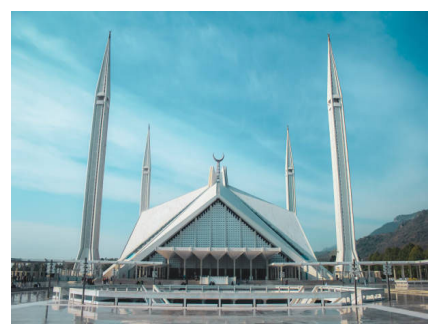


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# PM, Field Marshal inaugurate Pakistan's largest Sky47 data centre



DR WAHEED M KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday described the newly inaugurated AI and cloud computing facility as a landmark achievement for Pakistan reflecting the country's growing technological capabilities and demonstrated that Pakistan could accomplish world-class initiatives through unity, vision and determination.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the country's first ever AI Cloud Sky47, the prime minister said he was deeply inspired after touring the state-of-the-art facility, which had been completed in record time. Prime Minister,

Shehbaz Sharif praised the engineers, experts and institutions involved in the project, and said the successful execution of the facility showcased the extraordinary talent available in both Pakistan's military and civilian sectors.

Quoting the national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the prime minister said nations were built through fresh ideas and visionary thinking rather than bricks and stones alone. He stressed that innovation, commitment and collective resolve were the driving forces behind national progress.

Paying tribute to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's leadership, the prime minister said the project stood as a testament to what

could be achieved when state institutions worked together with a shared national purpose. He expressed confidence that if the same model of coordination and execution was replicated across other sectors, Pakistan could not only recover from past setbacks but also emerge as a modern, dynamic and forward-looking nation. "This journey will not be easy, but it is certainly not impossible," the prime minister said, adding that Pakistan's success during Marka-e-Haq had already demonstrated that determination, courage and unity could transform seemingly impossible goals into reality. He maintained that every major challenge pre-

sented an opportunity, whereas serious planning, innovation and sustained hard work would shape Pakistan's future in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and cloud computing.

The prime minister also acknowledged the contributions of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the Ministry of Information Technology, the IT Secretary and strategic technology partner ZTE for their role in delivering the project. He revealed that the facility had an initial capacity of 8.5 megawatts and announced that similar AI and cloud infrastructure would soon be replicated in Karachi and Lahore.

## Dar Urges SCO to Press Afghan Taliban on Terrorism

ANI

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday urged the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to press Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to honour their counter-terrorism commitments, saying durable peace and stability in the region depended on ending terrorism emanating from Afghan soil. Addressing the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting (SCO-CFM) in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, Dar said, "Our region is passing through an eventful time." He noted, however, "It has always been, and continues to be, Pakistan's desire to see a peaceful, stable, regionally integrated, and prosperous Afghanistan, which is at peace with itself and its neighbours." This, the foreign minister said, was in the best interest of all SCO member states and beyond. At present, Dar said, "the threat of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan is one of the most serious security challenges for us," noting that terrorist organisations including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) "continue to recruit, train, and operate from Afghan soil, under the watch and facilitation of the Afghan Taliban regime."

"The enabling environment provided to terrorist organisations by the Afghan Taliban regime has been well-documented by the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team," the foreign minister stated. Citing over 560 innocent Pakistani civilians martyred in over 2,000 terrorist incidents this year, Dar expressed deep concern over Afghan nationals found to be involved in these terrorist incidents.

Saying that durable peace, stability, and economic development could only be achieved "with the eradication of the menace of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil," Dar urged the SCO to call on the Afghan Taliban regime to "honour its international counter-terrorism commitments to the international community and fulfil its responsibilities towards global peace and security."

Turning to regional diplomacy, Dar said Pakistan believed "dialogue, diplomacy and mutual respect provide the only sustainable way forward to resolve conflicts and achieve durable peace and security."

Guided by this conviction, he said, Pakistan led efforts to host talks between the United States and Iran in Islamabad in April, facilitating the first high-level direct diplomatic contact between the two countries in 47 years. Describing the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU), signed in



June 2026, as a "historic breakthrough," the foreign minister said the agreement was made possible through Islamabad's close engagement with both sides and intensive diplomatic outreach to regional and international partners.

"Pakistan deeply appreciates the trust and confidence reposed in it by both Iran and the United States in undertaking this challenging responsibility in the larger interests of peace and security," he said, urging the international community to build on the Islamabad MoU and the ongoing US-Iran technical talks to advance lasting peace.

He also urged vigilance "against those who seek to undermine regional stability," Dar warned that such actors "will exploit every opportunity to derail the peace process and reverse the progress achieved." Only through working together, he said, could the shared objective of long-term peace, stability, and prosperity be achieved for the region and beyond.

Further, the foreign minister lauded the SCO, saying it has "become an anchor for regional cooperation, driving vital progress in peace, security, stability, and economic connectivity, while also simultaneously fostering deep cultural exchanges among member states," according to an X post by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Dar added that while celebrating the organisation's 25th anniversary, "we underscore the enduring strength of the 'Shanghai Spirit'." The "foundational philosophy," he said, "continues to guide our collective efforts through mutual trust, equality, cultural respect, shared growth, and constructive diplomacy." According to the foreign minister, the SCO "has successfully transitioned from a security-centric 'Shanghai Five,' to a comprehensive entity that integrates security, economy, development, culture, and peace among others."

## Nawaz Sharif promises new development projects for AJK in Mirpur rally

ANI

MIRPUR: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has pledged to accelerate development in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), saying every major development project in the region bears the party's imprint and promising new initiatives if the party returns to power. Addressing an election rally in Mirpur, Nawaz Sharif said he was delighted to return to the city after several years.

He praised the enthusiasm of the people and said that the PML-N will win the election from Mirpur seat.

The former prime minister said his bond with the people of Kashmir remained strong and maintained that the PML-N had consistently taken practical steps for the development of Azad Kashmir.

"Every development project in Azad Kashmir carries the stamp of the PML-N," he said, challenging political rivals to identify any comparable achievements by other parties. Referring to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Nawaz Sharif said, "Bilawal, don't take my remarks personally. Political rivalry is part of democracy, but it should never turn into hostility or



violence."

He vowed to change the destiny of Mirpur and the rest of Azad Kashmir, promising that the region would receive the same development opportunities as other parts of the country. Nawaz Sharif announced that if electric buses could operate in Lahore and Islamabad, the same facility would also be introduced in Azad Kashmir.

He added that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had brought a "special gift" for the people of the region.

He further said that if the PML-N forms the government in Azad Kashmir, he would personally oversee the implementation of the party's election manifesto. Education would be a top priority, he added, pledging that every high-achieving student in Azad Kashmir would receive a laptop under the party's proposed education initiative.

## Pakistan tells UNSC Kashmir is 'not India's internal matter'

ANI

Pakistan on Friday rejected India's claim that Jammu and Kashmir was its "integral part" or "an internal matter", telling the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that the territory remained an internationally recognised dispute that should be resolved in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The remarks were made by Counsellor Saima Saleem while exercising Pakistan's right of reply during a UNSC open debate on strengthening mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes. "Jammu and Kashmir is neither a so-called integral part of India nor its internal matter," Pakistan's representative at the UNSC told her Indian counterpart. She said India's assertions could not "rewrite history, change Jammu and Kashmir's internationally recognised disputed status, or conceal nearly eight decades of systematic human rights violations against the Kashmiri people, including denial of their inalienable right to self-determination."

Calling on India to respect international law, Saima said it was "ironic to hear India preaching peace while breaching international law and Security



Council resolutions, and practising aggression against its neighbours, repression in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, persecution of minorities, and perpetrating state-sponsored terrorism across the region and beyond." Responding to India's remarks during the debate, she said the Indian delegation had attempted to undermine the discussion through "denial, distortion, false accusations and gross misrepresentation of its conduct". She said India had itself brought the Jammu and Kashmir dispute before the Security Council before later disregarding its resolutions. "Let me remind the Indian delegation that Security Council resolutions do not have an expiry date," she said, stressing that respect for international law remained essential for maintaining international peace and security.

## 15 Security Personnel Martyred, 12 Terrorists Killed in Tank Attack

ANI

RAWALPINDI: Twelve terrorists were killed while 15 security personnel and a government official were martyred after a terrorist attack targeted a joint police check post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

According to the military's media wing, the attack occurred during the night of July 23-24 when militants, identified by the ISPR as members of the "Indian-sponsored Fitna Al Khwarij", attempted to storm the joint police check post.

The ISPR said security forces responded swiftly and effectively, foiling the attackers' attempt to breach the facility. Troops then pur-



sued the fleeing militants, killing 12 terrorists in the ensuing operation.

The military said the assailants, in a last-ditch attempt to inflict damage, rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter

wall of the check post. The powerful blast caused extensive damage to the installation. As a result of the explosion, 15 personnel embraced martyrdom, including 12 soldiers, two police officers and one government official from the Forest Department, the ISPR said.

A sanitisation operation is currently underway to eliminate any remaining militants in the area, according to the military. The ISPR said Pakistan's security forces and law enforcement agencies would continue their nationwide counter-

terrorism campaign under the Azm-e-Istehkam strategy, approved by the Federal Apex Committee under the National Action Plan, to eradicate what it described as foreign-sponsored terrorism.

## FCCP Issues Notices in Maria Shahbaz Review Petition

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court on Friday issued notices to the Attorney General for Pakistan and the Advocate General Punjab, seeking their legal assistance on a review petition filed in the case of Maria Shahbaz, who embraced Islam and contracted marriage.

A two-member bench headed by Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard the petition. Counsel for the petitioner argued that the court, in its earlier judgment, had upheld the marriage of a minor girl, whereas Maria Shahbaz was underage and had allegedly been induced to convert her religion. Justice Rizvi asked what error existed in the previous judgment. The petitioner's counsel replied that the legal age for marriage was 18 years and, therefore, a marriage contracted in violation of the law could not be allowed to stand. Justice Rizvi observed that while the law prescribed punishment for underage marriage, it did not declare such a marriage void. He further remarked that even if a marriage took place when one of the parties was underage, the law had to provide a remedy for such a situation. During the hearing, Justice Rizvi also observed that from the district court up to the Federal Constitutional Court.

## PM Shehbaz appoints General Aamer Raza as Commander National Strategic Command



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday promoted Lieutenant General Aamer Raza to the rank of four-star general and appointed him as the Commander of the National Strategic Command (CNSC), assigning him one of Pakistan's most significant strategic defence responsibilities. The appointment was announced by the Prime Minister's Office through an official notification and takes immediate effect. Following the announcement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met General Aamer Raza and congratulated him on his promotion and appointment. During the meeting, the premier

conveyed his best wishes for the successful discharge of his new responsibilities and expressed confidence in the general's professional capabilities and leadership.

Before assuming the new assignment, General Aamer Raza was serving as Chief of the General Staff (CGS) of the Pakistan Army—one of the military's most influential operational positions. Throughout his distinguished career, he has held several key command and staff appointments, including Corps Commander Lahore and Chairman of Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT), earning recognition for his extensive experience in operational planning, strategic affairs, and

defence management.

The National Strategic Command occupies a central place in Pakistan's strategic security architecture, overseeing coordination of the country's strategic responsibilities within the national defence framework. Officials indicated that the leadership transition is part of the armed forces' institutional succession process and does not signal any change in Pakistan's established strategic policies.

Defence observers view General Aamer Raza's appointment as an important milestone in Pakistan's evolving strategic command structure, reflecting continuity, institutional stability.

# Ali Pervaiz Seeks Foreign Investment in Energy Sector

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday held separate meetings with representatives of leading international energy companies to discuss investment opportunities in Pakistan's energy and critical minerals sectors.

In the first meeting, the Minister met with Gregory Bloom, President of Morgan Hughes Energy, a U.S.-based energy company, and Ahmad Waleed, CEO of Tejara Capital. The discussions focused on expanding U.S. investment in Pakistan's energy and critical minerals sectors, said a news release.

Bloom highlighted the potential of Balochistan for critical minerals development and said that Morgan Hughes Energy and Tejara Capital are partnering to pursue minerals projects while also exploring opportunities in Pakistan's oil and gas sector, particularly in field optimisation to enhance production from



existing assets.

Ali Pervaiz Malik welcomed their interest, reaffirming the government's commitment to increasing indigenous energy production and facilitating responsible international investment through close collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Ali Pervaiz holds meetings with international energy companies to expand invest-

ment, cooperation. In a separate meeting, the Minister met with Kieran Gallagher, CEO of Vitol Asia, and his team to discuss ongoing cooperation in Pakistan's petroleum sector. He congratulated Vitol on the successful commencement of bunkering operations at Gwadar and welcomed the company's proposal to convert High Sulphur Fuel Oil (HSFO) into Very Light Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO), assuring full Government support for the project. The meeting also reviewed opportunities under Pakistan's newly introduced bonded storage policy. The Minister noted that discussions on bonded storage infrastructure are underway with leading global energy companies, including Vitol, as part of the Government's efforts to strengthen energy logistics, expand strategic storage capacity, and attract greater international investment. Both meetings reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening global energy partnerships, attracting foreign investment, and advancing long-term energy security and economic growth.

## DIG Headquarters Tahir chairs meeting to ensure transparent Islamabad Police recruitment

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Headquarters Muhammad Ateeq Tahir chaired an important coordination meeting to review arrangements for the ongoing Islamabad Police recruitment process, emphasizing transparency, merit and timely completion of all stages. A police official told APP on Friday that senior officers of Islamabad Police and the National Police Foundation attended the meeting and discussed various aspects of the recruitment process.

The meeting reviewed different phases of recruitment, administrative and operational matters, facilities for candidates, inter-agency coordination and measures to further improve the efficiency of the recruitment system. Tahir directed the officers concerned to ensure that the entire recruitment process is completed in a transparent, merit-based and professional manner in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations.

He also stressed the importance of providing candidates with the best possible facilities and a well-organized environment at every stage of the recruitment process to ensure fairness, convenience and smooth conduct of the exercise./

## PNRA awards key approvals to boost Pakistan's indigenous nuclear safety capabilities

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) presented two major regulatory approvals at a ceremony held at its headquarters, strengthening Pakistan's indigenous capabilities in nuclear engineering and the local supply of radioactive medicines. PNRA awarded a Design License to the Directorate General of Nuclear Power Engineering (DGNPE), Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), for the design of safety-related systems and equipment used in nuclear installations. The license allows DGNPE to carry out this design work locally, reducing Pakistan's reliance on foreign suppliers and supporting the long-term sustainability of the country's nuclear power programme. PNRA also granted a Design Approval Certificate to Heavy Mechanical Complex-3 (HMC-3), PAEC, for a locally developed Type B(U) transport package, a container built and certified to safely carry radioactive medicines (radiopharmaceuticals). The certificate paves the way for local manufacturing of these packages, helping ensure a steady and reliable supply of radiopharmaceuticals to hospitals across Pakistan. Both approvals were granted after DGNPE and HMC-3 went through detailed technical reviews, site inspections, and licensing assessments carried out in line with national regulations and international safety standards.

# Sky 47 data centre marks beginning of AI-driven economic era: Shaza Fatima

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday said the inauguration of the Sky 47 data centre marked the beginning of a new economic era, where artificial intelligence (AI), high-performance computing, and digital infrastructure would enable Pakistan to fully utilise its natural resources, human capital, and technological potential.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pakistan's largest purpose-built Sky 47 Data Centre, the minister said the future of the global AI race would not be determined merely by data but by the ability to efficiently, securely, and affordably transform data into intelligence, decisions, and actions.

She said the Sky 47 Data Centre facility represented a strategically important investment that offered Pakistan much



more than servers and storage, describing it as the foundation of an "AI factory" capable of producing token intelligence – the most valuable economic unit in the AI-driven economy.

Shaza Fatima said access to high-performance computing would become essential

across every major sector, including healthcare, agriculture, financial services, education, public administration, and national security, adding that the country's future economic opportunities would increasingly depend on advanced computing infrastructure.

Referring to global industry projections, she said McKinsey estimated worldwide demand for data centres would triple by 2030, while Goldman Sachs projected electricity requirements for such facilities to increase by 160 per cent during the same period.

She said these trends presented Pakistan with an extraordinary opportunity because of its young population, talented workforce, and growing pool of engineers, developers, researchers, and entrepreneurs, who possessed both intelligence and ambition but had long lacked the necessary digital infrastructure.

The minister said facilities such as the Sky 47 data centre would provide access to storage, computing power, Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), and High-Performance Computing (HPC), creating the foundation for developing Large Language Models (LLMs), General Language Models (GLMs), and Small Language Models (SLMs).

## Islamabad Excise launches 2-day weekend mobile service, expands online, doorstep facilities

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department has expanded its digital and public outreach services to make vehicle-related work easier for citizens. People can now complete several services online through the department's website and the Pak App, while a 2-day weekend mobile service will operate from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at F-9 Park on Saturdays and Kachnar Park on Sundays, said the spokesperson of Excise department here on Friday. The department is also continuing its doorstep service through a dedicated helpline. The department said the new measures are aimed at reducing visits to government offices by allowing citizens to complete applications and payments from their homes. Through the Online Services section at [www.islamabadexcise.gov.pk](http://www.islamabadexcise.gov.pk), citizens can apply for Transfer of Ownership, generate a Vehicle Physical

Inspection ID, check transfer fees, view challan details, and access other Excise services online. People can also use the Pak App on their mobile phones to access a range of services. The app allows vehicle owners to pay Road Tax and Token Tax online without visiting an Excise office. Government fees for Transfer of Ownership and New Vehicle Registration can also be paid through the app. To improve access to services, the department has introduced a weekend mobile service. Excise teams will be available at F-9 Park every Saturday and Kachnar Park every Sunday from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Citizens will be able to complete vehicle registration, transfer of ownership, post-transfer processing, and other related services at these locations. The department's Doorstep Service will also continue. Citizens who wish to receive services at home can book an appointment by calling the helpline 051-111-383-383.

## IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday issued a power suspension programme for Saturday in various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to an IESCO spokesperson, in Islamabad Circle, electricity supply will remain suspended from 6 am to 10 am, Faisal Masjid, Ayub Market, HCL, HC-II, G-9/4, Suparco, T&T, PTCL, G-8/1, G-8, G-8 markaz, Marvi, feeders. In Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, power supply will remain suspended from 6 am to 10 am, Japan Road, Jhandala, feeders. In Rawalpindi City Circle, power supply will remain suspended from 06:30 am to 02:00 pm, Chairing Cross, Millatabad, Askari-XI, feeders. Similarly, in Attock Circle, electricity supply will remain suspend from 6 am to 10 am, Fawara Chowk, Feeder. In Jehlum Circle, power supply will remain suspended from 6 am to 10 am, City Housing, Sanghot, Safdar Shaheed, Nathwala, Langarpur, Feeders. In Chakwal Circle, power supply will remain suspended from 6 am to 11 am, Abdullah Pur, Jalal Pur, Sagharpur, CWO, Feeders.

## ICCI backs Steel Market Traders, Urges CDA to Withdraw Basement Construction Charges



BY :Hurish Shah/

**ISLAMABAD:** President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, has urged policymakers to place ease of doing business at the heart of Pakistan's economic agenda, stressing that a business-friendly environment is indispensable for sustainable economic growth, investment and employment generation.

Speaking to a delegation of the Traders Welfare Association, Steel Market I-10/3, at the Chamber House, he said ICCI is actively pursuing the concerns of the business community by maintaining close coordination with the FBR, CDA, Islamabad Police, District Administration, IESCO and other relevant institutions. He reaffirmed that the Chamber will continue to serve as the collective voice of

traders and industrialists, emphasizing that consultation and consensus are the foundation of effective and lasting solutions.

Earlier, Chaudhry Mohammad Irfan, President of the Traders Welfare Association, Steel Market I-10/3, and Vice President of ICCI, highlighted the key issues confronting the market. He urged the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to construct a link bridge between Streets 4 and 7 to improve traffic flow and accessibility, allow the establishment of a dispensary on the already allocated plot through self-help efforts, and withdraw its demand for hefty charges on basement construction in dedicated commercial plots, noting that such construction had previously been permitted without additional fees. He said the revised policy has created unnecessary finan-

cial pressure on traders and should be reviewed.

Association Secretary General Haji Zafar sought ICCI's support for the allotment of the remaining plots to steel fabricators by CDA and also drew attention to persistent issues of encroachments, sewerage, streetlights and inadequate infrastructure. He further called for the immediate demolition of temporary huts from the area, which he described as a permanent security threat. Former ICCI Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry moderated the session. Executive Members Waseem Chaudhry, Imran Minhas and Zulqurnain Abbasi, ICCI members Israr Mishwani, Chaudhry Mohammad Arshad, Sajid Iqbal, Mian Mohammad Imran, Chaudhry Mushtaq, Khushi Mohammad and a large number of traders also attended the meeting.

## FOSPAH sensitises female cadets on workplace harassment laws at Murree college

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) Friday conducted an awareness session at Fatima Jinnah Cadet College, Murree, to educate more than 150 first and second-year female cadets on the importance of safe, respectful and harassment-free work-

places. The session was led by Communications Officer Ms. Yumna Jamil, along with Assistant Registrars Ms. Shaza Kaleem and Ms. Aneesa Zeb. The participants were sensitised to the concept of workplace harassment, their legal rights and responsibilities, and the complaint and redress mechanisms available under the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act.

## IFA conducts 625 inspections in 10 days, fines 59 outlets Rs 1.203 mln

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) has reviewed its performance over the past 10 days during a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Uzair Khan.

Officials reported that four inspection teams carried out 625 inspections, issued 387 improvement notices, fined 59 food businesses Rs1.203 million, sealed 14 food outlets, and destroyed 3,557 kilograms of unsafe food as part of the city's food safety enforcement campaign. The meeting focused on the Food Authority's recent operations and measures taken to improve food safety standards across the federal capital. Officials briefed the chair on inspections, enforcement actions, and responses to public complaints.

According to the briefing, four inspection teams conducted a total of 625 inspections at restaurants, food outlets, and other food businesses

across Islamabad during the last 10 days. During these inspections, the teams identified several violations of food safety and hygiene rules and took action under the relevant regulations.

The Food Authority issued 387 improvement notices to businesses that were required to address shortcomings in hygiene, cleanliness, storage, and food handling practices. In addition, inspectors issued four verbal warnings in cases where minor issues were found and immediate compliance was expected. Authorities also imposed fines totaling Rs1.203 million on 59 shops for various violations of food safety regulations.

Officials said the penalties were imposed after inspectors found breaches of the prescribed standards during routine inspections.

The briefing further revealed that 14 food outlets were sealed because of violations of hygiene and food safety requirements. The closures

were carried out to prevent the sale and preparation of food that did not meet the required standards.

The Food Authority also responded to 14 complaints submitted by citizens. Inspection teams visited the reported locations and took action where violations were confirmed, demonstrating the department's complaint response system.

During the enforcement drive, officials registered one criminal case related to food safety violations. The authority also confiscated and destroyed 3,557 kilograms of food declared unsafe for human consumption, preventing it from entering the market. Addressing the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Uzair Khan directed officials to ensure that complaints received from citizens are acted upon without delay. He stressed that inspection teams should continue taking action against all restaurants and food businesses without discrimination.

## PMYP eyes US academic alliances for youth development

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan visited three leading American universities, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and DePaul University to explore academic partnerships and expand opportunities in higher education, skills development, innovation, healthcare, entrepreneurship and leadership training for Pakistani youth.

During his visit to the University of Chicago, Rana Mashood met Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives and Strategy at UChicago Global Katie Hrinyak to discuss potential collaboration in digital skills, leadership development, entrepreneurship, career readiness and short term training programmes. The PMYP chairman briefed university officials on the government's youth empowerment agenda and flagship initiatives aimed at enhancing education, employability



and entrepreneurship among young Pakistanis. Both sides expressed interest in developing future partnerships to support youth development and educational cooperation. At the University of Illinois Chicago, Rana Mashood held meetings with Interim G. Stephen Irwin Executive Dean of the UIC College of Medicine Dr Enrico Benedetti and Interim Vice Provost for Global Engagement Dr James Hammerschmidt. He also toured the university's Robotic Surgery Laboratory and received a briefing on

advancements in robotic surgery, transplantation and healthcare technologies. Discussions focused on collaboration in medical education, digital health, research, innovation and skills development, with both sides showing interest in strengthening academic linkages and capacity building initiatives. At DePaul University, Rana Mashood met President Dr Robert L. Manuel and discussed cooperation in higher education, digital skills, entrepreneurship, online learning, mentorship programmes, academic exchanges and leadership development. According to the press release, the PMYP chairman highlighted the growing academic relationship between Pakistan and DePaul University, noting that Pakistan has emerged as the university's second largest source of international students and the largest source of international undergraduate students.

He said Pakistani student enrolment had increased from 93 students in the 2021-22 academic year to 221 students in 2025-26.

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Opinion

3

# How covert US actions left a legacy of instability in region

DR. TURKI FAISAL AL-RASHEED

Why does enduring peace remain elusive in the Middle East? Why does the climate crisis worsen despite international pledges? Why does inequality widen across the Arab world and globally, even as economies expand? Why is the populist right surging worldwide? And what will happen as artificial intelligence and automation disrupt labor markets? Traditional explanations often miss the mark, addressing surface-level symptoms while overlooking deeper structural causes.

Like physicians treating a misdiagnosed disease, policymakers frequently exacerbate problems by failing to identify the core drivers shaping our era. At the heart of much global unrest lies the US’ covert interventions in the Arab and Islamic worlds, which have engineered instability and molded sociopolitical-economic frameworks that amplify these challenges. By exposing these underlying forces, we can move beyond palliatives to tackle root causes, paving the way for genuine transformation and a brighter

future. Since the mid-20th century, the Arab and Islamic worlds have endured a torrent of military coups that profoundly altered their political terrain, starting with the 1949 ousting of Syria’s democratically elected President Shukri Al-Quwatli and extending into today’s volatile landscape.

This article posits that the US played a pivotal role in engineering or endorsing these coups to further its geopolitical and economic agendas. Key drivers included eclipsing lingering British colonial sway, gaining mastery over vital resources like oil, fortifying Israel’s position as a strategic partner and coercing nations to influence global oil prices. Grounded in seminal texts like James Barr’s “Lords of the Desert” and Lindsey A. O’Rourke’s “Covert Regime Change,” this examination critiques US interventionism as a primary instigator of prolonged regional strife. While recognizing the intricate Cold War context, I argue that these maneuvers favored immediate advantages over lasting peace, breeding authoritarian rule and deep-seated anti-American resentment. Nowhere is this more evident than in the US’ approach

to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, where deliberate “anti-solution” policies sustain occupation to align with narrow interests.

After the Second World War, Britain’s imperial hold on the Middle East frayed amid rising Arab and Jewish nationalist fervor. As Barr elucidates, the US capitalized on this erosion, deploying diplomatic maneuvers, economic leverage and shadowy operations to displace British dominance. Declassified archives expose a fierce Anglo-American contest, with Washington zeroing in on energy infrastructure and defense pacts to cement its supremacy.

By the 1950s, America’s posture had evolved from anticolonial advocacy to a form of neo-imperialism, favoring military coups as efficient, low-profile substitutes for outright invasion. These upheavals propped up pliable governments, thwarting Soviet incursions while preserving oil rights and Israel’s defenses. This pivot framed nationalist figures as perils to US objectives, leading to alliances with military autocrats attuned to Western imperatives and laying the groundwork for generations of meddling.

The “era of coups” ignited in 1949, transforming militaries into instruments of foreign-orchestrated change. Drawing from historical evidence, I trace pivotal coups across three eras, spotlighting US complicity.

The early phase (1949-1960) honed America’s covert playbook. In Syria (1949), the CIA engineered Brig. Gen. Husni Al-Za’im’s seizure of power from Al-Quwatli, driven by the president’s opposition to the Trans-Arabian Pipeline. Archival evidence verifies US backing, pioneering quick, discreet interventions to shield economic stakes. Egypt’s 1952 revolution saw the Free Officers, under Gamal Abdel Nasser, depose King Farouk. Though rooted in domestic nationalism, CIA operatives like Miles Copeland offered crucial aid, viewing Nasser as a bulwark against communism until his pan-Arab ambitions clashed with US visions. In Iran, the 1953 Operation Ajax, a joint CIA-MI6 venture, felled Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh after his nationalization of the oil industry jeopardized Western firms. Reinforcing Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi through bribes

and disinformation, it ensured oil stability and curbed Soviet reach.

Sudan’s 1958 coup, led by Gen. Ibrahim Abboud, dovetailed with Western aims to fortify aligned regimes, though explicit US ties are murkier.

These events forged a template: neutralizing leaders who defied resource hegemony or anticommunist blocs.

In the middle phase (1961-1980), escalating Cold War tensions amplified US intrusions.

Iraq’s 1963 Baathist coup against Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Qasim received assistance from the CIA, as the US was alarmed by his Soviet ties and oil reforms. The agency supplied hit lists for communist eliminations, installing Abdul Salam Arif amid ongoing turmoil. Algeria’s 1965 ousting of Ahmed Ben Bella by Houari Boumediene met with US approval for curbing socialist leanings. Libya’s 1969 revolution, led by Muammar Qaddafi against King Idris, exploited the British retreat. Washington initially accommodated Qaddafi’s anticommunist bent but rifts opened later.

Arab News

## The quiet change in focus of US-Middle East ties

DR. JOHN SFAKIANAKIS

For half a century, the US-Middle East relationship rested on a straightforward bargain: America guaranteed security and the Gulf exported oil. That compact was born of trauma — the 1973 embargo — and hardened by the Cold War. Today, both pillars look shaky. The US is awash with its own hydrocarbons and the credibility of its security umbrella is increasingly in doubt. Yet Washington still appears reluctant to let go, if only because the region remains useful for other reasons: as a source of capital, as a stage for great power competition and as a theater where US influence can still be traded, if selectively, for strategic dividends.

Energy independence has loosened the bond. In 2005, the US imported about 60 percent of its oil consumption; by 2023, that share had fallen below 10 percent, with Saudi crude accounting for barely 6 percent of US imports. America is now the world’s largest oil and gas producer, exporting more liquefied natural gas than Qatar. The idea that Washington must garison the Gulf to keep American cars running is obsolete. Policymakers know it and so do regional leaders.

Yet energy interdependence has not disappeared — about 21 percent of the world’s oil still flows through the Strait of Hormuz and any disruption would send global prices soaring, hitting US allies in Europe and Asia. The US cannot wall itself off from those ripples, even if its own barrels are secure. Security, once the other half of the bargain, looks just as fragile. The US still maintains major bases in Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. Carrier strike groups continue to surge into the Gulf in moments of crisis. Yet when it comes to deterrence, the guarantees look less absolute. The recent Israeli strike in Doha, which reportedly evaded American detection or at least triggered no preventive action, exposed the awkward truth: the US posture is less a shield than a presence. Regional leaders may reasonably ask whether American radar arrays and surveillance networks really missed the attack — or whether Washington chose to remain uninvolved. Either way, the credibility of the “security guarantee” looks thinner.

That gap reveals what has become the real coin of the realm: investment. Gulf sovereign wealth funds collectively control more than \$4 trillion in assets — Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund alone has over \$925 billion under management, while the UAE’s Abu Dhabi Investment

Authority and Mubadala together exceed \$1.2 trillion. US officials now court Gulf capital as eagerly as they once courted Gulf oil, with sovereign wealth flows into American tech and infrastructure climbing sharply over the past five years.

The implicit deal is no longer “oil for security” but “capital for access.” Washington reassures Gulf elites of enduring ties; in return, Gulf money helps fund America’s innovation economy. The transactionalism is stark and not lost on the region’s rulers. If security is still being provided, it is often by Israel rather than America. Israeli forces have struck targets in Syria more than 1,000 times in the past decade, degrading Iranian and Hezbollah supply chains, while US operations have become rarer and more risk averse. Israel is increasingly the region’s de facto enforcer, willing to act unilaterally where Washington hesitates. For the Gulf states, this creates an uncomfortable paradox: the ally they have long depended on for protection appears less willing to bear costs, while the state they once defined as an adversary is now the most muscular and assertive defender of regional order, at least against common threats. All this plays into a larger American pattern of selective engagement. Washington no longer commits itself wholeheartedly to the region but calibrates its involvement to moments of acute crisis — surging a carrier group here, conducting a drone strike there, leaning on Gulf capitals to bankroll reconstruction elsewhere. The instinct is increasingly inward: avoid open-ended commitments, avoid domestic backlash, avoid the impression of “forever wars.” But the effect is corrosive. If America is only present when it must be, and absent when it is wanted most, Gulf leaders will hedge — with Beijing, with Moscow and others.

China’s arrival deepens the unease of the West with the Gulf. Sino-Gulf trade has ballooned to more than \$350 billion annually and Beijing has signed comprehensive strategic partnerships with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran. Chinese companies are building ports, refineries and 5G networks, offering Gulf rulers something Washington rarely does: large-scale infrastructure investment. Where Washington seems intent on extracting capital, China appears intent on supplying it. The balance of attraction is shifting and the US risks being seen not as a partner of first resort but as an opportunistic interlocutor — useful for arms, still relevant for influence in Washington, but no longer indispensable.

Arab News



## Sustainable Peace in Balochistan Requires Patience, Restraint and Political Wisdom



By Ch. Shabbir Balochistani: Published by ANI News Agency

Balochistan once again stands at a critical crossroads where each passing day reinforces a fundamental reality: lasting peace cannot be secured by the force of arms alone. It demands political wisdom, effective governance, public trust and national cohesion. The recent wave of terrorist attacks in Mastung, Nushki, Kalat, Zhob and other parts of the province—targeting security personnel as well as innocent civilians—has plunged the nation into grief and concern. These tragic incidents underscore the need to strengthen Pakistan’s collective resolve against terrorism while recognizing that sustainable peace can only emerge through a comprehensive national strategy.

There can be no ambiguity in condemning terrorism in all its forms. The state’s foremost constitutional responsibility is to protect the lives and property of its citizens, dismantle terrorist networks and uphold the rule of law. Pakistan’s armed forces, police, Levies and other law-enforcement agencies continue to make extraordinary sacrifices in the line of duty. Their courage and commitment deserve the nation’s highest respect, and the fight against terrorism must continue with determination and consistency.

History demonstrates, however, that societies which have achieved enduring peace have done so by combining security measures with justice, public confidence, political reconciliation, good governance and economic opportunity. Balochistan requires precisely such a balanced approach. While there can be no compromise on

the writ of the state, equal attention must be given to addressing legitimate public grievances, reducing deprivation and accelerating inclusive development.

The overwhelming majority of the people of Balochistan are patriotic, peace-loving and eager to see their province prosper. It would be both inaccurate and unjust to judge an entire population by the actions of a handful of violent extremists. The youth of Balochistan aspire to quality education, meaningful employment, better healthcare, clean drinking water, modern infrastructure and a hopeful future. If provided with equal opportunities and meaningful participation in national development, they can become the strongest ambassadors of peace and stability.

In the aftermath of the recent security incidents, both the federal and provincial governments have convened high-level meetings to strengthen counterterrorism efforts. Such initiatives are necessary, but they must be complemented by a long-term national policy that gives equal importance to education, healthcare, employment generation, equitable development of mineral resources, local participation in decision-making, stronger local governments and vocational training for young people. Only through such an integrated approach can the foundations of lasting peace be firmly established.

Political leadership also carries an exceptional responsibility at this critical moment. Inflammatory rhetoric, political point-scoring and short-term partisan interests can further complicate an already sensitive situation. The need of the hour is for all political parties to place the national interest above political differences and transform Parliament into an effective forum for constructive dialogue and practical

policymaking on Balochistan. Patience, restraint and political maturity remain indispensable for turning confrontation into consensus.

The media, universities, tribal elders, religious scholars, intellectuals and civil society are equally important stakeholders in this national endeavour. Responsible public discourse, fact-based analysis and a national narrative rooted in unity and mutual respect can serve as powerful instruments in countering extremist ideologies and strengthening social cohesion.

Balochistan, Pakistan’s largest province by area, is endowed with immense natural resources and occupies a strategic geographic position. Gwadar Port, vast mineral reserves, coastal resources, agriculture and tourism have the potential to transform the province into a major engine of national economic growth. Such progress, however, will only be sustainable when local communities are genuine partners in development and its benefits reach every district and every household.

Today, Pakistan must choose hope over hatred, dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alienation and tolerance over extremism. A strong state is one that not only confronts terrorism with resolve but also earns the confidence of its citizens through justice, fairness and inclusive governance. Such political wisdom alone can guide Balochistan toward lasting peace, national stability and shared prosperity.

The peace of Balochistan is not merely a provincial concern; it is central to Pakistan’s future. If patience, restraint, justice, effective governance and national unity become the guiding principles of public policy, the province can emerge as a symbol of peace, opportunity and sustainable development. That is not only the country’s greatest challenge—it is also its greatest national imperative.

Arab News

## Progress and peril as Netanyahu blinks first

DAOUD KUTTAB

The long-awaited press conference between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday produced what some are calling a breakthrough plan for Gaza and the broader Palestinian question. But short of details, a timeframe for the Israeli withdrawal and a roadmap, the plan leaves many questions unanswered, especially as it pertains to Palestinian rights and their ability to eventually be the masters of their own fate. For now, this is an American-Israeli plan, reluctantly agreed to by Arabs and with no Palestinian input whatsoever.

On the surface, it represents a rare moment of compromise from the Israeli prime minister and a rare display of American presidential determination to push to control what has become a liability (i.e., Netanyahu) to both the US and Israel. But as with many such announcements, the details matter — and those details leave plenty of room for skepticism.

As portrayed to the world, the plan outlines a framework for gradually ending Israel’s occupation. Ultimately, it leaves the issue of a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank for later. While the American plan does not explicitly endorse Palestinian statehood now, nor hand the Palestinian Authority a direct role in Gaza, it avoids shutting the door. It leaves a window — however narrow — for the reinvigoration of a political horizon for Palestinians and adds to the demands of reform by the Ramallah-based Palestinian leadership if it hopes to have any future political role.

Another notable element is the introduction of international forces into Gaza. Palestinians have long demanded international protection in the Occupied Territories. This proposal sets a precedent and, if sincerely implemented, could be a first step toward that goal. It also should not be confined to Gaza — international forces are urgently needed in the West Bank as well, especially in hot spots where settler violence,

with the protection of the Israeli army, is rampant.

Perhaps most striking was the public dynamic on display. Trump dominated the event, cutting Netanyahu’s usual intransigence to size. For once, it seemed Washington was willing to use its leverage. For decades, Palestinians have insisted that peace will only come when an American president commits his full weight to making it happen. Trump’s posture, at least in this moment, gave a glimpse of that possibility. But the question remains: Will Washington sustain this enthusiasm once the hostages are released?

Still, beneath these positives lie serious concerns. The plan largely recycles proposals made to Hamas a year ago — an “all for all” deal: all hostages for an end to the war. The tragic irony is that this very formula was suggested by Hamas and available to Israeli and American negotiators long ago. More than a year of bloodshed and suffering had to pass before it was put forward again.

Crucially, there is no timeline for Israel’s withdrawal or for advancing toward a genuine political horizon for Palestinians. Hostage release is the only time-bound element; ending the war remains entirely in Israel’s hands, with no trigger or accountability mechanism. That imbalance undermines trust and makes it unlikely that Hamas will surrender its bargaining power in exchange for unenforceable promises. Equally troubling is the vagueness surrounding international forces, governance of Gaza, the legal situation in Gaza, the speed as well as the comprehensiveness of Israel’s military withdrawals and engagement on crucial issues that are needed for daily work in Israel, and the access of people to Gaza. Netanyahu spoke of disarming Hamas but Trump did not — leaving ambiguity about whether Israel will use its exaggerated idea of “security” as a perpetual excuse to maintain its grip and delay its total withdrawal to international borders.

Arab News

## PTI Farmers Wing to Publish Agricultural White Paper on Pakistan’s Farming Decline

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers Wing has announced the preparation of a comprehensive Agricultural White Paper to present a research-based assessment of Pakistan’s agricultural sector and identify the factors behind its decline over the past seven decades.

Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich said on Friday that, on the directions of Central Organizer Sheikh Waqas Akram, the Policy Research and Publications Division had initiated the collection of data, statistics, and research material from farmers’ organizations and other stakeholders nationwide.

He said the White Paper would review Pakistan’s agricultural journey from 1947 to the present, with



special focus on the wheat sector, examining agricultural policies, production trends, institutional performance, and the socioeconomic conditions of farmers.

Sadhraich said the report would

be based on official records, reports of national agricultural institutions, and studies by internationally recognized organizations to ensure accuracy and credibility.

He added that Sheikh Waqas Akram had directed that the document be prepared with complete impartiality, academic integrity, and professional objectivity, ensuring all findings remain evidence-based.

The White Paper will include detailed statistics on wheat production, cultivated area, yield trends, and other key agricultural indicators, supported by tables, charts, and graphs.

Sadhraich expressed hope that the findings and recommendations of the White Paper would help policymakers formulate effective agricultural policies, revive the farming sector, strengthen food security, and restore farmers’ confidence.

## Raja Sikander Khan Calls for Probe into Overseas Pakistani Family’s Detention at Islamabad Airport

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Chairman of the Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council, Raja Sikander Khan, has called for a comprehensive inquiry into the detention of an overseas Pakistani family at Islamabad International Airport and urged the government to restore the landing permit facility for overseas Pakistanis.

In a statement issued on Friday, Raja Sikander Khan said the family, arriving from the United Kingdom on British Airways flight BA2161, was detained for several hours after Mrs. Ateeqa Qabal, a dual British-Pakistani national, travelled with her British passport and valid NADRA National Identity Card but had inadvertently left her Pakistani passport in the UK.

He said the family promptly provided photographs of her valid Pakistani passport and submitted an online visa application through the Pakistan High Commission in London. However, despite the availability of supporting documents, immigration officials allegedly refused to facilitate her entry.

Raja Sikander Khan said he contacted Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) Chairman Syed Qamar Raza Shah, who intervened in the matter. Following the intervention, Mrs. Qabal was allowed to



enter Pakistan after several hours, enabling the family to continue their journey to Kotli, Azad Kashmir.

Expressing concern over the incident, Raja Sikander Khan said the family, including a seven-month-old infant and two young children, reportedly remained at the airport for several hours without adequate food, drinking water, milk for the infant, or proper resting arrangements.

He appealed to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi to order a transparent inquiry into the incident, fix

responsibility if negligence is established, and issue directives to ensure overseas Pakistanis and their families are treated with dignity and compassion. Raja Sikander Khan also urged the government to restore the previous landing permit facility for overseas Pakistanis whose Pakistani passports or NADRA cards had expired, subject to verification, particularly in emergency situations.

He said overseas Pakistanis make invaluable contributions to Pakistan through remittances and deserve a facilitative, efficient and humane immigration system when travelling to their homeland.

## Chairman Senate Gilani Calls for Unity, Lasting Peace and Inclusive Development in Balochistan



BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has stressed that Balochistan is central to Pakistan’s unity, economic future and national security, calling for collective efforts to ensure lasting peace, inclusive development and a stronger federation.

Addressing the National Workshop Balochistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Gilani said sustainable peace requires not only improved security but also greater investment in education, employment, skills development and equal

opportunities for the province’s youth. He said winning the trust of the people is essential for long-term stability.

Condemning terrorism, the Chairman Senate paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, Frontier Corps, Police and other law enforcement agencies for their sacrifices in safeguarding the country. He reaffirmed the Senate’s commitment to protecting provincial rights, strengthening the federation and ensuring equitable distribution of resources.

Recalling his tenure as Prime Minister, Gilani highlighted ini-

tiatives including the Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan Package, the Seventh NFC Award, settlement of gas royalty issues and enhanced opportunities for Baloch youth in federal institutions.

During the question-and-answer session, he described Pakistan’s youth as the nation’s future, praised the vision of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in establishing the Senate as the House of Federation, and appreciated the country’s civil and military leadership for efforts to promote peace in Balochistan and beyond.

## CM Sarfraz Bugti, Maulana Abdul Wasey Discuss Peace and Law & Order in Balochistan

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA-- Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met JUI Provincial Ameer Maulana Abdul Wasey to discuss the province’s law and order situation, political affairs and issues of mutual interest.

The Chief Minister said establishing sustainable peace in Balochistan remains the government’s top priority, stressing that political, religious and social leaders must work together to defeat terrorism and ensure lasting stability. He added that the government is taking all possible measures to protect lives and property while improving the security situation.

Maulana Abdul Wasey emphasized that peace and stability in



Balochistan can only be achieved through consultation, political harmony and national unity. Provincial ministers and JUI leaders also attended the meeting.

## Khaqan Waheed Khawaja Vows to Transform Public Welfare, Prioritizes Education, Healthcare and Employment

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has said that his party is well aware of the issues facing every area of Islamabad and is committed to transforming the lives of the people upon coming to power. He added that despite not being in government, the party has already initiated a network of development projects, reflecting its commitment to public service.

He was addressing a public gathering in Union Council 18, Pind Begwal, organized at Bannu House by Chaudhry Zafar, Haji Syed Nawaz, Zeeshan Khan, Malik Zulfiqar, and Malik Taimoor.

On the occasion, Waqar Bhatti, nephew of Major (Retd) Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, along with Chaudhry Nadeem and Chaudhry Qasim of Model Town Humak, met Khaqan Waheed Khawaja. Later, a dinner was hosted in his honour at Police Foundation by Major (Retd.) Ahmad Nadeem Saddal, Malik Hassan, Muhammad Imran, Abdul Manan, SP (Retd.) Abid, Madam Nabila Inam, Madam Gulbahar, and other local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja said the party’s top priorities are education, healthcare, employment, and technical education. He said efforts are underway to address public issues through the construction



of streets, provision of clean water, installation of streetlights, establishment of schools, and creation of handicraft and vocational training centres.

He further stated that his vision is focused on securing a better future for the next generation. He criticized

successive governments for failing to provide quality education, employment opportunities, and healthcare over the past 78 years, and pledged that his party would introduce transformative reforms in these key sectors.

## Iqbal Tahir Arain Installed as President of Rotary Club of Karachi Nexus



BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- The installation ceremony of Iqbal Tahir Arain as President of the Rotary Club of Karachi Nexus was held at DHA Club on July 22, with District Governor 3271 Shahzad Sabir attending as the chief guest.

The ceremony was attended by District Governor Elect Fahad Sikandar, District Governor Nominee Abdul Jabbar Sheikh, AG Dr. Durdana Arshad, Coordinator Waqar Sheikh, District Coordinator Atiqa Wali, Assistant Governor Shehnaz Ramzi, Rotaract Chair Roma Tabish, and a large number of club members.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the National Anthem, followed by prayers for late member Roshan Afzal.

General Secretary Muhammad Ali Haider, in his welcome address, congratulated Shahzad Sabir on assuming the office of District Governor and expressed confidence in his leadership. He highlighted the club’s growth, noting that membership increased from 52 to 62 within a month. He also outlined the club’s ongoing service initiatives in education, health, urban forestry, conflict resolution, and the Out-of-School Children project, while reaffirming the goal of making the club a 100%

donor club.

In his address, President Iqbal Tahir Arain pledged to continue existing Rotary projects while introducing new initiatives. He announced the Out-of-School Children program as the club’s signature project, appreciated the efforts of Muhammad Ali Haider, and shared plans to work on Alternate District Resolution and establish a V-Disability Center.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Aslam Khaliq, who expressed gratitude to the chief guest and participants and reaffirmed the club’s commitment to organizing impactful community service programs in the future.

## Sindh Government and Flour Mills Strengthen Coordination for Affordable Flour Supply

BY : ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Sindh Food Minister Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman chaired a meeting with the Flour Mills Association to review wheat stocks, flour prices and supply across the province, reiterating that affordable flour for every household remains the Sindh Government’s top priority. The minister directed flour mill owners to maintain the lowest possible flour prices and ensure uninterrupted supplies. He said the government has intensified operations against hoarding and profiteering, adding that the Food Department currently holds 446,947 metric tonnes of wheat, sufficient to stabilize the market. He also assured that additional wheat would be procured from PASSCO if required.



The Flour Mills Association appreciated the government’s cooperation but urged an increase in the wheat storage limit for mills from one month to two months’ grinding capacity. Commissioner Karachi said flour is available in the city at the government-notified price of around

Rs125 per kilogram, while wheat is selling at approximately Rs11,600. The minister concluded by reaffirming the Sindh Government’s zero-tolerance policy against hoarding and artificial shortages to ensure a continuous supply of affordable flour across Sindh.

## Punjab Health Advisor Dr. Azhar Mahmood Kayani Inaugurates Modern Stroke Center at DHQ Hospital Jhelum

BY: ANI Correspondent, :

JHELMUM:--Punjab Chief Minister’s Advisor on Health, Major General (R) Dr. Azhar Mahmood Kayani, inaugurated a state-of-the-art Stroke Center at District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Jhelum to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the region.

During the inauguration, Dr. Kayani reviewed the facilities at the newly established Stroke Center and received a briefing from doctors and medical staff. He said the Punjab government is committed to providing timely, quality healthcare, adding that the new Stroke Center will ensure specialised treatment for stroke patients from Jhelum and neighbouring areas, helping save precious lives.



Later, Dr. Kayani visited various departments and wards of DHQ Hospital, where he met patients and inquired about their treatment, the availability of medicines, cleanliness and overall healthcare services. He

directed the hospital administration to utilise all available resources to provide the best possible medical care, ensure an uninterrupted supply of medicines and further improve the quality of treatment.