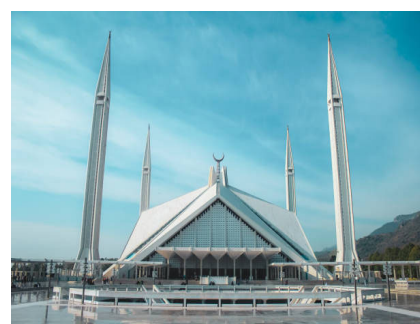




# Daily FINANCIAL TIMES

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## JD Vance praises Pakistan's role in Middle East peace efforts



ANI

US Vice President JD Vance speaks prior to the commencement of technical-level talks between the United States and Iran, hosted by Pakistan in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, on Sunday, with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani and Field Marshal Asim Munir also present. Photo: X

The first round of four-party talks involving Iran and the US, with mediation by Qatar and Pakistan, has concluded in Switzerland, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported Sunday, citing a source familiar with the Iranian negotiating

team. According to the source, the initial round of the Swiss-hosted negotiations has now been completed. The meeting was suspended after approximately 80 minutes of talks to allow the participating delegations to conduct internal consultations, the source added.

No further details were immediately released on when the next session would begin.

Earlier in the day, Qatar announced the start of US-Iran negotiations in Switzerland with the participation of Qatari and Pakistani mediators to discuss the implementation of the terms of an interim agreement between the two sides.

Quadrupartite negotiations between the United States and Iran

commenced in Bürgenstock, Switzerland with Qatar and Pakistan playing a mediatory role, as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed hope that the process would lead to "peace, progress and prosperity globally." Speaking at the venue of the Quad meeting, the prime minister said the gathering marked "a significant step toward peace, progress and prosperity." He expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump for his leadership and acknowledged the role of Vice President JD Vance, the Prime Minister of Qatar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in facilitating the process, while voicing hope for productive outcomes for regional and global stability.

PM Shehbaz said he was looking

forward to constructive discussions and expressed satisfaction that joint efforts had culminated in the meeting in Bürgenstock.

"Wonderful discussions that we have, here will hopefully lead to a productive meeting at the Quad talks in Bürgenstock, Switzerland," he said, adding: "When we go back, I hope we will have a good piece of paper in our hands about peace."

US Vice President JD Vance said President Donald Trump was committed to a "full regional ceasefire", including Lebanon, noting that such processes were often complex.

"These kinds of ceasefires are always 'a little bit messy', but we have seen progress over the last few days," he said.

## Benazir Bhutto inspired believers in democracy: President

ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto inspired those who believe in democracy and championed issues of education for children, opportunities for young people, reliable public services and greater participation of women in national life.

In a message on the 73rd Birth Anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto (21 June 2026), he said, "Today, on the 73rd birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the nation remembers a leader whose courage, political vision and commitment to democracy left a lasting mark on Pakistan's history." "As the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Muslim world, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto broke barriers and opened new possibilities for women in public life. At a time of considerable political uncertainty, she stood firmly for democratic governance, constitutional rule and the right of the people to determine their future through the ballot box. Her public life reflected resilience in the face of adversity and a steady belief in the strength of democratic institutions," he added. He said, "She showed that leadership is never one-dimensional. She fulfilled many roles in life, as a daughter, a mother, a wife, a friend, a patriot and a citizen of the world committed to peace. She approached each responsibility with courage, conviction and a deep sense of duty." "She remained closely engaged with the concerns of ordinary citizens.

Whether speaking about employment, education, health services or the welfare of vulnerable communities, she believed that public office carried a responsibility to improve people's lives. Her politics was rooted in the conviction that progress must reach those who had long remained on the margins of development," he continued.

The President said, "Her understanding of Pakistan was shaped not by distance, but by constant engagement with its people. She listened to citizens, party workers, journalists and members of civil society. She worked through direct contact and sustained engagement and remained closely attuned to public sentiment and the aspirations of ordinary Pakistanis."

"Throughout her political life, she



remained committed to peaceful political expression and democratic means of dissent. She firmly rejected violence as a tool of politics and consistently upheld dialogue, constitutional processes and democratic participation as the only legitimate path forward," he mentioned.

He said, "For many Pakistani families, the issues she championed continue to shape daily life. Access to education for children, opportunities for young people entering the workforce, reliable public services and greater participation of women in national life remain central to the country's future. Her vision sought to ensure that these concerns received attention at the highest levels of government."

"Beyond her political achievements, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto demonstrated remarkable determination and personal strength. She faced imprisonment, exile and persistent threats, yet remained committed to serving the people of Pakistan. Her decision to return home and continue her political struggle reflected her deep sense of duty to the country and her confidence in the democratic aspirations of its people," he added. The President said, "As we remember Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her birth anniversary, we pay tribute to her sacrifice, her service and her enduring place in the nation's memory. Her life continues to inspire those who believe in democracy, public service and the promise of a better future for Pakistan."

"She was born on the day when the sun shines longest across our hemisphere. In many ways, her life reflected that symbolism. She faced adversity, challenged injustice and carried hope through some of Pakistan's most difficult moments. She was destined to stand against darkness and keep the light burning. She was Benazir in every sense of the word," he concluded.

## PPP nominates Amjad Hussain as Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister

ANI

GILGIT: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has decided to nominate Amjad Hussain as the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), sources revealed to Dunya News here on Saturday. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has decided to field the party's provincial president Amjad Hussain for the slot of Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. According to sources, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari telephoned Amjad Advocate and gave him instructions for ensuring the constitutional and economic rights of the people. Amjad Hussain has won from GBA 1 Gilgit in the recent elections. The Election Commission of Gilgit-



Baltistan has announced the official results of 21 out of 24 constituencies, according to which the PPP has won 9 seats, PML-N 6, IPP 4, MWM 1 and an independent candidate has also won 1 seat. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz

(PML-N) have agreed to form a government in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The sources said the parties' leaders held a detailed consultations with the local leadership and organisations of PPP and PML-N in the region before the agreement. According to PPP sources, both parties have expressed their determination to move forward together with mutual trust and consensus and have also agreed on a common formula for government formation.

## R-4 ministers' meeting welcomes US-Iran Islamabad MoU, stresses regional peace

ANI

Pakistan and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Türkiye on Sunday reaffirmed the importance of continued consultation and coordination among the four countries in support of peace and stability, while welcoming the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States and Iran. The R-4 Ministerial meeting was held in Cairo, where FM Ishaq Dar, Saudi Arabia's Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Türkiye's Hakan Fidan and Egypt's Dr Badr Abdelaty discussed regional and international developments.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the foreign ministers met in Cairo at the invitation of Egypt. "The ministers expressed their deep appreciation to President Abdel Fattah



El-Sisi for sharing his vision of the region's future as a guidance to the group's efforts aiming at bringing stability to the Middle East," the statement said. It added that the meeting provided an opportunity for a comprehensive exchange of views on regional and international developments, while reaffirming the importance of continued consultation and coordination among the

four countries to support peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East and the broader region.

The four ministers welcomed the signing of the Islamabad MoU between the United States and Iran earlier this week, describing it as a significant step towards reducing tensions in the region. "The minister viewed this important development as a constructive step towards de-escalation and towards ending a conflict which posed significant risks to regional security and stability, as well as to energy markets, international maritime routes, global supply chains, and international trade," it said. They also commended the efforts of regional and international actors that helped facilitate the understanding and stressed the importance of implementing the commitments undertaken by the parties concerned.

## DPM Dar confident US-Iran talks will lead to final agreement

ANI

CAIRO: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has stated that no one can doubt the good faith of either the United States or Iran in the ongoing negotiations. He said that the issue of sanctions imposed on Iran will be discussed during talks with the United States, and expressed confidence that Washington and Tehran will ultimately reach a final agreement. Speaking to Arab media, Dar said



that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, and Türkiye have supported mediation efforts, adding that there is no reason to question the sincerity of either side in the negotiations. He noted

that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East is having global repercussions and expressed hope that tensions in the region will ease. Dar also said that no disruption is expected in shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz over the next 60 days. Meanwhile, according to a spokesperson, the R-4 Ministerial

Meeting has commenced in Cairo, the capital of Egypt. The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye are participating in the meeting.



Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Vice President and Foreign Minister of Switzerland called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the side lines of the ongoing technical level talks between USA and Iran at Bürgenstock, Switzerland.

یا حسینؑ

محرم الحرام

۱۴۴۶ھ ہجری

محرم الحرام کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے  
یہ ماہِ حزن و عزاداری، صبر، قربانی اور  
حق کی بے باک جدوجہد کا پیغام ہے۔

آئیں! ہم سب امام حسینؑ کی تعلیمات  
کو اپنے زندگی میں اپنائیں اور سچ، عدل  
اور انسانیت کی خدمت کا عزم کریں۔

یا حسین!  
ہمیں بھی آپ کے راستے پر  
چلنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائیں۔

محترمہ سمیلینہ حسن

سابق سیکرٹری ٹو شہید محترمہ بینظیر بھٹو  
انچارج یو کے انس 10 ریسرچ اینڈ کوآرڈینیشن کمیٹی  
بلاول باؤس

محرم الحرام کے تقدس مہینے میں  
تمام عالم اسلام کودل کی گہرائیوں سے  
تعزیت پیش کرتے ہیں۔

## Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gilani Expresses Grief Over Murree Expressway Tragedy, Assures Support to Bereaved Families

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic Murree Expressway accident.

Describing the incident as a heart-breaking tragedy, Gilani said the loss of five members of a single family was an irreparable blow and had left the entire city of Multan in mourning. He stated that no words could adequately express the grief caused by such a devastating loss.

The Chairman Senate said he remained in contact with the relevant authorities to ensure that the injured received the best possible medical treatment. He also sent his son to meet the bereaved family and convey solidarity and sympathies on behalf of the Gilani family.

Gilani noted that the Rawalpindi administration had made necessary arrangements regarding the



deceased and stressed that every effort should now be directed toward supporting the affected families. He urged the Punjab government to provide financial and administrative assistance and ensure the prompt return of the families' valuable belongings.

He further said that he would also request the Multan administration to take all possible measures to facili-

tate the affected families and ensure the timely provision of relief and support. Praying for the departed souls, Gilani asked Almighty Allah to grant them the highest ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the bereaved families with patience and strength. He assured them that every possible effort would be made to provide assistance and support at the earliest

## Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights Reviews Federal Budget 2026-27 Through Child Rights Lens; Calls for Enhanced Child-Focused Allocations



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD---- The Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) of the National Assembly, under the chairpersonship of its Convenor Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, MNA, held a briefing session titled "Budget Through Children's Lens: Post-Budget Analysis 2026-2027," at the Parliament House, Islamabad, today. The session, organized in collaboration with the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) Pakistan, brought together Members of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Secretaries, and subject experts to examine the Federal Budget 2026-2027 from a child rights perspective.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan emphasized that the national budget reflects the country's priorities and underscored the need to critically assess whether adequate resources are being allocated for children's education, health, nutrition, protection, and overall well-being. She stated that investment in children is both a national responsibility and essential for Pakistan's sustainable development.

The briefing included a detailed presentation by budget expert Mr.

Amer Ejaz, who analyzed the Budget 2026-2027 through a child rights lens. The presentation focused on the classification of child-related expenditures into direct, indirect, and general public spending, and examined key sectors including the education development budget of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the development budget of the National Health Services, and provincial allocations in health, education, nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), and disaster and flood rehabilitation and management. Allocations under the Prime Minister's Special Initiatives were also reviewed.

An interactive discussion followed, during which Convenor of the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Parliamentary Secretaries; Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Ms. Kiran Imran Dar, Ms. Saba Sadiq, Ms. Zeb Jaffar, and MNAs; Ms. Asia Naz Tanoli and Ms. Kiran Haider, engaged with Budget Expert, Mr. Amer Ejaz, Executive Director Lead Syed Kausar, and Director Programs Ms. Maryam Jawad. The discussion focused on the effectiveness of child-focused allocations in the current federal budget and identified key gaps

requiring further attention.

Participants collectively reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the identified gaps in child-specific expenditures in the next federal budget through enhanced and targeted allocations for child-related sectors, thereby strengthening Pakistan's commitment to the welfare and well-being of children.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan expressed appreciation to Mr. Amer Ejaz for his comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the contributions of Syed Kausar and Maryam Jawad for their insights. She also appreciated the technical support extended by SSDO in enriching the discussion on child-responsive budgeting. She further thanked MNAs Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Ms. Kiran Imran Dar, Ms. Saba Sadiq, Ms. Zeb Jaffar, Ms. Asia Naz Tanoli, and Ms. Kiran Haider for their active participation and commitment to ensuring adequate child-related welfare allocations in the federal budget. Appreciation was also extended to officers of the National Assembly Secretariat, Mr. Haziq Bukhari and Ms. Iffat Pervaz, for their support in the successful conduct of the session.

## PANAH annual health awareness walk calls for urgent action against Pakistan's growing NCDs crisis

More than 41% of adults overweight or obese; over 33 million Pakistanis living with Diabetes

BY: Hurish Shah:

MURREE--- Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) organized its Annual Health Awareness Walk in Murree to raise awareness about the alarming rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Pakistan. Health experts, civil society representatives, journalists, teachers, women, and youth participated in large numbers. The walk was led by PANAH President Maj. Gen. (R) Masood-ur-Rehman Kiani and hosted by PANAH General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghuman. Among the prominent participants were Dr. Qayyum Awan and Dr. Shahnaz.

Maj. Gen. (R) Masood-ur-Rehman Kiani said that unhealthy dietary habits, particularly the growing consumption of Ultra-Processed Products, are driving the rapid increase in heart disease and diabetes. He emphasized that adopting healthy eating habits, regular physical activity, and daily walks can significantly reduce the risk of NCDs. More than 41 percent of Pakistani adults are overweight or obese, while over 33 million people are living with diabetes. Excessive consumption of sugar, salt, unhealthy fats, and ultra-processed foods has become a major contributor to this public health emergency.

Dr. Shahnaz highlighted that protecting public health should remain a national priority. She appreciated PANAH's continued efforts to pro-



mote healthy lifestyles and prevent diseases through awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives. She stressed that parents and schools must work together to encourage healthy eating habits among children and adolescents.

Dr. Qayyum Awan stated that access to healthy food is a fundamental right of every child. He warned that poor dietary habits during childhood increase the risk of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases later in life. He called upon families to prioritize nutritious foods and physical activity for the healthy development of children.

Speaking on the occasion, Sana Ullah Ghuman said that PANAH has been working for over four dec-

ades to protect Pakistanis from heart disease and other NCDs through public awareness, research, advocacy, and policy engagement. He emphasized that reducing the consumption of sugary drinks and ultra-processed products, while promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles, is essential to safeguarding the health of future generations. He urged policymakers, media, educators, civil society, and parents to work collectively to address the growing NCD crisis in Pakistan.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and creating greater awareness about the prevention of non-communicable diseases across the country.



Islamabad DIG Muhammad Jawad Tariq, SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza, Chief Traffic Officer Kainat Azhar Khan are discussing the security and traffic arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and media interaction in front of the G/6-2 Imambargah.

## Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya Appointed to National Curriculum Council Technical Committee

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has announced partial changes to the composition of the National Curriculum Council (NCC) Technical Committee, appointing four new members, including renowned educationist and researcher Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya.

According to an official notification, the newly inducted members will provide academic and strategic input to support national curriculum development and help address emerging educational challenges under the committee's approved



Terms of Reference (TORs). The appointments were made following decisions taken during the 4th meeting of the Technical Committee held on June 4, 2026. Dr. Soroya, currently serving as Campus Director at COMSATS University Islamabad (Sahiwal Campus), previously served as Director General of the Pakistan Institute of Education and is widely recognized for his contributions to

educational research, policy development, and curriculum reform. The notification also announced the induction of Javed Iqbal Mirza, Director General of the Federal Directorate of Education; Dr. Muhammad Zaigham Qadeer; and educationist Asfandiyar Khan. The Ministry stated that all newly appointed members will participate in the committee's deliberations and decision-making processes, while the remaining terms and conditions of the original notification issued on January 1, 2026, will remain unchanged. The appointments have been made with the approval of the Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

## Portuguese Ambassador Paulo Domingues Hosts National Day Reception in Islamabad



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, Paulo Miguel Guedes Domingues, hosted a reception in Islamabad to celebrate Portugal's National Day, attended by federal ministers, diplomats, parliamentarians, business leaders and members of civil society.

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain, the chief guest, conveyed

congratulations to the people and government of Portugal on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and emphasized the strong potential for cooperation between Pakistan and Portugal in trade, investment, agriculture, renewable energy and information technology.

In his address, Ambassador Paulo Domingues highlighted the 76-year diplomatic relationship between Pakistan and Portugal, describing ties between the two countries as steadily expanding through political

dialogue, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts. He noted that around 50,000 Pakistanis are living in Portugal and playing an important role in strengthening bilateral relations. The ambassador also thanked Pakistan for supporting Portugal's election to the UN Security Council for the 2027-2028 term.

The reception concluded with guests celebrating the growing friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Portugal

## FGEHA Plans Eco-Friendly Modern Development for Sectors F-14 and F-15 in Islamabad

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has launched practical steps to transform Sectors F-14 and F-15 into a modern, aesthetically designed, and environmentally sustainable residential project.

The initiative is being carried out under the special directives of Secretary Housing & Works Captain (R) Muhammad Mahmood and Director General FGEHA Captain (R) Zafar Iqbal, with the authority's technical team accelerating work on a comprehensive horticulture, landscaping, and environmental improvement plan.

In this connection, horticulture expert and Advisor to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Dr. Pervez Ahsan Khan held a detailed meeting with FGEHA engineers and technical staff and later visited the sites in Sectors F-14 and F-15. He reviewed multiple locations and provided recommendations for modern landscaping, plantation, and recreational development while preserving the natural environment.

During the visit, it was decided to prioritize eco-friendly infrastructure, large-scale plantation, and modern horticultural planning to give the sectors a distinct identity compared to conventional housing schemes.

Under the proposed plan, check



dams will be constructed to conserve rainwater and improve groundwater recharge. Large nurseries will also be established to grow a wide variety of trees and plants, ensuring a green and sustainable environment.

The project will further include cycling tracks, pedestrian walkways, scenic viewpoints, seating areas, boating points, and suspension bridges integrated with the natural landscape to provide residents with high-quality recreational facilities.

Consultant firm Osmani & Company (Pvt.) Ltd. has been directed to incorporate modern horticulture and environmentally friendly features into the master

planning on a priority basis. In a separate meeting, representatives of the National Logistics Corporation were also engaged to include nurseries, check dams, and green infrastructure in their assigned scope of work. The natural cave and lake in Sector F-14 will be preserved and developed using modern engineering techniques to turn them into major ecological and recreational attractions.

Director General FGEHA Captain (R) Zafar Iqbal stated that the project aims to go beyond basic infrastructure and will be developed as a model of modern urban planning, sustainability, and high-quality public amenities in the federal capital.

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Opinion

3

# The Path to National Stability: Political Inclusion, Institutional Harmony and Democratic Continuity



Ch. Shabbir Balochistani Publish By:ANI News Agency\*

Pakistan stands today at a critical crossroads where internal stability, economic recovery, national cohesion, and security challenges are deeply interconnected. Rapidly changing regional dynamics, emerging global alignments, the threat of terrorism, inflation, unemployment, and growing public discontent demand that all political and state institutions place national interest above partisan considerations and adopt a comprehensive national strategy.

In such sensitive circumstances, any attempt to weaken, isolate, or exclude a political party, political leader, or representative public force from the democratic process does not merely affect a single group; rather, it impacts the entire political system and undermines national stability.

The true strength of democracy lies in its political parties. They organize public opinion, represent citizens' concerns in legislative forums, and provide a platform through which diverse segments of society can participate in national affairs. When political parties are strong, differences are resolved through democratic means. When they are weakened, political vacuums emerge, often leading to unrest, mistrust, and confrontation.

Policies aimed at marginalizing political forces may appear beneficial to some quarters in the short term, but history repeatedly demonstrates that such measures ultimately create greater political instability and complexity. Mature democracies do not suppress political voices; instead, they integrate them into the political process, recognizing that sustainable stability is built through inclusion rather than exclusion.

In a diverse country like Pakistan, with its multiple languages, cultures, ethnic identities, and political viewpoints, national political parties serve as vital pillars of federal cohesion. Weak political parties can create space

for intensified regional or ethnic divisions, potentially undermining national unity. Strong political parties, therefore, are not a challenge to the state; they are an essential component of a strong federation and a stable nation.

Pakistan's foremost need today is the reduction of political polarization. Both the government and the opposition must recognize that the challenges confronting the country cannot be addressed by any single party or administration. Economic reforms, counterterrorism efforts, education, healthcare, employment generation, and inter-provincial harmony require national consensus and collective thinking. If political actors remain preoccupied with weakening one another, national problems will only deepen.

This reality is particularly relevant in Balochistan, a province of immense strategic importance. For decades, its people have faced developmental challenges, feelings of deprivation, and security concerns. Sustainable peace and progress cannot be achieved without meaningful engagement with political parties, nationalist leaders, tribal elders, youth, and civil society. The stronger the culture of political dialogue in Balochistan, the brighter the prospects for peace, stability, and development.

Equally important is the relationship between political leadership and state institutions. For Pakistan to move forward, all institutions must perform their responsibilities within their constitutional framework while working collectively in the national interest. Strong institutions and strong democracy are not competing concepts; they are complementary pillars of a stable state. When Parliament, the executive, the judiciary, and other state institutions operate with mutual respect and constitutional balance, public trust grows and the state becomes stronger.

Past experiences clearly demonstrate that tensions and confrontations between political forces and state institutions ultimately harm the country as a whole. Such situations not only create political instability but also negatively affect economic growth, investment, governance, and national cohesion. The need of the hour is therefore to promote an environment of trust, dia-

logue, and cooperation between political stakeholders and state institutions, preventing unnecessary conflict and strengthening democratic governance.

National development can only be achieved when political parties view themselves as partners in state-building and when state institutions recognize democratic continuity as an essential ingredient of national stability. Democracy is not merely about elections; it is an ongoing process that embraces differing opinions, keeps channels of dialogue open, and prioritizes national interests over political rivalries.

Pakistan's history shows that whenever political forces and state institutions have worked together with trust, cooperation, and mutual respect, the country has moved toward progress and stability. Conversely, political polarization and institutional distrust have repeatedly hindered national development. Today, Pakistan once again requires wisdom, restraint, and statesmanship that can prevent political disagreements from escalating into national crises and instead channel collective energies toward development and prosperity.

The country does not need new political battlefields; it needs new political bridges. National interest demands greater trust and harmony among political parties, state institutions, and all national stakeholders. Differences of opinion are natural in any democracy, but preventing those differences from turning into national crises is the true test of political leadership and institutional maturity.

If Pakistan aspires to become a strong, stable, and prosperous nation, political parties must be treated as partners in national development rather than obstacles to it. Likewise, state institutions must continue to play their constitutional role in strengthening democratic stability and national unity. Strong democracy, strong institutions, and a strong federation are interconnected links in the same chain. When these three pillars move forward together, Pakistan will not only overcome its internal challenges but will also strengthen its position as a stable, dignified, and progressive nation on the global stage.

# The Supreme Court Spoke. Did BZU Listen? Paragraph 39(c), the Six-Month Rule, the Rule of Law, and the Continuing Controversy Over the Acting Registrar at BZU Multan

Written By: Hurish Shah Published BY: ANI

Public institutions derive their legitimacy not from personalities but from their adherence to law. Universities, in particular, are expected to serve as models of transparency, accountability, and respect for legal norms. It is therefore both legitimate and necessary to examine whether the continued appointment of the Acting Registrar at Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, is consistent with the directions issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding appointments to statutory positions in public sector universities.

This issue is not based on speculation, political rivalry, or personal grievances. Rather, it arises from two official documents: the appointment notification issued by BZU and the judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan dated 24 October 2024 in Constitutional Petition No. 7 of 2024.

According to the university's notification, Mr. Ijaz Ahmad was appointed as Acting Registrar on 31 December 2024. More importantly, paragraph 3 of the notification expressly states that the Higher Education Department (HED), Government of Punjab, through its letter dated 26 November 2024, directed Bahauddin Zakariya University to take necessary steps for filling statutory posts in compliance with the judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, particularly paragraph 39 of the decision.

This fact is of central importance. The appointment was not made independently of the Supreme Court's judgment. On the contrary, the notification itself acknowledges that the appointment process was undertaken pursuant to directions flowing from the Supreme Court and conveyed by the Higher Education Department. Thus, the judgment forms an integral part of the legal foundation upon which the appointment rests.

The controversy comes into sharp focus when paragraph 39 of the Supreme Court's judgment is examined in its entirety. Through this paragraph, the Apex Court issued comprehensive directions to public sector universities and educational authorities across the country. Most importantly, clause (c) of paragraph 39 unequivocally mandates that vacant tenured positions "must not be held for more than six months on acting-charge-basis." It is this mandatory requirement that constitutes the central issue and the real bone of



contention in the present matter.

The language employed by the Supreme Court is neither advisory nor recommendatory; it is mandatory. The Court's objective was clear: to end the longstanding culture of prolonged acting appointments that has plagued many public institutions. The judgment was designed not merely to regulate appointments but also to strengthen institutional governance, accountability, and public confidence in higher education institutions.

Against this backdrop, a fundamental legal and administrative question naturally arises. If the appointment of the Acting Registrar was made pursuant to paragraph 39 of the Supreme Court's judgment, and if more than six months have elapsed since the appointment made on 31 December 2024, has the requirement contained in paragraph 39(c) been fully implemented? Equally important, has a regular appointment process been initiated and completed in accordance with the University's governing statutes and the Supreme Court's directions?

These questions are not directed at the individual holding the office. Nor do they concern personal competence or performance. The issue is purely institutional and legal. It concerns whether a public university can invoke paragraph 39 of the Supreme Court's judgment as the basis for making an acting appointment while appearing not to give effect to the limitation expressly imposed by clause (c) of the same paragraph.

In legal and administrative governance, compliance cannot ordinarily be selective. A public institution cannot rely upon one part of a judicial directive as a source of authority while disregarding another part that imposes a corresponding obligation. Such an approach would undermine the very purpose of the Court's intervention and weaken the principles of transparency, accountability, and institutional stability that the judgment sought to promote.

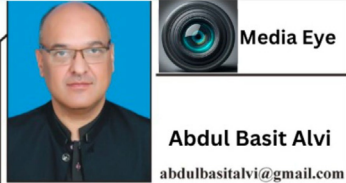
The implications extend beyond a single office or a single university. The office of Registrar is one of the most important statutory positions within a university. The Registrar serves as the custodian of official records and occupies a central role in implementing administrative decisions. Prolonged uncertainty regarding the status of such a position inevitably raises concerns about governance standards, institutional credibility, and compliance with legal requirements.

The issue also touches upon a broader constitutional principle: equality before the law. If judicial directives are binding upon citizens, government departments, and statutory bodies, universities cannot claim a different standard of compliance. Respect for the rule of law requires that court orders be implemented consistently and uniformly, regardless of the institution involved.

The question, therefore, is not whether any particular individual should continue in office. Rather, it is whether the directions of the Supreme Court regarding acting appointments to statutory positions have been fully implemented in both letter and spirit. That question deserves a clear, transparent, and legally reasoned answer from the relevant authorities.

The rule of law demands consistency, impartiality, and unwavering adherence to judicial directives. Court orders cannot be implemented selectively or according to administrative convenience. Universities are not only centers of learning; they are also public institutions entrusted with upholding the very principles they teach. The real test now lies in whether the relevant authorities will address these concerns with transparency, accountability, and due regard for the Supreme Court's directives, thereby reaffirming the supremacy of law and restoring public confidence in the governance of one of Punjab's most prestigious public universities.

# Hingor-Class Submarine Inducted into Pakistan Navy, Boosting Maritime Defense



Media Eye Abdul Basit Alvi abdulbasitalvi@gmail.com

BY:Abdul Basit Alvi Published BY: \*ANI\*

On April 30, 2026, Pakistan inducted the advanced Hingor-class submarine into its navy during a high-profile ceremony in Sanya, China, highlighting the deep Pakistan-China strategic partnership and attended by President Asif Ali Zardari and senior Chinese officials. The event symbolized a shared achievement and marked a transformative leap in Pakistan's naval capabilities, replacing aging submarines with fourth-generation platforms designed for stealth, endurance, and high-threat operations. These submarines significantly enhance Pakistan's ability to defend its sovereignty and maritime interests, particularly vital economic assets like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Gwadar port, protecting them from blockades or aggression. Operating in increasingly contested global sea lanes, especially in the Indian Ocean, the Hingor-class strengthens maritime stability through capabilities such as prolonged submerged operations, intelligence gathering, mine-laying, and precision strikes, while their stealth forces adversaries to commit greater resources to counter them and ensures the protection of key ports and shipping routes critical to Pakistan's economy.

The name "Hingor" carries historical significance, honoring the PNS Hangor's decisive role in the 1971 war when it sank the Indian frigate INS Khukri, marking the first such submarine kill since World War II and elevating Pakistan Navy's global standing. This legacy shapes the doctrine and morale of the new fleet, emphasizing stealth, patience, and precision. Technically, the Hingor-class represents a major advancement, with larger size, greater displacement, and especially the integration of air-independent propulsion, allowing it to remain submerged for weeks without surfacing, drastically improving stealth and endurance compared to traditional diesel-electric submarines. Equipped with advanced sonar systems, towed arrays, and modern optronic masts offering enhanced surveillance with minimal detectability, these submarines integrate into a network-centric combat system for rapid threat assessment and response, making them highly effective in intelligence, surveillance, and combat roles while significantly strengthening Pakistan's maritime defense posture.

In terms of weaponry, the Hingor-class is a veritable arsenal beneath the waves. It features a bank of six or eight 533-millimeter heavy-weight torpedo tubes, capable of firing a potent mix of munitions. The primary anti-ship

weapon is expected to be the Pakistani-Chinese Harba-class submarine-launched cruise missile, a derivative or parallel development to the land-attack cruise missiles already in Pakistan's inventory. These missiles can be configured with conventional high-explosive warheads and possess a range reported to be upwards of 450 to 700 kilometers. This equips the Hingor-class with a formidable land-attack capability, allowing it to strike strategic targets deep inside enemy territory from concealed offshore positions, acting as a sea-based second-strike option that complicates an adversary's targeting calculus. For anti-ship warfare, the submarines will likely carry the advanced CM-708UNB submarine-launched anti-ship missile, which features a turbojet engine for high subsonic cruise speed and a sea-skimming terminal flight profile, making it extremely difficult to intercept. For close-range engagements or for dealing with other submarines, the torpedo tubes can launch advanced wake-homing and wire-guided heavy torpedoes, as well as lighter anti-torpedo torpedoes for self-defense. Furthermore, the Hingor-class is almost certainly fitted with a mine-laying capability, allowing it to secretly seed strategic choke points, enemy harbors, or shipping lanes with smart mines that can be activated or deactivated remotely. This would give Pakistan the ability to impose a de facto blockade or deny vast areas of the sea to enemy shipping without engaging a single surface vessel, a form of asymmetric warfare that plays directly to the submarine's strengths. The sheer variety and lethality of these weapon systems, combined with the extended submerged endurance granted by AIP, ensure that each Hingor-class submarine is not just a single platform but a mobile, integrated weapon system capable of influencing the outcome of a theater-level conflict.

The induction ceremony itself was not merely a military parade but a high-level diplomatic event that reinforced the bedrock principles of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The presence of President Asif Ali Zardari, who has historically been a strong proponent of deep economic and defense ties with China, signaled continuity in foreign policy across different political administrations in Pakistan. His address at the ceremony, as covered by state media, lauded the Chinese government and defense industry for their unwavering support, describing the submarine project as a "cornerstone of regional peace and stability." On the sidelines of the event, high-level meetings were held between President Zardari, Chinese naval commanders, and representatives of the China Shipbuilding Trading Company, which oversaw the construction and technology transfer process. The deal, believed to be worth several billion dollars and encompassing eight submarines in total, with four to be built in China and four, under technology transfer, at the Karachi Shipyard &

Engineering Works (KSEW), represents the largest ever defense cooperation project between the two countries. This technology transfer is crucial, as it will not only upgrade the Pakistan Navy's fleet but also revolutionize Pakistan's indigenous shipbuilding and defense manufacturing capabilities. Building submarines is an order of magnitude more complex than building surface ships; it requires expertise in high-strength steel alloys, acoustic signature reduction, precision propulsion systems, and hyperbaric life support. By acquiring this technology, Pakistan is investing in a generation of engineers, technicians, and naval architects who will form the nucleus of a future domestic submarine-building program. The joint construction at KSEW, which has already modernized its facilities for this purpose, is a testament to the long-term vision of the partnership. Following the ceremony, messages of congratulations poured in from across Pakistan's political and military leadership. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, in a nationally televised address, congratulated the entire nation and the Pakistan Navy on this historic achievement, stating that the induction would usher in a new era of maritime security. Similarly, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, who also serves as the Chief of Army Staff, lauded the navy's foresight and operational preparedness, emphasizing that the synergy between the three armed forces, with the navy now equipped with these silent killers, has made Pakistan's defence impregnable. The entire nation, from the bustling streets of Karachi to the serene valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, felt a palpable sense of pride. Newspapers ran special supplements detailing the submarine's features, television channels broadcast hour-long analyses, and social media was flooded with patriotic fervor, with hashtags like #HingorClass and #PakistanNavyStrong trending for days. This widespread public enthusiasm underscores an important truth: in a country often preoccupied with its land borders with India and Afghanistan, the induction of the Hingor-class has successfully shifted a significant portion of the national security consciousness toward the blue waters of the Arabian Sea. The people of Pakistan feel, perhaps for the first time since 1971, that their navy is not just a coast guard or a defensive screen, but a true force in being, capable of projecting power, deterring aggression, and protecting the nation's economic future from the silent, unforgiving depths of the ocean. The pride is not just in the steel and weaponry, but in the strategic autonomy and national resolve it represents—a resolve to stand tall, to guard every inch of the motherland, both on land and at sea, and to ensure that the dreams of a prosperous, secure Pakistan remain forever anchored in peace, backed by the unwavering strength of its silent service.

# The Islamabad Memorandum: A Step Forward in Diplomacy



BY:Sheikh J Hussain London Jawadkhayal@icloud.com Published BY: \*ANI\*

In the world of international affairs, nothing stays fixed forever. As time passes, the balance of power shifts, new partnerships are formed, and long-held beliefs are often re-examined. Over recent days, important events have taken place across South Asia, the United States, and further afield that have caught the attention of people everywhere. These developments involve changing relationships between major countries, adjustments in military planning, and meaningful progress in diplomacy. While each event has its own background and meaning, when seen together they show clearly that the region is entering a period where old ways of thinking are being reviewed and new realities are taking shape.

Much of the current discussion began with remarks made by United States President Donald Trump during a public meeting with reporters, where he spoke in strong terms about Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Words from the leader of such a powerful nation can never be set aside lightly, and they have sparked fresh debate all over the world. Even if these comments were made in the heat of the moment, they are certain to have some effect on how the two countries move forward together. The question on many minds is whether this is simply a sign of personal differences, or whether it points to a deeper change in how Washington views its partnership with India. Experts hold different views on this matter, and only time will reveal the full truth behind these words.

Alongside these statements, there are reports of a major change in how the United States organizes its military forces. It is understood that a decision has been taken to rename the Indo-Pacific Command — set up around eight years ago with strong interest and active support from India — to simply the Pacific Command, removing the word "Indo" from its title. When this command was first created, its main aim was described as building stronger ties with countries around the Indian Ocean, and India was presented as a key partner in achieving this goal. Taking this regional reference out of the name raises important questions: has the original vision changed, or is the United States taking a fresh look at its strategy and role across this vast part of the globe?

A detailed report from the United

States School of Strategic Studies has added further depth to these discussions. The report states plainly that the United States has reached the conclusion that, in the long run, it cannot fully support or help India develop into a strong enough power to act as a counterbalance to China. According to this analysis, this is why the United States is gradually stepping back from closer ties, particularly when it comes to working together on defence and security matters. This is a significant observation, because for many years, voices in the West have spoken of India as a natural ally — one that could help keep power balanced across Asia. If this report reflects the general thinking among those who shape American policy, it would mark a major shift in regional politics. It is worth noting, however, that trade and economic links between the two nations still bring benefits to both sides, so some level of cooperation will likely continue. Even so, the growing distance at the strategic level is clear, and this is something that causes concern in India.

Against this changing background, there is no denying that Pakistan has emerged as an important player in regional and global politics. It is becoming increasingly clear that major international decisions can no longer be made without Pakistan being part of the conversation. Through careful and thoughtful policies, Pakistan has not only protected its own national interests but has also played a meaningful role in working towards peace both in the region and across the wider world. This progress is due in large part to the leadership of Field Marshal General Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and his cabinet. Their wise choices and steady approach have helped lift the country's standing and earned it respected place among nations. It is within this setting of shifting global politics that a positive step forward in diplomacy has taken place — one whose results are expected to become visible in the days and months ahead.

This success comes after consistent and determined efforts from Pakistan, which helped bring about an important agreement that many had been waiting for, even earlier than expected. While the formal signing was originally planned to take place in Geneva, it was finalised in a different way and given the name "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding." This is widely seen as a major diplomatic achievement for Pakistan. For some time, both within the country and abroad, there were attempts to downplay Pakistan's role in the process. Critics claimed that Pakistan had little part to play and that all the hard work and negotiation was done by Qatar, which acted as a neutral mediator. However, the

very fact that the agreement carries Islamabad's name makes it clear that Pakistan was not just a bystander but a central part of the whole process. Its views, suggestions, and concerns were taken seriously enough that the country's name became part of the agreement itself. In the world of diplomacy, names and titles carry great meaning — they show how much a nation contributed to shaping the terms and how important its role was in bringing everyone to a shared understanding. This progress also serves as a fitting reply to those who are quick to dismiss Pakistan's standing in the world, proving that with steady effort, a clear sense of purpose, and a firm commitment to one's principles, it is possible to protect national interests and earn rightful respect on the global stage.

Even so, while we rightly celebrate the Islamabad Memorandum and other diplomatic wins, it is important to keep a balanced and realistic view. It is natural to feel proud that Pakistan is now able to make its voice heard in international forums and that this has helped build greater confidence among its people. But we must also remember that true success only holds real value when it improves the daily lives of ordinary citizens. Having a strong position in the world is certainly important, but its real worth comes when it brings stability, growth, and prosperity within the country itself. People rightly ask: while diplomatic achievements are good news, real progress will only be felt when prices — especially for fuel, food, and other everyday necessities — are brought under control and made affordable for all. Alongside this, there is still much work to do to reduce poverty, improve access to quality education and healthcare for everyone, and ensure that terrorism is completely eliminated so that people can live in safety and peace.

Looking at the full picture, it is clear that Pakistan is living through a time filled with both challenges and opportunities. Changes in the policies of major powers show that the world is always moving and evolving, and this calls for careful, thoughtful, and wise decision-making at every level. Achievements like the Islamabad Memorandum prove that Pakistan can find its own path in this changing world and stand up firmly for what matters most to its people. But it is also true that this is not the end of the journey. Alongside every step taken on the international stage, there must be equal progress within the country itself. Only then can the benefits of global success reach every home and help build a peaceful, prosperous, and developed society where all citizens can look forward to a better future.

## MPA Ahmar Bhatti Seeks Details of Development Projects in Raiwind Through Punjab Assembly Questions

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE: Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) from PP-165, Ahmar Bhatti, has submitted a series of starred questions in the Punjab Assembly, seeking detailed information about ongoing development projects and public welfare initiatives in Raiwind and its surrounding areas.

Bhatti asked the relevant minister to provide details regarding the Raiwind Sports Complex, including the date construction began, expenditures incurred so far, the project's completion status, and whether a completion certificate has been issued. He also requested that all project documents, from PC-I to PC-V, along with the completion certificate, be presented before the House.

The MPA further sought information on the clean drinking water sup-



ply project for Raiwind and adjoining areas, including its commencement date, estimated cost, contractor details, funds released, expected

completion date, and copies of tender documents and project records.

He also raised questions about the sewerage system restoration and installation projects in Raiwind, seeking details of tendering procedures, project completion status, total expenditures, released funds, and related technical documentation. In addition, Ahmar Bhatti requested information about the construction of shopkeepers' sheds by the Punjab Sahulat Bazaar Authority, asking under which law the initiative was launched, the proposed rental charges, and the complete project documentation.

Bhatti stated that the information had been sought to ensure transparency, accountability, and the timely completion of public welfare projects, enabling citizens to remain informed about development activities in their area.

## Zakat Foundation of America Pakistan Hosts "Guardians of the Earth" Youth Climate Innovation Challenge in Islamabad



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: Zakat Foundation of America (ZFA) Pakistan organized the "Guardians of the Earth" Youth Climate Innovation Challenge in Islamabad on World Environment Day, bringing together university students from across Pakistan to present innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Participants

showcased projects focused on climate change, environmental conservation, recycling, sustainable business models, and climate-resilient technologies. Speaking on the occasion, ZFA Pakistan Country Director Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman emphasized the importance of engaging youth in climate action, saying they play a key role in developing practical solutions for environmental sustainability.

Chief guest Dr. Muhammad Bashir Khan appreciated the creativity of participants and highlighted the importance of youth-led initiatives in addressing environmental issues.

At the conclusion of the event, winning teams were awarded for their innovative projects, which were recognized as meaningful contributions toward a greener and more sustainable future.

## Female Journalist Shahida Bhilar Reportedly Attacked and Robbed While Covering Protest in Khairpur

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KHAIRPUR: Female journalist Shahida Bhilar, based in Ranipur, has alleged that she was attacked and robbed while covering a protest in Malhar Khan Sheikh village within the limits of Tipani Bhilem police station.

According to her statement, she was invited by women to cover the protest when unidentified men allegedly attacked her and snatched her mobile phone, wallet, charger, power bank, press card, ATM card, cash, and other valuables before fleeing the scene.

The incident has triggered strong reactions from the journalist commu-



nity across Upper Sindh. Representatives of various press associations, including the Regional Union of Journalists Upper Sindh, Sukkur Divisional Press bodies, and Khairpur Press Club officials, expressed serious concern over the alleged attack.

Journalists termed the incident unacceptable and demanded immediate action from the Khairpur SSP, calling for prompt investigation and the arrest of those involved.

The journalist community has also announced protest against the incident, expressing anger and concern over the safety of media workers, particularly female journalists working in the field.

## Ms Misbah Khar Holds Key Meetings in Morocco, Stresses Enhanced Parliamentary Cooperation



BY: ANI Correspondent;

MARRAKESH/MOROCCO -- Ms. Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Ambassador to the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), held important sideline meetings with parliamentary leaders and delegates during the Fourth Edition of the PAM Marrakesh Economic Parliamentary Forum in Morocco.

During her meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of

Morocco, she discussed strengthening parliamentary relations, institutional cooperation, digital transformation, economic development, and youth engagement. She also conveyed the greetings of Chairman Senate Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening parliamentary collaboration.

Ms. Khar also met delegates from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and other participating countries. The discussions focused on parliamentary

diplomacy, artificial intelligence, sustainable development, trade, and investment. She highlighted the Senate of Pakistan's ongoing digital modernization initiatives and emphasized the importance of responsible and inclusive use of emerging technologies. The delegates appreciated Pakistan's active participation in international parliamentary forums and expressed interest in expanding cooperation through dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and exchange of best parliamentary practices.

## Munawar Hussain Assumes Additional Charge as Director Information, Gujranwala Division

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN--- The Punjab Government has issued an official notification appointing Munawar Hussain, a Grade-18 officer of the Punjab Information Department, as the Director Information, Gujranwala Division, on an additional charge basis. The notification was issued by the Provincial Secretary for Information and Culture Punjab, Syed Tahir Raza Hamdani, after which Munawar Hussain formally assumed charge and began performing his duties. On this occasion, Commissioner Gujranwala Muhammad Ali and Deputy Commissioner Mandi Bahauddin Adeel Haider congratu-



lated Munawar Hussain and extended their best wishes.

A simple but dignified ceremony was held at the Divisional Information Office to mark the assumption of

charge. Officers and staff members attended the event, congratulated the newly appointed Director, and presented him with bouquets. According to the notification, Munawar Hussain will oversee the affairs of the Information Department across all districts of Gujranwala Division, including Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Gujranwala, Narowal, and Sialkot.

He will also be responsible for addressing administrative matters of officers and staff, handling transfer and posting issues through mutual consultation, and ensuring effective coordination with District Information Officers to highlight the policies of the Punjab Government.

## Behtar Qadam, Nai Soch Kay Sath' Awareness Seminar Held at DHQ Toba Tek Singh

BY: ANI Correspondent:

TOBA TEK SINGH-- Under the Punjab Government's flagship initiative "Behtar Qadam, Nai Soch Kay Sath" (Better Steps, With a New Vision), an awareness seminar was held at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Toba Tek Singh under the Punjab Family Planning Programme to promote awareness on reproductive health, family well-being, maternal and child health, and sustainable household prosperity.

The event was organized in collaboration with RAYN and RIZ Consulting and attended by religious scholars, health officials, medical experts, administrative representatives, and citizens from various walks of life. Punjab Family Planning Programme Divisional Coordinator Anwaar Ahmed attended as special guest.

Addressing the participants, he said the Punjab Government is taking



practical steps at multiple levels to provide accurate information on reproductive health and family planning, while promoting a positive mindset in society. He added that the programme serves as a platform for dialogue among the public, experts, and religious scholars to address misconceptions and support informed, responsible decision-making.

Experts from health and administrative departments conducted sessions on population growth trends, family welfare, reproductive health, hygiene, maternal and child care, and economic stability. Speakers stressed that family planning is not only about population control but also essential for improving health outcomes, educational opportunities, economic stability, and overall social development.

Anwaar Ahmed further said the Punjab Family Planning Programme is a key government initiative aimed at strengthening family well-being through accessible information, counselling, and quality services. With World Bank support, it is helping improve maternal and child health indicators across Punjab's 41 districts.

At the conclusion, participants appreciated the initiative and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting healthy, balanced, and prosperous families in society.

## District Jail Mandi Bahauddin Ensures Facilities and Religious Freedom for Inmates During Muharram

(By Raja Muhammad Ayub)

MANDI BAHAUDDIN--- Superintendent District Jail Haq Nawaz said that on the special instructions of IG Prisons Punjab Mian Salik Jalal, complete religious freedom and all facilities are being provided to inmates during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He said the jail has been turned into a reformatory where focus is being given to prisoners' welfare, education,



and skill development so they can become useful citizens after release.

He added that inmates are being provided improved food, healthcare, clean drinking water, and better hygiene facilities. Security has also been tightened with CCTV monitoring, searchlights, and strict checking of visitors.

He further said that discipline among staff is being strictly monitored and any negligence will face departmental action.

## \*Traffic to Remain Restricted on Mall Road on 9th, 10th Muharram; Other Tourist Spots Open: DPO Murree\*

BY: ANI Correspondent:

\*MURREE---RAWALPINDI-- District Police Officer (DPO) Murree, Dr. Muhammad Raza Tanvir, has finalized a foolproof security plan and issued a comprehensive travel advisory to maintain law and order while facilitating tourists during Muharram-ul-Haram.

In a video message, DPO Murree Dr. Muhammad Raza Tanvir stated that the main procession of 10th Muharram will emerge from the central Imambargah in Lower Bazar at its scheduled time. The traditional procession will pass through Mall Road before peacefully concluding back at the same Imambargah.

To ensure foolproof security for the procession, general traffic and tourist



movement will remain restricted on Mall Road and its adjacent areas on the 9th and 10th of Muharram.

The DPO appealed to tourists heading towards the hill station to strictly adhere to the travel advisory to avoid any inconvenience. He clarified that apart from the designated security zones on Mall Road, all other tourist destinations and surrounding recreational spots in Murree will remain fully open to the public. Visitors can travel freely to these alternative spots, and Murree Police remain alert around the clock to assist citizens and tourists.

Dr. Muhammad Raza Tanvir also urged locals and tourists to widely download the Murree Police's official mobile application, 'Safe Tourism Murree'. Through this app, live traffic updates, alternative routes, and security-related information will be accessible to tourists at their fingertips.

## Misbah Khar Holds Sideline Meetings with Parliamentary Leaders at PAM Marrakesh Forum

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MOROCCO--- Ms. Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Ambassador to the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), held a series of sideline meetings with parliamentary leaders during the Fourth Edition of the PAM Marrakesh Economic Parliamentary Forum.

She met the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Morocco and discussed strengthening parliamentary relations, institutional cooperation, digital transformation, economic development, and youth engagement.

Ms. Khar also held meetings with delegates from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and other countries, focussing on parliamentary diplomacy, artificial intelligence, sustainable development, trade, and investment.

She highlighted Pakistan Senate's digital modernization efforts, while delegates appreciated Pakistan's active role in international parliamentary forums



and expressed interest in expanding cooperation