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SC orders Imran Khan's transfer to Shifa Int'l Hospital for treatment



ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday ordered that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan be shifted to Shifa International Hospital for treatment for the next few days and directed the government to arrange weekly meetings between him and his family.

The hearing came after a medical board report and a report by the Adiala Jail Superintendent submitted to the SC on Monday recommended more frequent meetings between Imran and his immediate family and spouse to help manage his blood pressure and anxiety, highlighting concerns over the for-

mer premier's blood pressure (BP).

A three-member bench headed by Justice Shahid Waheed was hearing cases concerning Imran's access to his sisters and personal physicians, as well as his medical record.

The court further ordered that Imran's personal physician, Dr Faissal Sultan, be granted access to him and directed the formation of a medical board comprising an eye specialist, a general physician, and a cardiologist along with Dr Sultan.

His sister, Dr Uzma, will also be associated with the newly established medical board, according to the order. The SC directed that Imran's family bear the cost of his treatment at the hospital.

The court also instructed Imran's family and lawyers not to share his medical report with the media, with Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan ordering that the report be kept completely confidential.

"We assure the court that the medical report will remain completely confidential," PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said. The court further directed that no political activity, media talks or press conferences be held outside the hospital.

"Do not engage in politics outside the hospital," Justice Afghan said. "There are other patients in the hospital," he added, stressing that other patients should not be affected.

Raja and PTI Parliamentary Secretary Shahid Khattak assured the court that no political activity would take place outside the hospital. "Our political activities will remain completely separate," Raja said. The court also directed that arrangements be made for Imran to have telephone conversations with his children.

The SC ordered that Imran's medical reports not be used for political purposes. The court warned that the order could be withdrawn if its directives were violated, while allowing the government and other parties to approach the court if they believed the orders were not being implemented.

Law minister signals review as cabinet colleague vows to honour SC's Imran hospital order

ANI

An apparent split was seen in the ranks of the federal government on Tuesday over the Supreme Court's order about former premier Imran Khan, with Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar saying the government would review it while Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal said the government would honour the instructions. The Supreme Court ordered Imran's transfer to the private hospital for treatment following a hearing on a medical board report and a report submitted by the Adiala jail superintendent on Monday. The reports recommended more frequent meetings between the PTI founder and his immediate family and wife to help manage his blood pressure and anxiety, while also highlighting concerns about his health. Tarar described the Supreme Court's order to transfer Imran to Shifa International Hospital for treatment as being "beyond the legal parameters", saying the government had decided to approach the court for a review and appropriate modification of the order in accordance with the law. In a video statement, Tarar said consultations had been held on certain aspects of the order relating to the jail authorities and Islamabad administration, including the direction for Imran to undergo a medical check-up at Shifa International Hospital within two days. "After reviewing the law, the authorities are of the view that this order does not fall within the legal parameters governing the facilities that can be provided to a convicted person in jail under the law," he said.

He said it had therefore been proposed that the government approach the Supreme Court through a review petition and request an appropriate modification of the order so that Imran could be examined at a tertiary-care government hospital. However, Tarar said medical experts or specialists from other major institutions could be included in the medical board, in accordance with the court's directions or as the court deemed appropriate.



Raising concerns over shifting a prisoner to a private hospital, the minister said allowing such arrangements for medical check-ups could have wider implications for the country's prison population.

"If prisoners are taken to private hospitals for such medical check-ups, there are thousands of prisoners across Pakistan facing various complications and illnesses," he said.

Tarar said the law provided for the formation of a medical board to determine whether a prisoner's treatment should be conducted inside or outside the jail.

"The law provides that a board will first be constituted, and the board will determine whether the treatment should be provided inside the jail or outside it. If a prisoner has to be taken outside the jail, such facilities are available at government hospitals in every case. Until evidence or material shows that government hospitals are incapable of providing the required treatment, such an arrangement cannot be made," he said.

Tarar said it was also important to determine whether the court's order would apply to the entire prison population or whether it would not be used in other cases.

He said the legal team had also discussed other legal aspects of the matter.

"There are further legal points that the legal team has discussed. To remove this ambiguity and seek appropriate modifications so that the order remains within the proper legal parameters, the government is approaching the Supreme Court," he said.

FM Dar welcomes 'positive momentum' in Islamabad-Moscow relations

ANI

Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar on Tuesday welcomed the positive momentum in Islamabad-Moscow relations and stressed the need for continued collaboration in key areas and sustained senior-level dialogues.

He said this during a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert Khorev in Islamabad, a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said. "DPM/FM appreciated the positive momentum in bilateral ties and stressed the importance of continued cooperation in key areas, as well as sustained high-level exchanges, to further strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations," the statement read. During the meeting, Dar emphasised Pakistan's "consistent view" that dialogue and diplomacy were the only way forward for resolving differences and promoting regional peace and stability. The Russian envoy had called on Dar to discuss bilateral relations as well as regional developments, MOFA said on X. In mid-July, Russia and China reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic coordination and expanding cooperation across political, economic and regional domains, during the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation celebration.



In a joint article, Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Khorev and Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, describing the 2001 treaty as a "landmark document" said it laid the foundation for a comprehensive strategic partnership "a vital constant" amid sweeping global changes.

Before that, on June 9, Energy Minister Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari confirmed that Pakistan and Russia had agreed to sign an Economic Cooperation Programme extending through 2030. He expressed these views during a webinar titled "Pakistan-Russia Bilateral Relations in the Context of the Changing Global Order". The minister also said that a recently signed "readmission agreement" was expected to facilitate improved visa arrangements and strengthen people-to-people contacts.

2-year transformation plans ordered as Mohsin reviews Interior Ministry reforms

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting of heads of all institutions working under the Ministry of Interior, where officials reviewed progress on reforms aimed at improving performance, strengthening coordination, and aligning operations with current requirements.

During the meeting, all institutions were directed to submit a 2-year transformation plan, while the ministry reaffirmed its commitment to providing the resources needed to support institutional development. The minister directed all departments to enhance coordination, cooperation, and information sharing to improve overall performance. He said the Ministry of Interior performs responsibilities that differ from those of other ministries and require a coordinated approach across all affiliated organizations. Mohsin Naqvi said newly established institutions, including the Land Port Authority, would receive full support from the government.

He assured participants that all departments would be provided with the resources required to achieve their objectives and



stressed the need for institutions to support one another.

The minister instructed heads of departments to ensure effective measures for data protection and cybersecurity. He also directed them to prepare and present comprehensive two-year transformation plans for their respective organizations.

He said the government's goal is to modernize all institutions under the Ministry of Interior and improve public service delivery. According to him, every affiliated organization must work toward achieving its targets to provide citizens with quality services and facilities. Naqvi emphasized that institutions should operate with greater autonomy and make decisions at their own level rather than referring every matter to the ministry.

PM Shehbaz calls for effective measures to create jobs for youth

ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the government to ensure coordinated and effective measures to create employment opportunities for young people under the National Youth Employment Policy, with a monthly review meeting to monitor its implementation. Chairing a meeting to review progress on the policy, the prime minister said providing decent employment to the country's skilled and talented youth was among the government's top priorities.

He called for a comprehensive strategy and inter-ministerial coordination to implement the policy, with special focus on equipping young people, particularly women, with skills to access new employment opportunities. The



prime minister also directed that special attention be given to creating employment opportunities for young people in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). He said institutional reforms had been introduced in the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Small and Medium

Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) to align Pakistan's skilled workforce with domestic and international business and industrial demand.

According to a briefing, NAVTTTC was taking measures to provide workers with international certifications and proficiency in languages required in overseas job markets. Young people were also being trained according to market demand to facilitate employment abroad.

The Digital Youth Hub is providing information on domestic and overseas employment opportunities through a single platform, while Youth Development Cells are being established in educational institutions to provide career guidance, counselling and information about employment and skills development opportunities.

Case pending before higher court no ground to halt trial without stay order: SC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that mere pendency of a case before a higher court cannot justify stopping or delaying proceedings before a trial court in the absence of an explicit stay order, observing that remanded cases must be decided within a reasonable period without unnecessary adjournments. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail issued a detailed judgment in a Civil Petition and directed the trial court to conclude an eight-year-old remanded case within two months. The court held that a stay becomes effective only through a formal judicial order issued by a competent court.

Mere pendency of proceedings before a higher court does not prevent a subordinate court from proceeding with a case. It observed that where no competent court had ordered suspension of proceedings, allowing a case to remain pending for years could have the practical effect of keeping the proceedings suspended, which was not acceptable.

Tarar calls for political consensus to ensure continuity of counter-terrorism policies

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said terrorists had no colour, race or religion and that imposing ideologies through violence was unacceptable under any circumstances. Pakistan had sacrificed 90,000 precious lives in the war against terrorism, while the Pakistani nation, armed forces and entire society were a strong shield between terrorists and the rest of the world, he said. Addressing a capacity-building workshop organised by the Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) for parliamentarians from



Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh on the counter-terrorism framework and legislative responsibilities, the minister said effective measures had been taken to eliminate terrorism through joint efforts of state institutions, federal and provincial govern-

ments and the people. He said terrorism had been eliminated from the country to a large extent by 2017. At that time, he said, the state had introduced the National Action Plan in view of security challenges including the law-and-order situation in Karachi, terrorist activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a wave of terrorism in some areas of Balochistan and growing militancy from southern towards central Punjab.

He said all relevant stakeholders responded to the National Action Plan and federal and provincial governments, armed forces and other institutions jointly worked against terrorism, resulting in its elimination to a large extent.



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Minister urges youth to drive climate, water action

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday called for greater youth participation in country's climate and water policy, saying young people could help bridge the gap between policy decisions and implementation on the ground.

Addressing a National Youth-Led Policy Roundtable on Water Resilience and Climate Action in Pakistan, organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with WaterAid Pakistan, the minister said youth could contribute to policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and accountability.

"Green skills, Climate University, start-ups, this is how the ministry is turning the idea of youth partnership into lived reality," Dr Malik said, highlighting initiatives aimed at creating opportunities for young Pakistanis to contribute to the country's climate agenda.

He stressed the need for stronger partnerships between the government, youth,



academia, research institutions and the private sector to promote evidence-based policymaking and innovation.

The minister said young people's presence in communities across Pakistan positioned them to monitor implementation, identify gaps and provide evidence

areas of water management and service delivery fell within provincial jurisdiction, requiring greater provincial institutional, technical and human capacity alongside federal leadership and coordination.

He said climate and water challenges differed across regions and policies must therefore respond to local needs and vulnerabilities. Indigenous and community knowledge, he added, should be used alongside scientific and technical expertise.

The minister said the focus must now shift from policy commitments to "visible and measurable results" on the ground.

Federal Secretary for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Awaiz Manzoor Sumra and senior ministry officials also attended the roundtable.

Young participants from across Pakistan shared experiences and recommendations on water scarcity, floods, droughts, sanitation, public health and climate resilience, calling for greater youth involvement in decision-making, community action and accountability.

Govt working to resolve problems of Pakistani medical students abroad

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary said on Tuesday that the government was working to resolve problems faced by Pakistani medical students studying at foreign universities, particularly in Central Asia.

Responding to points raised by lawmakers in the National Assembly, he said the government would seek further information from the Ministry of National Health Services and the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). The information would then be shared with the public, he added.

Dr Tariq said most complaints had come from students studying in Central Asian countries, particularly Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

He said the PMDC was not responsible for the problems because the affected medical colleges had initially met the required criteria and were recognised by the relevant authorities. However, policy changes by the governments of those countries later led to some colleges being delisted, he added. The minister said his recent visit to Kyrgyzstan had also highlighted concerns about Pakistani medical colleges that met the required criteria but faced the threat of delisting. "We are trying to ensure that colleges which meet the required criteria are not delisted without a valid reason," he said. Dr Tariq said the government was also working with the PMDC to facilitate students in registration and examinations in Pakistan. The aim was to ensure that they did not face unnecessary difficulties, he added.

FIA arrests over 100 passport agents in month: NA told

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhary told the National Assembly on Tuesday that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had arrested more than 100 agents in operations over the past month.

Responding to points of order raised by lawmakers, he said the government had adopted a customer-focused approach to improve passport services.

He said passport security features had also been improved. The government was working with the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) to provide passport services at all its centres, he added. "This will help reduce queues at passport offices and make the process easier for citizens," he said. He said criminal cases had also been registered against officials found facilitating passport agents. He said action would be taken against any official or passport office found treating citizens improperly. The minister invited lawmakers to provide details of specific cases or identify passport offices where citizens were facing problems. He said the passport system had been reformed and online application and appointment facilities had been introduced to facilitate applicants.

Role of university leaders crucial for higher education reforms, says Wajiha Qamar

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, has launched a three-day workshop entitled 'Strategic Planning and Leadership Excellence' to strengthen the leadership and management capacity of senior university leadership to effectively address the academic, administrative, governance and financial challenges of the higher education institutions. The three-day workshop is being held at the National Institute of Business and Finance (NIBAF). The workshop has brought together the Vice Chancellors, Pro-Vice Chancellors, senior Deans, and statutory heads of public sector universities of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) along with the

women universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Rawalpindi region. The training aims to enhance strategic planning, institutional sustainability, resource mobilisation, governance, performance management, digital transformation in the realm of AI, and innovation in higher education. It also provides a platform for academic leaders to exchange experiences and deliberate on emerging trends and opportunities in the higher education sector.

The Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony of the workshop, while Managing Director NAHE Dr Noor Anna Malik along with her team was also present at the occasion.

Addressing the opening ceremony, the honorable Minister underlined the role of



university heads in shaping the future of higher education, promoting sustainable institutional development, and bringing reforms to the higher education sector.

She said Pakistan is blessed with abundant natural resources and stressed that universities must play their role toward

developing the knowledge, technology, and skilled human capital required to harness these resources for national development.

She called for moving beyond conventional approaches and empowering graduates with the skills and competencies needed to become self-reliant.

She emphasized stronger Industry Academic linkages and highlighted the need for industry-driven academic institutions that provide students with hands-on training and enhanced employment opportunities.

"Redundant disciplines need to be phased out and youth be equipped well to pace up with the world," she stressed.

The Minister further reiterated to the participants to openly identify the gaps and express their views about possible solutions to the issues.

Significant Decline in Crime Recorded in Sialkot, Integrated Police Strategy Produces Results

Report: ANI

GUJRANWALA -- An integrated strategy adopted by Sialkot Police under the leadership of DPO Sialkot Captain (ret'd) Dost Muhammad has resulted in a significant decline in crime across the district.

According to available data, property-related crimes, including robbery, burglary, car theft and car snatching, fell by 66 percent in July 2026 compared with January 2025. The number of cases declined from 902 to 301.

In areas covered by Safe City cameras, crime dropped by nearly 84 percent, from 257 incidents to 40. In areas without camera coverage, incidents also declined from 645 to 261, representing a reduction of nearly 60 percent. Comparative figures for



January-July 2025 and 2026 show that overall crime fell from 4,861 cases to 2,772, a decline of around 43 percent. Crime in Safe City coverage areas decreased by approximately 62 percent during the same period.

Police said the use of Safe City cam-

era information, identification of crime hotspots, effective patrolling, surveillance of suspects, intelligence-based operations, rapid response, modern evidence-based investigation and timely information sharing contributed to the reduction.

DPO Sialkot Captain (ret'd) Dost Muhammad said protection of citizens' lives and property remains the top priority of Sialkot Police. He stressed that combining modern technology with traditional policing is essential for effective crime control.

He said stronger coordination between Safe City, the Crime Control Department and Sialkot Police has made crime prevention, timely action and the arrest of suspects more effective. He added that operations against criminal elements would continue until crime is completely eradicated.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan Meets Rana Farooq Ashraf and Faheem Jameel Thakkar Over Sialkot Political Affairs

BY:ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE.-- Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan held an important meeting with Rana Farooq Ashraf, ticket holder for PP-50, and Faheem Jameel Thakkar, ticket holder for NA-124, to discuss political and organisational matters concerning Sialkot district.

The meeting focused on party organisation, issues faced by workers and the future political strategy in the district. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan stressed the need for effectively addressing public issues and resolving the concerns of party workers.

The participants also discussed measures to further strengthen the party organisation and improve public outreach in Sialkot. The meeting was described as an important step towards making the party organisation more active and stronger.



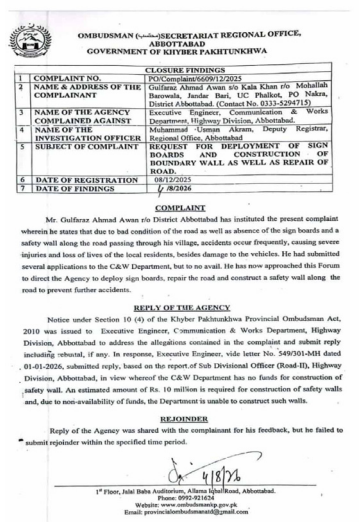
Ombudsman Closes Abbottabad Road Safety Case Over Lack of Funds and Complainant Inaction

BY: ANI Correspondent;

ABBOTTABAD -- The Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat, Regional Office Abbottabad, has formally closed a case seeking construction of a protective wall and installation of road signboards on an Abbottabad road due to the non-availability of development funds and the complainant's failure to submit a rejoinder.

The case was registered under Complaint No. PO/Complaint/6609/12/2025 following a complaint by Gulfriz Ahmed Awan, a resident of Abbottabad, who highlighted frequent traffic accidents allegedly caused by the absence of safety walls and road signboards.

During the inquiry, the Ombudsman Office sought a



response from the Executive Engineer of the Highway Division. The C&W Department subsequently submitted an engineering assessment stating that approximately Rs10 million would be required for construction of the safety walls, but no development funds were currently available for the project.

The Ombudsman Office forwarded the department's response to the complainant and directed him to submit a rejoinder. However, no response was received within the stipulated period.

In view of the lack of development funds and the complainant's failure to pursue the matter, the Provincial Ombudsman terminated further proceedings on August 4, 2026, and ordered the case file to be formally archived.

Masood Khan terms Makkah Pact a historic step towards collective deterrence, regional stability

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye is a historic development, said Sardar Masood Khan, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China and the United Nations, and former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir here on Tuesday.

In a statement issued here, he said the pact was a long-awaited collective defence mechanism for Muslim countries and a significant step towards strengthening regional deterrence and stability.

Khan said Muslim countries had aspired for decades to develop a collective defence mechanism but had been unable to translate that aspiration into a practical arrangement. He said the realisation of vulnerability intensified after Israel's attack on Palestinian negotiators in Doha last year, prompting Gulf countries to recognise the need for an effective deterrence capability.

He said the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in September 2025 subsequently served as the nucleus for the expansion of the mechanism, with Türkiye joining the pact this year while Egypt has also expressed interest in becoming part of it. Khan emphasised that the Makkah Pact should not be viewed as an attempt to disrupt the existing regional power structure or target any particular country. Rather, he said, its fundamental purpose was defensive with an objective to ensure that Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye are protected against aggression through collective deterrence. Masood Khan said the pact was not against any specific country and noted that the United States has



welcomed its establishment. He said the agreement sends a strong signal that aggression against any one of the three signatories would be viewed collectively, thereby strengthening deterrence.

He observed that the pact has emerged against the backdrop of continuing instability in Gaza, the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon, as well as the unresolved crisis surrounding the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab. These developments, he said, have created an urgent need for greater regional security and maritime stability. He further said the pact could potentially expand to include countries such as Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. Such expansion, he observed, could give the emerging security architecture a broader regional reach.

He stressed that the signatories do not seek an arms race. The principal objective, he said, is to strengthen deterrence while simultaneously investing political capital in diplomacy, preventing wars, averting escalation and resolving regional conflicts through peaceful means.

NA Committee on Privatization emphasises timely, effective implementation of its recommendations

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee of on Privatization Tuesday emphasized the need for timely and effective implementation of its recommendations and directed the concerned quarters to ensure the prompt provision of complete, accurate, and updated information, along with necessary follow-up action. The committee met here under the chairmanship of Muhammad Farooq Sattar, MNA and reviewed the imple-

mentation status of its previous recommendations and sought updates from the concerned ministry/departments, and organizations. The Committee was given a comprehensive briefing on the current status and proposed course of action regarding Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL). The Committee was informed that the Federal Cabinet had approved the inclusion of ZTBL in the Privatisation Programme (2024-29) on August 13, 2024, following which the Privatisation Commission Board classified ZTBL as a Major Privatisation and initiated the process for its privatization.

Abbasi, PM's Tourism Coordinator discuss ways to promote tourism through Railways

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday met Prime Minister's Adviser and National Coordinator for Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan and discussed measures to promote tourism through Pakistan Railways.

The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation between the railway and tourism sectors, improving travel facilities to tourist destinations and making the country's scenic and historic sites more accessible to domestic and foreign tourists through the railway net-

work, said a news release. The two leaders stressed the need for coordinated efforts and mutual cooperation to transform Pakistan's vast tourism potential into greater economic activity, employment opportunities and attractive destinations for local and international tourists. They also discussed ways to strengthen connectivity between major tourist destinations and the railway network to facilitate tourists and promote tourism across the country. The meeting underscored the importance of Pakistan Railways and the tourism sector as strong partners in promoting national development, connectivity and economic prosperity.

Daily

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Opinion

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Africa pays a high price for dollar dependence

HAFED AL-GHWELL

Governments across Africa are rightfully questioning the wisdom of anchoring their countries’ futures to the US dollar. The instinct grows from patterns that have shaped the continent’s financial stability, trade resilience, and growth prospects for decades.

A currency that once promised predictability now functions as a vehicle for volatility that African policymakers never signed up for. Each Federal Reserve rate hike, for instance, tightens African credit conditions as if Washington were running monetary policy for Nairobi, Accra, and Lusaka.

Dedollarization — reducing reliance on the US dollar for trade, reserves, and financial transactions — speaks to a desire for insulation, bargaining power, and policy autonomy in an era where external shocks arrive with unprecedented regularity.

While talked of dedollarization is not exactly new, it has gained traction in recent years, after several African currencies lost nearly half of their value against the dollar. Such depreciations erode tax bases, inflate debt

burdens, and push countries toward International Monetary Fund programs that come with significant political costs.

Moreover, roughly 70 percent of Africa’s external debt is dollar-denominated. As the dollar strengthens, debt service costs balloon without any new borrowing. In one year alone, African governments paid more than \$60 billion in interest on external debt, and a third of that stemmed from dollar appreciation rather than fundamentals.

A continent seeking structural transformation cannot tolerate a global monetary system that amplifies domestic vulnerabilities. Naturally, leaders see a mismatch: African economies are diversifying, yet currency arrangements still resemble the 1980s. The dollar’s dominance magnifies inflation pass-through because the region’s import dependence makes exchange rate shocks automatically inflationary even where fiscal discipline is relatively decent. Food imports alone cost Africa more than \$35 billion annually, so a stronger dollar can quickly turn a food security issue into a macroeconomic crisis.

Thus, the heightening pursuit of dedollari-

zation is an attempt to negotiate from a position of less fragility rather than an outright rejection of global markets. Consider this: When Kenya pays for imported crude in Kenyan shillings or when Nigeria explores yuan settlements for infrastructure deals, the goal is strategic hedging. Policymakers want to reduce single-currency exposure in the same way investors diversify portfolios. Russia’s removal from dollar-based clearing systems, for example, demonstrated how geopolitical tremors can easily spill into Africa’s trade channels even when the continent is not a party to any conflict. Some African governments are also reading the room. Global south partners, from Brazil to Indonesia, are experimenting with local currency settlement mechanisms. BRICS expansion invited African countries into a club openly discussing non-dollar settlement infrastructure.

Moreover, China accounts for more than a fifth of Africa’s trade, and yuan-denominated transactions are rising from a small baseline. The share is still marginal, yet the direction signals Africa’s turn toward a multipolar currency environment before one emerges fully

without them.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area adds another layer. A continent-wide free trade area needs frictionless payment channels to make intra-African commerce more attractive than sourcing from Europe or Asia. To date, roughly 15 percent of Africa’s trade is intracontinental. One reason is the cost and complexity of using a third currency for African-to-African trade. A Ghanaian processing firm buying Kenyan tea, for instance, often settles in dollars, even though neither economy uses the currency domestically. That situation makes African trade more expensive by an estimated \$5 billion annually in transaction and hedging costs.

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System, or PAPSS, launched with AfCFTA support, attempts to rewrite this by enabling instant cross-border settlements in local currencies. Dedollarization gives PAPSS a fighting chance. Without efforts to reduce dependence on the dollar, AfCFTA risks importing the very structural weaknesses it aims to correct. After all, regional supply chains cannot gain traction if currency swings routinely

erase profit margins. Clearing trade in local currencies might not be a silver bullet, but it is a meaningful step toward normalizing African-to-African transactions. However, skeptics point out that African currencies lack depth, stability, and convertibility, making rapid dedollarization risky. The statement is valid, but incomplete. African policymakers are not proposing to replace the dollar with a patchwork of volatile currencies overnight. Instead, they are reducing exposure in incremental steps: expanding swap lines, piloting common payment platforms, and signing bilateral agreements that allow settlement in mutually accepted currencies. Some argue that dedollarization could also alienate the US. However, a more resilient Africa ultimately aligns with US interests. Fragile currencies reduce Africa’s capacity to buy American goods, service American-held debt or collaborate in security partnerships. A region forever one shock away from default cannot be a reliable counterweight to growing external influence or as a steady partner in global governance.

— Arab news

Tripoli deserves better than its current leaders

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

A building collapse in Tripoli, Lebanon, last week killed 14 people. The building was in Bab Al-Tabbaneh, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Tripoli, which is in turn one of the poorest cities in Lebanon and even in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The fall of the building makes us ask the question: Why did this happen to these people? Many do not know the rich history of the precious city. Tripoli was once a capital of trade, culture, and art in the Ottoman Empire. Why this degeneration? And who is responsible?

The building collapse in Tripoli was not an accident, nor was it the first tragedy this year to take innocent lives. It was the predictable outcome of years of neglect by local authorities and successive governments. The dangers posed by these buildings are widely known, yet no preventive action has been taken. Lebanon has a proven record of corruption. Lebanese officials have always acted with impunity. Relying on the blind allegiance of their constituencies, the welfare of the people has never been their primary concern.

According to Raymond Mitri, an activist who heads Lebanon’s anticorruption task force: “The justice system also bears primary responsibility, as those in power have grown accustomed to acting with impunity.” He added: “This culture of no accountability has enabled repeated failures and avoidable deaths.” It is time for the prosecutor general to open a thorough investigation and hold the heads of the relevant authorities accountable for this week’s tragic incident. Without real consequences, this tragic pattern will continue and more lives will be lost.

The collapse of the building in Tripoli is the result of decades of negligence. It is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the city’s problems. I went to Tripoli a few years ago and I was shocked by the poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of employment. The city’s inhabitants face huge health risks because of unregulated trash dumps that also pollute the Mediterranean Sea. Tripoli mirrors the problems of Lebanon. In Tripoli, however, they are more concentrated and more severe. Historically, the city has not been lucky with its leadership. In fact, Lebanon as a whole has not been lucky with its political class, but Tripoli has suffered particularly badly. During the civil war,

various Islamist factions coalesced and created Harakat Al-Tawhid (the Islamic Unity Movement), which controlled the city. The state has been barely present. Each neighborhood has a “kabaday” (strongman) running the show. There is no real law enforcement in the city.

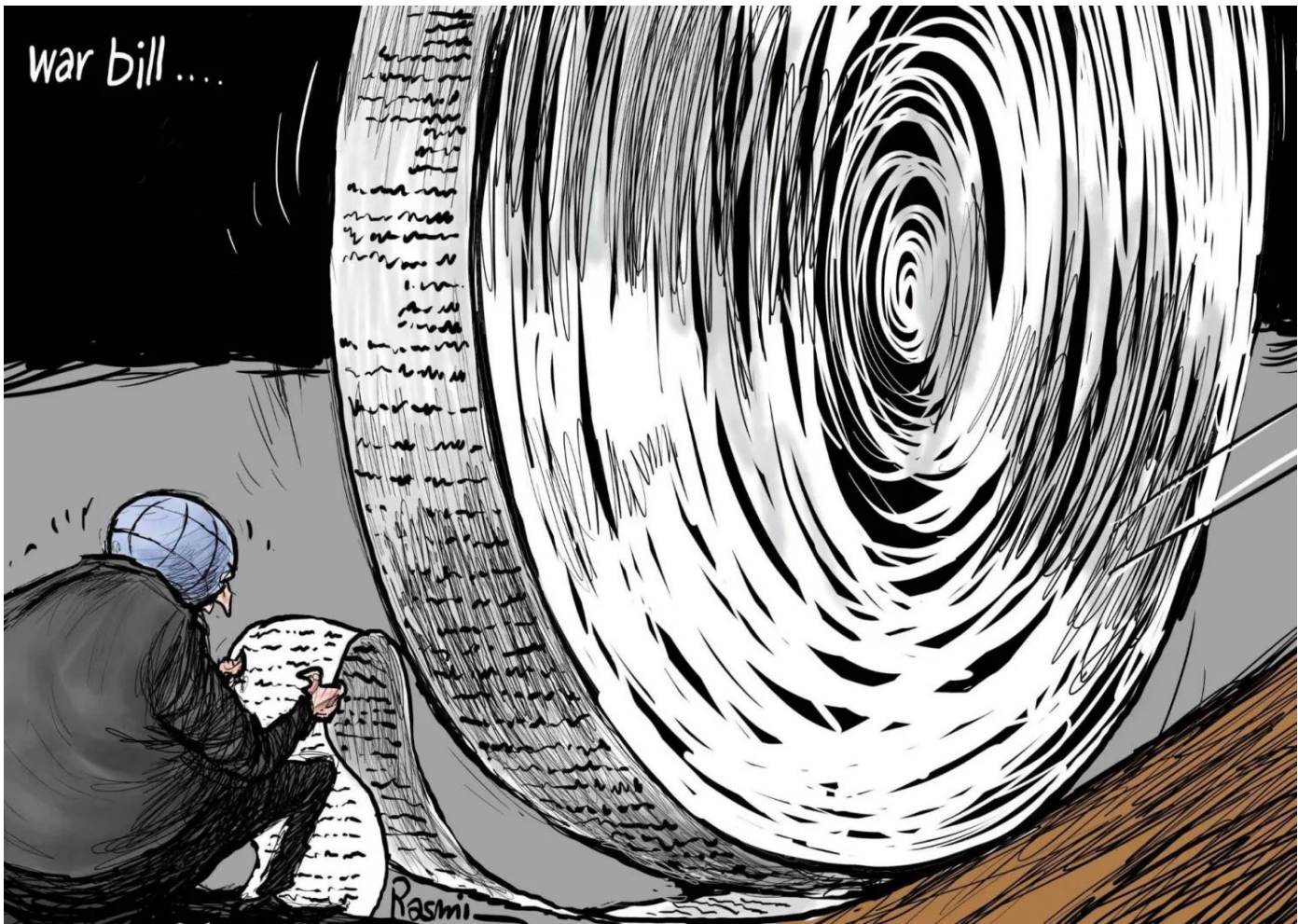
According to a lawyer friend of mine, the city is run by mafia-like organizations. The most important people are those who control the power generators. The generators’ owners divide the areas among themselves. Citizens of each neighborhood are thus compelled to buy electricity from the designated generator owner for that specific area. It is sad to see this historic city languishing. It is sad to see its historic monuments unattended. It is sad to see the kind, generous, and skilled people of Tripoli struggle with poverty and a lack of opportunity.

The irony is that Tripoli is home to some of the wealthiest people in Lebanon and even the entire Arab world. The political class is rich and prosperous and it surrounds itself with fences to protect itself from the ire of the people that it controls. According to Amine Bashir, a lawyer and political activist from Tripoli, members of the city’s traditional political class do not care about the people. On the contrary, it is in their interest to keep the people poor. The poorer they are, the cheaper it will be to buy their vote on election day. They use the people as an “election reservoir.”

At the end of the day, it is not only Tripoli in this situation. Unfortunately, the Lebanese political elite looks at the people as a means to control the country and its resources. The people are a ladder that will allow them to reach the summit of power. Following last week’s building collapse, the state sent the army to Tripoli to protect the politicians from the wrath of the people. This situation made me ask myself: When will the state use its capabilities to protect the people from the corruption of the political class?

Tripoli has suffered from negligence and impunity — this week’s tragedy is a warning that this needs to stop. The people in power need to be held accountable. The people of Tripoli deserve that. They need to rise and the system governing the city needs to fall. If the system does not fall, more buildings like the one in Bab Al-Tabbaneh will do so instead.

— Arab news



App-Based Attendance in Sindh : A New Burden for teacher

BY : Mansoor Nizamani
Teacher, Educational Researcher&
Columnist : Published by ANI

The Sindh government has launched a facial recognition attendance system called FRAMES (Facial Recognition Attendance Monitoring and Evaluation System) on a pilot basis from August 17, 2026, to make attendance monitoring of teachers and non-teaching staff more transparent and effective. Initially, the system has been introduced in six districts—Karachi East, Hyderabad, Naushahro Feroze, Jacobabad, Ghotki, and Umerkot—where the attendance of approximately 49,565 teaching and non-teaching staff members is being monitored. Following a successful pilot phase, the government plans to gradually expand the system to other districts of Sindh. The use of modern technology to monitor teachers’ attendance can be a positive step toward greater transparency and administrative efficiency. However, the success of any technology-based system depends on how effectively it works according to ground realities, available facilities, and the needs of its users. If the new system creates inconvenience instead of providing ease, its performance and implementation mechanism must be seriously reviewed.

In these districts, complaints regarding technical and administrative problems with app-based attendance are emerging from teachers on social media, in print media, and on electronic media. In some places, teachers are facing difficulties logging into the app; in others, the server is busy or fails to respond. There are also complaints about location verification, while in some cases attendance does not appear to be updated even after it has been submitted. Weak internet connectivity and poor mobile signals are further complicating the situation. As a result, teachers are spending valuable time dealing with attendance-related problems after

reaching school and are becoming unnecessarily anxious about their attendance because of technical glitches in the app.

The fundamental question is: Why is a teacher in school? The teacher’s primary responsibility is to teach students, train and guide them, prepare lessons, manage the classroom, and focus on the educational needs of children. Ensuring attendance is certainly important, but the attendance system should be designed in a way that does not interfere with the teaching process. If teachers begin spending their time dealing with mobile phones, internet connectivity, location verification, and server-related problems, the direct impact will eventually be felt in classrooms and on students’ learning.

The reality is that many schools in Sindh are located far from urban centres, in rural areas and remote regions. Internet speed, mobile signals, and electricity supplies are not equally available in all these areas. If online attendance is made mandatory in such an environment, the government also has a responsibility to provide alternative arrangements. A lack of network connectivity or a server failure should not automatically be treated as teacher negligence. The purpose of an attendance system should not be to punish teachers or keep them under constant surveillance; rather, it should ensure regularity and administrative transparency in schools. If a system creates fear instead of confidence, it is natural for questions to be raised about it. Teachers should feel that technology is being used to make their work easier, not to create a new daily source of stress.

A better solution would be for the Sindh government to conduct a comprehensive technical review of the app and the new facial recognition system, identify its weaknesses, and make the system more effective. Before implementing such a system on a large scale, it should be tested through pilot projects in urban, rural,

and remote areas. The problems identified during these trials should be addressed before full-scale implementation. At the same time, every district should have a dedicated help desk or responsible technical team capable of resolving teachers’ complaints promptly.

Rejecting technology is not the solution. Many developed countries around the world are benefiting from modern technology in education as well as in other government systems. Digital attendance, online records, and automated data management can play an important role in improving administrative transparency. However, a successful digital system does not come into existence merely by developing an app or software. It also requires reliable servers, dependable internet connectivity, technical support, trained personnel, and an effective mechanism for the immediate resolution of complaints.

It can be argued that an app or facial recognition system can be beneficial to education if it saves teachers’ time, makes attendance records transparent, and simplifies administrative procedures. But if the same technology keeps teachers occupied with server failures, location verification, login problems, and other technical difficulties, its direct impact will ultimately be felt in children’s education. This cannot be acceptable under any circumstances. Therefore, the Sindh government should improve the attendance system on the basis of practical experience, teachers’ feedback, and ground realities rather than turning the issue into a matter of prestige. Technology should be used to strengthen education, not to create unnecessary difficulties for teachers. After all, a teacher’s time is ultimately an investment in the future of students. The slogan “A Literate Sindh, a Progressive Sindh” can become a reality only when teachers are provided with a conducive environment to teach and children are given the opportunity to learn.

— Arab news

Starmer is learning the lessons of politics the hard way

YOSSI MEKELBERG

Few could have foreseen that merely 17 months after Keir Starmer led the Labour Party to victory in the UK general election, winning a 174-seat majority in Parliament, that he would find himself fighting for his job.

While the British prime minister must take much of the blame for being in this situation — and in his defense, he does admit responsibility — the underlying difficulties of UK politics and society go far beyond one leader’s shortcomings. The country has had six prime ministers in the past decade, which is hardly a sign of a functioning political system. Part of the predicament that Starmer finds himself in is how he sees his role; part of it has to do with the way British politics is conducted; and, more generally, the unforgiving nature of modern politics, which in an age of instant communication, constant scrutiny, and unbearable impatience, means that governments can be judged too harshly and too quickly.

The latest storm that threatens to unseat the current British prime minister is not unjustified, as his decision to appoint Peter Mandelson as ambassador in Washington was a total lapse of judgment. There was never any doubt that Mandelson’s political skills and wealth of experience in government, including on the international stage, would stand him in good stead in dealing with a major and challenging ally. Yet this was also someone who was nicknamed the “Prince of Darkness.” He was also one of the original spin doctors in British politics, and was twice forced to resign from government for failing to live up to the ethical standards of public life.

For a prime minister whose election campaign relied heavily on a promise to rid the country of years of Conservative sleaze, appointing Mandelson was extremely unwise. The resignation of Starmer’s chief of staff, Morgan McSweeney, the mastermind behind Mandelson’s appointment, has given the prime minister breathing space. Yet, in the

fast-paced world of modern politics, he still might be only a misstep or two away from losing his job. With Labour lagging far behind Reform in the polls and only just edging the even less popular Conservatives, and the prime minister’s approval ratings plummeting, he has his work cut out to convince the electorate that they should still trust him as leader. In the short term, he must convince those Labour MPs who can decide his future almost instantly.

It is a truism that nothing genuinely prepares a person for the most powerful job in the country, a position that depends on learning extremely fast, a strong sense of direction and values, and healthy political instincts. Winning an unassailable election victory should have given Starmer the self-belief and confidence to go against his cautious nature.

For many Labour MPs, more than half of whom have been elected for the first time, the impressive showing at the ballot box created the expectation of a radical Labour agenda — not unreasonable in light of voters comprehensively rejecting the legacy of the Conservatives’ 14 years in power. Moreover, for the more left-leaning of the Labour Party, Starmer and his policies were too middle-of-the-road to begin with, and he was not their first choice to lead the party, let alone the country. However, Labour’s decisive victory left them with little ammunition to criticize those who masterminded it, including their ideological arch-nemesis McSweeney. Yet they still held high expectations for a new, radical agenda, only to be disappointed or, possibly, to have their suspicions confirmed.

To be sure, successive Conservative governments left a difficult legacy, with deep divisions over Brexit and immigration, underinvestment in public services, and a rocketing cost of living. For the new government and its leader it has not been enough to blame their predecessors for all the country’s ills; they needed to make an immediate impact while incorporating changes into their long-term strategies.

— Arab news

Jordan’s growing role in Turkish foreign policy

DR. SINEM CENGIZ

Turkiye and Jordan were significantly affected by the Syrian civil war that lasted more than a decade. Now, with the collapse of the Bashar Assad regime in December 2024, a new dynamic has emerged along Türkiye’s southern and Jordan’s northern borders — one that calls for closer coordination between the two states.

Jordan, a relatively small state known for its neutral regional policy, has not traditionally occupied a prominent place in Turkish foreign policy. But its geopolitical importance is far too significant to neglect. It has crucial potential when it comes to countering shared regional security challenges. Recent high-level meetings between Ankara and Amman, therefore, merit a closer look to better understand the possibility for Turkish-Jordanian cooperation.

Jordan’s King Abdullah paid an official visit to Türkiye last week at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who received him at the Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul. King Abdullah’s last visit to Türkiye took place in February 2019. Back then, the regional picture looked very different. Now, the region has been reshaped by a series of major events — from the Oct. 7 attacks to the Iran-Israel war and the fall of the Assad regime — that have fundamentally shifted the political and security dynamics surrounding these two countries.

With the fall of the Assad regime, Jordan has emerged as a key partner in Türkiye’s regional policy, particularly regarding Syria and Gaza. For Türkiye, Jordan represents both a stabilizing actor on its southern periphery and a practical partner in managing the post-Assad regional order. Amman and Ankara have found themselves on the same page in regard to regional crises. Jordan therefore became part of a regional cooperation mechanism established between Türkiye, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, which is aimed at coordinating responses to shared security challenges. Amman has hosted high-level regional security meetings led by Türkiye, bringing together foreign ministers, defense ministers and intelligence chiefs to discuss counterterrorism efforts and broader regional threats. It was through Jordanian-Turkish cooperation that a joint mission to support Syria’s fight against terrorist organizations, particularly Daesh, was established. At the request of the new leadership in Syria, this joint mission was set up to operate in Damascus, marking a concrete step toward institutionalized regional security cooperation. Jordan and Türkiye are also part of US President Donald Trump’s Board of Peace, further highlighting their shared role in the Gaza peace process. In their joint statement, King Abdullah and Erdogan underscored the importance of preserving the territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity of all regional states.

— Arab news

PPP’s Khairpur Victory Reflects People’s Continued Trust in Bhutto’s Democratic Vision: Sumblina Hassan

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LONDON -- The recent victory of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the PS-30 Khairpur-V by-election reflects the continued confidence of the people in the party’s democratic vision and political legacy, said Sumblina Hassan, former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and In-Charge, UK Office 10, RCC Bilawal House.

Commenting on the PPP’s victory in Khairpur, Sumblina Hassan said that the result was an encouraging development for the party and demonstrated the importance of remaining connected with the people at the grass-roots level.

She congratulated PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the party leadership, workers and supporters on the electoral success and said that the PPP’s political journey had always been rooted in democracy, public service and the struggle for the rights of ordinary Pakistanis.

“The Pakistan Peoples Party carries a historic democratic legacy. From Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and now the younger generation of



leadership, the party has continued to represent the aspirations of the people,” she said.

Sumblina Hassan said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had dedicated her life to strengthening democracy, empowering women and giving ordinary citizens a stronger voice in the political process. Her vision, she added, remained relevant for Pakistan, particularly at a time when the country needed political stability, democratic continuity and inclusive development.

She said that the PPP’s success in Khairpur should be viewed not merely as an electoral victory but as an opportunity for the party to further strengthen its engagement with the people and address their concerns.

“The real strength of any political party lies in its workers and its rela-

tionship with the people. The PPP must continue to listen to the public, particularly young people, women and communities facing economic and social challenges,” Hassan said.

She also appreciated the efforts of PPP workers and local leadership for their role in the Khairpur by-election and expressed confidence that the party would continue to work for democratic values and public welfare.

The PPP candidate Barrister Asfandiyar Khan Kharal won the PS-30 Khairpur-V by-election with 48,986 votes, enabling the party to retain the Sindh Assembly seat. The Election Commission reported voter turnout at 20.53 percent.

Sumblina Hassan said that the future of Pakistan depended on strengthening democratic institutions, promoting political tolerance and ensuring that the voices of citizens remained at the centre of national policymaking.

She expressed hope that the PPP leadership would continue to carry forward the democratic and progressive political ideals associated with the Bhutto legacy and work towards a more prosperous, peaceful and democratic Pakistan.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Commends Security Forces for Successful Anti-Terror Operations in Balochistan

Reporter :ANI :

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has praised the security forces for successfully eliminating more than nine terrorists during operations in Ziarat, Harnai and Surab, Balochistan.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the successful operations by security forces in Balochistan were highly commendable and had foiled the nefarious designs of terrorists.

He said the unwavering resolve of



the nation and security forces to completely eradicate terrorism was highly appreciable. He added that the nation stands firmly alongside the security forces in the fight against terrorism.

The Speaker said the sacrifices of security forces for peace and stability in Balochistan would never be forgotten, while their successes in the war against terrorism were encouraging.

He stressed that the complete elimination of terrorists was essential for establishing lasting peace and stability in Balochistan.

Government Prepares to Import One Million Metric Tons of Wheat

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee on wheat imports.

The meeting reviewed wheat import requirements submitted by the provinces, following which the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) was tasked with initiating preparations for the import of one million metric tons of wheat.



Ishaq Dar said the government remains committed to supporting provinces in ensuring adequate supplies and stable prices of essential commodities, including wheat.

He directed that the entire import process be carried out transparently and in close coordination with all provinces.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers, senior officials and representatives of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Barrister Gohar Plays Key Role in PTI Founder’s Proposed Transfer to Shifa Hospital

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar has played an important role in the proposed transfer of PTI founder Imran Khan from jail to Shifa International Hospital, sources said. According to sources, Barrister Gohar held meetings with important personalities a few days ago and assured them that the PTI founder would refrain from political activities following his transfer. The matter was reportedly settled on the understanding that he would not engage in political activities.

Sources said the PTI founder would initially be transferred to the hospital, while a second-phase transfer to Bani Gala is also being considered.



Police and the district administration have been mobilised in view of the proposed transfer. An important meeting has also been convened at the Ministry of Interior to review security arrangements.

According to sources, foolproof security will be ensured during the

transfer. Police and district administration authorities have been directed to prepare a comprehensive security plan.

Special security arrangements will be made along the transfer route, while additional security will also be deployed around Shifa International Hospital. Entry of unrelated persons will be restricted during the transfer.

Security agencies have been directed to remain on high alert in view of possible security threats. Additional police personnel may also be deployed for the transfer.

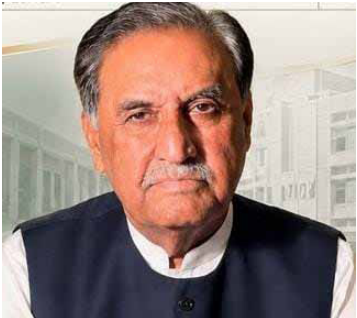
Consultations between district administration and police authorities regarding the security plan are underway. Sources said all relevant stakeholders will be taken into confidence regarding the transfer.

15-Member Technical Working Group Formed to Control HIV and Hepatitis C

BY: ANI Correspondent:

JHELUM -- On the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Ministry of National Health has established a technical working group to strengthen efforts to control HIV and Hepatitis C in the country.

Punjab Health Advisor Major General (retd) Dr Azhar Mahmood Kayani has been appointed Convener of the 15-member working group, while Director General Health Dr



Abdul Wali Khan will serve as its member and secretary.

The group includes health experts from across the country specialising in infectious diseases, epidemiology, hepatology, blood safety and pathology.

The working group will provide technical recommendations and proposals to the government to improve the effectiveness of national programmes for the prevention and control of HIV and Hepatitis C.

HEC Launches Three-Day Workshop to Strengthen University Leadership

BY : Hurish Shah/ FT :

ISLAMABAD-- The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, has launched a three-day workshop titled “Strategic Planning and Leadership Excellence” to strengthen the leadership and management capacity of senior university officials.

The workshop at the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) brings together Vice Chancellors, Pro-Vice Chancellors, senior Deans and statutory heads of public sector universities from AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, along with women universities from KP and the Rawalpindi region.

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. She stressed the crucial role of university leaders in higher education reforms, institutional development and preparing



youth for modern global requirements.

Wajiha Qamar called for stronger industry-academia linkages, practical training for students and greater focus on skills, technology and innovation. She also urged universities to identify emerging challenges and propose practical solutions.

NAHE Managing Director Dr Noor Amna Malik said the workshop provides university leaders with an opportunity to engage with experts

and share experiences on key issues facing the higher education sector.

Participants discussed university autonomy, resource sharing, financial sustainability, recurring grants and the need for greater public investment in higher education. The three-day workshop will cover strategic planning, university governance, resource mobilisation, financial management, performance management and the strategic use of artificial intelligence in higher education.

Reporter : ANI

WASHINGTON --- A delegation of Pakistani business and trade leaders called on Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C.

The delegation included Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman FPCCI Pak-USA Business Council and President Hafizabad Chamber of Commerce; Mr Saddique Sheikh, Chairman and Founder President of the US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce; Farooq Mirza of 4th Pillar USA; and Mr Talib Hussain, Executive Member of the Pharmaceutical Association of Pakistan.

The meeting discussed ways to promote trade and investment between Pakistan and the United States, expand business-to-business



cooperation and explore new economic opportunities.

The participants emphasised the

need for joint efforts to further strengthen economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Floods Cause Widespread Damage in Chitral, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan Urged

Report: ANI

CHITRAL -- Flash floods and severe flooding in the Chitral River during July and August have caused widespread damage across several villages and valleys in Upper and Lower Chitral.

Private houses, roads, bridges, agricultural land, orchards, drinking water systems and irrigation infrastructure have been badly affected, while dozens of families have been displaced and are awaiting adequate

assistance for rehabilitation.

Although district administrations and relevant departments have restored some damaged facilities with available resources, the scale of destruction requires a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction programme beyond routine relief efforts.

According to sources, no comprehensive rehabilitation plan or sufficient funds for large-scale reconstruction have so far been allocated. Limited activity by NGOs has also

been reported in the affected areas.

Local residents and community representatives have urged the federal and provincial governments to immediately assess the losses, release emergency funds and provide financial assistance to affected families.

They also expressed concern that the approaching winter and snowfall could further delay rehabilitation efforts and called for damaged infrastructure to be permanently restored before harsh weather conditions begin.

Timely Vaccination and Treatment of Livestock Among Department’s Top Priorities: Dr Abdul Naeem Khosa

BY: ANI

SIBI -- Deputy Director Livestock and Research Dr Abdul Naeem Khosa has said that timely and quality vaccination, provision of veterinary treatment facilities and modernisation of the livestock sector are among the department’s top priorities.

He said the livestock sector plays a vital role in Balochistan’s rural econ-

omy and provides livelihoods to thousands of families. Therefore, maximum facilities should be provided to livestock farmers and effective measures taken to protect animals from diseases.

Dr Abdul Naeem Khosa said improved animal health would increase meat and milk production, providing quality food to the public while also improving the income of livestock farmers.

He directed field staff to ensure their presence in rural areas and provide livestock farmers with treatment, vaccination and necessary guidance.

He also urged livestock farmers to maintain proper animal health and hygiene and immediately contact the relevant Livestock Department staff if any signs of disease appear, so that timely diagnosis and treatment can prevent further spread

GB Assembly Speaker Imran Nadeem Shigri Visits APHC Office in Islamabad

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Speaker Imran Nadeem Shigri visited the Islamabad office of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), where he was welcomed by APHC Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi and other Hurriyat leaders.

The meeting discussed the latest situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and matters of mutual interest. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continued political, diplomatic and public efforts for a peaceful and just resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

APHC Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi highlighted the historic, geographical and cultural ties



between the people of Gilgit-Baltistan and Jammu and Kashmir. He also appreciated the Kashmir Solidarity Resolution unanimously passed by the GB Assembly on August 5, 2026.

Speaker Imran Nadeem Shigri said the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are fully aware of the history and sensitivities

of the Kashmir dispute and reaffirmed their continued support for the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination.

The meeting agreed to further strengthen joint political, diplomatic and public efforts for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Education is Sadqah-e-Jariya” Sayeeda Leghari and EFS Lead Educational Renaissance in Sindh

Reporter : ANI

KARACHI -- The Education Foundation Sindh (EFS) marked Independence Day with a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Government Boys and Girls Primary and Secondary School, Shireen Jinnah Colony Campus, highlighting efforts to expand access to quality education. The event also recognised the philanthropic contribution of Sayeeda Leghari, CEO of Sukkur Beverages and adoptive benefactor of the school campus. Speaking on the occasion, she described providing education to children as “Sadqah-e-Jariya” (everlasting charity).

Over the past 18 years, her support has helped provide more than 3,000 boys and girls with free education from kindergarten to matriculation, including tuition, textbooks, station-



ery, uniforms and dedicated learning facilities. Managing Director EFS Ghanwar Ali Leghari praised Sayeeda Leghari’s continued commitment to education and highlighted the foundation’s expanding role in the province. According to EFS, the foundation supports more than 3,000 government and private schools across Sindh, benefiting over one million students. It also employs around 30,000 teachers, including

20,000 women, and provides educational opportunities to female and minority students. The foundation has also awarded more than 4,000 full scholarships, along with hostel facilities, meals, uniforms, books and transportation support to deserving students.

The Independence Day ceremony concluded with flag hoisting, cultural performances by students and refreshments.