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Field Marshal Munir vows to defeat foreign-sponsored militancy in Balochistan



DR WAHEED M KHAN

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's resolve to dismantle terrorist infrastructure on Thursday, saying consistent efforts by security forces and law enforcement agencies, backed by the steadfast support of the people, would bring lasting peace to Balochistan amid a recent string of attacks in the restive province. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the field marshal made the remarks while interacting with participants of the 20th National Workshop Balochistan at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Addressing the participants, Field Marshal Munir said the consistent

efforts of security forces and law enforcement agencies, supported by the people, would ensure lasting peace in Balochistan.

"Targeted operations against Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan will continue with full resolve until the menace of terrorism and its abettors are eliminated from Pakistan," he said, reaffirming the country's resolve to dismantle terrorist infrastructure wherever it poses a threat to Pakistan and its people. Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), while Fitna al-Hindustan refers to terrorist groups operating in Balochistan.

The army chief said foreign-sponsored proxies had persistently sought to fuel violence, undermine stability and disrupt peace in

Balochistan. "Their nefarious designs, however, will be defeated through firm and decisive response of the armed forces, supported by the resilience and unity of the people of Pakistan," he said. During the interaction, Field Marshal Munir described Balochistan as the pride of Pakistan, saying the province was endowed with immense natural wealth and blessed with vibrant, resilient and patriotic people who constituted its greatest strength.

He highlighted the ongoing development initiatives of the federal and provincial governments, saying they were aimed at transforming Balochistan's socio-economic landscape through an inclusive and people-centric approach.

The chief of defence forces also lauded the constructive role of civil society, academia, the media and

youth in strengthening national integration and contributing to Balochistan's long-term peace and prosperity. He further stressed the need for national unity and perseverance to shape the country's future trajectory. The session concluded with a candid and wide-ranging interaction, during which participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to Pakistan's stability, progress and sovereignty. Terrorism has increased significantly in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan, in recent months. Although K-P has borne the brunt of the violence, Balochistan has also remained a major target of what the state describes as Indian proxies, which have often targeted civilians and military installations in the province.

Pakistan rejects Amnesty claims, urges scrutiny of Taliban Regime's support for terrorist groups

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday rejected allegations made in a recent Amnesty International report regarding its military strikes in Afghanistan, saying the claims were made without credible evidence and ignored the root cause of terrorism originating from Afghan soil. Addressing the weekly media briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan completely rejected the report's allegations and maintained that any military action taken by the country was carried out in exercise of its right to self-defence, in line with international law. He said terrorist groups, including Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and other affiliates, continued to enjoy sanctuaries inside Afghanistan under the Taliban administration, enabling them to plan and launch cross-border attacks against Pakistan. The spokesperson said thousands of Pakistanis had lost their lives in terrorist attacks planned and supported from Afghan territory. He added that Pakistan's operations were directed only against terrorist hideouts and logistical bases, while observing the principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality. Calling on the international community to address the real source of regional instability, Andrabi urged Amnesty International to scrutinise the Afghan Taliban's continued support for terrorist groups and to hold the regime accountable for its commitments under relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the Doha Agreement.

The spokesperson also strongly condemned recent threats by Yemen's Houthis militia against Saudi Arabia and commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

He said Pakistan viewed any hostile act against Pakistani-flagged vessels or the country's maritime interests as a grave threat to national security and reserved the right to take all necessary measures in self-defence in accordance with international law.

Responding to a question later in the briefing, Andrabi stressed that Pakistan's sovereignty and security were a "red line," adding that any attack on Pakistani



interests would be considered an attack on Pakistan and would receive an appropriate response.

The spokesperson also reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Saudi Arabia's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, while expressing concern over attempts to widen the ongoing Middle East conflict.

He said Pakistan continued to advocate dialogue and diplomacy to reduce tensions in the region. In this regard, he highlighted the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Iskandar Momeni to Pakistan, during which he met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Interior Minister, and the country's military leadership. The spokesperson said Pakistan was also actively engaging regional partners. He noted that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had held discussions with the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Egypt, Oman and Russia on the sidelines of meetings in Manila, focusing on de-escalation, regional stability, maritime security and bilateral cooperation. He added that DPM/FM Dar would also lead Pakistan's delegation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Bishkek, where he would hold bilateral meetings with counterparts from member states. Ishaq Dar also represented Pakistan at the 31st ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Manila, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, dialogue and cooperation. On bilateral relations with Canada, Andrabi said Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand's visit to Pakistan marked the first such visit in two decades.

President Urges Coordinated Response to Monsoon Emergency

APP-

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday directed all federal, provincial and local authorities to intensify coordinated preparedness, rescue and relief measures as the country enters a critical phase of the monsoon season, amid the heightened risks of flash floods, cloudbursts, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, and urban flooding.

The president, in a statement, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and damage to homes, infrastructure and property caused by the recent rains and related incidents, while extending his heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones and expressed solidarity with all those affected. He directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs) as well as provincial and local bodies to maintain close coordination and ensure timely dissemination of early warnings.

He called for continuous monitoring of



rainfall, river flows and water levels in upper catchment regions, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and directed downstream areas to make advance preparations for possible flooding.

President Zardari directed the authorities to pre-position rescue and relief resources, ensure the protection of vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure and take necessary measures to protect tourists and visitors in areas at risk from flash floods, GLOFs and landslides.

He emphasised that all relevant institutions must remain vigilant and ensure an immediate response wherever lives or property are at risk. He urged the public to follow official advisories and avoid unnecessary travel to areas facing warnings of heavy rain, flash floods, landslides or other weather-related hazards. The president expressed appreciation for the efforts of rescue workers and emergency personnel engaged in relief operations and prayed for the safety of the people across the country.

6 terrorists killed, several arrested in Balochistan's Mastung: state media

ANI

Six terrorists were killed and several others arrested, including male and female suicide bombers, on Thursday during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) carried out by security forces in the Khad Kocho area of Balochistan's Mastung district, according to state media. The intelligence-based operations are part of the recently launched Operation Shaban, a joint operation by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC), and Balochistan Police, launched in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Mangi Dam Police Station and remain underway.

State-run Pakistan Television (PTV) reported, citing the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), that the terrorists belonged to the Indian proxy group Fitna al-Hindustan, while those detained included alleged facilitators as well as male and female suicide bombers.

"Multiple terrorist hideouts were destroyed, while a large cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered," it added. The ISPR said security forces had intensified operations in Balochistan, further tightening the noose around terrorist networks in the province. Fitna al-Hindustan is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Balochistan Liberation Army and other groups in the province.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded the "bravery and professional capabilities" of the security forces, saying they had



foiled the terrorists' nefarious plans.

He said the achievements of security forces in maintaining peace in Balochistan were commendable.

"The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with security forces for the complete elimination of the menace of Fitna al-Hindustan," he added.

Earlier in the day, a district and sessions judge and his security guard were killed after unidentified armed men opened fire on their vehicle on the national highway in Mastung, while an additional sessions judge and another person sustained serious injuries. Following the attack, security forces and law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area, launched a search operation and established checkpoints at various locations to apprehend the attackers.

A day earlier, security forces killed 10 terrorists and apprehended two female suicide bombers and a facilitator during multiple intelligence-based operations in Balochistan. Terrorism has significantly increased in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, in recent days.

PM calls for aligning population planning with national development, economic stability

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday emphasized the urgent need to align population planning with national development, economic stability, and human resource improvement, calling for enhanced provincial coordination and effective public awareness campaigns to control population growth.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting regarding population welfare in the country, said that rapidly growing population was the country's biggest challenge and measures for population control and welfare must be treated as a national duty. Calling the balance in population a sole guarantor for sustainable national development, he directed authorities to convene a meeting of the National Population Council at the earliest. During the meeting, the relevant officials briefed the prime minister on the country's demographic trends, population welfare initiatives, and preparations for the National



Population Council meeting. It was informed that the council's meeting would be convened soon, bringing together the chief ministers of all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and representatives of all relevant institutions and stakeholders to formulate a comprehensive national strategy. It was told that the

operating procedures for the National Population Council Secretariat have been finalized, and the National Stabilization Plan 2026-2035 was currently being prepared, which would present a unified national framework to curb the rate of population growth, setting a target to reduce the current growth rate from 2.55% down to 1.25% by the year 2035.

District Judge, Guard Killed in Mastung Attack

ANI

QUETTA: A district and sessions judge and his security guard were killed after unidentified armed men opened fire on their vehicle on the national highway in Balochistan's Mastung on Thursday, while an additional sessions judge and another person sustained serious injuries, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bahram Saleem said.

According to the DC, District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar was travelling from Quetta to Mastung when unidentified assailants targeted his vehicle on the national highway. Judge Kakar and his security guard were killed at the scene, while Additional Sessions Judge Tariq Lashari and another person were seriously injured. The wounded were shifted to a nearby hospital, where they are receiving medical treatment. Following the attack, security forces and law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area, launched a search operation and established checkpoints at various locations to apprehend the attackers. He expressed grief over the deaths and also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

Dar Urges Seizing US-Iran Peace Opportunity

ANI

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday urged the international community not to let the recent diplomatic gains in the Gulf go to waste, saying "we must not let this opportunity slip through our hands", as he called for sustained dialogue to secure lasting peace, according to a post shared by the Foreign Office (FO).

Dar, along with his delegation, arrived in Manila on Wednesday and is scheduled to take part in the ARF Plenary meeting as well as hold a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of the



forum. Addressing the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting, Dar said the recent developments in the Gulf had affected countries across the region and stressed that Pakistan had done "everything within its

capacity" to help restore peace and stability. "We cannot afford to ignore these developments," he said. Dar said Pakistan had played its role in facilitating the ceasefire by convening the Islamabad Talks after 47 years, followed by the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding in Burgenstock. "We deeply appreciate the confidence entrusted in Pakistan by the United States, Iran, Gulf countries, and all our friends to steer these efforts," he said.

Describing the progress as "hard-earned achievements through dialogue and diplomacy", Dar warned, "We must not let this opportunity slip through our hands."



Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain receives the National Emigration and Welfare Policy 2026 documents from Ms. Sedef Dearing, Deputy Director General and Director, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD, during the policy launch ceremony in Islamabad.

Ayaz Sadiq Condoles Demise of Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ameer-ul-Azeem

BY: FT Correspondent: ISLAMABAD-- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ameer-ul-Azeem. In a condolence message, he extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and members of Jamaat-e-Islami, saying the late Ameer-ul-Azeem's passing is an irreparable loss for his family, friends, and the party. The Speaker prayed that Allah Almighty grant the departed soul eternal peace, elevate his ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and bless the bereaved family with patience and strength to bear the loss.

Mumtaz Akhtar Distances Herself from PML-N Labour Wing Appointment

BY: ANI Correspondent: ISLAMABAD-- Mumtaz Akhtar, Provincial Vice President of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Women Wing, said in a statement that she already holds a position within the party's Women Wing and was not consulted before a notification was issued appointing her as Central Deputy Coordinator of the PML-N Labour Wing. She clarified that she has no affiliation with the Labour Wing and has neither accepted nor authorized the appointment. Mumtaz Akhtar further stated that her name should not be used in connection with the PML-N Labour Wing.

DG Social Welfare Mir Saifullah Khetran: Serving Vulnerable Communities is Balochistan Government's Top Priority

BY:GNM SIBI--- Director General Social Welfare Balochistan Mir Saifullah Khetran has said that the Social Welfare Department is taking practical steps to make public welfare programmes across the province more effective, transparent, and result-oriented. In a statement, he said that serving persons with disabilities, orphaned children, widows, senior citizens, and other vulnerable segments of society remains a top priority of the Government of Balochistan. He added that all available resources are being utilized to ensure welfare schemes reach deserving people without discrimination. Mir Saifullah Khetran directed departmental officers to ensure the timely completion of welfare projects, prompt resolution of public issues, and transparent utilization of government resources. He reaffirmed the department's commitment to expanding social welfare initiatives so that a greater number of deserving people can benefit from these programmes.

Deputy Commissioner Reviews Flood Preparedness in Mandi Bahauddin, Directs All Departments to Stay on High Alert



BY: Raja Muhammad Ayub/ANI MANDI BHAUDDIN--- A high-level meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Bariar reviewed flood preparedness in view of the expected monsoon rains and the risk of flooding in the Jhelum and Chenab rivers. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners Muhammad Jafar Chaudhry and Raja Haider Abbas, MD WASA Ali Ahmed Chaudhry, Assistant Commissioners, Rescue 1122, Traffic Police, RTA officials, and representatives of other concerned departments. Officials informed the meeting that the district administration, Pakistan Army, Rescue 1122, Police, WASA, Municipal Committees, Gujranwala Waste Management Company and other departments have completed joint preparations to tackle any flood emergency. Machinery has been inspected and certified operational, while arrangements have been made for the safe evacuation of residents and livestock from vulnerable riverside villages. Deputy Commissioner Adeel Haider Bariar directed all departments to work in close coordination to protect lives and property. He emphasized that there should be no shortage of rescue boats, transport, relief camps, food, medicines, animal fodder and other emergency supplies. He also instructed the Irrigation Department, Drainage authorities and Municipal Committees to ensure the cleaning of rainwater drains and directed Assistant Commissioners to conduct field inspections of flood embankments, drainage systems and emergency machinery. He further ordered the removal of encroachments along riverbanks and drains, maintenance of sewerage systems, and repair of flood relief equipment to ensure complete preparedness for any emergency.

Nehal Hashmi, HEC Honour Pakistan's Top Scientists and Researchers at NED University



BY: ANI Correspondent: ISLAMABAD/KARACHI-- Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Thursday honoured distinguished researchers and scientists from Sindh and Balochistan at a recognition ceremony held at NED University of Engineering and Technology. The ceremony recognized scholars featured in the globally acclaimed Top 2% Scientists List and recipients of the National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) 2025-26 research grants for their outstanding contributions to research, innovation, and knowledge creation. Addressing the event, Governor Nehal Hashmi congratulated the awardees, saying their achievements had brought pride to Pakistan internationally. He lauded HEC's efforts in promoting research excellence and urged scholars to continue producing impactful research that addresses national challenges and supports sustainable development. HEC Chairman Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar said recognizing outstanding researchers helps promote a culture of excellence and innovation. He highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence in education, research, and economic development, while appreciating the contribution of universities in strengthening Pakistan's research ecosystem. Sindh Minister for Universities and Boards Sardar Muhammad Ismail Rahoo congratulated the awardees and reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to supporting research and academic excellence. PM Youth Programme (Sindh) Coordinator Dr. Fahad Shafiq highlighted government initiatives aimed at empowering youth through education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital opportunities. The ceremony also featured addresses by Prof. Dr. Syed Habib Ali Bokhari, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Nasir, and renowned scientist Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, who emphasized sustained investment in science, technology, and higher education as essential for Pakistan's long-term development. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Vice Chancellor of NED University.

Pakistani Women Chefs Win Silver, Bronze at Global Culinary Challenge Malaysia



BY: ANI Correspondent: KARACHI: Pakistan achieved another milestone in the international culinary arena as students of Masterclass Pakistan won Silver and Bronze medals on the second day of the Global Culinary Challenge Malaysia (GCCM) 2026 in Kuala Lumpur. Competing against leading chefs and culinary institutions from around the world, the Pakistani delegation showcased exceptional talent, technical excellence, and creativity, further strengthening Pakistan's reputation in the global hospitality and culinary industry. The outstanding performance of Pakistan's women chefs was a key highlight of the competition, reflecting the growing participation of women in professional culinary education and international contests. Congratulating the winners, Hafiz Usama Ahmed, CEO of Masterclass Pakistan, said the medals represent Pakistan's talent, resilience, and potential. He said the achievements of the young women chefs would inspire more Pakistani women to pursue careers in the culinary and hospitality sectors while enhancing the country's image internationally. Masterclass Pakistan is participating in the competition with a 25-member delegation, one of the largest Pakistani contingents at the event. The institute remains committed to promoting internationally competitive chefs through quality education, global exposure, and participation in prestigious culinary competitions. The delegation is hopeful of winning more medals as the competition continues in Kuala Lumpur.



Shaheryar Memon, Focal Person of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, meets H.E. Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Nayyar Naseer, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka, to discuss youth development, student exchanges, and strengthening Pakistan-Sri Lanka ties.

Pakistan, U.S. reaffirm cultural partnership as Liberty Bell exhibition opens at Lok Virsa



ANI ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening cultural ties with the United States as he jointly inaugurated the "Let Freedom Ring" American Liberty Bell display with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Andy Halus at the Lok Virsa Heritage Museum. Pakistan, U.S. reaffirm cultural partnership as Liberty Bell exhibition opens at Lok Virsa. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the minister congratulated the American nation on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of U.S. Independence and extended heartfelt wishes on behalf of the people of Pakistan. Khichi said people-to-people contacts and cultural cooperation remained among the strongest pillars of the longstanding bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the United States. Although Pakistan is a younger republic, he said, it shares the ideals of constitutional democracy, individual liberty and economic self-determination that inspired the American Dream. He said it was a pleasure to host the exhibition at Lok Virsa, an institution that has long served as the custodian of Pakistan's living cultural heritage. The exhibition, he added, reflects the cultural, artistic and political connections between Pakistan and the United States while celebrating the rich traditions of both nations. Highlighting the creativity of Pakistani artists, the minister said Pakistan possesses extraordinary artistic talent, with artists from across the country expressing the aspirations of the nation through their work. He praised the 16 Pakistani artists who transformed life-size replicas of the iconic American Liberty Bell into unique artistic expressions, saying their work demonstrated that art transcends borders, languages and history. The minister said Pakistan and the United States enjoy a broad-based relationship founded on mutual respect and shared objectives. He emphasized that cultural diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges continue to strengthen bilateral ties and expressed confidence that such partnerships would further deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations. Referring to growing cultural cooperation, Khichi said Pakistan was pleased to join the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence. He noted that the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation has remained an important initiative in promoting heritage conservation and cultural collaboration between the two countries. He also highlighted the successful repatriation of more than 450 valuable Pakistani cultural artifacts from the United States, valued at nearly US\$23 million, saying the achievement was made possible through close cooperation between the two countries.

Protecting, educating children to make Pakistan stronger: FPCCI

ANI LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Wednesday that protecting, educating, and empowering children is fundamental to building a strong, prosperous and sustainable Pakistan. He expressed these views at Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between FPCCI and Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Punjab, to promote child protection, welfare, education, skills development, rehabilitation, and dignified employment opportunities for vulnerable children and youth. The MoU was signed by Zaki Aijaz, FPCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President, and Sara Ahmed, CPWB Chairperson, here. Atif Ikram Sheikh stated that business community's responsibility extends beyond economic growth to making meaningful contributions towards social development and nation-building. He reaffirmed FPCCI's commitment to supporting initiatives which equip youth and underprivileged children with quality education, market-oriented skills, and sustainable employment opportunities, enabling them to become productive and responsible members of society. Addressing the signing ceremony, Zaki Aijaz described the agreement as a significant milestone in strengthening public-private collaboration for child welfare and youth empowerment. Under this partnership, he noted, children and young people under the care of Child Protection & Welfare Bureau would have access to technical and vocational training, digital literacy programmes, internships, apprenticeships, employment opportunities, entrepreneurial development, financial literacy, career counseling, and mentorship designed to meet the demands of the modern workforce.

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Opinion

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US shift in Syria signals new era in ties with Turkiye

DR. SINEM CENGIZ

Since 2015, US support for the Syrian Democratic Forces in Syria has bedeviled relations between Washington and Ankara. Regardless of which administration occupies the White House, this issue has continued to plague Turkish-American relations. Ankara has long maintained that successive US administrations have disregarded the security concerns of a NATO ally, opting instead to partner with forces affiliated with an organization Turkiye designates as terrorist in the fight against Daesh. This perception has led Ankara to launch three military operations in northern Syria to eliminate the elements it considers threats to Turkish security and stability.

Washington's policy of supporting the SDF – formed from the Syrian affiliates of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK – even led Ankara to enhance its cooperation with Russia. For many years, Moscow has weaponized the PKK, which was ideologically attractive to Russia due to its Marxist-Leninist

roots, for its own geopolitical interests. Moscow also provided the PKK affiliates with a large amount of military support to help fight Daesh in Syria. Yet, when the PKK affiliates reached out to Russia to back the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish region in northeastern Syria, the Kremlin declined to offer support. The positive track in Turkish-Russian ties influenced Moscow's strategic calculus toward the SDF, but concerns over US and Western dominance in Syria also played a role.

Then, the SDF turned to Israel for support. This was not surprising, since Israel was the only country in the region to openly support the independence referendum held by the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq in 2017. Israel wanted to use the SDF to undermine Turkiye, the new leadership in Damascus, and regional states that support Palestinian rights. However, the Israeli backing of the SDF for its own geopolitical interests has also failed. As a result, the status quo won in Syria, and the US, which was once the main backer of the SDF, played a critical role in this.

After the Syrian army pushed back SDF forces during a recent military operation, Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa announced that a truce had been reached with the SDF in northeastern Syria. According to the ceasefire agreement, the SDF will hand over control of all the areas it had held for a decade, including oil and natural gas fields, and its forces will be integrated into the Syrian national security structure.

US Ambassador to Ankara and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said that his country no longer needed the SDF as the “primary ground force” in the fight against Daesh in Syria, and that its original purpose had “come to an end.” Barrack's shuttle diplomacy played a great role in reaching this agreement which was delayed since March 10 last year. Turkiye and Syria have accused Israel of backing the SDF, and during talks in Paris between Israeli and Syrian officials, Israel was urged to stop encouraging the SDF to delay integrating.

Three key factors related to Turkish, Syrian, and US roles have played a part in reaching the current situation. First, since late 2024,

Ankara has been pursuing a “terror-free Turkiye” strategy to end the long-standing conflict with the PKK. This process is not only confined to Turkish territory but aims to extend beyond its borders, including Syria. As the SDF delayed steps toward implementing its agreement with Damascus, Turkiye moved closer to considering a new military operation against the SDF. The prospect of such an operation, in turn, pressured Washington to reconsider its SDF policy. Without an operation, Turkiye instead used the threat of military action as a diplomatic tool to pressure the US.

Second, the determination of the Al-Sharaa government also played a significant role. Since the ousting of Bashar Assad, Al-Sharaa has pledged to bring all Syrian territory under the authority of the new government, including areas administered by the SDF. By pursuing the unification of Syria under a single leadership, he emerged as a more favorable partner for the US under President Donald Trump. This development also benefits Syria as it restores territorial unity because single army and administration was the essential

element of post-war state recovery. It addresses not only Syria's stability, but also the security of neighboring countries, particularly Turkiye and Iran, which are concerned over Kurdish separatism.

In the face of firm and converging Turkish and Syrian positions against the SDF, the Trump administration signaled a willingness to move forward in Syria in coordination with Damascus and Ankara. With the shifting US position and Trump's support, Ankara and Damascus emerged as the winning sides of the recent agreement. Trump, having Al-Sharaa and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as partners in Syria, made it clear that he had no further interest in maintaining a separate role for the SDF in Syria.

In Syria, the US directly instrumentalized and supported the SDF under the pretext of partnership in the fight against Daesh. It provided arms, training, financial support, and even protection. However, the SDF used this backing to establish an autonomous enclave, with separate civilian and military institutions.

—Arab News

Gaza: A step forward or a recycling of the crisis?

DR. ABDELLATIF EL-MENAWY

Once again, Gaza has returned to the center of international debate, not through an announcement of peace but through a proposal for management. Under US President Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza, accompanied by strong American messaging and dense organizational language, an old dilemma has resurfaced in a new form: Is the world finally searching for an exit from the Gaza war or merely redesigning the mechanisms used to contain it?

At first glance, the plan, which is now entering its second phase, appears ambitious. It speaks the language of coordination, stability, reconstruction and post-war governance. It suggests international oversight, regional participation and an administrative framework that would, in theory, prevent Gaza from sliding back into chaos once the fighting subsides. Yet beneath this polished surface lies a deeper, unresolved tension – one that has haunted every previous attempt to “solve” Gaza without confronting its political core.

The idea of international or quasi-international management of Gaza is not new. Variations of it have surfaced repeatedly over the past two decades, particularly after each major escalation. What changes are the labels, the actors involved and the institutional architecture. What remains constant is the underlying assumption: that Gaza can be stabilized administratively while its political status remains suspended.

This is precisely where skepticism begins.

The proposed framework appears less like a peace initiative and more like an advanced crisis-management model, designed to control fallout, distribute responsibility and prevent total collapse. It focuses on how Gaza might be governed, rather than why it has repeatedly reached this state. In doing so, it risks treating the symptoms of the conflict while carefully avoiding its causes.

At the heart of Gaza's tragedy is not merely destruction, humanitarian collapse or security breakdown. It is a persistent political vacuum – the absence of a credible, agreed-upon political horizon for Palestinians in Gaza that is connected to the broader Palestinian question.

Any proposal that isolates Gaza from the West Bank or treats it as a standalone administrative problem implicitly reinforces fragmentation. Even if unintentionally, such approaches risk normalizing the idea that Gaza can be governed indefinitely without resolving issues of sovereignty, representation, borders or occupation.

This is why many observers view the latest concept with caution. It may offer order without justice, calm without resolution and stability without legitimacy.

The strong American endorsement of the proposal reflects a growing impatience in Washington. After months of war, humanitarian catastrophe and international pressure, there is a clear desire to move from active conflict to controlled aftermath. From this perspective, the priority is preventing Gaza from becoming an ungovernable space that destabilizes the region.

However, urgency is not the same as strategy.

By emphasizing managerial solutions, the US appears focused on preventing immediate deterioration rather than investing in the difficult, politically costly work of redefining the conflict's parameters. This may be understandable in the short term – but history suggests it is insufficient in the long run.

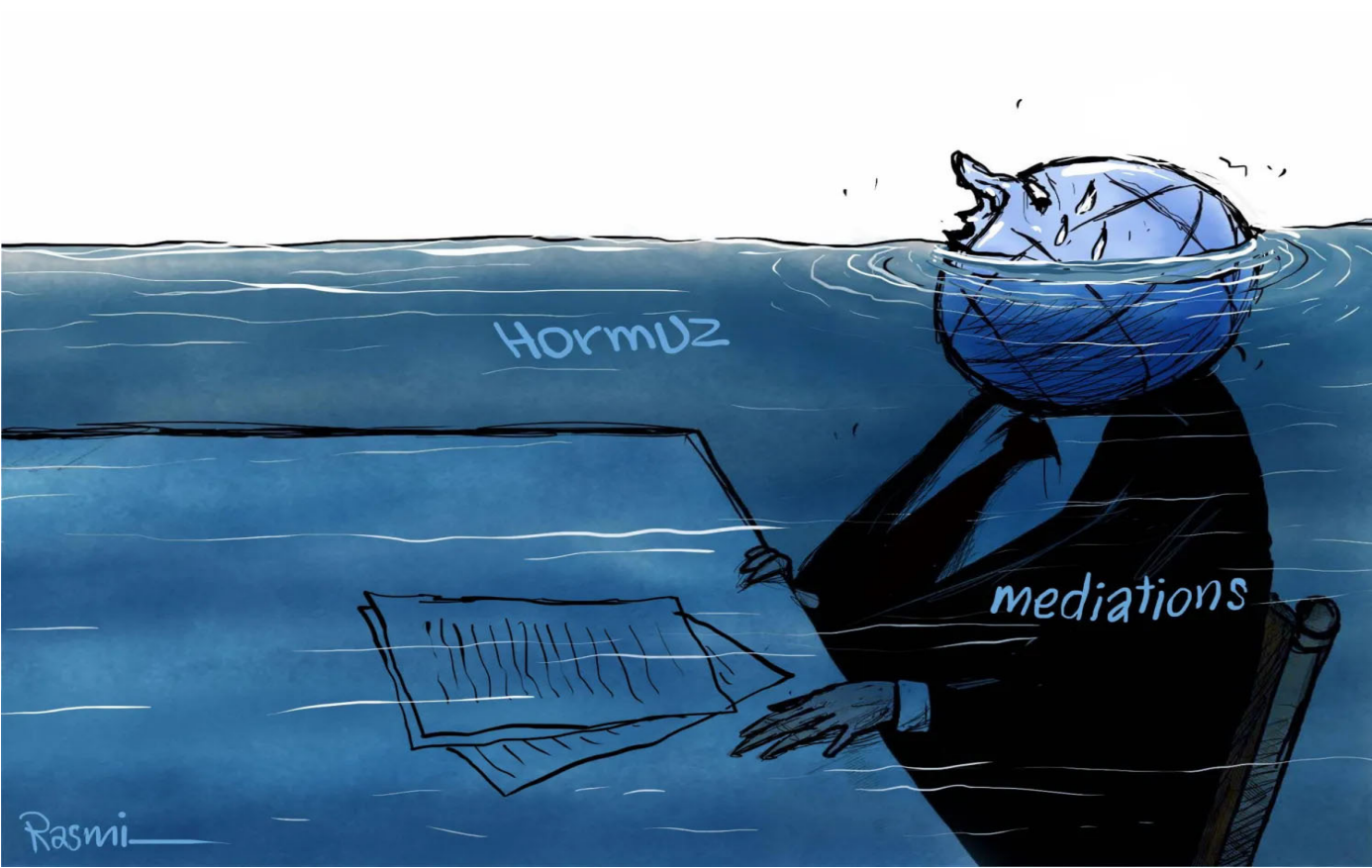
For regional players, the proposal presents a dilemma. Participation offers influence and a chance to shape outcomes, but it also carries significant risks. Any regional or international body involved in governing Gaza without a clear political mandate could quickly find itself blamed for failures it did not cause and unable to make decisions it does not control.

There is also a deeper concern: Does international management become a substitute for political accountability? If so, Gaza risks becoming a permanent international trusteeship in everything but name – managed, monitored and funded but never truly resolved.

The most troubling aspect of the proposal is the possibility that it represents not a breakthrough but a repackaging of stalemate. By focusing on mechanisms rather than meaning, structures rather than solutions, the international community may once again be choosing the path of least resistance.

This would not be the first time Gaza has been “saved” from collapse only to be returned, months or years later, to the same cycle of destruction. Each iteration becomes more complex, more institutionalized and paradoxically harder to dismantle.

—Arab News



Beyond Teaching: The Journey from Teacher to Mentor



Written By:Zain Akram
Educationalist, Motivator
& Student Counsellor
Published By:ANI
News Agency

Education has long been regarded as the cornerstone of a progressive and prosperous society.

While infrastructure, technology, and economic development contribute to national growth, it is education that unlocks human potential and prepares future generations to lead with knowledge, integrity, and purpose. At the heart of this transformation stands the teacher—an individual entrusted with one of society's most significant responsibilities.

In today's rapidly changing world, however, teaching alone is no longer enough. The true calling of an educator is to become a mentor—someone who not only imparts knowledge but also nurtures character, builds confidence, and inspires a lifelong love of learning.

A teacher explains lessons; a mentor transforms lives.

The distinction between a teacher and a mentor is profound. A teacher helps students understand a subject, while a mentor helps them understand themselves. A teacher prepares students for examinations; a mentor prepares them for life. Beyond textbooks and classrooms, mentors encourage learners to discover their strengths, overcome their fears, embrace challenges, and pursue excellence with determination.

Every student is unique, with different talents, ambitions, and circumstances. Effective mentorship recognises these differences and creates opportunities for every learner to flourish. Great mentors do not focus solely on high achievers; they also uplift those who

struggle, reminding them that perseverance, discipline, and resilience often matter more than natural ability.

Success begins when someone believes in your potential before you believe in yourself.

The twenty-first century has witnessed extraordinary advances in artificial intelligence, digital technology, and access to information. Knowledge is now available at the click of a button. Yet wisdom, sound judgment, and ethical decision-making cannot be downloaded. They are cultivated through meaningful relationships with educators who genuinely care about the intellectual and personal growth of their students.

Today's educators must therefore move beyond simply delivering lectures. They should encourage critical thinking, creativity, ethical leadership, empathy, and social responsibility. These qualities enable students not only to excel professionally but also to become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

Information fills the mind; mentorship shapes the character.

Mentorship is demonstrated through actions rather than words. Students observe their teachers every day. They learn honesty from honest teachers, discipline from disciplined teachers, humility from humble teachers, and respect from those who practise respect. A mentor's character often becomes the most enduring lesson, leaving a lasting impression long after formal education has ended.

One of the defining qualities of an exceptional mentor is the ability to stand beside students through both success and failure. Great mentors celebrate achievements without seeking recognition and offer encouragement during difficult times without judgment. They understand that failure is not the opposite of success but an essential step towards it.

The best mentors do not create followers—they inspire future leaders.

Educational institutions also have a responsibility to foster a culture of mentorship. Learning environments built on trust, mutual respect, and open communication enable students to develop confidence, resilience, and a genuine passion for learning. When students know their teachers sincerely care about their growth, they are more motivated to realise their full potential.

The true legacy of a mentor is reflected not in certificates, titles, or years of service, but in the lives they have touched. Their influence continues through students who become ethical professionals, compassionate leaders, responsible citizens, and agents of positive change.

A mentor plants seeds of excellence whose fruits are harvested by generations.

As education continues to evolve, so too must the role of educators. Teaching should not end with completing a syllabus or conducting examinations. It should become a lifelong commitment to guiding minds, nurturing character, and inspiring hope.

History remembers outstanding teachers not merely for the knowledge they shared but for the lives they transformed. Every successful scientist, administrator, entrepreneur, physician, engineer, or public servant carries with them the influence of a teacher who believed in their potential.

In the end, the greatest achievement of an educator is not simply producing graduates but shaping responsible, compassionate, and ethical human beings. When teachers embrace mentorship with sincerity, empathy, and integrity, they become architects of a stronger society and a brighter future.

A teacher may be remembered for a lesson; a mentor is remembered for a lifetime.

EU’s future may well depend on Marine Le Pen appeal verdict

MOHAMED CHEBARO

With Europe under fire for its lack of support for Ukraine and grappling with the prospect of losing Greenland to President Donald Trump – a shift that could spell the end of NATO – an appeal court in Paris could give the coup de grace to the future of the EU as a bloc, if Marine Le Pen's appeal against a conviction relating to the embezzlement of European Parliament funds by her party succeeds.

It is not only the French far-right firebrand's political future that hangs in the balance, but also the fate of France's Fifth Republic and that of Europe, too. Either Le Pen or her protégé Jordan Bardella, head of the patriotic French movement National Rally, will run for president of France regardless of the court decision. Right-wing skeptics have been on the rise across the Continent but have so far been kept at bay in major European countries such as France and Germany. But with their numbers growing, Le Pen's legal troubles might not be sufficient to shift the vote away from a populist movement bent on winning the keys to the Elysee Palace. Meanwhile, France's mainstream political parties appear fragmented and in disarray, with none seeming to offer an appealing alternative to National Rally's plan to radically change the country's direction with anti-immigration and US-style “France first” policies and a eurosceptic agenda. Le Pen is seeking to overturn a March ruling that found her guilty of misusing EU funds in the hiring of staff from 2004 to 2016. However, with no new political coalition or movement emerging to challenge the populist shift, the success or failure of the appeal is unlikely to dent her chances or those of her party in winning the presidency 500 days from now.

Recent opinion polls suggest that Le Pen's legal troubles have had little impact on National Rally's fortunes. Instead, the party's appeal has been growing across

the board, especially among young and older voters. A poll by Le Monde showed that 40 percent of respondents believed that National Rally would improve the situation in France when it came to security, reindustrialization, quality of public services, and the cost of living.

Like many populist parties in Europe, Le Pen's National Rally has been benefiting from toxic social media and a narrative of despair directed from the US toward Europe's mainstream parties. A third of voters also said that National Rally is the only party that could do things differently, while not specifying how. Meanwhile, a growing number of voters favor tougher rules for overseas-born residents in relation to housing, welfare, and employment.

For the past 15 years, Le Pen has been trying to bring the far right into the political mainstream in France. Recent geopolitical changes mean there has never been a more favorable time for such a drive, with Europe as a bloc, as well as its democratic liberal values, besieged and under attack. While the past stigma of racism and antisemitism persists, National Rally's disdain of EU as a bloc – a posture that echoes the Make America Great Again stance in the US – resonates with a larger section of voters in France, and indeed the rest of Europe.

The case against Le Pen for misusing EU funds is now a matter for the Paris appeal court, which might clear her after 13 weeks of deliberation or uphold the previous verdict. But whatever the court's finding, Le Pen and Bardella are likely to emerge stronger, appearing to be the victims of a witch hunt, and capable of rallying even more support.

The question facing France and the EU is what Le Pen or Bardella will do with a win – whether they will be able to deliver better living standards and boost economic growth and not just deliver more “patriotic posturing” while worsening the

Int’l education day

The International Day of Education is observed each year on January 24, and this year's theme was “The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education.” This important day highlights the vital role education plays in promoting global peace and sustainable development. Education is essential for children's safety, health, happiness and future opportunities. It equips young minds with knowledge, skills and confidence, allowing them to build better lives and contribute positively to society. Education is not a privilege for a few – it is a fundamental right for all. On this day, we not only celebrate the importance of learning but also encourage young people to take an active role in shaping education systems. It is also a time to recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of teachers and educators who guide and inspire future generations. We must use this day as a reminder to support education for every child and to empower youth to become leaders of tomorrow.

Kulsoom Balach
Gidroschia, Balochistan

Unemployed engineers

Pakistan is passing through one of the most

punishing economic phases in its history. Inflation has drained household savings, the rupee has steadily weakened, industries are struggling to stay afloat, and public debt has tightened its grip on national decision-making. For millions, daily survival has become a balancing act. Yet beneath these visible pressures lies a quieter tragedy: the systematic sidelining of its engineers. Pakistan has spent decades producing skilled engineers across civil, electrical, mechanical, software and chemical disciplines. These are professionals trained to build roads, power plants, water systems, industries and digital infrastructure – the very foundations of a modern economy. And yet, tens of thousands of them remain unemployed or trapped in work far below their qualifications. Instead of empowering technical professionals, Pakistan's governance structure continues to favour generalist administration and political patronage over expertise. Engineers are reduced to passive roles, sometimes even forced to “rent out” their professional licenses just to survive. This practice not only humiliates the profession but also compromises public safety and project quality. Meanwhile, many of the country's best engineers leave for opportunities abroad. The loss is national. No country has ever achieved sustainable growth by ignoring its technical backbone. Yet, there is still room for hope. Pakistan does not lack talent,

intelligence or youth. What it lacks is the courage to realign authority with expertise.

Shazia Iqbal
Turbat

Phone tongue

Language has always been the strongest marker of identity. Traditionally, a child's mother tongue was the language spoken at home by parents and elders. However, in the modern digital age, this natural process is rapidly changing. A new phenomenon is emerging – the “phone tongue.” Today's children are growing up surrounded by screens. As a result, many children are learning and adopting the language of digital media rather than their inherited mother tongue. The phone does not just entertain; it educates, influences pronunciation, builds vocabulary and even shapes thinking patterns. This change carries both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, children become multilingual and globally connected. On the other hand, local languages face the risk of decline if they are not actively preserved at home and in society. The responsibility now lies with parents, educators and content creators to ensure that digital spaces also support and promote native languages, so tradition and technology can grow together rather than apart.

Aamir Khan Wagan

Former MNA Javeria Zafar Aheer Meets Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Congratulates Him on Gilgit-Baltistan Election Victory

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: Former Member of the National Assembly Javeria Zafar Aheer called on Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani in Islamabad and discussed national issues, the country's political situation, and matters related to public welfare.

During the meeting, Javeria Zafar Aheer congratulated the Senate Chairman on the victory in the Gilgit-Baltistan elections and conveyed her best wishes. She expressed confidence that Gillani would continue serving the nation with his political experience, wisdom, and commitment.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, with both leaders reaf-



firming their commitment to strengthening democratic values, promoting national unity and politi-

cal harmony, and working together for Pakistan's progress and prosper-

Chaudhry Salik Hussain Launches National Emigration and Welfare Policy 2026 to Protect and Empower Overseas Pakistanis



By : Hurish Shah :

ISLAMABAD---- Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday launched the National Emigration and Welfare Policy 2026, aimed at strengthening labour migration governance and ensuring the welfare, protection and empowerment of more than 11 million Overseas Pakistanis.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, attended by diplomats, European Union representatives, international organizations and senior government officials, the minister said the policy reflects the government's

commitment to ensuring Pakistanis migrate safely, legally and with dignity while preparing the workforce with internationally recognized skills.

He noted that Overseas Pakistanis remitted a record US\$41.58 billion during FY2025-26, describing them as a key pillar of Pakistan's economy and global reputation.

The policy focuses on safe migration, skills development, worker protection, diaspora engagement and sustainable reintegration. It also introduces measures including digital migration systems, an international complaint call centre, labour dispute courts, legal assistance

abroad, an EOBI pension scheme for overseas workers, and stronger reintegration support for returning migrants.

Speaking on the occasion, ICMPD representative Ms. Sedef Dearing congratulated Pakistan on the launch of the policy and reaffirmed the organization's continued support for safe and regular migration initiatives. The policy will be implemented in phases under the supervision of a high-level task force chaired by Chaudhry Salik Hussain, with the government reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of Pakistanis working abroad.

Senator Sarmad Ali-Led Senate Committee Recommends Renaming of Buleha, Removal of Objectionable Dialogue



BY: Hurish Shah :

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting met at the PTV Headquarters in Islamabad under the acting chairmanship of Senator Sarmad Ali to discuss a wide range of issues, including the alleged misrepresentation of Hazrat Baba Bulleh Shah's teachings in the film Buleha, implementation of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), journalists' housing schemes, the government advertisement quota for regional newspapers, and the grievances of Radio Pakistan pensioners.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil, Principal Information Officer (PIO) Raheela Adil, Senators Abdul Shakoor, Syed Waqar Mehdi, Pervez Rashid, and Jan Muhammad, along with senior officials of the relevant departments.

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) briefed the Committee on social media statistics and Meta's removal of objectionable content, clarifying that the figures previously shared were based on Meta's publicly available data. The Committee accepted the clarification and emphasized the importance of responsible reporting based on verified facts.

The Committee also reviewed the transfer of PECA cases from provincial authorities to NCCIA. Officials informed members that only nine

cases from Sindh had so far been transferred, while the remaining cases were still under process. Senator Sarmad Ali directed that letters be sent to the relevant provincial authorities to expedite the transfer of pending cases and implement the recommendations of the Senate Sub-Committee.

Members also discussed a notice issued to a newspaper columnist over alleged controversial remarks about the bureaucracy. NCCIA clarified that the notice was issued only to seek the columnist's version following complaints and that no FIR had been registered under PECA. Senator Pervez Rashid stressed that the columnist should be given an opportunity to respond. The Committee unanimously directed NCCIA to refer the complaint to the Press Council of Pakistan, the appropriate forum to examine the published column.

During deliberations on the film Buleha, the Committee observed that the movie distorted the peaceful teachings of Hazrat Baba Bulleh Shah by associating them with violence. Members questioned the basis on which the Central Board of Film Censors approved the film and called on the Federal Government to introduce a transparent and merit-based mechanism for the appointment of Censor Board members.

Following detailed discussion, the Committee recommended that the producers rename the film and remove the objectionable dialogue in

which the lead character compares himself to Baba Bulleh Shah. Failing compliance, the Committee recommended blocking the film's release and considering its removal from YouTube.

The Committee also expressed concern over delays in the allotment of plots and flats for journalists and media workers. Senator Sarmad Ali directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to notify a committee comprising journalists' representatives within one week to review the matter and revisit the existing policy within one month. The Committee further recommended increasing the quota for journalists and media workers in future housing schemes and introducing a dedicated housing finance facility.

The Press Information Department (PID) briefed the Committee on the 25 percent government advertisement quota for regional newspapers. The Committee directed PID to ensure strict implementation of the policy, particularly for regional and language newspapers in Sindh and Balochistan.

On the issue of Radio Pakistan pensioners, officials informed the Committee that 353 commutation cases remain pending. Senator Sarmad Ali directed that these grievances also be placed before the Prime Minister's committee constituted to resolve the outstanding issues of Radio Pakistan, PTV, and APP, and called for an early resolution.

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi Orders Report on Restoration of Sargodha Train Services

By ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA--- Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi has directed Pakistan Railways to submit a report on restoring suspended train services from Sargodha to various cities, saying he will soon visit the city to inaugurate the revived routes.

He made the announcement during a meeting with Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA Iram Hamid Hameed, and former Minister of State Chaudhry Hamid Hameed.

Hanif Abbasi said the government is committed to restoring train services from Sargodha to Karachi, Lahore, and Multan. He added that Pakistan Railways has ordered new passenger coaches and locomotives, after whose arrival additional train services will be launched, with the



Super Express between Sargodha and Karachi being the top priority. The delegation informed the Minister that Sargodha once had 26 train services, but only five are currently operational. Hanif Abbasi assured them that all feasible services would be restored on a priority basis to improve travel facilities for the people.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood Urges CDA to Withdraw Basement Construction Charges for Steel Market Traders



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD-- President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, has called on the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to withdraw basement construction charges for traders in Steel Market I-10/3, while urging policymakers to make ease of doing business a key priority for sustainable economic growth, investment, and employment generation.

Addressing a delegation of the Traders Welfare Association, Steel Market I-10/3, at the Chamber House, he said ICCI is actively work-

ing with the FBR, CDA, Islamabad Police, District Administration, IESCO, and other institutions to resolve the business community's concerns. He reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to protecting the interests of traders and industrialists through consultation and consensus.

During the meeting, Chaudhry Mohammad Irfan, President of the Traders Welfare Association and ICCI Vice President, requested the CDA to construct a link bridge between Streets 4 and 7, permit the establishment of a dispensary on the allocated plot, and review the revised policy imposing basement

construction charges on commercial plots. He said the new policy has placed an unnecessary financial burden on traders.

Association Secretary General Haji Zafar also sought ICCI's support for the allotment of remaining plots to steel fabricators and highlighted issues related to encroachments, sewerage, streetlights, inadequate infrastructure, and security concerns caused by temporary huts in the market area.

Former ICCI Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry, Executive Members, ICCI members, and a large number of traders attended the meeting.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja Vows Youth Empowerment, Welfare Reforms Through Pakistan Awami Quwat Party

BY: ANI Reporter :

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party and Rawal General & Dental Hospital, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has said that his party is implementing a comprehensive youth development programme aimed at enabling young people to become productive and responsible citizens of Pakistan.

He expressed these views during a meeting at his office with delegations comprising prominent personalities, political and social leaders, professionals, and representatives from different sectors of society.

Among those present were Brigadier (Retd.) Affandi, Dr. Tariq, Head of ENT at PIMS Hospital, Khurram Joyia Advocate, Major (Retd.) Ahmad Nadeem Saddal, political leaders from Jhang Syedan including Raja Javed, Raja Haider, and Muqaddas Bashir, business leader Aafia Shabbir, Naureen Irshad, Principal of Ilam Model School Alipur, Dr. Sana Jaweria, Sana Zahra, Hasna Malik, Abdullah, and other distinguished guests.

The participants discussed issues facing their respective areas and exchanged views on Pakistan's development, unity, and public wel-



fare. They appreciated the party's manifesto, vision, and practical initiatives, while also presenting suggestions for future reforms. Khaqan Waheed Khawaja said the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party believes in practical performance rather than political slogans. He stated that despite not being in government, the party has demonstrated its commitment to public service through tangible initiatives in different sectors.

He further said the party is introducing reforms in education, technical training, e-commerce, employment, and healthcare to create lasting opportunities for future generations. He added that the party has launched an independent Health Card initiative, while the Rawal Foundation has introduced a special health card for the general public, benefiting thousands of people across the country.

Farid Afghan Advocate: Security Situation in Balochistan Is Alarming, Government Must Restore Public Trust

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI-- Pakistan Muslim League-N Balochistan senior leader and former provincial secretary information Advocate Farid Afghan has expressed concern over the law and order situation and the government's performance in Balochistan, saying that unrest and administrative problems in the province have left the public feeling insecure, and the government must restore people's trust through effective measures.

In an exclusive conversation, he claimed that several officers in the province are running administrative affairs from Islamabad and Karachi, due to which public issues are not



being resolved in a timely manner. According to him, the government has failed to adopt policies aligned with ground realities, while the people continue to face problems related

to basic facilities, peace, and security.

Farid Afghan said that the rise in terrorism and violent incidents has created fear and panic among citizens. He said that the Pakistan Armed Forces, police, and other law enforcement agencies are making sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, but in his view the government must strengthen these efforts through effective strategy and better governance.

He urged the government to take immediate and practical steps for restoring peace and order in Balochistan, protecting the lives and property of the people, improving the administrative system, and ensuring good governance so that public anxiety can be addressed.