follow the original and approved documents. They should not shorten names, change spellings, remove parts of names, or make their own assumptions.

If a certificate says “Muhammad Akram,” the record should not suddenly become “Akram.” If the father’s name is written in a particular form in the official record, it should be entered accurately. A single wrong letter can create problems years later.

The Problem Appears When the Child Needs Documents: Many people do not realize the seriousness of this issue when children are young. The problem often appears later—

when a student applies for a scholarship, passport, visa, university admission, international examination, job, professional registration, or document attestation. Then the person may be asked:

Why is your name different on this document?

Why is your father’s name different?

Why does one certificate show one name while another record shows something else?

At that stage, correcting records can take considerable time, money, and effort.

The child should not have to suffer because an adult made a careless decision years earlier.

One Name, One Correct Record: Pakistan needs greater awareness about this issue. Parents, teachers, and data-entry staff must understand that names are official identities, not casual words that can be changed according to convenience.

We should follow proper documentation practices and pay attention to internationally accepted requirements for personal names and identity records. Most importantly, the same correct name should be used consistently across official documents.

A child’s name is his or her identity. A father’s name is an important part of that identity. A wrong spelling today can become a barrier tomorrow. Therefore, the message is simple: Fathers: choose and record your child’s name carefully.

Teachers: check and guide parents at the very beginning.

Computer operators: enter names exactly and correctly according to official records.

If we perform these responsibilities honestly and carefully, we can prevent thousands of students from facing unnecessary documentary problems in the future.

A few minutes of care today can save a lifetime of difficulty tomorrow.

A Conscious Worker, a Dignified State - I

The development, stability, and dignity of any state do not depend solely on its natural resources, strong economy, modern technology, or large-scale development projects. Rather, its real strength lies in its conscious, responsible, and principled people who perform their duties not merely as a job or position but as a form of national service. Every institution of the state is built upon individuals, and the performance of every institution ultimately affects the overall performance of the state. Therefore, when workers are aware of their responsibilities, rights, duties, and national interests, they not only strengthen their institutions but also contribute to building a dignified and respected state.

A conscious worker is not merely a person who knows how to perform a particular task. A truly conscious worker understands the importance of his or her position, the consequences of decisions, the responsibilities of the institution, and the relationship between the institution and society. Such a person realizes that even a small act of negligence can create difficulties for an individual, an institution, or the wider system, while honesty, hard work, and responsibility can make life easier for many people. This sense of responsibility transforms an ordinary worker into someone who contributes to the national interest.

Knowledge is a fundamental requirement for a conscious worker. Knowledge enables a person to perform duties properly and protects them from rumors, prejudice, and misinformation. We live in an age of information in which access to knowledge has become extremely easy through modern communication technologies and social media. At the same time, however, the possibility of spreading

false information has also increased. In such an environment, a conscious worker does not forward every piece of news or claim without verification. Instead, he or she tries to determine its authenticity before sharing it. Such a person demonstrates responsibility in both speech and action.

Another important aspect of consciousness is character. Education alone is not sufficient; it must be accompanied by morality, honesty, tolerance,

and justice. If a highly educated person engages in dishonesty, favoritism, deception, or injustice, education cannot produce the desired benefit for society. In contrast, a person of good character can make valuable contributions to an institution and society even with limited resources. The real strength of a state emerges from individuals who possess

such character.

Islamic teachings also attach great importance to responsibility, trust, and honesty. The Qur’an instructs believers to return trusts to those entitled to them and to judge between people with justice. This principle is not limited to rulers or government officials; it applies to every responsible individual in society. Every worker, according to his or her position, is a trustee. Teaching is a trust for a teacher, caring for patients is a trust for a doctor, serving the public is a trust for a government employee, and protecting institutional resources and the interests of employees is a trust for an institutional head.

An important characteristic of a conscious worker is respect for law and institutional discipline. A strong state is built not merely around personalities but around strong institutions. When workers give priority to personal interests, relationships, or temporary pressures over institutional principles, institutions become weak.

To be Continued

41st Khatm-e-Nabuwwat Conference held in London, stresses religious education and peaceful engagement

Chaudhy Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The 41st Annual International Khatm-e-Nabuwwat Conference was held in Stockwell, bringing together Islamic scholars, Quran and Naat reciters, and a large number of attendees from the United Kingdom, Europe and Pakistan.

The conference was organised under the chairmanship of Professor Dr Toaha Qureshi MBE, Chairman of the Khatm-e-Nabuwwat Centre London. Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandhari, Secretary General of Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, was the chief guest.

Scholars from Britain and Europe discussed the belief in the Finality of Prophethood, the Seerah of the Holy Prophet and the importance of Islamic education, stressing that younger generations must be taught the Quran, Sunnah and fundamental beliefs.

Dr Qureshi emphasised respect for British laws alongside religious freedom and freedom of expression. He said the Centre's activities aim to explain and express Islamic beliefs peacefully, not promote



hatred against any religion or community. Maulana Jalandhari described the Finality of

Prophethood as a fundamental Islamic belief and urged greater attention to young people's reli-



gious upbringing.

Speakers also encouraged Muslims in Britain and Europe

to strengthen community ties and contribute positively to wider society. The organ-

isers concluded by presenting a declaration committing to promote awareness of the belief,

strengthen religious education and hold similar gatherings in future.

Ambassador Sohail Mehmood and Albayrak Media Group Discuss Media Initiatives for D-8's 30th Anniversary

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: The Ambassador Sohail Mehmood, Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization (D-8) held a meeting with Albayrak Media Group General Manager Ömer Karaca and senior executives to explore ways to strengthen mutual cooperation.

During the meeting, the D-8 Secretary-General highlighted the organisation's founding vision, mission, key priorities, current trajectory and future outlook.

The two sides agreed to pursue a range of media initiatives aimed at



increasing international awareness and visibility of D-8's contribution to

regional economic cooperation and integration.

The discussions also focused on upcoming opportunities, including the D-8's 30th anniversary in 2027 and the 12th D-8 Summit, scheduled to be hosted by Indonesia.

The Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the Albayrak Group for hosting the delegation and providing a detailed tour of its digital and print media facilities.

The visit also included a formal media interaction focusing on the D-8 agenda and its role in promoting cooperation among member countries.

Students Honored for Completing Huawei ICT Training Under PM's Digital Initiative

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: An award distribution ceremony was held at the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication in Islamabad on September 30, 2026, for public sector school students who completed the Huawei Summer ICT Training Program, organized under the Prime Minister's ICT training initiative in collaboration with Huawei Technologies Pakistan.

Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja interacted with the students, congratulated them, and highlighted the government's focus, under PM Shehbaz Sharif's vision, on equipping young Pakistanis, especially girls, with digital skills for the global economy.



She encouraged students to explore AI, cybersecurity, cloud computing, software development and data science, and to share their

knowledge with peers.

Top certificate recipients included Ayesha Zaib (33 certifications), Hifsa Waqas (28), Hadia Zarnab (28), Laiba Nadeem (27), Sajafah Farooq (27) and Ayesha Mujtaba (26).

The Minister praised Huawei and school administrations for providing practical, industry-relevant exposure. Ahmed Bilal Masood, CEO AI and Cloud at Huawei Pakistan, reaffirmed the company's commitment to Pakistan's digital transformation and youth ICT talent development. South Asians & Diaspora

The Minister concluded by urging students to see this as the start of a longer learning journey, staying curious and applying technology to solve real-world problems.

'IBA Karachi Hosted Thinkfest On Campus'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: IBA hosted ThinkFest on Campus at the Main Campus, bringing high-quality academic and policy discourse directly to students and providing a platform for the youth to learn, engage, and contribute to their personal and national development.

Opening the event, Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, Dean, School of Economics & Social Sciences and Founder, ThinkFest, stated that this new initiative brings the top class conversations directly to the youth of Pakistan—the future of the country, so that they are able to learn, engage and then use it for the development of their own self and country. The first session featured Professor Megan Robb from the University of Pennsylvania, who



discussed the story of Sharafun Nissa, exploring themes of family, religion, and identity across India and England.

The second panel, featuring

Professor Justin Jones from Oxford; Lawyer, Sara Malkani, and Development Specialist, Nazish Brohi, discussed child marriage in Pakistan,

focusing on legislative progress, continuing challenges, and legal complexities. A subsequent session featuring Professor Sunera Thobani examined the portrayal of Muslims in Indian cinema and issues of stereotyping and Islamophobia.

The final session centered on Peter Jacob's documentary, A Separation Refused, highlighting the struggle for joint electorates and minority representation in Pakistan. Dr. Riaz Sheikh, Dean of Social Sciences—SZABIST, reflected on its significance for human rights advocacy.

The four sessions drew over 600 students, including more than 100 participants from outside IBA. Concluding the event, Dr. Bangash reaffirmed IBA's commitment to fostering dialogue on important national and societal issues.

First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari congratulates Morocco's first woman Prime Minister

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari has warmly congratulated Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri on her historic appointment as the first woman Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The First Lady said that, as the daughter of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the first woman Prime Minister of the Muslim world, she feels a special connection with this historic moment. She said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's pioneering journey continues to inspire generations of women across the Muslim world and beyond.

The First Lady expressed her best wishes to Prime Minister Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri for success in her new responsibilities and conveyed her warm greetings and good wishes to her and the brotherly people of Morocco. She expressed the hope that this historic milestone would further inspire women and girls across the Muslim world to pursue leadership roles and contribute to the progress and prosperity of their societies.

Prof. Furqan Ahmed Siddiqi Named Among World Physiotherapy's 75 Noteworthy Physiotherapists



ISLAMABAD: Foundation University Islamabad has congratulated Prof. Dr. Furqan Ahmed Siddiqi, Principal/Dean of the Foundation University College of Physical Therapy (FUCP) and the College of Allied Health Sciences (FUCAHS), on being recognised by World Physiotherapy as one of its 75 Noteworthy Physiotherapists. The selection is part of the organisation's 75th anniversary celebrations and honours physiotherapists who have made a significant impact on the profession.

The recognition reflects more than two decades of contributions by Prof. Siddiqi to clinical practice, physiotherapy education, academic leadership, research and professional development, as well as his work to promote excellence and strengthen professional standards in Pakistan.

He has contributed to the Higher Education Commission's curriculum and accreditation review, supporting better quality and standards in physiotherapy education. He has also contributed to national rehabilitation planning through the Federal Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Strategic Action Plans 2023–2028, which aim to develop rehabilitation and assistive technology services in the country.

The university described the honour as a significant achievement for the institution and a proud moment for Pakistan's physiotherapy community, highlighting the contribution of Pakistani professionals to the profession at national and international levels.

Payoneer renews etsy partnership through 2029, extending cross-border payouts in 16 markets

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Global fintech company Payoneer has renewed its strategic partnership with Etsy through 2029. Under the three-year agreement, Payoneer will remain a payments partner for Etsy sellers across 16 markets in Asia, Europe, South America and the Middle East.

Since launching together in 2023, the two companies have enabled tens of thousands of sellers to receive cross-border payouts and grow globally. Through Payoneer on Etsy Payments, eligible sellers can receive earnings in USD, withdraw directly to local bank accounts and manage funds across more than 70 currencies, reducing the friction and cost of moving money across borders.

Ukraine-based seller Maksym Gopanchuk of KGUmusic and MG Leather Work said reliable international partners help sellers keep moving forward when local conditions change overnight.

Payoneer's Ya Wen said the renewal reflects a shared commitment to solving cross-border challenges at scale. Etsy's Megan Oxman called Payoneer a trusted partner supporting sellers across markets with very different operational and regulatory environments, and said Etsy was pleased to continue the partnership.

 Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
169,969.32	169,600.40
Day's High	Day's Low
171,492.52	169,872.13
Index Value	Change
11,230,807,202	+ 368.92
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	30 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,606.00	−30.71
Percentage	Time
−0.29%	30 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,312.41	−37.51
Percentage	Time
−0.073%	30 Sept, 1:00 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
66,753.72	+ 1,272.45
Percentage	Time
+1.94%	30 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.22	198.05
Bahrain Dinar	735.25	747.29
Canadian Dollar	194.19	200.95
China Yuan	38.30	38.92
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	316.50	322.35
Hong Kong Dollar	34.92	35.91
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.01
Japanese Yen	1.7342	1.8339
Kuwaiti Dinar	884.85	895.25
Malaysian Ringgit	68.95	70.05
NewZealand \$	157.34	161.05
Norwegians Krone	28.55	28.90
Omani Riyal	719.15	731.95
Qatari Riyal	74.93	76.25
Saudi Riyal	74.05	74.60
Singapore Dollar	216.75	222.70
Swedish Korona	28.55	28.90
Swiss Franc	338.60	343.90
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.95
U.A.E Dirham	75.70	76.55
UK Pound Sterling	366.93	372.20
US Dollar	278.00	278.20

CCP Calls
for Greater
Competition and
Digitalisation to
Expand Pakistan's
Insurance Sector



ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) held a meeting of its Competition Consultative Group on strengthening competition in the insurance sector, calling for more competition, digitalisation, better claims handling and wider market access. Insurance penetration stands at just 0.7 percent of GDP, with density of around US\$12 per capita.

CCP Chairman Farid Ahmad Tarar said insurance helps manage risk, mobilise long-term savings and support economic activity, and that low penetration leaves considerable room for growth. Greater competition, he said, could encourage innovation, improve service quality and widen consumer choice.

A CCP presentation said Pakistan has 44 insurers, including 36 conventional insurers, seven Takaful operators and one reinsurer, with about 10.4 million policies. Key challenges include market concentration, entry barriers, reliance on bancassurance, low awareness, claims disputes and delays, and limited innovation and digitalisation. The regulator's representative highlighted digitalisation, mandatory insurance, agricultural insurance and a risk-based solvency framework. The Insurance Bill, 2026 was also discussed.

Two panels of industry leaders, regulators and consumer advocates identified agriculture, health, Takaful, microinsurance, SMEs and rural markets as growth areas. Participants stressed reliable data, stronger reinsurance capacity, easier premium payments, efficient claims settlement, transparent disclosures and effective complaint handling.

The chairman said the deliberations would help identify where advocacy and policy interventions could build a competitive, efficient market.

Qatar's LNG Suspension
Sparks Fears of
Industrial Slowdown in
Pakistan: Mian Zahid

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIIF) and holder of several other business leadership positions, has voiced serious concern over Qatar's suspension of LNG supply to Pakistan until November 5 under the "Force Majeure" clause, linked to the ongoing US-America war. Since Qatar supplies 20 percent of global LNG, he warned the disruption will hit industrial gas supplies hard, just as winter demand peaks.

He noted that Pakistan's actual gas consumption already runs below unconstrained demand due to rationing and



pipeline limits. Between March and

September 2026, amid the Iran-US war, Pakistan secured only 17 LNG cargoes instead of the usual 110–120 annually, with the last Qatari shipment arriving September 22. This has created a 400 MMcf/d deficit, roughly four cargoes short per month.

Hussain warned that power generation, manufacturing, textiles and exports depend on steady gas supply, and cuts could force production cuts, shipment delays and cancelled export orders. He urged the government to buy spot LNG cargoes despite higher costs and prioritize gas allocation to industry and exporters, while welcoming recent gains in foreign exchange reserves and Pakistan's diplomatic standing.

Congratulations

FAISALABAD: Newly elected President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Arif Mehmood Malik being congratulated on taking the office.



Photo: Online

ABHI Microfinance Bank Signs MoU
with RCCI to Boost SME Financing



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: ABHI Microfinance Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) to strengthen Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by improving their access to financial facilities and supporting sustainable business growth.

The MoU was signed by RCCI Presi-

dent Usman Shaukat and ABHI Microfinance Bank Chief Compliance Officer Mubashar Shahani, in the presence of Kabeer Naqvi, Entrepreneur in Residence at ABHI Group.

The partnership aims to provide financial solutions that help businesses expand operations, enhance productivity and tap new growth opportunities. Both organizations said they seek to build a stronger, more financially inclusive business

ecosystem and reaffirmed their shared commitment to supporting the business community and creating opportunities for SMEs in an evolving economic landscape.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior management of the bank and the leadership of RCCI. The bank said the agreement advances its broader commitment to financial inclusion and contributes to Pakistan's economic development.

New ICCI office-bearers take oath
at 42nd Annual
General Meeting



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The newly elected office-bearers and Executive Committee members of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) formally assumed their responsibilities after taking oath at the Chamber's 42nd Annual General Meeting on Wednesday.

Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia took oath as President, with Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatah as Senior Vice President and Mohammad Waqas Khan as Vice President. ICCI Founder Group Chairman Sheikh Tariq Sadiq administered the oath, while former president Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi served as master of ceremonies.

Addressing the gathering, Zia said his foremost priority would be to represent the business community and

pursue practical advocacy on its problems. He said the Chamber would engage with government institutions to promote an environment conducive to investment, trade and entrepreneurship. He thanked the Founder Group and members for their confidence and paid tribute to the outgoing leadership, pledging to build on its work with new initiatives.

Outgoing President Sardar Tahir Mehmood congratulated the new team, highlighted achievements of his tenure and expressed hope that the legacy would be carried forward. Sheikh Tariq Sadiq voiced optimism about the new leadership, and other outgoing and incoming office-bearers also spoke.

Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza presented the agenda, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

SMEDA, ILO Advance
Roadmap for Formalizing
SMEs and Workers

LAHORE: The National Roadmap for SME and Worker Formalization is set to provide a coordinated framework for advancing Pakistan's formalization agenda, with government institutions and stakeholders working together.

The implementation of the roadmap was reviewed at the third and final meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG), chaired by Humaira Zia Mufti, Additional Secretary-I, Ministry of Industries and Production. The meeting was attended by Sheharyar Tahir, GM Policy & Ecosystem, SMEDA, and Naeem Ansari, ILO representative.

Participants reviewed achievements of the ILO-funded project, progress on the roadmap and the way forward following its completion. The ILO formally announced closure of the project on September 30, 2026, while financial closure remains underway.

Sheharyar Tahir highlighted the roadmap's role in supporting enterprise and worker formalization, improving working conditions and promoting sustainable SME development. Naeem Ansari said all technical deliverables had been completed, including development and launch of the roadmap, approved by the TWG.

APTMA urges govt to
save textile economy

LAHORE: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) in its 67th Annual General Meeting has demanded the government to save textile industry and upsurge exports by ensuring regionally competitive business environment.

The meeting was attended by leading textile manufacturers and exporters including Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Patron in Chief APTMA, S.M. Tanveer, Patron in Chief United Business Group (UBG), Kamran Arshad, outgoing Chairman, Asad Shafi, newly elected Chairman, former Chairmen, Ahsan Bashir, Abdul Rahim Nasir, Adil Bashir, Syed Ali

Ahsan, Asif Inam and Raza Baqir, Secretary General. At the meeting Raza Baqir, Secretary General official announced results of elections both at Center and Zonal bodies.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Gohar Ejaz congratulated newly elected office-bearers and members of the Center and Zonal Managing Committees. He said that it was an unprecedented 17th year of consecutive victory in the elections of APTMA both at Center and Zonal levels. He said that it was great honour to be elected in the largest trade body of the country established since 1957.

DIB Pakistan Opens New Branch in Sarai Alamgir

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan has inaugurated a new branch at New Metro City, Sarai Alamgir, as part of its expansion initiative to strengthen its presence across Pakistan.

The new branch, located in a growing commercial area, received a warm welcome from leading local community figures, business representatives and other stakeholders.

The branch was inaugurated by Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan, who said the bank was expanding at a remarkable pace. He said that, building on its momentum from the



previous year, DIB Pakistan was on track to open another 75 branches during the year.

He said the objective was to establish a comprehensive presence across Pakistan while providing customers with an international banking experience.

The bank's management also met members of the local business community to understand their financial needs, including company accounts, remittances and foreign currency deposits.

Customers welcomed the new facility, saying it would support business activity and economic growth in the region.

PSCA Launches First Aid Guidance Service on Helpline 15 for Immediate Medical Assistance

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has launched a First Aid Guidance Service on Emergency Helpline 15, offering citizens immediate advice on essential first-aid measures during medical emergencies and accidents. Callers can dial 15 and receive guidance from trained representatives while waiting for rescue teams or medical help.

A Safe City spokesperson said the period between an emergency and the arrival of rescue services or transfer to hospital is extremely critical, and timely, accurate guidance can save lives and prevent complications. Representatives will assess the situation described by the caller and walk them through the necessary steps.

Where required, callers will receive a link for video-based guidance, allowing the representative to assess the situation visually and give more precise instructions. The service will cover road traffic accidents, heart attacks, strokes, burns, electric shocks, drowning, unconsciousness and animal bites, among other emergencies. It will be available in both urban and rural areas.

The spokesperson clarified that the service is not a substitute for medical treatment or Rescue 1122 services, but a support mechanism until professional help arrives. Citizens were urged to dial 15 and press 4 to obtain first aid guidance in an emergency.

Punjab Ombudsman Marks 30th Foundation Day at Multan Ceremony

MULTAN: A ceremony was held at the Multan regional office to mark 30 years since the establishment of the Punjab Ombudsman office, attended by Chief Ombudsman Nabila Ayesha Hamid, senior advisors and officials, and dignitaries from across South Punjab, including Additional Chief Secretary Fuad Hashim Rabbani, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Multan, and Additional IG

Police Muhammad Kamran Khan. Ms. Hamid said the institution has played a vital role in redressing public grievances against government departments and delivering justice. She noted that the rising number of complaints reflects growing public confidence, which she described as an added responsibility. The primary aim, she said, is to give ordinary citizens easy, effective and non-discriminatory access to justice, particularly those facing hardship. She pledged to resolve every complaint on merit, transparently and in accordance with the law.



Advisor Mahmood Javed Bhatti said public engagement in the Multan region is steadily increasing, with complaints addressed legally. Other speakers included Waqar Hussain and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali. The programme featured a Quranic recitation, a Naat and poetry by local poets. The ceremony highlighted the Ombudsman's 30-year record in accountability and good governance.

Lahore Qalandars Sign MoU with Guyana's Sports Ministry to Boost Cricket Development

Lahore Qalandars have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Guyana's Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, aiming to strengthen cricket development and create new opportunities for players and coaches through international collaboration. The MoU was signed by Qalandars Owner and Team Director Sameen Rana, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson, and Minister within the Ministry Steven Jacobs. The agreement combines the franchise's player development expertise with Guyana's strong cricketing culture, creating a framework for cooperation in high-performance cricket, player and coach development, technical exchange, talent identification and knowledge sharing. The Guyana Cricket Board will serve as the Ministry's principal technical partner.



The two sides will explore player and coach exchanges, high-performance training, coaching education and talent identification programmes. Possible joint activities include cricket camps, coaching clinics, youth development programmes and women's cricket initiatives. A key objective is to create sustainable pathways exposing players and coaches to international standards and modern training methods. As three-time Pakistan Super League champions, Lahore Qalandars have made player development central to their philosophy. The partnership reflects their vision of taking that model beyond Pakistan and building meaningful cricketing relationships internationally.



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, presents shields to Pervaiz Mughal of The Financial Daily, Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran President Ajmal Baloch, and former Vice President Naveed Malik are also present.

Tayyab Aslam Wins CM Punjab PSA Satellite Squash Championship in Lahore

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Tayyab Aslam won the CM Punjab PSA Satellite Squash Championship, beating Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shamlan Gul in straight games at the Punjab International Squash Complex on Wednesday. The scores were 11-5, 14-12 and 11-6. Cash prizes totalling Rs one million were distributed among the winning players at the closing ceremony. Punjab Sports Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar, squash legend Jahangir Khan and Provincial Irrigation Minister M Kazim Ali Pirzada were the guests of honour. Secretary Sports Punjab Fazal-ur-Rehman, DG Sports Tariq Qureshi, Pakistan Squash Academy CEO Adnan Asad and other officials also attended. Speaking to the media, Khokhar said the provincial government had fulfilled its commitment to restore the complex, which has resumed sporting activities and is hosting competitions. He described the revival as an important achievement and said providing world-class facilities to young athletes is a government priority. He added that the international squash court at the complex would be completed within a few months. Jahangir Khan said Pakistani squash has a glorious past and that effective efforts are needed to restore its international standing. He said the country has no shortage of talent, only a need for proper facilities and expert coaching, and stressed that merit and the involvement of the right people are essential for sports development.

Pakistan Hockey League to be formally launched in Islamabad on October 14

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) is set to formally launch the Pakistan Hockey League (PHL) in Islamabad on October 14, marking a major step towards developing a professional and commercially sustainable hockey structure in the country. The inaugural season of the PHL is planned for 2027, with the league being developed as part of the PHF's efforts to modernise Pakistan's hockey infrastructure and create new avenues for investment, professional competition and player development. The PHF has awarded the league rights to Mediacast following a competitive bidding process earlier this year. The inaugural edition is likely to feature six to eight franchise teams, while leading international players are expected to be contracted to play alongside Pakistani players. The participation of foreign players would provide Pakistani players an opportunity to train and compete alongside international talent and gain exposure to modern professional standards. According to the PHF, the league will also seek to attract private-sector investment through franchise ownership and corporate sponsorships, providing additional commercial and marketing support for hockey across the country. The PHL is expected to create opportunities for Pakistani hockey professionals to work with experienced international experts, helping develop expertise in areas such as coaching, management, sports science and professional league operations.

Development Is Not Achieved by Dreaming Alone

Pakistan has no shortage of plans, slogans or ambitious promises. What it lacks is sustained industrial growth, economic discipline, regional trade and a peaceful environment in which businesses can invest and expand. Development is not achieved by merely dreaming about it; it requires production, exports, jobs and the confidence to keep the economic wheel turning. One is sometimes tempted to ask, with bitter humour: apart from garments, towels and a few traditional products, what exactly are we exporting? The joke may be exaggerated, but the underlying concern is real. Pakistan does have a wider export base, including knitwear, ready-made garments, bedwear, cotton cloth, towels, cotton yarn, vegetables and petroleum products, but the export basket remains heavily concentrated in relatively low-value, traditional goods. Official statistics continue to

show the importance of textiles in Pakistan's merchandise exports (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics). At the same time, ordinary citizens face a very different economic reality. Domestic electricity bills have become difficult for many households to absorb, while commercial electricity and gas costs can make business expansion almost impossible. There was a time when entrepreneurs competed to obtain commercial gas connections. Today, some businesses are reportedly surrendering their meters because operating costs have become unsustainable. Markets where customers once gathered now often look unusually quiet, while regulatory and enforcement agencies remain highly visible. Agriculture presents another contradiction. Farmers naturally prefer crops that offer reliable cash returns, yet a country cannot build food security around a narrow cropping pattern. Wheat and sugar have both required

imports at different times, despite Pakistan being an agricultural country. The answer is not to blame farmers, but to create incentives, water management, storage, market access and pricing policies that encourage diversification and reduce dependence on imports. Industry is the central missing link. A country cannot become economically self-reliant if factories remain closed, production costs keep rising and investors remain uncertain. When the industrial wheel stops, imports rise, exports stagnate, jobs disappear and governments increasingly depend on borrowing. Borrowing may provide temporary relief, but it cannot substitute for productive capacity indefinitely. Pakistan's external trade figures

underline the challenge. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics publishes monthly data showing the gap between exports and imports. The country is not an export-free economy, but its export earnings remain insufficient to comfortably finance its large import requirements. The real objective, therefore, should not be simply to celebrate a small rise in exports; it should be to transform the composition and value of what Pakistan sells to the world (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics). Regional peace and trade are equally important. Pakistan cannot fully exploit its geographical position while relations with neighbouring countries remain strained. Increased legal and regulated trade with neighbouring markets could help reduce transport costs, widen market access

and create opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses. Peace is not merely a diplomatic slogan; it is an economic necessity. Security is another major obstacle. In 2026, violence has again placed heavy pressure on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, with security personnel and civilians among the victims. Recent reporting has documented serious militant activity and significant casualties in both provinces (Dawn). At the same time, political and economic grievances in less-developed regions cannot be addressed through security measures alone. Pakistan's own history, particularly the tragedy of East Pakistan, demonstrates the enormous cost of allowing a sense of deprivation and alienation to deepen. The international trading environment is also changing rapidly. The United States has increasingly used tariffs and other trade measures to protect domestic industries and reshape supply chains, and China,

India and other major exporters are being affected. For Pakistan, the lesson is simple: countries with strong production capacity have something to negotiate with the world, while countries with weak exports have far fewer options (Reuters). Pakistan therefore needs a national economic strategy centred on industrial revival, affordable energy, agricultural diversification, regional trade, export-quality production and durable peace. Governments may change, policies may be revised and economic crises may come and go, but the fundamental requirement will remain the same: produce more, export more, waste less and create conditions in which investment becomes rational. Dreams can inspire nations, but factories, farms, markets, skilled workers and exports build them. Pakistan has spent too long discussing the destination. It is time to make the economic journey itself the national priority.



Analysis

Ch Muhammad Anwar Chohan

Why is Trump a Dictator?

Continued from Page 4

is whether financial relationships influence public decisions or diplomatic access attracts private business. The accumulation of wealth around Trump's presidency spans both administrations and raises serious questions about the separation of public power from private interests. During his first term, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump reported between \$172 million and \$640 million in outside income across disclosure periods that also included some earnings

before their appointments. By September 2025, Forbes estimated the family's combined wealth at approximately \$10 billion—nearly double its value at the preceding election—including \$7.3 billion for Donald Trump, \$750 million for Eric, \$500 million for Donald Jr., \$150 million for Barron, \$1 billion for Kushner and \$100 million for Ivanka. Trump himself disclosed more than \$1.4 billion in cryptocurrency income for 2025. Kushner's Affinity Partners reported more than \$6.1 billion in managed assets, while

a congressional inquiry cited growth at Donald Jr.'s 1789 Capital from approximately \$150 million to over \$3 billion. That inquiry highlighted portfolio company Vulcan Elements, whose valuation reportedly rose from approximately \$200 million to \$2 billion after receiving a \$620 million federal loan and a \$50 million grant. The administration's approach to universities carries longer-term consequences. In September 2025, a federal judge ruled that approximately \$2.2 billion in Harvard research grants had been unlawfully

terminated. The administration cited antisemitism; the court found unlawful retaliation and procedural failures. Universities must confront discrimination, but scientific funding should never become an instrument of political conformity. Interrupting research risks discoveries whose value emerges over decades. The dismantling of USAID by Trump weakened an institution that combined humanitarian assistance with American diplomatic influence. Before Trump's second term, the agency employed more

than 10,000 people, maintained over 60 country and regional missions, and provided assistance to approximately 130 countries with budget allocation of over \$40 billion. On July 1, 2025, the agency ceased implementing foreign assistance sacrificing accumulated expertise, dependable partnerships and goodwill built over decades. These actions and behaviors by Trump are less democratic in character and closer to dictatorial conduct. This disposition is particularly troubling because the American constitutional system is founded on a commitment to democracy and resistance to unchecked power. In November's midterm elections, the people of the United States will once again deliver their verdict. Support for Trump's political allies would strengthen his claim to public endorsement; their rejection would signal a demand for democratic accountability and resistance to dictatorial behavior, even though he is not a dictator in the fullest sense. Americans are outspoken and capable of distinguishing right from wrong. History shows

that, although their tolerance is considerable, they can act decisively when they conclude that change is necessary to restore constitutional balance. Let us hope that sound judgment prevails and that the Trump administration changes course, returning to the democratic values on which the United States was founded. The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Michigan, USA

NDMA Visit

ISLAMABAD: The Delegate of SCO Council of National Coordinators visited National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA HQs.



Photo: PID

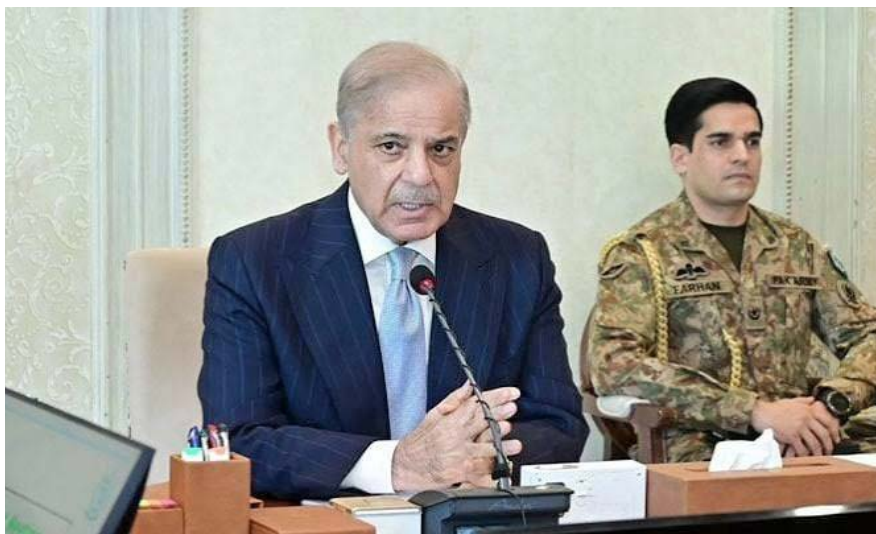
PM Shehbaz considers Governor’s Rule, emergency options in KP

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a high-level consultative meeting to discuss possible options, including governor rule or emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sources said on Wednesday.

The meeting, held at the Prime Minister House, was attended by federal ministers and senior officials. The participants reviewed the overall law and order situation across the country, with particular focus on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to sources, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi briefed the meeting on the security situation. The participants also reviewed PTI’s



announcement of a long march and ongoing back-channel contacts.

Sources said views were sought on Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution in

the context of the situation in KP. Prime Minister Shehbaz is also expected to meet Pres-

ident Asif Ali Zardari, during which possible constitutional measures regarding the province may be finalized.

Federal ministers alleged that the KP government was pursuing political objectives and was not providing institutions with the required support against the threat posed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The KP Chief Minister’s House rejected the allegations, saying the federal government could take any measures but the long march would take place.

Meanwhile, PTI leader Shaukat Yousafzai had written to party chairman Barrister Gohar Khan a day earlier, requesting that the long march be postponed.

NHA Achieves Revenue Target Set Two Years Ago: Abdul Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said the National Highway Authority (NHA) had successfully achieved its revenue enhancement target set two years ago, enabling it to undertake new road projects through revenue generated from existing sources.

Chairing a high-level NHA review meeting, he reviewed ongoing and proposed projects, financial matters, revenue generation and road safety programmes. He said major projects nearing completion, including the Lodhran-Multan Expressway,



Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway expansion and Peshawar Northern Bypass,

would be inaugurated by the prime minister.

He said work on the Sialkot-Kharian Motorway was progressing rapidly, while construction had begun on the Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Pakistan Expressway (N-25). Expressing concern over the Lahore-Gujranwala GT Road, he directed immediate measures to improve its condition.

Abdul Aleem Khan stressed that protection of human lives must remain the top priority and called for modern highway designs, improved engineering and international expertise. The meeting was also briefed on M-6 funding and projects across the country.

Naqvi Reviews Immigration Arrangements at Karachi Airport

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Arif Habib Centre and Jinnah International Airport on Wednesday, reviewing organisational and immigration matters.

At the Arif Habib Centre, Naqvi met businessman Arif Habib, who briefed him on the operational infrastructure of his organisation. They also discussed development projects and other matters of mutual interest. The minister appreciated the progress achieved by the Arif Habib Group.

Earlier, Naqvi visited Jinnah International Airport and inspected



immigration counters and facilities for passengers travelling abroad. He interacted with passengers and reviewed several travel documents, directing Federal Investigation Agency officials to verify them.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the immigration arrangements and said the deployment of an additional system had helped prevent long queues. He praised Deputy Director of Immigration Shehzad Akbar for facilitating passengers.

Naqvi directed officials to thoroughly scrutinise travel documents and prevent passengers with incomplete documentation from travelling abroad.

Saudi Cabinet reviews progress on Makkah defence agreement with Pakistan, Türkiye



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia’s Cabinet, chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has reviewed progress towards establishing the secretariat of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, as Riyadh, Islamabad and Ankara continue efforts to strengthen their defence cooperation.

According to the TV channel, the Cabinet meeting also considered developments in defence cooperation between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye, along with regional and international security developments. The three countries signed the

Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in August, committing to strengthen collective security and defence cooperation. The agreement states that an armed attack on one of the three countries will be regarded as an attack on all three.

The latest Cabinet discussions followed a meeting in Riyadh on Friday between the defence chiefs and chiefs of general staff of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye.

The military leaders reviewed threats facing Saudi Arabia and discussed ways to improve intelligence sharing, military coordination and the integration of defence capabilities.

President of AJK, Speaker discuss state affairs and public issues

City Desk.

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan held a meeting with Speaker of the AJK Legislative Assembly Farooq.

The meeting discussed matters of mutual interest, the overall situation in Azad Kashmir, state affairs and other important issues.

The President and the Speaker



also exchanged views on the need for enhanced cooperation among state institutions and effective measures to address issues faced by the people.

CM Maryam Nawaz Announces 10-Day Basant Festival in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved a 10-day Basant festival in Lahore, describing it as a special gift for the people of the city.

According to the plan, Basant celebrations will be held from January 29 to February 7, 2027, with a one-day break on February 5 to observe Kashmir Day. The festival is being planned following the resumption of Basant celebrations in Lahore earlier this year after a 25-year hiatus.

CM Maryam Nawaz said the 10-day festival would help promote Punjab’s cultural heritage and Lahore’s centuries-old traditions internationally. She directed authorities to make better arrangements for the safety, security and convenience



of citizens than those made during the previous celebrations.

The chief minister appealed to Lahore’s residents to demonstrate responsibility, care and a strong sense of duty during the festivities to ensure public safety. She expressed confidence that citizens would again set an example by helping protect human lives.

FBR Uncovers Rs9.41bn Wealth Statement Fraud, Registers Money Laundering Case

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has uncovered a fraud involving the illegal revision of old wealth statements to declare previously unexplained assets worth Rs9.41 billion. A criminal case under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010, has been registered, while further cases are being processed.

The fraud was detected by the Directorate General of Intelligence and Investigation (Inland Revenue) through analysis of FBR data with support from Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL). The inves-

tigation identified 85 taxpayers who, between March 2025 and June 2026, revised wealth statements for tax years 2014-2019 and added previously undeclared cash, gold, prize bonds, properties and business capital.

FBR said such revisions were barred after five years under the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. In one Lahore case, a taxpayer inserted fictitious funds of Rs102.8 million and later used them to account for seven properties. The tax evasion involved exceeded Rs46 million.

Regional directorates have launched 48 criminal inquiries across Pakistan.