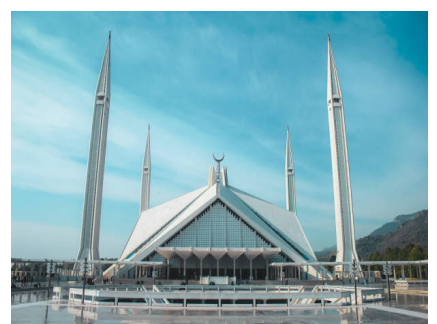


Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: <https://dailyfinancialtime.com>

Editor: Javed Siddiqui

Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 292 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Wednesday July 01 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

PM stresses balance between growing population, resources for country's sustainable development



DR WAHEED M KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, stressed that maintaining a balance between population and available resources was essential for sustainable development, saying that rapid population growth was placing increasing pressure on national resources and posing a major challenge to the country's progress.

Chairing a high-level meeting on population welfare, the prime minister said that population planning must be aligned with the national development, economic stability and the improvement of human resources, PM Office

Media Wing said in a press release.

He directed the authorities to convene the inaugural meeting of the National Population Council at the earliest and asked that its organizational structure be finalized without delay to facilitate effective policymaking on population issues.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for Finance and

Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani and senior officials.

The prime minister announced that he would personally chair the National Population Council, which would include the chief ministers of all four provinces, the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, and other key stakeholders.

During the meeting, participants were briefed on the country's rising population and measures aimed at its control and welfare.

The briefing highlighted plans to link social protection programmes with the family planning initiatives, while emphasizing

that women's education and economic empowerment would form a key component of the national population control strategy.

The meeting was also informed that a nationwide public awareness campaign would be launched to promote balanced population growth and family planning. It was apprised that successful population management programmes were in place in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Iran. According to the briefing, the National Population Council, in collaboration with provincial governments, would help implement an effective nationwide population welfare campaign.

Any attempt to deny Pakistan's water rights to incur profound consequences for regional peace: Dar

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday declared that Pakistan would safeguard its rights under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) through all available legal and diplomatic means amid warning that any attempt to deprive the country of its allocated share of water would have profound consequences for regional peace and security.

Addressing the International Seminar on the Indus Waters Treaty 2026 here at the Convention Center, Dar said water was not merely a natural resource but the foundation of human dignity, economic prosperity, food security and environmental sustainability. He said the Indus River system had sustained civilizations for thousands of years and its preservation was a shared responsibility.

He emphasized that transboundary rivers should unite nations through cooperation rather than divide them through confrontation, and described this principle as firmly rooted in international law. Recalling the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 under the auspices of the World Bank, Dar said the agreement established a durable legal framework for sharing the waters of the six rivers of the Indus Basin. He noted that while India received unrestricted use of the three eastern rivers, Pakistan was allocated the three western rivers, with India permitted only limited uses under the treaty.

The deputy prime minister said Pakistan had undertaken extensive restructuring of its irrigation and water management systems in reliance on the permanence of the Treaty, despite suffering significant disadvantages after the eastern rivers ceased to flow into Pakistan.

"For more than six decades, including periods of war and political tensions, Pakistan honoured the Treaty in both letter and spirit because it believed that international agreements would be respected in good faith," he said.

Dar termed India's decision to place the Treaty in abeyance as "illegal, unilateral and without any basis" in either the Treaty



or international law. He said Pakistan unequivocally rejected the announcement, maintaining that the Indus Waters Treaty remained valid, binding and fully operational.

"No party can unilaterally suspend or terminate obligations under a treaty that contains no such provision," he said, adding that the principle reflected the fundamental rule of international law that treaties must be implemented in good faith.

Referring to proceedings before the Court of Arbitration constituted under the Treaty, Dar said the court had reaffirmed that the Indus Waters Treaty established a permanent legal regime governing the rights and obligations of both countries over the Indus Basin. He said the court's findings reinforced that such agreements could not be suspended or terminated unilaterally. He warned that disregarding binding international agreements whenever they became politically inconvenient would weaken confidence in the international legal order and undermine peaceful relations among states. Expressing concern over developments since April 2025, Dar alleged that Pakistan had observed abrupt variations in the flows of the Chenab and Jhelum rivers and continued efforts to expand infrastructure capable of regulating waters allocated to Pakistan. He said such actions undermined the cooperative framework that had preserved regional stability for more than six decades. The Deputy Prime Minister said disputes must be resolved exclusively through the mechanisms established under the Treaty rather than through unilateral actions.

Tarar says respect for Indus Waters Treaty essential to regional stability

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said respect for the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was essential to regional peace and stability,



stressing that international agreements could not be amended, revoked, suspended or held in abeyance unilaterally.

Addressing the inaugural session of international seminar titled "Indus Waters Treaty: An Instrument of Peace and Regional Stability," the minister said the event was not merely about discussing a treaty but about the lifeline of more than 240 million people of Pakistan. He said Pakistan's identity was deeply connected with the Indus River and the Indus Valley Civilization, adding that wherever he travelled abroad, he introduced Pakistanis as the people of the Indus Valley Civilization. He said the country's history and identity were rooted along the banks and tributaries of the mighty River Indus. Describing water as life, Tarar said the Indus had given life to Pakistan and that the country's 240 million people had an inalienable right to its waters. He emphasized that for Pakistan, water was not simply a resource but a matter of life itself. The minister said the Indus river system had nurtured one of the world's oldest civilizations for thousands of years, connecting people from the towering peaks of Gilgit-Baltistan to the fertile plains of Punjab and Sindh across geography and history.

"The story of Pakistan is, in many ways, the story of the Indus," he said. Referring to the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, he said the agreement occupied a unique place in inter-

national relations. Signed under the auspices of the World Bank, he said, the treaty had endured wars, political upheavals and prolonged periods of tension for more than six decades, demon-

strating that cooperation, dialogue and adherence to international commitments remained the only sustainable path to peace. Tarar described the treaty as a remarkable example of the rules-based international order, saying it embodied the principles of good faith, "pacta sunt servanda", the sanctity of agreements, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

He said these were not merely legal concepts but the foundations upon which trust among nations was built. He said Pakistan's national leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal, Syed Asim Munir and Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, had made it clear that the people of Pakistan had a right to the waters of the Indus and that the Indus Waters Treaty could not be amended, revoked, suspended or held in abeyance unilaterally. The minister said the treaty had come into existence through mutual consensus and that any amendment or revision could only be made through mutual agreement between the parties. He said India's attempt to unilaterally hold the treaty in abeyance had resulted in international embarrassment for India at various forums, including legal forums. According to the minister, the moral, social and legal foundations of any such unilateral attempt were extremely weak, adding that any structure built on weak foundations would ultimately collapse.

14 children dead as school academy roof collapses in Lahore's Kahna



ANI

LAHORE: At least 14 children were killed and several others injured after the roof of a school academy collapsed in Lahore's Kahna area.

According to Punjab Health Minister, the death toll from the tragic incident has reached 14. Rescue officials said around 20 to 25 people, including a female teacher and mostly young children, were present inside the tuition center at the time of the collapse. Rescue authorities said they received information about the incident at 4:45pm, after which teams launched an operation and recovered several children from under the debris. Officials had earlier

warned that the death toll could rise. Residents said the building was also being used as a school during morning hours, while children were attending tuition classes at the academy when the roof collapsed. Police said construction work was underway on the upper floor of the building, while children were present on the ground floor. After the incident, two people, including the house owner, were taken into custody. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Lahore Faisal Kamran said the roof was weak and constructed with girders, adding that rainfall had further weakened the structure.

He confirmed that 14 children were killed and nine injured, while five people were detained for investigation. DIG Operations said the rescue operation had been completed and the area cleared, while police had started a detailed investigation into the causes of the collapse. Rescue officials said the operation has been completed, with 20 children recovered from the debris. Among them, 14 lost their lives while six injured children were shifted to hospitals for medical treatment.

Bilawal warns against any attempt to undermine Pakistan's water rights

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday warned that any move to infringe upon Pakistan's water rights would draw a united national response, emphasizing that lasting peace between Pakistan and India is impossible without the restoration of the Indus Waters Treaty. Addressing an international seminar on the Indus Waters Treaty, he said that the use of sea lanes or water resources as weapons is a dangerous trend that poses a threat to global peace. He said that water is not merely a question of geography, but also of food security, the future, and life itself, adding that the world has realized water resources have become a central issue in global politics and security. Bilawal



FCCP issues notices to NEPRA, others in private power plants levy case

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan on Tuesday issued notices to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and other respondents while hearing the federal government's petition challenging the judgments of the Sindh High Court and the Lahore High Court regarding the levy imposed on private power plants. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case. During the proceedings, Justice Aamer Farooq raised several key questions, asking when the government had issued the levy notification and whether the regulator determined the power generation cost of each plant. He also inquired whether all private power plants were subject to the same tariff or whether each plant had a separately determined tariff. Counsel for the companies informed the court that NEPRA determines a separate tariff for each power plant. He argued that the levy notification had been issued in March and, therefore, could not be applied retrospectively to the month of February. He further submitted that the government

Bhutto Zardari said that just as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz affects the global economy, the waters of the Indus River are a guarantee of Pakistan's survival.

He said that the Indus is not merely a river but a source of life, agriculture, and economic activ-

ity for millions of people. Therefore, he stressed, Pakistan's share of water must be safeguarded under the Indus Waters Treaty.

He said that Pakistan's rights over the waters of the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers are recognized under international agreements, adding that the issue should not be viewed as a purely technical dispute but as a matter of national security.

Bilawal said that Pakistan seeks peace, but will not compromise on its people's fundamental rights or water interests. He noted that the entire nation stands united in protecting the water rights of millions of Pakistanis.

Bilawal further said that using water as a political weapon runs contrary to international laws and agreements.

Senate opposition leader files privilege motion against Barakahu SHO, seeks action over 'rude' conduct

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the Senate Raja Nasir Abbas filed a privilege motion against the Station House Officer (SHO) of Barakahu on Monday, alleging that he was prevented from reaching his residence and treated in a "rude and discourteous manner" at a police checkpoint, it emerged on Tuesday. The motion was filed a day after a high-level delegation of Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Ayeeen Pakistan (TTAP), led by National Assembly Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai, was stopped by police from travelling to

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) after announcing plans to join an ongoing sit-in in Rawalakot. Police officers had stated that they had been instructed by their "senior officers" not to allow the delegation to continue. The delegation included Abbas, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, TTAP spokesperson Hussain Ahmad Yousafzai, and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry, counsel for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan. The motion, dated June 29 and submitted under the Senate's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business and addressed to Senate Chairman Yousaf

Raza Gillani, accuses Sub-Inspector (SI) Naeem-ul-Hassan, SHO Barakahu Police Station, of committing "a breach of privilege".

According to the motion, Abbas was travelling to his residence in Satra Meel, Islamabad, at approximately 5:30pm when he found that the road had been blocked by police at a checkpoint in Barakahu. The senator alleged that SI Naeem-ul-Hassan, accompanied by a large number of police personnel, approached his vehicle and "in a rude and discourteous manner" informed him that he could not proceed any further.



Miguel Ángel Moratinos, United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), called on Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, to discuss global efforts to combat Islamophobia, promote interfaith harmony and strengthen cooperation on human rights. Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister of State for Law and Justice, was also present during the meeting.

Public Cooperation Essential for a Clean and Sustainable Environment, Says ADCG Kamran Saghir

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE--- Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Murree, Kamran Saghir, participated in an awareness seminar on Solid Waste Management held at Ramada Murree Lower Topa Resort on Tuesday in connection with World Environment Day.

The seminar featured expert presentations on key environmental issues, including solid waste management, waste segregation, recycling, sanitation, and environmental conservation. Participants were briefed on the importance of adopting environmentally responsible practices to ensure a cleaner and healthier society.

Addressing the gathering, ADC (General) Kamran Saghir said that maintaining a clean and healthy environment is a shared responsibility of every citizen. He emphasized that building an environmentally friendly society is impossible without active public participation. He urged residents to dispose of waste



responsibly, promote recycling, and contribute to keeping their surroundings clean.

He further stated that protecting the environment is essential for sustainable development and the well-being of future generations, adding that the district administration remains committed to promoting

environmental awareness and effective waste management practices.

The seminar concluded with a renewed commitment by all participating institutions and stakeholders to work together for environmental protection, improved solid waste management, and sustainable development.

Gilani Hails Pakistan’s Civil, Military Leadership for Promoting US-Iran Peace, Urges Focus on Education and Innovation

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD/SWABI--- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said Pakistan needs graduates who can solve problems, create jobs and contribute to national development, while congratulating the country’s civil and military leadership for their role in promoting peace between the United States and Iran.

Addressing the annual convocation of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology in Topi, Swabi, Gilani said quality education, research and innovation are essential for Pakistan’s progress. He urged universities to focus on producing skilled graduates capable of meeting modern challenges and driving economic growth.

Highlighting Pakistan’s large youth population, he stressed the



need to equip young people with knowledge and skills, particularly in engineering, science and technology, to accelerate national development.

Gilani also praised GIKI’s contribution to higher education and reaffirmed his commitment to promoting education, science, technology and research. He expressed hope that Pakistan’s peace efforts between

the United States and Iran would benefit the region and further strengthen the country’s image as a peace-loving nation.

Earlier, Gilani distributed degrees and medals among graduating students. The ceremony was attended by Faisal Karim Kundi, Saleem Saifullah Khan, faculty members and other dignitaries.

Ali Hasan Brohi Elected Unopposed as Sindh Basketball Association President

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI---- Former Secretary to the Government of Sindh, Ali Hasan Brohi, has been unanimously elected President of the Sindh Basketball Association, while Dleep Singh of Mirpur Khas was elected Secretary during the Association’s elections held in Karachi under the supervision of the Pakistan Basketball Federation.

The meeting was chaired by Pakistan Basketball Federation Secretary Khalid Bashir and attended by representatives of all six divisional basketball associations of Sindh.

Other elected office-bearers include Yaqoob Qadry (Senior Vice President), Arshad Saeed (Vice President), Raja Sheeraz (Treasurer), and Sahir Hussain and Shabbir Chandio as Executive Members.



Addressing the meeting, Ali Hasan Brohi pledged to promote basketball among youth and women, particularly in the interior districts of Sindh. Dleep Singh thanked the

members for their confidence and said the Association’s development programme would be announced soon after consultations with the newly elected Executive Committee.

Iranian Parliament Speaker M Bagher Ghalibaf Invites NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to Memorial Ceremony in Tehran

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, has extended a formal invitation to the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to attend the official memorial ceremony being held in honour of the martyred Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Syed Ali Hussaini Khamenei.

In his letter, Speaker Ghalibaf conveyed his profound grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Ayatollah Syed Ali Hussaini Khamenei. The official memorial ceremony and tribute will be held in Tehran on 3 July 2026. The Iranian Speaker expressed his deep respect for Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Members of the Parliament of Pakistan, and the people of Pakistan. He also re-affirmed the enduring friendship and strategic



partnership between Pakistan and Iran, noting that the relationship between the two neighbouring countries is founded on mutual respect, shared values, and longstanding brotherly ties.

Speaker Ghalibaf emphasized that the late Ayatollah Syed Ali Hussaini Khamenei’s steadfast com-

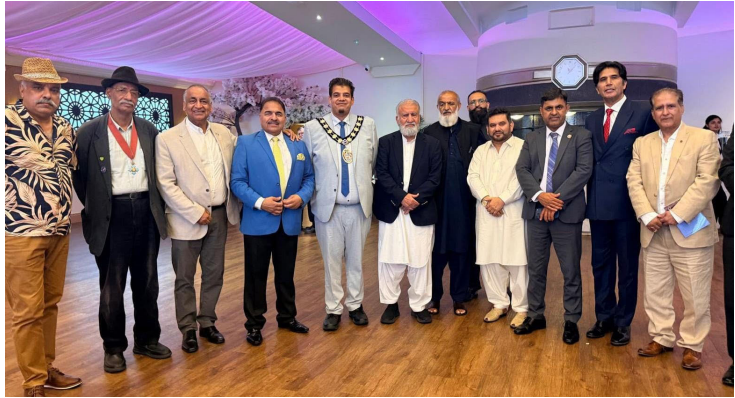
mitment to justice, national sovereignty, and the dignity of the Muslim Ummah would remain a lasting source of inspiration for future generations. He expressed hope that the close cooperation and historic friendship between Pakistan and Iran would continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

Charity Dinner in London Raises Funds for Al Mustafa Trust’s Humanitarian Work

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LONDON--- A charity dinner and Qawwali evening in support of the Al Mustafa Trust was held at The Royal Nawaab in West London, hosted by Raja Sikander Khan, Chairman, and Kala Khan, President of Kashmir International Outfit, representing the Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council. The event brought together hundreds of guests from across the United Kingdom and raised substantial funds to support the Trust’s free healthcare and humanitarian services for underprivileged communities in Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Al Mustafa Trust Chairman Lt. Gen. (R) Muhammad Mustafa Khan highlighted the Trust’s humanitarian achievements and ongoing welfare



projects. A fundraising appeal received generous support from attendees, while certificates of appreciation were presented to sponsors in recognition of their contributions.

The evening concluded with a din-

ner and a Qawwali performance by renowned Pakistani vocalist Faizan Ali Khan. President Kala Khan thanked the guests, donors, sponsors, and volunteers for supporting the Trust’s humanitarian mission.

Talha Mahmood Chairs Senate Defence Committee Meeting, Calls for Better Air Connectivity and Airport Upgrades



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Muhammad Talha Mahmood, on Tuesday reviewed key issues including high airfares on the Quetta route, the condition of Karachi’s Jinnah International Airport, pilots’ licensing, operations at Gwadar International Airport, climate-related disasters, and other defence matters.

The meeting was attended by Khawaja Muhammad Asif, senators and senior officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Pakistan Airports Authority and airline representatives.

The committee directed the authorities to ensure regular flight operations to underserved regions, including Quetta, Gilgit and Chitral, and sought details of airlines penalised for failing to operate mandatory socio-economic routes. The Defence Minister informed the committee that airfares are market-driven but assured full cooperation in improving connectivity to remote areas.

The committee also received a briefing from the Pakistan Meteorological Department on Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), the upcoming monsoon season and flood preparedness. Chairman Talha Mahmood directed

all relevant departments to remain vigilant and take timely preventive measures to safeguard lives and property.

Reviewing the condition of Jinnah International Airport, the committee expressed concern over inadequate passenger facilities and directed the Ministry of Defence to submit a detailed report on infrastructure deficiencies and development plans. It also called for accelerated efforts to increase air traffic at Gwadar International Airport and sought a comprehensive report on the pilots’ licensing issue, while emphasizing transparency in all aviation-related matters.

Public Jirgas Are Key to Addressing People’s Issues and Promoting Lasting Peace: Balochistan Governor

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--- Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that public opinion is the foundation of successful politics and that public jirgas provide an effective platform to directly hear people’s concerns and find practical solutions.

Addressing a public jirga in Awaran, the governor said political leaders and bureaucrats cannot fully understand ground realities by remaining confined to offices. He stressed that jirgas strengthen consultation, reconciliation, and collective decision-making while enhancing public trust.

The event was attended by Mir



Sarfraz Bugti, senior civil and military officials, tribal elders, religious scholars, and representatives from various walks of life.

Governor Mandokhail said Balochistan is rich in natural resources and human potential, adding that the economic transfor-

mation of Makran and Gwadar would bring new opportunities for Awaran and surrounding areas. He expressed confidence that public jirgas would help promote peace, strengthen harmony, and improve governance by ensuring greater responsiveness to public needs.

Three Held as Mandi Bahauddin Police Trace Blind Murder of Businessman

BY: Special Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN--- The CIA Staff of Mandi Bahauddin has successfully traced the blind murder of a local businessman and arrested three suspects during a special operation launched on the directions of DPO Kamran Aamir Khan.

According to police, a CIA team led by DSP Muhammad Aamir Shaheen Gondal and SHO Sub-Inspector Muhammad Asif Ranjha, along with other officials, used modern investigative techniques and intelligence-based operations to solve the case registered at the Kathiala Sheikhan Police Station.



Police recovered the murder weapon and the cash allegedly looted from the victim after the arrest of the accused. Initial investigations revealed that the suspects murdered businessman Qadeer and dumped his body near a canal bank to conceal the crime.

DPO Kamran Aamir Khan praised the CIA team for their successful investigation, stating that Mandi Bahauddin Police remains committed to safeguarding the lives and property of citizens and will continue indiscriminate action against criminal elements.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiqui
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Opinion

3

Note: If the concerned department or any other relevant party wishes to present its position, the pages of The Daily Financial Times remain open to publish their response.

Years of Silence Over Representation Against Alleged Illegal Appointments Raise Questions for Punjab’s Higher Education Department

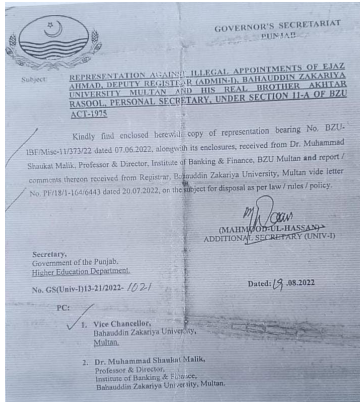
Written:By Hurish Shah
Published BY: ANI

Justice is not denied only by an unfair decision. It is also denied when no decision is made for years. Every public institution has a legal and moral responsibility to decide complaints and statutory representations within a reasonable time. Delayed justice weakens public confidence, encourages speculation, and creates the impression that influential individuals may receive special treatment. In a democratic system, transparency and accountability are not optional; they are essential principles of good governance.

A striking example is a representation submitted by former Prof. Dr. Shoukat Malik, former Director of the Institute of Banking and Finance, Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan. On 7 June 2022, he filed a representation under Section 11-A of the BZU Act, 1975, alleging irregularities in the appointments of Mr. Ejaz Ahmad, then Deputy Registrar (Admin-I) and now Acting Registrar, and his real brother, Mr. Akhtar Rasool, then Personal Secretary and now serving as Assistant Treasurer. The representation, titled “Representation Against Alleged Illegal Appointments,” was accompanied by supporting documents and annexures.

According to the official record, the university administration submitted its para-wise comments on 20 July 2022. Subsequently, on 19 August 2022, the complete case was forwarded to the Secretary, Higher Education Department, Punjab, for disposal in accordance with the applicable law, rules, and government policy. Since then, years have passed, yet no final decision has reportedly been communicated.

This prolonged silence has now become more significant than the



original representation itself. The central issue is no longer whether the allegations are ultimately found to be correct or otherwise. The real question is why the competent authority has not decided the matter despite having the complete record before it for such a long period. Administrative delay of this magnitude cannot be regarded as routine bureaucracy. It raises legitimate concerns regarding institutional accountability and good governance.

The Higher Education Department owes an explanation to the public. If the representation lacks legal merit, it should be dismissed through a reasoned order. If the allegations warrant further proceedings, the department should proceed in accordance with the law. Keeping the matter pending indefinitely serves neither justice nor the credibility of the department.

Moreover, prolonged inaction inevitably creates a public perception that certain officials may be receiving institutional protection. Whether such a perception is justified or not is not the issue. The issue is that continued silence allows unnecessary doubts to persist. The Higher Education Department could remove such uncertainty simply by

issuing a lawful, transparent, and reasoned decision based on the available record.

Universities are expected to uphold merit, integrity, and the rule of law. Their administrative affairs should remain transparent and beyond reasonable suspicion. Whenever matters concerning senior officials remain undecided for years, the confidence of faculty members, students, and the wider public is inevitably affected.

The purpose of highlighting this issue is not to declare anyone guilty or innocent. Determining responsibility rests solely with the competent authority after examining the available evidence and applicable law. However, delaying that responsibility for years cannot be justified. Justice requires timely action, and public administration demands accountability. No individual should remain under unresolved allegations indefinitely, and no complainant should be left waiting endlessly for a lawful decision.

The Higher Education Department should now examine the record, complete any remaining legal formalities, and issue a speaking order based solely on law and evidence. Regardless of the outcome, such a decision would strengthen public confidence in the administrative process and reaffirm the government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

The credibility of public institutions is measured not by protecting influential individuals but by applying the law equally to everyone. Justice delayed ultimately becomes public distrust. A transparent and timely decision in this long-pending representation is no longer merely an administrative necessity; it is a test of the credibility, impartiality, and integrity of Punjab's higher education governance.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto: A Symbol of Courage and Democracy



BY:Sumblina Hassan
Former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto In-Charge, RCC UK, 10 Bilawal House

Published By:ANI News Agency



Benazir Bhutto remains one of the most influential political figures in Pakistan's history. Her legacy continues to inspire millions of supporters who admired her courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to democracy. She earned the respect of scholars, religious leaders, politicians, and, above all, the people of Pakistan.

She believed in the principles of justice, tolerance, and democratic governance while remaining deeply connected to the moral and cultural values of Islam. Throughout her political journey, she demonstrated remarkable courage in the face of immense adversity.

The execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto marked a defining moment in Pakistan's political history. Although his life was taken, his ideas endured and inspired a nationwide movement for the restoration of democracy. That movement was carried forward by Benazir Bhutto, who emerged as the voice of her father and of millions of Pakistanis longing for democratic governance. She went on to become the first woman elected to lead a Muslim-majority nation, creating history and opening new doors for women in politics across the Islamic world.

During her years in exile, I had the privilege of witnessing her dedication firsthand while serving alongside her at the Barbican Centre in London. Despite constant security

threats and severe political restrictions, she remained determined, optimistic, and focused on the struggle for democracy. Her exceptional leadership, visionary thinking, and remarkable resilience inspired everyone around her. Her determination motivated me to dedicate my own time, energy, and efforts to support her mission whenever possible.

Our political work extended from grassroots activism to international engagement. What began as study circles in my family's home evolved into a broader political network across the United Kingdom, Europe, and North America. Meetings, seminars, awareness campaigns, and community gatherings were regularly organised in honour of Benazir Bhutto, attracting thousands of supporters committed to democratic values and social justice.

Following her martyrdom, Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari continued to uphold her political vision. Alongside them, numerous dedicated party leaders and workers have remained committed to preserving her legacy and strengthening democratic institutions.

Today, I remain actively engaged

in political and social affairs both in the United Kingdom and internationally. My work includes participating in policy discussions, coordinating with researchers, journalists, elected representatives, and civil society organisations, contributing to debates on national and international issues, promoting awareness of human rights, supporting initiatives against human and child trafficking, and advocating for the rights of the people of Kashmir through peaceful and democratic means.

The ideals championed by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto remain as relevant today as ever. At a time when democracy, human rights, and social justice continue to face challenges around the world, their vision serves as a guiding light for future generations. Their sacrifices remind us that democracy demands courage, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to the people.

I remain proud to have served Benazir Bhutto and to continue supporting the values she stood for. Her legacy is not merely a chapter in history—it is an enduring inspiration for all who believe in democracy, equality, justice, and the dignity of humanity.

Commissioner Muhammad Ali Backs Sister City Partnerships to Boost Gujranwala’s Global Profile



BY: Special Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA--- Commissioner Gujranwala Division Muhammad Ali has stressed the need to establish “Sister City” partnerships with developed cities worldwide to enhance Gujranwala’s global profile. Speaking

at a meeting with Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ali Humayun Butt and business representatives, he said the initiative would promote trade, investment, tourism and cultural cooperation. He noted that Gujranwala’s strong industrial base would benefit from access to

new markets, advanced technology and increased export opportunities. Chamber President Ali Humayun Butt welcomed the proposal, saying sister city partnerships would encourage trade exchanges, attract investment and support the city’s economic growth.

Federal Minister Sardar Yousaf, UN envoy discuss rising Islamophobia, religious harmony

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf met with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) High Representative and Special

Envoy for Combating Islamophobia, Miguel Moratinos, and held detailed discussions on the growing trends of Islamophobia and religious intolerance.

Both sides agreed to work together to promote dialogue among differ-

ent civilizations and religions, strengthen mutual cooperation, foster harmony, and enhance social cohesion.

Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said Pakistan was committed to working with UNAOC.

Khichi underscores universities’ role in food security, innovation



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi on Tuesday emphasized the key role of universities in ensuring food security, promoting research and innovation, and driving sustainable national development.

He made these remarks while addressing the concluding ceremony of a comprehensive Faculty Development Programme (Training of Trainers - ToT) titled “Advancing Social Entrepreneurship in Agriculture for Sustainable Peace Building,” organized by Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The initiative was aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of university faculty members while promoting innovative approaches to agricultural entrepreneurship, youth empowerment and sustainable peace. Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I.) attended the

ceremony as the guest of honour. Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman welcomed the distinguished guests along with deans, directors, faculty members and senior university officials. Addressing the participants, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said faculty development initiatives were essential for strengthening higher education institutions and preparing future generations to address national challenges. He said such professional training programmes significantly contributed to the intellectual growth of faculty members and ultimately improved the quality of education. He said agricultural universities such as PMAS-AAUR played a pivotal role in ensuring the nation's food security and advancing sustainable agricultural development. He added that university-led research, innovation and the adoption of modern technologies were key drivers of national progress and economic prosperity. The minister congratulated the vice chancellor and his team for successfully organizing the faculty development programme in collaboration with UNODC.

Special field teams to monitor Benazir Kafaalat payments through Digital Wallets

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Tuesday said special mobilization and monitoring teams were being trained and deployed across the country to facilitate beneficiary women and ensure the smooth implementation of the Digital Wallet payment system ahead of the upcoming Benazir Kafaalat payments. She was addressing a large-scale training session held at the BISP Headquarters to ensure the effective implementation of the new payment system for the upcoming Benazir Kafaalat installment through Digital Wallets. She said the Digital Wallet system was being introduced to provide beneficiary women with a more convenient, secure and dignified payment experience. The session was attended by BISP officers and staff. The chairperson emphasized that the successful implementation of the initiative depended on the active contribution of every team member. She said that with the launch of the new payment system, BISP had established dedicated mobilization and monitoring teams, which were being trained and deployed to the field.

MD WASA Directs Submission of Sewerage Improvement Plans by July 7



BY: Special Correspondent ANI,

FAISALABAD--- Managing Director Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Saqib Raza has directed all Assistant Directors to identify areas facing chronic sewerage issues and submit comprehensive development schemes for their permanent resolution by July 7.

Chairing a meeting, the MD instructed officers to survey their

respective sub-divisions and prepare detailed proposals, including recommended solutions, the required length of sewer lines, estimated project costs and other technical details to facilitate timely approval.

Saqib Raza also directed that, besides the main force line on Jhang Road, sewer lines should be laid in adjoining streets to ensure a permanent solution to drainage problems

in nearby localities.

He said all proposed schemes would be mapped through the Geographic Information System (GIS), while the Deputy Director (Development) and his team would conduct field inspections to verify the proposals. He expressed confidence that the planned projects would provide long-term relief to residents of areas affected by persistent sewerage problems.

Germany Supports Landmark Conservation Project to Preserve Pakistan’s Artistic Heritage at Alhamra



BY ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE--- The Lahore Arts Council (Alhamra), with the support of the Embassy of Germany, has launched the Museum Collection Conservation & Re-framing Project to preserve Pakistan's valuable artistic heritage at the Alhamra Museum of Modern Arts.

The project aims to protect 52 art-

works, including 19 historically significant masterpieces, through museum-grade conservation and archival framing. In its first phase, 20 rare works by renowned artist Anna Molka Ahmed will be preserved using internationally accepted conservation techniques.

Alhamra has also upgraded the museum with a temperature-controlled storage system to improve the

long-term preservation of its collection.

Executive Director Muhammad Nawaz Gondal said the initiative reflects Alhamra's commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's cultural heritage and strengthening museum conservation through international collaboration. The project is expected to be completed in early August 2026.

ICCI Proposals Included in Federal Budget 2026-27

Business Community Welcomes Tax Relief and Investment-Friendly Measures, Reduction in withholding tax, abolition of Section 7E and CVT seen as positive economic steps

Sardar Tahir Mehmood,



Interviewers: Dr Waheed M Khan, Ikran Joiya , Hurish Shah & Interviewee: Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Introduction:
Sardar Tahir Mehmood is the President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and is widely recognized as a leading voice of Pakistan's business community. Throughout his tenure, he has played an active role in promoting private-sector participation in economic policymaking and strengthening collaboration between the government and the business community.
Under his leadership, ICCI has emerged as a dynamic platform that effectively represents the concerns of traders, industrialists, and entrepreneurs while contributing practical policy recommendations aimed at improving Pakistan's business climate. He has consistently advocated tax reforms, investment-friendly policies, and measures to facilitate sustainable economic growth.
FT: ICCI has stated that several of its recommendations have been included in the Federal Budget 2026-27. Could you highlight some key proposals?
Sardar Tahir Mehmood:

Alhamdulillah, a number of proposals submitted by ICCI have been reflected in the Federal Budget 2026-27. This reflects the government's recognition of constructive engagement with the business community and our continuous efforts for a business-friendly economic framework.
FT: Which recommendations do you consider most significant?
Sardar Tahir Mehmood:
One of the major developments is the reduction in withholding taxes in the real estate sector, which was a long-standing demand of ICCI. Similarly, the abolition of Section 7E and the removal of the one percent Capital Value Tax (CVT) on foreign wealth are important measures. These steps will help restore investor confidence and boost economic activity.
FT: Has the salaried class received any relief in the budget?
Sardar Tahir Mehmood:
Yes, to some extent. ICCI has consistently advocated relief for the salaried class in view of inflationary pressures, and the reduction in tax rates for salaried individuals is a welcome step. We also believe that the tax burden on existing taxpayers should be reduced while expanding the tax net.
FT: What about the digital economy and IT sector?
Sardar Tahir Mehmood:
ICCI has been strongly advocating policies to promote freelancers, IT exports, and innovation-driven enterprises. Measures supporting digitalization and technology initiatives indicate that the government is moving in the right direction.
FT: How do you view developments in the construction and housing sector?
Sardar Tahir Mehmood:
The construction sector is a key driver of economic growth. Tax reductions and facilitation measures in real estate and housing are encouraging developments that will revive allied industries and generate employment opportunities.



Misbah Khar Meets Interim Cambodian Senate President, Reviews Preparations for Second ISC Moot



BY: ANI Correspondent:

Phnom Penh/Islamabad-- Advisor to the Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Ambassador to the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), Misbah Khar, called on the Interim President of the Cambodian Senate, Mr. Ouch Borith, during her official visit to Phnom Penh.
During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, parliamentary cooperation, and ways to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Cambodia. Misbah Khar conveyed the warm greetings and best wishes of Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, to the leadership of the Cambodian Senate.
She expressed confidence that the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Cambodia would continue to expand through



stronger institutional linkages, enhanced cooperation between parliamentary bodies, and greater engagement among parliamentary friendship groups. Both sides emphasized the vital role of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting

mutual understanding, people-to-people contacts, and deeper bilateral ties.
Later, Misbah Khar joined members of the ISC delegation on a visit to the newly constructed GDT Conference Center, the venue for the Second Moot of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC). The delegation was briefed on the state-of-the-art facilities and the preparations being finalized for the international event.
Misbah Khar appreciated the efforts of the Cambodian Senate in organizing the landmark conference and expressed optimism that the Second ISC Moot would provide an important platform for strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue, promoting international cooperation, and facilitating the exchange of ideas among parliamentary leaders from across the world.

Ishaq Dar Chairs Advisory Board Meeting on Autism Centre of Excellence, Calls for Global Best Practices



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Advisory Board of the Centre of Excellence for Autism in Islamabad on Tuesday, where progress on the establishment of the facility and measures to strengthen support for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) were reviewed.
The meeting discussed initiatives to promote inclusive education, early intervention, and comprehensive support services, reaffirming the Government of Pakistan's commitment to creating an enabling



environment for persons with autism.
The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training gave a detailed briefing on the progress

made towards establishing a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for autistic children in Islamabad. The committee also sought input from leading experts in the field.
Senator Ishaq Dar directed the relevant institutions to adopt global best practices to ensure high-quality education and services for special children and to expedite work on the government's initiative to establish the Centre of Excellence.
The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa, the Federal Secretaries for Education and Health, and senior officials from the relevant ministries and departments.