



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
الہم یرحمہ فی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا یہ گمانی سے پیچھے رہو کیونکہ ہر گمانی کی باتیں اکثر جھوٹی ہوتی ہیں، لوگوں کے عیوب تلاش کرنے کے پیچھے نہ رہو، آپس میں حسد نہ کرو، کسی کی پیچھے پیچھے نہ رہو، بعض درگاہوں پر گنہگار نہ بنو۔
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6064)

Al Hamd Tours and Travels



President Zardari Grooms Teachers' Day

President Asif Ali Zardari extended greetings to teachers in Pakistan and world-wide on World Teachers' Day (5 October 2026), praising their role in education and nation-building. He noted that teachers shape character and skills, and that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation on teachers' status, stressing the need for professional support.



PM Hails Teachers as Foundation of National Progress

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said teachers and educational institutions lay the foundations for national progress through character-building, adding that Pakistan's development depends on education quality and capable, dedicated teachers. He paid tribute to teachers worldwide as nurturers of youth and shapers of shared social values.

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PM meets with Polich Minister

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Mr. Tomasz Siemoniak, Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers, and Coordinator of Special Services of the Republic of Poland on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz seeks long-term, multi-faceted partnership with Poland

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Poland relations and reiterated Pakistan's desire to transform the longstanding friendship into a robust, long-term and multi-faceted partnership.

The prime minister made the remarks during a meeting with Tomasz Siemoniak, Minister and Member of the Council of Ministers and Coordinator of Special Services of Poland, who is visiting Pakistan officially.

PM Shehbaz highlighted the importance of recent bilateral interactions and leadership-level exchanges in further

expanding relations between the two countries. He also stressed the need to encourage greater interaction between Pakistani and Polish business communities to strengthen economic cooperation.

The prime minister appreciated Poland's support for Pakistan under the European Union's GSP Plus scheme and expressed confidence that bilateral ties would continue to expand across various sectors.

The two sides also discussed major regional and international developments, including the situation in the Middle East. PM Shehbaz stressed dialogue and diplomacy to resolve regional tensions and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability.

Pakistan attends 8th Moscow Format consultations on Afghanistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan and regional countries exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and issues of regional concern during the 8th Meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan held in Moscow.

Pakistan was represented by a high-level delegation led by Mohammad Sadiq, the prime minister's special assistant and special representative for Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Faisal Niaz Tirmizi

and Ambassador to Afghanistan Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani were also part of the delegation, along with other senior officials.

Discussions during the consultations focused on regional peace and security, counter-terrorism, economic cooperation and connectivity.

Pakistan reiterated the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and stressed the need for continuous regional dialogue to address shared security and economic challenges, according to the Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow.

UN Chief Guterres Heads to Islamabad to discuss Pakistan's mediation role in US-Iran conflict

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres left New York on Sunday night for a four-day visit to Pakistan, at the Government of Pakistan's invitation. He will discuss Pakistan's mediatory role in the US-Iran conflict and its "constructive role" in supporting negotiations between the two sides, among other matters.

Guterres will meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar,

senior officials and President Asif Ali Zardari. UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told APP that Pakistan has stood by others through its peacekeepers under the UN flag and its diplomacy and mediation, calling this one of its greatest contributions to the world.

The secretary-general has consistently praised Pakistan's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East conflict, which led to the Memorandum of Understanding establishing a ceasefire. Ahead of last month's 81st UN General Assembly high-



level debate, he urged a return to dialogue after the ceasefire broke down.

Guterres, who steps down at the end of this year after two five-year terms, last visited Pakistan in 2022 during the devastating monsoon floods. He will again visit the National Disaster Management Authority to see progress in preparedness and resilience, and will tour the headquarters of UNMOGIP, which monitors the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. He is expected back in New York on Thursday.

JUI to hold Mufti Mahmood Conference in Multan on Oct 15

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) will hold the Mufti Mahmood Conference in Multan on Oct. 15 as the party prepares for the next phase of its anti-government movement, JUI spokesperson Aslam Ghauri said.

Ghauri said Multan, the heart of South Punjab, would host JUI's next major political activity and the conference would prove to be a milestone in the struggle for public rights and against

inflation and lawlessness.

He said the conference would help determine the political direction of South Punjab.

JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and other central and provincial leaders will address the conference, according to the party spokesperson.

Ghauri said Fazlur Rehman would announce the next phase of the protest movement during the conference. He said JUI was campaigning for the rule

of law, free and fair elections and the resolution of public issues.

"Lawlessness, inflation and unemployment have broken the back of the common people," Ghauri said, urging the public to join JUI in what he described as a struggle to protect their rights.

The spokesperson directed party workers to accelerate preparations for the conference with focus, confidence and discipline and to invite people from every street and neighborhood to attend.

Solangi Criticises Afghan Taliban Over "Lecturing Pakistan on Democracy"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson to the President Murtaza Solangi has strongly criticised the Afghan Taliban administration for questioning Pakistan's democratic credentials, saying a regime that derives authority from force has no standing to lecture Pakistan on democracy.

In a post on X, Solangi described the Taliban administration as an illegitimate regime and accused it of violating commitments under the Doha Agreement. He also alleged that the Taliban had curtailed fundamental freedoms of Afghan women and girls and continued persecution of ethnic and religious minorities.

Solangi further said the Taliban had seized power following years of bombings, improvised explosive device attacks and suicide terrorism. He termed it ironic that an administration deriving its authority from the gun was questioning Pakistan's democratic credentials.

In contrast, Solangi described Pakistan as a state established through the popular will of millions of people. His remarks came amid continued tensions and exchanges between Pakistan and Afghanistan over political and security-related issues.

Muqam warns KP security is deteriorating, accuses CM Afridi of neglecting duties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Amir Muqam said the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is getting worse, with serious security problems and people afraid to leave their homes. Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad alongside other ruling party leaders on Monday, he said law and order in the province had deteriorated.

Muqam criticised KP Chief Minister

Sohail Afridi, accusing him of abandoning his responsibilities and focusing on protests and demonstrations. He alleged that Afridi showed neither concern for the people nor seriousness about their problems, claiming the province was suffering from terrorism while the chief minister was making videos on the streets of Lahore.

He warned that if terrorism continued to take hold in KP, it would become a threat to the security of the whole country. He said

there was no effective writ of the provincial government and that conditions were continuing to worsen, leaving the province without effective governance.

Muqam stressed that the rule of law was in everyone's interest and that the province's stability was also important for its political future. He added that the federal government was concerned about the people of KP, but claimed the provincial government was not showing the same concern.

AJK Prime Minister Praises Legal Fraternity’s Role in Upholding Rule of Law



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ifthikhar Gilani praised the legal community for its crucial role in upholding the rule of law and making citizens aware of their fundamental and legal rights. He was

speaking to a delegation of women lawyers, comprising Afshan Saeed Chaudhry, Sabiha Zahra, Quratul Ain Taqdis, Fasih Advocate and Romana Advocate, who called on him. Describing lawyers as a key pillar of constitutional governance and the justice system, he said they not only

safeguard citizens’ rights but also promote social justice. He highlighted women lawyers’ valuable contribution to protecting legal and human rights and ensuring women’s access to justice. Referring to his government’s agenda, the prime minister said

good governance, timely completion of development projects and better public service delivery were top priorities. He said the PML-N government would use all available resources to address public grievances and steer Azad Kashmir towards development and prosperity.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan met Chief Justice of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court Sardar Liaqat Hussain. During the meeting, they discussed various matters relating to judicial affairs, the rule of law, and the provision of justice in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



DEPD Official Visits Renovated NDF Rehabilitation Centre in Larkana

Bureau Report

LARKANA: Deputy Regional Director of the Sindh Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), Saeed Ahmed Jatoi, visited the newly renovated NDF Rehabilitation Centre in Larkana and appreciated efforts to improve rehabilitation facilities for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the visit, Jatoi inspected the renovated building, child-friendly environment, modern therapy equipment and rehabilitation facilities for children with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities.

NDF Pakistan President Abid



Lashari, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, briefed the visiting official on the organisation’s rehabilitation services and highlighted collaboration between NDF and the Sindh government to provide quality support to children and their families.

He said the renovated centre would strengthen physiotherapy, speech and occupational therapy, psychological support, special education, assessment and family counselling services.

Jatoi commended NDF’s commitment to improving the quality of life, independence, inclusion and dignity of children with disabilities. NDF reaffirmed its commitment to working with DEPDP to expand rehabilitation services in Larkana and other underserved areas of Sindh.

PPP AJK Leader Urges Transparency, Accountability and Administrative Reforms

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: PPP Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information and LA-7 candidate Shaukat Javed Mir has called for the immediate appointment of the Accountability Bureau chairman and the release of Rs10 billion in welfare funds to ensure transparent governance and fair distribution of resources. Speaking at the Central Press Club, he demanded that records of public departments and development authorities be taken into custody and impartially investigated, with legal action against those responsible for alleged injustices in Thotha and



Langarpura.

He proposed a food street at Baradari and a modern park at Tahli Mandi, and urged that anti-encroachment drives begin with influential individuals. He also demanded action against buildings violating codes along the Red Zone fault line, and action under the Special Powers Act against negligent teachers and “land-grabbing groups.”

Mir called for legislation ensuring doctors’ attendance and uninterrupted emergency services. He urged Prime Minister Barrister Syed Ifthikhar Ali Gilani to increase medical and scholarship funds and simplify access, expressing hope for meaningful reforms.

New Judicial Year 2026-27 Begins at AJK Supreme Court; Chief Justice Promises Early Fix for High Court Judge Shortage



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 2026-27 judicial year, the institution’s 52nd, began at the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir with a ceremony attended by judges, the Advocate General, bar leaders and lawyers. Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan said justice is incomplete unless court decisions are implemented, and that delays or violations by state institutions or citizens erode public confidence. He said violations of court directions against commercial plazas on residential plots had allegedly become routine at the Mirpur Development Authority; proceedings have begun against officials, and the court would also act. He also warned Food Authority officials against harassing traders under the pretext of enforcing court orders.

He stressed technology use, citing the online public facilitation portal, e-copy applications, e-challan, e-courts in Mirpur and an overseas complaints portal, and called for alternative dispute resolution. A record 2,325 cases were decided last year. The High Court’s judge shortage, which has raised pending cases, would be addressed soon. He urged timely funds for the Mirpur Supreme Court building and noted 50 percent austerity cuts on fuel and travel expenses.

Hyderabad Launches District Emergency Operations Centre and Integrated Immunization Service for High-Risk Polio Areas



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A District Emergency Operations Centre and Integrated Service Delivery initiative was inaugurated at the New Deputy Commissioner Complex Hyderabad to strengthen immunization and polio eradication efforts in the district’s high-risk Union Councils. The initiative has been launched with the support of IG-CDC.

Provincial Coordinator Sindh Shahryar Gul Memon, Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, District Health Officer Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain and a UNICEF representative jointly inaugurated it. Officials from relevant departments also attended. A cake-cutting ceremony was held, and children were given polio drops to reaffirm the commitment to protecting children in vulnerable areas.

Participants were told the initiative aims to integrate immunization activities, strengthen emergency response and improve vaccination delivery through better coordination among institutions and partners. They pledged joint efforts by the district administration, health department, development partners and field teams to ensure every eligible child has access to polio vaccines.

54th CTP Probationary Officers Meet Commissioner Hyderabad, Discuss Governance and Public Service

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi



HYDERABAD: A delegation of nine probationary officers from the 54th Common Training Programme met Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi at his office in Shahbaz Building. The officers are currently on a six-week military attachment with the 18th Division in Hyderabad, aimed at giving them practical exposure to the armed forces’ structure, discipline and professional affairs while promoting civil-military interaction. Assistant Commissioner Hyderabad City Syed Noor Hussain and Major Asad were also present.

The commissioner welcomed the officers and briefed them on the civil service’s role, governance, civil-military relations and divisional administration. He outlined the administrative landscape of Hyderabad Division, including its challenges and opportunities, and informed them about major Sindh government development projects underway in the region.

Stressing integrity, impartiality, accountability and public service, he urged field officers to stay in close contact with the public and resolve their problems promptly. He also emphasized planning, inter-institutional coordination and effective implementation. Traditional gifts were presented to the officers at the end of the meeting.

Kamalia AC reviews arrangements for Dhee Rani Programme

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Erum Shahzadi chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the Punjab government’s Dhee Rani Programme, an initiative of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif aimed at supporting deserving daughters and their families at marriage.



The meeting reviewed facilities for eligible families, administrative preparations, ceremony arrangements and other related matters. Officials briefed the Assistant Commissioner on measures being taken to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

Erum Shahzadi directed departments to ensure timely and transparent provision of all prescribed facilities and complete preparations within the stipulated timeframe. She stressed that special attention must be given to the convenience, dignity and needs of deserving families.

She also called for close coordination among departments, effective implementation of government directives and provision of guidance to eligible applicants regarding procedures. The Assistant Commissioner warned against negligence or delays in assigned responsibilities.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:42 am
Zohr 11:56 am
Asr 4:06 pm
Maghrib 5:47 pm
Isha 7:10 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police

Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

PML-Q Leader Demands EOBI, Free Healthcare and Better Pay for Teachers on World Teachers' Day



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On World Teachers' Day, Faisal Anwar, Central Deputy Secretary Information of Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum (PML-Q), paid tribute to teachers in Pakistan and around the world for their role in educating and training the youth. He said a teacher does not merely teach books but builds nations, since doctors, engineers, soldiers and leaders are all products of a teacher's efforts. He described a teacher's status in society as second only to that of parents.

He regretted that teachers in Pakistan are not receiving the respect and facilities they deserve. On behalf of PML-Q, he put forward four demands: Immediate announcement of EOBI and free medical facilities for all teachers in government, semi-government and private institutions, a substantial increase in teachers' salaries and benefits, better training and modern facilities for government school teachers and effective legislation to protect teachers' dignity and safety.

Anwar concluded that an educational revolution is impossible without the economic protection of teachers, saying generations will be enlightened only when teachers are satisfied.

CM Punjab says 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' has become Pakistan's identity

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday said the province's low-cost housing initiative, Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar, had become a global benchmark and a source of recognition for not only Punjab but Pakistan.

In a message on World Habitat Day, the chief minister said the programme had once again received international recognition, with Punjab being conferred the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for the Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar project.

She said Punjab had topped the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour rankings again after 19 years, describing the initiative as "a ray of hope" for

low-income families.

The chief minister said more than 200,000 people had obtained loans under the programme in a record short period, adding that the government would achieve its target of constructing 500,000 houses within five years.

She said the programme was an important step towards fulfilling the dream of owning a home for ordinary citizens.

"On World Habitat Day, we reaffirm our commitment to providing shelter to every deserving family," she said, adding that safe, dignified and quality housing was a fundamental right of every citizen and that this right would be ensured.



India unable to accept Pakistan's success in Marka-e-Haq: Samia Sajid

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Kashmir Women Alert Forum and Central Chairperson Muslim Conference Women Wing Samia Sajid has said India is unable to accept Pakistan's success in Marka-e-Haq and the resolve demonstrated by the armed forces under Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

She alleged that India was attempting to undermine regional peace through false propaganda and false-flag operations. Referring to a recent incident in which Indian media reportedly declared an individual dead before he was presented alive in Pakistan, Sajid said the episode raised questions about the credibility of Indian official and media narratives.

She alleged that India has repeatedly sought to influence international opinion through what she described as baseless allegations and fabricated stories against Pakistan, while diverting attention from developments in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

Sajid said Pakistan wanted peace but would not compromise on its sovereignty or security. She urged the international community to impartially examine Indian claims and actions in Kashmir.

She added that the Kashmir Women Alert Forum would continue highlighting the rights and concerns of Kashmiris internationally and advocating sustainable peace.

LUMS calls for trauma-informed approach to student well-being

News Desk

KARACHI: LUMS School of Education (SOE), in collaboration with the Ali Institute of Education, has called for a whole-school, trauma-informed approach to address students' mental health and well-being. The seminar, titled "Recognizing and Supporting Students' Mental Health," marked the culmination of a year-long project with Sanjan Nagar Public Education Trust to establish a trauma-informed school system.

Educators, researchers, government officials and school leaders discussed ways to recognise and respond to students' diverse mental health needs. SOE Dean Dr. Tayyaba Tamim highlighted the invisible burdens many children bring into classrooms, while project lead Fizza Suhail stressed the need for inclusive classrooms supporting students facing adversity, disabilities and different learning needs.

Panelists urged schools to shift from reactive to proactive approaches, emphasising teacher well-being and strong relationships. They said simply hiring counsellors was insufficient and advocated institution-wide reforms. LUMS also announced a new BSc (Hons) in Educational Psychology, combining psychology, education and human development to support more inclusive learning environments.

SMUTA Newly Elected Cabinet Takes Oath at SMIU

News Desk

KARACHI: The newly elected cabinet of the Sindh Madressatul Islam University Teachers Association (SMUTA) took oath at a ceremony held at the Senate Hall of Sindh Madressatul Islam University.

Newly elected SMUTA President Wafa Mansoor said the association would actively work to protect teachers' legitimate rights, professional dignity and welfare. She said the cabinet would address teachers' professional issues through consultation, collective efforts and democratic principles while promoting a respectful and supportive working environment. SMUTA Press Secretary Khalid Hassan appreciated the contributions of former President Asif Hussain Samoo and former Vice President Qurat-ul-Ain Nazeer, praising their efforts to establish the association and advance teachers' interests.

The cabinet was elected unopposed through a democratic process. Azeem Inam was elected vice president, Dr Inayatullah Magsi general secretary, Wajiha Naeem joint secretary, Muzaffar Shah finance secretary and Khalid Hassan press secretary.

Participants expressed commitment to teachers' welfare, professional dignity, institutional harmony and protection of their rights.

Dumper driver, conductor abducted and killed in Hassanabdal

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A dumper truck driver and his conductor were allegedly abducted and killed in the Jhari Kas area of Hassanabdal, police said. The victims were identified as driver Javed and conductor Zeeshan.

According to preliminary information, unidentified armed men intercepted the dumper within the jurisdiction of Hassanabdal Saddar police station and allegedly abducted the two men along with the vehicle. Their bodies were later found in the Jhari Kas area.

Police said the victims appeared to have been killed with a sharp-edged weapon. Their bodies were shifted to a hospital for medico-legal formalities, while the abandoned dumper was recovered from a deserted location.

Police teams collected forensic evidence from the crime scene and launched a probe into the double murder. Investigators are examining possible motives, including robbery, personal enmity or other reasons.

MoU

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan cricket team player Shadab Khan and representative of Intelligence Bureau Employees Cooperative Housing Society (IBECHS) shaking hands after signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

"Amir Khusro" Wins Acclaim at PNCA

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Renowned writer, director and Dolphin Communication Chief Executive Asma Ismail Butt has won acclaim for her latest stage production, "Amir Khusro," presented at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

The play, written by Arshad Chahal and directed by Asma Butt, received an enthusiastic response, with the audience giving a standing ovation to the cast and creative team. The production highlights the life, poetry and Sufi legacy of Hazrat Amir Khusro (RA), a celebrated disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (RA) and an important figure in the literary and musical heritage of the subcontinent.



Asma Butt said her visit to Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya's shrine during her earlier production "Shah Hussain Madholal"

in India inspired her to bring Amir Khusro's artistic legacy to the stage. Audiences praised her efforts to promote Paki-

stani culture. The cast included Kaleem Khan, Shahid Mughal and other artists, with choreography by Azim Haidri.

Rickshaw Driver's Fan Donation Raises Questions Over School Facilities

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A rickshaw driver's decision to buy a fan for his daughter's classroom at Government High School, Choburji, has highlighted concerns over basic facilities in public-sector schools.

According to the school administration, a classroom lacked a fan, making it difficult for students to study in the heat. The girl's father purchased and donated a fan from his own pocket, earning appreciation for his concern and sense of responsibility.

However, the incident has raised a wider question about the state of government schools despite substantial public educa-



tion spending. The issue is not the cost of one fan but whether schools are regularly monitored to ensure functioning fans, safe drinking water, furniture and other essentials.

The incident also underscores the need to prioritise basic facilities alongside initiatives such as laptop distribution. Authorities should ensure that every government classroom meets

minimum standards.

The father's gesture is admirable, but parental generosity should not replace the government's responsibility to provide essential school facilities.

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

Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone:+92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
Karachi Phone:021-33399390
Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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A Quarter-Century Overdue: Pakistan’s Housing Policy Must Now Become Housing Reality

The launch of the National Housing Policy 2025 in Islamabad, timed to coincide with World Habitat Day, is a welcome milestone. It is the country’s first national housing policy update in nearly 25 years, a gap that says much about how long a basic need has been left to drift. Policy documents are easy to launch with ceremony. The harder work begins now.

The scale of the challenge is not in dispute. Officials at the event cited a housing deficit of roughly 13 million units, a gap that widens daily as population growth, urban migration and rising construction costs outpace supply. Behind that number are families in crowded rented rooms, informal settlements without secure tenure, and households priced out of ownership by expensive credit. Housing, as UN-Habitat’s representative reminded the audience, is more than a roof. It is the foundation of dignity, health, education and economic opportunity.

The policy’s stated objectives are sensible: more affordable supply, stronger land tenure security, wider access to housing finance and the upgrading of informal settlements. The government also points to the Wazir-e-Azam Apna Ghar Program, under which Rs. 65 billion has reportedly been disbursed to first-time buyers, and to a new housing finance framework offering up to 90 percent financing support. If these figures translate into real homes for low- and middle-income families, they will matter greatly.

Yet caution is warranted. Financing schemes alone cannot close a deficit of this size. Without affordable, titled and serviced land, credit simply chases scarce supply and pushes prices higher. Land records remain opaque and disputed in much of the country, and tenure insecurity is precisely what keeps millions of families in informal arrangements. Reform of land administration, streamlined building approvals and incentives for low-cost construction must accompany any lending expansion.

Climate resilience deserves equal weight. Recent floods have shown how vulnerable poorly built, poorly sited housing is. New settlements must be planned with drainage, safe materials and sustainable urban design in mind, or today’s solutions will become tomorrow’s disasters.

Perhaps the most important point came from the Housing Secretary, who stressed sustained institutional coordination. Housing is shared among federal and provincial governments, development authorities, banks and private developers. A policy cannot succeed if these actors work at cross purposes.

Pakistan has waited 25 years for this framework. It should not have to wait another 25 for results. The government must now publish clear targets, assign accountability and report progress openly. A policy is judged not by its launch, but by the families who finally hold the keys to a home of their own.

Power Without Accountability

When a thief is caught and punished, justice has been done in that case. It does not follow that every theft has been detected or every thief punished. This distinction becomes consequential when powerful states cite a handful of military prosecutions as evidence that their overseas operations function within an effective system of accountability.

The arrest of a U. S. Marine in Okinawa on suspicion of robbery and murder brings that distinction into focus in Oct 2026. The allegation remains unproven, but the public anger surrounding it reflects earlier crimes, including the 1995 assault of a schoolgirl by American servicemen and the 2016 rape and murder committed by a former Marine working as a base contractor.

America presents its military power as a shield for freedom, democracy, and international order. Israeli officials likewise invoke military morality. Such declarations invite examination against conduct. A victim’s family cannot measure ethical standards through speeches, recruiting slogans, or the existence of disciplinary regulations. Its concern is whether the person responsible will answer for what happened.

Prosecutions establish that particular offenders were held accountable. They cannot reveal how many offenses escaped detection, how many complaints were abandoned, or how many victims lacked the means to pursue justice. The unseen total cannot responsibly be invented. Neither can it be assumed away because a government produces several examples of punishment.

Military contracting makes this problem more complicated. Private companies perform legitimate tasks, including transport, maintenance, construction, and protection. But when public operations pass through commercial contracts, responsibility can become dispersed among commanders, officials, corporations, and subcontractors. Victims confront an institutional maze while the government retains the benefit of the services it commissioned.

This concern comes from within the American military scholarship itself. Deborah Kidwell’s 2005 study, *Public War, Private Fight?*, published by the Army’s Combat Studies Institute, described divided authority over contractors and warned that it could obscure responsibility. The author’s views were not official policy, but the publication demonstrates that these structural weaknesses were recognized decades ago.

Kidwell discussed allegations of sexual slavery and illegal weapons purchases involving contractor employees in Bosnia. She also examined contractor interrogation work at Abu Ghraib and difficulties bringing criminal prosecutions. Her study provides grounds for questioning whether outsourcing can weaken accountability precisely where the exercise of power requires the strongest supervision.

Nisour Square illustrates both the possibility and fragility of justice. Blackwater guards killed 14 unarmed civilians in Baghdad in September 2007,

according to American prosecutors. Four guards were convicted; Nicholas Slatten eventually received life imprisonment. President Donald Trump pardoned all four in December 2020. Punishment established through judicial proceedings was subsequently removed through political authority.

Those convictions cannot be treated as proof that other contractor abuses were discovered or punished. Nor can the pardons be separated from their wider message. Iraqi families watched the country financing the security operation forgive men convicted over civilian deaths. Legal accountability had existed, but its consequences proved vulnerable to presidential preference.

The regular forces also supply documented examples. Steven Green received life imprisonment for his role in the rape of an Iraqi girl and the murder of her family. Robert Bales received life without parole after murdering 16 Afghan civilians. Calvin Gibbs was convicted following staged killings of Afghan civilians presented as legitimate combat encounters.

These cases expose grave crimes; they do not measure the full extent of misconduct. Haditha offers a different outcome: 24 Iraqi civilians were killed, while the final defendant pleaded guilty to negligent dereliction of duty and received no imprisonment. The distance between human loss and legal consequence deserves examination beyond simply counting convictions.

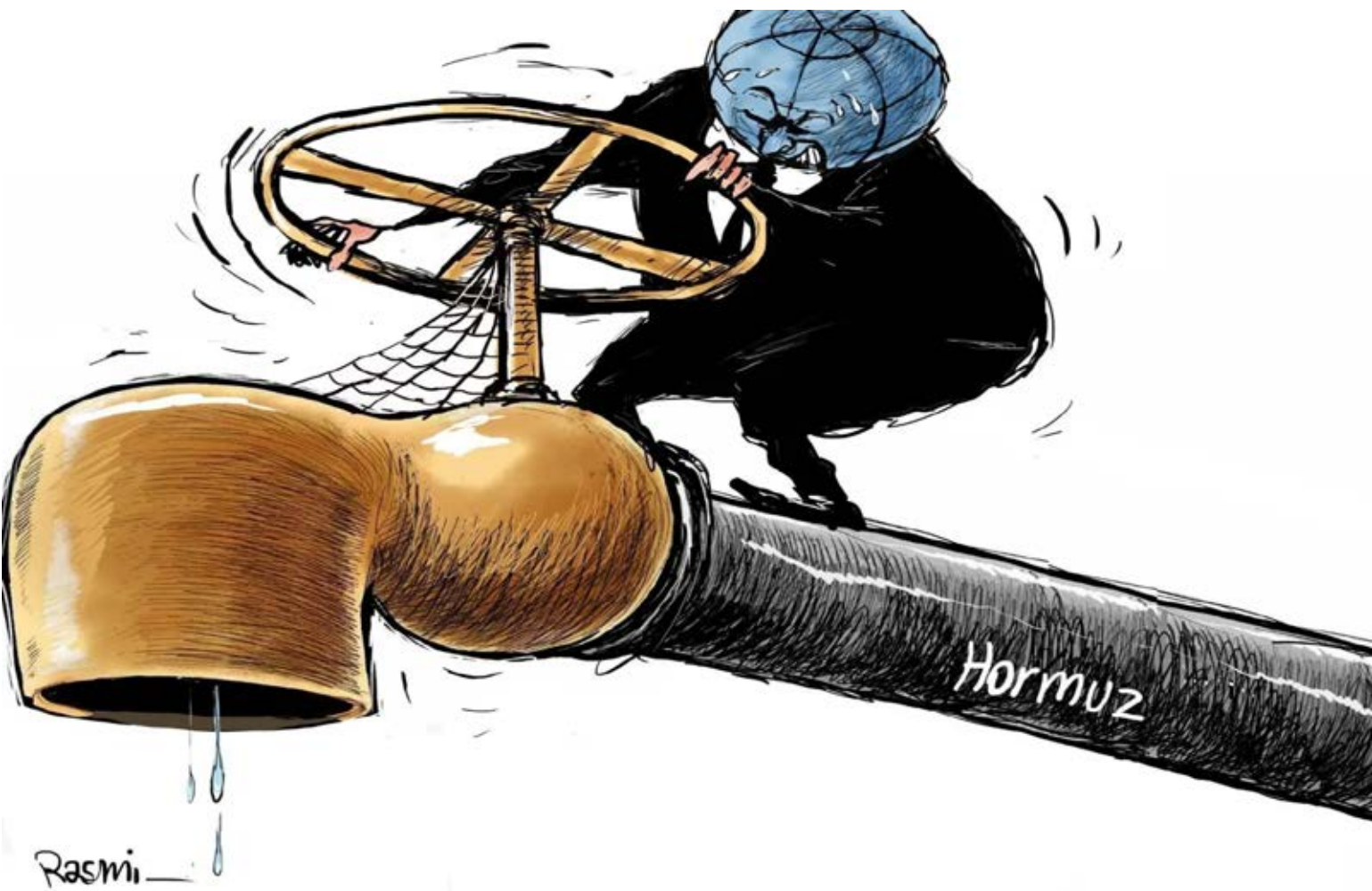
Corruption further connects uniformed authority with private enterprise. In Afghanistan, soldiers and a contractor employee used fraudulent transport documents to facilitate fuel theft exceeding a million dollars. Their prosecution established responsibility for that scheme. It supplied no basis for concluding that every comparable scheme had been uncovered or that oversight worked consistently.

Remote warfare introduces another distance between power and consequence. Reported signature strikes targeted suspected militants through behavioral patterns without necessarily identifying them by name. Contractors support drone operations, although involvement does not establish independent authority to order killings. The central concern is the reliability of decisions that turn observed association into grounds for lethal force.

Reporting on leaked records from Operation Haymaker described a five-month period during the 2012–2013 Afghanistan campaign when nearly 90 percent of those killed in airstrikes were not the intended targets. This does not establish that all were civilians. It does expose the inadequacy of treating technological accuracy as a guarantee of narrow human consequences.

The human cost becomes unbearable when children are involved. In March 2026, Reuters reported preliminary investigative findings pointing toward likely American responsibility for the February strike on an Iranian girls’ school. Iranian authorities reported 168 children killed. Attribution required investigation; the suffering demanded

Continued on Page 7



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

Pakistan’s Paradox: A Nation with Degrees, a Nation without Skills

Undeniably, in Pakistan, a degree has become a piece of paper rather than a passport to a promising future. Thousands of youth graduate every year holding university degrees, yet they remain structurally unemployable. In fact, the market demands practical, technical, and digital competencies that traditional institutions failed to provide. The roots of this paradox lie in a colonial inheritance. The British built an educational system in the subcontinent that is unable to produce thinkers, intellectuals, scholars and scientists but to staff a clerical bureaucracy. Indeed, independence changed the flag only but not a colonial mindset and logic. Seven decades on, the Pakistan has only witnessed a degree inflation rather than competence, proficiency or expertise. The country, therefore, needs to rethink what it means to be an educated nation. The real measure of educational success should not be the number of universities, graduates or degrees awarded, but the number of people who can solve problems, create value, spur innovation and to compete internationally.

Every year, thousands of young men and women enter colleges and universities with dreams of becoming doctors, engineers, lawyers, bankers, teachers, civil servants and entrepreneurs. Families make enormous financial sacrifices to educate their children.

They believe that a degree will open the doors to employment, dignity and economic security. Yet, after graduation, many discover an uncomfortable reality that a degree is no longer a guarantee of employability. We are producing graduates, but not necessarily producing employable graduates. We have expanded higher education, but failed to cultivate skills, innovation, critical thinking and practical training. The question Pakistan must therefore confront is not simply, how many graduates are we producing? It is: What can our graduates actually do?

For decades, academic qualifications have been treated as the principal passport to professional success. A bachelor or master degree was traditionally viewed as evidence of knowledge, competence and readiness for the workplace. However, the labour market has changed dramatically. It increasingly requires communication skills, digital literacy, problem-solving, data analysis, teamwork, adaptability, professional writing, technological competence and practical experience. Ironically, a university graduate who possesses theoretical knowledge but cannot communicate effectively, analyze a problem, prepare a professional report, use modern digital tools or perform workplace tasks. This creates a troubling gap between qualification and capability. The problem is not that degrees are useless. The problem is that a degree without relevant skills may have limited economic value.

Moreover, Pakistan has witnessed considerable expansion in higher education. Contrarily, expansion in the number of institutions does not mean an improvement in the quality or relevance of education. In some cases, students spend years memorizing textbooks, preparing for examinations and completing assignments that have little connection with professional realities. They may graduate with impressive transcripts but limited exposure to workplaces, laboratories, research, entrepreneurship or practical problem-solving. This is where the education system requires a fundamental change in philosophy. Education should not be reduced to examination success. A graduate should leave university with at least three forms of capital: knowledge, skills and character. Knowledge provides understanding; skills provide economic usefulness; and character provides professional responsibility. If one of these dimensions is missing, education remains incomplete.

Additionally, Pakistan is blessed with a youth bulge that places over 60% of its population under the age of thirty. A youthful population can become an extraordinary economic asset if young people are educated, trained and employed productively. The opposite, however, is equally possible. This phenomenon may turn asset into liability. If young people spend years obtaining qualifications without acquiring marketable skills, frustration can replace opportunity. The economy

Continued on Page 7

Respect Teachers, Secure the Future

Sometimes, a teacher can change a student’s life with a few words of encouragement. A child who is struggling or lacks confidence may hear, “You can do it,” and remember those words for years. Behind many successful individuals is a teacher who recognised their potential and helped them believe in themselves.

World Teachers’ Day, observed on October 5, should therefore be more than a day of ceremonies and greetings. It is an opportunity to recognise the contribution of teachers, understand the challenges they face and consider the support they need to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

The global shortage of teachers makes this issue particularly important. UNESCO estimates that 44 million additional teachers will be needed by 2030 to achieve universal primary and secondary education. Expanding education, therefore, requires more than schools, textbooks and technology. Qualified and adequately supported teachers remain at the heart of effective education.

A classroom may have computers, laboratories, internet access and modern learning materials, but these resources cannot replace a teacher. Teachers explain complex ideas, identify students’ weaknesses, correct mistakes and encourage independent thinking. They also help students develop discipline, confidence, responsibility and respect for others.

Islam places great emphasis on knowledge and learning. The Quran asks, “Are those who know equal to those who do not know?” (Surah Al-Zumar 39:9). The first revelation also begins with the command “Iqra” — read. The Islamic tradition has consequently accorded learning and teaching a position of great respect. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) taught with patience and understanding, listened to questions and guided people according to their circumstances. A hadith recorded in Sahih al-Bukhari states that the best among people are those who learn the Quran and teach it to others (Hadith 5027).

Pakistan, however, continues to face serious educational challenges. According to the Pakistan Institute of Educa-

tion’s (PIE) Education Public Financing Report 2025-26, around 25 million children remain out of school. Limited financing, inadequate access and governance challenges continue to affect the education system. Teachers in many rural and underserved areas also work with insufficient facilities and teaching materials.

Multigrade classrooms, inadequate resources, limited professional development and employment insecurity can further increase the pressures on teachers. They are sometimes assigned duties outside the classroom, including election work, census activities and public campaigns. While some of these responsibilities may be necessary, excessive non-teaching duties can reduce the time teachers have for their students.

Teachers therefore need more than public appreciation. Timely salaries, job security, professional training, adequate staffing and safe working conditions should be regarded as essential components of education policy.

Technology has also transformed education. Students can access vast amounts of information through smartphones and the internet, while artificial intelligence can provide answers within seconds. Yet students still need teachers to help them understand, question and verify information. Teaching young people to distinguish reliable sources from misinformation is becoming increasingly important.

Parents, too, have a vital role. Teachers and parents should work as partners and resolve disagreements through communication rather than undermining teachers before students.

Pakistan cannot strengthen its education system without improving the conditions in which teachers work. World Teachers’ Day should therefore go beyond speeches and flowers. It should encourage sustained attention to teachers’ salaries, training, workload, security and professional standing. Respect for teachers is demonstrated not by what we say about them on one day, but by how we support their profession throughout the year.

The writer is a freelance columnist based in Lahore, can be reached at rashid.vapk@gmail.com.

D-8 Secretary-General Attends TEKNOFEST in Şanlıurfa, Calls for Deeper Technology Cooperation

Spokesman Report

Islamabad: Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood attended TEKNOFEST in Şanlıurfa, Türkiye (30 September-4 October 2026), at the invitation of Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacır.

During his two-day visit, he attended the main ceremony featuring President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's address and the awards for technology competition winners. He met senior officials and technology leaders, including Minister Kacır, Deputy Minister Muhammet Kasım Gönüllü, TEKNOFEST Board Chairman Selçuk Bayraktar, cybersecurity chief Ümit Önal, and TÜBİTAK President Orhan Aydın, along with executives from TÜBİTAK, ASELSAN,

HAVELSAN and other institutions.

He toured company pavilions, was briefed on advanced products, and spoke with young innovators about their award-winning projects.

Mahmood briefed his interlocutors on progress across D-8's sectoral cooperation tracks and stressed deeper collaboration in industry and technology, including Artificial Intelligence.



He also met Şanlıurfa Governor Hasan Şıldak, congratulating him on hosting the event in the "City of Prophets" and thanking him for arrangements allowing foreign dele-

gates to explore the city's heritage and tourism potential.

Praising the planning of the event, which drew over one million visitors, he highlighted youth participation,

called TEKNOFEST an internationally renowned brand showcasing Türkiye's technological strength, and hoped for closer ties between D-8 members and TEKNOFEST.

COMSTECH Launches Solar Skills Training for Youth from Pakistan and OIC Countries

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A four-day COMSTECH training programme on "Youth Skill Development: Solar Power Solutions for Distributed Power Generation" began at the OIC-COMSTECH Secretariat, bringing together young participants, experts and resource persons from Pakistan and OIC Member and Observer States. Organized under the COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER), it aims to give youth practical skills in solar technologies, system design, installation, operation and maintenance.

Chief Guest Lt. Gen. (R) Moazzam Ejaz, Rector of NUTECH and Chairman of the National Technology Council, called skill development a need of the hour and urged collective OIC efforts to tackle the energy crisis through indigenous capacities and natural energy sources. Coordinator General Prof.



Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary welcomed participants and international experts from Malaysia and Bangladesh, stressing the value of solar energy for sunny, youthful countries.

Participants from countries including Egypt, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Bangladesh joined in person and online. The curriculum covers PV fundamentals, system

sizing, net-metering, storage, EV integration and troubleshooting, with practical training and project presentations continuing until October 8.

Every Member of the Petroleum Dealers Association Has the Freedom of Expression: Malik Khuda Bakhsh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA), Malik Khuda Bakhsh, has said that the present leadership of the association does not delay in resolving dealers' issues on a priority basis. Every member of the association now has the freedom to express his views. Petroleum dealers have played a significant role in making Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Fuel Relief Package successful, and petroleum dealers across the country are implementing the package.

He expressed these views while speaking

at a dinner hosted by PPDA Vice Chairman Anwar Kamal in honour of journalists. PPDA Vice Chairman Malik Sher Khan and Tariq Hassan were also present on the occasion.

Malik Khuda Bakhsh said that Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik has assured the PPDA that the consultation process with the association will be further accelerated and made more effective in the future. "We also believe that issues can only be resolved through mutual consultation. We will continue to support all positive policies of the government, but the government must also fulfill the commitments it has made to the leadership of the petroleum dealers," he said.



When Childhood Trauma Fragments the Mind

What Psychology Teaches Us About Identity, Dissociation and Healing

Childhood does not simply end when a person grows older. Experiences from our earliest years can continue to shape the way we think, feel, relate to others and understand ourselves throughout adulthood. When childhood trauma remains unresolved, its effects may persist long after the original circumstances have disappeared. In some people, prolonged trauma can profoundly influence emotional regulation, memory, attachment and sense of identity.

Decades of psychological research have demonstrated associations between adverse childhood experiences (including chronic stress, family conflict, emotional neglect, abuse, domestic violence, social adversity and financial instability) and an increased risk of anxiety, depression, substance-use problems and trauma-related difficulties later in life.

At the heart of many of these struggles is a fundamental psychological task: the integration of the self.

Trauma and the Fragmented Inner World
Children depend on caregivers for safety, emotional regulation and the development of a coherent sense of self. When the environment that should provide security instead becomes a source of fear, the developing mind may adopt protective strategies to cope with experiences that feel overwhelming.

One such response is dissociation.

Dissociation refers to disruptions or disconnections involving consciousness, memory, identity, emotion, perception, or the sense of self and surroundings. In the context of overwhelming trauma, dissociation can temporarily help a

person distance themselves from experiences that feel unbearable.

In childhood, this response may serve an important protective function. However, when dissociative patterns become persistent, they can interfere with emotional integration and everyday functioning.

A person may experience different internal states or "parts" of themselves at different times. One part may be focused on functioning and getting through daily responsibilities; another may carry fear, shame, anger or painful memories. Having different emotional states is a normal part of being human. Trauma becomes particularly significant when these experiences become rigidly separated, difficult to integrate, and associated with substantial distress or impairment.

In some cases, severe and persistent dissociation may be associated with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), a complex and relatively uncommon mental health condition characterized by disruptions in identity, memory and sense of self. The condition was historically referred to as "multiple personality disorder," a term now considered outdated.

A Long History in Psychology

The idea that overwhelming experiences can disrupt psychological integration is not new.

In the late nineteenth century, French psychologist Pierre Janet proposed that overwhelming experiences could interfere with the integration of memories, emotions and consciousness. His work became an important foundation for later thinking about trauma and dissociation.

Interest in these ideas changed considerably over the following decades. With growing research into childhood abuse, war-related trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), psychologists increasingly examined the ways in which severe trauma could affect memory, identity and emotional functioning.

Dissociative disorders eventually became formally recognized within psychiatric diagnostic systems. Public attention was also drawn to highly publicized cases such as those of Sybil and Billy Milligan. These cases remain controversial and have been debated by clinicians and researchers, reminding us that extraordinary individual cases should not be treated as straightforward proof of a general psychological theory.

The broader lesson, however, remains important: severe trauma can have profound and lasting consequences for psychological development.

What Contemporary Psychology Tells Us
Modern psychology views dissociation not as a mysterious phenomenon, but as a complex psychological process that can occur across a range of conditions and experiences.

Research has explored the relationship between chronic childhood trauma, attachment disruption, dissociation and difficulties with emotional regulation. Clinicians and researchers, including Richard Kluft, Bethany Brand and Philip Bromberg, have

contributed substantially to clinical discussions about dissociation, trauma and the treatment of people experiencing identity-related difficulties.

At the same time, contemporary scholarship emphasizes the importance of careful assessment. Not every person who has experienced trauma develops a dissociative disorder, and not every experience of feeling "different" in different circumstances represents a separate identity state or DID.

This distinction matters because psychological suffering should never be reduced to a label. **Beyond the Label: Understanding the Human Experience**
The popular image of "multiple personalities" often fails to capture the lived experience of people dealing with dissociation.

For some individuals, the experience may be much quieter: gaps in memory, a feeling of emotional disconnection, an unfamiliar sense of self, internal conflict, depersonalization, difficulty recalling parts of the past, or the sense of moving through life without feeling fully present.

These experiences can be frightening and isolating.

Some individuals also struggle with substance use. In such circumstances, alcohol or drugs may become an attempt to escape emotional pain, numb distress or temporarily regulate overwhelming internal experiences. This does not mean that trauma automatically causes addiction, but unre-

solved trauma and substance-use problems can interact in complicated ways.

Understanding that relationship can be an important part of recovery.

Is Healing Possible?

Yes, but healing is usually a process rather than a single event.

Trauma-informed treatment emphasizes safety, stabilization, emotional regulation, trust and the gradual processing of traumatic experiences. For people experiencing significant dissociation, treatment may require patience and careful pacing.

The goal is not necessarily to "erase" different aspects of a person's experience. Rather, therapy can help individuals develop greater internal cooperation, continuity, self-understanding and emotional integration.

Approaches may include trauma-focused psychotherapy, cognitive and behavioral interventions, attachment-informed therapy, mindfulness-based strategies and other evidence-informed approaches, depending on the individual's needs and clinical assessment.

Healing does not mean forgetting what happened.

Sometimes healing means being able to remember without being overwhelmed, to feel emotions without being controlled by them, and to experience one's past as part of one's story rather than as something that continually determines the present.

From "What Is Wrong With This Person?" to "What Happened to This Person?"

This shift in perspective may be one of the most important contributions of trauma-informed psychology.

Instead of immediately asking,

"What is wrong with this person?" we can also ask, "What happened to this person, and how did they learn to survive it?"

The second question does not remove personal responsibility, nor does it excuse harmful behavior. Rather, it creates space for understanding the psychological context in which suffering develops.

A trauma-informed perspective invites us to see behavior not simply as a problem to be corrected, but sometimes as an adaptation that once served a protective purpose but may no longer be helpful.

Why This Matters to Society

Unresolved childhood adversity can affect individuals, families, relationships and communities. Early recognition, supportive relationships and access to appropriate mental health care can therefore have significance far beyond the individual.

Perhaps the deeper lesson is that the human mind is not merely a collection of symptoms or diagnoses. It is an adaptive system that continually attempts to protect, organize and make meaning of experience.

Sometimes, when life becomes overwhelming, the mind separates what it cannot yet integrate.

Healing begins when safety makes integration possible again.

The journey is not about becoming someone new. It is about becoming more fully connected with the person who has been there all along.

The writer is a Mental Health and Autism Specialist. He is living in California

Japan Invites Logo Designs for 75th Anniversary of Japan-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: To mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan in 2027, Japan has announced a digital logo design competition open to citizens of both countries. The logo should reflect the friendship, partnership and close ties between the two nations, and the winning design will become the official emblem for anniversary events and activities throughout the year.

Participants of any age, living anywhere in the world, may submit an original design by 23 October 2026. Entries must be sent in JPEG, PDF or EPS format by email, with the subject "Logo Entry," to the Southwest Asian Division of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at japanpakistan75@mofa.go.jp,

along with a design explanation of about 80 words. Results are expected on the MOFA website around late December 2026.

Designs must be original, previously unpublished and free of third-party copyright issues. Entries with offensive, unlawful, politically or religiously promotional, culturally insensitive or commercial content will be disqualified, and generative AI may not be used. Guidelines are available on the MOFA website.



 Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
165,867.31	168,155.49
Day's High	Day's Low
167,918.36	165,764.20
Index Value	Change
10,700,341,382	-2288.18
Percentage	Time
-1.36%	5 Oct, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,497.94	+35.99
Percentage	Time
+0.34%	5 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,254.56	+77.60
Percentage	+218.94
+0.15%	5 Oct, 1:14 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
69,946.86	+1,637.40
Percentage	Time
+2.40%	5 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.65	198.76
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	73.95	74.5
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	75.65	76.4
UK Pound Sterling	366.65	372.45
US Dollar	278	278.1

Federal Climate Secretary Reviews Dawlance's Ozone-Safe Manufacturing Transition



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Federal Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Awaits Manzur Sumra visited Dawlance's DPL1 manufacturing facility to review the company's transition to climate-friendly refrigerant and insulation technologies.

The visit focused on Dawlance's conversion to cyclopentane technology, implemented with financial and technical assistance from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the National Ozone Unit. Cyclopentane, used in refrigerator and freezer insulation foam, has zero ozone-depleting potential and negligible global warming impact compared with the chemicals it replaces.

The delegation included Pak-EPA and National Ozone Unit officials. During a briefing, officials reviewed the environmental and climate benefits of the conversion and Dawlance's measures supporting Pakistan's phase-down of ozone-depleting and high-global-warming-potential substances.

Dawlance CEO Umar Ahsan Khan said sustainable manufacturing was a responsibility toward consumers and future generations. He highlighted the company's continued investment in cleaner technologies, energy-efficient appliances and responsible manufacturing.

The delegation also reviewed Dawlance's broader sustainability initiatives, including emissions reduction, energy efficiency and resource conservation, supporting Pakistan's climate and environmental commitments.

UBG Delegation visits RCCI, congratulates newly elected leadership

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by United Business Group (UBG) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to congratulate newly elected President Noshervan Khalil Khan, Patron-in-Chief Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Waseem

Aslam, Vice President Ikram Abbasi and the Executive Committee members. The delegation included Islamabad Women Chamber President Samina Fazal, Talagang Chamber President Malik Shabbir, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan President Kashif Chaudhry and former Executive Member Malik Mohsin Khalid.

Sohail Altaf thanked the guests, saying

such interactions encourage the business community and promote unity among traders and industrialists, who play a fundamental role in economic development. Bakhtawari praised Altaf's longstanding services and said Pakistan needs economic stability, higher exports, greater investment and a more business-friendly environment. He stressed that chambers should act as an

effective bridge between government and business.

Samina Fazal called for greater women's participation in economic activities, while former RCCI President Dr. Hassan Sarosh underlined stronger coordination between chambers and trade bodies. Waseem Aslam thanked the delegation for encouraging the new leadership.

Meeting on Rice Productions

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema chairs a meeting on Rice Production on Monday.



Photo: PID

BAJK Board Approves SECP Incorporation, Financing Schemes.

Commerce Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: The 105th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (BAJK) was held in Muzaffarabad under the chairmanship of Mr. Khushal Khan, SI, T. St., Chairman, BODs BAJK and Chief Secretary, Government of AJK.

The meeting was attended by President & CEO BAJK Mr. Babar Ayyaz, Secretary Finance Mr. Hasan Masud, Secretary Law Mr. Muhammad Idrees Abbasi, Secretary Industries Mr. Adnan Khursheed, Directors Mr. Mubashar Nabi, Ms. Bushra Naz Malik and Mr. Khurram Haris, and Company Secretary Dr. Adnan Ullah Khan.

The Board in principle approved the Bank's registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), as a milestone towards obtaining Scheduled Bank Status.

The BODs, in principle, also accorded approval for PM AJK Loan Schemes



covering key sectors, including housing, SMEs, and industry.

The Chairman appreciated the management and employees for their efforts and

stressed collective commitment, prudent decision-making, innovation, and professionalism to advance the Bank's strategic objectives.

ICCI President Sets Priorities for Stronger Business Advocacy at Executive Committee Orientation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia chaired an orientation meeting for the newly elected Executive Committee to familiarize members with the Chamber's structure, responsibilities, procedures and priorities for the new term. He said ICCI would pursue a proactive,

result-oriented and inclusive advocacy agenda, focusing on ease of doing business, taxation and regulatory issues, lower energy costs, infrastructure challenges, SME facilitation, and trade, export and investment promotion. Business issues, he said, would be systematically identified and taken up with relevant government institutions.

Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatah stressed close

coordination among members and committees, regular sector consultations and practical problem-solving. Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan highlighted engagement with SMEs, young entrepreneurs and emerging sectors, urging members to stay in direct contact with their communities.

Members agreed to strengthen committee working mechanisms



through regular meetings and clear responsibilities, and to enhance engagement with government departments, diplomatic missions, foreign chambers and trade bodies. Secretary

General Ghulam Murtaza briefed participants on the Chamber's structure and procedures. The meeting ended with a shared commitment to unity and discipline.



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TGI Fridays has signed a development agreement with Meerab Hospitality to expand its presence in Pakistan, with plans to develop up

TGI Fridays signs agreement to expand to 15 restaurants in Pakistan

to 15 restaurants across the country. The partnership marks a new phase in the global restaurant brand's South Asia expansion strategy.

Meerab Hospitality, the franchise and development arm of Meerab Properties, will oversee the brand's growth in Pakistan, combining international hospitality experience with local market knowledge. The company said Pakistan's young population, urbanisation, growing

retail sector and evolving dining culture offer significant long-term opportunities.

The first flagship TGI Fridays restaurant is targeted to open within the next 12 months at the Hyatt Regency Hotel complex in Lahore. Further outlets are planned through a combination of company-owned and approved sub-franchised restaurants.

TGI Fridays Global President

Phil Broad said Pakistan's demographics and changing retail landscape make it an attractive market. Meerab Properties Founder and Group CEO Pervaiz Iqbal Shahid said the partnership would create employment and strengthen Pakistan's hospitality sector.

The agreement supports TGI Fridays' global 1-2-3 Strategic Vision of 1,000-plus restaurants and \$2 billion annual revenue by 2030.

MQM, Business Leaders Congratulate New Hyderabad Chamber Office-Bearers

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: A delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan leaders and other officials visited the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry and congratulated newly elected President Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui, Senior Vice President Muhammad Fahad Mian, Vice President Irfan Arbani and Executive Committee members.

MQM Hyderabad Joint In-Charge Nadeem Qazi and MNA Professor Engineer Abdul Aleem Khanzadah said an active business leadership could help address Hyderabad's longstanding development challenges, promote industrial growth,

create employment and expand economic activity. They also called for a stronger voice for traders and industrialists facing difficulties due to inadequate government attention.

Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui said the Chamber would work for Hyderabad's economic development, promotion of commercial and industrial activities and resolution of business community issues through greater coordination with stakeholders.

Pakistan Oil Mills Group leader Seth Saman Mal and former Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, FBR Hyderabad, Farooq-e-Azam Khan, also visited the Chamber and congratulated the newly elected office-bearers.

Inclusive Insurance Can Strengthen Social Protection in Pakistan: SECP Talk

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has significant potential to expand inclusive insurance and strengthen social protection, said Michael J. McCord, Managing Director of the MicroInsurance Centre at Milliman, at an SECP Talk Series session on "Inclusive Insurance: Global Insights."

SECP Commissioner Insurance Imtiaz Haider said microinsurance can help low-income families, farmers and small businesses cope with illness, accidents and natural disasters without exhausting savings or selling productive assets. He stressed the importance of affordable and trusted insurance for financial inclu-

sion.

McCord urged insurers to develop simple, affordable products that address consumers' needs and deliver meaningful value. He also stressed timely claims payments, public trust, digital technology and alternative distribution channels to expand coverage and reduce costs.

SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said the Commission is digitalising the regulatory ecosystem, facilitating digital insurers and promoting accessible products. He said the Insurance Bill before Parliament could modernise the sector's legal framework, encourage innovation and strengthen consumer protection.

Sanjana Kavindi's unbeaten composure powers Sri Lanka U19 to four-wicket win over Bangladesh

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: A composed 48-run match-winning knock by wicketkeeper-batter Sanjana Kavindi De Silva powered Sri Lanka Women U19 to a thrilling four-wicket victory over Bangladesh Women U19 in the ongoing Women's Tri-Nation Series at Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad on Monday.

Put into bat after winning the toss, Bangladesh Women U19 posted 119 runs for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Their innings was anchored by Sadia Islam who struck an aggressive 39 off 22 balls including four boundaries and two sixes.

Nishita Akter Nishi contributed 26 off 35 balls while Achena Jannat Emanta and Sadia Akter scored 16 and 18 runs respectively to help Bangladesh set Sri Lanka a target of 120 runs.

Sri Lanka's bowlers kept the Bangladesh batting under pressure throughout the innings, with Aseni Thalagune delivering an economical spell of four overs

for just 12 runs and taking two wickets. Chamodi Herath also claimed two wickets for 20 runs while Danodhya Sewmini and Pramudi Methsara took one wicket apiece.

Chasing 120, Sri Lanka reached the target in 20 overs after losing six wickets, securing a hard-fought four-wicket victory.

Sanjana Kavindi De Silva emerged as the key figure in Sri Lanka's successful chase, producing a confident 48 off 46 balls with four fours and two sixes. Her timely innings provided the stability Sri Lanka needed during the tense run chase.

Vimoksha Balasuriya also made a valuable contribution, scoring 21 off 26 balls.

For Bangladesh, Nishita Akter Nishi claimed two wickets for 26 runs from her four overs while Farjana Easmin Medha and Afrin Mim took one wicket each.

Sanjana Kavindi De Silva was declared "Player of the Match" for her decisive batting performance that guided Sri Lanka to victory in the closely contested encounter.



W15 Islamabad Women's Tennis Championship to commence on Tuesday

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first leg of the W15 Islamabad-Women's Tennis Women's Championship 2026 will commence on Tuesday at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad, with 30 players from 17 countries competing for valuable WTA ranking points.

Players from France, China, Russia, Denmark, Mexico, Uzbekistan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Korea, Nepal, Japan, Hong Kong, Türkiye, the Czech Republic, Germany, Thailand and Pakistan are participating in the championship.

Among the leading Pakistani players featuring in the event are Ushna Suhail, Mahin Aftab Qureshi, Meheq Khokhar, Romaisa Malik and Hajra Sohail.

France's Astrid Ciotte, currently ranked World No. 624, is the top seed of the tournament.

The championship is being sponsored by Fatima Group.

On the eve of the event, Pakistan



Tennis Federation (PTF) President Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Secretary General Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail and the PTF management extended their best wishes to all participating players.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi warmly welcomed the visiting international players to Pakistan and expressed confidence that the championship would provide high-quality competition and a memorable experience for all partic-

ipants.

He said the PTF was committed to promoting women's tennis and was proud to provide Pakistani women players with an opportunity to compete in \$15,000 international women's tournaments in Pakistan for the first time.

"These tournaments will enable our local players to compete against international opposition, gain valuable experience, win matches and earn important WTA ranking points," he said.

Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail said the PTF remained committed to the development of women's tennis, adding that the two back-to-back WTA Women's Championships in Islamabad would provide Pakistani players with valuable international exposure.

He said the tournaments would help local players improve their rankings and gain experience of competing at the professional level.

The main draw matches will commence at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

Cricket series prompts Metrobus service closures in twin cities



News Desk

Metrobus services operating between the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad will be suspended during the movement of cricket teams during a series being held at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 4 October to 13 November.

The Metrobus service between Saddar Station and Pak Secretariat will be completely suspended whenever cricket teams are being transported. Sources said three Metrobus stations would also remain closed during cricket matches. The stations identified for closure are Khatm-e-Nabuwat, IJP Road and Sixth Road. Metrobus sources said the decision had been taken on the instructions of the district administration. The temporary restrictions are expected to remain in place during team movements and match-related security arrangements throughout the cricket series.

Power Without Accountability

Continued from Page 4

answers that could withstand independent scrutiny rather than reassurance from those conducting the war.

Leadership shapes the atmosphere in which restraint operates. On April 7, Trump warned that "a whole civilization will die tonight," before later agreeing to a ceasefire. His administration portrayed the threat as negotiating pressure. Yet the language placed an entire people within a threat of destruction, treating their collective existence as an instrument of coercion.

Pete Hegseth's dismissal of "stupid rules of engagement" compounds the concern. Rules governing military force

help protect civilians and translate legal obligations into operational decisions. When senior officials disparage subordinates to regard caution as weakness. That risk extends across America's extensive overseas presence and into the relationships troops maintain with host communities.

Watching the Avatar films, I recognized a disturbing metaphor in the colonel's treatment of another world's inhabitants as obstacles to domination. Fiction proves nothing about particular operations. It nevertheless dramatizes the intoxication of power: overwhelming capability becoming, in the aggressor's imagination, suffi-

cient justification for violence. Military superiority then takes the place of moral reasoning.

The danger also returns home. When leaders teach that strength places a nation above rules, they weaken the principle that authority must justify itself. Citizens may then encounter the same reasoning in domestic policing, political disputes, and public administration. Foreign victims experience the immediate consequences, but Americans inherit the institutional habits formed when their government exercises power without sufficient scrutiny or durable corrective consequences.

A contract cannot erase responsibility for public power. Accountability

requires examination of those who commission, supervise, and authorize operations, alongside those who carry them out. Isolated punishments cannot answer complaints that remain uninvestigated. American citizens can demand disclosure, meaningful independent scrutiny, and consequences that survive political convenience. A country's ethical standing depends on the restraint it practices, not the innocence it proclaims.

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.

Pakistan's Paradox: A Nation with Degrees, a Nation without Skills

Continued from Page 4

may simultaneously have too many people with the wrong skills and too few people with the right ones. The distinction between education and employability therefore matters enormously.

Furthermore, unemployment and underemployment rates among university graduates have climbed significantly. The latest LFS reports that over 14.9% struggle to find meaningful, formal employment. Thousands emerge each year from business schools, engineering faculties, and law colleges only to soar the rate of unemployment. The deeper concern, however, is not unemployment alone but underemployment. A graduate may technically have a job but still be unable to utilize

his or her education, skills and professional potential. There is the wider problem of educational mismatch with the labor market. Pakistan is therefore facing a paradox in which educational attainment is rising, yet the economy is not generating enough productive, skill-intensive employment. The challenge is no longer simply to put more young people through universities; it is to ensure that education equips them with skills that the economy can actually absorb and reward.

Indeed, the developed countries like Japan, Germany and USA have not just provided degrees to their population but trained its workforce in modern automation, artificial intelligence readiness, and advanced manufacturing. Sadly, Paki-

stan has miserably failed to do so. As global industries increasingly adopt automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, data analytics and advanced manufacturing technologies, Pakistani businesses face the challenge of competing in markets where productivity, precision and technological innovation increasingly determine success. A workforce that lacks these capabilities limits the country's ability to move beyond traditional, low-value and labour-intensive production. Consequently, Pakistan remains heavily dependent on relatively low-complexity exports, while higher-value products and technology-intensive services are often imported at substantial cost.

Pakistan does not necessarily need more degree programs

but it needs better-designed degree programmes. Curricula should be periodically reviewed against labour-market requirements. Universities should measure graduate employment outcomes. Professional bodies should contribute to curriculum development. Employers should have opportunities to identify emerging skill requirements. Most importantly, students should be encouraged to develop combinations of skills.

Pakistan also needs to overcome its cultural bias against technical and vocational education. A skilled electrician, plumber, technician, machinist, automobile specialist, solar technician or industrial worker performs economically valuable work. Yet society often treats university education as inherently

superior to technical training. This mindset must be changed.

Pakistan must move from a degree-oriented education system to a competence-oriented education system. In this connection, universities should strengthen practical and project-based learning. Internships and apprenticeships should become meaningful components of professional education. Curricula should be regularly aligned with changing labour-market requirements. Digital literacy, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving should become cross-disciplinary skills. Technical and vocational education should receive greater investment and social recognition. Universities should measure their success not merely through enrolment and graduation figures but also

through graduate employment, entrepreneurship, research and innovation. Finally, Pakistan must encourage young people to become job creators as well as job seekers.

Conclusively, Pakistan stands at a historic crossroads where its massive youth bulge can either become an unprecedented engine of national prosperity or a volatile catalyst for systemic decline. The era of treating university campuses as mere "degree factories" is over. Paper qualifications devoid of market-aligned competencies are a liability. Young people become an asset when they possess knowledge, skills, discipline, creativity and opportunities to use them. Young people need access to finance, mentorship, markets, digital infrastructure, simplified regu-

lation and an environment in which businesses can survive and grow. Pakistan does not merely need more educated people. It needs people whose education enables them to build, innovate, produce and compete. The future of the country will ultimately depend not on how many degrees it awards, but on how effectively it converts knowledge into skills, skills into productivity, and productivity into national prosperity. It is to build a nation with knowledge, skills and the capacity to turn both into productivity. That is the transition Pakistan can no longer afford to postpone.

The writer is a Lecturer at Iqra University & Law Practitioner At High Court of Sindh, Karachi. He can be reached at Zahid.ali@Iqra.edu.pk



FAISALABAD Sri Lankan players appeal to the umpire for the dismissal of a Bangladeshi batter during the T20 cricket match between Bangladesh U-19 Women and Sri Lanka U-19 Women as part of the ongoing series at Iqbal Stadium. Photo by Abdul Majid

Airport Gymkhana and Al-Imran CC moved into Semi Final of PCB Zameer Khan Zone-I Inter Club Cricket

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Airport Gymkhana and Al-Imran Cricket Club moved into Semi Final after beating their opponents in the 3rd and 4th Quarter Final of the PCB Muhammad Zameer Khan Memorial Zone-I Inter Club Cricket Tournament.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Unbeaten 82 with the help of 7 boundaries and 5 Sixes, Deadly Bowling by slow left arm spinner Inshal Nawab 5/11, Azam Abbasi 4/11, Waqas Khan 4/22, Ibtsham 4/30.

Scores in Brief:

Airport Gymkhana beat Vital Five Cricket Club by 5 Wickets in the 3rd Quarter Final. Vital Five Cricket club 128 all-out 36.2 overs. Faizan Hussain 27, Rahayab Ahmed 26. Azam Abbasi (Is) 4/11, Waqas Khan 4/22.

In reply Airport Gymkhana 130/5 in 20.1 overs. Alman Shafiq 82 7x4 5x6. Bilal Ahmed 3/32, Faizan Hussain 2/21.

In the last Quarter Final Al-Imran Cricket Club beat Abu Rehan Cricket Club by 16 runs. Al-Imran Cricket Club 96 all out in 23 overs. Shahzad Chandio 25, Sanawal Khanrid 25. Inshal Nawab (sla) 5/11, Rafay 3/11.

In reply Abu Rehan Cricket Club 80 all-out in 22.4 overs. Sameer Ahmed 23. Shahzer Khan 3/16, Arsalan Asad 3/18, Umair Ahmad 3/40.

Earlier Vital Five C. C. beat Hamdam CC by 69 runs. Vital Five CC 229/7 in 40 overs. Bilal Ahmed 61, Usman Khan 59, Arham Khan 31, Abdul Rehman 25. Asad Ali 3/27.

Hamdam CC 160 all-out in 32.2 Overs. Hafiz Umar 39, Muhammad Qasim 36, Arman Shahzad 32. Ibtsham (ob) 4/30, Faizan Hussain 2/29.

Tuchel says Rice faces midfield competition after Scott shines in England's 7-0 rout of Croatia



Sports Desk

LONDON: England manager Thomas Tuchel said Declan Rice must contend for his place in midfield after Alex Scott impressed on his first international start in Saturday's 7-0 Nations League win over Croatia.

With Rice withdrawn from the squad, Bournemouth's Scott played alongside Elliot Anderson in central midfield. The pair controlled the game against Croatian veterans Luka Modric and Mateo Kovacic.

Asked whether the Arsenal midfielder should be concerned about his place, Tuchel said he should.

"Of course, and he does, we need performances like this," Tuchel told reporters. "This is just the nature of it. We will not survive on two central midfielders."

Tuchel was quick to stress Rice's standing in the squad. "Declan knows about his importance, and he's one of the very best midfielders in Europe," he said. "Nothing will change that. But it's exactly what we need. We need more, more, more, more variety. We need more, more, more options. Then it's always about the guys who are in camp. Alex was in the highest level."

England is second in its group behind World Cup winners Spain. It hosts the Czech Republic at Wembley on Tuesday.

Participating

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani leading parliamentary delegation comprising Senators and MNA's participating in PUIC Consultative Session in Arusha, Republic of Tanzania on Monday.



Photo: PID

Senate Chairman Gilani Joins Asia-Pacific Group Meeting

Kiran Asim

ARUSHA, TANZANIA: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani took part in a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Geopolitical Group on the sidelines of the 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. The meeting reviewed key regional issues and Assembly agenda matters, including vacant seats, emergency items and nominations for the drafting committee.

According to the Senate Secretariat, Gilani stressed the need to

further strengthen parliamentary ties and coordination among Asia-Pacific countries, saying effective cooperation between parliaments is essential for tackling shared challenges. He called in particular for joint parliamentary initiatives on climate change and its far-reaching socio-economic impacts.

The group considered a proposal to make climate change an emergency agenda item, citing growing natural disasters, environmental degradation and harm to regional populations and economies. Discussions also covered

the ASEAN Plus Three group and other aspects of the upcoming proceedings.

Pakistan's delegation included Senators Amir Wali-ud-Din Chishti, Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur, Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan and Agha Shahzeb Durrani, along with MNAs Sharmila Faruqui, Pir Syed Fazal Shah Jilani, Syed Hafeez-ud-Din and Barrister Aqeel Malik. Members reaffirmed their commitment to sustained parliamentary dialogue and regional cooperation.

Naqvi orders faster work on Islamabad Expressway service road project



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Islamabad Expressway Service Road project and reviewed the ongoing construction work.

Naqvi expressed displeasure over delays in the relocation of utilities and directed the Capital Development Authority to immediately coordinate with Sui Gas authorities.

He said utility relocation work must be carried out on an emergency basis.

The interior minister also ordered officials to accelerate work on the project and increase the workforce.

He directed that the number of machines deployed at the site should also be increased.

Officials briefed Naqvi on progress on the Islamabad Expressway Service Road project and informed him that more than 60 machines were working simultaneously at the site.

Privatisation Commission Advances Major Transactions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission Board approved key measures to advance privatisation transactions in the power, aviation and financial sectors at its 259th meeting, chaired by Adviser to the PM on Privatisation Muhammad Ali. The Board approved nine interested parties for the privatisation of Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO), following evaluation of 11 expressions of interest for acquiring 51 to 100 percent shareholding with management control. The prequalified bidders include three Turkish energy companies, Engro Energy, Sapphire Fibers and several Pakistani business consortia.

Nawaz Sharif Reviews Progress on Lahore Development Projects



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif visited several ongoing development projects in Lahore and reviewed progress on works being carried out under the Lahore Development Programme.

Nawaz Sharif inspected development activities along Mall Road, Urdu Bazaar, Nasir Bagh, Lohari Gate,

Circular Road and other areas. Officials briefed him on the beautification and renovation of the Lohari Gate round-about and the restructuring of Urdu Bazaar.

He was also briefed on the construction of parking plazas at Neela Gumbad and Circular Road. After reviewing the projects, Nawaz Sharif returned to his residence on Shahr-e-90.

Later, the PML-N leader visited a dental consultant in Gulberg for a routine check-up. He underwent an examination by dentist Dr Waqid Hamid and remained at the clinic for about an hour.

Dr Adnan, personal secretary Mian Hanif and DIG Operations Faisal Kamran accompanied Nawaz Sharif during his activities.

Three Pakistani crew members of MT Honor 25 safely recovered: Ishaq Dar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The remaining three Pakistani crew members of MT Honor 25 have been safely recovered, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said in a statement on X.

Dar identified the three crew members as Imran Ali, Muhammad Yasin and Syed Hussain Yousuf.

He said the three Pakistanis had been brought to Addis Ababa accompanied by a team from the Pakistani

Embassy in Djibouti.

The deputy prime minister said the crew members would depart for Pakistan on the first available Ethiopian Airlines flight to Karachi.

The flight is expected on Oct. 7.

Dar thanked the Government of Somalia and the European Union Naval Force's Operation Atalanta team for their cooperation in securing the crew members' release.

He said the Operation Atalanta team was present near MT Honor 25 and that both the Somali government and the EU naval force assisted in ensuring the crew's release.

Dar said Pakistan remained committed to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat piracy and safeguard the security and freedom of international maritime routes.

We are not simply selling solar products. We are building Pakistan's energy future.

Muhammad Zakir Ali, CEO Inverex Solar Energy.

Q.1 When did you start your career in business?

My business journey began with a clear objective: to build a company that creates long-term value for both its customers and Pakistan. Inverex was established in 2007, when renewable energy was still an emerging sector in the country. We saw an opportunity to use technology and entrepreneurship to address Pakistan's energy challenges. What started with power and inverter solutions has evolved into a broader energy business covering solar, advanced inverters, lithium batteries and energy storage. Our

journey has always been driven by innovation, customer trust and a commitment to Pakistan's energy future.

Q.2 Inverex Solar Energy is one of Pakistan's largest and trusted solar brands. What would you say?

Trust is not something a company can simply claim; it has to be earned over time. Since 2007, Inverex has built its reputation around quality, technology, availability and after-sales service. Today, we have a strong presence across Pakistan, supported by our extensive dealer and service network, and a proven track record of delivering solar



Mr. M. Zakir Ali, CEO Inverex Solar Energy receiving the 3rd International Solar Power Conclave and Solar Technology Award, 2026 from Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in Nishat Hotel Lahore

solutions for residential, commercial and industrial customers. But numbers alone do not define a brand. Our real achievement is the

confidence customers, dealers, installers and businesses place in Inverex. Our responsibility is to protect that trust and continuously improve the value we deliver

Q.3 Please tell us about Inverex products.

Our objective is to build an integrated energy ecosystem rather than simply sell individual products. Our portfolio includes solar panels, on-grid and hybrid inverters, lithium-ion batteries and energy-storage solutions.

We are increasingly



focusing on storage because the future of solar is not only about generating electricity. It is about generating, storing, managing and using energy intelligently. We are therefore expanding our capabilities in lithium batteries, ESS and BESS to provide customers with more complete energy solutions.

Q.4 What has been the response to Inverex products in the market?

The response has been very encouraging. Pakistan's solar customer has become

much more informed and now looks beyond price. Customers want efficiency, reliability, battery compatibility, warranty, monitoring and strong after-sales support.

We have responded by continuously improving our technology, expanding our product portfolio and strengthening our technical and service capabilities. Our commercial projects and growing customer base demonstrate the confidence the market has placed in Inverex.

Q.5 Who are your associated and major partners?

Strong partnerships are fundamental to our business. We work with international technology and manufacturing partners, along with our extensive network of dealers, installers, engineers and service partners across Pakistan.

Our association with international technology partners such as Jolywood allows us to bring advanced solar technologies to Pakistan. But partnerships

are not only about sourcing technology. We look for relationships that improve product quality, innovation, technical capability and value for the Pakistani customer.

Q.6 How many commercial projects has Inverex accomplished?

We have installed many commercial solar projects across Pakistan.

Commercial projects require a much higher level of technical responsibility. Businesses need proper engineering, system design, installation, monitoring, maintenance and dependable after-sales support. We therefore consider every commercial project more than a sale—it is a demonstration of our technical capability and commitment.

Our objective is not simply to complete more projects, but to make every project a reference for Inverex quality and reliability.

Q.7 Inverex also sponsors PSL and other sporting events. Tell us about this.



Inverex is a Pakistani company, and our responsibility extends beyond our products. Pakistan has tremendous sporting talent, particularly among its youth, and we believe in supporting that talent.

Our association with the Pakistan Super League has been an important part of this commitment. We have also supported other sporting initiatives and athletes.

Sports represent energy, discipline, performance and ambition—values that align strongly with the Inverex

philosophy. We want our brand to be associated not only with energy technology but also with the potential and performance of Pakistan's people.

Q.8 What is the role of the Pakistan Solar Association in promoting solar energy in Pakistan?

The Pakistan Solar Association can play an important role as a collective voice for the renewable-energy industry. It can bring manufacturers, distributors, installers, investors and policymakers together to promote responsible industry growth.

Its role should include policy advocacy, consumer awareness, quality standards and constructive dialogue with the government. Pakistan has enormous renewable-energy potential,

distributed generation, storage, financing, quality standards and local manufacturing.

Our message to the government is straightforward: create a stable and transparent environment, and private-sector investment will follow.



Mr Muhammad Zakir Ali, Coo Inverex Solar Energy

Solar should be treated as a strategic component of Pakistan's energy security. We also need to accelerate energy storage because the combination of solar and BESS can significantly improve energy resilience and reduce dependence on imported fuel.

Q.10 What is your message to your customers and clients?



First, I would say thank you. Every Inverex customer is contributing to Pakistan's transition toward cleaner and more independent energy.

My advice is to look at solar as a long-term investment, not simply a purchase. Evaluate technology, quality, warranty, service and the company's ability to support you throughout the life of the system.

At Inverex, our commitment is clear: we will continue investing in technology, quality, local capabilities, service and innovation.

We started this journey in 2007 when solar was still an emerging concept in Pakistan. Today, our vision goes much further. We want to help Pakistan generate cleaner energy, store it intelligently and build a more energy-independent future.

★ ★ ★



In a Group Photo Mr.Muhammad Zakir Ali with Provincial Energy Minister (Punjab) Faisal Ayub Khokhar and other distinguished guests