

Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
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Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 339 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Thursday August 20 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

Govt cuts diesel price by Rs32.63, raises petrol by Rs2.97 for Aug 20



ANI

The federal government on Wednesday decreased the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs32.63 while increasing the price of petrol by Rs2.97 per litre for Aug 20. According to a notification issued by the Petroleum Division, the price of petrol has been fixed at Rs337.51 per litre, while HSD will cost Rs363.06 per litre after the reduction.

The latest revision came hours after Petroleum Minister Ali Perviz Malik said refineries had accepted the government's request for a significant reduction in diesel prices and that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) would announce a cut of around Rs30-32 per litre after com-

pleting its calculations.

"The refineries have accepted the government's request and decided to make a significant reduction in diesel prices. You will see a significant reduction of Rs30-32 within the next few moments, which OGRA will announce after completing its calculations," said Malik while addressing a press conference alongside Information Minister Attaullah Tarar. Malik said the government was fully aware of the difficulties and hardships being faced by people because of the war and was making every possible effort within its limited resources to ease their burden.

He said the prime minister had directed the government to undertake whatever efforts it could within

its limited resources to ease these difficulties. "Despite being under the IMF programme, the government has used more than Rs100 billion to shield the people from these difficulties. Consultations were held with the provincial governments and, in addition, you have seen the rollout of targeted subsidies," he said, referring to the measures taken by the government since the beginning of the war in the Middle East. He assured the public that the difficult period would eventually end and said the government would make full use of whatever fiscal space was available to ensure supplies and provide relief to the people. Malik also referred to the rising price of diesel around the world, saying the crack margin — the difference

between the price of refined products and crude oil — for diesel had once again reached \$60-70. He said the war situation in Russia had also made diesel availability difficult there, adding that even a country that produced its own oil was facing problems. The minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had personally requested the refineries to provide relief in view of the difficulties being faced by the people.

While defending the continued increase in prices, Malik said the government had not abandoned the people, adding that Ogra was a state institution whose primary objective was to ensure public protection while also meeting the government's legitimate requirements.

Zardari Vows to Defeat Terrorists Hindering Balochistan's Development



ANI

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said attempts by "terrorists operating with foreign support" to hinder Balochistan's development would be defeated "at all costs", the President's Office said.

Speaking during a meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Zardari said the government would not allow terrorism to obstruct the province's progress. "The day is not far when terrorism will be completely eradicated from Balochistan," he said. Zardari stressed that effective coordination between the federal and provincial governments was essential for "peace, development and public welfare" in Balochistan. He said Balochistan, "Pakistan's largest province by area", deserved special attention and resources. The president was briefed on the overall situation in Balochistan and ongoing development initiatives, the President's Office added. PPP Women's Wing President Faryal Talpur and former Balochistan minister Mir Ali Hassan Zehri also attended the meeting. The meeting comes amid a spate of attacks across Balochistan in recent weeks. On July 28, three people, including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Murid Bugti, were killed in Barkhan district. The same night, armed men blocked the N-40 highway at Padag in Chagai district, opened fire near a roadside hotel, injured a truck driver, and set five trailers and two gas bowlers ablaze.

The violence followed another high-pro-

file attack on July 23, when District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar and his security guard were killed after unidentified gunmen opened fire on their vehicle on the national highway in Mastung. Additional Sessions Judge Tariq Lashari and another passenger were seriously injured in the attack.

Earlier, on July 12, five labourers from Punjab were shot dead in Mashkail, Washuk district. According to Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind, the victims were working at local shops when unidentified armed men stormed the area and opened indiscriminate fire, killing all five before fleeing.

Terrorism has significantly increased in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, in recent days. The rise in terrorist activity has led to growing concerns over the security situation in these regions. In response, security forces have been conducting intensive operations to counter the threat, targeting terrorist groups.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in a report released in February, also drew attention to a series of attacks by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) against Pakistani security forces and projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"On September 16, 2025, the BLA ambushed a Pakistani military convoy patrolling the corridor, killing 32 troops. While counter-terrorism operations by Pakistan restricted the BLA's operational space, it remained active".

Turkish counterpart invites FM Dar to Regional 4 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul



ANI

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has invited Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar to attend the upcoming Regional 4 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul later this month, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Wednesday. According to a post on X, "FM Fidan invited FM Dar to attend the upcoming Regional 4 Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to be held in Istanbul later this month." "FM Dar accepted the invitation and confirmed his participation in the meeting," the ministry added.

The ministry said Dar and his Turkish counterpart also discussed recent regional developments and efforts to promote peace and stability during a telephone conversation.

This is the second phone call between the two counterparts this week. On Sunday night, the two foreign ministers held a telephonic conversation, discussing recent regional developments and reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening cooperation on matters of mutual interest. The call came as Islamabad continues to engage with

regional and international officials amid the ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran, during which Islamabad has emerged as a key mediator.

Last week, FM Dar met US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker, United Kingdom High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong, and Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Sweden Ahmed Amjad Ali. During his meetings with the officials, the foreign minister exchanged views regarding recent regional developments.

He stressed that the implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, in letter and spirit, was the only way forward, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and security. FM Dar also held a joint press briefing with his Norwegian counterpart Espen Barth Eide, with the latter commending Pakistan's "important and constructive role" during the US-Iran conflict, including the leadership and contributions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Dar and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, during delegation-level talks in Islamabad. Eide added that Islamabad had taken on a "massive task" by offering not only as the venue but also as the facilitator of negotiations between Washington and Tehran. "What you personally, but also your prime minister, the field marshal, that you have been doing is really a service to the world, and hence also to us," he said during the press briefing. The Norwegian foreign minister also noted that he wanted to "reiterate again strong support for the very important role that Pakistan has taken" since the conflict began on February 28. The meetings came after the signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on August 7.

UN Resident, Humanitarian Coordinator pays a farewell call on PM

ANI

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Mohamed Yahya, Wednesday, paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The prime minister thanked Yahya for his valuable contribution to strengthening Pakistan-UN cooperation during his tenure, and for the UN Country Team's continued support to Pakistan's development and humanitarian priorities, including climate resilience, sustainable development, and disaster response.

He recalled with appreciation the UN's role in mobilizing international support for Pakistan, particularly during the 2022 floods.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi and other senior gov-



ernment officials were also present during the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister congratulated Yahya on his appointment as Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator at the UN Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), describing it as a fitting recognition of his experience and commitment.

He wished him continued success in his new assignment and expressed confidence that Pakistan's close partnership with the UN would continue to grow.

Pakistan extends ban on Indian aircraft using airspace until September 24

ANI

LAHORE: Pakistan on Wednesday extended its closure of airspace to India for another month, with the restriction remaining in place until September 24, according to a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA). The restriction applies to all civil and military aircraft of Indian-registered airlines, the notice says. The authority added that under the extended restriction, no Indian-registered aircraft can use Pakistan's airspace, even if the aircraft has been taken on lease. Earlier, the PAA extended the restriction on Indian aircraft using its airspace until August 24, and before that, until June 24, May 24, April 24, and March 23. Pakistan has kept its airspace closed to Indian aircraft since April 2025, when tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi sharply escalated after an attack in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgal. The attack killed 26 people, India immediately blaming Pakistan for the incident.

Pakistan protests US ambassador in India's 'irresponsible' Kashmir remarks

ANI

The Foreign Office on Wednesday summoned the US Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a strong demarche over remarks by the US Ambassador to India concerning the status of Kashmir during his visit to Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, who visited the occupied region today, called IIOJK "an important part of India", despite Kashmir being an internationally recognised disputed territory under international law. In a statement, the FO strongly condemned and categorically rejected the characterisa-



tion of IIOJK as a "part of India". The FO spokesperson said that it was underscored that the IIOJK is an internationally recognised disputed territory, awaiting final disposition in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolu-

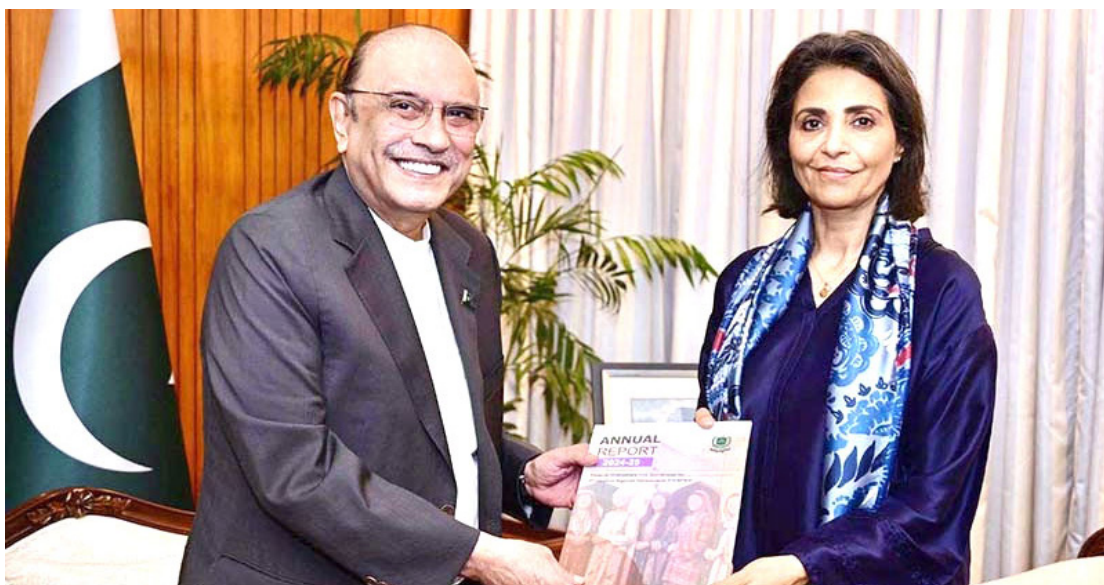
tions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. "It was highlighted that the irresponsible statement by the US ambassador negated the longstanding and well-documented position of the US on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and also ran contrary to the US's commitment to supremacy of international law and the UN Charter," read the statement. While appreciating President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute in the aftermath of Marka-e-Haq, the spokesperson said that the US side was urged to ensure that its public statements remain consistent with the disputed status of the IIOJK.

Bilawal Rules Out PPP Support for Govt Bills Over Grievances

ANI

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday ruled out support for the government's proposed legislation in the Senate and National Assembly (NA), saying no party member would vote on bills until the PPP's unresolved grievances were addressed. "Our grievances have not been addressed, which is why no member of my party will vote for their proposed legislation, whether in the Senate or National Assembly. If they have the numbers to pass their legislation without the support of the PPP, they are free to do so in a democracy," said Bilawal while addressing a press conference at Parliament House. He also warned that the party would withdraw its support for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led government until its concerns over the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections were addressed. "My party has decided

that there will be no cooperation with the PML-N in coordination and legislation until the reservations are removed," Bilawal stated. He said that it would be "difficult for me and my party to sit down and cooperate with the PML-N if we are not given justice", also noting that the PML-N has not even tried to "address our objections about the fairness of the election process in AJK" and that "we will therefore sit in the opposition in the Kashmir assembly and the PML-N can form the government". Bilawal said that there could be many dangers to parliament, one of which was that those sitting in parliament do not uphold its dignity, saying that opposition parties were "distancing themselves from the democratic process and this should be reversed". He requested the leaders of the opposition in the parliament to play an active role by joining the parliamentary committees and increasing communication regarding legislation in parliament.



President Asif Ali Zardari receiving the Annual Report 2025 of the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAH) from Ombudsperson Ms. Fauzia Viqar at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Punjab Police, Goods Transporters Agree on Joint Action Plan to Address Transporters’ Issues

By: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE -- A delegation of Goods and Transport Associations of Punjab and Sindh met Additional IG Operations Asim Gulzar and senior police officers at the Central Police Office Lahore to discuss transporters’ concerns, traffic rules and road safety.

Punjab Police and transporters agreed on a joint action plan to resolve their issues through mutual consultation. Police officials welcomed the decision by transport organizations to postpone their strike.

Additional IG Operations Asim Gulzar said committees were being formed to address legitimate concerns of the transport community. He said joint awareness sessions would also be held to educate drivers about road safety and traffic regulations.

Asim Gulzar said there would be no compromise on the protection of



human lives and action against traffic violations would continue.

DIG Traffic Punjab Waqas Nazir said measures were being taken to prevent unnecessary FIRs, challans and fines against transporters. He also announced that steps were being taken to facilitate heavy vehicle drivers in obtaining HTV licences.

DIG PHP Faisal Ali Raja said violations including overtaking, overloading, speeding and wrong parking by dumper drivers were major causes of accidents.

The meeting was attended by senior traffic and police officers and representatives of major goods transport associations.

Citizens Praise Balochistan Constabulary for Maintaining Peace and Security in Sibi

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SIBI --Personnel of the Balochistan Constabulary are performing their duties alongside the district police to maintain law and order, protect the lives and property of citizens and prevent crime in the city.

Residents of Sibi have appreciated the services and commendable performance of the Balochistan Constabulary personnel, paying tribute to their dedication and courage.

According to local residents, the Balochistan Constabulary plays an important role in maintaining peace and security in various sensitive districts of the province. In Sibi, its personnel are deployed at different locations alongside the district police to protect citizens and maintain law and order.

Citizens said that under the leadership of Balochistan Constabulary Sibi Zone Zonal Commander Sher Zaman Khilji, the personnel are performing their duties with discipline, responsibility and professionalism.

The personnel are deployed at



important locations, entry and exit points and sensitive areas, while also working closely with the district police to monitor the activities of criminal elements and prevent crime. Residents said the Balochistan Constabulary is also performing its responsibilities for the protection of lives and property and restoration of peace in Sibi, Kachhi, Nasirabad, Dera Bugti and other parts of the province.

They said that despite difficult and challenging circumstances, the personnel continue to perform their duties round the clock for the protection of the public.

Local citizens said maintaining peace and law and order is a fundamental requirement of any society, while the services and sacrifices of police and other law enforcement agencies are highly commendable.

Residents expressed appreciation for the performance of Zonal Commander Sher Zaman Khilji and Balochistan Constabulary personnel and expressed hope that the force would continue working in coordination with the district police to maintain peace and protect the lives and property of citizens.

Muree: Residents of Ghalahra Face Hardship Due to Lack of Road Infrastructure

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE -- The historic settlement of Ghalahra in New Muree continues to remain deprived of a basic road facility. In Union Council Charahan, the road from Government Boys Primary School Ghalahra to Al-Habib Mosque, Lower Ghalahra, is in a severely dilapidated condition, causing serious difficulties for local residents.

According to local residents, on July 18, 1988, the then Chairman of the Union Council, the late Raja Muhammad Irshad, released funds for the construction of the road.



Following this, residents constructed a dirt road on a self-help basis. However, in 2018, only 200 meters of the road was constructed, while sub-standard pipeline work further dam-

aged the route.

Residents say that due to the poor condition of the road, children are forced to walk, while patients have to be carried on chairs or charpoy to the main road. Elderly people also face difficulties reaching the mosque, particularly for Friday prayers.

The residents have appealed to the concerned authorities and elected representatives to immediately approve and begin construction of a paved road from the Government Boys Primary School to Al-Habib Mosque, so that the hardships faced by the local population can be brought to an end.

Water Security Linked to Pakistan’s Food, Economic and National Security: Speaker Ayaz Sadiq



BY: Hurish Shah/ FT

ISLAMABAD --National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said water security is directly linked to Pakistan’s food security, economic stability and national security, stressing the need for a long-term national strategy to address the country’s growing water challenges.

Addressing a parliamentary seminar on water governance at Parliament House, Ayaz Sadiq said water was no longer merely a sectoral issue but had become a critical national security matter. He called for political consensus and said water was a national issue beyond political differences.

The Speaker urged federal and provincial governments to prior-

itize water harvesting, recycling systems, reservoirs and small dams, while emphasizing better coordination between the Centre and provinces.

He also called for effective implementation of the National Water Policy, transparent use of funds for water projects, modern technology, reduction of water wastage and restoration of groundwater resources.

Ayaz Sadiq criticized India’s suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, describing it as a violation of international law and stressing the need for Pakistan to develop sustainable solutions and strengthen its water-storage capacity.

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan had not built a new water reservoir in the last 50 years and stressed the need

to increase existing storage capacity and construct new reservoirs amid climate change and growing water scarcity.

Ahsan Iqbal also described India’s unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty as water weaponization and called for stronger infrastructure to protect Pakistan’s water security.

Convenor of the Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs Shaista Pervaiz emphasized that water security involved not only availability but also sustainable use and effective management of water resources.

The seminar was attended by parliamentarians, senior government officials and representatives of international organizations, including the UNDP, World Bank, WaterAid, UNICEF and IWMI.

Google Pakistan office to strengthen tech talent pipeline, local ecosystem: Shaza

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said the opening of Google’s first office in Pakistan would strengthen the country’s talent pipeline and provide further support to the local technology ecosystem.

Talking to the media, she said, “I

hoped the office would support Pakistan’s talent pipeline and strengthen both the global technology sector and the local domestic ecosystem. She said the presence of Google and other major international technology companies in Pakistan would encourage more global firms to establish operations in the country. The minister said the arrival of major technology companies and their physical presence in

Pakistan reflected global tech firms’ confidence in the country’s economy and leadership. She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had personally led the digital transformation agenda over the past two years and provided a roadmap through the Digital Nation Pakistan initiative. “Over the last two years, we have seen the digitisation of the federal government, including work on the FBR and revenue side.

Sadiq to set aside political differences to build national consensus on water issues

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday stressed that the political differences must be set aside to develop a national consensus on the water issue.

“Water security is human security, economic security and national security,” he said while delivering the keynote address at a Parliamentary Seminar on Water Governance, titled “Evidence from Local, Low-Cost Solutions for Water Security and Flood Resilience,” hosted by the SDGs Secretariat, and organized by the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized that water is life and its conservation is intrinsically linked to Pakistan’s food security, economic stability, and national security. Ayaz Sadiq has also said that water is no longer merely a sectoral issue but has emerged as a critical matter of national security. “Water does not belong

to any one political party; it is a national issue that concerns the entire country,” he said, stressing that ensuring access to clean water is a shared national responsibility.

Ayaz Sadiq said that India’s suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty was a clear violation of international law.

He emphasized the need for national consensus and a long-term strategy to address Pakistan’s water challenges, saying that the country must move beyond temporary measures and adopt sustainable, permanent solutions.

Ayaz Sadiq called for making water harvesting a priority for both the federal and provincial governments. He further stressed the need to introduce sustainable water-recycling systems at the federal and provincial levels to improve groundwater levels and conserve precious water resources. NA Speaker said that the federal and provincial governments should accord special attention to the construction of water reservoirs and small dams.

FIA arrests CEO Quaid-e-Azam International Hospital in illegal Kidney transplant case

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Corruption Circle, Islamabad, has arrested the chief executive officer and owner of Quaid-e-Azam International Hospital, Dr. Shaukat Bangash, in connection with an alleged illegal and commercial kidney transplant network. According to FIA officials, Dr. Bangash

was taken into custody for his alleged involvement in facilitating and managing illegal kidney transplant activities. The development comes as six other suspects linked to the alleged transplant network have already been arrested. Among those previously detained were kidney transplant surgeon Dr. Nadir and transplant coordinator Adil Shirazi, whose post-arrest bail petitions were rejected by the Islamabad High Court.

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ANI

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

According to an IESCO spokesperson, in Islamabad Circle, electricity supply will remain suspended, from 5 am to 12 pm, Rehman Enclave, Sudhran, from 8 am to 12 pm, Pir Sohawa, feeders. In Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, power supply will remain suspended from 5 am to 10 am, Jhata Hatyal, Bhal, Jarrar Camp, from 6 am to 10 am, Basali, Old Rawat, AOWHS, Suparco, CWO, New Rawat, feeders. In Rawalpindi City Circle, electricity supply will remain suspended, from 5 am to 12 pm, Al-Noor Colony, feeder. Similarly, in Attock Circle, power supply will remain suspended, from 6 am to 10 am, Katchery, Dar ul Islam Colony, Attock Cantt, Dhoke Fateh, Attock Rural, Teen Mela, Bagh Nelab, GBHP Colony-1, GBHP Colony-2, GBHP Power Channel, feeders. In Chakwal Circle, electricity supply will remain suspended from 6 am to 11 am, Abdullah Pur.



Vehicles passing through rain water accumulated on IJP Road after heavy rainfall in the Federal Capital

Senate Session: Hazara Motorway Condition, Petroleum Prices and Key Legislation to Come Under Discussion

Report: ANI :

ISLAMABAD --- The Senate session will take up reports of Standing Committees along with important public issues and legislative matters.

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Interior, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, will present several committee reports, including the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced by Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir on May 11, 2026.

The committee will also present its report on the Criminal Laws (Amendment) (Honour Killings

Prevention) Bill, 2026, introduced by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on January 19, 2026.

A report will also be presented on a point of public importance raised by Senator Manzoor Ahmed regarding the alleged harassment of members of the Suleman Khel tribe in Rawalpindi by Punjab Police under the pretext of identifying illegal Afghan refugees. Meanwhile, Senator Mohsin Aziz will draw the attention of the Minister for Communications towards the deteriorating condition of the newly constructed Hazara Motorway. He is expected to highlight the difficulties faced by passengers and the poten-

tial risk of serious accidents.

Senators Aimal Wali Khan and Kamran Murtaza will draw the attention of the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) towards the government’s daily determination of petroleum product prices.

The senators will highlight concerns that frequent changes in petroleum prices are creating uncertainty for the public and commercial sector, particularly in determining production costs and fixing prices of goods and services.

The Senate session is also expected to take up other legislative, public-interest and policy matters raised by members of the House.

Forest Department Seizes Machinery of Illegal Sawmill in Murree

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE -- The Rawalpindi North Forest Division has launched an operation against an illegal sawmill established on private land in Karor, Tehsil Kotli Sattian, and seized its machinery.

According to Deputy Conservator of Forests Rawalpindi North Muhammad Umar Atiq, the department received a complaint regarding the operation of an illegal sawmill in the Baga area. Following the complaint, the Assistant Conservator of Forests Karor, along



with field staff, conducted an operation at the site.

During the operation, the machinery of the illegal sawmill was seized and shifted to the ACF Office in Karor. Legal proceedings have also been initiated against those respon-

sible under the relevant forest laws and regulations.

On the instructions of DFO Rawalpindi North Muhammad Umar Atiq, operations against illegal sawmills and violations of forest laws are continuing.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Bahauddin Zakariya University: Administrative Decisions, Faculty Concerns and Growing Crisis of Confidence

By: Ms Hurish Shah : Published by ANI*

Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, is one of the most important public-sector universities in South Punjab, with thousands of students depending on it for their education and future. Hundreds of teachers, researchers and employees have also devoted years of their lives to serving the institution. Therefore, when teachers and employees repeatedly raise complaints and concerns about the administration, the matter cannot simply be dismissed as routine university politics.

The latest situation raises several important questions about the administrative direction and decision-making at BZU.

Two representative teachers' organizations, the University Teachers Forum (UTF) and the Bahauddin Zakariya University Teachers Association (BZUTA), reportedly came together over concerns regarding certain matters connected with the forthcoming Syndicate agenda. The Syndicate is one of the university's important statutory and decision-making bodies, making transparency and consultation in its affairs particularly important.

According to the teachers, they sought a meeting with the Vice Chancellor to present their concerns. They were reportedly asked by university staff to sit in the committee room and were told that the Vice Chancellor would come there.

However, what allegedly happened afterward made the situation more sensitive. According to the teachers, they were informed that the Vice Chancellor was present at Crush Hall and was allegedly making inappropriate or derogatory remarks about the protesting faculty.

This allegation requires independent verification, and the Vice Chancellor must also be given a full opportunity to present his version. However, if senior faculty members feel that their legitimate concerns are being met with insulting remarks instead of dialogue, it could indicate a crisis of confidence within the university.

A Vice Chancellor is not merely the administrative head of a university. He is also expected to serve as an academic leader who protects the dignity and rights of all members of the institution. Whether teachers' demands are right or wrong, they deserve to be heard and treated with respect. True leadership is tested when disagreements arise.

The controversy surrounding the office of the Registrar also adds significance to the situation. BZU's current information identifies Mr. Ejaz Ahmad as Registrar. However, media reports have previously raised questions regarding the continuation of his appointment as Acting or Additional-Charge Registrar.

Daily Financial Times also highlighted the matter in its June 2026



article titled "The Supreme Court Spoke. Did BZU Listen? Paragraph 39(c), the Six-Month Rule, the Rule of Law, and the Continuing Controversy Over the Acting Registrar at BZU, Multan."

The issue is therefore not merely a disagreement between individuals. It also concerns institutional legality, transparency, continuity and respect for rules and regulations.

Questions are also being raised about the Vice Chancellor's administrative leadership style. Administrative experience alone is not sufficient to successfully manage a large public-sector university. An institution like BZU requires consultation with teachers, sensitivity toward employees, respect for statutory bodies, understanding of university traditions and, above all, the ability to build confidence among all stakeholders.

Another administrative decision on August 3, 2026, further added to these concerns. The Vice Chancellor transferred Muhammad Iqbal, who was serving as Additional Controller of Examinations at BZU, Multan, and appointed him as Additional Treasurer. According to reports, the decision triggered serious concerns and protests within various sections of the university community.

Teachers and officers reportedly joined the protests, while demonstrations and strikes continued. During the dispute, the son of former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani was also reportedly involved in an effort to help resolve the matter, after which the dispute was said to have been settled.

However, only seven days later, on August 10, 2026, the Vice Chancellor withdrew the transfer order, stating that it was being done "in the best interest of the university."

The withdrawal of an important administrative order within just a few days naturally raises questions about the decision-making process. If there was a sufficient administrative justification for the transfer on August 3, what circumstances changed so significantly by August 10 that the order had to be withdrawn?

Repeated changes in important administrative decisions can create uncertainty within an institution and may affect the confidence of employees and other stakeholders.

This matter should also not be viewed in isolation. On August 4, 2026, the same newspaper had already reported employees' concerns regarding delayed promotions and alleged administrative negli-

gence under the headline "BZU Employees Protest Delay in Promotions, Allege Administrative Negligence." According to reports, employees continued their protest for three days.

When employees protest over delays in promotions, teachers raise concerns over Syndicate matters and important administrative orders are issued and then withdrawn within days, it becomes difficult to treat every controversy as an unrelated event.

Instead, the university administration should seriously examine whether there is a wider problem with consultation, communication and decision-making within the institution.

The relevant authorities responsible for university oversight and administration in Punjab should also examine whether the current administrative arrangement is providing the stability, transparency and institutional harmony expected from one of the largest public-sector universities in South Punjab.

The question is not simply whether an office-holder met the formal criteria at the time of appointment. The more important question is whether the institution is being governed effectively after that appointment.

Bahauddin Zakariya University does not belong to one Vice Chancellor, one Registrar, one teachers' organization or one employees' union. It belongs to its students, faculty, employees and ultimately to the people of Pakistan.

Therefore, the Vice Chancellor and Registrar should respond to legitimate questions through documents, rules, transparency and dialogue—not through anger, confrontation or silence. At the same time, teachers and employees should continue to pursue their concerns through lawful and institutional forums. When professors are compelled to leave their classrooms to protest and employees repeatedly raise their voices against the administration, responsible leadership should not ask:

"How can we silence them?"

It should ask a much more important question:

"What has gone wrong with our governance that so many people no longer feel heard?"

Until Bahauddin Zakariya University seriously seeks an answer to this question, the problem will not remain merely administrative. It risks becoming a deeper crisis of confidence, credibility, transparency and institutional trust.

When War Divides the World, Pakistan Walks a Different Path



Written By: Sheikh J. Hussain London
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Published By:ANI News Agency

This week, the world watched another dangerous moment unfold in the long and bitter war between Russia and Ukraine. Britain confirmed that it will continue supplying military equipment to Ukraine, including thousands of drones, prompting Russia to issue a sharp warning of "consequences" to London. The British government stood firm, stating that it would stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Ukraine for as long as it takes. On one side, Britain sees itself as defending a nation under attack, on the other, Russia views such support as direct involvement and escalation. This deepening divide in Europe carries lessons far beyond the battlefield and nowhere more so than in Pakistan's quiet but significant role.

Since the war began in February 2022, the United Kingdom has become one of Ukraine's most steadfast supporters, committing billions of pounds in military aid, training thousands of Ukrainian troops, and supplying advanced weaponry. London's position has been consistent: Russia's invasion violated international law, and Ukraine has every right to defend itself. Yet as British-made drones strike targets deeper inside Russian territory, the risk of direct confrontation between major powers grows. This is not simply a war between two neighbours; it has become a global contest of alignments, pulling nations into opposing camps and reshaping the world order before our eyes.

Against this backdrop, a quiet but meaningful relationship has been growing between Pakistan and Ukraine. It began long before the war in the 1990s, when the two

nations established defence cooperation, including the purchase of tanks, aircraft engines, and military technology. Over the years, this partnership matured. When war broke out in 2022, Pakistan chose a thoughtful path: it provided humanitarian assistance food, medicine, and support through international organisations while consistently urging a diplomatic resolution. In recent months, this relationship has deepened further, with reports of ammunition supplies and growing defence industry cooperation, showing that Pakistan recognises Ukraine's sovereignty and the suffering of its people.

This development is both significant and balanced. Pakistan has not joined any camp or chosen sides in a geopolitical contest. Instead, it has built a relationship based on principle and mutual interest acknowledging Ukraine's right to self-defence while maintaining respect for all nations. This stands in contrast to those who believe every country must pick a side. Pakistan demonstrates that one can extend a hand of friendship to Ukraine without raising a fist against Russia. The human cost of this war remains heartbreaking. Cities destroyed, lives shattered, families torn apart. What began as a hope for a quick resolution has turned into years of suffering, an ordinary people paying the heaviest price for decisions made by powerful leaders. It is a tragedy that should never have been allowed to continue for so long. The international community remains sharply divided, with powerful nations pouring weapons into the conflict rather than sitting together to find peace.

Here lies Pakistan's greatest potential contribution. Because Islamabad has maintained balanced relations with all sides and refusing to be trapped in "camp politics", it may be uniquely positioned to encourage dialogue. Pakistan has consistently urged all parties to resolve the conflict through diplomacy and respect for international law. At the United Nations, it has

advocated for prisoner exchanges, humanitarian protection, and an immediate return to negotiation. This is not weakness; it is wisdom. True leadership means standing for peace even when others are consumed by anger.

The war has also revealed how fragile our global order truly is. When major powers compete, the whole world suffers due to the food prices rise, energy markets tremble, and poorer nations are pushed to the edge. This conflict has shown that no country is truly insulated from the consequences of war, no matter how far from the front lines. It is a reminder that peace is not merely the absence of fighting; it is the foundation upon which every nation's progress depends.

Looking ahead, we must ask: does pouring more weapons into Ukraine bring peace closer? Or does it only prolong suffering and widen the divide? Britain's commitment to Ukraine is understandable, but the path to lasting stability will not be found in drone strikes alone. It will be found when leaders have the courage to sit together, speak honestly, and respect the legitimate concerns of all sides.

In this effort, Pakistan can play a vital role. Its growing friendship with Ukraine, balanced by continued respect for Russia, places Islamabad in a rare position. By offering itself as a bridge rather than a weapon, Pakistan may one day help bring the parties together. Until then, it must continue to walk the high road, extending friendship to Ukraine, maintaining dialogue with Russia, and urging the world to remember that every war eventually ends, and when it does, we must learn to live together again.

The strongest nations are not those with the most weapons. They are those with the wisdom to build peace, the courage to remain balanced, and the humanity to feel the suffering of others. In a world torn apart by war, Pakistan's quiet diplomacy offers a glimpse of what could be, if only we choose dialogue over division, and humanity over hostility.

Opinion

3

The 28th Amendment, New Provinces and Pakistan's Changing Political Landscape: Is the Country Heading Towards a New Political



Written by Rana Farooq Ashraf : Published by ANI

Pakistan's politics once again appears to be standing

at a critical crossroads, where constitutional amendments, proposals for new administrative units, provincial autonomy, political alignments, and the issue of Imran Khan's transfer from prison to a hospital have emerged simultaneously in the national debate. The real question is not simply whether new provinces should be created. The fundamental question is whether such administrative reforms will be pursued through the Constitution, Parliament and democratic consensus—or through political expediency and shortcuts.

In recent weeks, the debate over new provinces and administrative units has gained considerable momentum. Different political circles have raised the need for new administrative structures, while the Pakistan Peoples Party has made its position relatively clear: it is not opposed to the creation of new provinces in principle, but any such decision must strictly follow the constitutional and legal procedure.

The significance of the 18th Constitutional Amendment cannot be ignored in this debate. Passed in 2010, the 18th Amendment was a historic milestone in strengthening provincial autonomy and reshaping Pakistan's federal structure. The Pakistan Peoples Party has consistently regarded the amendment as an important part of its constitutional and political legacy. Therefore, any attempt through a new constitutional amendment to undermine provincial powers, financial autonomy or the existing



ries of a province requires the approval of the concerned provincial assembly by a two-thirds majority before the parliamentary process can proceed. Therefore, the idea that a province could be divided without the consent of its elected assembly would be fundamentally inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution.

At the same time, the issue of Imran Khan's transfer from prison to hospital has become another major subject of national politics. Following judicial directions concerning his treatment and family meetings, speculation has intensified regarding his political future, his possible role in future political developments and the possibility of new political contacts.

This has inevitably produced a question that is increasingly being discussed in political circles: Are the debate over new provinces and Imran Khan's transfer to hospital merely a coincidence?

At this stage, no responsible observer can present speculation as established fact. It would be premature to draw a definitive connection between the two developments. Yet the fact that these issues have emerged simultaneously has



federal balance would naturally raise serious political and constitutional questions for the PPP.

There is nothing inherently unconstitutional about demanding new provinces. Around the world, administrative boundaries have been changed to improve governance, bring government services closer to citizens and make administration more effective. If people in any region of Pakistan demand a new province, their demand deserves to be heard. However, such a decision cannot be imposed through closed-door political arrangements. It must emerge through elected assemblies, constitutional procedures, parliamentary debate and public consensus.

The constitutional procedure in this regard is particularly important. Any alteration in the bounda-

undoubtedly created political questions and suspicions. In such an environment, political parties should rely on clear constitutional positions rather than political rumours and speculation.

The PPP's position is significant because it has not rejected the idea of new provinces outright. Instead, it has emphasized that the constitutional route must be followed. If a provincial assembly, through the required two-thirds majority, approves a proposal for a new province, the constitutional process can then move forward. This is the democratic way, and it is also the way to strengthen the federation rather than weaken it.

On the other hand, if any political party—particularly one that claims to be the dominant political force in Punjab—becomes part of a plan to divide the province without ade-

quate constitutional and public support, it will have to consider the consequences for its own political future. Similarly, if Imran Khan or the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supports a constitutional amendment that contradicts its previous political narrative, the question will not merely be about parliamentary numbers. It will also be about political credibility, principles and moral consistency.

President Asif Ali Zardari has repeatedly emphasized the importance of improving governance rather than merely experimenting with administrative structures. That question remains relevant today: will Pakistan's governance improve simply by drawing new lines on the map, or by making existing institutions work more effectively within their constitutional responsibilities?

The reality is that good governance does not automatically emerge from the creation of new provinces. It depends on institutional performance, a clear division of responsibilities, empowered local governments, accountability, effective service delivery and respect for constitutional boundaries.

Pakistan today needs constitutional continuity, political consensus and institutional stability more than political experiments. If new provinces are genuinely required by the people, the Constitution provides a route. Provincial assemblies exist, Parliament exists and the democratic process exists. The solution should therefore be found within that constitutional framework.

But if the issue of new provinces becomes a tool for political engineering, short-term political interests or weakening a particular political party, the creation of new administrative units could produce another form of political division instead of solving the problems of governance.

Time will ultimately determine who stood by principles and who chose political expediency. The proposed 28th Amendment may take shape, its contents may change, or political parties may eventually reach a new understanding. But the real test is not merely whether an amendment is passed. The real test is whether the Constitution, Parliament, provincial autonomy and the democratic right of the people remain at the centre of the entire process. Pakistan is passing through a sensitive political period. The coming days may reveal the true positions of political parties, the limits of their political narratives and the extent to which they are willing to defend constitutional principles when political circumstances become difficult.

History may ultimately show that the most important political battle was not over how many provinces Pakistan should have, but over whether constitutional democracy and federalism were protected while those decisions were being made.

Pakistan Needs a PSX 100 ESG Index to Unlock Sustainable Capital



Written By: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Published By: ANI News Agency

As global capital mar-

kets increasingly embrace responsible investment, Pakistan has an opportunity to modernize its investment landscape through the creation of a PSX 100 ESG Index. Such an index would complement the traditional market-capitalization-based benchmark by providing investors with a transparent measure of companies demonstrating strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance.

Conventional market indices primarily reflect company size, market capitalization, and liquidity. While these remain important benchmarks, they do not fully capture sustainability risks, corporate governance practices, or long-term value creation. International markets have addressed this gap through ESG-focused indices, enabling institutional investors to align portfolio construction with responsible investment principles while

maintaining broad market representation.

A PSX 100 ESG Index would provide Pakistani asset owners—including pension funds, mutual funds, insurance companies, and other institutional investors—with a credible benchmark for sustainable investment strategies. It would also help meet the growing demand for investment portfolios aligned with ESG objectives, climate resilience, responsible corporate conduct, and long-term risk management.

A robust and transparent ESG screening methodology should form the foundation of such an index. The screening process could exclude companies involved in activities considered inconsistent with responsible investment policies, including controversial weapons, tobacco manufacturing, and significant thermal coal extraction or consumption. It could also consider companies' compliance with recognized sustainability standards and governance principles while rewarding firms that demonstrate transparency, responsible business practices, effective ESG risk management, and meaningful sustainability disclosures.

Beyond serving as an investment benchmark, a PSX 100 ESG Index

could create powerful incentives for sustainable corporate behavior. Companies would have greater motivation to improve ESG disclosures, strengthen corporate governance, reduce environmental risks, and adopt more sustainable business practices in order to qualify for inclusion. This could, in turn, enhance market transparency, strengthen investor confidence, and improve the international competitiveness of Pakistan's capital market.

The introduction of a PSX 100 ESG Index would therefore be more than the creation of another market benchmark. It would signal that Pakistan's capital market is prepared to compete in an investment environment where sustainability, transparency, and responsible corporate conduct increasingly influence capital allocation.

A credible ESG index could help attract long-term domestic and international investment, encourage better corporate practices, and support sustainable economic development. More importantly, it would demonstrate that responsible investment is not merely a global trend but an important component of Pakistan's future financial and economic landscape.

GC UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD AWARDS DEGREES TO 448 STUDENTS AT THIRD CONVOCATION

By : ANI Correspondent;

HYDERABAD-- Government College , University Hyderabad held its Third Convocation on Wednesday, with degrees awarded to 448 students, including 432 undergraduate and 16 postgraduate scholars.

Sindh Minister for Universities and Boards and Pro-Chancellor Muhammad Ismail Rahoo attended the ceremony as chief guest and conferred degrees on the graduating students, while Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Moazzam Ali Khan presided over the convocation.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rahoo congratulated the university administration on successfully holding its third convocation and said it was a matter of great pleasure to see the historic educational institution continuing its journey as a university.

He said the institution had a long history of serving education in Sindh and expressed the hope that GC University Hyderabad would continue to grow and make further progress in teaching, research and institutional development.

The minister said education and health remained among the priorities of the Sindh government and considerable public resources were being spent on higher education in the province. Providing access to quality education, he said, was the right of every student and it was the responsibility of the government to expand educational opportunities.

Congratulating the graduating students, the minister said their parents deserved special appreciation for the sacrifices and support that had enabled their children to reach this milestone.

“The graduates of today are the future of Sindh and Pakistan,” he said, urging them to continue their pursuit of knowledge and use their



education for the betterment of society. He said educated and empowered young people strengthened their families, institutions and ultimately the country.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Moazzam Ali Khan, in his speech, congratulated the graduating students and postgraduate scholars and extended his best wishes for their future academic and professional careers. He said the convocation represented an important milestone not only for the students but also for their parents and teachers, whose support had contributed to their success.

According to university figures, degrees were awarded to 432 students of BS Batch 2022 and 16 students of MPhil, MS and MBA Batch 2023.

Among the BS graduates, 164 belonged to the Faculty of Natural Sciences, 147 to the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology, 74 to the Faculty of Social Sciences and 47 to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The postgraduate degree recipients included scholars from MPhil programmes in English, Chemistry, Mathematics and Zoology, besides

MS Information Technology and MBA programmes.

A total of 15 students were awarded gold medals, 18 received silver medals and nine were awarded bronze medals for their academic performance.

Secretary Universities and Boards Mr Moin uddin Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf Khushk; Vice Chancellor of the University of Sufism and Modern Sciences, Bhitshah, Prof. Dr. Imamuddin Khoso; and Vice Chancellor of the University of Mirpurkhas, Prof. Dr. Rafique Ahmed Memon, Dr Abdul Qadeer Rajput, Amin Yousuf, Dr Sher Mehranvi were among the distinguished academic guests attending the ceremony.

The proceedings of the convocation were conducted by the University Registrar, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Bhutto.

The university’s first official newsletter was also formally inaugurated on the occasion, marking the launch of an initiative aimed at documenting and sharing the university’s academic activities, achievements and institutional developments.

Modern Water Filtration Plant Inaugurated at District Jail Jhelum

BY: F T Correspondent:

JHELUM-- Chairman Al-Hayat Welfare Trust Haji Muhammad Riaz formally inaugurated a modern water filtration plant at District Jail Jhelum. The facility will provide clean and safe drinking water to prisoners residing in the jail.

Superintendent District Jail Yasir Khan, Incharge Water Filtration Department Asghar Mirza and PRO Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Muhammad Owais were also present on the occasion.

Haji Muhammad Riaz inaugurated the filtration plant and reviewed the welfare initiative aimed at providing clean drinking water to prisoners. Superintendent Jail Yasir Khan thanked Al-Hayat Welfare Trust for installing the filtra-



tion plant and termed it a commendable initiative.

He said clean drinking water is one of the basic needs of prisoners and the new facility will directly benefit those residing in the jail.

Al-Hayat Welfare Trust is working

on a welfare mission to provide clean drinking water through the installation of water filtration plants and wells in Pakistan and around the world. The trust is also actively involved in various welfare and relief activities.

SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza Holds Open Court, Directs Timely Resolution of Public Complaints

Reporter : ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza held an open court at his office, where he heard the issues and complaints of citizens.

During the open court, the SSP Operations directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely resolution of public complaints and take action in accordance with the law. He emphasized addressing citizens' grievances promptly and ensuring effective action on their complaints.



Secretary Housing & Works Directs Removal of Encroachments, Expediting Development Works in Islamabad

BY: Hurish shah/ FT

ISLAMABAD --- Secretary Housing & Works Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood, accompanied by Director General, Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal and other senior officers, visited Sectors G-13, G-14 and G-15 on August 18, 2026, and reviewed civic amenities, infrastructure and ongoing development works.

During his visit to Sector G-13, the Secretary took serious notice of illegal encroachments and unauthorized activities and directed the concerned authorities to remove all encroachments forthwith and take action in accordance with the rules and regulations.

He also directed officials to issue notices to those involved in unauthorized constructions and activities within residential areas and proceed against them under the applicable laws.

The Secretary inspected playgrounds and sports facilities in G-13 and directed that they be upgraded according to modern requirements to provide better recreational and sports facilities, particularly for children and youth.



Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood said that protection of government land and public spaces was among the key priorities of the government. He made it clear that illegal encroachments and unauthorized construction on government land would not be tolerated.

Later, the Secretary visited Sectors G-14 and G-15 and reviewed ongoing development works, infrastructure and civic facilities. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining development works in Sector G-15 and ensure their completion at the earliest.

He also stressed maintaining

quality, pace and transparency in development projects and directed regular field monitoring to ensure timely provision of improved civic facilities to residents.

The Secretary further directed officials to minimize inconvenience to the public during development works and adopt a proactive approach toward resolving public complaints.

He reiterated that practical measures would continue to be taken for the improvement of civic amenities, infrastructure, playgrounds and public spaces across various housing sectors of Islamabad.

One-Day Training Session Held on NGO Registration Through E-Biz Portal



BY: irum Shehzadi/ ANI

RAWALPINDI --- A one-day training session on the registration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through the E-Biz Portal was held at Elite Club, Attock Sahara Foundation (Registered), Rawalpindi.

Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors of Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal from across Rawalpindi Division, along with representatives of various NGOs, participated in the

training session.

Divisional Director Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Rawalpindi Muhammad Shahid Rana welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the E-Biz Portal for NGO registration. He said the portal would help make the registration process easier, more transparent and efficient. He termed the training session beneficial for NGOs and concerned officers and expressed hope that participants would gain practical knowledge about the use of the

portal.

During the session, Dr. Mujaddid, an expert from the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), delivered a detailed lecture on the E-Biz Portal and briefed participants on the various stages involved in using the system.

Deputy Director NGOs Aqsa Rafiq gave a detailed briefing on the complete procedure for registering NGOs through the E-Biz Portal and addressed participants’ queries regarding the registration process.

Armed Men Attack Police Van in Qila Abdullah, 15 Prisoners Freed

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- The security situation remains tense in Qila Abdullah following two separate incidents, including an attack on a police van in which 15 prisoners were forcibly freed.

According to sources, unidentified armed men intercepted a police van at Abdullah Khan Cross, overpowered the police personnel and took away 15 prisoners being transported in the vehicle. The attackers also reportedly snatched weapons from the police personnel before fleeing the area.

Meanwhile, the Quetta-Chaman International Highway has remained blocked since yesterday following a protest over the alleged kidnapping of a person. Protesters have said the



highway will remain closed until the abducted person is safely recovered.

The two incidents have raised serious concerns over the security situation in the district, particularly the escape of a large number of prisoners from police custody.

No official statement has so far been issued by police or other relevant authorities regarding the incident or the ongoing search for the escaped prisoners.

Naval Chief Chairs Command and Staff Conference at Naval Headquarters



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Command and Staff Conference of the Pakistan Navy concluded at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders attended the conference, which reviewed the evolving maritime security environment, including traditional and non-tradi-

tional threats, strategic choke points, freedom of navigation and the security of vital sea lines of communication (SLOCs).

Admiral Naveed Ashraf commended the Pakistan Navy’s operational readiness and enhanced capability to undertake challenging missions. He emphasized effective training, tactical discipline and joint coordination to strengthen maritime defence. The Naval Chief also stressed the importance of asymmetric capa-

bilities and advanced technologies to maintain a tactical advantage against emerging threats.

The forum reviewed the Navy’s operational preparedness, ongoing initiatives and upcoming activities, while reaffirming Pakistan Navy’s role in promoting peace, stability and regional maritime security. The Command and Staff Conference is the Pakistan Navy’s apex forum for deliberating strategic priorities, policies and operational matters.

Government Files Review Petition Against Supreme Court Order to Transfer Imran Khan to Shifa Hospital

BY : ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The federal government has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court challenging its August 18 order directing the transfer of former Prime Minister Imran Khan from Adiala Jail to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad within two days.

The government, through the Advocate General, has challenged the order, arguing that the Supreme Court did not take into consideration Rule 197 of the Pakistan Prison Rules, 1978, which lays down the procedure for transferring convicted prisoners from jail to a hospital. The review petition has reportedly not yet been assigned a case number.

The petition contends that providing treatment to a convicted prisoner at a private hospital could have implications for the wider criminal justice system and may lead to simi-



lar demands from other prisoners. It also raises questions regarding equality under Article 25 of the Constitution and the applicability of prison rules. According to the petition, the Chief Commissioner Islamabad or the relevant department was not formally made a party to the proceedings and the order was issued without prior notice to the concerned parties.

The government has further argued that the interim order effectively granted relief that could

amount to final relief at an interim stage. It maintained that the legal question concerning the admissibility of the appeal should have been considered before such an order was issued.

The review petition also refers to Article 10A of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to a fair trial, and describes the alleged disregard of Rule 197 of the Pakistan Prison Rules, 1978 as a legal error.

Meanwhile, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has welcomed the Supreme Court’s decision regarding Imran Khan’s transfer to Shifa International Hospital and said his party would not become a party to the government’s review petition.

Political analysts have suggested that statements by federal ministers following the Supreme Court’s verdict indicate that the government may not have anticipated a decision of this nature.

CPSC Launches Special Platinum Jubilee Edition of PIVOT Magazine on Pakistan- China Relations

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a special Platinum Jubilee edition of PIVOT Magazine titled “Pakistan-China All-Weather Partnership in Peace and Progress at Platinum Jubilee” on August 19, commemorating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Former Pakistan Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi was the

keynote speaker, while Chinese Embassy Minister-Counsellor Xu Hangtian was the guest of honour. Senior diplomats, academics and researchers also attended the event. Speakers highlighted the strong and enduring Pakistan-China partnership, emphasizing cooperation in trade, investment, defence, technology, agriculture, education, culture, clean energy and other emerging sectors.

Ambassador Moin ul Haque underscored the exceptional trust and mutual support between the two countries and highlighted the importance of people-to-

people ties and learning from China’s development experience.

The speakers also stressed stronger academic and cultural exchanges, youth engagement, joint research and cooperation in emerging fields including artificial intelligence, digitalisation, renewable energy and space technology.

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to further strengthen the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and build on the achievements of the past 75 years.