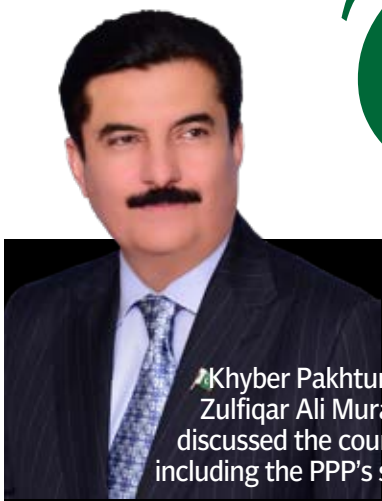




### KP Governor Kundi Meets Gilgit-Baltistan Ministers, Discusses Political Situation

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi met a delegation of Gilgit-Baltistan ministers, Zulfiqar Ali Murad, Iqbal Hassan and Aman Ali Ameer, at the Governor's House on Saturday. They discussed the country's political situation, mutual interests and the recent Gilgit-Baltistan elections, including the PPP's success. The ministers toured the house and received traditional shawls and caps.



### Pakistan Win Asian Games Hockey Bronze After 12 Years, Beat South Korea 5-3

Pakistan ended a 12-year wait for an Asian Games hockey medal, beating South Korea 5-3 in the bronze-medal playoff at Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan. Sufyan Khan gave Pakistan an early lead, but Korea went ahead through Lee Gang-san, Kim Jung-hok and Yang Ji-hun before Pakistan came back.

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## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting on the development agenda for Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online

# Govt, Opposition reach understanding on PTI's October 4 March; Achakzai says final call after meeting Imran Khan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Government and opposition negotiators reached an agreement on Saturday over the PTI's planned October 4 march to Islamabad, but opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai stressed that the party's final decision would come only after a meeting with PTI founder Imran Khan.

Sources said the PTI had

agreed to withdraw from the march after the government assured that its leaders would be allowed to meet Imran Khan. However, Achakzai spoke by phone to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and former NA speaker Asad Qaiser, telling them no final announcement should be made before that meeting. "First, there will be a meeting with the founder and then a decision will be made," he reportedly said.

The agreement followed the second round of talks at the National Assembly speaker's chamber, which began after a delay of nearly two hours. Sources described the negotiations as successful and said a joint statement would be issued shortly, followed by a media address by both sides.

The government delegation included Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Ministers Mohsin Naqvi and

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, PM's Adviser Rana Sanaullah and PPP's Sherry Rehman, Naveed Qamar and Ejaz Jakhani. The opposition team comprised Gohar, Qaiser, Senate Opposition Leader Raja Nasir Abbas, Salman Akram Raja, Haleem Adil Sheikh and Aamir Dogar. Before the talks, Gohar and Qaiser met an important government figure to discuss the opposition's demands.

The first round was held on Friday, when both sides presented their positions. The PTI had initially planned the march for September 27 before moving it to October 4. Earlier on Saturday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi had said the party would proceed from Gandhi Chowk in Lakki Marwat towards Islamabad.

Further details are expected in the joint statement.

## LHC Rejects Tax Exemption Pleas, Fines Medical College Rs1m

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has dismissed two petitions filed by a private medical college and hospital seeking exemption from property tax and imposed a Rs1 million fine for delaying payment of lawful dues.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Hassan Nawaz Makhdoom and Justice Khalid Ishaq held that a private medical institution could not claim tax exemption merely because it occupied the property as a lessee. The court noted that amendments to the Punjab Finance Act 2024 treat a lessee in possession as an owner for property tax purposes.

The judgment observed

that the institution's 2017 lease, initially for 33 years with renewal provisions, was effectively permanent in nature. It said an unregistered lease could not be used to avoid legal tax



obligations.

The court further noted that the petitioners were conducting commercial activities on rural land and had failed to establish required permissions for land-use conversion. The Rs1 million fine will be recovered as arrears of land revenue, while outstanding property tax remains payable.

## Loud Explosions Rock Yemen's Sanaa as Houthis Report Saudi Airstrikes

AFP

SANAA: Loud explosions were heard in the Yemeni capital on Saturday as the Houthis reported Saudi airstrikes. One AFP correspondent counted at least five blasts across different areas, while another saw two warplanes firing missiles on the city. Houthi-affiliated Al-Masirah TV reported "Saudi aggression" without details on targets or casualties, and earlier reported strikes on the telecommunications network in Saada. The Houthis claimed Saudi Arabia bombed Sanaa on Thursday night for the first time since fighting resumed in July.

Yemen returned to civil war in July after four years of fragile truce, pitting the Iran-backed Houthis against the Saudi-backed government based in Aden. The fighting was triggered when Iran flew a Houthi delegation to Sanaa without Saudi authorisation.



Riyadh struck Sanaa airport, and the Houthis attacked Saudi territory for the first time since 2022.

The Houthis have since seized coastal areas along the Bab al-Mandab strait, struck Saudi oil infrastructure and Riyadh, and announced a naval blockade on Saudi ships in the Red Sea. Fighting is now centred on Taiz, where 80 combatants were reported killed on Friday: 55 Houthis and 26 govern-

ment troops, according to the respective sides. The Houthis said Saudi Arabia launched 94 strikes in 24 hours, while Riyadh reported a Houthi projectile damaged a school in Najran.

Riyadh has reportedly sought US help, so far rebuffed by President Trump. Axios reported that senior US officials met on Friday to discuss Yemen and the Iran conflict.

## DPM reviews development agenda for AJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a meeting on the development agenda for Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The meeting reviewed ongoing development projects, including road refurbishment, and progress on socio-economic initiatives in AJK. Measures to strengthen administrative coordination were also discussed.

The DPM/FM underscored the importance of timely completion of devel-

opment projects and efficient utilization of financial resources to support long-term growth and improve public welfare, in line with the directions of the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the aspirations of the people of AJK.

The meeting was attended by SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Secretaries of Finance and Kashmir Affairs, Special Secretary Finance, Chief Secretary AJK, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) AJK and the Joint Chief Economist of the Planning and Development Division.

## Indian Chargé d'Affaires summoned over killing of two Pakistani civilians

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Chargé d'Affaires, on Saturday, was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lodge Pakistan's strong protest over the killing of two Pakistani civilians by personnel of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the Bedian Sector along the International Border on October 2.

"The BSF personnel resorted to unprovoked lethal force against unarmed civilians. Such use of force was wholly unjustified and grossly disproportionate, resulting in the tragic loss of two precious lives. Pakistan categorically rejects any attempt to mischaracterize the deceased as infiltrators," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

It was underscored that the incident constituted a serious violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, and raised serious concerns regarding the protec-



tion of civilian life under international law.

"The Indian side was called upon to conduct an immediate, transparent and credible investigation into the incident, take appropriate disciplinary and legal action against those found responsible, and formally communicate the findings and action taken to the Government of Pakistan," it was emphasised.

India was further urged to ensure respect for fundamental human rights and international law, strictly observe relevant bilateral arrangements and established border procedures, exercise maximum restraint in dealing with such situations, and take effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

## North Korea says missile test involved AI, hours after Seoul reports ballistic launch

Reuters

SEOUL: North Korea said it tested an intermediate-range strategic missile on Saturday that used artificial intelligence, hours after South Korea's military reported a ballistic missile launch from the Wonsan area toward the East Sea. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile flew more than 700 kilometres, and that South Korea, the US and Japan were sharing information closely.

Kim Yo Jong, sister of leader Kim Jong Un, said the missile can change its flight orbit at a low altitude and that AI was introduced into it, without giving details. She claimed there is "no way to avoid" its attack and that no other country could access such technology for years.

The launch came days after Seoul demanded an apology over a blast in the Demili-

tarised Zone that wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul and the UN Command found it was caused by North Korean mines on the southern side. Pyongyang denies responsibility, and Kim Yo Jong called Seoul "despicable"



on Friday and mocked President Lee Jae Myung's call for dialogue.

Analysts said the launch was a show of force rejecting engagement, and that Russian military support may be speeding North Korea's missile progress. Researcher Hong Sung-pyo said it was too early to verify the claimed capabilities, noting North Korea's technology is not especially advanced.

# AJK Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani receives rousing welcome in Kotli

 Bureau Report

KOTLI: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani received a warm welcome on Saturday as he arrived in Kotli, where party workers and citizens from different walks of life gathered at several locations to greet him.

He was accompanied by Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, Finance and Rehabilitation Minister Raja Muhammad Riyaz, Education Minister Engineer Umair Nacem, Electricity Minister Raja Saqib Majeed, and Assembly members Chaudhry Abdul Razaq, Raja



Muhammad Asif and Raja Ayaz Nisar.

At Holar, Badli Chowk Sehansa and Gulpur, people lined the roadsides to see the prime minister. Workers danced to drumbeats and showered flower petals on him. A large crowd led by MPA Raja Muhammad Asif welcomed him at Badli Chowk, where a reception ceremony was also held. At Gulpur, PML-N workers led by Raja Muhammad Riyaz greeted his convoy with petals.

The prime minister later arrived at the residence of Tourism, Industries and Mineral Resources Minister Abdul Rahman, where a large number of workers and citizens had gathered to welcome him.

## Oldest Railway Engine

ISLAMABAD: Children playing on old train engine model at Golar Railway Station, established in 1881 and historical landmark of the railway heritage. It has century-old trees, historical railway sleepers and rare travel equipment, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# AJK President Tells APHC Delegation Kashmir Dispute Can Only Be Resolved Through UN Resolutions

 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeb Naqi said the Kashmir issue is an internationally recognised dispute that can only be resolved by implementing the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. He was speaking to a delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), led by Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, which called on him. AJK Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq was also present.

The president highlighted Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiris and urged the international community to help secure their right to self-determination. Referring to India's unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, he said no Indian legislation could alter the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir.

He called for a robust diplomatic



campaign on human rights issues in Indian-administered Kashmir, including arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention of activists and restrictions on freedom of expression. He also

sought unhindered access for UN human rights bodies and international observers, and said the UN and other organisations must fulfil their legal and moral responsibilities.

The APHC delegation congratulated Dr. Naqi on assuming office, and Safi briefed him on the situation in the territory. The meeting reaffirmed resolve to keep raising the Kashmir issue globally.

# Civil Defence to Take Safety Training to Citizens' Doorsteps

 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Civil Defence will bring emergency preparedness and safety training directly to citizens under the Punjab government's "Safe Punjab" vision through the Punjab Civil Defence Resilience Corps (PCDRC) mobile training unit, Civil Defence Officer Javed Akhtar said.

He was speaking at a seminar organized by Civil Defence at Al-Fatah Complex, attended by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Vice President Engineer Babar Shahzad, Rotary Club of Lyallpur President Junaid Mahmood Baig, Rotarian Rana Ikramullah and other officials and wardens.



Javed Akhtar said practical training would cover emergency preparedness, first aid, fire safety, evacuation procedures, air-raid protection, suspicious and explosive materials awareness and drone-related threats. He said initiatives would also focus on equipping youth with skills to contribute to national safety.

Engineer Babar Shahzad described Civil Defence personnel as heroes who serve voluntarily despite personal responsibilities. He welcomed the participation of women wardens and stressed collective responsibility for protecting Pakistan.

The seminar concluded with prayers for the country and armed forces.

## Samia Sajid says Pakistan has played diplomatic role for peace, urges world to address Kashmir Rights Situation

 Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmir Women Alert Forum Chairperson and Muslim Conference Women Wing Central Chairperson Samia Sajid said Pakistan and its Armed Forces are a red line for Kashmiris. She said the defense cooperation between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye has raised the region's strategic significance, and that the Kashmir issue has become

a major flashpoint for global peace and security.

She credited the Armed Forces under Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir with strengthening national security and unity, and said Pakistan has repeatedly used diplomacy to reduce regional tensions, favouring dialogue over war.

Sajid said India's changes in occupied Kashmir after August 5, 2019, including the abrogation of Article 370, have not resolved the issue but drawn greater international attention. She expressed concern over arrests, prolonged detentions and restrictions on Hurriyat leaders, citing the cases of Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah, and urged an impartial international assessment of the human rights situation.

She stressed that a lasting solution must reflect Kashmiri aspirations and relevant UN resolutions, and said her forum would keep highlighting the voices of women and affected families. She also called for national unity on security matters.

## Alive soldier raises questions over Kashmir militant narrative: Masood Khan

 Bureau Report



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Pakistani ambassador and former AJK president, said the appearance of retired Pakistani soldier Mohammad Asif alive has raised serious questions over claims that he had been killed as a militant in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan's military presented Asif before the media on October 1, after Indian reports had identified him

as the slain militant.

Masood Khan stressed that sensitive security claims must be independently verified before publication, particularly when they could affect India-Pakistan relations. He urged journalists to cross-check information through multiple sources and acknowledge uncertainty where facts remain unclear.

He described the episode as part of what he called a broader pattern of information warfare, citing previous incidents including Pulwama, Uri and Pahalgam. He also referred to EU DisinfoLab's 2020 findings on alleged coordinated information networks targeting Pakistan.

Masood Khan warned that unverified allegations could heighten tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours and urged responsible state communication, professional journalism and evidence-based investigations.

## Markazi Muslim League Opens New Office in Gulshan Town

 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Markazi Muslim League has opened a new organizational office for NA-236 and PS-99 in Gulshan Town to strengthen its grassroots activities and public outreach. Karachi President Ahmed Nadeem Awan inaugurated the office in the presence of District East President Engineer Imran Ali, Gulshan Town General Secretary Usman Hanif and other office-bearers.

After the inauguration, Awan met local officials and discussed public issues, residents' needs and organizational matters. He stressed strengthening the party's grassroots structure and improving communication with the community.

Awan also directed party officials to work towards establishing offices at Union Council level. Party representatives said the initiative would help organize workers, expand local activities and provide residents with a platform to raise their concerns.

District East President Engineer Imran Ali and other office-bearers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the organizational network and expanding public outreach across Gulshan Town.

## CBD Lake Upgradation Enters Final Stage in Lahore

 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The CBD Lake upgradation project, a flagship initiative of the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (CBD Punjab), has entered its final stage, aimed at enhancing sustainable urban infrastructure and beautification in Lahore.

CBD Punjab CEO Imran Amin, accompanied by senior officials, inspected construction progress at CBD Lake, CBD Walk and Second Walk. Officials briefed him that travertine work on lake-facing elevations of CBD Walk units had been completed, while asphalt layering is set to begin following completion of water-bound and sub-base preparations. Excavation for Second Walk is also nearing completion.

Spread over 20 kanals and 25 feet deep, the artificial lake can store up to five million gallons of rainwater and will support rainwater harvesting. Marble installation along the slopes and upgrading of harvesting wells are underway, with decorative fountains planned.

Imran Amin said the projects would combine urban development and beautification with environmental sustainability through improved rainwater management, contributing to Lahore's modern infrastructure.

## AI Geo Navigators Hosts Stakeholder Dinner in Gilgit-Baltistan to Discuss Climate and Technology

 Bureau Report

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: AI Geo Navigators hosted a dinner reception to exchange ideas, strengthen professional ties and discuss the challenges and opportunities of climate change and technology in the region. Government officials, development organizations, private-sector representatives, technical experts and media professionals attended.

Participants discussed the role of Artificial Intelligence, geospatial technology, remote sensing and climate intelligence in addressing environmental challenges. They explored how data-driven approaches can improve environmental monitoring, disaster risk reduction, climate risk assessment and decision-making.

The discussion stressed combining modern technology with local knowledge, technical expertise and on-ground understanding to develop practical, context-specific solutions for mountain communities.



Islamabad  
30° – 38° Clear

## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 4:41 am  
Zohr ..... 11:57 am  
Asr ..... 4:08 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:50 pm  
Isha ..... 7:13 pm

## EMERGENCY

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

## Women Police Stations

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MH ..... 561116  
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DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

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RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

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Water Tanker Service  
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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

## Zeeshan Rafique Reviews Punjab Development Program

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique chaired a meeting at the Program Management Unit (PMU), Garden Town, to review progress on the Punjab Development Program (PDP), covering development schemes in 51 cities.

Secretary Local Government Zaid Bin Maqsood and Project Director Shahid Zaman Lak attended the meeting, where progress on ongoing projects was discussed.

Zeeshan Rafique said several schemes were being implemented under the Local Government Department as part of the “Sohna Punjab” programme. He said master planning had been used to develop municipal infrastructure, including underground water tanks, drainage networks and disposal stations.

According to the minister, 96 of 110 planned underground water tanks had been completed, while 106 of 124 drains had also been constructed in the 51 cities. He said work had started on 25 disposal stations, which would be completed on a priority basis.

The minister added that new suction machines and de-silting units had been provided to the cities to help address drainage problems and improve municipal services.

## CM Punjab invited to Muscat to receive UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has been invited to Muscat to receive the prestigious UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award 2026 for the province's Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar low-cost housing programme.

The chief minister will attend the award ceremony on the occasion of World Habitat Day, where the honour will be presented at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour is the highest international award associated with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. It recognises individuals, cities, governments and public institutions, civil society organisations, private organisations, research insti-

tutions and projects for contributions towards affordable and adequate housing, sustainable urban development, improved basic urban services, urban reconstruction and disaster recovery.

Around 200 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour awards have been presented over the past 37 years. In Pakistan, the

award was previously received by the deputy chairman of the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) in 2007.

The Punjab government's Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar project has been selected for the 2026 award. Myanmar, Brazil, Tunisia and London, England, have also been selected for the honour.

The chief minister has been specially invited to attend the ceremony in recognition of the housing programme. She dedicated the award to the homeless people of Punjab, describing it as an honour for them.

“The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award is an honour for the homeless people of Punjab,” the chief minister said, adding that the Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar programme was not only Pakistan's but “the world's best low-cost housing project.”



## Beautiful view

ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of Srinagar Highway, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## PPP South Punjab Reviews Local Bodies Election Preparations

## Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) South Punjab President and former Punjab governor Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood chaired a meeting of the party's divisional, district and city office-bearers to review organizational affairs and preparations for upcoming local government elections.

Ahmed Mahmood directed party officials to accelerate membership drives and strengthen the organization down to the Union Council level. He said the PPP would participate in the local elections with full preparation, focusing on public service, basic amenities, employment, education, healthcare and resolution of local issues.

He called on workers to begin door-to-door outreach and announced that workers' conventions would soon be



held in Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur divisions.

Discussing South Punjab, he said the region should receive its due political, administrative

and economic rights and reiterated the PPP's support for a separate province.

On the national political situation, Mahmood called for practical measures to address

inflation, unemployment and economic difficulties. He also stressed dialogue among political stakeholders within constitutional and legal frameworks to reduce political tensions.

## Prof. Nudrat Sohail Honoured at Retirement Ceremony at LGH



LAHORE: Ameer-ud-Din Medical College/Postgraduate Medical Institute Principal Prof. Dr. Jodat Saleem has said medical professionals remain committed to healing and serving humanity throughout their lives, with their knowledge and experience continuing to benefit society even after retirement.

He was addressing a farewell ceremony at Lahore General Hospital (LGH) held in honour of Vice Principal and Head of Gynaecology Prof. Dr. Nudrat Sohail on her retirement. MS LGH Prof. Dr. Faryad Hussain and faculty members attended the ceremony.

Prof. Jodat Saleem said the expertise and guidance of senior doctors were essential for training future healthcare professionals and strengthening the health system.

Prof. Dr. Faryad Hussain praised Prof. Nudrat Sohail's professional services, noting that she had also served as Medical Superintendent and taken measures to improve patient care and doctors' training.

Prof. Nudrat Sohail thanked the Academic Council for organizing the ceremony and said she was leaving with pleasant memories. Gifts were presented to her, followed by prayers for her health and future.

## Trader Bodies Congratulate Newly Elected Hyderabad Chamber Office-Bearers

## Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Delegations from Anjuman-e-Tajraan Saddar Bazaar and Anjuman-e-Tajraan Resham Bazaar visited the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) and congratulated newly elected President Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui, Senior Vice President Muhammad Fahad Mian and Vice President Irfan Arbani.

Speaking on the occasion, Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui said the new leadership would work to provide the business and industrial community with an effective platform to present their concerns before relevant institutions. He said the Chamber would strengthen coordination with traders' organizations and promote consultation to address common issues and improve Hyderabad's business environment.

Saddar Bazaar traders' President Moiz Abbas and Resham Bazaar President Asif Koonch Wala congratulated the office-bearers and expressed confidence in their leadership. They assured continued cooperation with the Chamber for resolving traders' problems and promoting commercial activity.

The delegations included office-bearers and senior trader representatives, who reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening coordination and supporting Hyderabad's business community.

## FAO, Government Partners Begin Preparations for Pakistan's Marine Biodiversity Project



ISLAMABAD: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), working with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA) and the Marine Fisheries Department (MFD), has started preparations for a GEF-supported project to strengthen marine biodiversity conservation in Pakistan.

A kick-off meeting was held at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, chaired by Additional Secretary-II and GEF Operational Focal Point Mahmood Hassan. It reviewed the activities, timeline and implementation arrangements for the GEF Project Preparation Grant phase of the Marine Biodiversity Pakistan Project.

Participants discussed key project components, institutional arrangements including the proposed Project Management Unit, and mechanisms for allocating and using project funds. They also considered setting up a Technical Advisory Group to support the preparation process.

The project aims to strengthen cooperation among government institutions and partners for the sustainable management and conservation of Pakistan's marine biodiversity and related fisheries resources.

FAO was represented by Emmah Kamau, Dr. Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal and Naveed Babar, with international FAO and GEF experts joining virtually. MoMA/MFD was represented by Dr. Mansoor Ali Wassan, Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman and Muhammad Farhan Khan.

## TEF Awards IT Course Certificates to 879 Students in Lahore

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Tareen Education Foundation (TEF) distributed certificates to 879 students who successfully completed IT courses under its Summer Programme at a ceremony held at Government Graduate Islamia College, Cooper Road.

Students from seven government educational institutions across Lahore participated in the programme, receiving training in MS Office and Apps Management and Graphic Designing.

TEF said 1,375 students have so far started their IT learning journey through computer labs established under the ini-

ative.

The foundation has established 11 computer labs in government educational institutions across Lahore at a cost exceeding Rs100 million, with financial support from Jahangir Khan Tareen.

The facilities remain available to students beyond regular academic hours, enabling them to develop practical digital skills.

Speaking at the ceremony, Akbar Khan said the establishment of computer labs to promote IT education represented an important milestone. Director Colleges Ahsan Mahkhtar also attended the event.



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

Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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## Bridging Pakistan and Azerbaijan, One Translated Page at a Time

When two countries speak of brotherhood, the words are often easier to say than to put into practice. That is why the literary event “Bridge Between Languages”, held in Baku by the Pakistani embassy and the Pakistani Language and Culture Center at the Azerbaijan University of Languages, deserves more attention than a routine cultural function.

The centrepiece was the launch of two translations. Qasim Ali Shah’s motivational work Towards the Goal has now been rendered into Azerbaijani as Mənzilə Doğru, while Professor Kamal Abdulla’s celebrated Sehrbazlar Dərəsi has been translated into Urdu. Professor Abdulla, rector of the university hosting the event, is a respected scholar, so the exchange carries real academic weight. Each book now reaches readers who could not have approached it before.

This matters because relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have long rested on political and strategic goodwill. Leaders exchange warm statements and the two countries stand together on regional questions. Yet friendship between governments is fragile unless ordinary citizens know one another. A Pakistani student who reads Azerbaijani prose, or an Azerbaijani reader who follows an Urdu motivational text, builds the kind of understanding no communiqué can create.

The event also showed the value of variety in cultural diplomacy. Alongside the book launches, there was a photographic exhibition on Pakistan’s culture, heritage and landscapes, the documentary Salam Pakistan, and a table of Pakistani food. Parliamentarians from Azerbaijan’s Milli Majlis, including Tamam Jafarova and Rizvan Nabiye, joined academics, writers, students and journalists. Minister of State Wajih Qamar’s presence at the inauguration signalled that Islamabad takes such efforts seriously.

Still, one evening does not make a lasting bridge. Translation is slow, costly work, and it needs steady support. Pakistan and Azerbaijan could build on this event by funding more translations of classic and contemporary writing, including poetry, history and children’s literature. They could also expand language teaching, exchange programmes for writers and translators, and partnerships between university presses. The language centre in Baku shows that institutions can anchor such work when they have the will and resources.

Pakistan has much to share and much to learn. A country that wishes to be understood abroad must also be willing to listen, and literature is among the best ways of doing both. If this event leads to a regular programme of exchange, it will be remembered as a beginning rather than a celebration. The two nations have already said they are friends, and the next step is to read each other.

# Flydubai, Iran and the Politics of Escalation

An aviation emergency should produce an investigation before it produces threats of war. Yet the September 30 incident aboard Flydubai Flight FZ1073 has already entered the machinery of geopolitical accusation. Before investigators have publicly established the alleged attacker’s motive or connections, Iran has been placed under suspicion and threatened with American retaliation. The passengers deserve justice and a complete account. The Middle East deserves protection from another escalation driven by assertions that move faster than evidence.

President Donald Trump threatened to hit Iran “very hard” if investigators established its involvement. Associated Press reporting noted that he suggested a connection without publicly presenting supporting evidence. Such statements carry consequences beyond a press conference. They prepare audiences for retaliation and introduce an unresolved allegation into the political case for military action.

That accusation also raises a question of strategic logic. Iran possesses substantial conventional and asymmetric means of retaliation. Why would it choose an operation against civilian passengers that could bring international condemnation, damage its diplomatic position and provide its adversaries with an additional justification for attack? These allegations demand a serious answer before speculation becomes accepted truth.

An attack on a civilian aircraft would be an indefensible atrocity, whoever organized it. Washington must establish responsibility through evidence rather than invoke Iran’s name as though suspicion settles the matter.

The danger is that the distinction between “if Iran was involved” and “Iran was involved” will disappear through repetition. A conditional presidential accusation can become a headline, the headline a political assumption, and the assumption an argument for bombardment. Civilian lives must never become ammunition in a campaign to expand a war.

The controversy arrives amid mounting demands for accountability over the warnings preceding October 7, 2023. Haaretz reported that UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed warned Netanyahu approximately ten days before the attack that Hamas was preparing a major operation. Separately, reporting summarized by The Times of Israel alleged that Israeli intelligence officials and Egypt had repeatedly warned him that Qatari funds were strengthening Hamas’s military wing.

Qatar’s prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, challenged attempts to assign responsibility to Doha, maintaining that its \$30

million monthly assistance program operated through arrangements coordinated with Israel, the United States and the United Nations, with recipients vetted by Israeli security agencies. He accused Netanyahu of deflecting scrutiny of his government’s conduct while explicitly condemning the October 7 massacre.

These competing accounts demand an independent inquiry with access to intelligence assessments, diplomatic communications and decision-making records.

What warnings reached Netanyahu? What action followed? Were the consequences of existing policies knowingly disregarded?

Against this background, the Flydubai incident has generated competing explanations and widespread distrust.

Some commentators question individual details. Others allege staging, intelligence involvement or a manufactured pretext for escalation.

A renowned American podcaster Mike Dean argued that the footage suggested staging. He pointed to dark entertainment screens, the absence of deployed oxygen masks and visible debris, and apparent differences between cabin interiors. He questioned the reported descent, the passengers’ ability to overpower an armed co-pilot, the absence of publicly circulated footage identifying the suspect, and changing descriptions

of the weapon. His conclusion was that the public narrative did not adequately explain what happened.

Another, credible postcaster advanced an explicit false-flag theory. He connected Netanyahu’s reported September 27 visit to Abu Dhabi with the aviation incident three days later, suggesting an operation intended to blame Muslims, implicate Iran and justify military escalation. The speaker interpreted differing descriptions of cockpit access and the presence of additional pilots as signs of a constructed account.

A separate geopolitical commentator proposed that the aircraft’s descent and diversion toward Tabuk could have served an intelligence purpose: exposing limitations in Saudi radar coverage and revealing defensive reaction times. The speaker speculated that the information might facilitate a later attack on Saudi infrastructure, potentially using a weapon resembling an Iranian drone to direct blame toward Tehran. Another geopolitical analyst described claims of Israeli and Mossad orchestration intended to manufacture a pretext for war.

The political danger, however, does not depend on proving fabrication. A genuine attack can be exploited to pursue objectives far beyond bringing its perpetrators to justice. Whether anyone organized the incident and how governments subsequently use it are separate questions. Both deserve scrutiny.

Continued on Page 7



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

## U. S. Troops Exit Iraq: Sovereignty and Security Challenges Ahead

September 30, 2026, will be remembered as an important day in Iraq’s political and security history. On that day, the last U. S. military troops departed from Erbil Air Base, bringing an important chapter of America’s long military presence in Iraq to an end. In Baghdad and other cities, the development is being viewed as a symbol of Iraqi sovereignty. The responsibilities of the Iraqi military and security institutions have now become even more clearly their own. The U. S. leadership has also stated that ISIS has been largely defeated and that Iraqi security forces will now assume full responsibility for the country’s security. However, the question remains: does the departure of foreign troops truly demonstrate Iraq’s complete sovereignty, or could it also give rise to new political and security challenges?

Looking at the history of the U. S. military presence in Iraq, the current withdrawal is not the result of a decision taken on a single day, but rather the outcome of a long process spanning more than two decades. In 2003, a U. S.-led military operation was launched to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein, after which Iraq went through a prolonged political and security crisis. A major withdrawal of U. S. troops took place in 2011, but in 2014,

following the rapid rise of ISIS and its seizure of large areas, including Mosul, U. S. forces returned to Iraq. The international coalition’s military campaign against ISIS continued thereafter. After years of warfare, training and security cooperation, the complete withdrawal of U. S. troops raises the question of how effectively Iraq can manage its

own security system. This development should not be viewed merely as the outcome of a military agreement between Washington and Baghdad. Within Iraq, various political and armed groups also have their own interests. Several armed groups regarded as close to Iran have long opposed the U. S. military presence in Iraq, and U. S. military bases have also been targeted in attacks in this context. These groups may now present the U. S. withdrawal as a result of their political pressure and resistance. However, the fundamental question for the Iraqi state is to what extent all armed groups operating in the country can be brought under the constitutional and legal framework of the state. From this perspective, this remains a major challenge for the Iraqi government, and its immediate resolu-

tion does not appear easy.

Another major challenge for Iraq is the remaining ISIS network. Although ISIS has lost its former territorial power, the ability of its dispersed groups to carry out attacks has not been completely eliminated. Therefore, even after the withdrawal of U. S. and coalition forces, intelligence, training, surveillance and technical assistance will continue to be necessary in the fight against terrorism. Consequently, the role of coalition forces is likely to shift from a large ground military presence toward various forms of support. The real test lies with the Iraqi army, police and intelligence agencies: how effectively can they prevent groups such as ISIS from reorganizing?

The Kurdistan region is also of particular importance for the Iraqi government, because Kurdish forces and coalition forces maintained close cooperation during the fight against ISIS in northern Iraq. Political, financial and security disagreements between Baghdad and Erbil have emerged from time to time. If cooperation between the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government remains strong, it may become easier to address security challenges. However, it should also be remembered that if political disagreements intensify, terrorist groups could once again find opportunities to reorganize. Therefore, following the U. S. withdrawal, internal

Continued on Page 7

## AIOW Conference Calls for Redefining Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

The 9th International Conference on “Research and Practices in Education,” organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOW) under the theme “Developing a Modern Education System Aligned with Changing Global Demands,” has been described by writer Aziz ur Rehman as a platform that went beyond a routine academic gathering. The two-day event, he writes, reflected the profound changes artificial intelligence and digital technologies are bringing to how knowledge is created, delivered and evaluated.

### A new era for education

The central message was that education is entering a new era. The traditional model built on textbooks, classrooms, lectures and examinations is being challenged by AI, digital learning, emerging skills, innovative assessment and fast-changing workplace demands. The question, the author says, is no longer whether technology will influence education, since it already has, but how systems, teachers, universities and learners will use it responsibly and intelligently.

A total of 198 research papers were presented, covering AI and the future of teaching, educational psychology, blended learning, digital transformation, future skills, STEM education, climate change and educational policy. The breadth of topics showed that transformation cannot be understood through technology alone and requires conversation about learners, teachers, ethics, access and the future of human knowledge.

### Key voices

Addressing the inaugural session, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal urged universities to cultivate questioning, critical and creative thinking, research, problem-solving and decision-making skills. The author notes this matters even more in the AI age: when technology can produce information in seconds, education cannot focus mainly on memorization. Its task is to teach learners to question information, verify evidence, separate reliable knowledge from misinforma-

tion and develop original solutions. In his words, AI may provide answers, but education must teach students to ask the right questions.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood stressed that AI should be seen as a supporting technology, not a replacement for teachers. While AI makes information faster to access, its accuracy, authenticity, context and sources still need human judgment. The author argues the future lies in empowering teachers with better tools while preserving the human dimensions of education: critical thinking, mentorship, creativity, ethics, communication and character building. Dr.

Mahmood’s vision rests on three concepts: connection, teaching and development. These mean linking students, teachers and researchers with the wider world of knowledge, using modern technology to improve teaching quality, and creating continuous opportunities for learning, research and creativity.

### Assessment must change

Educational assessment was another major theme. If teaching and learning are changing, examinations designed mainly to test memory may not measure the abilities needed in an AI-driven world. Future assessment will need to emphasize creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, application of knowledge, collaboration and practical competence. Because machines can reproduce information, the real value of an assessment lies in whether a student can understand, analyze, apply and create.

### Access and inclusion

The digital shift also raises the issue of access. Not every learner has reliable internet, suitable devices, digital literacy or opportunities to learn through new technologies. Where these are missing, technology could widen rather than narrow inequalities. The future of digital education must therefore include digital inclusion, teacher training, strong ICT infrastructure and equitable access to learning.

### Responsibility and ethics

The AI era also demands a serious conversation about

Continued on Page 7

# D-8 Congratulates Nigeria on 66th Independence Anniversary, hails its role as founding member

 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation has extended its warmest congratulations to the leadership, government and people of Nigeria on the 66th anniversary of Independence, marked on October 1.

The organisation said the day marks the successful culmination of the Nigerian people's struggle for independence and self-governance, and is a



fitting occasion to celebrate the country's journey and its growing role in world affairs. It praised Nigeria's demographic strength, economic prowess, cultural diversity and long-standing commitment to regional and international cooperation, which it said contribute to peace and development in Africa and beyond.

As a founding member of the D-8, Nigeria has played a pivotal part in advancing the organisation's vision

of closer economic cooperation, integration and shared prosperity among member states. The D-8 SME Center and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme, both based in Abuja, were cited as visible examples of this role, which the organisation expects to grow in the years ahead.

The D-8 wished the people of Nigeria continued peace, progress and prosperity, and every success in building an even stronger nation.

# LUMS Historian Dr Ali Usman Qasmi Debates Pakistan's Foundational Ideas at Quaid-e-Azam House Museum

 News Desk

KARACHI: Dr Ali Usman Qasmi, history professor and director of the Gurmiani Centre for Languages and Literature at LUMS, delivered a talk and presentation titled "Whose Jinnah? Which Ideology? Debating Pakistan's Foundational Ideas," organised by the Quaid-e-Azam House Museum (QAHM). A large audience from academia, media and civil society attended.

Dr Qasmi spoke on Pakistan's historiography and ideological debates. Noting recent interest in the Indus Valley civilization as "Pakistani," he discussed the competing ideas of Pakistan, especially since 1971, when the state and its intelligentsia tried to rationalize territorial loss while preserving the ideological content. The talk was followed by a lively Q&A.

QAHM Secretary General Commodore Sadeed Malik gave the welcome address. Aameena Saiyid, a member of the Board of Governors, introduced the speaker and



offered the vote of thanks and closing remarks.

Attendees included Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner Sakib Sadakat, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, former PSO head Khalid Rahman, IBA Dean Dr Yaqoob Bangash and Lightstone Publishers' publishing director Nadia Ghani.

The museum said it continues its mission to foster informed dialogue on Jinnah and Pakistan's history, identity and place in the world.

## PIA to resume regular Friday flights between Islamabad and Beijing

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is set to resume regular Friday flights between Islamabad and Beijing from October 30, restoring a direct air link between the capitals of Pakistan and China.

According to the airline, the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad service will operate every Friday, providing passengers with a direct travel option and reducing the time and inconvenience associated with indirect routes.

PIA said the service will cater to a wide range of passengers, including students, families, business travellers, tourists, and members of the Pakistani and Chinese communities. The airline said the resumption of regular flights is also expected to facilitate increased people-to-people exchanges and support commercial, tourism, educational and cultural ties between the two countries.

The airline has also highlighted its cooperation with Chinese carriers, including Air China and Shenzhen Airlines, to provide onward connectivity from Beijing to destinations across China.

Through these partnerships, passengers travelling via Beijing can access connections to more than 25 cities across China, expanding the reach of PIA's Islamabad-Beijing service.

PIA said it remained committed to maintaining safe, reliable and regular air services between Pakistan and China, citing the growing demand for travel between the two countries.

## MarCom's Tambola & Tunes Brings 400 Professionals and Families Together



 City Desk

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: More than 400 professionals, business leaders, entrepreneurs and families gathered at the Glass Marquee, Topi Rakh Complex, Rawalpindi, for MarCom's Tambola & Tunes, an evening designed to offer participants a break from corporate routines through music, games and social interaction.

The event was conceived and hosted by Madiha Naseem Khan, Managing Director of MarCom, who said the initiative aimed to create opportunities for professionals and their families to connect beyond workplaces and formal networking.

MarCom used custom-built event software across 40 tables, linking the live Tambola game with the venue's large SMD screen. An animated instructional video was also presented for first-time players.

The evening featured five Full House Tambola rounds, divided by a musical performance by Hussnain Najum & Band. The programme concluded with a Grand Lucky Draw featuring separate male and female categories.

Prizes included Apple AirPods 4, hotel vouchers, speakers, gift sets, cinema and recreational privileges, family photography packages and coffee offers. Tapal served as Official Tea Partner.

## Uzbekistan Emerging as Global Technology Outsourcing Hub, Says Embassy Release

 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan is strengthening its position in the global technology outsourcing market, turning its IT sector into an export-oriented industry spanning software development, business process outsourcing (BPO), knowledge process outsourcing (KPO), creative industries and professional services, according to a release by the Uzbek embassy in Pakistan.

IT outsourcing services grew from \$3.2 million in 2019 to \$716.4 million in 2025, while the number of IT companies rose from 369 to 3,400 and total IT services reached \$2.8 billion.

A young workforce underpins the growth. Of about 38 million people, roughly 60 percent are under 30, and the working-age population is around 21 million. The country has over 220 universities, 145 of them offering IT programmes, and specialized IT universities produce about 25,000 graduates a year. It has an estimated 500,000 IT professionals.

The BPO segment now has more than 540 companies and 14,500 specialists, up from 136 employees in 2020. KPO is also growing, with over 300 logistics companies and expanding accounting, auditing, recruitment and consultancy services.

North America takes 54 percent of exports, the EU and UK 17 percent, the CIS and Asia-Pacific 22 percent, and the Middle East and North Africa about 7 percent. By type, IT services make up 45 percent, BPO and KPO 35 percent, creative industries and game development 13 percent, and SaaS 7 percent.

IT Park Uzbekistan hosts over 4,000 companies, including more than 1,100 with foreign capital from 75 countries, creating over 56,000 jobs. Incentives include the Soft Landing framework and Zero Risk programme, and Enterprise Uzbekistan offers a special legal regime for tech firms.

The release says there is large potential for Pakistan-Uzbekistan cooperation in IT, BPO, KPO and digital sectors.

# What Carl Rogers and Carl Jung Taught Me About Being Human

## A Personal Reflection on Identity, Healing, and Personal Growth

Over the years, my understanding of psychology has gradually moved beyond theories, diagnoses and techniques. The more I have worked with people, listened to their stories and reflected on my own journey, the more I have come to believe that psychology is, at its deepest level, an attempt to understand the human being behind the symptoms.

Two psychologists have particularly influenced the way I look at people: Carl Rogers and Carl Jung. Although their approaches were very different, both helped me see something essential: human beings cannot be fully understood simply by examining their problems. Behind every behavior there is a story, behind every defense there is often a wound, and behind every search for identity there may be a deeper search for meaning.

Carl Rogers taught me to listen differently. Carl Jung taught me to look deeper.

**What Rogers Taught Me About the Person**

Carl Rogers' work has shaped the way I approach another human being.

Rogers placed enormous importance on empathy, genuineness and unconditional positive regard. What touched me most was his belief that people need a psychologically safe relationship in which they can experience themselves without constant judgment.

In my professional experience, I have repeatedly seen how powerful this can be.

Sometimes people do not need another person to immediately tell them what is wrong. They need someone who is willing to sit with them in their confusion. They need to feel that they can speak without being reduced to a diagnosis, an addiction, a mistake, a failure or a difficult chapter in their life.

This changed something in me as a psychologist.

I began to ask myself not only, "What is happening to this person?" but also, "What is this person experiencing?"

There is a profound difference between the two questions.

The first can lead us toward assessment. The second can lead us toward understanding.

Rogers helped me appreciate that genuine therapeutic presence can itself become part of the healing process. When a person feels truly heard, something begins to change. The defensive walls may become less necessary. The person may gradually become more willing to encounter parts of themselves that they have spent years avoiding.

For me, this is one of the most beautiful dimensions of psychology: sometimes healing begins when a person finally experiences the freedom to be who they are without having to perform for someone else.

**Jung Took Me Deeper Into the Self**

If Rogers taught me how to meet the person in front of me, Jung encouraged me to look into the deeper layers of the person.

Jung's ideas about the unconscious, the shadow, archetypes and individuation have influenced my understanding of identity and personal growth.

One idea that has stayed with me is individuation, the lifelong movement toward becoming more fully oneself.

This is very different from simply creating a socially successful identity.

We all develop different versions of ourselves. We become children, parents, professionals, partners, friends, caregivers, and members of communities. These roles are necessary, but they do not necessarily represent the whole person.

Sometimes, beneath the identity we present to the world, there is another self quietly asking to be recognized.

Jung's concept of the persona helped me understand this tension. The

persona is the face we present to society. It is not necessarily false; it is simply not the entirety of who we are.

I have often reflected on how easily we can become attached to our roles.

A person may begin to believe, "I am my profession."

Another may think, "I am my success."

Someone else may define themselves by their trauma, their addiction, their failures or the opinions of others.

But I have come to believe that the human being is always larger than the identity they have constructed.

**The Shadow Within Us**

Jung's concept of the shadow has also deeply influenced my thinking.

The shadow represents aspects of ourselves that we may prefer not to acknowledge. Anger, insecurity, jealousy, fear, shame, vulnerability and even unrecognized desires can become parts of the self that we push away.

But what we reject does not necessarily disappear.

Sometimes it simply moves into the background of our psychological life.

In my understanding, personal growth does not mean becoming a person without darkness. It means developing enough awareness to look honestly at our darkness without allowing it to control us.

This is where psychology becomes deeply personal.

I have learned that I cannot ask another person to explore themselves honestly if I am unwilling to explore myself. The therapeutic relationship is not simply about the professional examining the client. It is also about the professional developing greater awareness of their own reactions, assumptions, limitations and humanity.

Jung reminds me that self-awareness is not a destination. It is a lifelong process.

**Rogers and Jung Together**

At first glance, Rogers and Jung may seem to belong to very different psychological worlds.

Rogers emphasized the healing relationship and the person's capacity for growth. Jung explored the unconscious, symbolism, the shadow and the journey toward psychological wholeness.

Yet I find them complementary.

Rogers asks me to meet the person with acceptance.

Jung asks me to meet the deeper self with courage.

Rogers reminds me not to judge the person.

Jung reminds me not to stop at the surface.

Together, they have influenced the way I understand personal growth.

I do not see growth as simply changing behavior. Sometimes behavior changes because our relationship with ourselves changes.

A person begins to heal when they can say:

*This is who I have been.*

*This is what I have experienced.*

*These are the parts of myself I have hidden.*

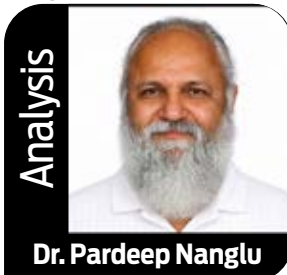
And perhaps I can begin to understand myself rather than continually fight myself.

**What I Have Learned From People**

My years of working with individuals have taught me that every person carries a psychological landscape that cannot be understood from the outside.

Two people may display the same behavior for completely different reasons.

Two people may experience the same trauma and respond differently.



Analysis  
Dr. Pardeep Nanglu

Two people may struggle with addiction, anxiety, grief, loneliness or shame, yet the meaning of that experience may be completely different for each of them.

This is why I have become increasingly cautious about reducing people to labels.

Labels can help us communicate clinically. But a label should never become the person's entire identity.

There is always a human being behind the diagnosis.

There is always a story behind the behavior.

And there is often a deeper self waiting to be understood.

**My Own Journey Toward Understanding**

Perhaps the greatest influence of Rogers and Jung on me is that they have encouraged me to turn the psychological lens inward.

Psychology is not only something I study. It is something I continually experience within myself.

I have learned that personal growth requires honesty.

Sometimes I have to ask myself uncomfortable questions:

Who am I when nobody is watching?

How much of my identity comes from my own values, and how much comes from the expectations of others?

Which parts of myself have I accepted?

Which parts have I rejected?

What am I still becoming?

These questions do not always have immediate answers. Perhaps they are not supposed to.

Growth, I have come to understand, is not always about finding answers. Sometimes it is about becoming comfortable enough with ourselves to live honestly with the questions.

**Beyond the Psychology Textbook**

Today, when I think about Carl Rogers and Carl Jung, I do not think only about psychological theories.

I think about human beings.

Rogers taught me the importance of presence: to listen, to empathize and to create a space where another person can experience themselves without judgment.

Jung taught me the importance of depth: to look beneath the persona, encounter the shadow and continue the lifelong journey toward greater wholeness.

Their influence has helped shape my understanding of psychology as something more than the treatment of psychological problems.

For me, psychology is also about awakening awareness.

It is about helping people reconnect with themselves.

It is about understanding the relationship between the self we present to the world and the self we experience privately.

And perhaps most importantly, it is about recognizing that healing does not necessarily mean becoming someone different.

Sometimes healing means becoming more completely who we already are.

When I look back at my own journey, I realize that Rogers and Jung have given me two complementary invitations.

Rogers invites me to meet myself and others with compassion.

Jung invites me to meet myself with courage.

Between compassion and courage, I find a deeper understanding of what it means to be human.

And perhaps that is where true personal growth begins: not in becoming perfect, but in becoming increasingly conscious, authentic and whole.

*The writer is Psychologist and Holistic Health Professional. He is living in California. He can be reached at DRPNANGLU@outlook.com*

 **Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Current                       | Prev. Close            |
| 168,155.49                    | 168,636.85             |
| Day's High                    | Day's Low              |
| 168,854.46                    | 167,685.42             |
| Index Value                   | Change                 |
| 9,996,995,232                 | −481.36                |
| Percentage                    | Time                   |
| −0.29%                        | 2 Oct, 2026<br>4:30 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value            | Change                  |
| 10,461.95              | +33.68                  |
| Percentage             | Time                    |
| +0.32%                 | 2 Oct, 4:35 pm<br>GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value                       | Change                  |
| 51,145.50                         | +218.94                 |
| Percentage                        | Time                    |
| +0.43%                            | 2 Oct, 2:09 pm<br>GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value                         | Change                  |
| 68,309.46                           | −647.26                 |
| Percentage                          | Time                    |
| −0.94%                              | 2 Oct, 3:45 pm<br>GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates |        |         |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency                | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar       | 192.22 | 198.05  |
| Bahrain Dinar           | 734.25 | 746.29  |
| Canadian Dollar         | 193.93 | 199.25  |
| China Yuan              | 38.30  | 38.92   |
| Danish Krone            | 42.90  | 43.50   |
| Euro                    | 312.48 | 319.10  |
| Hong Kong Dollar        | 34.95  | 35.95   |
| Indian Rupee            | 2.60   | 3.05    |
| Japanese Yen            | 1.7342 | 1.8339  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar           | 884.95 | 895.35  |
| Malaysian Ringgit       | 68.95  | 70.05   |
| NewZealand \$           | 154.56 | 158.25  |
| Norwegians Krone        | 28.60  | 28.95   |
| Omani Riyal             | 719.25 | 731.85  |
| Qatari Riyal            | 74.97  | 76.29   |
| Saudi Riyal             | 74.05  | 74.60   |
| Singapore Dollar        | 216.75 | 222.70  |
| Swedish Korona          | 28.60  | 28.95   |
| Swiss Franc             | 338.65 | 343.95  |
| Thai Bhat               | 8.32   | 8.98    |
| U.A.E Dirham            | 75.75  | 76.60   |
| UK Pound Sterling       | 366.98 | 372.73  |
| US Dollar               | 277.90 | 278.10  |

## ICCI President Calls for World-Class Expo Centre, New Industrial Area in Islamabad



### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia has called for a world-class Expo Centre in the capital to showcase Pakistan's products, export potential and investment opportunities to the international community. In an interview on Saturday, he said ICCI would work with the government and stakeholders to make Islamabad a model business-friendly city.

Referring to his election with an overwhelming mandate, he said the trust placed in him carried great responsibility and that his foremost aim was to deliver meaningful results for traders and strengthen ICCI's voice.

He said Islamabad urgently needs a new, modern industrial area, as the existing industrial estate has reached capacity, and expressed confidence in government cooperation.

On ease of doing business, he said the Chamber would present practical proposals and stressed that no government department should harass or intimidate businesspeople, who must be treated as partners in economic development.

He also proposed engaging embassies of friendly countries to promote Pakistan's Northern Areas for tourism, and said Islamabad should become a leading hub for business, exhibitions, investment and international trade, not just the political capital.

# Spain, Punjab explore ties in trade, football and culture

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Spanish Ambassador Carlos Aragon Gil Delaserna on Saturday discussed ways to expand cooperation between Punjab and Spain in trade, business, sports, culture and environmental protection.

The meeting also discussed establishing a pilot football academy in Lahore with the cooperation of La Liga, Spain's professional football league, for the training of coaches and players.

The chief minister welcomed the Spanish envoy and congratulated him on Spain's victory in the Football World Cup. She also appreciated his diplomatic services.

The two sides reviewed business and trade opportunities between Punjab and Spain and discussed a proposal to establish a Punjab-Spain Business Council to facilitate commercial ties.

They also considered forming a joint working group to address challenges posed by forest fires, air pollution and heatwaves. The possibility of declaring Lahore and Barcelona sister cities was also discussed, along with cooperation in culture and the arts.

The chief minister welcomed Spain's decision to recognise Palestine and paid tribute to



the country for the move.

Inviting the Spanish ambassador and business delegations to visit Sialkot and Lahore, the chief minister said Punjab would welcome

trade and cultural delegations from Spain.

She said Punjab wanted to benefit from Spain's experience in tackling climate change and smog.

The chief minister also expressed interest in learning from Barcelona's urban-planning experience in making roads and public spaces more people-friendly.

## Development Works

ISLAMABAD: A view of Capital Development Authority (CDA) expedite development work in E-12 sector, which has remained stalled for 37 years, targeting to complete it within six months, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## LONGi Partners with FC Bayern Munich in Global Solar Technology Deal

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: LONGi, a global green energy technology company, has announced a global partnership with FC Bayern Munich, combining solar innovation with football under the theme "POWER ON, GAME ON." The partnership, unveiled in Hong Kong during the club's Asia visit, will continue through 2028.

The launch was attended by LONGi Chairman and CEO Zhong Baoshen, FC Bayern Board Member for Marketing & Sales Rouven Kasper, LONGi Vice President Charles Jiang and club legend Roy Makaay.

LONGi said the collaboration will feature joint campaigns, content and fan engagement initiatives promoting clean energy and sustainability. The partnership follows LONGi's 2026 collaboration with the BMW BERLIN-MARATHON.

The company highlighted its advances



in solar technology, including a crystalline silicon-perovskite tandem solar cell with a reported world-record conversion efficiency of 35.5 percent. FC Bayern and LONGi said they would explore sustainability initia-

tives, including potential renewable-energy applications at the club's training facilities and stadium infrastructure.

Further joint activities and fan-focused initiatives will be announced later.

## SECP Approves FIA Referral in Bagasra Case; Rs. 49m Investor Claims Still Unpaid

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved a formal referral to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to pursue legal action in the Bagasra Securities case, more than 16 years after the brokerage ceased operations, with nearly Rs. 49 million in approved investor claims still unpaid.

The approval allows a written reference under Section 41B of

the SECP Act, 1997, enabling FIA to initiate formal proceedings over alleged unauthorised transfers and pledging of clients' shares. The referral names Mr. Sikandar Esmail Ahmed (Director/CEO), Ms. Shakeela Sikandar (Director), and Mr. Arshad Iqbal Advocate (Liquidator) as accused in the matter.

SECP initiated an enquiry in March 2010 following complaints concerning unauthorised dealings in clients' securities. SECP's enquiry

completed in October 2013, found that clients' shares were transferred and pledged without consent to obtain financing and meet exposure margins. The funds were used to benefit selected clients at the expense of others.

A total of 176.204 million shares, including clients' holdings, were pledged between July 2007 and March 2010. Banks and the stock exchange subsequently exercised pledge calls, resulting in the sale of

pledged shares following default. The report also recorded that the brokerage's directors and liquidator failed to provide required records, leaving the enquiry committee to rely on information obtained from CDC, PSX and banks.

NCCPL declared the brokerage a defaulter, while PSX sold its membership card in 2009 and undertook claim settlements. The company ceased operations following a voluntary winding-up resolution in

January 2010.

PSX verified 333 investor claims worth Rs. 145.50 million, of which Rs. 96.57 million was settled, including Rs75 million through the Investors Protection Fund. Claims worth Rs. 48.93 million remain outstanding.

SECP's support for FIA's proceedings is intended to help pursue recovery towards settling investor claims that have remained unpaid for more than 16 years.

## MG's Global Models Receive Multiple International Automotive Awards



### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: MG Motor said several models from its latest global portfolio have received recognition from leading automotive media in the UK, Australia and Spain, supporting the company's commitment to offering the latest global specifications in Pakistan.

The MG4 EV Urban was named Best Small Electric Car of the Year by British automotive publication What Car? The All-New MG HS Super Hybrid received Best Plug-in Hybrid of the Year and Best Hybrid Car of

the Year awards from Auto Express and What Car?

Meanwhile, the MG ZS Hybrid+ was recognized as Best Small SUV of the Year by Australia's WhichCar? and Best Hybrid Car of the Year by Spain's Carwow.

MG said the awards highlight its portfolio across electric, plug-in hybrid and hybrid technologies. CEO MG Motor Pakistan Jianqiang Shao said the international recognition validates the company's products and reflects its commitment to bringing advanced automotive technology, safety, design and performance to Pakistani customers.

## PAAPAM Seeks PM Meeting, Industry Consultation on Auto Policy

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has approached Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, seeking an urgent meeting to present industry concerns and proposals regarding the draft Auto & Auto Parts Policy 2026–2031.

PAAPAM welcomed the Prime Minister's directive for a high-level committee to conduct a clause-by-clause review of the draft policy, but stressed that meaningful consultation with industry stakeholders was essential before finalization.

The Association urged the government to share the reviewed draft with manu-

facturers and allied sectors before submitting it to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Cabinet. It said industry stakeholders possessed valuable technical and practical expertise that could strengthen the policy and support domestic manufacturing, employment, localization and national self-reliance.

PAAPAM leadership requested an early meeting with the Prime Minister to present its proposals before the committee completes deliberations.

The Association reaffirmed its commitment to working with the government to promote industrial growth, technological advancement and sustainable development of Pakistan's automotive sector.

# India beat Pakistan by 19 runs to claim Asian Games Cricket Gold in Nagoya

 **Asim Tanveer**

TOKYO: India's men's cricket team defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by 19 runs in the Asian Games final in Nagoya, Japan, completing a golden double in cricket at the Tokyo Asian Games. India, the T20 world champions, posted 211 for six, and Pakistan finished on 192 for six despite Hasan Nawaz's valiant 96.

The two neighbours, who meet only in international tournaments and on neutral ground because of political tensions, saw their captains skip the customary pre-match handshakes.



After the win, Indian players paraded their national flag around the ground. Hundreds of millions of fans watched on television back home.

Batting first, India got a quick start through 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who hit back-to-back sixes in an over costing 24 runs before falling for 15. Opening partner Abhishek Sharma reached a 20-ball fifty and scored 61, helped by sloppy Pakistan fielding that saw him dropped twice and nearly spared a run-out. Ishan Kishan made 20 and captain Shreyas Iyer 21, leaving India at 133 for five in the 15th over. Tilak Varma (51 not

out, four sixes) and Shivam Dube (27) then added 62 in five overs to lift India past 200.

Chasing for a record, Pakistan began with a 33-run opening stand between Sahibzada Farhan and Maaz Sadaqat. Hasan Nawaz then took charge, reaching 50 off 28 balls with five sixes, and added 87 with Saim Ayub before Dube dismissed Ayub. Pakistan needed 52 off the last three overs when Abdul Samad fell, and Jasprit Bumrah conceded just 11 in the penultimate over, leaving 33 off the last. Hasan fell off the final ball for 96 from 51 deliveries, with seven sixes and five fours.



## *Pakistan Navy's Ghulam Mustafa Bashir wins bronze for Pakistan at Asian Games*



 **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy's seasoned shooter Ghulam Mustafa Bashir won a bronze medal for Pakistan in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan.

Pakistan Navy's Ghulam Mustafa Bashir wins bronze for Pakistan at Asian Games

Representing Pakistan among 27 competitors, Ghulam Mustafa Bashir delivered a commendable performance to secure the individual bronze medal, adding another medal to Pakistan's tally at the continental sporting event, according to a press release issued here.

The Pakistan Navy shooter has represented Pakistan at three Olympic Games, establishing himself as one of the country's leading international shooters.

Bashir also claimed a bronze medal at the 2022 ISSF World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, one of the sport's premier global competitions.

# From PCOs to Scam Call Centres: What Went Wrong?

There was a time when the humble PCO (Public Call Office) was an important part of everyday life in Pakistan. A small booth with a telephone allowed ordinary people to make a call when owning a personal phone was beyond their means. Families, students, workers and travellers all benefited from this simple facility. The PCO was not a symbol of luxury; it was a public convenience.

Today, the picture is completely different. Almost every person carries a mobile phone, and even children have easy access to smartphones and tablets. In many homes, a child barely a few months old is handed a phone by parents simply to keep him or her occupied. Technology has undoubtedly made communication easier, but its uncontrolled use has created another problem: we have given children access to a powerful world without always

teaching them how to live safely in it.

Parents often know about the harmful effects of excessive screen time, yet awareness does not always translate into action. The phone has quietly become a babysitter, a teacher, an entertainer and, sometimes, a substitute for parental attention. The consequences may not be immediately visible, but they can affect a child's habits, concentration, social behaviour and relationship with the real world.

There is, however, another and much darker side to our digital revolution.

Every few weeks, reports emerge of raids on illegal call centres where young men and women are allegedly involved in fraudulent activities targeting people abroad. In recent months, Karachi has witnessed a series of such operations. In one September raid, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) said it had arrested 27 suspects, including four Afghan

nationals, from an alleged international scam call centre. Investigators reportedly found spoofing software and sensitive financial information belonging to foreign nationals (Dawn).

Only days later, the NCCIA reported another operation in Karachi in which more than 70 people were arrested from two alleged scam call centres. According to the agency, the centres were operating from residential areas and allegedly targeting US citizens with fraudulent financial offers (Dawn).

These are not isolated headlines. Earlier raids in Karachi this year also led to arrests in alleged call-centre fraud cases involving the impersonation of foreign banks and the collec-

tion of sensitive financial information (Dawn).

The question that deserves much greater attention is not merely how these networks are caught. The bigger question is: why has Pakistan become attractive to people involved in such activities in the first place?

Why would foreign nationals travel thousands of miles to establish or join operations allegedly designed to defraud people in other countries? Why are such sophisticated setups able to function for months or even years before law-enforcement agencies discover them? And how can offices equipped with computers, calling systems, staff and international communications remain hidden in busy urban centres?



Analysis

**Ch Muhammad Anwar Chohan**

These questions demand institutional answers.

Pakistan desperately needs genuine foreign investment, technology, employment and productive businesses. But there is an obvious difference between investment that creates factories, exports, jobs and tax revenue and activity that merely exploits weaknesses in our regulatory and enforcement systems.

The irony is painful. We often struggle to attract legitimate investors, yet illegal networks sometimes appear capable of finding premises, employees, telecommunications facilities and financial channels with surprising ease.

This is not simply a cybercrime issue. It is a question of governance, immigration controls, financial monitoring, corporate registration, taxation and law enforcement. It is also a question of our social priorities. A young person sitting in a sophisticated call

centre may believe he is merely earning a salary. He may not fully understand where the money comes from or whose life is being damaged at the other end of the telephone.

The PCO once connected ordinary people. Today's smartphone connects the entire world. The technology itself is neither good nor bad; what matters is the purpose for which human beings use it.

Pakistan cannot afford to become known as a convenient destination for digital deception while genuine investors hesitate to come here. The state must make it easy for legitimate businesses to operate and difficult for illegal networks to hide.

The answer is not to fear technology. The answer is to regulate it intelligently, educate our children responsibly and ensure that the enormous power of the telephone is used to connect people, not to deceive them.

# AIOU Conference Calls for Redefining Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

 **Continued from Page 4**

responsibility. Universities will need to address academic integrity, responsible use of AI, verification of information, privacy, ethics and the right relationship between human judgment and machine-generated content. Technology can accelerate learning, but it cannot replace institutions' and educators' responsibility to ensure knowledge is used ethically and meaningfully.

**Culture and continuity**

The conference also included a cultural evening featuring poetry, music, regional dances and other expressions, underscoring that education must keep connecting people with their language, heritage, history and society. The author says the future of education may be digital, but it must remain deeply human. The conference has also become an annual tradition run by

the Faculty of Education, reflecting the value of sustained academic dialogue at a time of rapid change.

The article credits the Faculty of Education team for the event's success, naming Prof. Dr. Naveed Sultana, Dr. Hina Noor, Prof. Dr. Tanveer Afzal, Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Dr. Tooba Saleem, Dr. Afshah Huma, Dr. Ruksana Durrani, Dr. Rehmatullah Bhatti, Dr. Muhammad Ayub Buzdar, Dr. Syed Nasir Hussain, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal Mir and Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, who guided speakers, ensured smooth sessions and responded to emerging needs.

**Leadership at AIOU**

The author praises Dr. Nasir Mahmood's leadership, saying AIOU has grown into a vibrant centre of educational excellence, research, intellectual discourse, literature, religious learning and cultural activity. Seminars,

conferences, research forums, literary gatherings and cultural programmes take place throughout the year, and his emphasis on research and innovation has pushed the university to look beyond conventional teaching and build stronger links between learning, research and society.

**Implications for Pakistan**

For Pakistan, challenges such as access to quality education, uneven standards, teacher development, limited research capacity, digital inequality and outdated assessment cannot be solved by technology alone. Universities must become stronger centres of research, innovation, critical thinking and practical problem-solving. The university of the future, the author argues, must connect research with policy, technology with pedagogy, knowledge with society and innovation with human development, preparing

students to navigate uncertainty, adapt to change and think independently.

**Questions for the present**

The author closes with questions the conference raised: What should students learn when information is everywhere? What should teachers teach when technology can generate answers? How should universities assess learning when AI can perform many traditional academic tasks? How can technology be a bridge rather than a barrier? These, he says, are questions of the present, and the answer lies not in choosing between humans and technology but in building a system where technology strengthens human potential. The task for universities is to turn knowledge into action, research into solutions, technology into opportunity and education into a force for human and national development.

# U. S. Troops Exit Iraq: Sovereignty and Security Challenges Ahead

 **Continued from Page 4**

political unity and coordination within Iraq have become more important than ever.

The influence of neighboring countries on Iraq's future cannot be ignored either. Iran has deep religious, political, economic and security ties with Iraq, while its relations with the United States have remained strained for decades, and this situation continues today. In the past, Iraq has also become an arena of competition between the two powers. Following the complete withdrawal of U. S. forces, a major diplomatic test for Baghdad will be to maintain a balanced foreign and security policy based on its national interests rather than falling under the influence of any one side.

The true meaning of Iraqi sovereignty will also lie in ensuring that the country's major decisions are made by Iraqi institutions according to the national interest.

The withdrawal of U. S. forces is certainly a symbolic achievement for Iraq, but sovereignty cannot be limited merely to the absence of foreign troops. Genuine sovereignty becomes stronger when a state exercises effective control over its borders, institutions, economy, law and security. If different armed groups continue to main-

tain their power within the country, political divisions weaken state institutions, and regional powers exert excessive influence over domestic politics, then the concept of sovereignty may remain incomplete despite the military withdrawal.

Iraq has now entered a new phase. Following the complete withdrawal of U. S. troops, several important questions have emerged regarding how the Iraqi government will fulfill its responsibilities. How will it prevent ISIS from reorganizing? How will it integrate armed groups into the state system? How will it further strengthen cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil? How will it maintain balanced relations with neighboring countries? And how will it strengthen its national institutions? These are the fundamental challenges now facing the Iraqi government. How these challenges are addressed and what strategy is adopted to resolve them will be determined by time. History, however, shows that when nations remain sincere toward their homeland and their future, even the most difficult challenges can be confronted through better strategy, national unity and perseverance. May peace and stability prevail in Iraq in the near future so that the Iraqi people can live with security, dignity and peace of mind.

# Flydubai, Iran and the Politics of Escalation

 **Continued from Page 4**

The possibility of further escalation is already being discussed openly in American military commentary. According to the Fox News report, additional naval and Marine deployments would bring approximately 10,000 additional personnel to the Middle East, with arrival expected by the end of November.

Retired General Jack Keane described renewed joint American-Israeli combat as an option available to Trump, envisaging a

shorter but substantially more destructive campaign capable of placing Iran's government on a path toward collapse.

Keane also explicitly speculated that the CIA and Mossad were working to weaken the Iranian leadership, encourage internal fractures and assist resistance. Those remarks were not an announcement of an approved operation. They nevertheless reveal the scale of military action and political transformation being advocated in influential American commentary.

My prediction is that the approach of elections will sharpen pressure for a dramatic demonstration of military power. The Flydubai incident could become part of that argument, alongside other security allegations. The pursuit of an alleged attacker could then be absorbed into a much broader campaign against Iran's leadership, military capabilities and infrastructure.

A weaker and fractured Iran and fractured and downgraded and weakened middle east on several fronts could create

opportunities for advocates of Israeli predominance. Netanyahu's expressed attachment to a "Greater Israel" vision has already drawn condemnation from Arab governments. Those statements justify scrutiny of expansionist ambitions. Military dominance and territorial expansion are distinct objectives, but weakened neighboring states could find themselves less able to resist coercion.

The strategic danger is that American force weakens Iran, Iranian retaliation destabilizes

neighboring countries, and the resulting imbalance creates conditions that proponents of Israeli hegemony seek to exploit. This is the regional consequence I fear—not a demonstrated explanation of who organized the Flydubai attack. A catastrophe can serve an expansionist agenda with every event leading to it having been secretly planned.

That distinction strengthens the warning. There is no need to prove an elaborate conspiracy to demand that governments stop turning unfinished inves-

tigations into arguments for war. The responsibility lies with those proposing military action to establish the facts, explain their objectives and account for the consequences.

Investigate the attack completely. Identify and prosecute those responsible through lawful processes. Protect the passengers' right to truth. But refuse the leap from suspicion to collective punishment.

If this emergency becomes a justification for devastating Iran and destabilizing its neighbors,

*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.*

Protest

KARACHI: Students protest outside Dow Medical University in Karachi, demanding the paper be rescheduled



Photo: Online

# Arrangements underway to repatriate Pakistanis from Somalia on PM’s instructions

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the instructions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, arrangements are underway to repatriate the bodies of Pakistani citizens who lost their lives in Somalia.

In this regard, the bodies of the deceased Pakistani citizens arrived in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, on Saturday.

Ethiopian Airlines staff are currently inspecting the

coffins and making the necessary preparations for the remains, while the final clearance for their onward flight to Karachi will be granted thereafter.

In accordance with the Prime Minister’s instructions, relevant authorities remain in constant contact to expedite the repatriation process.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had assured all possible assistance for bringing back the bodies of the Pakistani citizens



— Syed Kashif Umar, Ahmed Ansari, and Rafiullah—who lost their lives in Somalia.

Speaking by telephone yesterday with Azhan Kashif, the son of the deceased, the Prime Minister expressed heartfelt condolences over his father’s passing and assured him that the government would take all necessary measures to ensure the swift repatriation of his father’s body, as well as those of the other deceased individuals, to Pakistan.

# Exports up by 10.84 percent to \$8.4 billion in first quarter

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Exports from the country increased by 10.84 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to PBS data, the exports during July-September (2026-27) were recorded at \$8.423 billion as compared to exports of \$7.599 billion in July-September (2025-26).

Likewise, imports into the country also increased by 13.21 percent, from last year’s \$16.973 billion to \$19.215 billion during the year under review.

Based on the figures, the



trade deficit increased by 15.13 percent to \$10.792 billion this year from last year’s \$9.374 billion, according to the data. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the exports

increased by 17.61 percent in September 2026 to \$2.939 billion from \$2.499 billion recorded during September 2025.

Imports also went up by 11.05 percent in September 2026 to \$6.494 billion compared to imports of \$5.848 billion during the same month of last year.

On month-on-month basis, exports from the country surged by 16.07 percent in September 2026 when compared to exports of \$2.532 billion in August 2026.

The imports also went up by 11.50 percent in September compared to the imports of \$5.824 billion in August 2026, according to the latest PBS data.

# Bilawal Urges Political Solution in KP, Says Dialogue with PTI Could Avert Emergency

Bureau Report

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for a political solution to the crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying dialogue with the PTI could avoid the need for measures such as an emergency. Speaking at the inauguration of Karachi’s first wastewater treatment plant on Saturday, he asked to be allowed to talk to the PTI and persuade it to return to negotiations, saying dialogue serves all provinces and democracy.

He noted that governor’s rule and an emergency are provided for in the Constitution, but political efforts should come first. He urged keeping the political crisis separate from terrorism and national interest matters, and said all parties should jointly confront terrorism rather than view it through a political lens.

Bilawal said the federal government had told the PPP it was considering an emergency in KP. He called for a written agreement between the federal and KP governments on counterterrorism, adding that an



emergency might become necessary if terrorism could not be controlled, and that fighting terrorism was a “red line” for the PPP. He warned that a worsening situation could affect Karachi, which he called “mini-Pakistan.”

On development, he congratulated Karachi’s residents on the Keamari Treatment Plant-I, praised Mayor Murtaza Wahab, and said water and civic projects would continue. “Karachi is our city,” he said.

# DPM/FM, British HC discuss Pak-UK bilateral ties



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, on Saturday, called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed Pak-United Kingdom relations.

Both sides welcomed the positive momentum in bilateral ties and

discussed upcoming engagements to carry this cooperation forward, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

They also exchanged views on the evolving regional situation.

The DPM/FM underscored the importance of efforts to ease tensions and reaffirmed that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable way forward.

# All roads in Islamabad are open, declares Atta Tarar



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that no road in Islamabad had been closed.

In his post on X, he said the purpose of placing containers on roads was to protect the lives and properties of citizens and was in light of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) order. “The purpose of placing containers is not to obstruct the

movement of people,” he clarified.

Referring to a report aired on Al-Jazeera in which the TV channel had said that containers were meant to block roads, the minister said it was not factual. “The report glossed over judicial and security background to it,” he said, adding that ‘partial reporting’ did not present true picture of the situation.

Tarar said that lies and baseless propaganda could never be the substitute for truth.

# Health minister orders probe into Sindh MDCAT complaints

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal has taken notice of alleged irregularities in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) held in Sindh and ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the complaints.

According to official sources, the minister directed a five-member committee, including the President of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), to conduct a transparent investigation and submit its report within 15 days.

The committee has been tasked with examining the complaints



and reviewing the circumstances surrounding the alleged irregularities during the examination, sources said.

The minister directed the committee to complete the inquiry within the stipulated timeframe and present its findings for further action in accordance with the applicable rules.

# AJK President Visits Sudhanoti, Vows to Resolve Public Issues

SUDHANOTI/PALANDRI: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan made his first visit to Sudhanoti after his election, receiving a warm welcome from thousands of people along the route from Azad Pattan to Palandri.

Addressing a public gathering, President Najeeb Khan reaffirmed his commitment to the Kashmir cause, the right to self-determination of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and strengthening ties between Pakistan and Kashmir. He said longstanding public issues would be addressed and development and welfare would remain government priorities.

He assured residents that prac-

tical measures would be taken to resolve Sudhanoti’s problems, improve basic facilities and ensure completion of development projects. He also pledged uninterrupted supplies of flour and other essential commodities.

The President said government performance would be reflected in practical results rather than announcements. He announced that plans for the government’s first 100 days would be presented publicly.

He also called for cooperation among the government, institutions and citizens to improve living standards and promote development across AJK.