

Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: <https://dailyfinancialtime.com>

Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 15 Issue: 20 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Friday October 02 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

‘Dead’ soldier appears alive: Pakistan Army exposes Indian false-flag operation



ANI

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry is holding an important press conference about “another false-flag” operation by India.

Addressing the media, DG ISPR said he would discuss what he described as a “so-called terrorist incident” and an alleged false-flag operation staged by India’s political and military leadership.

Indian media had claimed that the individual allegedly killed in the incident was affiliated with the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

and was serving in the Pakistan military. The reports, citing unnamed sources, identified the individual as Mohammad Asif.

He presented a five-point timeline, stating that the sequence of events began on September 29.

Reading from a social media post by the Indian Army’s Chinara Corps, the DG ISPR said that on the night of September 29, the Indian corps deployed in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) claimed that, based on joint intelligence reports, the Indian Army, police and CRPF had launched an operation in the general area of Korag, Yousmarg.

He then referred to another

Chinara Corps post, dated the morning of September 30, which claimed that Indian forces had recovered the body of a “Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist.” The military spokesperson said Indian news agency ANI later reported that the deceased had been identified as Mohammad Asif, who had allegedly been inducted into the Special Services Group (SSG).

The DG ISPR added that India’s Ministry of Home Affairs and Press Information Bureau also repeated the same claims. DG ISPR said that India later provided further details linking the alleged terrorist to a person named Asif Ilyas, whereas Muhammad Asif was sitting in

front of the media.

At this point, the military spokesperson presented Muhammad Asif to the media, where he explained the facts surrounding the matter.

Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the deceased, Muhammad Asif, was a havaladar in the Special Services Group (SSG).

He said such reports had brought back memories of the Uri and Pahalgam incidents.

Muhammad Asif says ‘I am alive’

Speaking to the media, Havaladar Muhammad Asif said he is a resident of Pindi Gheb in Attock district.

PM orders expansion of Aasaan Khidmat Centers across country



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterating commitment to providing citizens with fast, transparent, and high-quality services at their doorstep, directed that Aasaan Khidmat Centres should be established in other parts of the country in collaboration with the private sector.

Chairing a meeting on the performance and expansion of Pakistan Aasaan Khidmat Centres, the prime minister stressed that citizens should not have to make repeated visits to government offices to obtain public services.

Providing citizens with multiple government services under one roof through Aasaan Khidmat Centres is the government’s top priority, the prime minister said adding that the time required to provide various services at the Pakistan Aasaan Khidmat Centre should be reduced further. He directed that the process of expanding the Pakistan Aasaan Khidmat Centre in Islamabad should also be expedited.

He directed that the number of staff at various counters of the Islamabad Aasaan Khidmat Centre be increased according to citizens’ needs. The prime minister further directed that the third-party performance audit report of the Islamabad Aasaan Khidmat Centre should also be presented and work on the Aasaan Khidmat Centres in Muzaffarabad,

Gilgit, and Skardu should be expedited and that these centres be made operational at the earliest.

He directed that immediate steps be initiated for establishing Aasaan Khidmat Centres in Peshawar and Bannu. The prime minister also directed that a comprehensive plan for establishing Aasaan Khidmat Centres in existing federal government buildings in Peshawar and Bannu be presented at the earliest. The meeting was briefed on the expansion of the Islamabad Aasaan Khidmat Centre, the services being provided there, and its performance.

The meeting was informed that more than 171,000 applications had been processed at the Islamabad Aasaan Khidmat Centre from January to September.

According to the briefing, 99.5% of citizens expressed satisfaction with the services provided by the Islamabad Aasaan Khidmat Centre. The average time for providing services at the Islamabad Aasaan Khidmat Centre is 3 to 10 minutes, the meeting was informed.

The meeting was also briefed on progress regarding the establishment of Pakistan Aasaan Khidmat Centres in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Federal Ministers Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, along with senior officials of the relevant institutions, attended the meeting.

JI to launch long march if govt fails to provide relief: Hafiz Naeem



ANI

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said the party would launch a long march if the government failed to contact it and provide relief to the public, while reiterating its demand for withdrawal of the petroleum levy.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Hafiz Naeem said inflation and rising petrol, electricity and gas prices had made life difficult for the public. He said JI had launched a nationwide signature campaign against the petroleum levy and would march towards Islamabad after securing more than 20 million signatures, with caravans joining from southern Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said several rounds of talks with the government had produced no result and urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to intervene. Hafiz Naeem also criticized IPP capacity payments, government spending and interest rates, and called for talks with PTI over its demands, including issues concerning Imran Khan’s health, hospital transfer and meetings.

‘Off-the-record talks’ underway with PTI over Islamabad long march: Sanaullah

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Thursday confirmed that the federal government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding “off-the-record” discussions over the party’s planned October 4 protest march towards Islamabad. “Off-the-record talks are ongoing with senior PTI leaders,” he said while speaking in Geo News’ morning show “Geo Pakistan” on Thursday. The PTI had earlier postponed its planned long march towards the federal capital from September 27 to October 4. The former ruling party has said the protest is aimed at seeking the release of its jailed founding chairman and what it describes as the restoration of constitutional supremacy. Speaking on the morning show, the prime minister’s aide said arrangements have been made to prevent long march



participants from entering Islamabad “if the PTI leadership does not call off the proposed protest”. He also described a provincial government-led march towards Islamabad as a violation of constitutional and legal provisions. Sanaullah, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz’s stalwart, also said the Constitution provided a procedure for imposing governor’s

rule and that the option remained under consideration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said the final decision would require the constitutional process and parliamentary approval. On the role of social media in PTI’s decision-making, he said people operating from social media platforms were dictating the party’s course. PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, he said, continued to provide guidance to the party and that his opinion and approval were sought on major matters.

Sanaullah added that decisions concerning the provinces rested with parliament, while the prime minister would state the government’s position when the matter came before parliament. “When the matter comes before parliament, the prime minister [Shehbaz Sharif] will give his position,” the PM adviser said, adding that Nawaz Sharif would also give his view when the issue reached the appropriate forum.

Pakistan strikes terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan, 22 militants reportedly killed: info ministry



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Multiple militants were killed as Pakistan carried out “well-planned and calibrated” aerial strikes on terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Information said on Thursday.

The strikes were carried out as part of Operation Ghazab lil-Haq and Pakistan’s resolve to eliminate terrorists, their networks and supporters, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the strikes were based on credible intelligence and targeted terrorist camps and hideouts at two locations belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij, Fitna al-Hindustan and their affiliates.

“Targets were destroyed with precision,” the ministry said, adding that initial reports suggested 22 terrorists had been killed. Large quantities of weapons and ammunition stored at the hideouts were also destroyed, according to the statement.

“Pakistan has always strived for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. However, the safety and security of our citizens remains our foremost priority,” the ministry said.

It expressed concern that Afghanistan continued to remain a hub of terrorism, adding that the threat to Pakistan emanated from Afghanistan. “In this context, our action precisely targeted the terrorist hubs,” the ministry said, adding that maximum precautions were taken to ensure

there was no collateral damage.

The ministry said the country’s counterterrorism campaign, Ghazab lil-Haq, being conducted under the vision of Azm-e-Istehkam by the security forces and law enforcement agencies, would continue at full pace. It said the campaign would continue to “wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism” from the country. The latest strikes come a week after Pakistan carried out precision aerial and drone strikes on 10 locations in Afghanistan in response to attempted drone attacks launched from Afghanistan territory. On September 24, Tarar said that the strikes targeted locations used for launching and storing drones, describing the action as a “deliberate, precise, calibrated and proportionate” response.

The development followed Pakistan’s interception of eight drones that entered its airspace from Afghanistan. Security sources said four drones were brought down near the Torkham border, while four others were shot down in mountainous areas near Kohat. Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns with the Taliban regime over the use of Afghan territory for hostile operations and the presence of terrorist networks and sanctuaries there. Separately, security forces killed six militants during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) against Fitna al-Hindustan in Balochistan’s Kachhi district, security sources said today.

The militants were successfully targeted using quadcopters in the Sani area of Kachhi district under Operation Radd-ul-Fitan 3, the sources said. A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the militants, while a clearance operation was continued in the area to eliminate any remaining militants, they added.

Six terrorists killed in Balochistan’s Kachhi: state media

ANI

Six terrorists were killed in an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO) in the Sanni area of Kachhi district, Balochistan, state-run Radio Pakistan reported on Thursday, citing security sources. The operation was carried out under Operation Radd-ul-Fitan 3 against Fitna al-Hindustan, according to the sources.

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as Fitna al-Hindustan, accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through the outfits. The terrorists were successfully targeted using quadcopters, while a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from those killed, Radio Pakistan said. A clearance operation was underway in the area to eliminate any remaining terrorists.

Sources said that security forces remained committed to eliminating terrorism across the country under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activity over the past three months, with a series of attacks across the country resulting in the martyrdom of security personnel and civilians.

Sustainable growth, capital formation, private sector development vital to economic progress: FM

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday reaffirmed the government’s commitment to sustainable economic growth, macroeconomic stability and private sector-led development, stressing the importance of capital formation and a vibrant capital market in driving Pakistan’s economic progress.

He was addressing a Gong Ceremony organized by Arif Habib Corporation at the Pakistan Stock



Exchange (PSX) in Karachi to mark the listing of Naya Nazimabad

Apartments REIT. The minister highlighted the strong performance of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, noting that the KSE-100 Index had increased from around 67,000 points in March 2024 to around 170,000 points. He also highlighted the significant broadening of investor participation, with 25,281 new investors added at PSX in September 2026, the highest ever in a single month, taking the total investor base to 656,218, more than double the 321,144 investors recorded in March 2024. He further noted that 11 companies had come to the market during FY26.



Islamabad: Former ICCI Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry congratulates newly elected President Zikria Akbar Zia on assuming office. Former Executive Member Imtiaz Abbasi is also present.

Thar Citizen Forum Urges Declaration of Tharparkar as Drought-Affected District

Report: ANI Reporter :

MITHI -- A delegation of the Thar Citizen Forum (TCF), led by Chairman Obhayo Junejo, met Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagirani and urged the administration to declare Tharparkar a drought-affected district. The delegation submitted a written request, citing inadequate and irregular monsoon rainfall and warning of its impact on rain-fed agriculture, livestock, fodder availability and rural communities.

The forum called for an immediate survey across all talukas to assess rainfall, crops, water sources and livestock. It also sought emergency fodder and drinking water, veterinary camps and livestock treatment facilities in affected areas.

The TCF further urged coordina-



tion with PDMA Sindh to prepare an emergency drought response plan.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Haleem Jagirani said reports were being collected from the respective talukas and assured that a comprehensive survey would be conducted. He said the findings would be forwarded to the relevant authorities and the Sindh government would be approached for assistance.

Alliance Française de Karachi Opens Documentary Exhibition on Climate Change and Child Marriage in Sindh

Report: ANI

KARACHI -- Alliance Française de Karachi has opened "The Too-Young Monsoon Brides," a documentary photography exhibition exploring the links between climate change, economic vulnerability and child marriage in Sindh.

Held at Avari Towers, the opening brought together representatives of Karachi's diplomatic, cultural and academic communities. The exhibition features 30 portraits by French photographer Isabeau de Rouffignac, each accompanied by a personal account from the young woman photographed.

Presented in partnership with Avari and supported by the Embassy of France in Pakistan, the exhibition moved to Alliance Française de Karachi on October 1 and will remain on display until October 11, 2026. The exhibition examines how climate-related disasters can intensify existing social and economic pressures that may contribute to child marriage. De Rouffignac said the 2022 floods, which affected millions of people across Pakistan, placed additional economic pressure



on vulnerable families in parts of Sindh.

The photographer said the project was based on personal encounters with affected families and aimed to give greater visibility to the experiences of young women, rather than reducing the issue to statistics.

The 30 portraits were produced during her fieldwork in Pakistan in early 2025. She invited each girl to choose her own clothes for the pho-

Tharparkar Police Hold Crime Review Meeting Under SSP Arif Aziz

Report Nareender Kumar/ANI

MITHI -- A crime review meeting of Tharparkar Police was held at the office of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tharparkar Arif Aziz, with all Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Station House Officers (SHOs) of the district in attendance.

During the meeting, SSP Arif Aziz reviewed the performance of police officers and expressed serious concern over unsatisfactory performance in certain cases, particularly the failure to arrest the actual accused.

Disciplinary action was initiated against some officers, while show-cause notices were also issued over lapses in the performance of their duties. The SSP directed all SHOs to take effective measures to improve



the law-and-order situation and ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property. He made it clear that negligence and dereliction of duty would not be tolerated.

He further directed police officers to intensify operations against drug dealers, criminals and other anti-social elements, ensure the arrest of

MNA and NA Information & Broadcasting Committee Chairman Pullain Baloch Visits Radio Station in Quetta



Report: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- Member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the National Assembly Standing

Committee on Information and Broadcasting, Pullain Baloch, visited a radio station in Quetta. During the visit, he was briefed on the station's various departments, broadcasting

FBR Collects Over Rs3 Trillion in First Quarter of FY27, Exceeds Quarterly Target

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD --The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has provisionally collected around Rs3.066 trillion to Rs3.078 trillion during the first quarter of fiscal year 2026-27, exceeding its quarterly target of Rs3.053 trillion, according to the latest figures.

FBR Chairman said around 5.5 million tax returns have been received so far, compared with 4 million during the corresponding period last year, indicating a significant increase in tax filing. In September, the FBR provi-



sionally collected more than Rs1.344 trillion against the monthly target of Rs1.343 trillion. During the first two months of FY27, collection stood at

Rs1.722 trillion, around Rs12 billion above the two-month target.

Sales tax contributed around Rs1.14 trillion during the quarter, while customs duty stood at approximately Rs312 billion and Federal Excise Duty (FED) at around Rs197 billion. The FBR also issued tax refunds during the quarter, with the latest figures indicating refunds of around Rs203.2 billion. The revenue authority said it continues to focus on improving tax collection, enforcement and compliance to meet the government's revenue targets for FY2026-27.

President Zardari and PM Shehbaz Discuss Political and Security Situation

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday to discuss the country's overall political and security situation. The meeting also expressed concern over the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The President and Prime Minister stressed the need for effective coordination among relevant institutions to strengthen the national resolve against terrorism and maintain peace and stability.

It was decided that a joint delegation of the federal government and Pakistan Peoples Party would meet the PTI leadership on Friday to discuss the current political situation.



The delegation will include Mohsin Naqvi, Rana Sanaullah and Amir Muqam from the federal government, while Sherry Rehman, Syed Naveed Qamar and Aijaz Jakhani will represent the PPP. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin

Naqvi, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Adviser Rana Sanaullah, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, Sherry Rehman, Saleem Mandviwalla, Sharjeel Memon and Syed Nasir Hussain Shah also attended the meeting.

PFUJ Condemns Restrictions on Afghan Media, Calls for Protection of Journalists

Report: ANI Reporter :

ISLAMABAD-- The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has strongly condemned growing restrictions on media freedom in Afghanistan, including censorship, detention, intimidation and limited access to information.

In a statement, PFUJ President Rana Muhammad Azeem and Secretary General Shakeel Ahmed said journalists must be able to per-

form their professional duties without fear or retaliation. They said restrictions on political programmes, live broadcasts, women's participation and reporting on sensitive issues undermine the public's right to information.

The PFUJ urged the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the United Nations and the international community to press Afghan authorities to protect journalists and restore media freedoms.

The union called for the release of detained journalists, an end to harassment and intimidation, independent access to information, and equal professional rights for women and men working in journalism.

The PFUJ reaffirmed its solidarity with Afghan journalists and media workers, stressing that the international journalistic community should continue supporting those facing threats, detention or censorship in the course of their professional duties.

Standing Committee Recommends Rs. 5,000 Minimum Wheat Support Price, Calls for Uniform Farmer Subsidy

By: Ahmed Shamsur Rehman/ ANI

ISLAMABAD -- The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research has recommended fixing the minimum wheat support price at Rs. 5,000 per 40 kg or above and called for a uniform subsidy mechanism for farmers across the country.



The recommendation was made during the committee's 31st meeting at Parliament House, chaired by Syed Tariq Hussain, MNA. The committee stressed that the National Wheat Policy 2026-2030 should be finalized and announced before the wheat sowing season.

Members expressed concern over rising input costs, expensive fertilizers, inadequate mechanization, poor-quality seeds, limited agricultural research, storage problems and weak export performance.

The Minister for National Food Security and Research briefed the committee on the proposed wheat

policy and subsidy models, saying consultations with provincial governments would be held within a week and the policy announced before sowing.

The committee called for an easy and uniform subsidy programme, noting different provincial approaches, including Punjab's proposed Kissan Card support, Sindh's assistance to farmers owning up to 25 acres and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's proposed in-kind subsidy of Rs. 5,000.

Members also raised concerns over wheat storage and marketing following the closure of PASSCO and urged measures to reduce production costs

and ensure timely availability of agricultural inputs.

The committee also discussed rice exports, calling for efforts to expand international markets and improve the competitiveness of Pakistani agricultural products. It further called for action against hoarders involved in artificial price increases of fertilizers.

The meeting also considered the Seed (Amendment) Bill, 2026, but deferred its consideration until the next meeting. The committee directed NSDRA to brief it on progress since 2024 and submit the required rules and regulations.

Mushahid calls for regional strategy to tackle terrorism emanating from Afghan soil

ANI

Former senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed called for a multi-pronged regional diplomatic approach to tackle terrorism emanating from Afghan soil, saying the issue was not merely bilateral between Pakistan and Afghanistan but a wider regional security challenge requiring a collective response from Afghanistan's neighbours.

He made the remarks during his keynote concluding session at the two-day "International Conference on Afghan Predicament and Trajectory to Peace", organised by the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) in Islamabad. Sayed said Pakistan and Afghanistan could no longer afford further conflict, confrontation and instability in the region. He described the conference as a productive, "first-of-its-kind" initiative focusing on Afghanistan's relations with Pakistan and other neighbours to explore possible ways forward. Sayed noted that



Senator Sitara Ayaz, Secretary General of the IPC and host of the conference, had accompanied him twice to participate in a Track 1.5 Dialogue in Istanbul with Afghan counterparts, organised with the facilitation of Turkish friends.

"Both sides, including the Afghan side, accepted that the core issue dividing Pakistan and Afghanistan is the issue of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil, which is destabilising not only Pakistan but other neighbours of

Afghanistan as well," he said.

Sayed said the central conclusion of the Islamabad conference reflected the vision and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who, in his poems 100 years ago, linked peace in Afghanistan with peace in the region and Asia, while instability in Afghanistan inevitably produced instability and volatility across the region.

"Peace, security and stability are indivisible and inextricably intertwined with the region, especially Pakistan and Afghanistan," he observed. The former senator emphasised that despite differences with the regime in Kabul, Pakistan's relationship with the people of Afghanistan should remain paramount. Referring to the declaration adopted at the dialogue, he said a people-centric approach should ensure that links involving businessmen, traders, medical tourism and students from Afghanistan were not undermined.

Naqvi Reviews National Police Academy Projects, Directs Modern Training Facilities

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the National Police Academy in Islamabad and reviewed the ongoing development and upgradation projects. During the visit, he inspected various facilities being improved at the academy and stressed the importance of completing all projects within the stipulated time-frame and according to approved standards. In his visit to the academy, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also toured the model rooms prepared for under-training officers. He examined the facilities being developed for the trainees and received a briefing on the progress of different projects underway at the institution. Later, the Interior Minister chaired a meeting to review progress on the academy's upgradation plans. During the meeting, he directed the authorities to undertake the reconstruction of the conference room and



auditorium as part of the improvement process. Mohsin Naqvi instructed that all projects should be completed within the prescribed timeline with proper planning and in line with quality standards. He said that Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry is reviewing the academy's upgradation projects on a daily basis to ensure timely implementation.

The Interior Minister also directed

the provision of modern training equipment for under-training officers on the pattern of SWAT teams. He said that officers should be equipped with the tools and training necessary to meet professional requirements. During the meeting, Mohsin Naqvi issued instructions to engage qualified and experienced faculty members for the Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC).

Daily

FINANCIALTIMES

Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq

Executive Editor: Naseem Hassan Awan, Joint Editor: Hurish Shah

Disclaimer: All articles, columns, and opinions published in Financial Times are solely the views of their respective authors. The publication does not necessarily endorse or agree with the opinions, views, or positions expressed therein.

Opinion

3

K. L. Gauba and The Prophet of the Desert: A Remarkable Literary Journey



By: Mahmood Khan
Published By: ANI News Agency

K. L. Gauba remains one of the more unusual and intellectually fascinating figures of pre-Partition Punjab. A lawyer, politician, author and public intellectual, he lived through a period of profound political, social and cultural transformation in South Asia. His life crossed boundaries of religion, politics and literature, making him a distinctive figure in the intellectual history of the subcontinent.

Born Kanhaiya Lal Gauba in 1899 into the prominent family of Lala Harkishen Lal, Gauba received a distinguished education and studied law in England. After returning to Lahore, he established himself as a successful lawyer, but his interests extended well beyond the legal profession. He became involved in politics, journalism and literature and developed a reputation as an independent-minded thinker.

One of the most significant episodes in his life was his conversion to Islam in 1933. Following his conversion, he became known as Khalid Latif Gauba. His decision attracted considerable attention in Punjab, where religious identity was closely intertwined with social and political life. It was during this period that Gauba produced one of his most notable works, *The Prophet of the Desert*, published in 1934. Written in English, the book presented the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to an English-speaking readership.

The significance of the work lies not only in its subject but also in the historical circumstances surrounding its publication. Gauba sought to introduce the life and personality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to readers from both Muslim and non-Muslim back-

grounds at a time when British India was experiencing growing political competition and communal tensions.

By choosing English, Gauba sought to take Islamic history and thought beyond the established literary traditions of Arabic, Persian and Urdu and make it accessible to a wider readership. His work also reflected the increasingly important role of English-language literature in shaping intellectual discourse in colonial India.

Gauba's literary career, however, extended far beyond religious biography. He wrote on politics, society and the changing realities of colonial India. Among his works were *Uncle Sham*, *His Highness*, *The Rebel Minister* and *The Consequences of Pakistan*. He also published an autobiography, *Friends and Foes*.

His political career was similarly notable. He served in the Indian Legislative Assembly from 1934 to 1937 and subsequently in the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1941. These positions gave him direct exposure to the constitutional debates, political rivalries and communal tensions that were increasingly shaping the future of British India.

Gauba's political views did not always correspond with the dominant currents of his era. His 1946 book, *The Consequences of Pakistan*, expressed opposition to the proposed Partition. His position illustrates the diversity and complexity of political thought in the final years of British rule.

His career also demonstrates why historical personalities cannot always be understood through simple political or religious categories. Gauba's life encompassed significant changes in personal identity, intellectual interests and political outlook, reflecting the complicated realities of colonial Punjab.

The relationship between Gauba's personal transformation and his literary work is particularly noteworthy. His conversion to Islam took place dur-

ing a period of intense political and social change, and *The Prophet of the Desert* appeared soon afterwards. The book can therefore be viewed not only as a religious biography but also as a work emerging from the intellectual and cultural environment of colonial Punjab.

Gauba's experience also offers a perspective on interfaith engagement. At a time when relations between religious communities were becoming increasingly strained, his decision to write about the Prophet in English created an opportunity for readers from different backgrounds to encounter an important figure in Islamic history through a language accessible to a broader educated audience.

Today, K. L. Gauba is less widely remembered than many of his contemporaries, yet his writings offer a valuable window into the political, cultural and intellectual life of pre-Partition Punjab. His work reflects a period when writers and intellectuals frequently engaged with questions of identity, religion, nationalism and the future of the subcontinent.

The Prophet of the Desert is particularly noteworthy as a meeting point of literature, faith and history. Its author himself embodied many of the cultural complexities of South Asia, moving across religious, professional and intellectual boundaries during a period of extraordinary change. Gauba's story also reminds us that the history of the subcontinent cannot be understood solely through its political leaders or major historical events. Writers, lawyers, journalists and intellectuals played an important role in shaping the ideas and debates of their time. K. L. Gauba was one such figure. His life and *The Prophet of the Desert* represent a distinctive chapter in the history of English-language writing on Islam in South Asia and offer a reminder of the intellectual diversity that characterised Punjab before Partition.



By:Dr. Nasser Hussyn Bukhari
Published By:ANI News Agency

My previous column entitled “When Narrative Becomes a Cage” highlighted that the young generation and students of Karachi are suffering due to the narrative of “superiority complex” instilled in their minds by a lingual political party. That argument, however, described only one layer of a larger problem. The latest examination data invite a more analytical question: why do so many confident, well-resourced candidates fail in competitive examinations, and why is the pattern not confined to a single city?

The figures are hard to ignore. Of 12,792 candidates who appeared in the CSS 2025, only 342 cleared the written stage and just 170 passed the interview. No Karachi candidate appeared among the first 150 positions, while rural Sindh secured a place in the top three, two in the top 50 and four in the top 100. Karachi's first successful candidate stood at 154th. In the MDCAT 2026, the city likewise missed the top 20. The quota system cannot explain this, since quotas operate only at the posting stage. Merit positions reflect individual scores alone.

Educational psychology offers a better explanation. The first concept is the Dunning-Kruger effect: people with limited mastery of a subject tend to overestimate their competence, precisely because they lack the knowledge needed to recognise their own gaps. A student repeatedly told he is destined for the civil service has little reason to test that belief against reality. The second is the illusion of fluency. Polished coaching notes and neatly packaged lectures make material feel familiar, and familiarity is mistaken for mastery. Research on retrieval practice shows that durable learning comes from effortful self-

testing, not passive re-reading, yet passive consumption is exactly what many urban students are sold.

Third, Carol Dweck's distinction between fixed and growth mindsets is instructive. A candidate who has been taught that he belongs to a superior community, or is naturally brilliant, internalises ability as a fixed trait. Struggle then becomes a threat to identity rather than a normal part of learning, so he avoids difficult material and explains failure by blaming paper-setters or “the system.” Finally, Bandura's work on self-efficacy distinguishes genuine confidence, earned through mastery experiences, from inflated confidence that has never been tested. The former sustains effort; the latter collapses on first contact with a demanding examination.

These dynamics are reinforced by what may be called the academy mafia. Across Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other urban centres, a lucrative coaching industry has grown around competitive examinations. Its business model depends on selling aspiration. Glossy advertisements display toppers' photographs, promise guaranteed success and portray the civil service as a birthright for the city's educated youth. Fees are steep, batches are crowded, and the product is often a bundle of memorised notes, guess papers and motivational speeches rather than analytical training. Because the academy profits from enrolment rather than outcomes, it has little incentive to deliver unwelcome news. A struggling student is encouraged to continue, to buy the next course and to attempt again.

The psychological consequence is serious. Candidates are fed false hopes and a sense of entitlement, and their expectations drift away from their preparation. Selective reporting compounds the problem, since the few who succeed are celebrated while the many who fail vanish from the record. Students therefore misjudge their odds, much like gamblers who recall only the winners. Confirmation bias does the rest: warnings about

weak writing skills or shallow conceptual understanding are dismissed, while flattering feedback is remembered.

It would be wrong to confine this critique to Karachi. Urban candidates elsewhere share the predicament, and the explanation is structural rather than ethnic. Cities offer coaching centres, libraries and social capital, and these advantages generate a presumption of superiority. Yet resources are not results. A candidate from a small town or village, lacking glossy academies, often has no illusions about the odds. He studies longer, tests himself against past papers, and treats the examination as a mountain to be climbed rather than a formality. Hunger, in this case, is an educational asset.

Karachi, admittedly, carries an additional burden. Years of ethnic militancy, curfews and politicised institutions weakened its schools, and a narrative of cultural superiority took root in the vacuum. But that history should not become an alibi. The students of today did not inherit the guns; they inherited the complacency, and complacency can be unlearned.

What, then, should change? Parents should demand evidence of results from academies instead of trusting advertisements. Educators must teach analytical writing, conceptual reasoning and regular mock testing in place of rote preparation. Regulators should require coaching businesses to publish honest success rates. Above all, students need calibrated feedback, honest assessments of where they stand.

The conclusion is not that urban candidates lack talent or ambition. Successful candidates work deliberately to build their futures, studying with discipline and humility. Those who fail also strive for success, and many work hard. But overconfidence, nurtured by false narratives and commercial incentives, stands between them and the result they seek. Ambition without honest self-assessment is merely hope, and hope alone has never cleared a competitive examination.

BZU’s Withheld Records on Acting Registrar’s Appointment: Legal Notice Urges Vice Chancellor to Comply with Governor’s Disclosure Directive or Face Writ Petition in Lahore High Court

By: Hurish Shah
Published By:ANI News Agency

A public university weakens its moral authority when a citizen must repeatedly submit applications, send reminders and ultimately engage a lawyer merely to obtain records of its official decisions. Institutions that encourage critical inquiry should be equally willing to answer questions about their own administration.

Yet the documents and allegations surrounding Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, present a continuing dispute over access to official records, the limits of privacy protections and the accountability of public institutions. With a legal notice now served on the Vice Chancellor, a fundamental question arises: why has this matter been allowed to approach the threshold of litigation?

The controversy has previously received attention in *Daily Financial Times*. My column published on 10 June 2026, titled “Ignoring the Governor’s Orders? Allegations Against Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan’s Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zubair Ahmad Ghori and Registrar Ejaz Ahmad Over Withholding Records and Harassment of a Citizen,” examined Muhammad Aslam’s efforts to obtain documents concerning the Registrar’s appointment.

The requested material included an appeal, supporting documents, official responses and the final decision. The column also reported Aslam’s allegations of intimidation, while making clear that these claims required independent verification and that the university officials concerned should be given an opportunity to respond.

A second column, published on 15 June 2026 under the title “BZU Transparency Row Raises Right to Information Concerns,” examined the university’s reported reliance on privacy protections to refuse disclosure. It raised questions about whether records relating to official conduct and administrative decisions could properly be withheld through a general assertion that they concerned university officers.

These questions have now acquired greater urgency.

A legal notice dated 23 September 2026, issued through registered post by Malik Shah Nawaz Khokhar, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, on behalf of Muhammad Aslam, addresses the Vice Chancellor directly. It demands compliance with the directions issued by the Governor’s Secretariat on 14 May 2026 and the provision of certified and duly attested copies of the requested records.

According to the notice, the university’s Legal Branch declined the request through a letter dated 10 June 2026. Aslam subsequently submitted a representation to the Vice Chancellor on 14 June and a reminder on 27 July. His counsel maintains that the requested documents remain unavailable and that no sufficiently reasoned decision identifying the precise legal grounds for withholding them has been communicated.

The notice identifies specific records,



including a representation submitted by Dr Muhammad Shaukat, Professor and Director of the Institute of Banking and Finance at BZU, on 7 June 2022, and a report and comments submitted by the university’s Registrar on 20 July 2022. It also seeks the accompanying annexures, supporting documents, relevant inquiry proceedings, findings, recommendations, decisions and correspondence exchanged with the Governor’s Secretariat.

This specificity matters. The university is being asked to address identifiable administrative records, rather than respond to an undefined demand for information. A substantive response should therefore explain the status of the requested documents and the legal basis for any decision to withhold them.

Which document is exempt from disclosure, and why? What specific information requires protection? Has the administration considered releasing the remaining material after redacting any genuinely protected information? How does its position address the Governor’s Secretariat’s directions? Who holds the records, and which official is responsible for deciding the request?

These are questions that deserve clear, documented answers.

Privacy is a legitimate concern, and public institutions must protect information where the law requires them to do so. However, invoking privacy does not, by itself, explain why an entire collection of official correspondence, inquiry records and administrative decisions should remain inaccessible. The legal notice expressly seeks disclosure of separable material and a reasoned explanation identifying the statutory basis for any withholding.

The broader constitutional principle is clear. Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan recognises citizens’ right to access information in matters of public importance, subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law. The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013, also provides a statutory framework for obtaining information held by public bodies.

The dispute therefore calls for a legally grounded response, rather than an assumption that official records are beyond public scrutiny. At the same time, the precise scope of any disclosure obligation must be assessed against the applicable law, the nature of the records and any specific exemption that may legitimately apply.

The notice further states that Aslam has approached the Punjab Information Commission in Lahore through an application and a subsequent reminder. It demands preservation of the original and electronic records and calls for compliance within seven days of

receipt. The deadline runs from the date the notice is received; its date of issuance alone does not establish when the period expires.

If the requested documents are not provided within the stipulated period, Aslam intends to pursue their disclosure through a writ petition before the Lahore High Court, invoking Article 199 of the Constitution, while continuing the pending proceedings before the Punjab Information Commission.

The notice sets out this intended course of legal action. It does not establish that a writ petition has already been filed, nor does it predetermine the outcome of any proceedings.

Nevertheless, the prospect of further litigation raises an important administrative question: why should a citizen have to bear additional expense to obtain a clear and legally adequate response from a public institution? What public interest would be served by avoidable litigation? Has the Vice Chancellor personally reviewed whether the university’s position is adequately supported by the record and the applicable law?

These questions are not a substitute for legal proceedings. They are, however, legitimate matters of public accountability when the dispute concerns access to official records held by a public-sector university.

The legal notice represents the applicant’s position, not a judicial finding. The allegations must not be treated as established facts, and BZU must be afforded a fair opportunity to explain its actions, clarify the status of the requested records and set out the legal grounds for its decision.

Equally, fairness requires that the applicant receive an answer supported by reasons and, where disclosure is legally required, access to the relevant information. Neither allegations nor institutional silence can substitute for evidence.

The university leadership still has an opportunity to resolve the dispute responsibly: disclose the records that can lawfully be released, identify and justify any specific withholding, preserve the complete record and explain how its actions comply with the Governor’s Secretariat’s directions and the applicable right-to-information framework.

The university’s response will be important not only for Muhammad Aslam but also for public confidence in the administration of public-sector institutions. A university’s credibility rests not merely on the education it provides, but also on the standards of transparency, accountability and reasoned decision-making it upholds within its own administration. An institution that teaches students to question, investigate and seek evidence must be prepared to demonstrate those same principles in practice.

Ultimately, the issue is not whether a public institution should be exempt from scrutiny. It is whether its decisions can be explained, its legal obligations fulfilled and legitimate requests for public information resolved without unnecessary recourse to the courts. BZU now has an opportunity to provide that answer.

YOSSI MEKELBERG

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Brexit referendum and none of the promises made by those who supported leaving this unique arrangement have ever materialized. The UK is not more independent, because it was independent then; the economy is not doing better, but the opposite; public services have not enjoyed a bonanza as a result of not paying into the EU’s coffers; and immigration, which motivated many of the Brexiters, some more openly, others more tacitly, has only increased in recent years.

The case of resetting the relationship between the UK and the EU in the post-Brexit era reminded me of an Armenian proverb: “One fool threw a stone in the well, 40 wise people couldn’t get it out.” Hence, it is the task of the current wise people in government to rectify one of the most colossal acts of self-harm in British politics.

There is not a single member of the current Cabinet who did not support staying in the EU, including Prime Minister Keir Starmer. However, considering the paralysis the Brexit debacle caused, there is no appetite to reopen the question of returning as a full EU member. There is hardly any sign from the EU headquarters in Brussels, either, that European leaders have the energy to start such negotiations anytime soon.

Yet there is also recognition that burying the Brexit hatchet is in the interest of both Brussels and London – a view reinforced by the war in Ukraine, the Russian threat to Europe and the return of the unpredictable Donald Trump to the White House. Labour and its leader, Starmer, campaigned in the 2024 election on a platform of resetting relations with the EU, which was a euphemism for healing the rift with Europe and showing pragmatism, something that was missing throughout the Brexit affair. Negotiations over areas of common interest began almost immediately but are moving slowly, reflecting the cautious nature of the British leadership. Winning the last general election with a vast majority, even if not all Labour MPs are Europhiles, and the fact that most Britons constantly express in surveys that it was wrong for Britain to leave the EU and think that Brexit has been more of a failure than a success, should have encouraged the UK government to move faster. The price for not doing so is dear and the progress in negotiations should have been more rapid.

The Office for Budget Responsibility, the UK’s official independent economic and fiscal forecaster, concluded that the Brexit deal would reduce long-run productivity by 4 percent relative to remaining in the EU, while both exports and imports will be about 15 percent lower in the long term. Some estimate the cost to public finances of leaving the EU at £40 billion (\$53 billion) and it is already causing damage to the labor market, badly affect-

ing tourism and leading to fewer students from the EU, which has an impact on universities’ finances.

The tone under this government regarding Europe has changed, becoming friendlier and more positive, and has been followed by baby steps to repair the damage, with an emphasis on youth and some areas of trade. Some of these – such as the UK agreeing to rejoin the Erasmus student exchange program and further negotiate a youth jobs scheme, plus agreeing to adhere to the EU’s rules on food safety and animal health, clearing the way for trade in farm goods and reducing barriers between Northern Ireland and Great Britain – are most welcome. Moreover, on security issues, which have become crucial to defending Ukraine and containing Russia’s adventurism in other parts of

It is hardly a secret that the EU will not let the UK cherry-pick only what is convenient for itself, while opting out of one of the most daring experiments in history to bring nations together and overcome rivalries through open borders for people, goods and finance, which is precisely what the UK is trying to achieve.

Europe, the UK and the EU have drawn closer together and shown resolve.

Nevertheless, as long as the domestic agenda in the UK is dominated by immigration, it is almost impossible to rethink Brexit in full. With Labour lagging in third place

in opinion polls behind the anti-migration Reform UK and Conservative parties, the government is more inclined to incremental steps than big leaps forward. Starmer is refusing to consider rejoining the EU customs union, which reduces trade barriers by removing tariffs between its members and allows member states to charge the same taxes on goods imported from outside the bloc, let alone the single market that allows freedom of movement.

Given the overwhelming support among Labour voters in 2024 for rejoining the customs union, and the support among many in Parliament, such a move might prop up a government with very low approval ratings. The signing of trade deals with the US and India puts the UK in a more favorable position in the forthcoming negotiations with Brussels, but it would be a mistake for London to see that as a substitute for closer relations with its near neighbors, not only because of geographical proximity but also because of shared values. To sustain these shared values, advancing the case for a youth mobility scheme, for instance, is essential, as it would enable young people to study and work, at least for limited periods of time, on either side of the Brexit border. They would therefore build mutual rapport, appreciation and ties for a lifetime. Likewise the decision for the UK to rejoin Erasmus, the EU’s education and training scheme.

It is hardly a secret that the EU will not let the UK cherry-pick only what is convenient for itself, while opting out of one of the most daring experiments in history to bring nations together and overcome rivalries through open borders for people, goods and finance, which is precisely what the UK is trying to achieve.

To maximize the benefits for both sides, “resetting” the EU-UK relationship should be much bolder, mainly through seeking a formula for London to become as close to being a member as possible without becoming one officially, at least not for the time being. One measure could be to leave the door ajar to allow greater freedom of movement for those who can improve the economy or foster scientific and cultural collaboration. By reframing the conversation over migration more positively, this could allow for the richer experiences that are currently being denied to so many people.

The right-wing opposition would continue to shout from the sidelines and rooftops, as it does, that this government is betraying its promises on Brexit. However, since it is more than three years until the next general election and the majority of voters would like closer relations with the EU after the demonstrable failure of the Brexit experiment, this may just prove to be the joker up Starmer’s sleeve.

– Arab News

Faad Waheed Assumes PVMA Responsibilities, Vows to Promote Industry Growth

Report: Hurish shah FT:

ISLAMABAD--Faad Waheed has previously served as Senior Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) from 2022 to 2024. He has also served as an Independent Director of the National Productivity Organization (NPO), Government of Pakistan, and is currently working as Director Operations & Public Relations at Waheed Group of Companies (WGC). In his maiden speech, Faad Waheed highlighted the importance of the industrial sector in creating employment opportunities and ensuring uninterrupted availability of vegetable ghee and cooking oil, essential food items, to the public at



affordable prices.

He also outlined his plans to address challenges facing the industry and sought cooperation from

leading stakeholders, who assured him of their full support.

Talking to the media after assuming charge, Faad Waheed expressed his sincere gratitude to the senior members of the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) for their trust and confidence in his leadership. He said he was committed to addressing the challenges faced by Pakistan's ghee and cooking oil sector and contributing to its development.

Faad Waheed further said that, with his extensive experience, leadership capabilities and deep understanding of industry affairs, he would utilize his expertise for the welfare, development and sustainable growth of the sector.

Zikria Zia Assumes Charge as ICCI President, Vows to Promote Business Community's Interests

BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- Mohammad Zikria A Zia on Thursday formally assumed charge as President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), along with Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatah as Senior Vice President and Mohammad Waqas Khan as Vice President.

The new office-bearers assumed their responsibilities in the presence of ICCI Founder Group Chairman Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, former presidents Abdul Rauf Alam, Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Shaukat Masood, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Mehfooz Ellahi, Baser Daud and Shakil Munir, along with Executive Members and senior members of ICCI.

President Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan and Pakistan Business Forum Kashif Chaudhry, and President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Ajmal Baloch were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Zikria Zia said leading ICCI was a great



honour as well as a major responsibility. He pledged to make every effort to protect and promote the interests of the business community.

He said his focus would remain on resolving key business issues, improving the business environment and working for the development of markets, industrial areas and Islamabad as a whole.

"We will work collectively and remain accessible to the business community," he added.

Senior Vice President Ashfaq Chatah and Vice President Waqas Khan assured ICCI members that they would discharge their responsibilities with dedication and work

closely with the business community to address their concerns.

Sheikh Tariq Sadiq congratulated the new office-bearers and expressed confidence that the new leadership would continue the tradition of serving the business community and further strengthening ICCI.

Former President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry also congratulated the new leadership and conveyed their best wishes.

The outgoing office-bearers were later given a warm send-off in recognition of their services to ICCI and the business community.

WPC Reaffirms Commitment to Breast Cancer Awareness and Early Detection

BY : Mateen Syed/ Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD-- Secretary of the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, has reaffirmed the Caucus's commitment to raising awareness about breast cancer, promoting prevention and early detection, and advocating accessible and quality healthcare for women across Pakistan as Breast Cancer Awareness Month begins in October 2026. In her message, Dr. Shahida Rehmani said breast cancer remains a significant health challenge affecting women, but greater awareness, timely screening, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment can help save lives.

She emphasized that every woman should have access to accurate information, timely medical consultation, screening facilities and affordable treatment, regardless of her geo-



graphical location or socioeconomic circumstances.

She urged women to remain attentive to changes in their bodies and seek

medical advice promptly when they have concerns. She also called on families and communities to create an environment where women can discuss their health openly and seek medical care without fear or stigma.

Dr. Shahida Rehmani said addressing breast cancer requires a comprehensive approach encompassing awareness, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and psychosocial support. She

stressed the need for stronger coordination among Parliament, government institutions, healthcare providers, civil society and development partners.

She said parliamentarians have a responsibility to ensure that women's health remains firmly on the policy and legislative agenda. The Women Parliamentary Caucus, she added, would continue supporting initiatives aimed at improving women's access to healthcare, promoting evidence-based policies and improving health outcomes, particularly for women living in underserved and remote communities.

On the occasion, Dr. Shahida Rehmani called upon women, families, healthcare professionals, institutions and communities across Pakistan to join efforts to raise awareness about breast cancer and encourage timely action.

Russian Ambassador Briefs Media on Ukraine Conflict, Sanctions and Regional Security

BY: FT/ ANI :

ISLAMABAD --Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev on October 1 held a briefing at the Russian Embassy in Islamabad on the situation in and around Ukraine, covering military, political, economic, legal and informational aspects of the ongoing conflict.

The briefing began with guests observing a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the Siege of Leningrad, marking the 85th anniversary of the historic event.

Speaking about Russia's parliamentary elections held on September 20, Ambassador Khorev said the vote recorded what he described as a record turnout despite external pressure and Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian cities, which he alleged were aimed at disrupting the electoral process.

A major part of the briefing focused on Russia's assessment of the Ukraine conflict. Ambassador Khorev described the crisis as a broader confrontation between Russia and the collective West, alleging that Ukraine was being used as a proxy in efforts to weaken Russia.

On the economic situation, the ambassador said Western sanctions had failed to produce the economic collapse in Russia that their proponents had sought. He argued that the sanctions had instead created serious consequences for the economies imposing them as well as for global markets.

According to figures presented by the ambassador, the European Union's cumulative losses from what he described as unintended effects of sanctions between 2022 and 2025 amounted to €1-1.6 trillion, while



European companies that withdrew from Russia suffered estimated losses of €400-450 billion.

Ambassador Khorev said sanctions pressure was accelerating the use of national currencies in international settlements and contributing to the development of alternative financial and trade infrastructure through platforms including BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and ASEAN. The ambassador also raised concerns about maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Black and Azov Seas. He criticized Western measures targeting the so-called "shadow fleet," describing the term as a Western-created concept that, in Russia's view, is being used to justify the seizure of Russian vessels.

He further expressed concern over attacks on civilian vessels and warned that continued escalation could create risks for international shipping.

Discussing global food security, Khorev highlighted Russia and Ukraine's respective shares of the global wheat market, saying Ukraine accounts for around 7 percent of global wheat exports while Russia accounts for approximately 23 percent. He

argued that restrictions affecting Russian agricultural exports could have wider consequences for global food supplies.

On the legal front, the ambassador said Russia does not recognize Western-created mechanisms dealing with compensation for Ukraine and would not comply with decisions issued by such bodies.

He also referred to a June 15, 2026 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, saying the tribunal unanimously rejected a number of Ukrainian claims in the Russia-Ukraine dispute, including claims concerning compensation and reparations and maritime areas and resources linked to Crimea and the Sea of Azov.

Ambassador Khorev also discussed the situation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and what he described as systematic pressure by Ukrainian authorities against the Church and its members.

Concluding the briefing, the ambassador reiterated Russia's stated commitment to a political and diplomatic settlement. He said Moscow had initiated the resumption of negotiations last year and remained ready to continue talks while taking Russian national interests into account.

He also said Russia had no plans to launch military action against Europe or NATO countries and maintained that Moscow had no reason to escalate tensions with Europe.

The guests subsequently viewed an exhibition titled "Crimean Gold: 'Civilized' Europe Plunders Russian Treasures." Khorev said the archaeological artifacts, dating back more than 2,000 years and discovered in Crimea, should be returned to the peninsula.



Islamabad: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan held separate meetings with former Prime Minister of AJK Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan and Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Ms. Farah Naza Kabir. The meetings discussed matters of mutual interest and various issues concerning Azad Kashmir.

NA Speaker Felicitates Chinese Leadership and People on China's 77th National Day

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has extended warm felicitations to the Chinese leadership, the National People's Congress and the people of China on the 77th National Day of the People's Republic of China. In his message, the NA Speaker paid tribute to the resilience and unity of the Chinese people, saying China's development under President Xi Jinping reflects its remarkable progress. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan-China relations are based on mutual trust, respect



and shared interests and continue to strengthen. He noted that 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of diplo-

matic relations between the two countries, describing it as an important milestone in bilateral ties.

He said the Pakistan-China strategic partnership contributes to regional peace, development and prosperity, while the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains a key platform for expanding economic and trade cooperation.

The Speaker emphasized the importance of strengthening parliamentary exchanges and people-to-people contacts, reaffirming the National Assembly's commitment to further enhancing cooperation with China's National People's Congress.

Sky Garden Housing Project: Blocks A, B & D Possession by December 31, 2026

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Secretary Housing & Works Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood has directed the acceleration of development works at the Sky Garden Housing Project while ensuring preservation of its natural terrain, pine trees and scenic beauty.

The Secretary, accompanied by DG FGEHA Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal and FGEHA Joint Venture Partner Chaudhry Ismail, visited the project and reviewed development activities, infrastructure and construction progress.

Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood directed that unnecessary cutting be avoided and the Cut & Fill principle be followed. He also ordered proper horticulture and landscaping, preservation of natural vegetation, stone pitching for slope stabilization, and a comprehensive water channelization plan to ensure effective rainwater drainage.

He further directed that drainage and sewerage systems be completed on priority and that possession should only be handed over after



ensuring the availability of essential facilities for allottees. Officials informed that development works in Blocks A, B and D of Package-I are in the final stages and possession of the three blocks will be handed over to allottees by December 31, 2026.

The briefing revealed that the project comprises 4,255 plots, of which 2,470 have been allotted. The SNGPL design and Layout Plan have been finalized, while the IESCO Demand Note has also been paid. The relevant SNGPL NOC is expected shortly. DG FGEHA Captain (Retd.)

Zafar Iqbal assured that all possible financial, technical and administrative support would be provided for timely completion of the project. He said FGEHA was committed to providing allottees with a safe, sustainable and well-serviced residential environment.

The Secretary directed the concerned officers to accelerate the remaining works and maintain quality, cost-effectiveness and environmentally responsible planning. He also announced a follow-up visit after two weeks to review progress.

Experts Urge Immediate Implementation of Front-of-Pack Warning Labels to Protect Public Health

Report: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- Health and nutrition experts have called for the immediate implementation of mandatory Front-of-Pack Warning Labels (FOPWLs) to help consumers make healthier food choices and address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in Pakistan.

The call was made during a World Heart Day awareness session and walk organized by the Youth Club of Pakistan National Heart Association (PNAH) at the University of Karachi.

Speakers highlighted the rising prevalence of diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and other NCDs, linking unhealthy diets and excessive consumption of foods high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats to increasing health risks.

PSQCA Director Standardization



Gul Sanobar emphasized the importance of clear and standardized food labelling, while Health and Nutrition Expert Munawar Hussain said FOPWLs can help consumers quickly identify products containing excessive amounts of critical nutrients.

PNAH General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghumman urged the Federal Government and provincial authori-

ties to expedite implementation and enforcement of mandatory FOPWLs, stressing the need for coordinated efforts to promote healthier food environments. The session was followed by an awareness walk at the University of Karachi, where students and participants highlighted the importance of healthy eating, heart health and NCD prevention.

FPCCI Corporate Relations & Communications Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

Report: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Central Standing Committee on Corporate Relations & Communications held its inaugural meeting at Federation House, Karachi, setting a forward-looking agenda to strengthen the voice and visibility of Pakistan's business community.

The meeting was chaired by Convener Syed Turab Shah, while Deputy Convener Masood A. Naaz participated via Zoom from Lahore.

The committee reviewed its engagement calendar and decided to organise three events over the next five months focusing on artificial intelligence for business and industry, women's entrepreneurship and business facilitation, and digital content creation and scaling.

Committee Secretary Syed Kashif Rafi, along with representatives from business, media, utilities and



civic institutions, attended the meeting. The committee also included

Iqbal Day and Quaid-e-Azam Day in its upcoming calendar.