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Army brass vows to take all measures to ensure Pakistan's 'rightful share of water' amid IWT tensions with India



DR WAHEED M KHAN

RAWALPINDI: The army's top brass on Monday expressed its "resolute commitment to undertake all measures necessary to ensure availability of Pakistan's rightful share of water".

The development came as Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir presided over the 276th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, according to a statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). "The Forum, taking note of Indian rhetoric surrounding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), reaffirmed the guidance given in the National Security Committee (NSC) directive" of April 24, 2025, which followed India's unilateral move to put the treaty in abeyance.

Conference (CCC) at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, according to a statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). "The Forum, taking note of Indian rhetoric surrounding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), reaffirmed the guidance given in the National Security Committee (NSC) directive" of April 24, 2025, which followed India's unilateral move to put the treaty in abeyance.

"The forum expressed resolute commitment to undertake all measures necessary to ensure availability of Pakistan's rightful share of water as per the directives of the government and inspirations of the people of Pakistan," the statement read.

The forum noted that "post comprehensive defeat inflicted" in Marka-i-Haq — the period of conflict with India last year — there was "increased reliance on an

evolving pattern of externally supported hybrid warfare and disinformation campaigns to cause unrest".

"The Forum condemned all such forms of state-supported financing, facilitation or sponsorship of proxies and underscored that any attempts to use hybrid means to destabilise Pakistan would continue to be countered with strategic clarity and firm resolve," the statement read.

PM directs Pakistani embassies to create more overseas job opportunities



DR WAHEED M KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed Pakistani embassies abroad to intensify efforts to identify and secure employment opportunities for the country's workforce, emphasizing the government's commitment to expanding overseas job prospects for skilled and qualified Pakistanis.

Chairing a review meeting on youth employment, the prime minister said Pakistan's workforce possessed immense potential and stressed the need to strengthen international outreach to connect skilled workers with global labour markets. He instructed embassies to actively collect and share information on available jobs and required qualifications in host countries.

The prime minister directed the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC), and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme to ensure that the workforce, particularly young people, received vocational skills training along with foreign language courses and internationally recognized certifications. The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan's workforce was highly capable and that the government was taking every possible step to provide education and training that meet international standards and improve global employability.

The prime minister emphasized that all relevant institutions should strengthen cooperation with other countries to align Pakistani certifications with international standards.

He also directed that language training, along with certification, be ensured for countries where employment opportunities existed for skilled Pakistani workers. The prime minister instructed that a report be presented on the performance of technical and vocational training institutes operating under NAVTC, as well as on the establishment of Country of Destination Centers. During the meeting, participants were given a detailed briefing on employment opportunities for the workforce, particularly young people. The meeting was informed that more than 800,000 young people had already registered on the Digital Youth Hub and that the employment opportunities were available abroad in sectors including construction, agriculture, tourism, healthcare, transportation, biotechnology, manufacturing, shipbuilding, information technology, engineering, nursing, pharmaceuticals, and food production.

The meeting told that training programs were currently underway to prepare Pakistanis for employment in these sectors.

Pakistani embassies will provide information on overseas job opportunities and the qualifications required for them through the Digital Youth Hub portal, the prime minister was informed.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Dr. Musadik Malik, Attaulah Tarar, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, Chairman NAVTC Raja Qamar ul Islam, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, and other senior government officials.

DPM/FM Dar reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to UN Charter, international law



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue working towards promoting the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect for international law and treaties, and active

international cooperation for global peace and prosperity. He was talking to Maria Fernanda Espinosa, former Foreign Minister of Ecuador and currently candidate for the position of United Nations Secretary-General who called on him here, according to a press statement issued by the Foreign Office Spokesperson. Welcoming Ms. Espinosa, DPM/FM expressed Pakistan's full support for strengthening multilateralism, and ensuring the central role of the United Nations in the global affairs. He expressed the hope that the incoming Secretary General will carry out much needed reforms in the United Nations and will ensure the implementation of long-standing UNSC resolutions, especially for Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir which remain crucial for lasting peace in the Middle East and South Asia.

Bilawal vows no compromise on Indus Waters Treaty

ANI

GILGIT: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has declared that Pakistan will not compromise on the Indus Waters Treaty, warning that the country is prepared to fight if necessary. He accused India of attempting to use the treaty as a political weapon. Addressing the main oath-taking ceremony in Gilgit, Bilawal paid tribute to the sacrifices of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, describing them as patriotic Pakistanis. He said the region's residents continue to remember former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for his contributions. He said the people of Gilgit-Baltistan won their freedom from Dogra rule through struggle and sacrifice, earning a distinguished place in history.



Bilawal pledged to create better opportunities for young people, saying the public mandate in Gilgit-Baltistan carries a great responsibility for his party. He added that address-

ing the region's challenges remains a top priority and described its youth as talented and skilled. The PPP chairman also said politics in Pakistan has become synonymous with conflict and confrontation, stressing that his party is willing to work with all political forces in the national interest. He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for accepting the mandate in Gilgit-Baltistan and expressed gratitude to both the prime minister and the Pakistan Muslim League (N).

Bilawal further claimed that Pakistan's armed forces had inflicted a humiliating defeat on India in the recent conflict. He said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi should know that Pakistan is aware of what he described as India's alleged conspiracies.

Hamas dissolves Gaza governing body, clearing way for technocratic committee

ANI

Hamas is preparing to dissolve the body that has governed the Gaza Strip for nearly two decades, officials from the group said Monday, clearing the way for a Palestinian technocratic committee to implement civilian rule. The move marks a significant political shift by militant group Hamas, which

has run Gaza since its fighters seized control from rival Palestinian movement Fatah in 2007.

Since a ceasefire took effect in Gaza last October between Hamas and Israel, the group has repeatedly said it is prepared to step aside from day-to-day governance, but the thorny issue of its disarmament remains unresolved. "The movement has decided to

dissolve the Gaza government committee and to appoint a nationally accepted figure to oversee the committee's work until the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza formally assumes its responsibilities," a Hamas official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to talk publicly on the matter.

Khawaja Asif hits back at Indian propaganda

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday said personal attacks by India against him would not solve the issues confronting New Delhi or restore Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "pitifully crumbling" reputation at home and abroad, particularly after what he described as Pakistan's victory over India last year. Responding to Indian propaganda in a post on social media platform X, Asif said attacks against him were an attempt to divert attention from questions surrounding Modi's international image and the credibility of foreign



honours conferred on the Indian premier. In his post, the defence minister also referred to criticism by Indian opposition leader Rahul

Gandhi and a recent report by British newspaper The Guardian, saying both had questioned the credibility of some of the awards bestowed on Modi.

"Coming after me doesn't solve the problem. Calling me mentally unstable won't bring stability to Modi's pitifully crumbling reputation both at home and abroad specially after beating he got from Pakistan last year," he wrote. "Rahul Gandhi is saying the same thing about the awards given to Modi - that they are AI-generated or self-managed to project a global statesman image. It has actually enhanced his reputation as a global con man."

Bank Alfalah, BII Sign \$50 Million Climate Finance Deal for Pakistan

BY: Hurish Shah :

ISLAMABAD--- Bank Alfalah Limited and British International Investment (BII) have signed a USD 50 million senior term loan facility to expand climate finance and support sustainable development projects in Pakistan.

The agreement was signed during London Climate Action Week by Bank Alfalah President and CEO Atif Bajwa and BII CEO Leslie Maasdorp in the presence of British High Commissioner Jane Marriott.

The financing will support climate-smart agriculture, water irrigation systems, and other sustainable projects aimed at strengthening Pakistan's resilience to climate change. BII will also provide technical assistance to help Bank Alfalah develop and finance more climate-related projects.

Atif Bajwa said the partnership reflects Bank Alfalah's commitment to mobilizing international capital for Pakistan's sustainable growth. Leslie Maasdorp said the investment



would improve access to climate finance and support climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Jane Marriott said the partnership dem-

onstrates the UK and Pakistan's shared commitment to tackling climate change and promoting a greener, more resilient future.



Karachi : Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met members of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) to discuss Pakistan's economic outlook, reform agenda, and policy continuity.

Acting President Gilani Pays Tribute to Havalдар Lalak Jan Shaheed on 27th Martyrdom Anniversary

BY: Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani paid glowing tribute to Havalдар Lalak Jan Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) on his 27th martyrdom anniversary, describing him as a shining symbol of courage, patriotism, and unwavering devotion to the

defence of Pakistan.

He said Havalдар Lalak Jan displayed exceptional bravery during the Kargil conflict and embraced martyrdom while defending the country's frontiers on July 7, 1999. Gilani said the martyr's supreme sacrifice continues to inspire future generations and reflects the highest traditions of ser-

vice and sacrifice.

The Acting President said the nation salutes its martyrs and their families for their invaluable sacrifices in safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, unity, and national resolve. He also prayed for the martyr's elevated ranks in Jannah and for lasting peace, stability, and prosperity for the country.

Business Community Briefed on Gujranwala Mass Transit Project



BT: ANI Correspondent; GUJRANWALA Dr. Mil

Project Director Captain (Retd.) Zpahid Saeed and Commissioner Gujranwala Muhammad Ali briefed the business community on the Gujranwala Mass Transit Project during a session organized by Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ali Humayun Butt.

Officials said the Rs 62.74 billion project will span 31.5 kilometres with 25 stations, including a 2.5-kilometre underground section, and has been designed to international standards while minimizing land acquisition.

Commissioner Muhammad Ali assured traders that affected properties would receive full compensation through the Price Assessment Committee. He also said temporary

utility shifting is underway and environmental protection measures, including tree transplantation, are being implemented.

The business community demanded temporary access roads to shops during construction to ensure uninterrupted business activity and urged the administration to minimize property acquisition and provide fair compensation to all affected owners.

DC Rawalpindi Capt. (Retd.) Nadeem Nasir Assumes Additional Charge as DG RDA

BY: Irum Shehzadi/ANI

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, Capt. (Retd.) Nadeem Nasir, has assumed the additional charge of Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). Upon his arrival at the RDA Headquarters, the newly appointed Director General was warmly received by Additional Director General Masood Ahmad Bukhari, Director Administration Nosheen Israr, and other senior officers of the Authority.

An introductory meeting was held with RDA officers, during which the DG directed them to perform their duties with honesty, professionalism, commitment, and a strong sense of public service. He emphasized strict compliance with government policies, rules, and regulations while ensuring transparency, merit, accountability, and the timely disposal of official matters.

Capt. (Retd.) Nadeem Nasir



instructed the officers to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, expedite the implementation of ongoing development projects, intensify operations against illegal housing schemes and unauthorized constructions, and further improve public service delivery.

He stressed that safeguarding public interest, promoting planned

urban development, and ensuring effective enforcement of laws would remain the Authority's foremost priorities.

The DG also directed officers to maintain close coordination with all stakeholders, ensure the prompt resolution of public complaints, and adopt a proactive approach to addressing administrative and development-related issues. He warned that negligence, unnecessary delays, or lack of discipline in official duties would not be tolerated, adding that every officer and official must discharge their responsibilities with dedication and integrity.

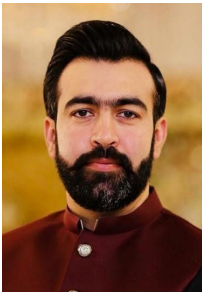
Reaffirming the Authority's commitment to public welfare, Capt. (Retd.) Nadeem Nasir said the Rawalpindi Development Authority would continue to work in line with the vision of the Government of Punjab by promoting transparent governance, sustainable urban development, effective regulation, and efficient, citizen-centric public services.

FPCCI Vice President Aoun Ali Syed Elected President of AOBA Islamabad/Rawalpindi Chapter

BY: Hurish Shaj

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Aoun Ali Syed, has been elected President of the Abbottonians Old Boys Association (AOBA), Islamabad/Rawalpindi Chapter.

Following his election, Aoun Ali Syed thanked the Abbottonian community for reposing confidence in his leadership, describing the victory as a collective success of the entire fraternity. He pledged to discharge his responsibilities with honesty, transparency, and dedication.



tional initiatives, enhancing professional networking, and preserving the rich traditions and legacy of Abbott Public School. Aoun Ali Syed also

He said his top priority would be to strengthen and unify the Association by promoting alumni engagement, mentoring young Abbottonians, expanding welfare and educa-

appreciated the efforts of his panel members and congratulated all candidates for upholding democratic values and the spirit of brotherhood during the election process.

The newly elected office-bearers include Advocate Munir Usmani as Vice President, Muhammad Kamil Qudus as General Secretary, Muaz Naem as Joint Secretary, and Syed Shujaat Ali as Finance Secretary.

He reaffirmed his commitment to serving every Abbottonian and working with the newly elected team to make AOBA Islamabad/Rawalpindi Chapter a stronger, more dynamic, and respected organization

Punjab Police Arrest Over 87,000 Proclaimed Offenders in Province-Wide Crackdown

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE: Punjab Police has intensified its province-wide crackdown against proclaimed offenders, court absconders, and habitual criminals involved in heinous crimes, arresting more than 87,000 proclaimed offenders, over 27,000 court absconders, and 10,632 habitual criminals during the current year.

According to a Punjab Police spokesperson, the arrested proclaimed offenders include 23,583 Category-A and 63,881 Category-B offenders. The operation also led to the arrest of 4,331 Category-A and



over 23,000 Category-B court absconders, along with 3,832

Category-A and 6,800 Category-B habitual criminals.

In Lahore alone, police arrested 19,103 proclaimed offenders, 8,938 court absconders, and 4,214 habitual criminals during the ongoing campaign.

Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Abdul Kareem praised the police teams for their successful operations and directed officers to further accelerate and strengthen the crackdown against proclaimed offenders, habitual criminals, and court absconders to ensure effective law enforcement across the province.

DPO Kamran Aamir Khan Holds Open Court to Address Public Complaints

BY: ANI Correspondent: MANDI BAHAUDDIN----

District Police Officer (DPO) Mandi Bahauddin, Kamran Aamir Khan, has said that the primary purpose of open courts is to ensure the prompt resolution of public grievances and provide immediate relief to citizens. He urged people to present their complaints without fear so that their issues could be addressed on the spot.

The DPO expressed these views while hearing applications submitted by residents from across the district during an open court held at the DPO Office. District Complaint Cell In-charge Inspector Saifullah



Ranjha, Assistant Sub-Inspector Javed Gujar, and other police officers were also present.

Kamran Aamir Khan said that, following the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem, open

courts are being organized across the district to strengthen public trust in the police, ensure speedy justice, and provide immediate solutions to citizens' problems.

He emphasized that resolving public issues remains the police's top priority and directed officers to utilize all available resources to address complaints efficiently and impartially. He warned that disciplinary action would be taken against any officer who failed to resolve genuine complaints without valid reason.

During the open court, the DPO personally heard the grievances of the complainants and issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned officers for their immediate resolution.

Amjad Hussain Advocate Sworn In as Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan

ANI

GILGIT: Newly elected Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Amjad Hussain Advocate took the oath of office on Monday at a ceremony held at the historical Chinar Bagh Gilgit. The oath was administered by Governor Syed Mehdi Shah.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, senior leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), government

officials, elected representatives and a large number of party workers and supporters. Addressing the ceremony after taking the oath Chief Minister Amjad Hussain Advocate outlined his government's priorities, pledging transparent governance, merit-based policies, institutional reforms and accelerated development across Gilgit-Baltistan. He announced that all under-construction hydropower projects would be monitored on a daily basis to ensure

their timely completion and improve electricity supply across the region. He also emphasized the need to increase revenue collection, saying consumers would have to pay electricity bills to ensure the sustainability of the power sector. The Chief Minister said his government would strictly enforce merit-based recruitment in all departments and move towards e-governance to improve transparency, efficiency, and public service delivery.

14 arrested, 7 illegal structures demolished in ICT crackdown on unauthorized construction

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has conducted a major anti-encroachment operation in Sangjhani and Shah Allah Ditta areas and arrested fourteen people and demolished seven illegal structures against unauthorized construction.

According to officials, action was taken in Mouza Sangjhani and Shah Allah Ditta, where several structures were being built without the required No Objection Certificate (NOC). During the operation in Shah Allah Ditta, seven structures constructed in violation of regulations were demolished. Authorities said an attempt to occupy CDA land was also prevented during the drive. A total of 14 individuals allegedly involved in illegal construction activities were arrested from the site and legal proceedings were initiated against them. The district administration stated that action would continue against all

those involved in unauthorized construction, regardless of their status or influence. Officials said such activities create legal disputes, affect planned development, and result in the misuse of public land. In a separate administrative action, the Numberdar of Mouza Sangjhani was removed from his position over negligence in official duties. Authorities said he failed to fulfill responsibilities related to monitoring and reporting illegal construction activities in the area. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad warned that strict action would also be taken against officials found responsible for failing to prevent unauthorized construction. He said all officers concerned would be held accountable if illegal developments continued within their jurisdictions. The district administration urged residents to avoid starting any construction project without obtaining the required NOC and other approvals from the relevant departments.

232,000 people register for Hajj 2027 in first 14 days of online registration

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has announced that the online registration campaign for Hajj 2027-2030 has received an overwhelming public response, with more than 232,000 aspiring pilgrims completing their registration from home during the first 14 days. According to the ministry's spokesperson, the registration process has been made easy, fast, secure, and transparent through the Pak Hajj

mobile app and online Hajj portal developed in collaboration with the National IT Board. The modern system has saved pilgrims from making lengthy visits to banks and offices and has enabled registration within a few minutes. 175,000 pilgrims registered under the government Hajj scheme, while around 58,000 completed registration under the private Hajj scheme. Province-wise, 108,000 registrations were recorded from Punjab, 71,000 from Sindh, 33,000 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11,000 from Islamabad, 7,000 from Balochistan.

Rainwater harvesting curbs groundwater depletion, urban flooding in Islamabad: IWMI official

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Dr Mohsin Hafeez, Global Director for Water, Food and Ecosystems at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), has said that harvesting just 25 percent of annual rainfall can significantly reduce groundwater depletion and help control urban flooding in Islamabad. In an interview with APP, he said IWMI had demonstrated an innovative groundwater recharge model at Kachnar Park, Sector I-8 in the federal capital that stored over 566,000 litres of rainwater at a single site during the last four years while improving groundwater levels and quality. He said the pilot project was established at a flood-prone site where rainwater from a nearby parade ground regularly inundated

the surrounding area during the monsoon. A small recharge pond was constructed to capture runoff, which passes through natural filtration layers of sand and stones before seeping into the aquifer. Dr Hafeez said the site was equipped with a real-time rain gauge, water flow monitoring instruments and groundwater monitoring sensors, enabling researchers to generate scientific evidence on groundwater recharge and water quality for the first time in Islamabad. He said monitoring data collected since June 2022 showed the project had recharged more than 566,000 litres of water and raised the local groundwater table by about 4.5 mm without compromising groundwater quality. Encouraged by the results, he said, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) approved 100

groundwater recharge sites across Islamabad in 2024 before expanding the initiative with another 100 sites. Around 200 recharge sites are now operational in different parts of the city. He said the initiative had not only improved groundwater recharge but also reduced rainwater flooding and eased pressure on stormwater drainage channels.

Dr Hafeez said residents living near the recharge sites had reported less flooding during the monsoon season and improved water availability from household boreholes, enabling them to access groundwater for longer periods each day.

He said IWMI's research indicated that harvesting one-fourth of the city's annual rainfall would be sufficient to stabilise groundwater depletion in Islamabad.

Pakistan strengthens capacity to harness international carbon markets through three-day Article 6 workshop

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Senior government officials, technical experts, private sector representatives and international partners have convened in Islamabad this week for a three-day capacity-building workshop aimed at strengthening Pakistan's readiness to participate in international carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. To strengthen Pakistan's preparedness for participation in international carbon markets under Article 6, this workshop brings together representatives from federal and provincial governments alongside private sector stakeholders to deepen technical knowledge and institutional readiness for implementing Article 6 mechanisms. The workshop is being held from July 6 to 8 in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) program, which is globally implemented by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and led by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) in Pakistan. As countries accelerate efforts to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions

(NDCs), Article 6 offers new opportunities to mobilise climate finance, support low-carbon investment and strengthen international cooperation.

Pakistan has recently taken important steps towards developing its national carbon market framework, creating a timely opportunity to build the technical expertise required for effective participation in these emerging markets.

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, MoCC&EC Additional Secretary, Mahmood Hassan expressed his gratitude to the SPAR6C program, UNEP-CCC and UNFCCC for carbon capacity building and expressed high hope that by mastering Article 6 frameworks, rigorous carbon accounting, and data integrity through such workshops, national systems can align seamlessly with strict international standards and market expectations. "We stand at a critical juncture where environmental ambition must be matched by robust operational mechanics. Carbon markets are inherently complex, highly dynamic, and rapidly evolving under the global climate regime. This workshop is designed to bridge the gap between high-level policy and real-world execution," he added. Lead trainers shared that over the course of three days, participants will gain practical

knowledge of the rules, procedures and institutional arrangements that underpin Article 6 implementation. The programme combines expert presentations, technical demonstrations, interactive discussions and case studies designed to translate international guidance into practical application within Pakistan's national context.

"Capacity-building is fundamental to enabling countries to participate effectively in Article 6 mechanisms. By bringing together policymakers, technical experts and practitioners, this workshop supports knowledge exchange, strengthens institutional readiness and promotes high-integrity implementation that contributes to global climate ambition under the Paris Agreement," elaborated Zubair Shahid, Programme Officer Market, Non-Markets & Stakeholder Interaction, UNFCCC. The workshop will build participants' understanding of both cooperative approaches under Article 6.2 and the Article 6.4 Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM), equipping policymakers and practitioners with the knowledge needed to navigate evolving international carbon markets while ensuring environmental integrity and alignment with national climate priorities.

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Opinion

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Pakistan’s Health Sector Faces Mounting Financial and Policy Challenges



Written BY:
Abdul Waheed Babi
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Published By:
ANI News Agency

Problems faced in the health and medical sector and business
Like the rest of the world, in Pakistan too, health and medical business matters have had a negative impact, especially on the health business sector. However, compared to others, the health and medical sector in Pakistan is facing severe financial difficulties, the biggest reason of

which is the government’s keeping very low expenditure and projects in the health sector in the budget, on the other hand, the implementation of the strictest administrative policies. The health and medical sector has not been given any special attention in the current budget. These expenses are barely around one or two percent of the total GDP according to the budget. The reasons for this growing crisis include excessive dependence on aid provided by the world and WHO, the increasing financial burden on ordinary Pakistanis, and neglecting the health sector in the budget and making inflexible policies. A discussion on priorities is very important here. Instead of giving priority to modern treatment requirements, modern machinery and medicines for the basic health of the people, hospitals and other institutions of the health sector under the

auspices of the government seem to be involved in construction, luxury facilities and other unnecessary matters. On the other hand, sources They say that the international aid that was received from various sources for the health sector in Pakistan is now significantly reduced due to unnecessary policies and priorities. There is a need to review not only government institutions but also the private sector at the official level. Policies should be relaxed, taxes should be revised so that on the one hand, it benefits those doing business in the health sector, and on the other hand, the general public at the grass-roots level should also benefit from it. The current government’s Health Minister Mustafa Kamal is a person with a unique and constructive mind-set. We, the people associated with the health and medical sectors, are seeking special attention from him.

Pakistan’s Youth: From Unemployment to Digital Opportunity

Written BY: M Rashid Tabassum
Published By: ANI

Pakistan’s greatest strength is its young population. More than a quarter of its population is between the ages of 15 and 29, giving the country one of the largest youth populations in the region. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the country’s population reached 252.09 million in 2025, with young people making up around 26.56 percent of the total. If equipped with the right skills and opportunities, this generation can become a driving force behind economic growth. Yet unemployment, inflation, and limited job opportunities continue to leave many young Pakistanis uncertain about their future.

The employment picture reflects this growing challenge. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics’ Labour Force Survey 2024–25, nearly 5.9 million Pakistanis are unemployed, while the overall unemployment rate has reached 71 percent. The situation is even more difficult for young people. Among those aged 15 to 24, unemployment stands at 12.8 percent, highlighting the widening gap between education and employment. Meanwhile, traditional sectors such as manufacturing have struggled to generate enough jobs for the millions entering the labour market each year.

Despite these challenges, the digital economy is creating new opportunities. Freelancing and online work

have become viable alternatives, allowing thousands of young Pakistanis to earn through digital marketing, graphic design, web development, content writing, software development, and mobile app development. Rather than waiting for conventional jobs, many are building careers by serving clients worldwide. Recent data from the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Payoneer, and the World Bank (2022–2024) indicate that Pakistan’s freelance economy is steadily moving toward higher-value digital services. Software and app development generated approximately US\$180 million, while SEO and digital marketing contributed around US\$100 million. Overall, Pakistan’s IT freelancing industry has grown by nearly 50 percent, with annual earnings exceeding US\$1 billion. These figures demonstrate that Pakistani freelancers are increasingly moving into high-value digital services and strengthening the country’s digital economy.

However, digital opportunities also bring new risks. The rapid growth of online work has been accompanied by fraudulent investment schemes, fake job advertisements, and financial scams promoted through social media. According to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), 142,272 cybercrime complaints were received during 2025, many involving financial fraud and data theft. This highlights the importance of strengthening digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness, and online safety alongside technical skills.

Encouragingly, government and private initiatives are expanding training in freelancing, e-commerce, digital marketing, and information technology. Programmes such as DigiSkills, the Prime Minister’s Youth Skills Development Program, Bano Qabil by Alkhidmat Foundation, and Apna Kamao by Markazi Muslim League are helping thousands of young Pakistanis develop market-relevant skills and improve their employment prospects.

As Pakistan expands digital skills training, the nature of work itself is rapidly changing. Artificial intelligence, remote work, e-commerce, and the broader digital economy are reshaping employment worldwide. AI is creating new opportunities while transforming the way professionals write, code, conduct research, design products, and deliver digital services. For a young country like Pakistan, adapting to these changes is no longer optional—it is essential.

Addressing unemployment requires more than creating traditional jobs. Closer collaboration among government, educational institutions, and the private sector is essential to promote modern skills, quality education, reliable internet access, financial services for freelancers, and effective cybersecurity. By investing in digital skills, innovation, and equal opportunities, Pakistan can transform its young population from job seekers into entrepreneurs, innovators, and the driving force behind tomorrow’s economic growth.

Fragile consensus as Africa heads to the polls

HAFED AL-GHWELL

Africa enters 2026 with elections scheduled in more than a dozen countries and with voter rolls that now exceed 600 million people across the continent. Elections have become the most common ritual of political life in Africa, more frequent than coups, civil wars, or constitutional rewrites. Yet frequency has not produced comfort. Voting has turned into a dual-use instrument: a tool for peaceful transfer of power in a minority of cases, and a method for laundering political capture in many others. It is a contradiction that now sits at the heart of what this year is likely to bring. Uganda offers a useful example. Yoweri Museveni, the country’s president, secured another term, extending a rule that began in 1986. Official results awarded him almost three-quarters of the vote, despite urban districts breaking heavily for the opposition and youth unemployment hovering around 60 percent. Turnout slipped below 60 percent as security forces ring-fenced the process, curtailed opposition rallies, and intermittently restricted digital platforms. Uganda demonstrated how elections now function in many entrenched systems: a choreographed exercise that delivers continuity while preserving the appearance of democracy.

Similar dynamics will likely shape several of the other headline contests this year. First, Benin is often cited as a reform success story of the 1990s. Today, it offers a perfect illustration of the “buy-in paradox.” President Patrice Talon is constitutionally barred from a third term, but the political field has been narrowed to the point where succession remains a controlled affair. Electoral laws passed since 2019 require parties to meet high national thresholds before fielding candidates, a rule that has sidelined most opposition groups. Parliamentary races since then have produced legislatures with over 80 percent pro-government seats.

Yet voters are still asked to participate, foreign observers invited, and results tabulated in public view. Opposition leaders face a puzzle: boycott and concede legitimacy or compete and validate a contest structured against them. Many will choose the latter,

because absence guarantees irrelevance.

Second, Ethiopia’s general elections will be the most complex event on the calendar. The country has more than 120 million people, dozens of armed factions, and federal regions that are still operating under emergency regulations since the Tigray war. The 2021 polls were held in stages because of insecurity and logistical failure. In 2026, similar obstacles remain. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali retains national visibility, but his coalition is thinner than when he took office in 2018. Ethnic parties control large regional blocs, and voter registration in contested areas remains incomplete. The result may still produce a government with a parliamentary majority, but one whose mandate is geographically uneven and politically fragile.

Third, Somalia plans indirect elections again, relying on clan delegates rather than universal suffrage. Roughly 14,000 elders select members of parliament, who then choose the president. The system is defended as pragmatic in a country where Al-Shabab is steadily increasing the territory it controls. Zambia and Gambia represent a rather different picture. Zambia’s 2021 election removed an incumbent through the ballot box for the third time since 1991. President Hakainde Hichilema enters 2026 with approval ratings near 60 percent, buoyed by debt restructuring, and the return of International Monetary Fund support. Inflation remains high, and youth job creation lags behind population growth, but institutions showed resilience in the last transfer of power.

Gambia, after ousting Yahya Jammeh in 2017, held a competitive vote in 2021 and is preparing for another. Turnout exceeded 80 percent, among the highest on the continent. Media pluralism has expanded, and civil society monitoring is now routine. Neither country is immune to backsliding, yet both demonstrate that electoral credibility can still compound over time. Similarly, Cabo Verde, with a population under 600,000, continues to rank among Africa’s strongest performers on electoral integrity. Power has alternated peacefully multiple times since the 1990s, and voter

turnout remains above 60 percent. Politics there is dull in the best sense, with arguments over budgets, ports, and tourism strategy rather than existential questions of who controls the state. Across these cases runs the same thread: Elections are cheaper than repression and more acceptable to donors than open autocracy. Authoritarian incumbents have learned to keep polling stations open while closing political space. Over the past 15 years, average turnout in competitive African elections has fallen. At the same time, margins of victory for long-serving presidents have widened. Citizens show up less often, but winners win by more.

Meanwhile, opposition movements face a strategic trap. Mass boycotts rarely force reform. Participation confers legitimacy even when defeat is assured. Street protests can mobilize energy but invite forceful crackdowns or violent reprisals. Digital organizing expands reach but exposes activists to increasingly sophisticated surveillance.

Many parties now run not to win, but to remain visible, hoping demographic change will eventually tilt the field. Africa’s median age is 19.7. By 2035, voters under 35 will form a majority in almost every country on the continent. Incumbents understand this and increasingly invest in youth wings, social media campaigns, and cash-for-support programs tied to election seasons.

However, 2026 will not reverse the structural trend toward executive dominance. Ballots will legitimize power grabs in several states and ratify managed successions in others. Uganda has already shown how little suspense remains in systems where institutions bend early and often.

Yet the same year will also feature competitive races where outcomes are uncertain and where defeat remains possible. Africa’s electoral story is no longer a simple arc toward democracy or away from it. It is a crowded field of uneven experiments. The deeper question is not whether Africans will keep voting. They will. It is whether elections will regain their original function as instruments of choice rather than rituals of consent. For now, the continent lives with both meanings at once.

—Arab News

Pakistan’s high-level delegation attends, Saudi Arabian delegation: A historic move



BY:Rashid Ahmad Chughtai :
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A moment that unites the Muslim Ummah

There are moments in Islamic history that transcend borders, sectarian differences and political divisions, when the entire Muslim Ummah is seen united on a platform of grief and determination. The funeral of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was one such occasion. Millions of people gathered in Tehran and other cities, while leaders from more than a hundred countries arrived to offer condolences. It was not just a state funeral but a manifestation of the unity, common history and common future of the Muslim Ummah.

Pakistani Sunni scholar Maulana Muhammad Imran Attari said that the funeral of this great martyr is an opportunity to express the unity and solidarity of Muslims and to give new life to the spirit of freedom-loving nations around the world. Representatives of the Muslim world, from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, from Iraq to Turkey, stood in a row and presented a practical picture of Islamic unity.

A Nation’s Grief: The Biggest Funeral in Modern History

Emotions were palpable as Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s coffin, draped in the Iranian flag and adorned with a black turban and Palestinian handkerchief, was carried into Tehran’s Grand Mosque. President Masoud Peshkeshian, Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Azhae, among other leaders, were seen in tears.

Iranian officials said between 4 mil-

lion and 15 million people attended the funeral in Tehran, while some estimates put the number at 20 million over the six-day event. Some 14,000 journalists, including 900 foreign reporters, were on hand to cover the historic event.

Global Tribute: Over 100 Countries Attend

Despite diplomatic efforts by the United States to prevent countries from attending, over 100 countries sent delegations to Tehran. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi called it an unforgettable moment in the history of Iran’s diplomatic relations.

Pakistan’s high-level delegation was led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. The delegation also included Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

In his address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the late leader’s services to Islam, saying that he guided Iran with wisdom and insight for decades.

Saudi Arabian delegation: A historic move

Saudi Arabia sent a high-level delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Walid Al-Kharaji, which was described as a significant development in the diplomatic history of the region. According to analysts, this shows that the process of improving relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran is continuing and that countries in the region are prioritizing stability and dialogue.

Other key international participants

Representatives from Russia, China, Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Tajikistan, Georgia, India, Qatar, Oman, Egypt and other Arab and Gulf countries also attended.

The Leader’s Services to the Iranian Nation

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led the Islamic Republic of Iran for 36 years. He maintained the country’s sovereignty and dignity despite regional conflicts, economic sanctions, and international pressure. He was a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause and resistance, which earned him respect in the Muslim world.

A show of determination, unity, and resistance

The Iranian leadership described the funeral as a symbol of national unity, political stability, and post-war national solidarity. Slogans reading “We must rise” were displayed throughout Tehran, sending a message of unity and resistance to the people.

Voices of revenge
During the funeral, various slogans were raised by the people, including demands for resistance and avenging the blood of the leader. Several military leaders also vowed to avenge the blood of their leader.

Impact on the United States and the West

According to the author, the large international participation in the event thwarted efforts to isolate Iran. According to him, the event also served as a protest against the United States and Israel and an expression of Iran’s determination and steadfastness.

The Future of Iran

According to the author, the event concluded with the message that Iran is moving towards the future while maintaining its leadership, national unity, and state continuity.

A Legacy That Will Live Forever

According to the author, the funeral rites of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei were not just a farewell to a leader, but also an expression of unity, resistance, justice, and national dignity. According to him, his legacy will continue to guide Iran and the Muslim world for generations to come.

Demolishing UNRWA headquarters an act of folly and weakness

YOSSI MEKELBERG

In every sphere of activity in which Israel’s government operates, it does so in a thuggish and mindless manner. Nuance, subtlety, restraint, consideration, and weighing options are just not in its vocabulary. The immorality of this approach is obvious and in the long term self-defeating, leaving the country living by the sword, with fewer friends, and constantly losing public sympathy. The latest episode in this long-running series of acts of sheer folly took place last week when the government sent its enforcers, accompanied by security forces, to demolish the headquarters of UNRWA, the UN agency that since 1949 has been in charge of providing services for the well-being and protection of Palestinian refugees until a just resolution of the question of Palestine is found. This is an Israeli government that tries to conceal its true intentions and incompetence with performative politics. Does it really believe that if UNRWA ceases to exist, the Palestinian refugees will disappear with it, and that their political, human, and civil rights will no longer exist? Israel blames UNRWA for perpetuating the Palestinian right of return by granting refugee status to successive generations. However, it is not UNRWA that perpetuates the right of return; it is their legal right in line with international law and UN General Assembly Resolution 194, for instance, which states that “refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return.” Mistakenly, negotiations over the issue of refugees were framed as addressing the right of return rather than how to translate this right into practical terms that would avoid a mass return leading to new difficulties. The right of return is recognized under international law, and hence not negotiable as such. UNRWA is not the custodian of this right – international law is. Years of negotiations to translate this right into practice have yielded a number of plans for workable solutions, including trade-offs for

those who will not return, such as becoming citizens of a Palestinian state, becoming citizens of their current host countries, and compensation for their loss and suffering.

Destroying the UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem will not make the Palestinian refugees and their rights go away. It is a mere act of vandalism, which activated a piece of legislation passed in the Knesset in October 2024, barring the agency from operating in Israeli territory and curtailing its activities in Gaza and the West Bank by banning state authorities from having any contact with it. In addition, late last year, in another act of harassment, a law prohibiting the provision of electricity or water to facilities owned by or operated on behalf of UNRWA passed its third and final reading in the Knesset. This was another Pyrrhic victory, which appeals to the current government’s electoral base that has been fed endless lies about the objectives and operations of this UN agency, leading the base to believe that it is hostile to Israel. Awareness among Israelis of the humanitarian nature of the organization and its contribution to the well-being of millions of Palestinians, to whose plight Israel has been a major contributor for so many decades, is almost nonexistent. By declaring all-out war on UNRWA, Israel gets closer to a moment of reckoning when it must demonstrate that it has found an alternative humanitarian instrument to the UN agency. Unquestionably, UNRWA is at a crossroads. However, the answer to whether it stays or goes should be given by the international community, not by Israel. In December last year, 151 countries supported renewing the agency’s mandate for three years. On the face of it, this was an overwhelming vote of confidence in the work of the organization – support that was earned not only by sweat but also by blood since the war in Gaza has cost the agency the lives of 382 of its personnel and others supporting its activities. Nevertheless, as important as extending the mandate is, it has not been matched by allocating adequate long-term funding to meet the growing needs of the 5.9 million Palestinian refugees eligible for

UNRWA’s services, which include health, education, protection, relief, and social services, as well as microfinance. Last year, the agency secured £1.4 billion. However, in light of the surge in humanitarian needs, it needs almost double this amount – a shortfall with grave consequences for refugees. Moreover, international political support is needed while Israel is harassing and bullying the agency and its staff, but this backing is half-hearted. Israel replaced the UN flag with the Israeli flag over the demolished headquarters in Jerusalem, but it has not come up with an alternative in terms of budget and a qualified workforce to supply the services that UNRWA has been providing, despite the fact that the UN did not create the refugee problem in the first place, and it is not the UN that has occupied Palestinian territories since 1967.

It is not beyond the current Israeli government to take actions that would deliberately cause the situation in the West Bank to explode, and then use that as an excuse for further oppression on its march to annexation. In this case Israel’s distorted logic would mean eliminating UNRWA and exacerbating the humanitarian situation. Consequently, armed resistance becomes more likely, resulting in a harsh response in terms of using military force, building more settlements, and taking further steps toward making the life of Palestinians even more unbearable.

Eliminating UNRWA’s capacity as a service provider is an act of brutality directed at Palestinians, but also an act of self-harm by Israel, especially given the lack of a viable alternative. It is morally bankrupt to deprive millions of people under your control access to the most basic needs; it is also a recipe for unrest that risks pushing the population, especially the young, into the hands of the radicals while alienating those who want to live in peace with Israel. Demolition of the agency’s headquarters is both a physical and symbolic manifestation that Benjamin Netanyahu and his government are simply not interested in peace, if anyone needed further evidence.

—Arab News



Senate Committee to Discuss Food Safety Bill, Pakistan Halal Authority and Ministry Reforms

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology will meet at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha to discuss a range of important legislative, administrative, and regulatory matters concerning the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The committee will consider the ICT Food Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2025, a private member's bill moved by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri,

aimed at strengthening food safety regulations in the federal capital.

Members will also review and finalize measures to ensure the timely inspection of betel nuts before distribution to consumers in order to prevent fungal infections and protect public health. The committee will examine administrative, legal, regulatory, and governance issues relating to the continuation of the Director General of the Pakistan Halal Authority beyond the expiry of his contractual tenure. It will also review the eligibility criteria, appointment

procedure, and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the post of Director General.

In addition, the committee will receive an update on the proposed closure, merger, and restructuring of organizations under the Ministry of Science and Technology, including PCRET, PCRT, NIO, and CWHR.

The meeting will further review the appointment status of heads of various organizations and authorities working under the ministry, discuss reasons for any delays, and receive a briefing on the recruitment process adopted for these appointments.

National Assembly Secretariat and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ombudsperson Secretariat Sign MoU to Advance Women’s Rights

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- The National Assembly Secretariat and the Ombudsperson Secretariat, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation, coordination, and information-sharing to advance women's rights, safeguard women's inheritance rights, promote meaningful participation of women in the parliamentary system, ensure the effective implementation of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, enhance workplace safety, and foster stronger parliamentary engagement.

The MoU establishes a collaborative framework for information sharing, capacity building, consultations, and technical cooperation, while reaffirming the commitment of both institutions to uphold their respective constitutional mandates, institutional autonomy, and parliamentary privileges.

Under the agreement, cooperation with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus will also be strengthened to enhance public awareness, protect



women's inheritance rights, promote women's effective participation in parliamentary processes, support the effective implementation of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, facilitate effective enforcement of relevant legislation, and strengthen oversight through sustained consultation and constructive dialogue.

The Memorandum of Understanding reflects the shared resolve of both institutions to implement institutional collaboration, promote good governance, and advance women's rights, including the protection of inheritance rights, greater participation of women in democratic and parliamentary processes, and the effective implementation of laws designed to ensure safe and dignified workplaces for women.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Saeed Ahmad, Acting Secretary, National Assembly, and Barrister Rubab Mehdi, Ombudsperson, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The signing ceremony was attended by Syed Shamooin Hashmi, Special Secretary (Special Initiatives), National Assembly Secretariat, along with senior officials of the National Assembly Secretariat and the Office of the Provincial Ombudsperson, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Sardar Mohammad Asif Assures Open-Door Policy for Business Community

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Deputy Commissioner Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Senior Special Magistrate Sardar Mohammad Asif has assured the business community that his office will remain open to address the issues of traders and entrepreneurs promptly.

Speaking during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said the business community is the backbone of the national economy and emphasized that close cooperation between the CDA and the private sector is essential for making Islamabad a modern and business-friendly capital.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir



Mehmood said strong public-private partnership is vital for promoting trade, investment, and the sustainable development of Islamabad. Both sides agreed to enhance coordination to resolve civic and commercial issues and facilitate the business community.

*PGF Islamabad Junior Amateur Golf Championship 2026 Concludes Successfully; Muhammad Irtaza, Saad Habib, and Abdul Rahim Clinch Titles**

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD /LAHORE--- The Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) successfully organized the prestigious Islamabad Junior Amateur Golf Championship 2026 at the scenic Islamabad Club Golf Course. The high-stakes, three-day championship ran from July 3 to July 5, featuring a grueling 54-hole stroke play format. The event drew 72 elite junior golfers from across the country, all competing fiercely across various age categories while showcasing exceptional skill, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Under the supervision of Tournament Director Malik Muhammad Kamran, the championship received immense praise from Islamabad Club members, who lauded the determination and grit of the young athletes.

In the highly anticipated Category A fixtures, Muhammad Irtaza Hussain delivered a stellar performance to capture the championship title. Hamza Waheed secured the runner-up position, followed closely by Zaid Umar in third place. Category B witnessed an intense battle for the top spot, where Saad Habib ultimately dominated the field to claim victory. Muhammad Raza finished in second place, while



Mustafa Zubair took home the third-position trophy.

In Category C, Abdul Rahim Usman emerged victorious after displaying great consistency throughout the three days. Mubeen Akram secured second place, and Muhammad Musa Adil finished the tournament in third. Meanwhile, the Girls' Championship action saw Rameen Amin clinch the first-place title after a brilliant display of golf. Zarmeenah Khan secured the second position, and Warisha Shahid rounded out the podium in third place. The championship concluded with a prestigious prize distribution ceremony, which saw enthusiastic participation from the young golfers and their families, fostering a vibrant, community-centric atmosphere.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony, Aamir Saleh Abbasi, presented trophies to the podium finishers and highly commended their athletic achievements.

The Pakistan Golf Federation noted that junior championships like these lay a solid foundation for the bright future of golf in Pakistan, adding that the incredible enthusiasm shown by both the players and their parents is deeply encouraging for the development of the sport nationwide. The PGF also extended its heartfelt gratitude to the Islamabad Club management, players, coaches, and organizers for their collective efforts in making the tournament a resounding success.

Shahzad Sabir Installed as Rotary District 3271 Governor

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Shahzad Sabir has been installed as the District Governor of Rotary International District 3271 for the 2026-27 Rotary year during a ceremony held at PC Hotel Karachi, attended by Rotary leaders, diplomats, business personalities, and community representatives.

The district also unveiled several flagship service initiatives, including the Million Trees Project, District Medical Outreach Programme, Polio Immunization Campaign, Pink Washrooms, Breast Cancer Awareness Programme, and Rotary Pakistan Smart Villages to promote sustainable community development.

A commemorative book titled "100 Years of Rotary Service in Pakistan" was also launched, highlighting Rotary's century-long



humanitarian contributions in the country.

In his inaugural address, District Governor Shahzad Sabir reaffirmed Rotary District 3271's commitment to expanding community service

through partnerships, youth engagement, and sustainable projects in health, education, environmental conservation, and economic development across Sindh and Balochistan

CM Maryam Nawaz Reaffirms Commitment to Rural Development; MNA Shazia Farid Highlights Transformational Village Initiatives

BY: ANI Correspondent: GUJRANWALA – Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to Member of the National Assembly Shazia Farid for highlighting the vital role of Pakistan's rural population in national development and agriculture.

The Chief Minister reiterated her government's commitment to empowering rural communities through quality education, healthcare, skills development, sustainable employment, clean drinking water, modern agricultural practices, and improved infrastructure. She emphasized that villages possess immense potential to strengthen food security, generate economic opportunities, and ensure long-term sustainable development.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated that a stable rural economy is essential for building a prosperous and



developed Pakistan. She said that investing in rural communities is an investment in the country's future, adding that villages remain the backbone of Pakistan's agricultural production and the custodians of its rich cultural heritage.

She further noted that the Suthra Punjab Programme is now fully operational across both rural and urban areas, ensuring improved sanitation and civic services throughout the province.

MNA Shazia Farid highlighted that, for the first time in the province's history, electric bus services are being extended to rural areas. She also stated that the Apna Khet, Apna Rozgar Scheme has been launched to create employment opportunities for unemployed residents of villages.

She added that work is progressing on the Ideal Village Project, under which more than 400 villages are being equipped with urban-standard facilities, including clean drinking water through filtration plants, children's parks, playgrounds, and other essential amenities.

Furthermore, under the Local Roads Programme, more than 3,300 kilometres of rural roads are being constructed and rehabilitated through over 1,500 development schemes. Under the Sohne Pind Punjab Programme, paved streets, road maintenance, plantation drives, and children's parks are also being developed to improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Pakistan Press Club UK Elections Held in a Fair and Democratic Manner

BY: Raja Masood Sharif:

LONDON---The Elections of the Pakistan Press Club UK were held in a fair, transparent, and democratic manner at the Pakistan Centre in Willesden Green. Chairman of the Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council, Raja Sikander Khan, served as the official observer and supervised the entire electoral process.

According to the election results, Arshad Rachyal was elected President, Sheraz Khan Senior Vice President, S. M. Irfan Tahir and Imran Raja Vice Presidents, Mussarat Iqbal Secretary General, Dr. Azhar Raja Joint Secretary, Sarfraz Ahmed Secretary Information, and Ateeq Rehman Chaudhary Finance Secretary.

The newly elected Executive Members are Shakeel Anjum, Adeel Khan, Nawaz Majeed, Sajid Aziz, Shamraiz Hussain, Abrar Mughal, and Ch. Muhammad Altaf Shahid.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Sikander Khan congratulated the newly elected office-bearers and executive members and expressed confidence that they would work for the welfare of the journalistic community and further enhance the reputation of Pakistan Press Club UK.

He also expressed concern over the recent violent incidents in Azad Kashmir and urged the newly elected leadership of Pakistan Press Club UK to use the power of responsible journalism to promote peace. Raja Sikander Khan appealed to the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of Pakistan, and the Awami Action Committee to resolve the issue through dialogue and mutual



understanding rather than violence or the use of force

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