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Iran says new sanctions threatened by 'desperate' US will fail



ANI

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Sunday dismissed the threat of new US sanctions as a sign of desperation and said the expected new measures would fail to defeat Tehran.

"We have never been afraid. All of their actions - whether blockades or other military moves they have made - have failed, and this new issue of theirs will fail as well," he said. Araghchi stated that the US "has no way forward other than dialogue with the Iranian nation with respect, solution based on justice, dignity," Iran's state-owned Press TV reported.

Separately, Iran's ISNA news agency posted on X that Araghchi

termed US President Donald Trump's "economic war" "the same old American bullying."

"The economic war is a repetitive scenario and the same perennial bullying in American policies. This is a repetitive film that we have seen many times and we know how to confront it," ISNA quoted Araghchi as saying.

In another post, it noted that the foreign minister said that "America has returned to old schemes of military threats and claims of attacks and strikes," which he stated "shows that it has become desperate in the face of the Iranian nation and has no new solution."

Earlier, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said that Chief of Defence Forces

(CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir would visit Tehran on Monday.

Pakistan has taken on a mediator role in negotiations between Iran and the US aimed at ending the war which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February.

The visit aims to bolster bilateral cooperation and build on "Pakistan's efforts to help strengthen peace and security in the region," Baghaei said in remarks carried by Iran's state-run news agency IRNA, Anadolu reported.

Baghaei added that CDF Munir would hold discussions with senior Iranian officials during the trip. Two Pakistani government

sources confirmed CDF Munir's visit to Reuters, with the first source saying that Iran and Pakistan were in direct contact. A second source said the talks would also address recent developments in the conflict, including US President Donald Trump's threat of tougher sanctions on Iran.

"He (CDF Munir) will discuss peace under Islamabad's MoU, Trump's warning and the situation after the Pakistan-Turkey-Saudi Arab Agreement and Houthi issues with Iranian leaders," the source said. The announcement of CDF Munir's visit came after the field marshal and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a telephone conversation early on Sunday.

Bangladesh signals openness to joining Pakistan-Saudi-Turkiye defence agreement



ANI

Bangladesh has signalled that it is open to joining the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, as Dhaka seeks to expand its strategic partnerships while keeping national interests at the centre of its foreign policy, it emerged on Saturday, according to state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

"Bangladesh maintains a positive approach towards the possibility of joining an economic or defence framework involving Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkiye, taking into account its own interests and the changing dynamics of the global economy and trade, said Bangladesh Prime Minister's Adviser for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kobir. Kobir said Bangladesh was pursuing a balanced foreign policy under its "Bangladesh First" approach in the international arena, with national interests at its core. "Bangladesh is strengthening its working bilateral relationship with Pakistan as part of normal diplomatic engagement, with a focus on trade and bilateral people-to-people connectivity," he said.

Kobir said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to Riyadh, at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime

Minister Mohammed bin Salman, was likely to be finalised soon after the summer.

The remarks come just over two weeks after Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in Makkah on August 7. Under the pact, an armed attack against any one of the three signatories is to be regarded as an attack against all three. The agreement also envisages broader defence cooperation and collective deterrence.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has described the arrangement as technically similar to NATO's Article 5 mutual-defence provision, while stressing that it is not directed against Iran or any other country. Ankara has also indicated that the framework could be expanded to include other regional countries, with Egypt previously identified as a potential participant.

Pakistan has similarly said the agreement remains defensive in nature and is open to countries willing to uphold its principles. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said the pact does not replace existing bilateral or multilateral arrangements and is open to countries committed to cooperation, mutual respect and peaceful resolution of differences.

Sindh govt again seeks SHC judicial commission to probe Mir Raza murder case

ANI

KARACHI: The Sindh government has once again decided to request the chief justice of the Sindh High Court (SHC) to constitute a judicial commission to investigate the murder of Mir Raza Ali, the Sindh chief minister's spokesperson said on Sunday.

Soon after the killing, the Sindh government had decided to constitute a judicial commission headed by an SHC judge to oversee a transparent and impartial investigation. It later deferred the formation of the commission after the victim's family expressed confidence in a newly constituted police investigation team.

The spokesperson, in a statement today, said the Sindh government had taken the concerns raised by Ali's family "extremely seriously" and that a letter sent by the family to the chief minister had been received.

"The judicial commission will conduct an impartial and transparent investigation into the murder case and examine any shortcomings in the investigation, important aspects and evidence requiring further inquiry," the spokesperson said.

The statement added that the commission would also review the role of police, medical officers and other relevant officials. It may recommend action if negligence, dereliction of duty, professional misconduct or tampering with evidence was established.

According to a spokesperson, the commission would have the authority to recommend further investigation and forensic analysis. Under the Sindh Tribunals of Inquiry Ordinance 1969, it would have powers equivalent to those of a civil court and



would be able to summon witnesses, record statements on oath, and requisition documents and records.

"The chief minister has directed all government departments, institutions and officials to fully cooperate with the commission, while the Home Department

would provide the necessary secretariat support," the spokesperson said.

The statement said that the commission would submit its report, findings and recommendations to the Sindh government within 30 days of its establishment. Its term may be extended if required to ensure a complete and fair investigation. The spokesperson said the commission would comprehensively review the investigation procedure and the role of relevant authorities, and would have full authority to recommend appropriate action in accordance with the law. "The Sindh government stands with the family of Ali," the spokesperson said, adding that a transparent judicial inquiry would address the family's legitimate concerns and further strengthen confidence in the rule of law.

Meanwhile, Ali's father Mir Hussain expressed reservations over the Sindh government's decision to form a judicial commission to investigate his son's murder, saying he would approach the SHC against the move. Hussain said he would approach the high court on Monday morning and request it to constitute a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe the case.

Ali, 25, was allegedly kidnapped from PECHS before his body was found in bushes near a wedding hall in Gulistan-e-Johar on July 29.

Load shedding continues in Pakistan despite low power demand

ANI

Electricity load shedding has continued across Pakistan during nighttime hours despite relatively low demand, with consumers facing two to four hours of outages. Sources said the government is reducing electricity generation from expensive fuels and imported RLNG to prevent a rise in fuel costs, but the move is resulting in continued power cuts for consumers. Sources said electricity generation from expensive fuel-based plants and imported RLNG is being reduced as authorities seek to control the cost of power generation.

Expensive power plants are being avoided to prevent an increase in fuel costs, resulting in a nighttime electricity shortfall of around 3,000MW. The shortage has forced electricity distribution companies (Discos) to resort to load management despite lower nighttime demand.

According to the available details, two to four hours of load shedding at night has become the norm across the country. The situation is particularly notable because the outages are continuing even when overall electricity demand is relatively low. During peak hours, electricity demand across the country remains around 23,000MW. However, the government is managing generation and supply at night to avoid relying heavily on costly fuel. Consumers in the IESCO region are also experiencing two to four hours of load shedding every night. According to an IESCO spokesperson, the current electricity demand in the region stands at 1,850MW, while only 1,492MW is being received from the National Grid. This leaves a shortfall of 358MW, forcing the distribution company to carry out load management. Sources said the nighttime load shedding is linked to efforts to keep fuel costs under control.

CDF Munir to visit Tehran on Monday: Iranian foreign ministry

ANI

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir will visit Tehran on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Sunday, according to Iran's state-owned Press TV. The visit aims to bolster bilateral cooperation and build on "Pakistan's efforts to help strengthen peace and security in the region," Baghaei said in remarks carried by Iran's state-run news agency IRNA, Anadolu reported. Baghaei added that CDF Munir would hold discussions with senior Iranian officials during the trip. Two Pakistani government sources confirmed CDF Munir's visit to Reuters, with the first source saying that Iran and Pakistan were in direct contact.

A second source said the talks would also address recent developments in the conflict,



including US President Donald Trump's threat of tougher sanctions on Iran. "He (CDF Munir) will discuss peace under Islamabad's MoU, Trump's warning and the situation after the Pakistan-Turkey-Saudi Arab Agreement and Houthi issues with Iranian leaders," the source

said. The announcement of CDF Munir's visit came after the field marshal and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a telephone conversation early on Sunday. According to an X post by the Iranian government, the two "discussed regional developments and effective ways to strengthen peace, stability and security in West Asia." The announcement came at a time of heightened tensions in the Middle East, with Islamabad continuing efforts to mediate between Tehran and Washington, seeking to end the war which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February. The field marshal visited Tehran in May this year, accompanied by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, as part of the ongoing mediation efforts. Prior to that, he visited in April. In July, CDF Munir, along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Tehran to attend the funeral rites of Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Long march as per schedule: KP CM

ANI

HANGU: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Saturday said the September 27 long march was a firm and non-negotiable date and would be held as scheduled, declaring that he would personally lead the march towards Islamabad.

Addressing participants of the PTI street movement at Hangu Bazaar Chowk and Abu Bakr Siddique Chowk, the chief minister urged workers to make comprehensive preparations, saying, "This time, there is no turning back. We will return victorious on September 27." Sohail Afridi criticised what he described as selective enforcement of judicial orders, saying a Supreme Court three-member bench had directed that PTI founder Imran Khan be provided treatment at the Shifa International Hospital but the order had not been implemented. He alleged that the government and administration had disregarded the court's directive, undermining the authority of the judiciary. He questioned why judicial orders against PTI workers were implemented immediately while the order concerning Imran Khan's treatment had not been enforced.

PTI demands Imran's CT angiography be conducted at Shifa Int'l Hospital

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Following reports that jailed PTI founder Imran Khan could not undergo a recommended computed tomography angiography (CTA) during a hospital visit this week, his party condemned the authorities over their "continued failure" to carry out the procedure and demanded that it be immediately conducted at Shifa International Hospital.

When the PTI founder was brought to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) in the early hours of Friday for an eye procedure and other diagnostic



examinations, doctors recommended a CTA of the heart, but hospital staff reportedly said the facility was unavailable. After

other tests, he was subsequently shifted back to Adiala jail, reportedly without undergoing the CTA, which can help identify coronary blockages and assess the risk of a heart attack.

Sources told Dawn the Cardiac Centre's conventional angiography facility at Pims was different from CTA. While conventional angiography involves inserting a catheter into a blood vessel, CTA is performed using a CT scanner and does not require puncturing a vein. Doctors pointed out that a 128-slice CT scanner had been operational in Pims' radiology department since March 2022 and was capable of performing CTA.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding reforms in the agriculture

Husband Arrested for Cutting Wife’s Hair and Allegedly Subjecting Her to Violence in Sialkot

BY: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA: Sialkot Virtual Women Police Station took immediate action after a woman reported that her husband had allegedly subjected her to violence and cut her hair, resulting in the arrest of the accused.

According to details, the affected woman contacted the Virtual Women Police Station through emergency helpline 15 and reported that her husband had allegedly assaulted her and cut her hair.

Taking serious notice of the incident, DPO Sialkot Captain (R) Dost Muhammad termed the alleged act inhumane and ordered legal action. Police subsequently registered a case against the accused on the woman's complaint and arrested him.

The accused will be presented



before the court and will face legal consequences if found guilty.

DPO Sialkot Captain (R) Dost Muhammad said that women are an important part of society and their protection remains the top priority of Sialkot Police. He said violence, humiliation or harass-

ment against women would not be tolerated.

He further stated that domestic disputes do not give anyone the right to subject a wife or any woman to violence, humiliation or mistreatment. Strict action would be taken against those involved in violence against women in accordance with the law.

The DPO added that the government has introduced various measures and support mechanisms for the protection of women, including the Virtual Women Police Station and other facilities, to ensure immediate assistance in case of any difficulty or threat.

He urged women and citizens facing domestic violence or any form of oppression to immediately contact 15 or the Virtual Women Police Station for assistance.

Security and Administrative Arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi SAW Reviewed in Sargodha

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA --A meeting was held in Sargodha under the chairmanship of Chairman Punjab Muthahida Ulema Board, Dr. Mufti Intikhab Ahmed Noori, to review in detail the security and administrative arrangements for the central processions, religious gatherings and other programmes to be held on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ.

Commissioner Sargodha Division Hafiz Shaukat Ali said that foolproof security and the best possible arrangements would be ensured on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ. He directed all concerned departments to perform their duties through effective coordination and mutual cooperation. He further stressed that cleanliness, removal of encroachments, smooth flow of traffic, adequate lighting and other necessary



facilities along the procession routes must be ensured in a timely manner.

Chairman Punjab Muthahida Ulema Board Dr. Mufti Intikhab Ahmed Noori said that promoting peace, religious tolerance and brotherhood was a collective responsibility. He urged

religious scholars, religious organisations and procession organisers to extend full cooperation to the district administration and police so that all Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ programmes could be held peacefully, respectfully and in an orderly manner.

Pakistan End 16-Year World Cup Victory Drought with Thrilling 4-3 Win Over Japan

Report: ANI Sports

AMSTELVEEN -- Pakistan ended a 16-year wait for a victory at the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup with a thrilling 4-3 comeback win over Japan in their classification match at the Wagener Stadium.

Japan made a strong start and took a 2-0 lead through Hyota Yamada and Kaito Tanaka. Pakistan responded strongly as Rana Waheed Ashraf scored twice to level the match, while Muhammad Hammaduddin put Pakistan ahead 3-2.

Japan equalised through Koji Yamasaki, but Hannan Shahid scored the decisive goal in the 41st minute to give Pakistan a 4-3 lead. The Green Shirts held on in the closing stages despite strong pressure from Japan.



Associated Press of Pakistan +1 Rana Waheed Ashraf scored two goals for Pakistan, while Muhammad Hammaduddin and Hannan Shahid scored one each.

The victory marked Pakistan's

first World Cup win since their 2-1 victory over Spain in the 2010 edition. However, Pakistan had already been eliminated from the race for the tournament's second phase after their earlier results.

Health Employees Announce OPD Boycott If Health Allowance Not Re-fixed Within a Week

Report: FT City Reporter:

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting of the Federal Grand Health Alliance Islamabad was held at PIMS Hospital, attended by representatives from various federal hospitals and a large number of clinical health employees from PIMS.

The meeting was addressed by Malik Zeeshan Awan, Haroon Pirzada, Kashif, Naseer Ahmed, Dr. Yousaf Khan, Sharif Khattak and Muhammad Arshad Khan, among other leaders.

Participants expressed serious concern over disparities in salaries and allowances among federal health employees and demanded that the government immediately re-fix the health allowance at the level of the 2022 running basic pay for all federal health employees.

At the conclusion of the meeting,



participants unanimously agreed on a future course of action. They announced that if their demands were not accepted within one week, the scope of the protest would be expanded.

The alliance leaders said they would visit federal hospitals to finalise the protest strategy. In case of continued non-fulfilment of their

demands, all services except emergency services, including OPDs, would be boycotted at federal hospitals. Federal Grand Health Alliance leader Muhammad Arshad Khan said the government should immediately address the legitimate demands of health employees, otherwise they would be compelled to expand their protest.

Mövenpick Hotel Karachi Continues Grand Pan Asian Food Festival with Indonesian Culinary Showcase



BY : ANI Correspondent,:

KARACHI: Mövenpick Hotel Karachi continued its month-long Grand Pan Asian Food Festival with an Indonesian culinary showcase at Lotus Court Restaurant from August 21 to 23, offering guests an opportunity to experience the vibrant flavours and rich culinary traditions of

Indonesia.

The Indonesian weekend featured a specially curated selection of traditional dishes, aromatic spices and authentic flavours, creating an immersive dining experience for food enthusiasts, families, corporate guests and hotel patrons.

Following successful Chinese and Japanese weekends, the Indonesian

showcase marked the third chapter of the festival's culinary journey. The festival will conclude with a Thai cuisine weekend from August 28 to 30, completing the four-country gastronomic experience. The Grand Pan Asian Food Festival is being held every Friday to Sunday from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Lotus Court Restaurant, Mövenpick Hotel Karachi.

Twin cities glow with green lights ahead of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are resplendent with illuminations, flags, and banners as Muslims across the region prepare to commemorate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace be upon him) with religious zeal.

Markets, residential streets, and shopping plazas have been decorated with LED lights, buntings, and calligraphic banners bearing “Marhaba Ya Mustafa (PBUH)”. District administrations of both cities have started cleanliness drives and made security arrangements for central processions and Milad gatherings expected on 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal. Shopkeepers have set up special stalls selling decorative items, flags, and Milad accessories. In Rawalpindi's Raja Bazaar and Commercial Market, shopfronts are lined with fairy lights and green drapes. Muhammad Aslam, a shopkeeper in Raja Bazaar said “We decorate our shops every year to express our love for the Holy Prophet(PBUH) adding that he said this is

not just business, it's devotion”.

People have started buying lights and flags from the first week of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

He further said 12 Rabi-ul-Awal is the most special day for them as they give discounts on decorative items and distribute sweets to customers which brings barakah to their business. “People buy more in these days than in normal months, we stock extra lights, flags and Milad banners” he commented. Similar scenes were witnessed in Islamabad's Melody Market, F-10 Markaz, and G-9 Bazaar. Ayesha bibi a resident of G-6 said “We have been putting up lights on our street for 15 years. Children especially wait for this time”. She told that they recite Naat, arrange Mehfil, and distribute sweets in neighborhood. The streets look like a festival. It feels like Eid has come early,she said. She explained that 12 Rabi-ul-Awal reminds them of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH),they decorate the house not just for beauty, but to express love and gratitude.”

Govt to export surplus sugar stock

ANI

The government decided on Sunday to export surplus sugar stock imported last year through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). Last year, the government imported 300,000 metric tonnes of sugar through the TCP to control prices in the domestic market. All taxes and duties on the imported sugar were waived, but the imported sugar still proved more expensive than sugar available in the local market. The government first asked sugar mills to lift the imported sugar, but mill owners refused. It then closed the sugar mills’ portals in an attempt to sell the imported sugar. Despite these efforts, the expensive and substandard sugar could not be sold in the market. Old stocks have left the country with a surplus of sugar. The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has been pressing the government to allow the export of the surplus stock. The PSMA said that 3.1 million metric tonnes of sugar were in stock by July 2026, while average monthly consumption stood at 564,196 metric tonnes. At the start of the crushing season, a surplus of 1.197 million metric tonnes is expected.

CDA approves 23 commercial building plans in four DVC meetings

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has approved 23 commercial building plans out of 32 cases presented before the Design Vetting Committee (DVC) during its last four meetings held on June 4, June 16, July 30 and August 20, 2026.

According to the CDA, a total of 40 commercial building plan cases were scheduled for consideration during the four meetings. However, eight cases were withdrawn by architects and sponsors before the meetings due to incomplete documents and failure to meet the required conditions.

Of the remaining 32 cases presented before the DVC, 23 were approved while some cases were postponed due to incomplete presentation of basic parking arrangements and other mandatory parameters by



architects and designers.

The CDA said the postponed and deferred cases would be presented again before the DVC after completion of all required documents and fulfillment of the relevant requirements. An advisory has also been issued to architects in this regard.

Five cases could not be presented because the concerned clients or architects were absent.

The CDA said, on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and CDA Chairman, the authority is

working to facilitate investment in Islamabad, simplify business procedures and speed up approval of building plans while ensuring public safety. Under the revised procedure, the names of building owners as well as architects and consultants will be mentioned in the final approval letter issued by the DVC. Their names will also be displayed at the construction site during the construction period. The CDA said the measure would help fix responsibility in case of any unauthorized change in the approved design, with legal action possible against the owner, architect or consultant responsible for the violation. The authority said that while the approval process was being made easier and faster, additional responsibilities were also being placed on owners, architects and consultants to ensure compliance with approved designs and regulations.

NCCIA announces recruitment for over 350 vacancies

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Cybercrime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), operating under the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, has initiated a nationwide recruitment drive across multiple cadres to fill 351 vacant positions.

The initiative aims to enhance the agency's operational and forensic capabilities in combating digital threats, online financial fraud, and cyber offenses.

According to official , the vacancies include 48 Sub-Inspectors (BS-14), 15 Technical Assistants (BS-14), 8 Stenotypists (BS-14), 6 Upper Division Clerks (BS-11), 36 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (BS-09), 174 Constables (BS-05), and 64 Constable Drivers (BS-05). Educational qualifications range from Master's/Bachelor's degrees in

Computer Science, Information Technology, Cyber Security, Software Engineering, and Telecommunications to intermediate and secondary school certificates, depending on the requirements of each post. The age bracket for all positions has been set between 18 and 25 years, with an applicable general age relaxation of five years under federal government service rules. Selection for uniformed roles will require mandatory physical endurance and measurement screenings, including a 1.6-kilometer run test, prior to computer-based testing and final evaluations. The recruitment is being processed under prescribed provincial, regional, gender, and minority quotas to ensure merit-based nationwide representation. Online applications have been invited through the National Police Foundation Testing and Assessment Service portal (www.npftas.pk) until September 7.

Saudi Business Community Shows Strong Interest in Pakistan Investment

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment and Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh met with a delegation of the Saudi Investment Forum to discuss ways to strengthen economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and promote greater Saudi investment in Pakistan. The delegation was led by Kunwar Qutbuddin and included Engr. Ghulam Safdar, President of the Pakistan Investor and Business Forum (PIBF), and Raja Riaz, Chairman of Mokamel International LLC. During the meeting, the delegation briefed the minister on the Saudi Investment Forum, its structure and objectives. It said that the previously separate forums in Riyadh and Jeddah had been consolidated into a single forum representing Saudi Arabia, with a network of more than 400 businesses. The delegation said the forum aims to provide a platform for credible busi-

nesses to develop commercial, investment and business-to-business links. It also highlighted Saudi Arabia's growing role as a regional center for trade and investment and discussed opportunities for partnerships, joint ventures and long-term business cooperation.

Welcoming the delegation, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia and wants to further strengthen economic and investment cooperation between the two countries.

He said the BOI would facilitate genuine Saudi investors by helping them identify investment opportunities, coordinating with relevant government institutions and addressing issues that may arise during the investment process.

The minister briefed the delegation on the role of BOI's Honorary Investment Counsellors in promoting Pakistan's investment potential in international markets. He also

highlighted government efforts to improve the business environment through regulatory reforms aimed at simplifying procedures and reducing unnecessary requirements.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said the Business Facilitation Center (BFC) was helping investors and businesses deal with government departments through a coordinated, single-window system. He identified agriculture, information technology, mining, manufacturing, energy, infrastructure, logistics, food processing and tourism among the sectors offering investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The minister also spoke about his background in the business community and said his experience had given him an understanding of the challenges faced by investors and entrepreneurs. He also referred to his involvement in education and social development, including his contribution to the establishment of FAST University in Chiniot.

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Opinion

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Pakistan Needs a New Partnership with Its Overseas Citizens



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Pakistan is passing through a period of considerable political, economic and social challenges. Political differences remain intense, the economy continues to demand difficult decisions, security concerns require sustained attention, and climate-related emergencies are placing additional pressure on communities across the country. At such a moment, Pakistan needs to look beyond conventional political debates and recognize one of its greatest national assets: the millions of Pakistanis living across the world.

Talent, wherever it is in the world, must not and should not go unnoticed. Pakistanis living overseas have acquired knowledge, experience and expertise across almost every field of modern life. They are working in medicine, education, technology, finance, engineering, business, public administration, research and international relations. This human capital represents an enormous opportunity for Pakistan.

Overseas Pakistanis are not simply a source of foreign exchange. They are an important part of Pakistan's national community. They contribute to the economy through remittances, invest in businesses and property, support their families, promote Pakistan internationally and maintain strong connections with their homeland. Many have also acquired valuable experience in democratic governance, technology, education, healthcare, finance and entrepreneurship.

The relationship between Pakistan and its overseas citizens should therefore move beyond financial transfers. The next stage should be about partnership, knowledge and national development.

Pakistan is also a nation enriched with profound culture, art, music and poetry. Its cultural heritage reflects centuries of history and civilizational development. From the legacy of Mughal culture and architecture to the diverse traditions of all four provinces, Pakistan possesses a cultural identity that deserves greater recognition both nationally and internationally.

Our heritage is not simply part of our past; it is an important component of our future.

Pakistan is equally blessed with extraordinary natural beauty. Allah Ta'ala has blessed this country with vast and diverse landscapes, including some of the world's most spectacular mountain ranges. A country that encompasses snow-covered peaks, valleys, forests, rivers and deserts possesses a remarkable geographical diversity.

From the majestic mountains of the north to the deserts and coastal landscapes of the south, Pakistan has a wealth of natural beauty that remains insufficiently explored and internationally recognized.

Tourism, therefore, has the potential to become a major contributor to Pakistan's economy if developed responsibly and sustainably. With proper infrastructure, international marketing, environmental protec-

tion, security and facilities for visitors, Pakistan could attract tourists interested in adventure, heritage, culture, history, nature and mountaineering.

The potential is enormous, but development must always respect the rights and interests of local communities. Land and natural resources must be protected through lawful and transparent mechanisms so that local people remain the rightful beneficiaries of economic development. No individual or group, whether external or internal, should be permitted to exploit public or community resources outside the law.

Responsible tourism should create employment and opportunities for local communities rather than displacing them. The people who live in these regions must have a meaningful stake in their development and prosperity.

This is where the knowledge and expertise of Pakistani communities abroad can make a substantial difference.

Overseas Pakistanis can help introduce international tourism practices, investment models, hospitality standards, digital marketing strategies and sustainable development approaches. They can also help connect Pakistani tourism businesses with international markets and investors.

The same principle applies to education and technology.

Young Pakistanis need access to the skills required by a rapidly changing global economy. Professionals living abroad can mentor students, support startups, establish academic partnerships and provide international exposure. Pakistani universities, businesses and institutions should be encouraged to develop structured networks with professionals in the diaspora.

Women can also play a particularly important role in this process. Pakistani women living abroad have demonstrated their capabilities in business, professional careers, academia, public service and community leadership. Their experience can help inspire and support women in Pakistan who want to participate more actively in the economy and society.

Political stability is equally important. Pakistan cannot achieve sustainable economic development in an environment of permanent political confrontation. Democracy requires disagreement, but it also requires dialogue, tolerance and respect for constitutional institutions.

Political parties have the right to compete and present different visions for the country. However, national interests must remain above partisan differences. Political dialogue should be seen not as weakness but as a strength of a mature democratic system.

Pakistan also needs a stronger institutional mechanism for engaging its overseas citizens.

The government should consider establishing a dedicated and empowered institution specifically designed to coordinate the knowledge, expertise, investment and professional capabilities of overseas Pakistanis. Such an institution should not merely function as a bureaucratic office. It should serve as a bridge between Pakistan and its global Pakistani community.

It could maintain professional



databases, facilitate investment, connect experts with Pakistani institutions, promote tourism and cultural diplomacy, encourage educational cooperation and help overseas entrepreneurs navigate legitimate investment procedures.

Such a platform could significantly improve Pakistan's ability to benefit from its global human capital while also strengthening the country's international relations and engagement.

The participation of overseas Pakistanis can help Pakistan's economy grow by encouraging investment, supporting entrepreneurship, expanding exports and transferring knowledge and technology. With proper planning and institutional support, this contribution could produce benefits far beyond the value of remittances alone.

Pakistan can move forward by leaps and bounds if it encourages its overseas citizens to join hands with those at home for the betterment and advancement of the country's future.

But this partnership must be based on trust, transparency and the rule of law.

Pakistanis living abroad should be given confidence that their legitimate investments and contributions will be protected, while local communities must also be assured that development will not come at the cost of their rights or resources.

The future requires cooperation between the government, private sector, civil society, local communities and Pakistanis across the world.

Pakistan's greatest strength is ultimately its people. Its talented youth, rich cultural heritage, extraordinary landscapes and global Pakistani community provide the country with resources that many nations would consider invaluable.

The challenge is to organize these strengths into a coherent national strategy.

If talent wherever it exists is recognized, if culture and heritage are promoted, if tourism is developed responsibly, if natural resources are protected under the law, and if overseas Pakistanis are given meaningful opportunities to contribute their knowledge and expertise, Pakistan can unlock a new chapter of sustainable development.

The Pakistan of tomorrow should not be built by one institution, one political party or one generation. It must be built collectively—by citizens at home and abroad.

Our overseas community is not separate from Pakistan's story. It is part of that story.

With the right vision, stronger institutions and a genuine spirit of cooperation, the knowledge, talent, investment and goodwill of Pakistanis around the world can become a powerful force for economic growth, international engagement and harmonious national development.

Pakistan has the people, the culture, the natural beauty and the resources. What it needs now is the vision and institutional framework to bring these strengths together.

The 28th Amendment and Pakistan's Next Political Chapter



By Rana Farooq Ashraf :
Published by ANI

Pakistan appears to be approaching another important political crossroads. The debate surrounding a possible 28th Constitutional Amendment has brought several fundamental questions back to the centre of national politics: should Pakistan have additional provinces or administrative units? Should some powers be reconsidered between the federation and the provinces? Can local governments be made genuinely autonomous? And, perhaps most importantly, can the country's major political forces agree on a framework of governance that survives beyond the life of a single government?

At present, there is no final, publicly available text of a 28th Amendment. Much of what is being discussed remains at the level of proposals and political speculation. Yet the debate itself is significant. Recent discussions have included the possibility of new administrative units, the division of large provinces and a stronger local-government structure.

The question of new provinces cannot, however, be treated as a simple exercise in redrawing maps. Pakistan's Constitution provides a specific procedure for altering provincial boundaries, including the requirement of a two-thirds majority in the relevant provincial assembly.

Any serious attempt at restructuring must therefore be based on constitutional procedure, political consultation and public legitimacy.

There is a compelling argument for administrative reform. Pakistan's population has expanded dramatically, while many citizens continue to struggle to access basic state services. Large provinces often make effective administration difficult, particularly when decision-making remains concentrated far from the communities it is supposed to serve.

But smaller provinces alone will not solve Pakistan's governance crisis. The country also needs empowered local governments with political, administrative and financial authority. A recent national debate involving representatives from the PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM, JI and JUI-F highlighted precisely this point: new provinces, fiscal devolution, stronger local governments and institutional reform should be considered together rather than as mutually exclusive alternatives.

This is where the debate over the 18th Amendment becomes particularly sensitive. The PPP has repeatedly warned against any attempt to undermine provincial autonomy or reverse the devolution of powers achieved through the amendment. The party has maintained that constitutional change affecting the provinces must be pursued through consensus and the constitutional framework.

The latest deterioration in relations between the PPP and the PML-N makes the situation even more delicate. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has announced that the PPP

will suspend cooperation with the government until its concerns are addressed. He has also stressed that parliament must be allowed to perform its constitutional role.

This development should not necessarily be viewed as the end of coalition politics. It may instead become an opportunity for a more mature form of political negotiation.

The future of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, or the broader political coalition that has emerged around the PML-N-led government, will depend on whether it can move beyond the politics of numbers. Parliamentary strength is important, but constitutional reform requires something greater: political legitimacy.

If the government wants to pursue a major constitutional package, it should not attempt to construct it behind closed doors and then seek votes at the final stage. The process should begin with structured negotiations with the PPP, PTI and other parliamentary forces. Every major proposal should be examined for its constitutional, financial, administrative and political consequences.

The PTI, too, has a role to play. If its parliamentarians are ultimately required for constitutional legislation, the party should judge every proposal on its merits rather than treating parliamentary cooperation as an unconditional endorsement of the government. Likewise, the government should recognise that seeking opposition votes is not a political defeat. It is the essence of parliamentary democracy.

—To Be Concluded

Entrepreneurial Universities: Lessons for Pakistan



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

Universities are no longer expected merely to transmit existing knowledge. In an economy increasingly driven by innovation, technology, entrepreneurship and knowledge production, universities must generate new ideas, solve societal problems, engage with industry and government, and create opportunities for students beyond conventional employment. This transformation lies at the heart of the concept of the entrepreneurial university, most influentially developed by the American Sociologist and higher-education scholar of Yale University, Burton R. Clark.

Clark's 1998 study, "Creating Entrepreneurial Universities: Organizational Pathways of Transformation", examined five European universities that had undertaken substantial institutional transformation: the University of Warwick in England, the University of Twente in the Netherlands, the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden and the University of Joensuu in Finland. His central argument was that a university becomes entrepreneurial not simply by teaching entrepreneurship or establishing business incubators, but by changing its organisational character and developing the capacity to act creatively and independently in a changing environment.

Clark identified five interconnected pathways to transformation: a strengthened steering core, an expanded developmental periphery, a diversified funding base, a stimulated academic heartland and an integrated entrepreneurial culture. These five elements provide a useful framework for understanding why some universities adapt successfully while others remain trapped in bureaucratic and traditional structures.

The first element is a strengthened steering core. Clark did not mean simply increasing the power of university administrators. He envisaged leadership capable of setting strategic priorities, responding rapidly to external changes and connecting different parts of the institution. An entrepreneurial university requires leadership that can take calculated risks, mobilize resources and make decisions without being paralysed by excessive bureaucracy.

The second is an expanded developmental periphery. Universities need organisational units that connect the academic institution with the outside world: research centres, technology-transfer offices, continuing education, consultancy services, incubators and partnerships with industry and government. These structures create bridges between academic knowledge and practical problems.

The third element is a diversified funding base. Clark argued that universities should not remain excessively dependent upon a single source, particularly government funding. Diversification may include competitive research grants, industry contracts, consultancy, philanthropy, alumni contributions, continuing education and commercialisation of intellectual property. Such diversification can increase institutional autonomy and provide resources for innovation.

The fourth is a stimulated academic heartland. Entrepreneurial transformation cannot succeed if it remains confined to the offices of vice chancellors or specialized centres. Departments, faculties and researchers must become active participants. Research should address real problems, academics should be encouraged to collaborate across disciplines, and students should be exposed to innovation and problem-solving.

The fifth and perhaps most important element is an entrepreneurial culture. Clark understood entrepreneurship as an institutional characteristic rather than merely the crea-

tion of companies. An entrepreneurial university is willing to experiment, take calculated risks, develop new partnerships and continuously reconsider how it serves society. It seeks to become an institution capable of shaping its own future rather than simply reacting to external pressures.

The model gained international acceptance because the traditional university was facing a changing environment. Governments increasingly demanded measurable economic and social returns from public investment in higher education. Industry needed research-based solutions and skilled graduates. Students wanted employability rather than degrees alone. Technological change was accelerating, while public funding was becoming increasingly constrained. Universities therefore needed greater institutional flexibility, external engagement and financial resilience.

The entrepreneurial model responded to these pressures without necessarily abandoning the traditional academic mission. Its significance lies precisely in combining teaching and research with innovation, public engagement and economic relevance. It does not suggest that universities should become commercial corporations. Rather, it proposes that universities should develop the institutional capacity to generate and use knowledge in ways that benefit society.

Pakistan has many reasons to consider this model seriously. The country has expanded its higher-education sector considerably since the establishment of the Higher Education Commission in 2002. Yet expansion in the number of universities, programmes and graduates has not automatically produced a corresponding transformation in institutional quality, research impact or graduate employability. Pakistan's university system now faces a fundamental question: are universities producing knowledge and solutions, or primarily producing degrees?

The weaknesses of the Pakistani university model are rooted partly in governance. The HEC itself has identified governance and quality assurance as major challenges for the higher-education sector, noting that governance problems affect education, research and even the financial condition of universities. Excessive bureaucratization, complicated procurement procedures, weak institutional autonomy and frequent administrative interference can discourage experimentation and long-term strategic planning.

A second weakness is the separation between universities and the economy. In many cases, academia, industry and government operate in separate worlds. Research may be undertaken because it satisfies promotion requirements rather than because it addresses a genuine industrial, technological or social problem. Students graduate with theoretical knowledge but insufficient exposure to workplaces, entrepreneurship and applied problem-solving.

A third problem is the structure of academic incentives. If promotion depends heavily on the quantity of publications rather than the quality, relevance and impact of research, academics naturally respond to those incentives. The result can be an expansion of papers without a corresponding expansion of patents, technologies, enterprises, policy solutions or improvements in public services.

Pakistan has already established important foundations for change. Higher Education Commission (HEC) reports that it has created Offices of Research Innovation and Commercialization, Business Incubation Centres and Technology and Innovation Support Centres, while promoting academia-industry-government "Triple Helix" linkages, based on the notion floated by an other American theorist of (MIT) Henry Etzkowitz. HEC has also introduced research and innovation grants that encourage industry collaboration and applied research. The problem, therefore, is not the complete absence of entrepreneurial initiatives but their limited integration into the core culture and governance of universities.

Pakistan should consequently avoid treating the entrepreneurial university as another administrative programme. The lesson from Clark is organisational transformation. Universities need stronger and more professionally selected leadership, greater institutional autonomy accompanied by accountability, and strategic planning based on measurable outcomes.

Funding must also change. Government support will remain essential, particularly for public universities, but institutions should gradually develop multiple legitimate revenue streams. Competitive research funding, industry partnerships, alumni philanthropy, executive education, consultancy and technology licensing can provide additional resources. However, commercialisation must never compromise academic independence or turn universities into degree-selling businesses.

The academic heartland also requires revitalisation. Departments should be encouraged to identify national and regional problems and develop research around them. Agriculture, water scarcity, energy, artificial intelligence, public health, climate change, education, urbanisation and manufacturing all offer opportunities for university-led innovation. Final-year projects should increasingly be connected to real problems identified by industry, government and communities.

Pakistan should also make entrepreneurship an experience rather than merely a course. Students need incubators, mentors, seed funding, internships and opportunities to develop prototypes and businesses. Universities should measure their success not only by graduates produced but also by startups created, technologies transferred, patents developed, research adopted by industry and public policy, and social problems solved.

Recent HEC initiatives already point towards this direction. In 2026, HEC announced a reform process focusing on institutional autonomy, skills-based curricula, stronger research funding and Triple Helix collaboration among academia, government and industry. The challenge is to convert these policy intentions into sustained institutional practice.

The most important lesson from Clark is that entrepreneurship cannot be imposed from the top through circulars and committees. It must become part of institutional culture. Vice chancellors, faculty members, researchers, students, industry and government must see themselves as participants in a common knowledge ecosystem.

Pakistan does not need to copy European universities mechanically. Its entrepreneurial university model must respond to Pakistani realities. A university in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar or a smaller regional city may have very different economic and social priorities. The objective should therefore be locally relevant innovation rather than imitation of foreign institutional structures.

The Pakistani university of the future must move beyond the narrow logic of teaching, examinations and degrees. It must become a place where knowledge is created, problems are investigated, ideas are tested, enterprises are developed and public policy is informed.

The entrepreneurial university is ultimately not about turning academics into businessmen. It is about giving universities the confidence, autonomy, partnerships and institutional capacity to become active agents of national development. Pakistan has already built much of the basic infrastructure for this transition. What remains is the more difficult task: changing incentives, governance, leadership and academic culture.

If Pakistan can make that transition, its universities can become engines of innovation rather than factories of degrees. The real lesson from Burton Clark is therefore simple but profound: a university becomes entrepreneurial not when it teaches entrepreneurship, but when it learns to transform knowledge into institutional action, social value and national development.

—To Be Concluded

Winning the Hearts and Minds of Our Youth: How Truth, Education and National Awareness Can Strengthen Trust in Pak Army, Raise the Morale of Our Defenders and Counter Misleading Propaganda



By Dr. Abdul Ghani :
Published by ANI
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Every nation survives on the strength of its institutions, the unity of its people and the courage of those who stand ready to defend it. In Pakistan, our armed forces have always carried a very heavy responsibility. From the moun-

tains of the north to the deserts of the south, from the Line of Control to difficult internal-security duties, our soldiers remain on duty so that ordinary citizens can live their daily lives in peace. For this reason, the Pakistan Army is not merely a military institution for many Pakistanis; it is deeply connected with our national security, our collective sacrifices, and our sense of safety and protection. For us, the Pakistan Army will always remain a red line of trust, respect, and national pride. But today, we face a new challenge. The battlefield is no longer lim-

ited to mountains, borders or weapons. A new battlefield exists on mobile phones, social-media platforms and digital networks. Information travels within seconds. Unfortunately, misinformation, edited videos, unverified claims and emotionally charged propaganda can also travel just as quickly.

Our young generation is the biggest user of these platforms. Therefore, if we want to strengthen the morale of our armed forces, we must first strengthen the knowledge, judgment and national awareness of our youth.

—To Be Concluded

Polling for AJK Assembly Reserved Seats to Be Held August 24,

BY: FT Correspondent:

MUZAFFARABAD --- The Election Commission spokesperson said that, according to the schedule for elections to the reserved seats of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, today was the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Seven candidates had filed nomination papers for five reserved seats for women. After Ms. Shaheen Kausar Dar withdrew her nomination papers, six candidates will now contest the election.

The candidates for the women's reserved seats are Ms. Riffat Abid, Ms.



Zobia Khursheed, Ms. Sehrish Qamar, Ms. Farzana Yaqoob, Ms. Maryam Idrees and Ms. Maryam Zaman.

For one reserved seat for Ulema and Mashaikh, Hafiz Tariq

Mahmood and Muhammad Mazhar Saeed will contest against each other. Similarly, Syed Iftikhar Gilani and Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali will compete for one reserved seat for technocrats and professionals.

For one reserved seat for overseas state residents, only one candidate's nomination papers were approved, resulting in the seat being filled unopposed.

According to the election schedule, polling for the reserved seats for women, technocrats and professionals, and Ulema and Mashaikh will be held , August 24, 2026, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Assembly Hall in Muzaffarabad.

Yasir Irfan Gujjar Appointed Media Coordinator of High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi

BY: FT Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI -- The High Court Bar Association (HCBA) Rawalpindi has appointed Yasir Irfan Gujjar, Advocate High Court, as its Media Coordinator, according to an official notification issued here.

According to the notification issued by HCBA Rawalpindi Secretary General Qasim Mehmood Malik, the appointment has been made with immediate effect in recognition of Yasir Irfan Gujjar's professional capabilities, commitment and dedication to the legal fraternity.

Under his new responsibilities, he will coordinate with print and electronic media, issue official state-



ments and press releases, and highlight the initiatives, activities and welfare programmes of the High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi.

Yasir Irfan Gujjar expressed gratitude to the entire executive body of HCBA Rawalpindi for placing confi-

dence in his abilities through mutual consultation. He extended special thanks to President HCBA Saeed Yousaf Khan and Secretary General Qasim Mehmood Malik, saying he considers the position a sacred trust and an important responsibility that he will fulfil with utmost integrity, dedication and sincerity.

He reaffirmed his commitment to upholding the dignity, honour and prestige of the High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi, adding that he would utilise all his energies to promote a positive institutional image, ensure effective media representation and advance the welfare and rights of the legal fraternity.

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari Expresses Grief Over Alleged Killing of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the alleged killing of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari conveyed her condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family and expressed concern over the tragic incident.

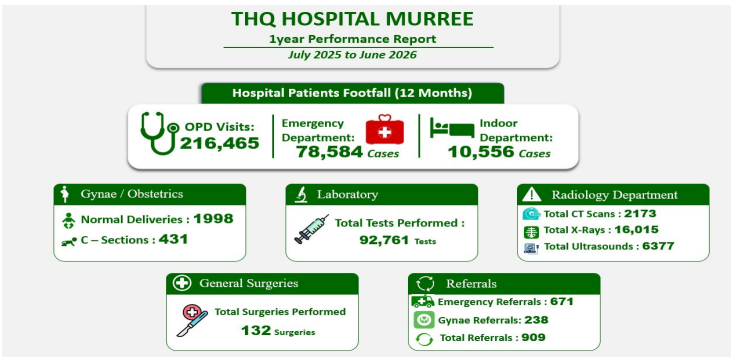


She called for a complete and transparent investigation into the incident and urged that those responsible be brought to justice and exemplary punishment be ensured. The First Lady stressed that effective measures were essential to protect women and prevent crimes, ensuring a safe environment for women in society.

THQ Hospital Murree Releases Annual Performance Report

BY : ANI Correspondent:

MURREE -- The Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Murree has released its annual performance report for the period from July 2025 to June 2026. According to the report, 216,465 patients visited the Outpatient Department (OPD), while 78,584 patients were treated in the Emergency Department and 10,556 patients received indoor treatment. The report stated that 1,998 gynecology cases were handled, including 431 C-sections. The hospital laboratory conducted 92,761 tests, while 2,173 CT scans, 16,015 X-rays and 6,377 ultrasound examinations were performed. A total of 132 surgical procedures were also carried out, while 909 patients were referred to other



healthcare facilities. The hospital administration said that, in line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision, efforts are being made in collaboration with the district administration to ensure the provision of quality healthcare

facilities. The administration said the purpose of releasing the annual report is not only to highlight the hospital's performance but also to promote transparency, merit and integrity in the delivery of healthcare services.

HSA Concludes 12-Week Capacity-Building Training for Balochistan Health Professionals

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --- The Health Services Academy (HSA) has successfully concluded a 12-week Capacity Development Programme for 150 nominated paramedics and allied health professionals from Balochistan, aimed at strengthening emergency response, critical care and frontline healthcare delivery across district hospitals.

Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani attended the graduation ceremony as the chief guest. Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Gilgit-Baltistan Health Minister Iqbal Hassan, Vice Chancellor HSA Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmed Lehri, Project Director Nadeem Sajjad Kayani and senior faculty members also attended the ceremony.

Project Director Nadeem Sajjad Kayani said that out of 150 health professionals nominated by the provincial government, 92 in-service personnel, including 78 men and 14 women from more than 21 districts, successfully completed the rigorous 12-week theoretical and clinical training. The participants included emergency medical technicians, staff nurses, dispensers, anaesthesia technicians and medical technicians.

Specialized hands-on training was provided in critical care areas including Intensive Care Units (ICU), Neonatal Intensive Care



Units (NICU), anaesthesia, emergency care and climate-resilient healthcare.

As part of the broader capacity-building programme, 50 specialized staff members of Trauma Center Quetta also received 14 days of intensive clinical training at JPMC and SIUT in Karachi.

The curriculum covered seven key competency areas, including clinical knowledge, practical skills, professional ethics, communication, interprofessional collaboration, evidence-based practices and digital health.

The trainees also received six specialized emergency-response certifications, including Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Trauma Management, Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), Health Emergency Preparedness and HSA's specialized SHIELD course, supported by simulation and hospital-based training.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief

Guest Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani termed the modernization of healthcare services in Balochistan a national imperative and said such practical training would significantly improve patient care in underserved areas.

Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar said human resource development was central to provincial healthcare reforms, while Gilgit-Baltistan Health Minister Iqbal Hassan appreciated the training model and requested HSA to replicate a similar capacity-building initiative for healthcare workers in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Vice Chancellor HSA Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan reaffirmed the academy's commitment to providing continuous technical support to strengthen Balochistan's healthcare system. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of completion certificates among the graduating health professionals.

Punjab Police Remains on High Alert During Christian Prayer Services Across Province

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE -- Punjab Police remained on high alert and performed security duties during Christian prayer services held at churches across Lahore and other parts of the province.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem had directed RPOs, DPOs and senior police officers to enhance security arrangements at churches. Supervisory officers were instructed to personally inspect security measures at churches, important and sensitive locations.

Additional police personnel and snipers were deployed at sensitive churches, while teams of Dolphin Squad, Police Response Unit (PRU) and Elite Force conducted effective patrolling around churches.



The IG Punjab directed all deployed officers and personnel to remain highly vigilant and keep a close watch on suspected and miscreant elements. Search and sweep operations were also ordered to continue around churches, Christian

communities and other sensitive locations. Abdul Kareem said religious scholars, members of the Christian community and peace committee members should play their role in promoting interfaith harmony and maintaining peace.

Sherry Rehman Strongly Condemns Killing of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi

Report: City Reporter FT:

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman has strongly condemned the killing of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi, describing the death of another woman allegedly subjected to domestic violence as extremely tragic and heartbreaking.

Sherry Rehman said treating domestic violence as a private or family matter and ignoring it was dangerous, adding that this mindset must be eliminated at the societal level. She said laws were already in place for the protection of women, but there was an urgent need for their effective and indiscriminate implementation. She termed the low conviction rate in domestic violence



cases concerning and stressed the need for effective prosecution to ensure justice.

Senator Sherry Rehman said Parliament had already legislated on the issue, and courts must now complete speedy trials in such cases and award immediate punishment to

those found guilty in accordance with the law.

She called for a complete and impartial investigation into Hina Javed's killing and demanded that all those responsible be brought to justice. She stressed that legal action against the accused should be taken without any pressure or concession.

Sherry Rehman said those found guilty should receive exemplary punishment to help prevent such serious crimes. She also called for strengthening systems providing immediate legal protection, safe shelter and effective support to women facing violence.

She further emphasized the need to raise collective awareness to promote respect, protection and equal rights for women in society.

Pakistan Independence Day reception brings together Diplomats, and Business Community



BY: FT Correspondent:

KARACHI -- The City business and diplomatic community gathered at Mundia House to celebrate Pakistan's 79th Independence Day in a spirit of unity and patriotism. Prominent businessmen Abdul Basit Muhammad Ilyas Mundia and Muhammad Junaid Muhammad Ilyas Mundia hosted an Independence Day reception in Karachi. The venue was Mundia House in Clifton. Diplomats, politicians, industrialists and business leaders attended the gathering. Several prominent personalities from Karachi's social and business circles were also present. The guests came together to celebrate Pakistan's independence. The reception reflected a spirit of patriotism and goodwill. The event brought together

leading figures from Karachi's business community. Guests included Ather Iqbal, Fazal Dadabhoi and Junaid Naqi. Allahwala Kalim Farooqui and Shoaib Ismail also attended the reception. Abdul Hameed Aslam and Pervez Haroon Madraswala were among the other guests. Shahzad Sabir, Ahsan Mehanti and Tanveer Barry were also present. Junaid Rehman and Kumail Polani attended the gathering. Fayyaz Falaknaz, Nadeem Polani and Farhan Ashrafi were among the business representatives at the event. The reception provided an opportunity for business leaders to meet. They also joined the celebrations marking Pakistan's national day. Huda Garib, Dian Ratri and Muhammad Farooq also attended the event. Afzal Anwer, Zeeshan Altaf Lohya and Zahid Hameed were present as well. Danish

Aman and Aslam Mianoor joined the gathering, Shaukat Ali Omerson and Umer Rehan. Dr Hussain Thebo and Farukh Mazhar also attended. Shahzad Mobin, T U Dawood and Muhammad Saleem were present at the reception. Zahid Hasan Ansari was also among the guests. The gathering brought together people from different sectors. Their participation highlighted the importance of national unity. The reception was held to mark Pakistan's Independence Day. It also provided an opportunity to reflect on the country's progress. The guests celebrated the national occasion in a cordial atmosphere. Patriotism and goodwill remained central themes of the gathering. The event concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to Pakistan's continued progress and prosperity.

MNA Malik Abrar Ahmed Inaugurates Rs50 Million Road Infrastructure Project in Rawalpindi

BY: F T Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI: Chairman of the Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat and Divisional President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Malik Abrar Ahmed (MNA), along with Parliamentary Secretary for Zakat and Ushr Punjab Malik Iftikhar Ahmed (MPA) and MPA Malik Mansoor Afsar, inaugurated the newly completed Dhok Banaras Road project on Sunday.

The Rs50 million project stretches from Byco Petrol Pump on Range Road to Dhok Banaras and Millat Abad. The development includes complete reconstruction of the road and the installation of an extensive drainage system on both sides to help prevent urban flooding and waterlogging.

Addressing the gathering, Malik Abrar Ahmed said fulfilling electoral commitments and improving civic infrastructure remain the government's top priorities. He said the newly constructed road would improve traffic flow and address



long-standing commuting and drainage problems faced by local residents.

Parliamentary Secretary Malik Iftikhar Ahmed and MPA Malik Mansoor Afsar reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating development

projects across the constituency and ensuring sustainable public welfare and better civic facilities.

A large number of local elders, PML-N workers and residents attended the inauguration ceremony.