

Gilani calls for stronger Pakistan-Germany ties through trade, investment

BY: APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, has called for stronger Pakistan-Germany relations through increased economic cooperation, investment, education and parliamentary exchanges, saying 75 years of diplomatic ties provide a strong foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership. Addressing a gathering to mark German Unity Day, attended by German Ambassador Ina Lepel, diplomats and other dignitaries, Gilani congratulated the German leadership and people on behalf of Pakistan's Parliament, government and people.

He described the occasion as a symbol of unity, resilience and shared prosperity. He also highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two countries, strengthened by the contributions of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Dr Ruth Pfau.



ISLAMABAD: The newly arrived Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz vows to safeguard Saudi sovereignty, security

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday appreciating the remarkable progress in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations in recent years, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening existing institutional mechanisms to deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

In a meeting with newly appointed Saudi Ambassador Dr Rajeh Tami Albugamy, who called on him at PM House in Islamabad, PM Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed that Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. The prime minister strongly condemned the recent escalation in Houthi attacks against

Saudi Arabia, which had resulted in the loss of precious lives and injuries to scores of innocent people, including Pakistani nationals.

He underlined that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had always stood by each other and that the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Alliance marked historic milestones in their longstanding fraternal relations

and reflected their shared commitment to regional peace and security.

Welcoming the ambassador to Pakistan, the prime minister congratulated him on assuming his new responsibilities and wished him success in his diplomatic assignment.

Shehbaz Sharif thanked the Saudi leadership for its longstanding economic and financial support to Pakistan.

President grieved over loss of lives in floods in Turkiye

BY: APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Friday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and the extensive damage to homes and property caused by devastating floods in Istanbul, Turkiye. In a post on X, the President conveyed his heartfelt condolences to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with the people of Turkiye in this difficult time and wishing strength to all those affected.



Pak, US discuss economic reforms, external financing

BY: APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday met Under Secretary for International Affairs US Department of the Treasury, Erin Browne and discussed Pakistan's economic outlook, reform agenda and external financing strategy.

Pakistan condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, warns of regional risks

FO Spokesman Sajjad Haider rejects Indian minister's statement and says Pakistan is ready to respond to any aggression

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and condemned Houthi attacks against the kingdom, warning that such actions pose a threat to regional security.

Speaking at a press briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office spokesman Sajjad Haider Khan said Pakistan was concerned about the attacks and remained committed to protect-

ing Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The spokesman also firmly rejected a statement by an Indian minister, saying Pakistan remained determined to safeguard its own sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said the country was fully prepared to give a strong response to any aggressor.

On illegal migration, the spokesman said Pakistan had taken significant steps to prevent people from travelling illegally to Europe. He said these measures had resulted in a 64 per cent reduction in illegal migration to European countries.

The spokesman also outlined Pakistan's recent diplo-

matic engagements with regional and international partners, saying Islamabad had continued to maintain contact with other countries over the evolving regional situation.

Oman's foreign minister visited Pakistan, where a meeting of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission was held. The Russian interior minister also visited the country as part of recent diplomatic exchanges.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with the Maldivian foreign minister, during which they discussed the Maldivian president's forthcoming visit to Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar

also spoke by telephone with Egypt's foreign minister as Pakistan continued consultations with regional partners.

During an international conference, the deputy prime minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism.

He also raised concerns about terrorism directed against Pakistan from Afghan territory.

On 13 October, Ishaq Dar met Magnus Brunner, the European commissioner for migration, as part of Pakistan's engagement with European officials. The Foreign Office spokesman further confirmed that a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency had successfully completed its visit to Pakistan.

DPM directs monitoring of supply chains, prices of essential commodities

BY: APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee, which



reviewed the stock position, supply arrangements and prices of essential commodities.

The deputy prime minister was apprised that adequate stocks were available to meet

domestic demand, with no shortages anticipated and prices stabilising.

He directed all concerned to monitor supply chains and commodity prices to facilitate domestic consumers, in line with the prime minister's directives.

He stressed that strict action would be taken against hoarding, artificial shortages and overpricing of essential commodities.

Ministers for national food security and research and climate change, Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Bajwa, the Secretary, Commerce, and senior representatives from relevant federal and provincial ministries and departments attended the meeting.

CJP welcomed as honorary bencher of the Inner Temple

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Society of the Inner Temple, United Kingdom, welcomed the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice



Yahya Afridi, as an Honorary Bencher at its Benchers' Night in London.

The occasion provided an opportu-

nity to explore ways to strengthen institutional cooperation between the judicial and legal institutions of Pakistan and the United Kingdom through the exchange of knowledge, experience, and professional expertise.

Discussions focused on judicial capacity-building, particularly in case management and judgment writing, as well as opportunities to strengthen professional standards in legal ethics and advocacy. These areas offer scope for closer engagement and mutual learning between the two jurisdictions.

Continued institutional cooperation can support the sharing of best practices, enhance judicial skills, and promote legal professionalism.

Naqvi says political leader upset over lack of share in Governor's Rule

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has claimed that the head of a political party is deeply upset over not receiving a share in the proposed imposition of governor's rule or securing the governorship.

Without naming the politician, Naqvi criticised what he described as decades of reliance on the establishment for political support, saying such leaders should not point fingers at others.

Speaking informally to journalists in Lahore, Naqvi maintained that the politician had relied on the establishment for years and had even sought its assistance in arranging air tickets for

members of his political party.

He said political differences were legitimate, but public debate should be based on facts and arguments rather than abusive language and accusations.

The interior minister's remarks come amid political tensions surrounding governance, the distribution of resources and security challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi also questioned the stance of political leaders who have recently expressed concern over the allocation of resources to the districts formerly comprising the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). He asked why these leaders had remained silent for years when the erstwhile Fata districts were allegedly not receiving their rightful share of resources.

He questioned why they had not spoken out earlier in support of the rights of residents in these areas.

The former Fata region was merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 as part of a major administrative and constitutional restructuring.

The integration brought the formerly tribal districts under the provincial government's administrative framework, while questions concerning funding, development and the delivery of public services have remained important policy issues.

Naqvi said the rights of former Fata residents and the allocation of resources to their districts should be treated as matters of public interest rather than viewed through the lens of political advantage.

Turning to the security situation, the interior minister said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was facing serious challenges and needed political cooperation to restore peace and eliminate terrorism.

Implementation of NAP in true spirit is Imperative: Samar Bilour

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Adviser on Information Samar Haroon Bilour, Lieutenant (Retd.) Nigar Johar, and Adviser on Industries and Commerce Dr. Muhammad Irshad visited the homes of the children who lost their lives in the tragic incident and offered their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

They expressed their deepest sympathies and prayed for the departed souls, asking Allah Almighty to grant patience and strength to the grieving families during this difficult time.

Speaking to the media, Adviser on Information Samar Haroon Bilour said the entire country stands with the affected families and will extend all possible assistance and support. She

said the children who lost their lives were not just the children of their parents; they were the children of us all. Their loss is a tragedy for the entire nation, and their lives will not be allowed to be forgotten.

She said a thorough investigation would be conducted to determine the causes of the incident. Any individuals or institutions found responsible for negligence would face legal action in accordance with the law. She added that allegations of political pressure, if linked to any failure in the discharge of official duties, would also be investigated to establish responsibility.

Referring to the National Action Plan, Samar Haroon Bilour regretted that the previous provincial government had

failed to ensure its effective implementation. She pointed



out that the registration of seminaries was an important component of the plan, as the regis-

tration process involves building

inspections and verification of

the necessary documents and safety requirements.

She stressed that the

National Action Plan must be implemented in letter and spirit, adding that effective enforcement of its provisions is essential to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

She further stated that ensuring the safety of school and seminary buildings is the responsibility of the relevant authorities. The condition of buildings, registration records, licences and other mandatory documents must be properly examined, and negligence at any level will not be tolerated. Those found responsible will be dealt with in accordance with the law. Regarding the meeting held at the Governor House following the tragedy, she said the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had issued strict directives to the relevant authorities and

inspection teams had been constituted to visit educational institutions across different areas. These teams will examine the condition of buildings, safety arrangements and the availability of the required documentation.

Institutions found to have unsafe buildings or failing to meet mandatory legal requirements will face action in accordance with the law. Such institutions will not be allowed to reopen until the necessary safety measures have been taken and the relevant investigations have been completed. Samar Haroon Bilour also appealed to the public to help identify schools, seminaries and other educational institutions operating in unsafe or dilapidated buildings.

1,700kg of Stale Fish Seized in Kohat; Owner Jailed

TIMES REPORT

KOHAT: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) seized and disposed of 1,700 kilograms of stale and hazardous fish transported from Karachi in a passenger coach.



Acting on a tip-off, the Kohat food safety team searched the coach and recovered the fish concealed in secret compartments. The consignment was destroyed at a designated dumping site due to its hazardous condition and potential threat to public health.

According to the authority's spokesperson, serious violations of food hygiene standards were identified during the inspection. The required cold chain had not been maintained, while the owner failed to produce the necessary traceability and transportation records. An FIR was registered against the owner for transporting unsafe fish, and the accused was sent to jail. Further legal proceedings are underway, the spokesperson added. Director General of the KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Kashif Iqbal Jilani said strict legal action would be taken against those endangering public health through the transportation and sale of unsafe food products. He said enforcement operations would continue across the province to prevent the transportation and sale of substandard and hazardous food items and ensure the availability of safe food for citizens. The director general also urged citizens to promptly report the sale, purchase or transportation of unsafe food products to the authority so that timely action could be taken against those involved.

Wafaqi Mohtasib Secures NOC for Peshawar Citizen

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office, Peshawar, has resolved a citizen's longstanding grievance by ensuring the issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Survey of Pakistan following prompt intervention.

Asad Ullah, a resident of Peshawar, had approached the office after the Survey of Pakistan failed to issue his NOC, which was required by his current department, the Elementary and Secondary Education Department. He had previously served as an Assistant (Field) in the Survey of Pakistan.

The matter was investigated by Muhammad Qasim Jan, Regional Head of the Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office, Peshawar. Following the office's intervention, the required NOC was issued, resolving the complaint.

Asad Ullah expressed gratitude to Federal Ombudsman Naveed Kamran Baloch and Regional Head Muhammad Qasim Jan for providing speedy and free-of-cost justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Qasim Jan reaffirmed the institution's commitment to protecting citizens' rights and addressing maladministration and unnecessary delays in federal government departments and agencies.

He urged citizens facing administrative difficulties to lodge complaints with the Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office, Peshawar, through its online complaint system or the official WhatsApp number 0310-8147713.

Imran Mohmand Backs Governor's Rule in KP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

TAKHT BHAI: Provincial leader of Peoples Youth Imran Khan Mohmand has supported the imposition of Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, describing it as a step in line with the prevailing circumstances.



Addressing a Meet the Press event at Takht Bhai Press Club, he said the people of the province had given PTI a strong mandate, but the party had failed to fulfil their expectations, focusing instead on sit-ins and political unrest rather than development and public welfare.

Mohmand termed the federal government's decision to impose Governor's Rule a need of the hour and expressed hope that Governor Faisal Karim Kundi would take effective measures to promote development and prosperity in the province.

He said the people would witness positive changes through the governor's initiatives and the efforts of his team.

Mardan Residents Allege Sale of Substandard Jaggery

Authorities urged to inspect production units and test samples

AKHUNZADA FAZLE HAQ

MARDAN: Residents have expressed concern over the alleged production and sale of substandard jaggery in various areas of Mardan, fearing potential health risks from its consumption.

They complained of inadequate action by the relevant authorities and called for immediate measures to prevent the production and sale of unsafe food products.

Residents stressed that, as jaggery is widely consumed, manufacturers must maintain proper hygiene, quality standards and food safety practices during production.

They urged Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Commissioner Mardan Division Muhammad Ali Shah and Deputy Commissioner Mardan Shah Saud to take notice of the issue and direct the relevant departments to inspect jaggery production units across the district.

They also demanded that samples be collected and tested at accredited laboratories to determine whether the product meets prescribed food safety standards, with legal action taken against those found violating regulations.

The residents further called for regular monitoring of production facilities to prevent the manufacture and sale of substandard or potentially hazardous food products, emphasizing that public health must remain a priority.

Commissioner Gives DHQ Hospital Mardan One Week for Improvements

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MARDAN: Commissioner Mardan Division Syed Muhammad Ali Shah has given the administration of DHQ Hospital Mardan one week to improve cleanliness, complete essential repairs and ensure the timely provision of medicines and better medical facilities to patients.

During his visit to the hospital, the commissioner inspected various wards and sections and reviewed healthcare services, cleanliness arrangements and administrative matters.



He directed the hospital administration to address the identified shortcomings, improve sanitation, complete pending repair work and ensure the availability of medicines.

Emphasising the importance of quality healthcare and proper hygiene, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah instructed the concerned officials to perform their duties efficiently and prioritise patients' problems.

He announced that he would revisit the hospital next week to review progress and ensure compliance with his directives.

Achakzai Challenges Governor's Rule in Peshawar High Court

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly and head of Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP), Mahmood Khan Achakzai, has strongly condemned the imposition of Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, calling it unconstitutional and undemocratic.

He expressed these views while speaking to the media on Friday after filing a petition in the Peshawar High Court challenging the federal government's decision to impose Governor's Rule in the province.

Achakzai alleged that the elected provincial government had been removed and powers transferred to an individual. He also claimed that the move was part of a pre-planned strategy and said the opposition was considering resigning from the assemblies.

He said the opposition had presented its demands during negotiations with

the government, but the talks had been derailed. He expressed hope that the high court would provide relief against what he



termed an injustice to the province.

Questioning the electoral process, Achakzai alleged that the elections had been manipulated and that money had been used to purchase the support of provincial lawmakers. He also claimed that a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members had been removed through the SMCQ process.

The TTAP chief alleged that the authorities wanted to take control of the

mineral resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Referring to the merger of the former Federally Administered

institutional freedoms.

Achakzai also demanded that PTI founder Imran Khan be provided with the same facilities and visitation rights available to other prisoners, including meetings with his family and acquaintances.

Commenting on the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), he alleged that forces that had previously harmed the two parties were now targeting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He further alleged that people had been deprived of their electoral mandate and were now being denied the right to protest. He urged the authorities to reconsider their decision, restore democracy in the province and reinstate the provincial government formed on the basis of the public mandate.

Speaking on the occasion, TTAP leader Allama Nasir Abbas Raja also condemned Governor's Rule, alleging that the authorities had undermined the democratic process after issuing threats.

AC Inspects Takht Bhai Petrol Pump Over Fuel Relief Scheme Complaint

IZZAT MUHAMMAD

TAKHT BHAI : Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai Dr. Aleena Shakeel Nagra inspected a PSO petrol pump following a public



complaint regarding the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme.

During the visit, she reviewed the supply of petroleum products, sought clarification from the relevant management and took on-the-spot measures to address the complaint.

The Mardan district administration said it remained committed to promptly resolving public complaints, protecting consumer rights and ensuring the transparent supply of petroleum products.

1,700kg of Stale Fish Seized in Kohat; Owner Jailed

TIMES REPORT

KOHAT: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) seized and disposed of 1,700 kilograms of stale and hazardous fish transported from Karachi in a passenger coach. Acting on a tip-off, the Kohat food safety team searched the coach and recovered the fish concealed in hidden compartments. The consignment was destroyed at a designated dumping site due to its hazardous condition and potential threat to public health.

According to the authority's spokesperson, serious violations of food safety standards were found during the inspection. The required cold chain had not been maintained, and the owner failed to produce the necessary traceability and transportation records. An FIR was registered against the owner for transporting unsafe fish, and the accused was sent to jail. Further legal proceedings are underway, the spokesperson added.

Director General of the KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Kashif Iqbal Jilani said strict legal action would be taken against those endangering public health by transporting or selling unsafe food products. He said enforcement operations would continue across the province to curb the transportation and sale of substandard and hazardous food items and ensure the availability of safe food for citizens.

The director general urged citizens to promptly report the sale, purchase or transportation of unsafe food products to the authority so that timely action could be taken to protect public health.

Kohat Commissioner Orders Strict Monitoring of Development Projects

TIMES REPORT

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Pervaz Sabat Khel has directed officials to strengthen monitoring of ongoing development projects, conduct regular progress reviews and assess departmental performance using verified data.

He issued the directives while chairing a meeting to review development activities, monitoring mechanisms and the performance of relevant departments across the division.

Additional Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Planning Kohat Syed Amir Ali Shah, the Deputy Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation System and other officials attended the meeting.

Officials briefed the commissioner on the progress of ongoing development schemes. The



meeting discussed monitoring procedures, timely reporting and the use of evidence-based data to assess project implementation.

The commissioner stressed the effective use of monitoring and evaluation data to determine the

actual status of development schemes, improve administrative processes and evaluate departmental

performance. Participants also emphasized continuous project monitoring, coordination among departments and the timely submission of reliable progress reports to strengthen oversight of development initiatives across Kohat Division.

Kohat Elders Pledge Support for Peace

Deputy commissioner assures jirga of steps to address public grievances

TIMES REPORT

KOHAT: District administration officials and tribal elders have agreed to strengthen cooperation for maintaining peace and resolving public grievances during a Peace Jirga chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nawaz Wazir.

The jirga was attended by tribal elders and community representatives from Kohat, Lachi, Gumbat

and Darra Adam Khel, who highlighted local issues and problems faced by residents.

Deputy Commissioner Wazir listened to their concerns and assured participants that the relevant government departments would take necessary steps to address their grievances.

He said the district administration would utilise all available resources to maintain law

and order, resolve public complaints and improve service delivery.

Emphasising the importance of coordination between the administration and tribal elders, he said their role was crucial to maintaining lasting peace and resolving local issues. The jirga concluded with prayers for Pakistan's peace, security, stability, development and prosperity.



Malakand Division sets one-month deadline for road markings, cat's-eyes installation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SWAT: The Malakand Division administration has directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to install yellow road markings on highways under its jurisdiction and the



Communication and Works (C&W) Department to install cat's-eyes on roads across the division within one month.

The directives were issued at a meeting chaired by Commissioner Malakand Division on October 16, attended by the Regional Police Officer (RPO), university vice-chancellors, district administration officials and representatives of relevant departments.

The meeting also directed the NHA, Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority (PKHA), C&W Department and local government authorities to ensure timely road repairs, protect public property and remove illegal encroachments from roads, footpaths and other public spaces.

The commissioner directed the relevant authorities to take action against those damaging public property, while deputy commissioners were asked to ensure its protection in their respective districts and register cases against violators wherever necessary.

RPDC Building to Be Handed Over for Girls Cadet College

OUR CORRESPONDENT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Daud Khan has decided to hand over the remaining building of the Regional Professional Development Centre (RPDC), located along the main highway, to the administration of the proposed Girls Cadet College.

At a meeting chaired by the commissioner, officials



were directed to shift the remaining RPDC equipment to the hostel of Mufti Mahmood School and College within one week. The decision is expected to facilitate the establishment of the Girls Cadet College, approved at a provincial cabinet meeting in Peshawar chaired by former Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The meeting was attended by Principal Mufti Mahmood School and College Bakhtiar Akhtar, RPDC Principal Madam Hifza, Girls Cadet College Principal Colonel (ret'd) Fazal Mahmood and Commissioner's Assistant Sajjad Baloch. During the meeting, RPDC Principal Madam Hifza thanked Commissioner Daud Khan for taking a personal interest in resolving the issue.

Addressing the meeting, the commissioner said the Girls Cadet College would provide quality educational opportunities to girls in the region. He added that a memorandum of understanding had been signed between the relevant institutions for the establishment of the college. He further said teaching activities at the college would begin soon and the recruitment process for its staff had been completed.

KGMC Holds Pink October Breast Cancer Awareness Symposium

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Girls Medical College (KGMC) organised a symposium under its Pink October campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer, highlighting early diagnosis, self-examination, modern treatment options and the need to reach women in rural and remote areas. Vice Chancellor Khyber Medical University Professor Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan attended the event as chief guest. KGMC Dean Professor Dr.



Shehzad Akbar Khan, senior faculty members, medical experts and students also participated. Addressing the symposium, Professor Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan highlighted the role of medical students in promoting health awareness in their families and communities. He stressed that early detection, timely medical consultation and access to healthcare services were essential for better treatment outcomes. Professor Dr. Shehzad Akbar Khan reaffirmed KGMC's commitment to health education and community awareness through the active participation of faculty members and students. Experts, including Professor Dr. Shagufa Nasir, Professor Dr. Bushra Rauf, Professor Dr. Muhammad Shah, Professor Dr. Iram Sabir, Professor Dr. Amjad Ali, Professor Dr. Sadaf Chiragh, Professor Dr. Liaquat Ali and Dr. Saba Rahim, delivered presentations on breast cancer symptoms, self-examination, diagnostic procedures and treatment options.

Women University Mardan Holds 31st Syndicate Meeting

TIMES REPORT

MARDAN: Women University Mardan held its 31st Syndicate Meeting on Friday under the chairpersonship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana to review key academic, administrative and institutional matters.

Registrar Adnan Ahmad and other university officials attended the meeting, along with Syndicate members representing the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Peshawar High Court, provincial government departments and educational institutions.

The meeting reviewed the minutes of the 30th Syndicate Meeting and progress on previous deci-

sions. Members also considered the re-engagement of fixed-pay lecturers to ensure continuity in teach-



ing and academic activities.

The agenda included recommendations of the 18th Academic Council, including the adoption of

the HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy, Version 2.0 (2023), implementation of the revised HEC Policy on



Protection Against Harassment in Higher Education Institutions (2025), and approval of the university's Convocation Regulations and Internship

Policy.

Members also discussed matters concerning the Examination Section and the adoption of HEC guidelines for engaging visiting faculty in higher education institutions issued in 2026. Policies submitted by the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) were also considered. These covered intellectual property, research ethics, grant disbursement, industrial engagement, research commercialisation, innovation, institutional affiliations and internship opportunities. The discussions focused on aligning the university's academic and administrative procedures with applicable rules and HEC guidelines.

NAB's Unique Formula: Tenure Ends, Chair Changes

SYED FAWAD ALI SHAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has made an unusual reshuffle at the top of its hierarchy, appointing the outgoing Deputy Chairman as Prosecutor General Accountability and moving the former Prosecutor General into the Deputy Chairman's position. Rather than bringing in new candidates for the two senior posts, the government has appointed the same two officials to each other's positions, prompting criticism of the bureau's appointment practices and its commitment to merit.

According to Notification No. F.1(2)/2021-A.I. issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on September 18, 2026, the federal government, on the recommendation of the NAB Chairman, appointed Sohail Nasir as Prosecutor General Accountability for a three-year term effective October 11, 2026. Under a separate notification, No. F.1(10)/2026-A.I., issued on the same date, the federal government appointed Syed Ihtesham Qadir Shah as Deputy Chairman NAB for a non-extendable three-year term, effective October 11, 2026, in consultation with the NAB chairman. As a result, Sohail Nasir, who

previously held the position of Deputy Chairman, will now serve as Prosecutor General Accountability, while Syed Ihtesham Qadir Shah, the former Prosecutor



General, will take over as Deputy Chairman.

The two appointments amount to an exchange of positions between the same officials, with no new names announced for either post in the notifications provided. The most striking aspect of the reshuffle is the decision to move the two officials into each other's positions instead of appointing fresh candidates, if their previous tenures had indeed come to an end. Were no other eligible candidates available for these senior positions, or did the government and

NAB leadership consider retaining the same officials in different roles to be the most suitable option? If so, what administrative considerations justified the deci-

an important position within the bureau's administrative and leadership structure.

Given the distinct responsibilities attached to these offices, the authorities should explain how the officials' qualifications, experience and suitability for their respective positions were assessed. If fresh appointments were required following the completion of the previous tenures, the government could have considered other eligible candidates.

Instead, the decision to appoint each official to the other's former position has triggered criticism over the necessity and institutional value of the reshuffle.

The matter is particularly significant because NAB expects public officials to demonstrate transparency and accountability. Its own senior appointments should therefore be supported by a clear and credible administrative rationale. The two notifications alone, however, do not establish that any appointment rules or legal provisions have been violated. Such a conclusion would require an examination of the applicable law, the terms of the officials' previous appointments and the procedures followed by the federal government.

Kifayatullah Khan Visits Dir Colony Following Tragic School Roof Collapse

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Member of the Advisory Council for Home and Tribal Affairs, Kifayatullah Khan, visited Dir Colony, Peshawar, along with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Afaq Wazir, and expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic incident involving the collapse of a school roof.

Expressing heartfelt sympathy with the affected families, Kifayatullah Khan said that the loss of children's precious lives and threats to their safety were deeply distressing. He said such incidents were a matter of serious concern for the entire nation and reaffirmed his solidarity with the affected families.

He emphasized that protecting children's lives and providing them with a safe learning environment were shared responsibilities. He said special attention must be given to the



structural integrity of educational institutions, construction quality and safety arrangements to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

The Advisory Council member stressed that compliance with prescribed safety standards must be ensured in the construction and maintenance of schools and all other public buildings.

He called for regular inspections to identify potential structural risks and urged that timely corrective measures be taken wherever weaknesses or

defects are detected.

He further underscored the need for transparent investigations to determine the causes of such incidents and establish responsibility, ensuring that the facts are brought to light and effective preventive measures are adopted.

Kifayatullah Khan also emphasized improved coordination among relevant departments, better emergency preparedness and prompt rescue and relief arrangements to ensure timely action and protect precious human lives in the event of an emergency.

Peshawar Mobilises Schools for Polio Booster Campaign

Health and education officials coordinate awareness efforts ahead of October 26-31 drive

SHAHZAD RASHEED

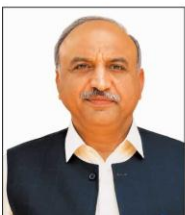
PESHAWAR: Health and education authorities in Peshawar have strengthened coordination with public and private schools ahead of the Polio Booster Dose Campaign, scheduled for October 26 to 31, 2026. An engagement session was held with representatives of the Education Department, school administrations and relevant health partners to mobilise support for the upcoming campaign.

Participants included Additional Secretary Health and EOC Coordinator Sara Rehman, Additional Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, WHO Area Coordinator Dr. Ihtisham, District Health Officer Peshawar, Education Department representatives and UNICEF officials. ADEO Male Saleem Farooqi, ADEO Female Shamsena Khattak and Luqman from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Private Schools Regulatory Authority also attended. Officials highlighted the importance of cooperation between the health and education sectors in ensuring that all eligible children receive the required polio booster dose. They stressed the role of teachers and school administrations in raising awareness, addressing parents' concerns, countering misconceptions and building public trust in vaccination. School representatives were encouraged to share accurate information with parents and caregivers and support campaign teams in reaching eligible children.



From the Press Gallery

A Question of Who Qualifies as a Tourist



Shams Yousafzai

An exchange of remarks enlivened Friday's National Assembly proceedings during Question Hour when the deputy speaker and Pakistan Peoples Party MNA Sharmila Faruqi questioned the tourism ministry's classification of Afghan nationals visiting Pakistan as tourists. Mardan MNA Ali Muhammad Khan also traced light-hearted remarks with the chair, adding a touch of political humour to the proceedings.

The sitting, presided over by the deputy speaker, began at 11:30am, about 90 minutes behind schedule.

Responding to a question, Parliamentary Secretary for

Tourism Kiran read out a written reply stating that Afghan nationals constituted the largest group of tourists visiting Pakistan.

The response prompted questions from the deputy speaker and Ms Faruqi, who asked how people arriving from Afghanistan could be classified as tourists.

The deputy speaker expressed displeasure over the reply, observing that it reflected a lack of seriousness on the part of the ministry concerned.

Responding to a question regarding the interior ministry, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry informed the house that the issuance of e-passports would begin within a month, while the existing machine-readable pas-

port system was being phased out.

In a supplementary question, MNA Naema Kishwar drew the house's attention to the closure of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) office in Shergarh, Mardan, saying the shutdown had caused difficulties for local residents.

Dr Chaudhry assured her that the necessary steps would be taken to address the issue.

A political exchange took a lighter turn when Ali Muhammad Khan rose to ask a supplementary question and complained to the deputy speaker that he appeared to be giving preference to members on the

treasury benches.

The deputy speaker responded wittily that he expected to see Mr Khan sitting on the treasury benches soon.

Mr Khan was quick to respond, saying he would move to the treasury benches if "Khan Sahib" were made chairman in place of Bilawal.

The exchange drew attention to the political undercurrents in the house, even as members continued to raise constituency-related concerns.

Casual moments in the house Meanwhile, Bajaur MNA Rehman Zeb was seen chatting with fellow lawmakers and recording a TikTok video with a guest seated in the visitors' gallery.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan also arrived in the chamber but left shortly afterwards.

The sitting began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, with the reciter reading from Surah Al-Jumu'ah. Lakki Marwat MNA Sher Afzal Marwat was also seen sitting on the treasury benches alongside Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry.

Attendance on the opposition benches remained thin. Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam's women lawmakers, including Naema Kishwar, Shahida Bibi and Alia Kamran, actively participated in Question Hour, raising issues of public concern.

Editor-in-Chief
Fazli Haq

HEAD OFFICE
2nd Floor, Flat # 1, Dar-i-Salam Plaza, Sikandarpura Chowk, Peshawar
☎ 091-2216407 | Fax: 091-2218687

REGIONAL OFFICE
Flat # 06, Block-11, 3rd Floor, PHA Apartments, G-7/1, Islamabad
Cell No.: -92 321-9111947 | Email: dailytimespk@gmail.com

LAHORE OFFICE
398-J-2 Wapda Town.
Bureau Chief: Ghulam Haider Sheikh 0092325300703
Email: haraan.pk@gmail.com

Classrooms of neglect

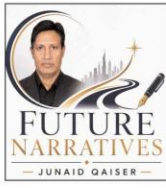
A school should be the last place where parents fear for their children's lives. Yet the deaths of 31 students and a teacher in Peshawar's Al-Khair School roof collapse is an incident that should spring authorities into action. In a country where educational institutions are expected to shape the future, even the most basic guarantee of physical safety remains uncertain.

The tragedy reflects a wider culture of negligence in which structural safety is overlooked until a building collapses and innocent lives are lost. That an apparently weakened structure could be burdened with additional construction - even as children continued to attend classes - raises questions that cannot be answered through expressions of grief alone. More troubling is the frequency with which such disasters occur. The deaths of 14 children in a Lahore tuition centre collapse earlier this year should have prompted a comprehensive reassessment of school building safety. Instead, another tragedy has followed, suggesting that lessons are neither being learnt nor translated into preventive measures. The problem lies as much with regulatory indifference as with those who compromise construction standards to save costs. Private educational institutions cannot be allowed to operate in buildings whose structural integrity has never been properly established. Equally, the authorities responsible for granting permissions and monitoring compliance cannot escape scrutiny when their oversight proves ineffective. A school licence must represent an assurance of safety rather than merely permission to conduct business.

Compensation may provide some financial relief to grieving families, but it is no substitute for accountability. Nor can official promises restore the trust shattered by such an entirely preventable disaster. The government must abandon its reactive approach to public safety and establish a system in which dangerous buildings are identified before they become death traps.

Beyond Condolences:

The Urgent Need for School Safety



The deaths of at least 33 children and a teacher in the collapse of a school building in Peshawar should force Pakistan to confront an uncomfortable question: how many more children must lose their lives before the safety of our schools becomes a genuine national priority?

The children who died at Al Khair school in Dir Colony had arrived for an ordinary morning of classes. Their parents had sent them to school expecting them to return home after lessons, carrying books, sharing stories and talking about their day. Instead, families found themselves waiting outside a damaged building as rescue workers searched through the rubble for their children.

For those parents, the loss is beyond words. For the state, it should be a moment of serious reflection and immediate action.

The tragedy is particularly painful because it was not the first of its kind. In June, 14 children died when the roof of a private tuition centre collapsed in Lahore's Kahna area. Two days later, another school roof collapse in Baghbanpura claimed the life of an eight-year-old child. Now, Peshawar has witnessed another devastating loss.

These incidents are not simply unfortunate accidents to be mourned and forgotten. They raise fundamental questions about building safety, regulatory oversight and the responsibility of those entrusted with protecting children.

Condolences are necessary. Prayers for the deceased and support for grieving families are equally important. But neither can substitute for accountability. If the country

responds to another school tragedy with statements of sorrow, the formation of inquiry committees and promises of future action, it will have failed to learn the most important lesson of Peshawar.

The urgent task is to ensure that no child's life is put at risk because a building was unsafe, an inspection was neglected or a warning went unheeded.

Preliminary findings by police suggest that the Al Khair school building had structural weaknesses and a poorly constructed roof. Authorities have indicated that the building was overloaded and that the roof slab could not withstand the weight placed upon it. The collapse reportedly brought down classrooms on several floors, trapping children beneath the debris.

The school's owner has been arrested, and investigators have been directed to examine possible violations of building regulations and determine whether negligence contributed to the disaster.

These findings must be investigated thoroughly before responsibility is assigned. Yet they already point towards a wider problem that cannot be addressed by prosecuting one individual alone.

Pakistan has witnessed too many occasions when a tragedy produces an immediate official response, followed by weeks of discussion and little visible change. Committees are formed, reports are promised and strict action is announced. Yet the public is often left without a clear account of what was discovered, who was held responsible and what mea-

sures were taken to prevent another incident.

Peshawar must not become another example of that pattern.

The provincial authorities should publish the findings of the investigation and explain what corrective measures will follow. Every educational building identified as structurally dangerous should be closed until qualified engineers certify that it is safe for use. Where defects can be repaired, reopening should depend on verified compliance rather than assurances from owners or administrators.

The audit must cover more than registered private schools. Government schools, tuition centres and institutions operating in converted residential properties should all be included. Authorities must also establish whether buildings have been modified or overcrowded beyond their approved capacity.

Enforcing safety standards will require resources, planning and cooperation between education departments, local governments and building regulators. Some schools serving low-income communities may need technical assistance to address structural deficiencies. Responsible school operators should have access to clear guidance on the standards they must meet.

But assistance must never become an excuse to leave children inside buildings that pose an immediate danger.

If a school cannot safely accommodate its pupils, authorities must arrange appropriate alternatives wherever possible. Closing an unsafe building may disrupt education, but allowing chil-

dren to remain there could cost lives. The answer is to address the safety problem while ensuring that children do not lose access to education unnecessarily.

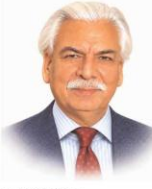
Emergency preparedness also deserves greater attention. Rescue workers reportedly faced difficulties reaching the Al Khair school because it was situated on a narrow street. This should prompt authorities to examine emergency access, evacuation arrangements and the ability of schools to respond to fires, collapses and other serious incidents.

The families who lost children in Peshawar deserve more than sympathy. They deserve a credible investigation, justice where wrongdoing is established and practical support as they face an unimaginable loss. The injured children must receive the best possible treatment, while their families should not be left to bear the burden alone.

The government must also recognise that public confidence will depend on what happens after the headlines fade. Announcements made in the immediate aftermath of a disaster are easy. Sustained enforcement, transparent reporting and institutional reform require commitment.

The real tribute to the children who died in Peshawar will be a Pakistan in which every school is inspected, every serious safety violation is addressed and every authority is held responsible for the duties entrusted to it.

Beyond condolences, the country needs action. Its children cannot afford another promise that goes unfulfilled.



**Barrister
Usman Ali, Ph.D.**

Buried Dreams:

The Deadly Price of Indifference

There are days when I feel like giving up writing about Pakistan's politics and the state of our country. How many times can one ask the same questions when dialogue has given way to hostility, disagreement to enmity, and reasoned debate to blind political loyalty? Powerful interests continue to tighten their grip on decisions and resources, while ordinary people argue over whose leader is greater and whose party is better. We are so consumed by our divisions that we rarely ask whether our children are safe at school, workers are protected in factories, or families can trust the roofs over their heads.

Then a tragedy strikes so devastating that silence feels like a moral failure. Writing becomes a duty.

On October 15, 2026, the roof of a private school collapsed in Dair Colony, Peshawar. According to early reports, 34 children and a female teacher were killed, while more than 50 children were injured, some critically. Imagine the parents who prepared breakfast, packed schoolbags and sent their children off that morning, expecting to welcome them home in the afternoon. Instead, classrooms meant for learning became scenes of unimaginable loss. Some families mourn children who will never return; others wait anxiously beside hospital beds, praying for those still fighting to survive.

These children had done nothing more than go to school. Is it too much to expect a state to ensure that a classroom roof will not collapse on its pupils?

And this tragedy is not an isolated one. In Lahore's Kahna area, a tuition-centre roof collapse claimed 14 children's lives. At a school in Baghbanpura, another child was killed and four were injured. These incidents should have prompted urgent questions about building safety wherever children gather. Instead, yet another community is mourning. What does it say about our priorities when warnings paid for in young lives fail to produce lasting safeguards?

The same questions extend beyond schools. Fires at Karachi's Gul Plaza, Regent Plaza and Ali Enterprises factory; the LDA Plaza fire and the Sundar Industrial Estate collapse in Lahore; and tragedies in Karachi's Mehran Town and Lyari point to a wider pattern of preventable danger and inadequate protection. Each incident has its own circumstances, but all demand scrutiny of the systems intended to keep people safe.

Workers at the Ali Enterprises factory left home to earn a living, not to lose their lives. In Mehran Town, blocked exits and barred windows reportedly made escape from a factory fire desperately difficult. At Sundar Industrial Estate, some workers had reportedly raised concerns about cracks in the building before it collapsed. Too often, the warnings of those most exposed to danger carry the least weight. Their voices are heard only when they can no longer speak.

Unsafe housing tells a similar story. In Karachi's Lyari neighbourhood, residents

remained in a building that had been declared dangerous, without adequate arrangements for somewhere safe to go. What choice does a family living on the margins have: remain beneath a roof that might fall, or take its children onto the street? When the state issues warnings without helping vulnerable residents find workable alternatives, a construction risk becomes a failure of public administration as well.

After each disaster, the familiar ritual begins. Condolences are issued. Ministers visit the scene. News channels broadcast harrowing footage. Compensation is announced, arrests are made, and inquiry committees are formed. For a few days, public grief dominates the headlines. Then another controversy takes over, and the victims fade from view.

The tragedy has not ended. Only our attention has. Investigations matter, but their value lies in what follows. How many reports are released publicly? How many recommendations are implemented? How many unsafe buildings are repaired or evacuated? When negligence is established, how many responsible individuals face meaningful, lawful consequences? If lessons from one disaster do not help prevent the next, an inquiry becomes little more than a record of loss.

Nor can accountability stop with a property owner or contractor. Who approves building plans and additional floors? Who licenses schools and factories? Who checks construction quali-

ty, fire exits and emergency procedures? If safety laws exist, why are they ignored? If regulations leave gaps, why are those gaps allowed to remain? Responsibility must be traced through the entire chain of decisions, with findings established fairly and transparently, not assigned merely to satisfy public anger.

The solutions are neither mysterious nor impossible. Every school, religious seminary, tuition centre, factory and multi-storey building should undergo regular inspections by qualified professionals. Reports should be public and easy to understand. Parents should have a voice in school safety oversight, workers in factory inspections, and residents in decisions about their buildings. People must be able to report hazards without fear of retaliation.

Buildings posing immediate danger must be evacuated promptly, but safety cannot mean abandoning low-income families or disrupting children's education without alternatives. Authorities should provide practical arrangements for temporary housing and schooling. Where defective construction or negligence is proven, owners and responsible officials alike must be held to account through due process. Major inquiries should carry published deadlines for recommendations, corrective action and progress reports, so the public can see whether anything actually changes.

Ultimately, this is also a question of our collective priorities. We can spend hours defending political leaders, condemn-

ing rival parties and mobilizing for partisan causes. Why, then, do we struggle to unite around something more fundamental: the safety of children, the dignity of workers and the right of every citizen to live without avoidable danger? Surely those obligations should matter more than any political allegiance.

No slogan can comfort the family in Peshawar whose child's schoolbag remains at home, never to be carried again. No press conference can ease the fear of parents waiting outside an intensive-care ward. These families need compassion and financial support, but they also deserve answers, justice and reforms that might spare others the same grief.

Roofs seldom collapse without warning, and deadly fires are not always beyond prevention. Before a building fails, safeguards may have been overlooked; before a fire spreads, escape routes may have been blocked; before lives are lost, responsibilities may already have been neglected.

After every tragedy, we recover bodies from the rubble. What we fail to recover are the lessons buried with them.

The question is no longer when the next roof will fall or the next factory will burn. It is when those entrusted with preventing such disasters will finally be held accountable. When the same failures recur and nothing changes, they cease to be merely isolated accidents. They become an indictment of a system failing in its most basic duty: protecting human life.

The Factory That Did Everything Right

When the audit meant to protect workers becomes the weapon that destroys their jobs

Khurram Khan

At six forty-five every evening, eight air-conditioned buses line up outside the gates of Apex Textiles. They go to twenty-two neighbourhoods across the city. The ride is free. Inside the factory, a subsidised canteen serves a full meal for twenty rupees. There is a medical room staffed by a qualified nurse. A daycare centre serves working mothers. There is a locked grievance box on every floor, and every submission is read, investigated and answered in writing.

Hasan Qureshi, who built all of this over twenty years and several million rupees in compliance investment, employs three thousand six hundred workers. He is not a saint. He is a businessman — but one who has spent two decades proving that treating people decently and turning a

profit are not mutually exclusive. His factory is certified under several internationally recognised frameworks, his audit scores are consistently strong, and his workers are, by independently verified measure, among the best paid and best protected in the sector.

Then the auditor arrived. Within six weeks, his largest order in company history was frozen, two buyers had suspended their contracts, and a forced-labour finding was circulating on the Better World Alliance platform that every one of his international clients monitors automatically.

The finding was not accurate. The factory did not collapse. But what happened at Apex Textiles is a story the entire compliance industry urgently needs to confront — because it is not a story about a failed factory. It is a story about a failing system, and about the human cost of that failure.

"The system was designed to protect workers. The question nobody is asking is: which workers, exactly — and at what cost to the others?"

Two factories, six hundred metres apart

Six hundred metres from Apex's main gate, in a lane that smells of diesel and sizing chemical, is a building with a blue door and no name above it. It has no profile on any compliance platform, no audit history, no certification, no code of conduct. It has sixty machines in unmarked rows, no clearly signposted emergency exits,

and children working at machines their feet cannot quite reach.

The owner collects cash from a tin box three times a week and has never met a labour inspector — partly because the relevant officials receive a monthly arrangement that costs less than one percent of what compliance would. The garments made here move through the supply chain in unmarked bags, mixing with certified production from compliant factories. The international buyer who has carefully audited Apex is, in a share of cases nobody wishes to quantify, also buying garments that children stitched at midnight.

Three of those midnight workers hold day jobs at Apex Textiles, where they are under formal disciplinary observation for chronic absenteeism — and where, in the weeks before the audit, they pre-

pared a very particular kind of testimony.

Less than half a percent

They are ten workers out of three thousand six hundred: less than 0.3 percent of the workforce. Over eight months, their absenteeism ran at nearly five times the factory average. On the days they were present, their output was well below line standard. In fourteen months they filed forty-six grievances. Three had partial merit. Forty-three were unsubstantiated. Not one led to disciplinary action against those who filed them.

Some carry political connections that shield them from certain kinds of management pressure. Three moonlight in the building with the blue door, where they endure conditions far worse than anything they describe at Apex — and where they raise no concerns at all. Not because con-

ditions there are acceptable, but because there is no box to put their concerns in.

This is the wound at the centre of the story. The workers with the most access to grievance mechanisms use them strategically. The workers who need them most have none.

Next in this series: how one auditor, a clipboard and no cross-checking turned ten complaints into a forced-labour finding — and what the factory's own records actually said.

Khurram Khan is a PhD scholar, sustainability professional and HR practitioner with over two decades in Pakistan's industrial and export sectors. This series is adapted from his novella *The Compliance Trap*; Apex Textiles, its people and the Better World Alliance are fictional, but the patterns they describe are real.



Aurangzeb discusses financing, investment, reforms with SCB, UK minister

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday held separate meetings with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) and UK Minister for International Development Kirsty McNeill on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings 2026 to discuss external financing, reserve management, infrastructure investment, economic reforms, bilateral cooperation, energy transition and climate resilience.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the minister was accompanied by the Governor of the State Bank

of Pakistan (SBP) in meeting with SCB, to discuss financing cooperation, reserve management and infrastructure investment. He appreciated SCB's support in bridging external financing gaps and facilitating Pakistan's return to international capital markets and highlighted potential refinery upgrades and welcomed follow-up proposals through the relevant ministries.

Discussions covered prospective Sukuk, rupee-denominated, dollar-settled bonds, further Panda bonds and possible tokenization initiatives. Participants explored gold-backed liquidity and energy-price hedging, emphasizing simple structures and competitive costs. The

minister welcomed SCB's proposed additional diaspora deposit products and financing against rupee-denominated securities or cash. The meeting also examined multilateral guarantees and export-credit financing for priority power transmission, railway and road projects.

Meanwhile, the minister also met UK Minister for International Development, Kirsty McNeill and highlighted fiscal consolidation, stronger reserves, sovereign rating upgrades and renewed access to international capital markets. He emphasized export-led growth, tariff and tax reforms, and expanding IT exports and upskilling freelancers.

He appreciated UK assistance through REMIT and support for the Reforms for Growth programme. The minister welcomed British International Investment's growing investment pipeline. Discussions also covered privatization, airport outsourcing and aviation cooperation involving potential engagement with Airbus and Rolls-Royce.

Participants examined solar adoption, battery storage, grid viability and UK technical support for the energy transition. Both sides emphasized simpler climate finance access and bankable projects, with the Finance Minister highlighting disaster preparedness and the BRIDGE initiative.

PIDE sets out six-point roadmap to unlock Pakistan's export potential

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has outlined a six-point reform roadmap to unlock Pakistan's export potential, calling for tariff reforms, lower trade costs, policy continuity and diversification into digital, maritime and creative economies to achieve sustainable, export-led growth.

PIDE sets out six-point roadmap to unlock Pakistan's export potential

The recommendations were presented at the conclusion of the 39th International Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), which brought together policymakers, economists and researchers to discuss strategies for strengthening the country's export competitiveness.

PIDE sets out six-point roadmap to unlock Pakistan's export potential

Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries, said the National Tariff Policy 2025-30 would rationalise around 7,500 tariff lines and cap customs duty at 15 per

cent.

He said some 500 regulatory requirements were under review, while financing



for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was planned to increase from Rs1 trillion to Rs2 trillion.

He highlighted the Trade Facilitation Board and Pakistan Single Window as key initiatives to streamline trade procedures, identifying information and communication technology (ICT), artificial intelligence, agriculture, minerals and the blue economy as major drivers of export diversification.

PEF Calls for Province-Wide School Building Safety Audits

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Engineers Forum (PEF) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Engr. M. Naeem has expressed deep grief over the tragic school roof collapse in Peshawar, which claimed precious lives and left several people injured.

He extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls, patience for their loved ones and a speedy recovery for the injured. He also urged the government, relevant authorities and welfare organisations to provide immediate medical assistance, financial support and relief to affected families.

Calling for a transparent technical investigation, Engr. M. Naeem stressed the need for comprehensive structural safety audits of public and private educational institutions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said building inspections and structural assessments under all relevant departments and local government bodies, including Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs), should be conducted by qualified engineers in accordance with applicable building codes and safety standards.

Business community's proposals to be taken up with relevant authorities: PA speaker

TIMES REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan Friday assured the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) that its concerns and proposals regarding regulatory enforcement, taxation, industrial development and investment facilitation will be taken up with relevant authorities.

"Effective legislation requires consultation with stakeholders and that excessive regulation can discourage investment and undermine economic activity," he stated, while talking to business community here at LCCI, where the Chamber's President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain presented proposals to end the FIR culture, prevent harassment of traders, review arrest powers, and address other issues affecting the businesses.

Former LCCI President Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, former Senior Vice President Nasir Hameed Khan and Executive Committee

Members spoke on the occasion. Senior Members Amjad Ali Chaudhry, Khawaja Shahzeb Akram, Sohail Nisar, Executive Committee



Members Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim, Shah Behram, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Naila Nadeem, Shahzad Mehmood, Zulfiqar Ali Ch., Tariq Mehmood, Muhammad Ijaz Ghouri, Zaman Naseeb, Muhammad Umair, Abdullah Chaudhry, Tariq Mahmood, Chaudhry Farqam, Adeel Babar Khan, Sahir Mushtaq, Ali Raza, Hamid Raza, Shahzad Ali Shah and others were present.

PSX extends gains, KSE-100 closes up by 233 points

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued its positive momentum on Friday, gaining 233.55 points, a positive change of 0.14 percent, to close at 166,419.72 points against 166,186.17 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 396.904 million shares, compared to 517.601 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value stood at Rs 18.679 billion against Rs 23.571 billion.

Market capitalisation advanced to Rs 18.479 trillion from Rs 18.475 trillion recorded a day earlier. Out of 498 companies that traded in the ready market, 211 posted gains, 254 suffered losses, while 33 remained unchanged.

Pak Refinery led the volume chart with 38.424 million shares, followed by Enercygro PK with 37.138 million shares and K-Electric Ltd. with 27.980 million shares.

Among the top gainers, PIA Holding Company Limited B advanced by Rs 214.66 to close at Rs 14,566.33, while Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs 109.01 to settle at Rs 25,550.00. On the losing side, The Thal Industries Corporation Limited declined by Rs 47.16 to close at Rs 752.83, while Faisal Spinning Mills Limited fell by Rs 21.28 to Rs 288.72.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 118.033 million shares with a traded value of Rs 6.678 billion, compared with 141.788 million shares worth Rs 10.073 billion in the previous session. Of the 293 companies traded in the DFC market, 13 advanced, 174 declined, and 6 remained unchanged.

FDA generates revenue of Rs. 290m by sale of 13 properties

TIMES REPORT

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) has generated total revenue of Rs. 290 million through the sale of 13 commercial properties in open auction. An FDA spokesman said here on Friday that this initiative was aimed at further strengthening the authority's financial position and increasing its income.

He said that the public auction took place at FDA Complex and Commercial properties owned by FDA, located in various areas, were offered for sale through an auction. The successful bids were placed for 10 shops (each measuring 4.5 marlas) in Millat Town, a 14-marla plot in Sir Syed Town-III, and two utility sites designated for educational and healthcare facilities within private housing schemes. A large number of prospective buyers and investors participated in the public auction, placing bids to secure the plots of their choice.

The interest shown by successful bidders in purchasing various plots reflects the commercial significance and investment potential of properties owned by the FDA. Under the directives of FDA Director General Muhammad Asif Chaudhry, measures are being taken to bolster the organization's financial resources, optimize revenue streams, and make better use of available assets.

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER ON EPADS
(Single stage Single envelop System on EPAD)

The C&W Division Kohistan Upper, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic Bids from eligible firms/contractors in accordance with KPRA procurement rules 2014, on Single Stage Single Envelop System on EPAD for the following work(s).

S#	Name of Work	Relevant category of C&W & PEC	E/Cost (Rs Million)	Tender Fee @ 0.05% (Rs.)
1	Restoration/Reha bilitation of roads damaged due to flash flood on 4 th April 2016 in district Kohistan upper SH Jalkot Ghoshali Road (Balance Work)	C-6	6.00	3000

Bid Security i/c S/Duty (Rs. Million)

129000

Period of Completion

As per work Order

Last date of submission of Bids & time

28-10-2026 At 12:00 P.M

Date & time of opening of Financial Bids

28-10-2026 At 12:30 P.M

Terms and Conditions:

1- Bidding solicitation documents can be downloaded from the E-PAD system and KPRA Website. However, if clarification is required, the same may also be obtained from the office of the Procuring Entity upon submission of a formal application, valid and up-to-date PEC registration, C&W Department registration card, and payment of a non-refundable printing fee of Rs. 3,000/- . This facility is provided to the potential bidders of the areas of the region where internet issues or other complication may arise during the tender submission period. The documents may be obtained during office working hours on or before 28th November, 2026.

2- The bid shall be submitted through the E-PAD System strictly in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders (ITB) contained in the bidding documents, as must be accompanied by the documents comprising the bid under IB-8. Procuring Entity shall not be responsible for failure on the part of bidder to submit the bid proposals through E-PADS on account of any technical issue or internet failure, not attributable to the Procuring Entity as per KPRA E-PADS Regulations 2025.

3- Bidders shall submit their bidding solicitation documents and C&W Department enlistment, documents demonstrating general capabilities, financial soundness, relevant experience, personnel and equipment capabilities, valid NTN/Income Tax certificates, and any other supporting documents.

4- Bids up to 10% below the Engineer's Estimate shall be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of the Engineer's Estimate. Bids exceeding 10% and up to 20% below the Engineer's Estimate shall include, in addition to the 2% bid security, an 8% additional security of the Engineer's Estimated Cost. Bids more than 20% below the Engineer's Estimate shall be included, in addition to the 2% bid security and accompanied by additional security equal to the differential amount between the submitted bid and the Engineer's Estimate, along with a detailed rate analysis. Failure to provide the required additional security and/or detailed rate analysis shall render the bid non-responsive; in such cases, the bid security shall be forfeited (except where otherwise decided under Clause 4), and the next lowest bidder shall be considered. Call deposits from scheduled banks shall be acceptable.

5- If the detailed rate analysis submitted by a bidder is deemed unconvincing, the Head of the Procuring Entity may declare the bid non-responsive without forfeiture of bid security, subject to recording of reasons.

6- The additional security may be replaced with a bank guarantee of an equivalent amount from a scheduled bank after commencement of work. The additional security shall be released in four equal installments (25% each) upon completion of 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of the project, respectively.

7- Bidding shall be conducted through the E-PAD system. Financial bids must be submitted online.

8- All bidders must deposit a tender form fee amounting to 0.05% (Non Refundable) of the Engineer's Cost as a separate call deposit, along with earnest money. This shall be provided in original along-with the submitted bid before closing time of the bid submission. Non deposition of tender form fee will render the bid non responsive for further consideration / evaluation process.

9- Complete bids must be submitted within the specified date and time. Bid security (CDR) shall be enclosed with the financial proposal, failing which the bid shall be considered as non-responsive as per KPRA notification.

10- Rates shall be quoted on the BOQ/MRS system for both MRS and non-MRS items. The bid validity period shall be 90 days. In case of identical evaluated bids, the successful bidder shall be declared through loss/draw. The completion period shall commence from the issuance of the Letter of Acceptance (LOA). Bid securities of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd lowest bidders shall be retained until approval of bids. Any bidder providing false or misleading information shall be disqualified and debarred.

11- All bidders shall be duly registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act, 2013. Any bidder failing to provide valid registration shall be considered ineligible and shall not be permitted to participate in the bidding process.

12- In pursuance of KPRA Notification No. SRO(29)/Vol: 1-40/2025-26/699-711 dated 29.10.2025, failure on the part of a bidder to submit the original bid security and additional security within the prescribed timeframe shall render the bidder liable to debarment for a period of one (01) year. Furthermore, in the event of a repeated violation, the bidder shall be blacklisted for a minimum period of three (03) years in accordance with Section 29 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Act read together with Rule 44 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Rules, 2014.

13- The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, or to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any stage prior to the award of contract, subject to the provision of valid and cogent reasons in accordance with the applicable procurement laws and rules.

14- A pre-bid meeting shall be convened on 22/10/2026 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the Executive Engineer, C&W Division Kohistan Upper, to address queries and provide necessary clarifications regarding the bidding documents and procurement process.

15- Venue of bids opening is the office of the Executive Engineer, C&W Division Kohistan upper dassu.

Executive Engineer C&W Division Kohistan Upper

INF(P) 5235/26

Pakistan, Netherlands discuss investment opportunities at SIFC

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A Dutch business delegation from Founders Carbon Network (FCN), led by Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan Robert-Jan Siegert, visited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to explore investment opportunities and strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

SIFC Apex Committee Secretary Dr Jehanzeb briefed the delegation on the council's role as a one-window facilitation platform, highlighting its coordinated approach to connecting investors with relevant government stakeholders and facilitating investment across key sectors of Pakistan's economy, a news release said on Friday.

The delegation was briefed on bankable investment projects and opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), particularly Karachi Industrial Park (KIP) and Bin Qasim Industrial Park (BQIP).

The briefing highlighted the potential of these industrial zones to attract foreign investment, promote industrial development and create opportunities for business partnerships.

The discussions also covered potential avenues for Dutch investment, strengthening bilateral trade ties under the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) framework, and ongoing regulatory reforms to improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan. SIFC continues to facilitate engagement with international investors by showcasing commercially viable projects, coordinating with relevant government institutions and promoting an investor-friendly business environment. The visit reflects ongoing efforts to expand Pakistan-Netherlands economic cooperation, encourage foreign investment and strengthen mutually beneficial trade and commercial ties.

KP Badminton Association Meets New DG Sports

Delegation discusses player development, training facilities and promotion of badminton

SPORTS REPORTER

PESHAWAR : A delegation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association, led by General Secretary Mian Sadaqat Shah, met newly appointed Director General Sports KP Wasil Khan and presented him with a bouquet to congratulate him on assuming office. Badminton coach Hayatullah and Association Deputy General Secretary Masood Khan were also present.

During the meeting, Mian Sadaqat Shah discussed ways to promote badminton, develop players and improve the standard of the sport across the province. He expressed hope that under Wasil Khan's leadership,



badminton and other sports would receive greater support through improved facilities, better training opportunities and enhanced assistance for athletes.

Fakhar Eyes Tri-Series as World Cup Preparation

TIMES REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman says the upcoming ODI tri-series against Sri Lanka and England will help the team regain momentum in the so-over format and prepare for the 2027 World Cup.

Pakistan will face Sri Lanka in the opening match at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday, with England completing the three-team line-up. The top two sides will qualify for the October 31 final. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Fakhar said the team had developed plans for the series while keeping the bigger World Cup challenge in mind. He said Pakistan's players were eager to perform well and use the competition to develop a strong

combination, particularly after an extended break from ODI cricket.

Fakhar added that the squad's recent first-class

and captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, alongside younger talents such as Saim Ayub, Hasan Nawaz and wicket-keeper Saad Baig.

The left-handed opener also acknowledged the pressure on senior players, saying appreciation and criticism were natural parts of professional sport. He stressed that every player was working to improve performance. Fakhar said the team was determined to turn promising performances into a major trophy, noting that reaching finals and semi-finals could not replace the satisfaction of winning a global title.

Pakistan's recent ODI record includes series victories over Sri Lanka, South Africa and Australia, although they lost an away series against Bangladesh earlier this year.



cricket commitments could help players adapt to the so-over format, as longer matches build rhythm and endurance. Pakistan's squad features experienced players, including Babar Azam, Salman Ali Agha

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wins Six Medals, Secures Third Place in National Cycling Championship

Cyclists claim two silver and four bronze medals; association seeks government support

SPORTS REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secured third position at the 10th National Road Cycling Championship 2026 in Karachi, winning six medals, including two silver and four bronze.

Junior cyclist Alishba won silver in the women's Individual Time Trial (ITT) and bronze in the road race. Ahmad Zaib claimed bronze in the Men's Elite ITT, while Muhammad Saad secured silver in the Men's Junior ITT.

The KP team comprising Ahmad Zaib, Abdullah, Muhammad Adnan and Khizar Hayat won bronze in the Men's Elite Team Time Trial. Abdul Rehman added another bronze in the Under-23 Men's ITT.

The championship was held with the support of the Pakistan Cycling Federation. Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa Cycling Syed Shayan Ali Shah and Ali appreciated the organisers event. Association Chairman Nisar

Ahmad congratulated the cyclists, coaches and team management, calling the achievement a significant success for the province despite limited resources. He said improved facilities, financial assistance and proper training could help provincial cyclists excel at national and international competitions. Nisar Ahmad expressed disappointment over the provincial government's failure to provide the association with the required financial support to participate in the championship. He urged the government and relevant sports authorities to provide adequate funding, equipment and facilities to promote cycling and prepare athletes for future competitions. Coach Sajid Ali Khan and team official Tahir also played an important role in the cyclists' preparation and performance.

Ahsan offers Narowal Sports City as training centre for national hockey team

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday called for concerted efforts to revive Pakistan's hockey glory through youth engagement, private sector support and modern training facilities.

Addressing a signing ceremony marking a partnership between the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and Vital Group to promote youth engagement and strengthen their association with the national hockey team, the minister said Pakistan had immense potential to regain its prominent position in international hockey.

Describing hockey as a symbol of national identity, he said talented young players should be encouraged to carry forward the legacy of Pakistan's gold-

en era and raise the national flag high at international competitions.

The minister underscored the importance of

personal expenses.

"A player's primary concern should be how to score the next goal rather than how to meet personal expenses," he said.



private sector patronage in promoting sports and supporting athletes, saying financial security would enable players to focus entirely on their performance rather than

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that excellence in modern sports required more than talent and physical ability, highlighting the growing role of sports science, technology and data-driv-

en performance analysis. Physical fitness, mental resilience, discipline and sustained concentration were also essential for success at the international level, he added. Referring to leading athletes worldwide, he said their achievements were built on consistent practice, discipline and an unwavering focus on performance. The minister also highlighted the vision behind establishing the National Sports City in Narowal, saying it offered international-standard infrastructure for 14 sports at one location to provide athletes with modern training facilities. He offered the National Sports City in Narowal as a permanent training centre for the Pakistan national hockey team, reaffirming the government's commitment to providing players with a conducive environment to improve their performance.

Smith targets batting depth for World Cup

WEB DESK

SOUTH AFRICA: Pakistan's South African batting coach Michael Smith wants the country's batsmen to develop greater adaptability and depth as the team begins a year-long build-up to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Pakistan's preparations will include an extensive programme of One-Day International cricket at home and abroad, with the upcoming ODI tri-nation series providing an opportunity to assess batting options and prepare for varying playing conditions.

Smith, a former South African first-class cricketer, said Pakistan's recent Twenty20 International series against Sri Lanka had offered useful preparation, particularly on pitches with additional pace and bounce.

"I think we played really well against Sri Lanka on some wickets that we asked for a little bit of pace and bounce because that's what

we are going to be getting in 12 months' time in the World Cup," Smith told PCB Digital.

Smith identified problem-solving as a key component of his coaching philos-



He stressed the importance of adapting to different surfaces, noting that teams could encounter contrasting conditions during the tournament.

"In the World Cup you are going to be playing in different places in South Africa and Zimbabwe where you could come across five different pitches in five different games," he

ophy, saying batters needed to make sound decisions against different bowling attacks and adjust their approach according to match situations.

"The biggest thing that we talk about is problem solving and being able to have the skillset to play on different wickets against different bowling attacks," he said.

PKF eyes reforms after Asian Games failure

TIMES REPORT

KARACHI: Pakistan's disappointing campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Nagoya has prompted the country's kabaddi authorities to consider changes

without a medal in kabaddi. The team failed to reach the semi-finals after suffering a 51-30 defeat by Iran in a crucial group match. However, the biggest setback came against Thailand, a rela-

first time in four decades," Pakistan Kabaddi Federation's (PKF) Secretary General and former national captain Mohammad Sarwar told The Express Tribune.

"We were leading Thailand by 14 points, but we lost the match in the last seven minutes. It was heartbreaking for all of us," Sarwar said.

He identified a lack of international exposure as one of the main reasons behind Pakistan's disappointing performance, saying regular competitions against top teams were essential to developing match temperament.

"Our biggest issue is the lack of exposure. Other teams travel to India and keep playing matches, and that makes a significant difference. We do not play against India and rarely travel abroad, except for major events.

'Pakistan should go with balanced squad in tri-series'

TIMES REPORT

KARACHI: Former Test opener Sadiq Mohammad has said that Pakistan should go with a balanced squad in the ODI tri-series which will begin on Sunday with the game between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi.

"Pakistan squad should carry five specialist batsmen, five bowlers and a stumper. My advice to Shaheen Afridi is to ensure that every player has a clearly defined role, with the right batsmen occupying their proper positions in the batting order," Sadiq told The Express Tribune in an interview.

"It is disappointing that Shahibzada Farhan and Maaz Sadqat are not in the ODI squad. They are the two in-form batsmen and needed to be there," Sadiq said. "Pakistan should build its batting lineup around

Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam and Hasan Nawaz, supported by a wicket-keeper batsman and the necessary all-

300 runs," Sadiq said.

He said that at least one established batsman should remain at the crease until



rounders. The bowling options could include Sufiyan Muqim, Arafat Minhas, Faheem Ashraf, Razaullah, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi and Abrar, depending on the final team combination. The middle order must be instructed to target a minimum total of

the final over to help Pakistan finish strongly.

"Whether batting first or chasing the objective should be to bat through all 50 overs and maximise the final total. Ideally, one of the top five batsmen should face the last ball of the 50th over and finish the innings

with a well-timed shot in front of square," Sadiq said.

"Bowlers must consistently hit a good length and maintain a disciplined line around the fourth stump, just outside off stump. Every delivery should have a clear purpose, with bowlers planning how to challenge the batter rather than simply delivering the ball."

"Razaullah's outswinging ability should be utilised with the new ball. I recommend giving him two overs with two slips in place and instructing him to pitch the ball up, inviting right-handed batsmen to play the cover drive and creating opportunities for catches in the slip cordon. Against left-handed batsmen, he should use his inswinger to target the pads and create opportunities for leg-before-wicket dismissals, with the field adjusted accordingly, including a deep square-leg fielder where appropriate," Sadiq said.



aimed at restoring Pakistan's standing in a sport in which it was once a major force on the international circuit.

For the first time in the history of the Asian Games, Pakistan returned

tively inexperienced opponent, who edged Pakistan 48-45 to severely dent their semi-final hopes.

"Yes, it was unfortunate that we returned without a medal for the



Russian Attaché Highlights Pakistan-Russia Education Cooperation

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Russian Cultural and Education Attaché Gleb Shubin has highlighted the potential for educational cooperation and cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Russia, saying academic partnerships can promote mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations between the two countries.

He was speaking at a certificate distribution ceremony at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), marking the successful completion of a one-month beginner-level Russian language course. Shubin attended as the chief guest and distributed certificates

among successful participants.

Addressing the ceremony, Shubin said educational cooperation offered people from both countries valuable opportunities to learn about each other's languages, cultures, academic traditions and social values. He congratulated the participants and expressed hope that such initiatives would further strengthen bilateral ties.

Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, AIOU has undertaken various initiatives to promote international academic collaboration, expand foreign language education and provide students with global learning opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director of International Collaboration and Exchange at AIOU, said the university was offering Pakistani students opportunities to learn foreign languages and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and educational traditions.

He said the Russian language course had reached its eleventh batch, with the next batch scheduled to begin in November. He added that the programme would continue in the future.

Dr. Majeed said the university also hosted Türkiye's Yunus Emre Institute and the Japan-Pakistan Advancement

Centre, enabling students to learn Turkish and Japanese and explore the respective cultures.

He further revealed that AIOU planned to establish Chinese and German language centres to broaden language-learning opportunities and strengthen international academic links.

Professor Dr. Anton Dolgov and Dr. Roman Porozov of Russia's Ural State Pedagogical University also shared their experiences of teaching Russian in Pakistan. They noted that learning foreign languages encouraged direct communication, cultural awareness and mutual trust among people from different countries.

Trump's Press Secretary Admits Failing Bar Exam

Katie Zacharia faces scrutiny over claims of legal credentials

AGENCY

WASHINGTON: New White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia acknowledged on Thursday that she had failed the bar exam, a prerequisite for practising law in the United States, as her credentials face scrutiny.

Zacharia has described herself as a lawyer during television appearances and on social media, and listed herself as general counsel of a California-based conservative nonprofit.

But the legal credentials of the press secretary, who President Donald Trump appointed last week, were called into question after she gave an inconclusive answer about where she had passed the bar exam.

The 41-year-old graduated from Pepperdine University's law school in 2011, but obtaining a law degree does not automatically qualify someone to practice law.

In a Fox News interview on Thursday, host Sean Hannity asked Zacharia: "you took the bar exam, but you didn't pass the bar exam, correct?"

"Yes," she responded. In a separate interview with conservative media outlet Real America's Voice on Thursday, Zacharia said she had registered to take the bar exam but was "distracted and overwhelmed"

by plans to move to China with her husband.

"The results are somewhat inconsequential because I knew I wouldn't need the bar in China," she said.

Foreign nationals cannot sit China's bar exam, although they can under

firm.

She added that she could "provide legal analysis, not legal advice."

"I was very careful how I executed this."

The Campaign for Accountability, a political ethics organisation, called on Wednesday for the



take certain legal work at Chinese law firms.

Hannity later asked Zacharia if she had ever taken the bar exam a second time, to which she said: "I did not."

"I had four kids in six years," she said. "It was never my intent to go into the practice of law."

Zacharia said on Real America's Voice that "many people in the field" had assured her that she could "label myself a lawyer," given her law degree and experience in business law gained in China, where she worked at a Beijing law

firm.

California Bar Association to launch an investigation.

"In California, calling yourself a lawyer without a license isn't puffery; it's a crime," the organisation said in a press release.

Zacharia held her first White House press briefing on Tuesday with an unusually short press conference, answering questions from only three journalists.

She succeeded Karoline Leavitt, a loyal Trump supporter and often combative press secretary, who stepped down in August to care for her young children.

Houthi Landmines Kill 4,501 People in Yemen

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Landmines in Yemen killed 4,501 people and injured 5,083 others between 2014 and 2025, leaving thousands of civilians, including children and women, among the victims, according to figures released by Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights.

The statistics put the total number of people killed or injured at 9,584, including 979 children killed and 1,213 injured. A further 338 women were killed and 381 wounded.

The latest concerns follow the discovery of anti-vehicle mines and improvised explosive devices disguised as rocks in Taiz Governorate and along Yemen's western coast, according to the Masam Project, which specialises in clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance.

In footage released on October 10, the project reported finding four explosive devices camouflaged to

resemble natural rocks in areas recently retaken from Houthi control. Such devices pose serious risks to farmers, herders, children and displaced families returning home.



The discoveries have raised fears that landmine contamination could prevent residents from returning safely to their homes and resuming agricultural activities.

According to the Masam Project, its teams removed 596,036 explosive items between July 2018 and October 2026. These includ-

ed 153,174 anti-vehicle mines, 7,759 anti-personnel mines, 8,689 improvised explosive devices and 426,414 unexploded items. Cumulative figures published through May

2026 showed that Aden recorded the removal of 135,583 explosive items, followed by Taiz with 130,364 and Marib with 124,698. The figures reflect the scale of explosive contamination and do not establish when every device was planted.

Human Rights Watch has previously documented the use of anti-personnel

mines by Houthi forces in several Yemeni governorates, including Taiz, and the resulting civilian casualties and damage to livelihoods.

The continuing threat has left families grieving lost relatives, children living with permanent disabilities and farmers unable to access their land. Hidden explosives also pose dangers long after fighting ends.

The crisis has wider regional implications because Yemen lies near the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a strategic maritime route linking the Red Sea with international trade routes.

Humanitarian and human rights organisations have called for expanded clearance operations, assistance for victims, independent investigations into the planting of mines in civilian areas, and rehabilitation of affected communities to enable displaced families to return safely.



KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
CULTURE & TOURISM
AUTHORITY



Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa
Forget Everything Else!

AUCTION NOTICE

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority invite sealed bids/public participation for auction of scrap and condemned/unserviceable store items lying in the store of Nishtar Hall, Peshawar, on as-is, where-is basis.

TERMS & CONDITION

- Interested Bidders must be active on active taxpayer list.
- Auction will be held on **11th November, 2026 at 11:00 AM** in the office of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Nishtar Hall, Peshawar.
- For participation in the auction, interested parties must bring their original CNIC along with one photocopy. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount on the spot.
- The successful bidder shall deposit the remaining amount immediately and remove the scrap items from the Nishtar Hall premises within two (02) days, failing which the bid **25% deposited amount shall be forfeited.**
- Interested parties may inspect the items in the store of Nishtar Hall during office hours on **9th & 10th November, 2026** and participate in the auction on the scheduled date and time.
- Rates must be inclusive of all applicable government taxes, including GST, Income Tax, and any other levies.
- The undersigned may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal, as per provision contained in KPTRA Rules 2014.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Culture & Tourism Authority,
Olympic Plaza, Peshawar Sports Complex, Stadium Road, Peshawar Cantt.
Phone # 091-9211091, Fax# 091-9210870

ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION

INF(P) 5248/26

The Afghan Refugee Issue, Pakistan's Security, Humanitarian Compassion, and the Government's Responsibility

**Picture of The Day**
Musawir Qureshi

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where Governor's Rule and an emergency administration have replaced the previous provincial government setup, has once again warned Afghan refugees to pack their belongings and return to their homeland, Afghanistan, voluntarily. At a time when Pakistan itself is facing serious challenges, the problems of Afghan refugees are also increasing. The Afghan refugee issue is closely linked to Pakistan's national security, economy, law, and humanitarian responsibilities.

For several decades, Pakistan has hosted Afghan refugees. However, the time has come for the Afghan government to take responsibility for its own citizens and make arrangements for their dignified return to Afghanistan. Many Afghan nationals have reportedly been detained by Pakistani authorities and sent back to Afghanistan, leaving their families deeply distressed. In some cases, the men are in Afghanistan while their wives and children remain in Pakistan. The plight of such families must be addressed, and arrangements should also be made for the safe return of women and children so that they do not have to endure further hardship and separation.

Afghans did not come to Pakistan in search of luxury or a comfortable life. Millions were forced to leave their homeland because of wars and insecurity. In particular, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar, and surrounding areas helped Afghan refugees to the best of their ability. They supported them in finding accommodation and establishing businesses, often enduring difficulties themselves rather than abandoning their Afghan brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately, despite this hospitality, some anti-Pakistan Afghan voices continue to use abusive language against the very Pashtuns and Pakistani citizens who supported them. Such attitudes are fueling hatred between Pakistan and Afghanistan and turning longstanding friendship into hostility.

Despite its economic difficulties, Pakistan has carried the burden of hosting millions of people. The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have also felt the impact of this responsibility in their daily lives.

It must be remembered, however, that hospitality does not mean that a country's laws should be ignored indefinitely. Pakistan has the right to protect its borders, maintain the integrity of its national identity system, and enforce laws governing the residence of foreign nationals.

For many years, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has suffered from terrorism and insecurity. The government and security agencies must take serious measures against terrorism, fake identity cards, and illegal activities. According to reports, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has taken action in connection with the alleged illegal issuance of Pakistani identity cards and passports to Afghan nationals. It has been reported that a case was registered against 14 Afghan nationals, while investigations also brought to light allegations involving payments ranging from Rs800,000 to Rs2.8 million for obtaining fake documents.

The manufacture of fake identity cards and the FIA's arrests in such cases are not new in Pakistan. Unfortunately, producing counterfeit documents and engaging in fraudulent practices have become relatively easy in our country.

Similarly, obtaining government jobs through fake or fraudulent documents is not always difficult for those who have money and connections. Dishonest people exist in every department, although there are also many sincere and honest officials.

In the current case, the FIA's action should not be limited to those who obtained fake identity cards. Those who manufactured the cards or facilitated the illegal process must also be arrested. If any government official or other individual is found involved, they should be prosecuted, removed from service where legally warranted, and punished strictly in accordance with the law.

At the same time, the Government of Pakistan must not overlook the problems faced by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Alongside the Afghan refugee issue, local residents are struggling with inflation, unemployment, inadequate healthcare and education facilities, and insecurity.

In some areas, population growth resulting from the presence of Afghan refugees has placed additional pressure on housing, employment, and other essential services. However, the solution is not to promote hatred against Afghans. Instead, the government should identify the specific challenges facing different areas and take practical measures to address them.

The federal government should work with the provincial government and relevant institutions to resolve public grievances. Providing Pakistani citizens with employment, education, healthcare, and other basic facilities is the government's responsibility. At the same time, clear rules should be established for Afghan nationals who possess valid legal documents, including regulations concerning their res-

idence and other related matters.

Pakistan has the right to take action against people residing illegally in the country in accordance with its laws. However, the process of returning Afghan refugees should be conducted in a manner that does not subject innocent people to unnecessary hardship.

A closer look at the situation reveals that hundreds of thousands of Afghans have spent a major part of their lives in Pakistan. Many have never even seen Afghanistan. They were born here, received their education here, got married here, and raised their children here. How will such people manage their lives when they return to Afghanistan? How will they find accommodation, education, and employment?

Some may even consider me guilty of raising these questions, asking why I am discussing such matters. But the sun cannot be hidden by pointing a finger at it.

It is also a fact that Pakistan is facing serious difficulties because of the terrorist activities of certain Afghan nationals. Pakistan has every right to send Afghan nationals back to Afghanistan in accordance with its laws. However, the situation in Afghanistan remains difficult. If hundreds of thousands of Afghans return, arrangements for their accommodation, education, and employment will also be necessary. Although this is primarily the responsibility of the Afghan government, discussions should be held with the relevant Afghan authorities and international organizations to develop a practical and sustainable solution.

Afghans who spend day and night spreading hatred against Pakistan on social media should stop fueling hostility and instead focus on addressing the housing and employment problems of poor

Afghan families. We also urge the Afghan government to improve its relations with Pakistan. The entire burden of the Afghan refugee issue should not be placed solely on Pakistan and its people. International organizations must also fulfill their responsibilities. At this stage, it is also necessary to ask the Government of Pakistan and the relevant institutions a few important questions:

- What system is in place to distinguish between people residing legally and illegally in Pakistan?

- What measures are being taken to prevent the manufacture of fake identity cards and passports?

- What action will be taken against government officials found involved in the illegal issuance of identity cards?

- What practical plan does the government have to provide the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with employment, education, healthcare, and security?

Will people be given a fair opportunity to present their legal documents and file complaints when necessary?

The law must be enforced equally for everyone. No influential individual should be allowed to escape accountability because of money, personal connections, or official position. The Afghan refugee issue cannot be resolved in a single day. Pakistan must protect its security, borders, and laws, but it must also uphold human dignity, compassion, and justice. People residing illegally in Pakistan, those manufacturing fake documents, and individuals involved in criminal activities should be dealt with according to the law. At the same time, Afghan nationals possessing valid legal documents should be treated with humanity and appropriate consideration.

Governor, Sherpao Discuss Political Situation, Law and Order

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi met Chairman of the Quami Watan Party (QWP) Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao at Sherpao House, Peshawar, to discuss the overall political situation, law and order and development-related matters in the province.

QWP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Sikandar Hayat Sherpao was also present during the meeting.

The discussion focused on the prevailing situation in the province, the challenges facing the people and the need for coordinated efforts to promote peace, improve governance and accelerate development activities. Both leaders emphasised the importance of continued consultation and cooperation among political stakeholders to address public concerns and strengthen peace and stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They also stressed that resolving public issues and ensuring the timely implementation of development initiatives should remain key priorities.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim is chairing a meeting at the Governor House regarding the tragic incident of the roof collapse of a school in Kundi Dir Colony.

Governor orders report on private school safety law in 15 days

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday directed the authorities to ensure strict enforcement of safety regulations for private schools and ordered preparation of new legislation within 15 days following the tragic roof collapse at a private school here in Dir Colony.

Chairing a meeting at the Governor House, the Governor was briefed by Peshawar Commissioner Captain (R) Khalid Mahmood on the incident and the related administrative matters. Adviser for Education Amir Abdullah,

Deputy Commissioner Afaq Wazir and senior officials of the Education Department attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the school owner had obtained a 16-marla plot on a 10-year lease and constructed the building. It was further informed that the school was registered in 2026, but the management had failed to comply with the prescribed standard operating procedures (SoPs).

Expressing deep grief over the tragedy, Governor Kundi termed the incident highly unfortunate and stressed the need to identify

and inspect buildings constructed without approved building plans. He said the Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs) could play an effective role in inspecting buildings across the city.

The Governor directed the authorities to ensure strict implementation of SoPs for the establishment of private schools and construction of their buildings. He said all relevant institutions must perform their responsibilities effectively and those responsible for the incident would be proceeded against.

He also directed strict enforcement of rules governing registra-

tion and safety measures for private schools, besides taking action against institutions operating without registration certificates and prescribing appropriate penalties.

Governor Kundi further ordered the formulation of effective legislation to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulatory procedures in educational institutions, directing the authorities to submit a report within 15 days. He also stressed transparency, effective oversight and adoption of best administrative practices in the management of private schools.

KP Governor Raises Compensation for Police Martyrs, Injured

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has approved a substantial increase in compensation and financial assistance for police martyrs, injured personnel and their families under a special



relief package.

In a video message on Friday, the Governor announced enhanced compensation for police martyrs, financial assistance for their families and an increase in salaries of police personnel. Under the revised package, compensation for martyred constables to inspectors has increased from Rs11 million to Rs17 million, while the amount for martyred DSPs and ASPs has risen from Rs16 million to Rs25 million.

Muqam Announces Double Compensation, Private School for Dir Colony

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President, Engineer Amir Muqam, has announced that compensation for the victims of the tragic private school building collapse in Dir Colony, Peshawar, will be doubled. He also called for the early completion of investigations, strict action against those responsible, and the construction of a government school in the area. The federal minister visited the site of the tragic incident on Friday and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives. He conveyed heartfelt condolences

to the bereaved families on behalf of himself, PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, and Prime



Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He also offered Fateha for the departed souls.

Speaking to the media during his visit, Engineer Amir Muqam described the

incident as extremely tragic and regrettable. He expressed serious concern over the construction of



such a large building supported by girders without adequate safety measures or proper oversight. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had ordered an inquiry into the incident to

determine the causes of the collapse and identify those responsible. "Such tragic incidents must be prevented in the future. It must be investigated who granted permission for the construction of such a building," he said.

The federal minister stressed that the investigation should be completed without delay and that those found responsible must be brought to justice. Engineer Amir Muqam further announced that the compensation previously announced by the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the affected families would be doubled. He said the bereaved families and local residents had highlighted several problems facing the area, particularly the lack of a government school.

Rubina Khalid Visits Dir Colony Victims' Families, Calls for Accountability

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid visited Saeedabad, Dir Colony, Peshawar, to offer condolences to families who lost their children and loved ones in the tragic school roof collapse.

She expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of innocent children and teachers and conveyed her heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families.

Speaking to the media, Senator Rubina Khalid said those responsible for negligence or lapses must be identified and held accountable under the law. She

stressed the need to address systemic shortcomings to prevent similar tragedies.



She urged political and other stakeholders to avoid point-scoring over the incident and instead stand in solidarity with the grieving families and

work collectively to address the underlying issues. The BISP chairper-



son prayed for the departed souls, strength and patience for the bereaved families, and the speedy recovery of those injured.

Adviser Irshad Visits Families of Peshawar School Tragedy Victims

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Member of the Advisory Council for Industries and Commerce Muhammad Irshad, accompanied by fellow advisers, visited the families affected by the tragic school incident in Peshawar on Friday to offer condolences over the deaths of more than two dozen students.

During the visits, Irshad expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved parents and relatives.

He described the incident as an irreparable tragedy, saying the loss of young children had plunged the affected families and the wider community into grief.

Irshad said standing alongside the bereaved families during this difficult time was a collective humanitarian responsibility. He stressed that the affected families should not be left alone to cope with their loss.

He prayed for strength and patience for the families and the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident.

KP Orders Province-Wide School Safety Survey After Dir Colony Tragedy

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Member of the Advisory Council for Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah visited Dir Colony on Friday to offer condolences to the families of children martyred in the tragic incident at a private school.

Accompanied by committee members Asif Rafiq, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah and Kifayatullah, he visited the bereaved families at their homes and expressed sympathy with the parents and relatives of the victims.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Abdullah said an initial committee had collected preliminary information about the incident and submitted its report. The government had now formed a high-level committee to

conduct a detailed inquiry and submit its findings within seven days. Those found responsible would face action, he added.



He said a survey of around 12,500 private schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been ordered, with the report due within four days. The Communication and Works Department had also been

directed to inspect government schools and assess their structural condition.

Dr. Abdullah said government schools were

shifted to safer institutions without disrupting their education.

He described the loss of young lives as an irrepara-

ble tragedy and stressed that the incident would not go unaddressed. He added that the legal framework for issuing NOCs to private schools was also being reviewed to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Governor's Adviser Reviews Energy, Development Projects

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Energy and Power and Planning and Development, Usman Saif Ullah Khan, attended an introductory briefing by senior officials of the two departments.

The officials briefed him on departmental structures, ongoing projects, development priorities, key challenges and future plans. Speaking on the occasion, Usman Saif Ullah Khan said energy and planning were essential to provincial development.

Dr Aamir Abdullah Reviews ESEF Performance, Orders Education Reforms

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Member of the Education Advisory Council Dr. Aamir Abdullah visited the headquarters of the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation (ESEF) in Hayatabad and reviewed its performance, educational initiatives and future plans.

Managing Director ESEF Qaiser Alam, Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Masood Ahmed, and other officials attended the briefing.

Dr Aamir Abdullah was

briefed on the foundation's formal and non-formal education programmes, scholarships, student support initiatives, financial matters and future targets.

He directed the foundation to present available reports on students' learning outcomes in non-formal education and stressed that assessments should be conducted through an independent third party. Officials said a proposal would be forwarded to the relevant authorities. He also directed that an ESEF Board meeting be convened next week.

Seeking reliable data on out-of-school children, he instructed officials to provide figures showing how many students had moved from non-formal to formal education over the past three years. He said NADRA could help verify the data and stressed that foundation records should match students' B-Form numbers to ensure accuracy.

During the visit, he also reviewed language courses offered at the foundation's Global Virtual Education School in Gulbahar, Peshawar. He

directed officials to introduce Arabic and French courses, hire qualified instructors and publicise the programme to attract more students.

He further sought verified data on students transferred to schools handed over to the private sector under the government's school outsourcing initiative. Reviewing the foundation's inclusive school project for children with learning difficulties, Dr. Aamir Abdullah was informed that it was the first initiative of its kind in the province.

Bannu Administration, Bakakhel Elders Agree on Dialogue

TIMES REPORT

BANNU: Deputy Commissioner Zia ur Rehman and District Police Officer Shafiullah Khan Gandapur met a delegation of elders from Tehsil Bakakhel at the DC's office on Friday to discuss local issues and public grievances.

The delegation welcomed the newly appointed deputy commissioner and DPO, Zia ur Rehman assured the elders that the district administration would work closely with them to resolve public

issues through consultation, mutual understand-



ing and cooperation.

He said the administration was committed to protecting citizens' rights and that its doors remained open to local elders and affected residents.

DPO Shafiullah Khan Gandapur said no one was



above the law and that bringing criminals to justice was the responsibility of the police and the legal system. He assured the delegation that no one would be harassed without justification.