

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

Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 336 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Monday August 17 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

Strait of Hormuz defenders will 'break your legs', Iran army chief to Trump



ANI

Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami on Sunday warned the United States against any attempt to claim the strategic waterway as US territory, saying, "You are very wrong! Even joking about this is a massive mistake. This is Iran, and it has guardians who will break your leg."

Speaking at a ceremony marking National Journalists' Day, Hatami described the strategic waterway as a "divine geopolitical capacity" for Iran, saying it would never return to its previous status.

Hatami said activating Iran's geopolitical leverage over the strait was necessary to remove the threat of

war from the country, adding that Iran would defend it with all its strength. He also claimed that Iranian forces had struck the US aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln at least once, temporarily grounding its fighter jets.

Hatami also announced a financial reward for anyone who kills or captures a US soldier involved in an act of aggression, saying the era of American military presence in the Persian Gulf was permanently over.

He said a new initiative had been launched with support from public crowdfunding campaigns, under which Iranian citizens could contribute funds to support the armed forces' defence operations.

"Under the scheme, anyone who

kills or captures a US soldier and hands them over to Iranian authorities will receive a reward of 5 billion toman, equivalent to about \$30,000," Hatami said.

He added that Iranian women who accomplish the feat would receive double the reward.

An Iranian military official said that Qatar should allow an Iranian team to enter the country to investigate the fate of pilots whom Tehran says were captured by Qatari forces, Iranian media reported.

Qatar denies holding any Iranian pilots. Doha said on Saturday that its search and rescue teams had found the remains of one pilot after Iranian aircraft violated Qatari airspace in March and failed to respond to

attempts to contact them.

Qatar said it had contacted Iran to coordinate the handover of the remains and had invited Tehran to review details of its search and rescue operations, but had received no response.

Mohammad Baqerzadeh, commander of the Committee for the Search for Missing Persons of Iran's Armed Forces General Staff, said an Iranian Air Force expert and fact-finding team had been waiting for months to enter Qatar, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Baqerzadeh accused Qatari officials of repeatedly delaying the investigation and preventing the pilots' return to Iran.

Goods transporters postpone strike for 40 days in 'broader national interest'



ANI

The goods transporters on Sunday announced that they would postpone their strike for 40 days in the "broader national interest".

The goods transporters had announced a countrywide wheel-jam strike on Aug 8 after talks with the government failed over the daily fixing of petrol and diesel prices, among other issues. A crucial round of talks between senior federal and provincial government officials and transporters' representatives was scheduled to be held at the Governor House in Karachi today to resolve the issue, after negotiations between the two sides ended without a resolution on Tuesday. All Pakistan Goods Transport Ittehad President Malik Shehbaz Awan said the association had decided, after consultations, to postpone the strike for 40 days in the "broader national interest". "Some of our issues have been resolved immediately.

For those requiring cabinet approval, 15 to 20 days have been given," he said.

Awan said the government had asked for 15 days to address their demand regarding daily fuel price changes, adding that transporters would prefer fuel prices that shifted on a fortnightly or monthly basis. He added that meetings between the government and transporters' committees would continue.

"We have been assured that overload-

ing will be controlled in accordance with the law on axle loads," he said. Awan asserted that the peaceful protest had not been stopped anywhere during the nine-day period. "Our 50-member committee had called for the strike," he said.

He said their demands had been accepted "to a certain extent" and that the committees formed to address them would continue their consultations.

On withholding tax, he said they had been assured by the communications minister that he would raise the issue with the finance minister and that a committee would be formed to resolve it.

Meanwhile, he said the Sindh government had assured them that operations would be shifted to a new truck stand within a year.

The association's president claimed that six of their eight demands concerning the Punjab government had also been accepted, while committees had been formed to address the remaining two issues. Meanwhile, speaking to the media, Sindh Governor Nihal Hashmi said both sides — the government and transporters — had "generously agreed with each other's points of view". "Pakistan, as well as the entire region, is passing through an extraordinary situation," he said.

The governor added that, in the prevailing situation, all stakeholders must work through mutual consultation and understanding and seek solutions to issues while keeping the national interest at the forefront.

AJK Election Commission announces Aug 24 polling for eight reserved seats



ANI

A day after concluding the electoral process in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the Election Commission has announced the schedule for elections to reserved seats, with polling set to be held on Aug 24. According to a statement issued by the commission, elections will be held for eight reserved seats. Candidates may submit their nomination papers by Aug 20. The returning officer will scrutinise the papers on the same day and issue a list of eligible candidates. Appeals against the nomination papers may be filed on Aug 21, while the Election Commission will hear and decide the appeals on Aug 22. The final list of candidates will be issued on Aug 23.

The announcement came a day after the electoral process for the 2026 general elections in AJK concluded with polling and

the announcement of results in the two remaining constituencies of Bagh.

The final phase of polling was completed following re-polling at 23 polling stations in LA-15 Bagh-II and LA-16 Bagh-III, bringing the main electoral process across AJK to an end. With the Bagh results, the PML-N emerged as the largest parliamentary force in the AJK Legislative Assembly with 25 seats, while the PPP stood second with 12 seats. The outcome further strengthened the PML-N's position in the AJK Assembly and placed it in a strong position to form the next government. The party secured the largest number of directly elected seats across the three-phase election, while the PPP retained its position as the principal opposition force.

The PML-N is also expected to gain six additional reserved seats for women and special categories, including seats for Ulema-o-Mashaikh, overseas Kashmiris and technocrats, further increasing its strength in the assembly.

The 2026 elections were conducted in three phases across AJK. The PML-N maintained a strong electoral performance throughout the process, winning a majority of the directly contested seats, while the PPP secured several important constituencies and maintained a significant parliamentary presence.

Jl begins sit-ins outside governors' houses over inflation, fuel prices



ANI

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Sunday began sit-ins outside governors' houses across the country, with a large number of people gathering at all four provincial headquarters as the party pressed its demands over poor governance, inflation, rising fuel prices and the petroleum levy. The JI had initially announced a nationwide protest for Aug 9 but later postponed it to Aug 16 due to Independence Day celebrations. In Karachi, a JI march led by Karachi chief Munam Zafar reached the Governor House, where the party workers were met with containers blocking the route before the building and a heavy police presence outside. Following failed negotiations

between JI representatives and the police over removal of the containers, party workers sat down on the road outside the Governor House. The protesters raised slogans against the government and demanded an end to what they described as the "extortion tax" in the form of the petroleum levy. Speaking at the sit-in, Zafar demanded abolition of the petroleum levy, saying people wanted to understand the levy and the role of independent power producers (IPPs). He said JI had raised awareness among the public and brought the facts

before them. "Whatever issue Jamaat-i-Islami raises, it takes it to its logical conclusion," he said. Zafar said those whose "achievements" were highlighted became worried, adding that education and health were not the issues being addressed by the authorities. He said the people of Karachi had developed their own outlook and that JI was opposed to the existing system. Zafar alleged that when a person was killed in the city, the case was given a different direction. Referring to the murder of Mir Raza, he questioned who was protecting those responsible for his killing.

He said JI stood with the people of Karachi and demanded that citizens be provided with water.

Security forces kill seven terrorists in Balochistan's Kharan

ANI

Seven terrorists were killed and several others wounded during an intelligence-based operation by security forces in Kharan district of Balochistan, Radio Pakistan reported on Sunday, citing security sources. "Security forces have killed seven terrorists belonging to Fitna-al-Khawarij in an intelligence-based operation in Kharan district of Balochistan," Radio Pakistan quoted security sources as saying. According to security sources, the operation was carried out in the Lajay area of Kharan under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-3 following intelligence reports about the presence of terrorists. The terrorists were affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij, according to security sources.

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as 'Fitna al-Hindustan', accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through these



outfits. Fitna al-Khawarij is the state-designated term for the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The high-tempo intelligence-driven operations were conducted as part of the ongoing "Radd-ul-Fitna-3" campaign, which the

military's media wing has described as a counter-terrorism operation aimed at eliminating Indian proxies. "Modern weapons, a large quantity of ammunition, other military equipment, two vehicles and a motorcycle were recovered from the terrorists' hideouts," the sources added. It further revealed that the hideouts were also destroyed during the operation. The terrorists had been involved in planning looting, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, targeted killings and planning suicide attacks in Kharan and Lajay, the sources said. "Security forces continued operations in Balochistan under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-3 as part of efforts to eliminate terrorism," the sources added. In a statement, President Asif Ali Zardari lauded the security forces for a successful intelligence-based operation. He said the dismantling of the hideouts of the Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists and the recovery of a large quantity of arms and ammunition is a significant achievement.

India fully opens all Salal Dam gates, flood alert issued

ANI

India has fully opened all spillway gates of the Salal Dam, releasing about 150,000 cusecs of floodwater towards Pakistan through the Chenab River, prompting an alert for low-lying areas. The Flood Forecasting Division said the release may put severe pressure on the Head Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad barrages on the Chenab. A high-level flood wave is expected to pass Head Marala within the next 48 hours. Local administrations in areas along the Chenab have been directed to remain alert. Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued an alert for the sixth spell of monsoon rains across Punjab. Rain is forecast in most districts from tonight until August 21. The forecast covers Lahore, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat, Jhelum, Chakwal, Talagang, Attock, Sialkot, Narowal and Mandi Bahauddin. Rain is also expected in Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Wazirabad. Kasur, Okara, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali and Noorpur Thal are also likely to receive rain.

MQM-P calls for national dialogue with political parties on new provinces, administrative units

ANI

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Sunday said it would launch a grand national dialogue with other political parties on the creation of new provinces and administrative units, arguing that Pakistan's growing population, poor governance and concentration of political power had made further administrative devolution necessary.

MQM-P Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, addressing a press conference in Karachi, said the party would approach all political parties to build consensus on the creation of provinces based on population and would centre its future demands, political movement and struggle on the issue.

"There is a need for a major national dialogue, and we are going to initiate it," He said Pakistan had a population of around 25-30 million when it was created in 1947, compared with roughly 250 million today, yet the country still had only four provinces. "More divisions have been created across the country than the rate of population growth," but provinces have not been created," he said. Siddiqui said the MQM had consistently proposed measures to address Pakistan's problems, adding that the movement had originated from a student organisation before entering electoral politics.

He said the country's assemblies had been established for legislation but that the MQM's decision to send middle-class young people into parliament had been treated as a "crime". He said the party had spent decades arguing that Pakistan's four provinces had been cre-



ated largely on linguistic lines and that the country now needed an administrative structure that reflected its population. Siddiqui said all political parties were increasingly agreeing with proposals previously put forward by the MQM-P and that the party would hold talks with them.

A major part of the party's campaign would also focus on Article 140-A of the Constitution, Siddiqui said. The provision requires provinces to establish local governments and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to elected local representatives.

"We became part of the 18th Amendment so that the benefits of Article 140-A could reach the people's doorsteps," he said.

He said the party had sought to have Article 140-A implemented in line with public aspirations and that the provision was now being discussed across the country. "We will approach the Supreme Court (SC) again and ask it to

take notice of the way its decision has been disregarded," he added.

He said the provinces had been bound to implement the court's decision and that the party had already discussed the matter with lawyers and would consult senior legal counsel before returning to the SC.

Siddiqui also said the party had introduced a constitutional amendment bill concerning the creation of provinces in the National Assembly. He said the bill had not been rejected but had been sent to a standing committee, which had yet to take action on it. "Pakistan has had dozens of constitutional amendments. There would be nothing wrong with making one amendment in favour of Pakistan and the Pakistani people," he said.

He said the Constitution already contained a mechanism for creating provinces, noting that the country's elected leadership had included the provision.

Khawaja Asif hails Sialkot Chamber’s major healthcare initiative

ANI

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has launched a major healthcare initiative aimed at addressing the city’s long-standing need for advanced medical facilities.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Sialkot Medical City Limited (SMCL) held in a local marquee at Cantt Sialkot, the minister said that the initiative was a welcome and much-needed venture for Sialkot, expressing hope that the project would be completed at the earliest and bring significant benefits to the people of the city and surrounding areas. Federal Minister said that residents of Sialkot had to travel to Lahore in cases of serious medical emergencies, resulting in the loss of valuable time during critical situations. While some affluent patients are able to travel abroad for treatment, the availability of advanced healthcare facilities within the region remains essential.

He noted that the government is also expected to lay the foundation stone for a cardiac hospital along with a 500-bed hospital within the coming days. However, he

pointed out that public-sector healthcare facilities of this scale and quality remain limited.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that the new healthcare initiative was part of a broader series of public-oriented projects undertaken by the Sialkot Chamber over nearly four decades under the leadership of Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh (SI).

Paying tribute to Sheikh Riaz and his colleagues, Defence Minister said the Sialkot Chamber had introduced and promoted a new dimension of public service in Sialkot. He cited the Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), AirSial airline related initiatives and other major projects as examples of the private sector’s leading role in developing public facilities for the city.

He said the Rs. 205 billion Kharian-Islamabad Motorway project had been approved and that its first phase was expected to be completed next year.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that the Chamber’s initiatives in aviation and transportation have provided the wider region with new destinations and modern



facilities. Once the motorway is completed, he said, the entire area would have access to infrastructure meeting international standards. Federal Minister also praised Sialkot’s business community for its strong contribution to employment and exports. He said Sialkot had established a strong position in the international market, particularly in the football manufacturing industry. “Football is the most widely played sport in the world, and Sialkot has established a dominant position in its manufacturing,” he said, emphasizing the city’s global reputation.

He further said Sialkot’s industrial sector was providing employment opportunities to people and maintaining international standards while competing in global markets. “Sialkot’s exporters are not competing with small names; they have built such a reputation that leading international brands are compelled to come to their doorstep and benefit from their services,” he said. Federal Minister expressed confidence that the new healthcare project would further strengthen Sialkot’s position as a major economic and service hub, while providing residents with access to quality medical treatment closer to home. Provincial Minister for Labour and Human Resource Punjab Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Ch. Faisal Ikram, Group leader Sialkot Business Community Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh (SI), Chairman Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Chairman SMCL Khawaja Masood Akhtar (SI,HI, Ambassador-at-Large for Export Promotion), CEO Majid Raza Bhutta, Senior Vice Chairman Baber Iqbal, Vice Chairman Haseeb Ahmed Bhatti, Vice Chairman Mubashir Wahid and Sialkot business community attended the ceremony.

Met Office predicts days of rain, wind and thundershowers across upper and central Pakistan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast an extended spell of rain, wind and thundershowers over the upper and central parts of the country from August 17 to 21, with occasional breaks.

According to officials, monsoon currents are currently penetrating the northern regions of the country and are likely to persist over the coming days.

While a westerly wave is expected to enter the upper parts of Pakistan from August 17, and the combination of these two weather systems is expected to bring widespread precipitation to much of the country.

In Kashmir, scattered rain accompanied by wind and thundershowers, including isolated heavy falls, is expected across Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber and Mirpur, beginning on the evening of August 16 and continuing through August 21 with intermittent gaps. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa is also expected to see significant rainfall, with rain-wind and thunder-shower activity, including isolated heavy falls, forecast for Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swabi, Shangla, Battagram, Buner, Kohat, Hangu, Kurram, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar and Mardan from August 17 through August 21.

FIA foils suspected Europe-bound transit attempt, fake Netherlands visa detected at Islamabad airport

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration at Islamabad International Airport offloaded a Swat resident after detecting an alleged fake Netherlands visit visa, thwarting a suspected attempt to use Saudi Arabia as a transit point for onward travel to Europe. An FIA official told APP on Sunday that the passenger was intercepted during secondary profiling on August 14, 2026, while preparing to travel to Saudi Arabia aboard Airblue flight PA-270. The official said detailed scrutiny of the travel documents revealed that the Netherlands visit visa affixed to page 18 of the passenger’s passport was fake, raising suspicion about his possible links with a human smuggling network. A review of the passenger’s travel history showed that he had previously travelled several times to different countries, including Malaysia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia. The FIA said the travel pattern, coupled with the allegedly forged visa, strengthened suspicions requiring further investigation into possible links with a human smuggling network.

The AI daughters Pakistan loses to wedlock

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s universities produce over 12,000 female Information and Communication Technology (ICT) graduates every year, yet many qualified women are forced out of the workforce as marriage, motherhood and family expectations take priority. Their exit comes at a cost to an economy increasingly hungry for digital and AI talent.

Women make up only 17% of Pakistan’s IT workforce, and in AI, machine learning and data science, the figure is believed to be even lower. Although women continue to graduate with computer science degrees, only 14–17% enter the workforce, compared with 83% of their male counterparts. The gap reflects a broader national reality. Pakistan’s female labour force participa-

tion stands at 24%, among the lowest in the world, placing the country 153rd out of 156 on the Global Gender Gap Index. Women are earning the degrees. They are just not getting, or keeping, the jobs.

The imbalance is visible even before recruitment begins. When Haleema Mehmood, an HR professional at a multinational company, reviewed applications for a technical role, she received more than 900 resumes. “Fewer than 100 were from women. The numbers spoke for themselves” she shared while talking to APP.

The shortage comes at a time when demand for AI and data talent has never been greater. According to the World Economic Forum’s Future of Jobs Report 2025, Big Data Specialists and AI and Machine Learning Specialists are the world’s two fastest-growing jobs, with Big

Data roles projected to grow by 110% by 2030.

Pakistan, however, continues to leave much of its talent on the sidelines.

Research by McKinsey shows gender-diverse teams perform 25% better and produce 19% more innovative solutions. Yet many decisions involving hiring, healthcare and public services in Pakistan are still being shaped by overwhelmingly male technical teams.

The landmark Gender Shades Project at MIT found facial recognition systems developed by IBM, Microsoft and Face++ recorded error rates of less than 1% for lighter-skinned men, but more than 34% for dark-skinned women. The study underscored a simple reality: when the people building AI do not represent the people using it, the technology does not

work equally for everyone.

For Haleema Mehmood, one intervention has consistently made the biggest difference.

“A female in a leadership role, leading the team,” she says. The challenge, however, is not a lack of qualified women.

Sarah Tariq, Programme Head of Business Data Analytics at COMSATS University, talking to this scribe said, women currently account for 45% of enrolment in her programme. They perform on par with, and often outperform, their male classmates.

“The drop-off isn’t during the degree, it’s at the transition point into the job market,” she says. “Broader industry hesitancy, family expectations and confidence gaps cause capable women to opt out or be filtered out.”

Grand Wedding Celebration of Councillor Saqlain Chaudhry Held in East London



BY: Raja Masood Sharif / ANI

LONDON --- A grand wedding reception was held in East London to celebrate the marriage of Councillor Saqlain Chaudhry, grandson of former Mayor of Brent Council Muhammad Aslam Chaudhry and son of Aftab Chaudhry. The event was attended by prominent political, social, religious and community figures from London and surrounding areas.

Among the distinguished guests were Mayor of Brent Council Amir Agha, Council Leader Muhammad Asghar Butt, former President of the Pakistan Press Club UK Sheraz Khan, former Mayor and President of the Community Centre London Tariq Dar MBE, former Mayor of Luton Tahir Malik, Pakistan Peoples

Party leader Riaz Kohamravi and former British parliamentary candidate Barrister Azhar Chauhan.

The wedding celebration was held in a warm and elegant atmosphere, with traditional Pakistani and Kashmiri customs and traditions adding to the occasion. Family members, relatives, friends and long-standing associates attended the event, creating an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness.

Muhammad Aslam Chaudhry, a successful accountant by profession, has established a respected position in the United Kingdom through his professional, business and political activities. He has also remained actively involved in community service and has extended support to people from his native Kotli district and hometown.

On the occasion, Aftab Chaudhry thanked all the guests for attending the wedding and for their prayers and good wishes. Councillor Saqlain Chaudhry also personally met the guests, visited each table and expressed his gratitude for their participation in the celebrations.

The guests conveyed their best wishes and prayers for the newly married couple, saying such occasions strengthen family bonds while also helping preserve Pakistani and Kashmiri culture, traditions and values within the British community.

The wedding celebration was ultimately a memorable and joyous family occasion that brought together relatives, friends and prominent members of the wider Pakistani and Kashmiri community in the UK.

Comprehensive Cleanliness Drive Launched in Chaman on CM Balochistan’s Directives

Report by ANI :

QUETTA -- A comprehensive cleanliness campaign has been launched in Chaman city on the special directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti to improve sanitation and beautify the city.

Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangulzai chaired a meeting with the Municipal Corporation, Local Government and other relevant departments, directing officials to remove garbage dumps, shift waste to designated disposal sites and improve the sanitation system.

Practical cleaning operations have already started in various parts of the city. The Deputy Commissioner, along with Mayor Municipal Corporation Haji Habibullah



Achakzai and District Chairman Haji Amanullah, inspected the ongoing campaign and directed officials to speed up the work.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, a regular and comprehensive cleanliness drive will

begin across Chaman from Monday, covering key areas, bazaars, highways and streets.

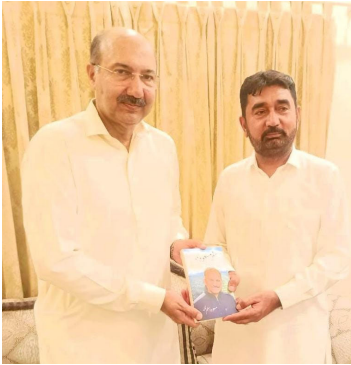
He said providing citizens with a clean and beautiful environment remains a top priority of the district administration.

Sargodha: ‘Safar Masood Lillah’ is a Unique and Noteworthy Addition to Urdu Travel Literature: MNA Malik Shakir Bashir Awan

BY: ANI Correspondent :

SARGODHA --- Member of the National Assembly Malik Shakir Bashir Awan said that “Safar Masood Lillah” is a unique and noteworthy addition to Urdu travel literature. Talking to senior journalist Mehr Zarar Ahmed Akhtar, he said the book by Masood Aslam Lillah goes beyond travel accounts and offers an intellectual and emotional reflection on the world, humanity and its challenges.

He said the book reflects compas-



sion for humanity and presents travel as a means of observation and reflection rather than mere tourism. The work takes readers from beautiful landscapes to deeper reflections on human suffering, hope and the future.

Malik Shakir Bashir Awan expressed hope that the book would inspire readers to view the world from a new perspective and think more deeply about human life.

He also presented a copy of the book to senior journalist Mehr Zarar Ahmed Akhtar.



BY: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA -- A crackdown against adulteration was carried out in Sialkot and Gujranwala under Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif’s zero-tolerance policy and on the directives of Punjab Food Authority Director General Raja Mansoor Ahmed.

During the operation, two illegal slaughterhouses and three food points were closed, while three outlets were fined a total of Rs330,000

and three cases were registered.

According to the Food Authority spokesperson, officials destroyed 450 kg of unhealthy meat, more than two tonnes of foul-smelling and sub-standard casings and ingredients, 30 kg of packing material and essence. Another 70 kg of packing material carrying unapproved labels was also seized.

In Sialkot, a sweets and bakery section at an outlet in Daska Industrial Estate was closed, while a case was registered against a bakery

in the city for allegedly producing counterfeit products.

In Gujranwala, food safety teams recovered and destroyed 150 kg of fungus-infected meat from an illegal slaughterhouse in Iftikhar Colony and another 300 kg of diseased and hazardous meat from Mohalla Noorpura. DG Food Authority Raja Mansoor Ahmed said continuous inspections were being conducted on the Chief Minister’s directives to ensure the supply of safe and quality food to citizens.

SSP Qazi puts Church security under close watch, checks surveillance cameras

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Qazi Ali Raza on Sunday inspected security arrangements at various churches across the federal capital, checking surveillance cameras and directing deployed personnel to maintain heightened vigilance and closely monitor suspicious activities.

An Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police spokesperson told APP that Qazi visited different churches, met police officers deployed on security duties and personally reviewed arrangements made for the protection of worshippers.

During the visits, the SSP Qazi also checked security cameras and surveillance arrangements to assess monitoring around the places of worship.

He directed police personnel to remain alert throughout their duties, maintain a close watch on suspicious persons and activities, and immediately respond to any security concern. Qazi stressed that effective security and monitoring should be maintained at churches to ensure that citizens visiting the places of worship were provided a safe and peaceful environment.

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GLOF coverage needs shift from disaster reporting to solutions: study

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s leading newspapers continue to report glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) largely as isolated disasters, with 76.8 per cent of coverage focusing on problems rather than preparedness, early warning, adaptation and long-term resilience, a new study has found. The study analysed GLOF-related news reports, editorials and opinion articles published in English and Urdu national newspapers between June 1 and September 30 in 2023 and 2024.

Conducted by climate policy advocacy expert and MPhil research scholar Muhammad Saleem Shaikh at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), the research examined the frequency, prominence, themes and framing of GLOF coverage in Pakistan’s national print media.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq

Executive Editor: Naseem Hassan Awan, Joint Editor: Hurish Shah

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Opinion

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From the Shadow of ‘Greater Israel’ to the Makkah Defence Accord: The Silent Struggle of the Markhor and the Rise of a New Muslim Security Architecture



By Dr. Abdul Ghani :
Published by ANI
E. Mail: ghanillm@yahoo.com

History often records the signatures placed on agreements, the leaders photographed at ceremonial tables and the official statements issued afterward. What it rarely records with equal clarity is the long, quiet struggle that makes such moments possible. The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed on 7 August 2026 by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, should therefore be viewed not merely as another diplomatic document, but as the visible culmination of years of strategic engagement, military diplomacy and patient confidence-building. Under the agreement, an armed attack against any one of the three states is to be regarded as an attack against all three, establishing an important framework of collective deterrence.

Behind this historic development stands Pakistan’s increasingly significant role in regional security. Officially, the Government of Pakistan has acknowledged the pivotal contribution of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, and the Foreign Office in bringing the Makkah Accord to fruition. The Prime Minister subsequently praised the untiring efforts made in finalising an agreement that had remained under consideration for years. But beyond the visible diplomatic stage lies another powerful Pakistani symbol: the Markhor.

The Markhor survives where ordinary creatures struggle to stand. It climbs dangerous mountains, maintains balance on narrow rocks, observes its surroundings with extraordinary alertness and moves with patience rather than unnecessary noise. It is therefore an appropriate metaphor for the silent, vigilant and strategically patient dimension of Pakistan’s national-security establishment.

We should, however, distinguish symbolism from documented fact. No credible public record currently reveals particular covert operations

by Pakistan’s intelligence services in negotiating the Makkah Agreement. Intelligence work is, by definition, rarely conducted before cameras. Yet the “Markhor” can legitimately represent the unseen strategic labour that accompanies major national-security achievements: continuous threat assessment, confidential consultations, intelligence evaluation, military-to-military communication, anticipation of regional risks and the painstaking creation of trust among states with different strategic interests.

This is where the struggle of the Markhor deserves attention.

Agreements of this magnitude do not emerge overnight. Türkiye’s foreign minister said the pact had been developing for nearly three years, while the three countries were simultaneously navigating an exceptionally complicated regional environment. Pakistan had to protect its relationship with Saudi Arabia, deepen its already important strategic partnership with Türkiye, preserve communication with Iran, maintain its longstanding relationship with China, and manage important dealings with the United States. At the same time, Islamabad had to avoid allowing a defensive arrangement to be interpreted as an offensive or sectarian coalition.

That requires the patience of the Markhor: knowing when to advance, when to remain still and how to keep one’s footing when surrounded by dangerous slopes.

Pakistan’s strategic challenge became even more demanding as conflict in the Middle East intensified. Islamabad had attempted mediation during the wider Iran crisis while simultaneously facing pressure arising from attacks on Saudi Arabia and threats to regional energy and maritime security. Reuters reported earlier this year that Pakistan’s diplomatic profile had risen considerably through engagements involving its political and military leadership, with Field Marshal Asim Munir playing a prominent part in rebuilding strategic relationships and Pakistan participating in mediation efforts.

The Makkah Agreement consequently represents more than military cooperation. It represents strategic credibility.

Pakistan contributes decades of military experience and a substantial

deterrent capability. Türkiye contributes a major military establishment, NATO experience and a rapidly developing defence industry. Saudi Arabia contributes economic strength, geopolitical influence and its unique position in the Muslim world. Together, these strengths create possibilities extending far beyond conventional defence. According to Türkiye’s Defence Ministry, future cooperation is expected to include joint land, naval and air exercises, air defence, unmanned systems, electronic warfare, artificial intelligence, defence production, technology cooperation and sustainable logistical support.

This is precisely why Pakistan’s military diplomacy deserves recognition. Modern national defence is not limited to soldiers standing on borders. It includes deterrence, intelligence, cyber capability, diplomatic signalling, technological partnerships and the ability to prevent war by convincing potential aggressors that aggression will carry unacceptable consequences.

The greatest achievement of a strong military is not necessarily fighting a war; it may be preventing one.

At this historic moment, gratitude is due to the country’s civilian and diplomatic leadership, but special appreciation is also deserved by the Pakistan Armed Forces and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their contribution to strengthening Pakistan’s strategic standing. Their achievement should not merely be measured by ceremonies or headlines, but by Pakistan’s ability to sit among major regional powers as a consequential security partner.

And somewhere behind the formal language of diplomacy stands the metaphorical Markhor, climbing silently, watching carefully and negotiating treacherous heights where a single wrong step can carry enormous consequences.

The world saw the signatures in Makkah on 7 August 2026. It saw the leaders and heard the declarations. What it could not fully see were the years of strategic patience, institutional coordination and difficult calculations that preceded them.

That is the struggle of the Markhor: rarely visible, seldom celebrated, but constantly climbing in the service of Pakistan’s security, dignity and strategic relevance.

Is Democracy Dying in Pakistan or Is Pakistani Politics Losing Its Soul?



Written By: Rana Farooq Ashraf
Published By: ANI News Agency

Pakistan today faces a question far more serious than who will win the next election: Does democracy still have the power to inspire the Pakistani people? Elections are held, political parties exist, parliaments function and governments change. Yet beneath this formal structure lies a growing crisis of confidence. The real danger may not be the immediate disappearance of democracy, but the gradual erosion of public faith in politics itself.

Recent research presents a disturbing but nuanced picture. Gallup and Gilani Pakistan reported in March 2025 that only 36 per cent of respondents expressed trust in the National Assembly. In another Gallup International survey, only 39 per cent of Pakistanis said they were ruled by the will of the people, while just 31 per cent believed governments were elected through free and fair elections.



These figures should concern every political party.

But they should also prevent us from drawing the wrong conclusion. The Pakistani public has not necessarily abandoned democracy. Rather, it appears increasingly sceptical about a political system that has failed to consistently deliver representation, accountability, economic security and institutional stability.

A PIDE analysis based on the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability’s nationwide household survey found that 57 per cent of Pakistanis preferred parliamentary representative democracy, while 16 per cent preferred dictatorship and 11 per cent favoured theocratic leadership. The message is clear: democracy still possesses public legitimacy, but that legitimacy cannot be taken for granted.

The deeper crisis is therefore a crisis of political credibility.

Pakistan’s mainstream political parties have increasingly become associated with personalities, families, electables and electoral calculations rather than with coherent programmes for transforming society. PIDE research has argued that major parties often function like closed political fiefdoms, with weak internal democracy, limited transparency and insufficient opportunities for ordinary members to rise through merit.

This is perhaps where the crisis of political narrative begins.

A political narrative is not merely a slogan repeated during an election campaign. It is a convincing answer to the questions ordinary citizens ask every day: How will my children receive better education? How will I find employment? How will inflation be controlled? How will justice become accessible? How will institutions become stronger? How will local governments give citizens a



voice? How will Parliament regain authority? How will Pakistan compete economically with the world?

Unfortunately, political debate has too often been reduced to personalities, accusations, television battles and the politics of survival.

PIDE’s research on party manifestos has highlighted another important weakness: parties frequently make ambitious commitments but struggle to provide credible implementation roadmaps. The research also notes that parties often rely on popular slogans and local development promises rather than developing serious national and international policy narratives.

This explains why political slogans can mobilise crowds but fail to create lasting political movements.

Pakistan’s young generation is especially important in this transformation. Political engagement has not disappeared; it has changed form. PIDE research on electoral reform observes that young Pakistanis increasingly engage through social media advocacy and digital politics rather than traditional street-level party mobilisation. The political party that does not understand this transformation risks becoming irrelevant to a generation that communicates, organises and forms opinions differently from previous generations.

The 2024 elections provided another warning. PIDE researchers noted that millions of young voters challenged the traditional politics of local electables and patronage. Whether one agrees with the political choices made by these voters or not, the phenomenon cannot be ignored. Pakistani voters are becoming less predictable, more digitally connected and more willing to challenge established political hierarchies.

At the same time, the democratic environment itself has become increasingly constrained. Freedom House’s 2026 assessment continues to classify Pakistan as “Partly Free”, while giving the country 32 out of 100 for political rights and civil liberties. It acknowledges the existence of competitive multiparty elections but also points to significant restrictions and the powerful influence of the military establishment over political and governmental affairs.

PILDAT’s assessment of 2025 is equally significant. It argues that democratic institutions remained formally intact but operated within an increasingly security-driven environment, while political parties remained highly centralised, internal democracy remained weak and political disengagement continued to affect public confidence.

This creates a dangerous cycle. When institutions lose credibility, political parties become weaker.

When parties become weaker, individuals and informal power centres become stronger. When political institutions fail to provide meaningful representation, citizens move towards protest politics, personality politics or political apathy. And when citizens lose faith in parliamentary politics, the space for non-political forces naturally expands.

Therefore, the question is not simply

ply whether democracy is dying.

The more important question is: Are Pakistan’s political parties themselves allowing democracy to die from within?

Political parties cannot demand democracy from the state while denying democracy to their own workers. They cannot speak about constitutional supremacy while treating party workers as expendable. They cannot demand transparency from institutions while keeping their own decision-making opaque. They cannot ask young people to participate when leadership opportunities remain concentrated in a narrow circle.

Pakistan does not necessarily need another political party merely for the sake of having another party. It needs a new political contract.

That contract must be built around internal party democracy, credible elections, strong local governments, parliamentary supremacy, economic opportunity, institutional accountability, rule of law and genuine political participation. Political parties must move from personality-driven politics towards policy-driven politics. The country also needs a new generation of political leadership—not simply younger faces, but leaders with new ideas, intellectual confidence, administrative competence and the courage to tell the public difficult truths.

The greatest mistake would be to conclude that the Pakistani people have lost interest in politics. They have not. They are losing patience with politics that does not produce meaningful change.

The warning signs are already visible: declining institutional trust, doubts about electoral fairness, weak internal democracy within parties, political polarisation, shrinking civic space and a widening distance between traditional political organisations and younger citizens.

Yet this is not necessarily the end of democracy.

It could be the beginning of its renewal.

Pakistan’s political history has repeatedly demonstrated that public opinion cannot be permanently controlled. Political parties that listen to society, reform themselves and present a credible vision can regain public confidence. Those that remain trapped in personalities, patronage



and old political formulas may gradually disappear from the political imagination of the people.

The choice, therefore, is ultimately with the political leadership.

Pakistan does not need less politics. It needs better politics.

It does not need the death of democracy. It needs the revival of democratic credibility.

And above all, it needs political parties capable of answering one fundamental question: What future are you offering the people of Pakistan?

If political parties cannot answer that question with clarity, honesty and a credible plan, the public may eventually search for the answer somewhere else.

That not the disappearance of elections—is the real warning for Pakistan’s democracy.

PML-N’s New Political Capital Zarak Khan Mandokhail and Nawabzada Zareen Magsi – An Emerging Political Partnership for Balochistan



By Ch Shabbir Balochistani :
Published by ANI News Agency

One of the defining strengths of the Pakistan Muslim

League (N) has historically been its ability to combine experienced political leadership with the energy and aspirations of a younger generation. No political party can survive indefinitely on the strength of its past. A party that seeks to remain relevant must continuously invest in the leadership of tomorrow.

For the Pakistan Muslim League (N), this question has particular significance in Balochistan. As the province enters a new phase of political and social transformation, the party needs a younger generation capable of connecting with emerging political realities, particularly the aspirations of young people.

In this context, Zarak Khan Mandokhail and Nawabzada Muhammad Zareen Khan Magsi represent two promising young political figures. Both are elected representa-

tives, politically active and products of influential political families with long traditions of parliamentary and public service.

Their significance, however, should not be judged merely by their present parliamentary positions. With proper political grooming, organizational responsibilities and sustained guidance from senior leadership, both have the potential to emerge as important pillars of the PML-N in Balochistan.

Political Heritage Is a Responsibility, Not a Privilege

Zarak Khan Mandokhail comes from a political family with a substantial parliamentary background. His father, Sheikh Syed-ul-Hasan Mandokhail, has served as a Senator and held federal ministerial responsibilities. Such an environment naturally provides a young politician with exposure to parliamentary affairs, public administration and the complexities of national politics.

Zarak Khan’s political family connections extend further. His father-in-law, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, is a veteran parliamentarian and is currently serving as Governor of Balochistan. His long political career has encompassed pro-

vincial and national politics as well as organizational affairs.

Yet political inheritance, by itself, is never sufficient.

For a young politician, a distinguished family name can provide an opportunity, but it cannot guarantee political success. The real test is whether the younger generation can transform that inheritance into an independent political identity based on performance, accessibility and public service.

For Zarak Khan Mandokhail, this is precisely the challenge ahead. His responsibility is to translate the political experience of his elders into a contemporary political agenda focused on governance, youth, employment, education, economic opportunity and effective representation.

The Magsi Political Tradition
Nawabzada Muhammad Zareen Khan Magsi likewise belongs to one of Balochistan’s prominent political families.

The Magsi family has played an important role in provincial politics over several decades. The political career of Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi is particularly significant. He served as Governor of Balochistan and also

—To be concluded

Unlocking Pakistan’s Female Potential



Written By: Dr. Nasser Hussyn Bukhari
Published By: ANI News Agency

Women’s empowerment remains one of Pakistan’s most important unresolved challenges. Although the country has made progress in legislation, education and political representation, millions of Pakistani women continue to face barriers that restrict their choices, economic independence and participation in public life. The problem is not the absence of laws alone; it is also the persistence of social attitudes, weak institutional implementation and unequal access to education and employment.

Pakistan’s patriarchal social structure remains one of the strongest impediments to women’s advancement. In many communities, women are still expected to prioritize domestic responsibilities while men are regarded as primary decision-makers and earners. These expectations can restrict girls’ mobility, education and career choices. Violence, harassment, forced or early marriages and discriminatory practices further reinforce women’s vulnerability. Yet culture should not be treated as an immutable excuse. Social norms can change when education, economic opportunity, law and community leadership work together.

Education is perhaps the most powerful instrument for breaking this cycle. A girl who receives quality education is more likely to enter the labour market, make informed decisions about marriage and health, and participate confidently in civic life. Pakistan therefore needs to move beyond merely increasing school enrolment. The focus must be on retention, quality, digital literacy, science and technology education, vocational skills and access to higher education, particularly for girls in disadvantaged communities.

The experiences of Bangladesh, China and Iran offer useful lessons for Pakistan. Bangladesh, despite having faced deep poverty and conservative social structures, has substantially increased girls’ participation in education and women’s workforce participation. The expansion of female employment, particularly in the garment sector, has contributed to household incomes and altered perceptions about women’s economic roles. Bangladesh’s experience demonstrates that economic opportunity, public policy and employment can gradually transform social

attitudes.

China provides a different example. Its economic transformation was accompanied by strong female participation in education and employment. Chinese women have played an important role in industrialisation, professional sectors and scientific development. However, China’s experience also demonstrates that economic participation alone does not automatically produce complete gender equality. Women can remain under-represented in senior leadership and continue to carry disproportionate family responsibilities. The lesson for Pakistan is not to copy another country mechanically, but to combine employment opportunities with institutional support and equal access to leadership.

Iran offers another instructive comparison. Despite a complex social and political environment, Iranian women have achieved significant gains in education, particularly in universities. Iranian women’s educational attainment demonstrates that investment in female education can generate substantial human capital even where broader social restrictions remain. Pakistan can learn from this contradiction: educating women without creating corresponding opportunities for employment, leadership and decision-making leaves a large part of that human capital underutilised.

Economic empowerment is equally important. A woman who earns, owns property, controls financial resources or operates a business often possesses greater bargaining power at home.

Islamic history itself offers a powerful example in Hazrat Khadija (SA), a successful businesswoman and trader who managed commercial ventures with independence, integrity and leadership. Her example demonstrates that women’s economic participation is not contrary to our values; rather, it has deep roots in our own history.

Pakistan should therefore expand women’s access to vocational training, digital work, credit, entrepreneurship, agricultural markets and formal employment. Employers should be encouraged to provide safe workplaces, equal opportunities, maternity protections and flexible working arrangements. Women’s economic participation should not be viewed as a social concession; it is an economic necessity for a country seeking sustainable growth.

Political representation also mat-



ters. Pakistan has made important constitutional and electoral provisions for women, including reserved seats, but representation should not become merely numerical. Women must have meaningful influence over legislation, budgets and public policy. Greater participation of women in local government could be transformative because local institutions directly address education, health, sanitation, transport and community safety — issues that profoundly affect women’s lives.

The state must also strengthen enforcement of laws against harassment, domestic violence, discrimination and forced marriage. Legislation without effective policing, accessible justice and institutional accountability can provide only limited protection. Equally important is changing attitudes among men and boys. Gender equality cannot be achieved by women alone. Families, teachers, religious scholars, media organisations, political parties and community leaders all have a responsibility to challenge stereotypes that portray women’s independence as a threat to social order.

Pakistan does not need to choose between tradition and women’s empowerment. The real challenge is to distinguish between cultural values that strengthen society and practices that deny citizens their fundamental rights. China, Bangladesh and Iran each demonstrate, in different ways, that women’s education and participation can contribute significantly to national development.

Ultimately, empowering Pakistani women is not merely a women’s issue. It is an economic, educational, democratic and national-development imperative. A country cannot fully utilize its human capital while half of its population remains constrained by unequal opportunity. Pakistan’s future prosperity will depend partly on whether it can transform women from beneficiaries of development into equal participants, decision-makers and leaders. The objective should therefore be clear: not token representation, but genuine equality of opportunity, dignity and voice.

Rotary Karachi Holds ‘Walk a Cause’ for Mouth Cancer, Polio and Drug Abuse



BY: F T Correspondent :

KARACHI --- Rotary clubs in Karachi organised a “Walk a Cause – Mouth Cancer, Polio Awareness and Drug Abuse” to raise awareness about oral health, early detection of mouth cancer, prevention of tobacco and substance-related diseases, and the continued campaign for a polio-free Pakistan. The initiative was held in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Department Sindh and the Anti-Narcotics Force.

The walk started from McDonald’s at 7:10 AM and concluded at Nishan-e-Pakistan, where a closing ceremony was held. Honnak Baloch, DG Narcotics & Control, Government of Sindh, was the chief guest.

Addressing the participants, Baloch stressed the need for collective efforts against narcotics, drug abuse, tobacco, gutka, niswar and

other harmful substances, particularly because of their impact on public health and young people.

Rotary District Governor Shahzad Sabir highlighted Rotary’s commitment to community service and public-health awareness, while DG MOFA Irfan Soomro emphasised cooperation among Rotary, government institutions and community organisations.

The event was chaired by Dr Syed Naveed Manzoor, Chair of the Oral Health Committee and President RCK Pearl, with Dr Kausar Tariq, Co-Chair of the committee, playing a key role in the initiative. The campaign was also supported by Naveed Adenwalla, President 2026-27, Rotary Club of Karachi Educational Development.

Several Rotary clubs participated in the initiative, including RCK Pearl, RCK Sunset Millennium, RCK

Quaid, RCK Educational Development, RCK Happy Palace and RCK Environment, while RCK Roshni, RCK Centennial and RCK Sunrise supported the programme.

During the closing ceremony, distinguished guests, Rotary leaders, healthcare professionals, representatives of civil society and supporting organisations were recognised for their contribution. The event also received significant media coverage, helping spread awareness about the harmful effects of gutka, chalia, niswar, tobacco and drug abuse, as well as the importance of maintaining efforts for a polio-free Pakistan.

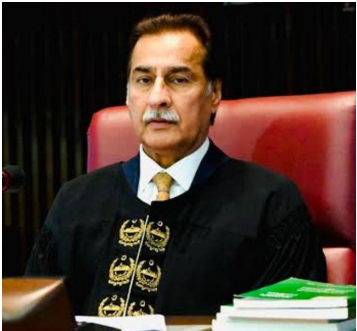
The ceremony was hosted by PP Syed Kashif Rafi, Advisor to the District Governor 2026-27. The programme concluded with the presentation of shields and certificates to distinguished guests and supporting organisations.

NA Speaker Pays Tribute to Security Forces for Killing 7 Militants in Kharan Operation

BY: Hurish shah/ F T :

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has paid tribute to the security forces for eliminating seven militants during an intelligence-based operation in Kharan, Balochistan.

The NA Speaker praised the professionalism and capabilities of the security forces, saying that the militants of Fitna al-Khawarij are enemies of Pakistan’s peace, stability and development.



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the entire nation stands with the security forces in the fight against terrorism and that the national resolve to completely eliminate terrorism from Balochistan and across the country remains unwavering.

He said the sacrifices and successes of the security forces are a matter of pride for the nation.

“The fight against terrorism will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated,” the NA Speaker said.

Army Colonel Shahida Javed Approved for Tamgha-i-Imtiaz

Report by ANI :

ISLAMABAD -- The Government of Pakistan has approved national awards for officers of the armed forces and civil armed forces, including Colonel Shahida Javed of the Pakistan Army, who has been approved for the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz.

Her name was approved by President Asif Ali Zardari on the recommendation of a summary submitted by GHQ. Colonel Shahida Javed



has served at important positions in various Army and Air Force hospitals and institutions, including the ICMH and PAF Military Hospital in Rawalpindi.

Colonel Shahida Javed was commissioned into the Pakistan Army in 1994 and is currently serving at a military hospital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Family members and relatives expressed happiness over her receiving the national honour and congratulated her on the achievement.

London Protest Marks ‘Kashmir and Khalistan Black Day’ Outside Indian High Commission

BY: Raja Masood Sharif / ANI

LONDON --- protest was organised outside the Indian High Commission in London on August 15 to observe what organisers described as “Kashmir and Khalistan Black Day” and to express solidarity with Kashmiris and supporters of the Khalistan movement.

The demonstration was organised by Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council Chairman Raja Sikandar Khan and All Party Kashmir Coordination Committee and Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK President Fahim Kayani, with participation from members of the Sikh community.

British Kashmiris, British Pakistanis and Sikh participants from across the UK attended the protest. The programme began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by addresses by the organisers and other speakers.

Participants carried Kashmir and Khalistan flags and displayed placards calling for an end to violence in Kashmir, the release of political prisoners and independence for Kashmir and Khalistan.

Speakers criticised the Indian government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s administration and called for the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir.



Participants also expressed concern over the imprisonment and sentences of Kashmiri political leaders, including Yasin Malik and Aasiya Andrabi.

The organisers said the protest aimed to draw international attention to the Kashmir issue and highlight solidarity between Kashmiri and Sikh communities in the UK.

Among those attending were Pakistan Khidmat-e-Khalq League Chairman Barrister Mahmood

Khan, former AJK Secretary Chaudhry Abdul Hameed, Zafar Ahmed Qureshi, Chaudhry Muhammad Sharif, Chaudhry Muhammad Ramzan, Farukh Qureshi and Sajid Malik. Sikh representatives included Ranjit Singh, Joga Singh, Amrit Singh and Gurcharan Singh.

In his closing remarks, Raja Sikandar Khan thanked the participants for their support and expressed his best wishes for their safe return home.

BY: ANI Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD -- The “Apna Panel” has swept the annual elections of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photojournalists Association (RIPJA), with all its office-bearers elected unopposed.

According to Election Commission Chairman Nasir Mir and member Aamir Lodhi, the newly elected office-bearers include President Sajjad Haider, Senior Vice President Jahangir Chaudhry, Vice Presidents M. Javed and Mudassar Raja, General Secretary Sohail Shahzad, Finance Secretary Muhammad Asim, Joint Secretary Faisal Khan and Information Secretary Syed Mehdi.

The Governing Body members elected unopposed are Habib Sheikh, Raja Khalid, Raja Zafar, Abid



Zia, Tahir Kazmi, Raja Asim and Umar Farooq.

Sajjad Haider was elected President for the 22nd time. On the occasion, he said efforts for the welfare and betterment of the photojournalist community would continue.

The Election Commission said the opposing Faheem Malik & Group had withdrawn its nomination papers a day earlier in favour of the “Apna Panel”, paving the way for the panel’s unopposed election.

AJK Acting President, PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore Discuss Political Situation, Kashmir Issue

BY: ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD -- Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar and AJK Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore held a detailed meeting at Kashmir House in Islamabad.

The meeting discussed the overall political situation in Azad Kashmir, the post-election political scenario, the future course of action, matters of mutual interest and key issues, including the Kashmiri dispute.

Both leaders stressed the need for effective measures to ensure political stability, promote democratic traditions and address public issues in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

They also discussed the Kashmir issue and reaffirmed their resolve to continue highlighting the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to



self-determination at national and international forums. The two leaders further discussed development,

public welfare and effective coordination among state institutions in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Speaker and current MPA Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani presented Naseem Hassan Awan with the first Sher Ahmed Tanoli Award in recognition of his literary services at a ceremony organised by Bazm-e-Ahle Qalam Havelian.

APCA Protests Alleged Defiance of Education Orders in Hangu

Report by ANI :

PESHAWAR -- All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has demanded immediate action over the alleged refusal of District Education Officer (Women), Hangu, Zeb-un-Nisa, to implement official orders regarding Malik Naeemullah Bangash’s promotion from Assistant to Superintendent.

APCA KP President Farmanullah Jan and General Secretary Munir Khan Mohmand said the Secretary Elementary & Secondary Education had ordered an inquiry



into the matter, which reportedly went in favour of Malik Naeem Bangash. The Secretary subsequently directed the DEO (Women), Hangu, to hand over his charge.

The APCA leaders alleged that the DEO again refused to comply with the orders, causing unnecessary distress to the senior employee.

They appealed to the Secretary Education to intervene immediately and ensure implementation of the official directives, warning that failure to resolve the issue could lead to a province-wide protest.

PTI Kissan Wing Announces Campaign to Expose Farmers’ Exploitation



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Kissan Wing has announced a phase-wise, fact-based campaign to expose what it termed the systemic exploitation of farmers and the worsening crisis in Pakistan’s agriculture sector.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by PTI Kissan Wing Central Organizer Sheikh Waqas Akram and attended by senior party leaders, including Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich,

Ijaz Shafi, Mian Ghous Muhammad, Faisal Amin Gandapur, Mubeen Arif Jatt and other lawmakers.

The participants reviewed the political situation and agrarian crisis, expressing concern over declining crop yields, wheat imports and the alleged neglect of agricultural research.

Sheikh Waqas Akram and Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich called for stronger links between research institutions and farmers, an end to hoarding and middlemen cartels, and implementa-

tion of a modern national agricultural policy.

Referring to PTI’s recently issued White Paper on wheat, they said historical data had been used to identify the causes of declining yields and propose reforms. They also questioned the disparity between wheat import prices and returns offered to local farmers. The PTI Kissan Wing said its campaign would focus on evidence-based reforms aimed at protecting farmers and reviving Pakistan’s agricultural economy.