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CDF says Balochistan, Pakistan share 'one and forever' future



ANI

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Field Marshal Asim Munir, said the present and future of Balochistan and Pakistan are "one and forever", stressing that enduring peace and stability are fundamental to unlocking the province's economic potential, the military's media wing said on Friday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during an interaction with notables and political leadership of Balochistan, CDF Munir highlighted the province's "talented, resilient, patriotic and proud people".

"Clear national narrative and lasting peace and stability were essential for attracting investment and translating Balochistan's abundant human and natural resources into tangible prosperity for its people," he said.

The field marshal said there was no dearth of talent or opportunities among the province's youth, describing them as "the most vibrant and promising segment of our society".

"He emphasised that empowering the youth and providing them opportunities to contribute to national progress remains central to sustainable development," the statement added.

The statement further added

that CDF Munir said Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan were foreign-sponsored proxies being employed by hostile elements to destabilise Balochistan, obstruct its development and create a wedge between the state and its people.

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as 'Fitna al-Hindustan', accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through these outfits. Fitna al-Khawarij is the state-designated term for the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He reiterated that such "inimical designs" would be defeated through the collective

resolve of the nation and an "unwavering, resolute and decisive response" by the state, ISPR said. Field Marshal Munir also appreciated the role of Balochistan's notables and society leaders in promoting peace, strengthening social cohesion and advancing constructive national discourse.

The ISPR also added that he stressed the need to "holistically and without hesitation" counter hostile propaganda, expose false narratives and project the true potential, progress and aspirations of Balochistan and its people. "The destiny of Balochistan rests only in the hands of the people of Balochistan," CDF Munir said.

Pakistan reiterates resolve to combat terrorism, calls for global support to victims

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday reiterated its unwavering resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, saying the country had rendered unprecedented sacrifices in blood and treasure in the fight against the global menace. In a statement issued by the Foreign Office on the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, Pakistan said more than 90,000 Pakistanis had lost their lives while the country had suffered economic losses exceeding US\$150 billion in the ongoing fight against terrorism. "Pakistan joins nations across the world in observing the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism," the statement said, adding that the day provided an opportunity not only to commemorate the victims but also to reflect on the sacrifices of their families and renew the resolve for continued vigilance against terrorism. The statement added that terrorism had become increasingly multifaceted, with terrorists using emerging technologies and cyberspace to expand their outreach and facilitate increasingly sophisticated and lethal attacks. It said Pakistan was also a victim of disinformation and misinformation campaigns, hydro-terrorism and extraterritorial assassination campaigns. "2025 has been among the deadliest Pakistan has faced over a decade," the statement said, adding that the rising toll reflected a pattern of violence planned, financed and directed from sanctuaries across the border, often with the alleged support of hostile elements from neighboring countries. It said the attacks targeted worshippers, children, women and security personnel without distinction. Despite these challenges, Pakistan remained unflinching in its resolve, and unwavering in its commitment to combat terrorism in all its



forms and manifestations, the statement added.

On the occasion, Pakistan also paid tribute to and expressed solidarity with the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who continued to face systemic state repression, including draconian laws, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention.

The Foreign Office said the people of IIOJK remained resolute in their demand for their UN-mandated right to self-determination despite decades of coercion and alleged violations of their fundamental human rights.

The statement also expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine, saying that despite ceasefire and diplomatic efforts that had created some space for humanitarian relief, Palestinians, particularly children, women and elderly people, continued to suffer severe human rights violations and denial of their fundamental right to self-determination.

"Foreign occupation, unresolved conflicts and denial of the right to self-determination are exploited by extremists and terrorists," it said, stressing the need for urgent redressal of such issues.

Pakistan also called upon the international community to support victims and survivors of terrorism across the globe without discrimination.

It also urged enhanced international cooperation and dialogue based on objectivity, impartiality, consistency and equity, without double standards, to help ensure a more peaceful world for future generations.

Security forces kill 49 khwarij in IBOs in KPK, Balochistan:ISPR



ANI

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces have killed 49 khwarij terrorists belonging to Indian Proxies Fitna Al Khwarij and Fitna Al Hindustan in series of high tempo joint intelligence operations (IBOs) in various parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in last few days.

"These operations have yielded major successes, inflicting significant blows to the terrorist networks killing forty nine terrorists/ Khwarij and effectively thwarting any attempt to undermine peace and stability," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 12 khwarij belonging to Indian sponsored Fitna Al Khwarij were sent to hell in multiple high tempo intelligence based opera-

tions in Bannu, North Waziristan, Orakzai and Khyber Districts. During these operations, a large quantity of explosive, IED detonating remotes, weapons, ammunition and motor cycles were recovered and destroyed, it said.

In Balochistan, 37 terrorists belonging to Indian Sponsored Fitna Al Hindustan were effectively neutralised in ten intelligence based operations in Mastung, Mach, Khuzdar and Panjgur Districts. A significant quantity of weapons, explosive drums and remote detonation equipment were seized and destroyed.

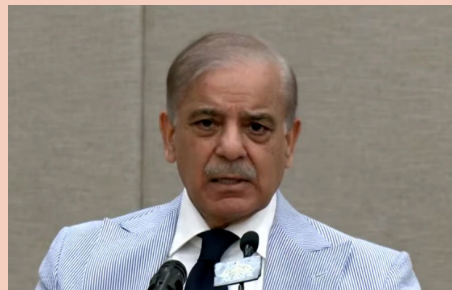
"The Security Forces of Pakistan remain resolute and unwavering in their commitment to defend the nation's frontiers. Sanitization operation are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Kharji/ terrorist found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the news release said.

PM Vows Equitable Balochistan Development, Calls for Dialogue

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif stated on Friday that the federal government is committed to ensuring Balochistan's equitable development and prosperity, emphasizing that the province's legitimate grievances should be addressed through dialogue and mutual consultation rather than violence. Addressing a question-and-answer session with participants of the Balochistan National Workshop, the prime minister said Balochistan was endowed with vast mineral and natural resources, but their development required investment, expertise, resources and collaboration between the province and the federation.

He stated that the natural resources of Balochistan primarily belong to its people and should be developed in a manner that enables



them to benefit first, followed by the rest of the people of Pakistan. The prime minister said Balochistan's vast geographical area and the long distances between its population centres presented genuine challenges in providing roads, education, healthcare and other facilities, requiring a fair distribution of available resources. He recalled Balochistan's historic

decision to join Pakistan, saying the province's accession was based on conviction and voluntary choice. He said the historical record also carried lessons about resolving differences through mutual consultation and dialogue.

PM Shehbaz said it was "never too late" to address outstanding issues and called for a grand, frank and meaningful dialogue in which all legitimate concerns could be brought to the table. He categorically rejected violence and the targeting of innocent people in the name of grievances, saying workers, teachers, engineers and other people contributing to Balochistan's development could not be made victims of terrorism. Referring specifically to the Karachi-Chaman N-25 project, the prime minister said the federal government had allocated Rs415 billion to transform the road, described as a "khooni sarak", into a road of peace and development.

President, PM hail security forces for eliminating 49 terrorists in KP, Balochistan

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces and police for successfully eliminating 49 terrorists of Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij in joint intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. President Zardari commended the security forces and police for carrying out the successful intelligence-based operations and eliminating the terrorists, a Presidency's news release said. He said the terrorist elements operating with external support would never succeed in undermining Pakistan's peace and stability. The president reiterated that operations against terrorists would continue with full force until the complete eradication of terrorism from the country. He expressed confidence that the people of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would soon be completely rid of the menace of terrorism and would move towards peace, national development and prosperity. In a separate news release, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also paid tribute to the security forces for the successful operations against terrorists in the two provinces.

PTI founder's health satisfactory after medical examination: Dr. Tariq

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Friday, said the PTI founder's health condition was satisfactory after his medical examination. In a statement posted on X, he said the health and life of every human being were more important than everything else.

He said health-related matters should be discussed with responsibility and realism instead of political slogans or sensationalism. "Is it appropriate to build a political



narrative without verifying the facts?" he asked.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said using a sensitive matter like health for rumours and political purposes created anxiety among the public.

He said irresponsible behaviour and speculation could seriously damage the credibility of politics.

"Political differences and confrontation have their place, but someone's health should not be turned into a battle for political interests," he said.

The minister said providing the public with authentic information instead of fear and rumours was the requirement of responsible leadership.

CJP Engages Probationary Officers on Governance and Public Service



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ISLAMABAD: As part of their mandatory exposure visits to State institutions, a delegation of Probationary Officers undergoing the 54th Common Training Programme (CTP) at the Civil Services Academy (CSA), Lahore, called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court Friday.

The delegation was led by Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Director General, CSA, and accompanied by faculty members.

During an interactive session, the Chief Justice highlighted the salient features of parliamentary democracy and the trichotomy of powers, explaining the complementary roles of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary in upholding

constitutional governance and the rule of law. His Lordship also apprised the probationary officers of the various tiers of the judicial hierarchy and explained the respective jurisdictions of the various courts. Referring to institutional coordination and justice sector reforms, the Chief Justice highlighted the role of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) being the highest judicial policy forum. The delegation was also apprised of measures being undertaken to improve court infrastructure and public facilitation, including uninterrupted power supply, e-libraries, clean drinking water and improved facilities for women court users, supported through the Access to Justice Development Fund.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing of the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between Pakistan and Malaysia, signed by the Home Minister of Malaysia H.E. Dato' Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. Islamabad,

Pakistan, Malaysia Agree to Further Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Malaysian Home Minister H.E. Saifuddin Nasution Ismail at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

The two sides reaffirmed the close and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Malaysia and discussed ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and economy, mutual legal assistance and people-to-people exchanges.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to working closely towards shared objectives of peace, stability and prosperity.



The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan,

Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control Talal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul, Federal Secretary for National Food Security and Research Amer Ali Ahmed and senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.

Dr Shahida Rehmani Congratulates Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly on Constitution of Women’s Parliamentary Caucus

By: FT Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD -- Secretary Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly Dr Shahida Rehmani has congratulated the Speaker of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly on the constitution of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Women’s Parliamentary Caucus.

Dr Shahida Rehmani welcomed the notification issued by the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly on August 11, describing the establishment of the caucus as an important step towards strengthening women’s parliamentary participation and providing a collective platform for women legislators.

She appreciated the Speaker’s leadership in bringing women parliamentarians from different political par-



ties together and said the National Assembly Women’s Parliamentary Caucus was committed to extending full support and cooperation to its counterpart in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Dr Rehmani emphasized the importance of knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and technical support to enhance the effective participation of women legislators in parliamentary and legislative processes.

She expressed hope that the Gilgit-Baltistan Women’s Parliamentary Caucus would play an effective role in promoting women’s rights, gender-responsive legislation and issues concerning women and girls.

She also expressed the desire to strengthen cooperation between the two caucuses through joint consultations, learning initiatives and continued parliamentary engagement.

The Gilgit-Baltistan Women’s Parliamentary Caucus comprises Sadia Danish, Sobia Jabeen, Dilshad Bano, Sajida Bedum, Kulsoom Jahangir and Jenifer Bahadur.

DPM/FM Dar reviews preparations for upcoming diplomatic engagements in Pakistan

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting to review Pakistan’s forthcoming high-level diplomatic engagements scheduled in the coming weeks. During the meeting, the deputy prime minister underscored key substantive priorities and provided guidance on advancing Pakistan’s diplomatic objectives through these engagements.

He also reviewed the preparations and emphasized the importance of



coordinated efforts for the successful conduct of these engagements. Foreign Secretary Ambassador

Amna Baloch and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting.

Aurganzeb, ICCD discuss expanding cooperation in Islamic finance, halal markets

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) on Friday discussed ways to expand economic cooperation, promote halal markets and strengthen Islamic finance and private-sector collaboration. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), Shaikh Yousef Hassan Khalawi to discuss the opportunities for cooperation. The ICCD Secretary General was accompanied by CEO, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan, Muhammad Atif Hanif and Director, International Relations of ICCD, Ms. Aalia Jaffar, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

On the occasion, the finance minister underscored the importance of strengthening linkages between Pakistan’s business community and international business networks. He highlighted the potential for greater engagement and collaboration through the Chamber’s global outreach and platforms. Khalawi briefed the finance minister on the expanding international outreach of the Islamic Chamber and its engagement with business communities, including those in non-OIC countries. He highlighted the Chamber’s efforts to connect Muslim business communities globally with private-sector and institutional partners and promote greater halal economic cooperation.

They discussed the growing global halal economy and opportunities for Pakistan to strengthen its presence across sectors including halal food, fashion, halal tourism, services and other consumer markets.

The finance minister emphasized the importance of



moving beyond a broad halal concept towards identifying specific products, sectors and markets where Pakistani businesses can expand and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

The participants also discussed opportunities to strengthen Pakistan’s Islamic finance ecosystem and promote greater collaboration with international platforms working in Islamic economics and finance.

The importance of developing commercially viable opportunities and improving market linkages for Pakistani businesses was highlighted.

Khalawi shared international experiences in halal business development, sustainable tourism and Islamic economic cooperation. He emphasized the importance of identifying sector-specific opportunities, understanding international market demand and supporting businesses in developing commercially viable offerings.

The participants also exchanged views on international conferences, business forums and other platforms, with the active role of ICCD, to strengthen connections between Pakistani businesses and global business communities and facilitate greater exchange of ideas and opportunities.

regarding his health.

Khawaja Asif said PTI founder had some minor blood-pressure and other age-related health issues, but there was no indication of any serious health threat. He said the former prime minister had also been examined by doctors and was recovering.

He said reports regarding PTI founder’s health would also become public and there was no need for unnecessary concern.

The minister said health issues should not be used as a political tool, recalling that political leaders across parties had faced imprisonment and health-related difficulties in the past.

Khawaja Asif also referred to his

Khawaja Asif says PTI founder in good health, urges against politicising illness

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was in good health and urged the PTI not to politicise his health issues for political gains.

Responding to a point raised by the PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan in the National Assembly, the minister said PTI founder’s sister had recently met him in jail and could testify about his health condition.

He said the former prime minister’s personal physician had also been given access to information

own experience in prison, saying that when he required surgery, he was taken to a government hospital and did not demand treatment at a private facility.

He criticised the politicization of health issues in the past, saying political opponents had mocked genuine illnesses of political leaders, including former prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

The minister said PTI should not adopt selective standards on such matters and should show greater political maturity and restraint.

He said the issue of PTI founder’s health should not be exploited to gain political leverage.

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Pakistan, Malaysia Vow to Strengthen Parliamentary and Economic Ties ,Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

By: Hurish Shah/FT

ISLAMABAD -- A six-member Malaysian parliamentary delegation led by Malaysian Interior Minister Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail called on National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on Friday.

The meeting focused on Pakistan-Malaysia relations, parliamentary cooperation, trade, investment and matters of mutual interest. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need for regular parliamentary exchanges and stronger business-to-business and people-to-people links between the two countries.

He said unity and cooperation among Muslim countries were essential for the progress, prosperity and stability of the Muslim world. He also emphasized Pakistan’s commitment to peace and diplomacy and raised concerns over the use of Afghan territory for terrorist activities against Pakistan.

The Speaker and the Malaysian Interior Minister also discussed climate change, with both sides calling for collective international efforts and greater focus on dialogue and diplomacy for regional and global peace.

Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail



appreciated Pakistan’s hospitality and praised the close and cordial relations between the two countries. Both sides expressed their resolve to further strengthen parliamentary, economic and people-to-people ties.

Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control Talal Chaudhry was also present

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Malaysian Interior Minister Meets Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

By: ANI Correspondent :

RAWALPINDI --Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs Saifuddin Nasution Bin Ismail, accompanied by the Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan and a high-level delegation, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi.

The meeting discussed regional security dynamics and matters of mutual interest. Both sides reaffirmed the strong and enduring ties between Pakistan and Malaysia and expressed their resolve to further



enhance cooperation in areas of shared interest. Field Marshal Asim Munir reaf-

firmed Pakistan’s commitment to deepening defence cooperation and strategic engagement with Malaysia.

Senate Committee Reviews LPG Security, Mobile Taxes and Customs Issues



By: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, chaired by Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan, reviewed customs security in Balochistan, LPG supply and pricing, substandard cylinders, the Quetta Customs warehouse fire, border trade, FIA investigations, mobile phone taxation and biometric verification through PakID.

Officials informed the committee that more than 30 attacks had been carried out on LPG bowisers in Nushki, while security measures had helped bring the situation under control. The committee was also briefed

that Pakistan consumes around 6,000 tonnes of LPG daily, against domestic production of 2,000 to 2,500 tonnes.

Senator Abdul Qadir proposed equal distribution of LPG between northern and southern regions, while the committee expressed concern over high LPG prices and supply shortages.

OGRA officials told the committee that amendments were being proposed to increase punishment for the sale of substandard LPG cylinders to 14 years’ imprisonment along with heavy fines.

The committee also examined the Quetta Customs warehouse fire, with Senator Aimal Wali Khan questioning

discrepancies between police and customs reports regarding the cause of the incident. The chairman directed that both reports be presented at the next meeting.

The committee later reviewed mobile phone taxation and registration. Officials clarified that PTA registers devices, while the FBR determines applicable taxes. Concerns were also raised over the impact of the existing tax structure on the rollout of 5G services. The committee decided to invite the NADRA Chairman to its next meeting over delays in biometric verification through PakID and the installation of facial recognition devices at telecom franchises.

Clean Punjab Programme: Improve Sanitation Standards Further, Directs Commissioner Hafiz Shaukat Ali

By : ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA -- A video-link meeting chaired by Commissioner Sargodha Division Hafiz Shaukat Ali was held to review in detail the implementation of the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and the ongoing sanitation activities under the Clean Punjab Programme.

During the meeting, the concerned officers were directed to further improve sanitation standards in both urban and rural areas, ensure the timely redressal of public complaints, and strengthen effective field monitoring of cleanliness operations.

Commissioner Hafiz Shaukat Ali said that the Clean Punjab Programme is an important initiative aimed at



providing citizens with a clean, healthy and better environment. He directed the officers to utilize all available resources to ensure that the

benefits of the programme reach every citizen and that no negligence in sanitation arrangements would be tolerated.

Zia Family Food Industries Director Presents Award to Fakhar Zaman

BY: ANI Sports Correspondent:

MULTAN -- Saif ur Rehman Director of Zia Family Food Industries (Pvt) Ltd., presented the Player of the Match award to Pakistan’s prominent cricketer Fakhar Zaman during the National Champions Cup 2026-27 at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Fakhar Zaman received the award along with a cash prize of Rs25,000 in recognition of his outstanding performance in the match.

On the occasion, Saif ur Rehman appreciated Fakhar Zaman’s performance and reaffirmed Zia Family Food Industries’ commitment to supporting cricket, emerging talent and constructive sporting activities across Pakistan. He said corporate-sector participation in sports plays



an important role in promoting athletes and strengthening national unity, encouraging young Pakistan’s sporting ecosystem.

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Opinion

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Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a Crossroads: Time for Democratic Change, Wider Membership and a Stronger Voice for Multan’s Business Community

Written By: Hursh Shah
Published By:ANI News Agency

A Chamber of Commerce is not merely a building, an office or a place for meetings. It is supposed to be the collective voice of businessmen, industrialists, traders and entrepreneurs. It should help businesses communicate with government, solve commercial problems, promote investment and exports, and guide young entrepreneurs who are trying to establish themselves. The Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has a long history. According to its official record, it was functioning even before Partition and was formally incorporated in 1959. Today, almost 67 years after its formal incorporation, it is time to ask an important question: Has the Chamber grown according to the economic potential of Multan? At present, the main competition in MCCI politics is being seen between the Founders Group and Friends Group. The Founders Group has remained highly influential in the affairs of the Chamber for many years. Its representatives themselves point to their long-standing role in projects such as the Multan Dry Port and other business-development initiatives. Their historical contribution should be acknowledged wherever it has benefited Multan.

However, a strong institution should never depend permanently on one circle of leadership. Critics of the old system have increasingly raised questions

about whether enough opportunities have been provided to new businessmen, young entrepreneurs and emerging industries. A Chamber should not appear to belong to a limited number of families or established business circles. It should open its doors to every genuine businessman who wants to grow. For many years, MCCI elections frequently ended without real competition. For example, the executive committee candidates were elected unopposed in 2016, office-bearers were elected unopposed in 2021 and 2022, and the president and other senior office-bearers were again elected unopposed for 2024–26.

There was, however, an important exception. In 2018, MCCI witnessed competitive balloting after more than three decades, when the Friends Group challenged the then-established group. This historical fact shows why the renewed competition in 2026 is so important. It can strengthen democracy inside the Chamber and encourage members to participate actively instead of accepting leadership through routine arrangements. Another serious question is the size of MCCI membership. A figure of around 1,700 members is being discussed in the current local debate. If this figure is confirmed by the Chamber’s final membership records, it deserves serious examination. Compare this with other major business centres. The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has more than 46,000 mem-

bers. The Sialkot Chamber reports more than 23,000 members, while the Gujranwala Chamber represents more than 20,000 active members. The Gujrat Chamber says it represents almost 16,000 businesses.

Multan is the economic centre of South Punjab. It has industries, exporters, agricultural businesses, traders, service companies and thousands of young entrepreneurs. Therefore, a comparatively small Chamber membership should make us think seriously. The solution is not criticism alone. The Chamber must start a large membership campaign, visit markets and industrial areas, create guidance desks for new businesses, organize export training, connect young entrepreneurs with banks and government institutions, and make membership valuable. In this situation, the Friends Group deserves appreciation for bringing renewed competition and debate into the 2026 election process. Competition should not be viewed as hostility. It is healthy for institutions. When members have a real choice, leadership becomes more accountable.

Multan does not need a Chamber belonging to one group or another. It needs a Chamber belonging to Multan’s entire business community.

The 2026 election should therefore become more than a contest for offices. It should become a movement for greater membership, transparency, fresh leadership, equal opportunity and the economic revival of Multan.

Balochistan’s New Direction: Sarfraz Bugti’s Leadership, the Light of Experience and the Journey of Collective Wisdom



By: Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani:
Published by ANI

Balochistan is passing through a phase in which its people need

more than political slogans and traditional announcements. They need practical performance, better governance, peace, employment opportunities and a clear direction for the future. In such circumstances, it is important to assess the performance of the present provincial government in a constructive and impartial manner: good work should be appreciated wholeheartedly, weaknesses should be addressed through sincere advice, and areas requiring improvement should be supported with practical and workable proposals.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government has undertaken a number of initiatives in education, healthcare, development planning, employment opportunities for youth, digital governance and administrative reforms. These measures have created an impression that the government is attempting to address Balochistan’s challenges through a modern administrative and developmental approach rather than relying solely on conventional methods.

One positive aspect of Sarfraz Bugti’s leadership is his apparent effort to give greater importance to decision-making and administrative performance. In a province as vast as Balochistan, where geographical challenges, law and order, unemployment, educational backwardness and limited resources are closely interconnected, the success of any government will depend not merely on budgets and development projects, but on continuous monitoring, merit, transparency and effective implementation.

It is also a reality that Balochistan’s problems cannot be completely resolved by any single government or individual. The government therefore needs to broaden its consultative framework and benefit from the experience of political, administrative and intellectual circles across the province.

Balochistan’s political landscape includes many experienced individuals who have closely observed the province’s political and social conditions for decades. The government should benefit from the political insight, understanding of ground realities and extensive experience of seasoned PML-N leaders and former ministers, particularly Shoaib Noshervani and Saleem Khosa.

Similarly, the current Governor of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, is a political figure with a long political career and extensive experience. His political insight, understanding of provincial and federal affairs, and relationships with diverse political and social groups constitute a valuable asset. His guidance and advice should not be confined merely to formal constitutional matters; rather, his experience should be effectively incorporated into discussions on the province’s major political, administrative, economic and developmental issues.

However, consultation should not remain confined to government circles. Balochistan’s political landscape also includes seasoned, thoughtful and far-sighted politicians such as Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Nawab Aslam Raisani and Mir Sadiq Sanjrani, all of whom have closely observed provincial politics and governance at different points in time.

Political differences have their own place, but in the broader interest of Balochistan, the positive opinion of every individual possessing experience and

wisdom can be valuable. Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti should establish a periodic consultative process with such experienced political leaders. This would not only add maturity to government decision-making but could also promote a more positive and mature political culture in the province.

The Need for an Independent Policy Think Tank for Balochistan

In this context, an important proposal is that the Government of Balochistan establish a formal ‘Balochistan Policy and Governance Think Tank’, operating outside the existing governmental and parliamentary structures and providing independent and impartial advice to the government.

Instead of parliamentary representatives, the forum should include experienced individuals with political insight who have remained associated with different political parties, whether currently part of the government or outside it, but who possess a deep understanding of Balochistan’s political, social and economic challenges.

The forum should also include retired and experienced bureaucrats, academics, university professors, economists, lawyers, experts in public administration, business-sector professionals, social development specialists, and educated and talented young people.

The purpose of this think tank should not be to establish a parallel political centre to the government. Rather, its objective should be to provide policy recommendations based on research, experience and collective wisdom.

Whether the issue concerns law and order, education and healthcare, employment for young people, agriculture and irrigation, minerals, industry, investment, tourism, urban development or digital governance, the government can benefit from structured consultation with specialists in each field.

The recommendations of this forum should not automatically become decisions of any single individual. Instead, they should be presented through the Chief Minister and relevant departments before the provincial cabinet. The cabinet should review the proposals, seek the views of concerned ministers and departments, and incorporate those recommendations into government policy that are found to be in the broader interest of the province.

Such a mechanism could provide the government with an intellectual and research-based support system capable of examining problems from a long-term perspective, relatively free from the pressures of day-to-day political and administrative affairs.

Bringing Young People into the World of Policy-Making

Educated and talented young people should be given meaningful representation in this think tank. The youth of Balochistan are not merely waiting for government jobs; they possess the ability to offer new ideas and innovative solutions in technology, education, entrepreneurship, economics and modern governance.

If young minds are brought into the intellectual process of policymaking, it will strengthen the relationship of trust between the government and the younger generation. It will also give young people a sense that they are active participants in shaping the future of their province.

Appreciation Alongside Constructive Criticism

It is important to acknowledge the government’s positive initiatives, but good governance also requires the ability to accept constructive criticism. An effective think tank is not one that praises every government decision; rather, it is one capable of identifying where improvement is required, where resources are being wasted and where policies need to

be reconsidered.

One of the major problems in Balochistan in the past has been the gap between announcements and implementation. If the present government succeeds in reducing this gap, it will represent a significant achievement. Every major project should have a clear timeline, defined standards, monitoring mechanisms and a system of accountability before the public.

The real measure of development is not simply how many projects have been approved, but how much those projects have improved the daily lives of ordinary citizens.

A school is successful when teachers are present and children are regularly receiving education. A hospital is successful when patients receive doctors, medicines and timely treatment. A youth policy is successful when young people are offered not merely promises, but genuine opportunities for skills development, employment and entrepreneurship.

Similarly, law and order and economic development in Balochistan cannot be treated as separate issues. Peace attracts investment; investment creates employment; employment generates hope among young people; and hope forms the foundation of a stable society.

A Historic Opportunity for Sarfraz Bugti

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has an important opportunity to move beyond routine administrative decision-making and introduce a new culture of policy development, consultation and governance in Balochistan.

If, on one hand, there is Sarfraz Bugti’s political and administrative leadership, while on the other hand the government benefits from the wisdom of experienced PML-N leaders and former ministers, particularly Shoaib Noshervani and Saleem Khosa, incorporates the broad political understanding and experience of Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail into meaningful consultation, and also draws upon the views of experienced and thoughtful politicians such as Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Nawab Aslam Raisani and Mir Sadiq Sanjrani, a new political tradition could emerge in Balochistan.

Alongside this, the establishment of an independent policy think tank comprising retired bureaucrats, experts, intellectuals, educated young people, economic and legal specialists, and thoughtful individuals from diverse political and social backgrounds could provide the government with permanent and impartial intellectual support for policymaking.

It must be remembered that governments come and go, but strong institutions, sound policies and effective systems can endure for generations.

Today, Balochistan needs not merely politics, but a combination of political insight, administrative experience, youthful thinking and collective wisdom.

The positive initiatives of the present government should be encouraged, while sincere advice should be offered wherever reform is required. The government must learn to view differences of opinion not as a weakness but as a strength, and criticism not as hostility but as an instrument for improvement.

If the present leadership of Balochistan succeeds in bringing together the wisdom of experience, the energy of youth and the strength of collective knowledge in a common direction, it can lay the foundation not merely for another term of government, but for a new political and administrative culture in the province.

The road to Balochistan’s new direction will not be built through major projects alone. It will be shaped by sound leadership, experience, wisdom, consultation, peace, merit and consistent implementation□

From the Death Cell to the Supreme Court: Bhutto’s Final Words and the Question of Justice That Still Haunts Pakistan

By Rana Farooq Ashraf : Published by ANI

Few chapters in Pakistan’s political and judicial history carry the emotional weight of the final days of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. His imprisonment, his years in the death cell, his final appearance before the Supreme Court and his execution on April 4, 1979, remain deeply embedded in the country’s constitutional and democratic history.

Bhutto served as President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, founded the Pakistan Peoples Party and played a central role in the making of the Constitution of 1973. He was also one of Pakistan’s most prominent statesmen, representing the country at major international forums and helping shape its foreign policy during a defining period in the country’s history.

Following the military coup of July 1977, however, Bhutto’s political life entered its final and most tragic phase.

On March 18, 1978, the Lahore High Court sentenced Bhutto to



death in the murder case involving Nawab Muhammad Ahmad Khan Kasuri. Bhutto appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

On February 6, 1979, the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence by a narrow four-to-three majority.

That four-to-three decision would remain one of the most consequential and debated judgments in Pakistan’s judicial history.

What makes Bhutto’s final chapter particularly poignant is the account he himself gave of his condition inside prison.

By the time he appeared before the Supreme Court, he had spent a prolonged period in solitary confinement in the death cell. During his defence, Bhutto told the court that after a long period inside his small death cell, he was physically struggling to stand for an extended period.

His counsel, Yahya Bakhtiar, requested an adjournment because Bhutto was exhausted. Bhutto nevertheless indicated that he was prepared to continue if the court wished him to do so.

The exchange revealed an extraordinary human dimension to the proceedings.

A former Prime Minister, once at the centre of national and international politics, was now physically weakened, confined and facing execution. Yet he remained determined to present his case before the highest court of the land.

When the court was scheduled to resume proceedings the following morning, reference was made to Bhutto’s habit of rising early.

His response was striking. He explained that although he had always been accustomed to rising early, the conditions of imprisonment had made it extremely difficult for him to sleep.

Bhutto then described his experiences in prison.

According to his account, while he was held at Kot Lakhpat Jail, men-



tally disturbed prisoners were kept near his cell and their continuous cries made sleep difficult. After his transfer to Rawalpindi Jail, he said that stones were thrown onto the roof of his cell at night.

He further described hearing the sound of military boots and what he believed to be marching on a nearby roof during the night.

These details should be understood primarily as Bhutto’s own account of his prison experience. Some have subsequently circulated widely in political literature and on social media. A responsible historical account must distinguish between a prisoner’s testimony and independently verified fact.

That distinction, however, does not diminish the significance of his testimony.

Bhutto was describing what it meant to live under a sentence of death.

For a man who had once occupied the highest offices of the state, the transformation into a condemned



prisoner was an extraordinary reversal of circumstances.

His prison writings provide another important window into this period.

In If I Am Assassinated, Bhutto recorded his experiences of imprisonment, isolation and life inside the death cell. He sought to leave behind his own account of the political and legal circumstances that had brought him to the point of execution.

His prison record also contains references to health complaints and physical difficulties during his final period of confinement.

Yet what stands out most strongly from his final statements is not simply physical suffering.

It is determination.

His body had weakened, but his resolve to speak had not disappeared.

That distinction is central to understanding the historical importance of his final appearance before the Supreme Court.

The courtroom was not merely the final stage of a criminal appeal. It was also the last major institutional forum in which Bhutto could present his own account of the events that had brought him to the death cell.

The political circumstances surrounding the trial were extraordinary.

Bhutto had been removed from power in a military coup led by General Zia-ul-Haq in July 1977. Pakistan was under martial law, political institutions had been disrupted and the country was experiencing a profound constitutional and political crisis.

It was in this environment that Bhutto’s trial proceeded.

The Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the death sentence by four votes to three meant that three members of the bench dissented. Their opinions raised important questions concerning the evidence and the legal reasoning involved in the case.

The narrow division of the bench became an enduring feature of the historical discussion surrounding the trial.

For decades, the case remained central to debates about constitutionalism, judicial independence and the relationship between political authority and the courts.

In 2011, former President Asif Ali Zardari filed a presidential reference under Article 186 of the Constitution, seeking the Supreme Court’s opinion on questions relating to Bhutto’s trial.

After years of proceedings, the Supreme Court gave its opinion on March 6, 2024.

The court unanimously observed that Bhutto had not been afforded a fair trial in accordance with constitutional and legal requirements.

The significance of this opinion was considerable.

The Supreme Court did not formally overturn Bhutto’s conviction or declare him acquitted. It held that the constitutional mechanism available through the presidential reference did not provide a procedure for simply setting aside the historical conviction.



However, the court acknowledged that the requirements of a fair trial and due process had not been fulfilled.

This gave the case a new constitutional and historical dimension.

The question was no longer limited to whether Bhutto was guilty or innocent.

A broader question emerged:

Was the process through which a former Prime Minister of Pakistan was sentenced to death consistent with the standards of a fair and impartial trial?

That question extends beyond one individual.

It concerns the independence of institutions.

It concerns the protection of constitutional rights during extraordinary political circumstances.

It concerns the responsibility of courts to remain impartial regardless of the political environment.

And it concerns the fundamental principle that every accused person is entitled to due process.

Bhutto’s final days also became part of international historical discourse.

His execution on April 4, 1979, received extensive international attention. In the decades that followed, his trial and execution continued to be examined in the context of Pakistan’s democratic development, military rule, constitutional politics and judicial independence.

The digital age has given this historical chapter another life.

Every year around April 4, excerpts from Bhutto’s speeches, photographs, prison writings and statements attributed to him circulate widely on Facebook, X and other digital platforms.

Some quotations are authentic; others are shortened, edited or incorrectly attributed.

For this reason, Bhutto’s final words should be studied through original court records, official documents, his own writings and credible historical research rather than relying solely on viral social-media posts.

This distinction is particularly important when discussing his prison experiences.

The historical record should be preserved with accuracy because Bhutto’s final days are not merely a matter of political memory. They form part of Pakistan’s institutional history.

His story represents an extraordinary contrast.

The man who had once represented Pakistan before world leaders was now standing before judges while awaiting execution.

The political leader who had addressed enormous public gatherings was confined to a small prison cell.

The former Prime Minister who had helped shape Pakistan’s constitutional framework was fighting for his life through legal arguments.

Yet he continued to speak. Perhaps that is the most enduring aspect of his final chapter.

The walls of the prison could restrict his movement, but they could not completely silence his voice.

His physical condition deteriorated, but his determination to present his case remained.

More than four decades later, the Supreme Court returned to the his-



torical record and acknowledged that the proceedings had not met the requirements of a fair trial.

History rarely provides complete closure.

But it can provide institutions and societies with an opportunity to reconsider their past.

The Bhutto case is one such moment.

It reminds Pakistan that constitutional democracy cannot depend solely on the personalities occupying positions of power. It depends upon institutions capable of protecting law, due process and fundamental rights even during periods of political upheaval.

A state is strongest not when it defeats its opponents, but when it guarantees justice to every citizen.

A court demonstrates its authority not merely by delivering a verdict, but by ensuring that the process leading to that verdict remains fair, transparent and independent.

And a democracy is judged not only by the strength of its governments, but by the protection it provides to fundamental rights when circumstances are at their most difficult.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was executed on April 4, 1979.

His life ended, but the questions surrounding his trial did not.

Governments changed.

Generations passed.

Political circumstances evolved. Yet the debate over justice remained.

The Supreme Court’s 2024 opinion gave that debate a new constitutional and historical dimension.

Perhaps that is why Bhutto’s final appearance before the court continues to resonate.

He entered the courtroom physically exhausted, but determined to speak.

He faced a sentence of death, yet continued to defend his position.

And decades later, Pakistan’s highest court revisited the process through which that sentence had been imposed.

The enduring lesson is simple but profound:

Justice is not merely the verdict delivered at the end of a trial. Justice is also the fairness of the journey that leads to that verdict.

From the narrow confines of the death cell to the highest court of the land, Bhutto’s final chapter remains a powerful reminder that political history and judicial history are often inseparable. Bhutto’s death belongs to the past. But the question of justice remains alive.

AJK Prime Minister Strongly Condemns US Ambassador’s Remarks in Srinagar

By: FT Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has strongly condemned the remarks by the US Ambassador to India, who described Kashmir as an “important part” of India during his visit to Srinagar.

Rathore said the statement was a blatant violation of historical facts, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and United Nations resolutions. He stressed that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory whose future must be decided through a free and impartial plebiscite reflecting the will of the Kashmiri people.

He said any unilateral declaration by a country or diplomat that occupied Jammu and Kashmir is part of India amounts to denying the



Kashmiri people their right to self-determination and distorting the historical and legal status of the region.

The AJK Prime Minister termed the remarks made in Srinagar deeply regrettable and condemnable, saying the international community, particularly major powers, has a respon-

sibility to support the fundamental right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people rather than overlook alleged human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Rathore said the Kashmiri people have continued their struggle for self-determination for decades despite what he described as Indian occupation, repression and human rights violations.

He reiterated that a lasting settlement of the Kashmir dispute can only be achieved in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The AJK government, he said, would further strengthen its diplomatic and political efforts to highlight the Kashmir issue internationally and amplify the voice of the people of occupied Kashmir.

Punjab Intensifies Crackdown Against Drugs Under CM Maryam Nawaz’s “Drug-Free Punjab” Vision

By: ANI Correspondent

LAHORE: The Punjab government has intensified its crackdown against drug dealers and smugglers under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif’s “Drug-Free Punjab” vision, with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Abdul Karim directing police officers to take strict action against major drug networks across the province.

According to the Punjab Police spokesperson, 33,940 drug dealers have been arrested and 33,542 cases registered during anti-narcotics operations in Gujranwala and Sialkot this year.

The seized drugs include 17,577 kilograms of cannabis (charas), 1,538 kilograms of heroin, 1,137 kilograms of ice (crystal methamphetamine), 750 kilograms of opium and more than 487,000 litres of liquor.



In Lahore, police have arrested 4,830 drug dealers and registered 4,675 cases during the current year. Police recovered 1,752 kilograms of cannabis, 103 kilograms of heroin, 513 kilograms of ice, 46 kilograms of opium and 20,580 litres of liquor from the suspects.

IGP Abdul Karim directed district police officers to bring all individuals involved in the drug supply chain



to justice and ensure strict legal action against them. He particularly ordered indiscriminate action against drug dealers operating around educational institutions and hostels, as well as those involved in the online sale and purchase of narcotics. The IGP also appreciated the performance of the Gujranwala and Sialkot police teams and announced commendation and appreciation certificates for the respective district police officers.

PM Youth Programme Chairman Meets Jinnah Trust Director to Advance Youth Development Initiatives

BY : F T Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister’s Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan held a meeting with Muhammad Al Khayyam, Director of the Junior Jinnah Trust, to discuss a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening youth development, skills training and volunteer engagement in Pakistan.

The meeting focused on developing stronger cooperation between the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme and the Junior Jinnah Trust, particularly in areas that can provide young people with practical skills, professional exposure and greater opportunities to contribute to society.

A key focus of the discussion was collaboration on the National Volunteer Corps (NVC), an initiative aimed at encouraging young people to participate in organized volunteer activities and play a more active role in community development. The participants discussed the potential of creating structured opportunities for youth to contribute to social, educational and community-oriented activities. The proposed collaboration is also expected to help promote a culture of volunteerism among young Pakistanis by providing them with opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, communication and organizational skills while serving their communities.

Another major initiative discussed during the meeting was the establishment of a Digital Skills Lab. The facility is envisioned as a platform where young people can acquire modern, market-driven digital skills in line with the rapidly changing requirements of the national and international job markets.

The Digital Skills Lab is expected to



focus on practical training and emerging technologies, enabling young people to improve their employability and explore opportunities in the digital economy, freelancing, entrepreneurship and technology-driven professions.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan emphasized the importance of equipping Pakistan’s youth with skills that correspond to the demands of the modern economy. He highlighted the need for stronger partnerships among government institutions, civil society organizations and private-sector stakeholders to expand opportunities for young people.

The meeting also underscored the importance of combining skills development with volunteerism and community engagement. Such initiatives can help young people not only build professional careers but also develop a stronger sense of social responsibility and leadership.

Muhammad Al Khayyam briefed the chairman on the Junior Jinnah Trust’s areas of work and discussed possible avenues for institutional cooperation. Both sides expressed interest in taking forward the proposed initiatives through coordinated efforts.

The proposed National Volunteer Corps collaboration and Digital Skills Lab are being viewed as potential steps toward creating a more inclusive youth development framework, with a particular emphasis on practical skills, innovation, volunteer service and employment opportunities.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to explore further cooperation and develop initiatives that can provide Pakistan’s young population with meaningful avenues for learning, leadership, employment and community service.

Commissioner Gujranwala Muhammad Ali Reviews Flood Preparedness in Wazirabad



BY: ANI Bureau :

GUJRANWALA --- Commissioner Gujranwala Division Muhammad Ali has directed all departments to complete preparations under the flood plan and ensure effective monitoring of water flow in rain drains, canals and rivers to deal with any

possible emergency during the monsoon season. During a visit to a canal in Wazirabad, Commissioner Muhammad Ali reviewed flood safety arrangements and emphasized that timely measures should be taken to protect lives and property and shift people to safer locations in case of an emergency.

Assistant Commissioner Wazirabad Jawad Hussain briefed the commissioner on the water flow and safety arrangements at the canal. The commissioner also inspected the beautification and painting work of the flyover near Nala Ek and issued necessary directions to the officers concerned.

United Veteran and Alliance Groups Join Hands, United Alliance Emerges as Strong Force in Jhelum Chamber Elections

By: ANI Correspondent

JHELMUM: Political and business activities have intensified ahead of the upcoming elections of the Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the United Veteran Group and Alliance Group joining hands to contest the election under the banner of the United Alliance.

Following mutual consultation and consensus, both groups have decided to unite and field candidates from the United Alliance platform, marking what they described as the first major step towards electoral success. The alliance has emerged as an organized and strong group in the chamber’s electoral arena.

Officials and members of the United Alliance said their objective is not to engage in politics against any individual or group, but to take practical measures for the welfare of the business community, further strengthen the Jhelum Chamber and contribute to the economic development and prosperity of Jhelum district.

The alliance leaders said that, if successful, the United Alliance would play an active role in resolving the problems faced by traders, promoting business activities, improving the



performance of the chamber and providing an effective platform for the business community. They said their biggest strength is the business community and their friends who are sincerely committed to the development of Jhelum. “We will take everyone along and will not leave anyone behind,” the leaders said.

The United Alliance officials expressed confidence that unity within their ranks and strong support from traders would ensure their success, adding that the election campaign is expected to gain further momentum in the coming days.

They also hinted at more major

developments and surprises in the election arena, saying that all future decisions would be taken with the development and prosperity of the Jhelum Chamber, business community and district of Jhelum in mind.

The alliance leaders reiterated their determination to make the chamber more active, strong and effective in addressing traders’ issues, while working to give the business community of Jhelum a more prominent position at the national level.

Following the merger of the two groups, the Jhelum Chamber election has entered a more interesting and decisive phase.

“Grassroots Sports Promotion Among Government’s Top Priorities” Barrister Danyal Chaudhry

BY : FT Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI - Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, has said that the government is actively working to promote sports and provide better facilities to youth, with grassroots-level encouragement of athletes remaining a key priority.

He was speaking at a ceremony at Waqar-un-Nisa College for Women, Rawalpindi, where he distributed 127 hockey kits to players from across Rawalpindi district.

Barrister Danyal said the initiative aims to equip young players with essential sports gear while revitalizing hockey at the grassroots level.

He said both federal and Punjab governments are taking practical steps to nurture young sporting talent. The Parliamentary Secretary stressed that collaboration between education and sports sectors can open up greater opportunities for youth to



showcase their abilities. He added that sports are instrumental in building discipline, teamwork, and self-confidence among young people.

Referring to hockey as Pakistan’s national sport, he said it is vital to attract the new generation to the

game, given its rich legacy and golden history.

Barrister Danyal said promoting hockey at the grassroots level will help produce future stars who can bring laurels to Pakistan on national and international stages.

Suthra Punjab Agency Intensifies Zero-Waste Operation in Rawalpindi Ahead of Rains



By: FT Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Managing Director Suthra Punjab Agency Rawalpindi Rana Sajid Safdar continued field visits to review cleanliness and drainage arrangements across the city.

He inspected the ongoing zero-waste operation at Pirwadhai General

Bus Stand, Nullah Lai, Murree Road and other areas. Officials briefed him on waste lifting, drain cleaning and arrangements made in view of the ongoing spell of rains.

Rana Sajid Safdar directed all operational staff to remain fully active during the rains and ensure immediate resolution of public complaints. He also ordered special attention to low-lying areas, with additional workers

and machinery to be deployed where required.

He directed officials to ensure continuous drain cleaning and prevent the accumulation of garbage anywhere in the city. He warned that negligence in cleanliness and drainage operations would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against those failing to perform their duties.

IG Punjab Chairs High-Level Meeting in Rawalpindi, Directs Foolproof Security for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

BY: ANI Crime Reporter:

RAWALPINDI: Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem visited the Regional Police Office Rawalpindi and chaired an important meeting of senior police officers of the Rawalpindi Region.

RPO Rawalpindi Babar Sarfraz Alpa, CPO Rawalpindi Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera, regional officers of Special Branch, CCD, CTD and other senior officers attended the meeting. The IG Punjab was given a detailed briefing on the crime, law and order and security situation in the region, particularly security arrangements for the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

IG Punjab Abdul Kareem directed authorities to ensure foolproof security for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) processions and religious gatherings, with special focus on procession routes, gathering venues and sensitive points.

He directed that all officers and personnel deployed for security duties be thoroughly briefed about their responsibilities and that effective coordination be maintained with religious scholars, organizers and the district admin-



istration.

Taking strict notice of incidents involving accused persons escaping from police custody, IG Punjab directed supervisory officers to personally monitor such matters and ensure complete compliance with security protocols during the custody, handover and transportation of accused persons.

Under the Chief Minister Punjab’s Safe Punjab Vision, IG Punjab directed police to further strengthen patrolling, snap checking, search operations and intelligence-based operations to prevent crime. He also ordered the arrest of

suspects involved in serious crimes and merit-based investigation of cases.

He emphasized that prompt resolution of citizens’ complaints and timely provision of justice must remain among the police’s top priorities. Senior officers were directed to remain present in the field and continuously monitor security arrangements. IG Punjab Abdul Kareem said protection of the lives, property, honour and dignity of citizens is the foremost responsibility of the police and all available resources must be utilized to fulfill this responsibility.