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Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

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CDF Munir, Naqvi in Iran as part of Pakistan's efforts for regional peace



ANI

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached Tehran on Monday, Iranian media reported after Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) described the visit "as part of Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace and stability".

State media in Pakistan, meanwhile, reported that CDF Munir and Naqvi had held a meeting with Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni.

Earlier, ISPR said CDF Munir will "focus on promoting efforts towards peaceful, lasting and com-

prehensive resolution of the conflict in the Middle East" during the visit.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqai on Sunday said CDF Munir was expected to travel to Tehran to continue efforts to bring peace and security to the region. He said CDF Munir would lead an official delegation and the "visit aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and to continue Pakistan's good offices in support of peace and security in the region".

During the visit, CDF Munir would meet and hold talks with senior officials Iran, Baqaei added.

The United States and Israel triggered the Middle East war with a

massive wave of strikes against Iran on February 28, triggering Iranian retaliation across the region.

An April 8 ceasefire ended nearly 40 days of intense bombardment, but control over the Strait of Hormuz soon emerged as a key flashpoint in the conflict.

Iran has controlled the vital energy conduit since the war began. Reopening the strait, vital for global oil and gas supplies, has become a US priority, but Tehran insists the waterway will remain closed until Washington lifts its naval blockade on Iranian ports, removes oil sanctions and unfreezes Iranian assets abroad.

Pakistan has played a key role in efforts to halt war between Iran and the United States, brokering a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in June, but peace negotiations currently appear stalled.

Last week, US President Donald Trump announced that Washington would ramp up economic pressure on Iran "on an unprecedented scale". Washington has urged other governments, including Beijing, to join efforts to further isolate Iran's economy. The US is expected to announce details related to the planned sanctions on Mondau, which US officials have said would be "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran.

Country can't withstand another crisis: Nawaz

ANI

LAHORE: PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has reportedly warned that the country cannot afford to become embroiled in another constitutional or political crisis, as he discussed the prevailing political situation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at Jati Umrah on Sunday. The reported remarks came during the Sharif family's weekly meeting, which assumed added significance amid political turbulence, contempt of court proceedings against the prime minister, and the growing controversy over the government's handling of former PM Imran Khan's medical treatment. According to media reports, Nawaz Sharif inquired from Shehbaz Sharif why Imran, who is incarcerated, was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) instead of Shifa International Hospital, as directed by the Supreme Court in its August 18 order.

The prime minister reportedly briefed his elder brother on the circumstances surrounding the decision.

The two brothers also discussed the government's possible response to the contempt proceedings moved by the PTI before the Supreme Court over alleged non-compliance with the apex court's order. Nawaz, who has served as the country's prime minister thrice, was quoted as stressing that Pakistan could not afford another constitutional or political crisis. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also attended the weekly meeting.

The meeting came at a particularly sensitive time for the government, with the SC order regarding Imran's medical treatment having developed into a wider institutional issue.

The PTI has accused the government of failing to comply with the order after Imran was taken to Pims rather than Shifa International Hospital. In the contempt plea, the PTI has named PM Shehbaz, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and others as respondents.



The reported discussion also carries weight in view of Pakistan's history of confrontations between elected governments and the judiciary.

A former prime minister from the PPP, Yousuf Raza Gilani, was sent home by the SC in a contempt case, while Nawaz himself was removed from office during his third tenure following a Supreme Court ruling.

The Sharif brothers also reportedly discussed the emerging opposition alliance and political developments in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, including possible names for the offices of AJK prime minister and speaker.

A senior PML-N leader said the government had reasons to exercise caution, particularly in view of the composition of the SC bench that issued the August 18 order and the nature of the directions issued by it. "There are matters that are making our government a bit uneasy," he said.

PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb was reached via a message for her response to the reportage of the meeting, but she chose not to respond.

Senior PML-N leader Javed Latif, on the other hand, dispelled the impression of any threat to his party's government, stating that past the midway point of any government's tenure, opposition parties usually go on the front foot to rally support for the upcoming general elections.

Regarding the August 18 court order, he said, in his view, the PML-N government should not have waited for any court order for proper treatment, but once the order was given, it should have been implemented in letter and spirit. He, however, blamed PTI for trying to politicise the matter.

JI ramps up pressure as protests continue

ANI

LAHORE: JI chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has announced that his party will continue its sit-ins until the withdrawal of the petroleum levy, adding that the JI will unveil a plan for a nationwide shutter-down strike on August 27, a day after 12 Rabiul Awwal celebrations. Addressing a press conference on Sunday on the eighth day of the protest at Lahore's Charing Cross and later meeting senior journalists and editors, Rehman said the party would expand its protest movement to different cities before moving towards Islamabad. He said the existing sit-ins in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar would continue, while protest camps would be established in other cities. After the shutter-down and wheel-jam strike, the party would launch a "decisive march" towards Islamabad, he added. "The movement will be prolonged and demanding, but it will be decisive," Rehman said, adding that the government would eventually have to approach the JI for negotiations. He said the party had received an invitation for talks in Islamabad but ruled out negotiations behind closed doors while protests continued in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar. "It cannot happen that sit-ins are held in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar while negotiations take place in closed rooms in Islamabad," he said, adding that any talks should address the concerns of the protesters and the public.

Rehman also ruled out joining any grand opposition alliance, saying the JI would contest the political space on its own and present the public's case from its own platform. "I believe such alliances have caused the JI more harm than benefit in the past," he said. Criticising the petroleum levy, Rehman alleged that locally produced diesel was being sold at prices linked to imported diesel, allowing refineries to earn excessive profits. He described the levy as



"jagga tax" "extortion money" rather than a conventional tax and urged the media to expose what he called the government's "unjust" levy measures.

He rejected the government's claim that the protests were contributing to increases in petroleum prices, saying prices would have risen even further had the protests not taken place.

Rehman also criticised the government over sugar imports, alleging that authorities had allowed the import of 765,000 tonnes of sugar on the pretext of a shortage.

He said the JI's protests would remain peaceful and argued that a prolonged peaceful mobilisation could put greater pressure on the government than violent protests. The JI chief said Milad gatherings and Seerat conferences would be held at protest sites on the night between 11 and 12 Rabiul Awwal. He said a major public gathering would also be held in Lahore, with delegations from different sections of society expected to participate.

"The party will announce its next course of action and further expansion of the protest movement on 13 Rabiul Awwal (August 27)," he added. JI Punjab Central chief Javed Qasuri said the party would expand the protest to every district, neighbourhood and locality if the government failed to address public grievances.

Newly elected members of AJK Legislative Assembly take oath of office

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: Newly elected members of the AJK Legislative Assembly were administered the oath of office by outgoing Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar on Monday. Assembly Secretary Amjad Latif Abbasi read out the notifications of the 38 members elected from the territorial and refugee constituencies in the phased elections, as well as those of the eight members elected by them on reserved seats. Shortly after the announcement of the results, all newly elected members took the oath at the hands of the outgoing speaker, who failed to retain his seat in the elections. The members then signed the oath register in the order of their constituencies. PML-N's Ahmed Raza Qadri moved a motion seeking the suspension of the rules that prescribed a bar on certain



times for elections to the offices of speaker, deputy speaker and leader of the house. On a point of order, PPP's Abdul Majid Khan noted that although the PML-N had a majority and could suspend the rules, it should avoid holding the session on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal — Eid-i-Miladun Nabi, widely commemorated as the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) — out of respect for the sanctity of the day.

Chinese company meets President, proposes \$522m for first phase of Ketu Bunder port

ANI

China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) on Monday proposed a preliminary \$522.34 million engineering cost for the first phase of a new deep-water port at Ketu Bunder near Karachi as President Asif Ali Zardari called for the project to be developed alongside road links, power, water and industrial infrastructure, according to a statement issued by the President's Office on X.

The Chinese company presented a Conceptual Master Plan for the proposed Ketu Bunder Port during a meeting with President Zardari, outlining plans for a new maritime gateway with multiple terminals, logistics facilities and supporting infrastructure. The proposed Phase-I development included a multi-purpose terminal with a 500-metre quay, according to the presen-



tation by the Chinese delegation. Welcoming the delegation, President Zardari said Ketu Bunder had "significant potential as an additional maritime gateway" that could strengthen Pakistan's port and logistics network, and support greater connectivity and trade.

He called for an "integrated approach" to the port's development, stressing that the project should be supported by reliable road connectiv-

ity, power and water supply, industrial infrastructure and other essential facilities.

According to the statement, the president also emphasised the need for close technical coordination between CHEC and relevant Pakistani authorities to further develop the project.

President Zardari noted that environmental sustainability should remain a key consideration in the project, particularly in regards to the protection of the "fragile ecosystem of the Indus Delta" and the interests and livelihoods of local fishing communities. Appreciating China's continued interest in supporting Pakistan's infrastructure and maritime development, the president encouraged continued technical engagement to further refine the master plan and identify an appropriate implementation and financing framework.

Sindh CM meets PM Shehbaz, agrees on 'political harmony, consultation'



ANI

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed political matters, agreeing to maintain political harmony and consultation, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The statement stated that CM Shah called on PM Shehbaz and discussed with him matters related to politics, Sindh province and the ongoing development projects in the province. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahad Khan Cheema, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, and

Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have been supporting the PML-N-led government since general elections were held in February 2024, but in recent days both parties have expressed displeasure over several matters and engaged in verbal spats.

Last week, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari warned that the party would withdraw its support for the PML-N-led government until its concerns over the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections were addressed. He also ruled out support for the government's proposed legislation in the Senate and National Assembly (NA), saying no party

member would vote on bills until the PPP's unresolved grievances were addressed.

Bilawal also met with the Leader of the Opposition in the NA, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, and Senate Opposition Leader Allama Raja Nasir Abbas in the opposition chamber of the NA.

PPP also accused the PML-N of widespread electoral rigging in the AJK and announced that the party would approach the courts seeking investigations into the alleged irregularities. However, PML-N dismissed the PPP allegations of irregularities as "baseless", saying the election results reflected the confidence reposed in the PML-N by the people.

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National

MNA and YPF President Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar Hosts Dustoor Civic Labs Participants at Parliament House

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- President Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA, hosted an interactive Parliament Exposure Session for participants of the Dustoor Civic Labs at Parliament House, Islamabad, today. The session was organised by the Young Parliamentarians Forum under the leadership of its President, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, in collaboration with Edlytica, to provide young participants with an opportunity to interact with parliamentarians and gain a practical understanding of Parliament, the Constitution and democratic governance.

The participants included students from Bahria University Islamabad, Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar, and Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, who visited Parliament House to interact with the President YPF and General Secretary YPF, Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, MNA. The session was moderated by Special Secretary (Special Initiatives), National Assembly Secretariat, Syed Shamoon Hashmi.

During the session, the participants were given a comprehensive briefing on the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, including the composition of Parliament under Article 50, the right to education under Article 25-A, and the constitutional provisions relating to the promotion of the social and economic well-being of the people under Article 37(e). They were also apprised of the role and functions of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The participants were briefed on the evolution of Pakistan's constitutional framework, and the historical circumstances surrounding the foundation of Pakistan as an Islamic Republic. The discussion also covered the process of constitution-making and the historical contribution of Pakistani women to constitutional and parliamentary development.

A detailed briefing was also given on the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, with participants encouraged to understand these rights not merely as con-



stitutional guarantees but also as responsibilities that must be respected and upheld within society.

Addressing the participants, President YPF Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar stressed the importance of constitutional awareness and responsible citizenship, stating that citizens must understand the Constitution and play their role in ensuring that the law is implemented in letter and spirit. She emphasised that violations of law should not be resolved through out-of-court settlements that allow those responsible to evade legal accountability, as respect for the rule of law is fundamental to a democratic society.

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar also briefed the participants about the functions and objectives of the Young Parliamentarians Forum, highlighting its role in providing a platform for young legislators to engage with young people and strengthen their connection with Parliament. She apprised the students of the consultative visits undertaken by YPF, as per the vision of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, for the establishment of its provincial chapters in the provincial and legislative assemblies of Pakistan. She further highlighted the Youth Kacheris organised by YPF at various universities across the country, where students are provided an opportunity to directly interact with young parliamentarians, raise issues confronting them and share their perspectives.

The YPF President also spoke about the positive and negative dimensions of social media, cautioning the participants against the adverse effects of misinformation, populism and unverified narratives. General Secretary YPF,

Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, MNA, warmly welcomed the participants and shared anecdotes from his interactions with students and young people across Pakistan. He emphasised that students who pursue their education with dedication and commitment, build their careers and subsequently contribute towards the betterment of society are also contributing to the Marka-e-Haq by playing their role in the progress and development of the country. Speaking particularly about the youth of Balochistan, he urged young people not to fall prey to narratives based on hatred towards the State of Pakistan. He cautioned against linguistic propaganda and extreme nationalism, emphasising that Balochistan is home to diverse communities.

Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani also urged the participants to use social media positively and responsibly, saying that digital platforms should be utilised to promote knowledge, constructive dialogue, national cohesion and positive narratives rather than division and hostility. An interactive Question and Answer session was subsequently held, during which the students participated actively and engaged the parliamentarians in a wide-ranging discussion related to the interpretation of constitutional provisions and contemporary issues related to youth. The session concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, during which participating students were awarded prizes by President YPF Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar and General Secretary YPF Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani for their university projects related to themes including the Constitution, minority rights and public problems.

DPO Murree Holds Open Court at Barian Police Post, Orders Immediate Resolution of Public Complaints

By: ANI Correspondent :

Murree District Police Officer (DPO) Murree, Raza Tanveer Supra, held an open court at Barian Police Post, where a large number of local residents participated and directly presented their complaints, problems, and suggestions.

The DPO listened to the citizens' complaints in detail and directed the concerned police officers to ensure immediate action on every complaint strictly in accordance with the law and on merit.

Raza Tanveer Supra emphasised that citizens visiting police stations and police posts must be treated with respect and dignity. He said that negligence or unnecessary delay in resolving public complaints



would not be tolerated. During the open court, residents appreciated the police measures taken to maintain law and order, ensure public safety, and prevent crime. They also shared various suggestions with the DPO. Speaking on the occasion, DPO

Murree Raza Tanveer Supra said that addressing public complaints and ensuring prompt justice was the police's top priority. He added that direct communication between the police and the public was the foundation of effective policing.

Municipal Committee Sibi Continues Cleanliness Drive After Rain, Removes Rainwater from Roads and Streets

Report: GNM

SIBI --- The Municipal Committee Sibi has continued its cleanliness and drainage operation following rainfall in the city, removing accumulated rainwater from various roads, streets and public places.

Municipal sanitation workers, with the help of machinery and manual teams, promptly cleared water from affected areas and carried out cleaning activities, easing difficulties faced by citizens.

The cleanliness drive is being conducted on the special directives of Municipal Committee Chairman Sardar Muhammad Khan Khajjak and under the supervision of Chief Officer Muhammad Qayyum Dahpal. Officials said sanitation teams remain active to deal with post-rain issues, with special attention being given to important areas of the city. Chairman Sardar Muhammad Khan Khajjak said that



despite limited municipal funds, providing basic facilities to citizens remains the committee's responsibility. He said cleanliness arrangements would continue on major roads, around mosques, procession routes and other public places during

Rabi-ul-Awwal. He added that the drainage and cleanliness situation was being closely monitored and immediate action would be taken wherever water accumulation or sanitation problems were reported.

Senate Sub-Committee Reviews Journalists' Plot Allotment, Seeks Transparency



BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --- The Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting reviewed the rules, eligibility criteria and procedure for allotment of residential plots to journalists and media workers in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi and attended by Senators Jan Muhammad and Abdul Shakoor Khan. Representatives of the Parliamentary Reporters Association of Pakistan (PRA), National Press Club, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and media workers also participated and presented their concerns.

The Director General of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) briefed the committee that a 2 percent quota had been allocated for journalists and media workers in Phase-I, while

1 percent was reserved for journalists in Phase-II. A total of 85 plots of different categories are available under Phase-II.

The committee was informed that applicants must have at least 20 years of professional experience, be serving in Islamabad or Rawalpindi, while the concerned newspaper must have remained on the Central Media List for the preceding three years. The spouse of an applicant should also not have previously received a plot in Islamabad or Rawalpindi.

Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi directed that all eligible journalists be considered strictly according to seniority and that the process should not be unnecessarily delayed. He also directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to prioritize the matter and said the committee would review progress after one month.

Media representatives raised concerns regarding alleged irregulari-

ties in previous plot allotments and requested lists of journalists who had received two plots under earlier schemes to ensure transparency and prevent duplication.

The committee also discussed pending cases of 35 applicants who had approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib and were reportedly awaiting resolution since 2004. The DG FGEHA assured the committee that these cases would be taken up with the relevant authorities.

The Convener directed the Ministry to move the required summary to the Prime Minister's Office for resolution of outstanding issues. He also directed that Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) be invited to the next meeting to discuss the eligibility of its employees.

The Sub-Committee decided to review progress on all outstanding matters after one month and directed that an updated report of the Plot Selection Committee for Journalists be furnished within 15 days.

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Pays Tribute to UN Resident Coordinator Muhammad Yahya

BY : FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq held a farewell meeting with United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yahya and appreciated his services during his tenure in the country.

The Speaker said Muhammad Yahya's contribution to strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and the United Nations was commendable. He said relations between Pakistan and the UN were based on mutual trust and partnership, while UN support for Pakistan's development and public welfare was highly valuable.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the UN's role in addressing humanitarian issues and crises and expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen cooperation with the organization at the parliamentary level.



He highlighted the role of the Women Parliamentary Caucus and gender mainstreaming initiatives in empowering women and promoting their participation in national development. The Speaker conveyed his best wishes to Muhammad Yahya for his

future responsibilities and expressed appreciation for his services to Pakistan.

Muhammad Yahya thanked the Speaker for his good wishes and said he had received great respect and honour during his stay in Pakistan.

Spotify Celebrates Atif Aslam's Subah Aye Na with Fans and Artists in Karachi

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- To celebrate the release of "Atif Aslam's" highly anticipated new album, "Subah Aye Na", Spotify brought the excitement surrounding the project to Karachi for a night that quickly became a cultural moment of its own.

Atif Aslam was joined by Spotify Premium fans, creators, influencers and members of Pakistan's artist community for an immersive celebration inspired by the world of Subah Aye Na. From fan moments to unexpected collaborations onstage, highlights from the evening quickly travelled beyond the room and across social media.

At the center of the night was Atif himself, who took to the stage for a live performance that had the room singing along. One of the evening's stand-out moments came when Fahad Mustafa, "Talha Anjum" and "Asim Azhar" joined him onstage for a rendition of his classic "Hum Kis Gali Ja Rahe Hain", bringing together some of Pakistan's most recognizable creative voices in a moment that had fans talking.

Spotify also put Atif's most dedicated listeners at the heart of the celebration. In a surprise moment, two Spotify Premium fans were invited onstage to honor the artist and present him with a special guitar. Both were among the top 10% of Atif Aslam listeners on Spotify in Pakistan.



Atif also reflected on Subah Aye Na, the journey behind the album and the relationship he has built with listeners throughout more than two decades of music. The release marks a new chapter for the artist while carrying forward a connection with fans that continues to evolve across generations and borders.

Addressing his fans, Atif said, "It's been 18 years since I released a full album, and the journey from releasing individual songs to putting together an album is very different. It takes time, patience and a lot of work -- not just to produce the music, but to bring yourself back to a place where you're ready to make an album. The love I've received from my fans over all these years is what gave me the motivation to do that. I'm grateful to everyone who has continued to listen, support me and ask for an album because, in many

ways, Subah Aye Na is here because of them."

The celebration also gave fans a chance to step deeper into Atif's world through Discover Your Inner Aadeez, Spotify's personalized in-app experience built around his fan community. The experience matches listeners with one of four Aadeez personas: OG Aadeez, Early Discoverer Aadeez, Moonrise Aadeez and Borderless Aadeez, reflecting the different ways fans have discovered, followed and connected with Atif's music over the years.

With Subah Aye Na, Spotify is bringing together the different sides of Atif's fandom, from listeners who have been with him for decades to those discovering his music today, and giving that community new ways to celebrate the artist, the album and the moments around it.

UAJK and Hazara University Sign MoU to Strengthen Academic, Scientific and Research Collaboration

BY: FT Correspondent:

MUZAFFARABAD -- The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK), Muzaffarabad, and Hazara University, Mansehra, have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation between the two institutions.

The MoU was signed by Vice Chancellor UAJK Prof. Dr Nasir Jamal Khattak and Vice Chancellor Hazara University Prof. Dr Ikramullah Khan at a ceremony attended by senior university officials, including the Registrar, Deans, Heads of academic departments and administrative officers. The agreement provides a framework for collaboration in research and development, faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects, joint publications and academic supervision. It also provides for the exchange of visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows, subject to relevant institutional requirements.

Under the MoU, UAJK and Hazara University will also explore opportunities for joint research funding through the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and other donor organisations. The two institutions will facilitate academic and technical



cooperation in seminars, workshops, internships and participation in international conferences.

Particular emphasis has been placed on strengthening academic and research activities between the Departments of Geology of the two universities, with the aim of expanding collaboration in teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor UAJK Dr Nasir Jamal Khattak said that the MoU would provide a valuable framework for strengthening institutional linkages and creating new opportunities for collaborative research and academic

development. He emphasised the importance of inter-university cooperation in promoting knowledge, innovation and research capacity.

Vice Chancellor Hazara University Prof. Dr Ikramullah Khan expressed the hope that the agreement would further strengthen academic and research relations between the two institutions and enable students and faculty members to benefit from each other's expertise and resources.

The five-year partnership is expected to provide a platform for sustained collaboration and contribute to the promotion of research, innovation and academic excellence in Pakistan.

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WPC Delegation Visits NCSW, Calls for Justice for Hina Javed and Stronger Protection of Women’s Rights

BY: Hurish Shah/FT :

ISLAMABAD --- A delegation of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) visited the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and was briefed on the Commission's ongoing initiatives, including the NCSW Strategic Plan 2026-2029, National Gender Parity Dashboard, women's rights awareness materials and pending appointments to the Commission.

WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani appreciated NCSW's efforts to promote gender equality and stressed the need for effective implementation of laws and policies, particularly for underserved and vulnerable women.

The WPC strongly condemned the recent murder of Hina Javed, an employee of the National Information Technology Board deputed at the National Assembly Secretariat. Dr. Rehmani called for a free, fair, transparent and impartial investigation



and said all those responsible must be brought to justice in accordance with the law.

The delegation also emphasized stronger coordination between NCSW and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to address the impact of climate change and natural disasters on women. Members called for gender-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking and greater focus on the needs of rural women, including access to education, healthcare, justice

and economic opportunities.

The WPC also proposed incorporating awareness of women's rights and gender equality into primary school curricula and strengthening awareness of legal protections through the Nikahnama.

NCSW Interim Chairperson Noureen Bano Lehri appreciated the WPC's engagement and stressed the importance of institutional coordination, reliable gender data, accountability and effective implementation to improve the lives of women and girls.

Open Court Held at Deputy Commissioner Chaman Complex, Orders Issued for Resolution of Public Issues

BY : ANI Correspondent:

CHAMAN -- An open court was held in the Deputy Commissioner Complex Hall under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangalzai, aimed at directly listening to the problems, complaints, and suggestions of citizens and taking measures for their immediate resolution.

The open court was attended by Army Colonel Asad, DPO Chaman Iteaz Arif, officers of various government departments, tribal elders, the trader community, youth, representatives of civil society, and other concerned officials.

On this occasion, tribal elders, traders, civil society representatives, and citizens presented their problems and complaints, which were



noted by the concerned authorities. The participants highlighted unemployment, the law and order situation in the city, issues related to NADRA, prolonged electricity load-shedding, and other important public issues.

Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangalzai issued necessary orders to the officers of the concerned departments for the prompt and effective redressal of public complaints, directing that all availa-

ble resources be utilized to resolve the problems faced by citizens and that practical progress on public complaints be ensured.

He said that the timely resolution of public issues is the top priority of the district administration. The purpose of holding open courts is to further strengthen the liaison between the public and the administration, to listen directly to the problems of citizens, and to take effective measures for their solution.

JHELUM ---United Alliance's election activities in the Jhelum Chamber of Commerce elections have accelerated, a large number of voters and traders have participated, and they have expressed their determination for success

Jhelum: In connection with the upcoming elections of the Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the United Alliance organized a magnificent power show in which voters, traders and people belonging to the business community participated in full. The participants expressed their confidence in the leadership and candidates of the United Alliance and expressed their determination for complete success in the elections.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders and candidates of the United Alliance said that the success in the Jhelum Chamber elections will be the responsibility of the United Alliance. They said that the current leadership and colleagues of the chamber have not just made claims but have shown it by working practically.

The leaders said that the construction of the magnificent building of the Jhelum



Chamber, the launch of the Jhelum Chamber's own application, record membership and various welfare and development initiatives for the business community are clear evidence of the performance of the United Alliance. The aim of these initiatives is to provide a strong, modern and effective platform to the business community of Jhelum.

They said that the United Alliance includes a large number of different factions of the business community of Jhelum, experienced leaders and young business people. This alliance is not of any one individual or group but of the wider interest of the business commu-

nity of Jhelum.

The voters present at the ceremony said that only those who take practical steps for the development of the Jhelum Chamber should get success. The participants, while announcing their support for the candidates of the United Alliance, said that they will make the United Alliance successful by using their votes vigorously on the election day as well.

The leaders of the United Alliance thanked all the colleagues, candidates, voters and the business community on this occasion and said that all these colleagues are playing an important role in the journey of success of the Jhelum Chamber and their hard work, trust and cooperation are the real strength of the United Alliance.

They further said that after the success, the chamber will be taken to greater heights, the problems of the business community will be resolved on a priority basis and the collective struggle will continue to make Jhelum a strong business hub. At the end of the power show, the participants loudly shouted slogans in favor of the United Alliance and reiterated their determination to win the Jhelum Chamber elections.

Malik Shah Nawaz Khokhar Advocates’ Landmark Case: Supreme Court Orders Government to Bear Paper Book Costs in Life Imprisonment Cases

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MULTAN -- The Supreme Court of Pakistan has issued an important ruling directing that, in cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, the cost of preparing paper books and supplying necessary copies shall be borne by the concerned government.

A three-member bench comprising Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan, Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi and Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim passed the order while hearing Jail Petition No. 272 of 2022, Muhammad Nawaz alias Nazi and Muhammad Yaseen alias Cheema v. The State.

The Court observed that the petitioners had been awarded life imprisonment and held that the



objection raised by the Supreme Court Office regarding the provision of copies was contrary to Order XXIV, Rule 11 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2025.

The bench clarified that under the relevant rule, where a case involves a sentence of death or imprisonment for life, the required paper books are to be prepared at the expense of the concerned government.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court overruled the office objection and directed the office to complete the necessary process within three weeks.

The accused were represented before the Supreme Court by Malik Shah Nawaz Khokhar, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, who pursued the matter on their behalf.

The ruling is significant for prisoners facing life imprisonment, as it removes the financial burden of preparing and obtaining required court paper books in such cases.

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 (Part II)



BY: Dr. Abdul Ghani
E.mail: ghanilm@gmail.com
Published By: ANI

We should not expect young Pakistanis to develop respect through slogans alone. Respect becomes stronger when it is based on knowledge. Our children should be taught the history of Pakistan, the sacrifices made in its defence and the difficult conditions in which soldiers perform their duties.

A soldier standing at a remote post is someone's son. He may be away from his parents for months. He may celebrate Eid at a border while his children wait for him at home. In the most difficult circumstances, he remains responsible for the security of people whom he may never meet.

These realities should be shared with the younger generation.

Schools and universities can play a major role. Students should be given opportunities to visit military museums, monuments of martyrs and historical places connected with Pakistan's defence. Retired soldiers, defence experts and families of martyrs can be invited to educational institutions to share their experiences.

A young person who listens directly to the family of a martyr will understand sacrifice more deeply than someone who only sees a few seconds of a social-media video.

Another important step is teaching

our youth how to recognize propaganda.

Before sharing any serious allegation, young people should ask a few simple questions: Who has published it? What is the evidence? Is the video complete? Is the information current? Has it been verified by reliable sources?

The best reply to propaganda is not another propaganda campaign. The best reply is truth supported by evidence.

At the same time, we must understand that respect for the Army does not mean that citizens should stop thinking or asking reasonable questions. Strong institutions become stronger when discussion remains responsible and respectful. There is, however, an important difference between constructive criticism and a deliberate campaign of hatred.

A citizen may disagree with a policy or decision, but disagreement should never become abuse against soldiers, martyrs or their families. Political differences should also never be allowed to create permanent divisions between the people and the institutions responsible for national defence.

This lesson is especially important for our youth.

We must also make better use of social media. Instead of only responding when a controversy appears, positive and educational content should be produced regularly. Real stories of soldiers helping people during floods, earthquakes and emergencies should be documented. Stories of martyrs should be preserved. Young officers and soldiers who achieve professional excellence should be introduced to the public.

Facts and real human stories are far more powerful than angry arguments.

We should also teach our children that supporting Pakistan Army does not mean ignoring the responsibility of other citizens. A country becomes strong when every person performs his duty honestly.

The soldier protects the border. The teacher educates the nation. The farmer provides food. The doctor saves lives. The journalist protects truth. The judge protects justice. The student prepares for the future.

Pakistan belongs to all of us.

Those who deliberately spread false information and hatred want to create mistrust inside society. We should never answer them with abuse. We should answer them with education, national unity and responsible communication.

Our young generation should be encouraged to love Pakistan intelligently, not blindly; to respect sacrifice sincerely, not temporarily; and to understand that national institutions belong to the country, not to any single political group.

The greatest strength of Pakistan Army is not only its weapons, training or technology. Its greatest strength is the confidence of the people standing behind it.

If the relationship between our youth and our soldiers remains based on truth, constitutional responsibility, sacrifice and mutual respect, no propaganda campaign will easily break it.

A strong Pakistan needs a strong Army, but a strong Army also needs a united, informed and responsible nation behind it. Our soldiers guard our borders. Let our younger generation guard the truth, unity and dignity of Pakistan.

That is how nations remain strong.

Digital wallets introduced to ensure transparent, secure BISP payments: Rubina Khalid



APP- ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid Monday said digital wallets has been introduced to make financial assistance payments to women beneficiaries transparent, convenient and secure, with digital wallet accounts already opened for 90 percent of beneficiaries.

Addressing media representatives during her visit to the BISP Central Zonal Office in Lahore, Rubina Khalid said the digital payment system has been introduced on the special directives of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

She said the interoperability system would enable beneficiaries to withdraw

their payments from any authorized agent of BISP's partner banks anywhere in Pakistan. After funds transfer to their digital wallets, beneficiaries would receive an SMS notification with details of the payment and could withdraw the amount by presenting their CNIC and registered mobile number, said a news release.

Senator Rubina Khalid said BISP staff would activate digital wallets on SIMs provided to beneficiaries and clarified that both the SIM and wallet activation were free of charge. A service charge of Rs. 280 had, however, been fixed for cash withdrawal.

She advised beneficiaries not to hand over their mobile phones or SIMs to any agent and protect their personal infor-

mation.

She said funds transferred to digital wallets would remain secure and beneficiaries would not be required to withdraw the entire amount immediately. They could withdraw the money at their convenience from authorized retailers of the partner banks.

The BISP Chairperson said the programme is a continuation of the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and has been translated into a practical reality under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari.

She rejected the perception that BISP promoted dependency, saying the programme aimed to provide deserving families with support and opportunities to overcome poverty and move towards self-reliance.

"Calling deserving women beggars undermines their dignity and self-respect," she said, stressing that BISP is an internationally recognized social protection programme providing financial assistance to vulnerable families within available resources.

Referring to World Bank research, Senator Rubina Khalid said every rupee spent through BISP generated approximately Rs. 2.34 in economic activity in the local economy, benefiting both recipient families and the wider community.

Newly Elected AJK Assembly Members Take Oath in Muzaffarabad



BY: Naseem Hassan /ANI

MUZAFFARABAD --- Newly elected members of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly took oath on Monday.

Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar

administered the oath to 46 newly elected members. The members included 38 candidates elected directly in the general elections, along with those elected to five reserved seats for women and one seat each for Ulema and Mashaikh,

overseas Kashmiris and technocrats.

Assembly Secretary Amjad Latif Abbasi read out the official notification regarding the election of the newly elected members. The Speaker adjourned the Assembly session until 2:00 pm on August 25, 2026.

Calligraphy Exhibition Held at National Assembly to Mark 1501 Years Since Birth of Holy Prophet (PBUH)

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --A calligraphy exhibition featuring artworks by renowned calligrapher Wasal Shahid was held at the National Assembly to mark 1501 years since the blessed birth of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inaugurated the exhibition at Parliament House. Renowned calligrapher Wasal Shahid briefed the Speaker about the calligraphic artworks displayed at the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a source of mercy and guidance for all humanity. He said events based on Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) refresh faith, while calligraphy exhibitions highlighting the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) serve as a source of guidance for the younger generation.

He said spiritual and intellectual activities help strengthen unity and



brotherhood among the Muslim Ummah.

Participants appreciated the exhibition as an excellent effort to highlight various aspects of the blessed life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and praised the organizers for their efforts. Ambassadors from Islamic countries, Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Khalid Hussain Magsi, members of the National Assembly, media representatives, people from different schools of thought and officers of the National Assembly Secretariat attended the inauguration ceremony.

Dr. Danish Aman Appointed Member of Sindh Police Sports Board

Report: ANI

KARACHI -- Dr. Danish Aman has been appointed as a member of the Sindh Police Sports Board (SPSB) with immediate effect.

According to an official notification, the Sindh Police Sports Board has been reconstituted with the approval of the competent authority. The board will work to pro-



mote, develop and supervise sports activities within the Sindh Police through professional governance, sustainable financing and strategic collaboration with the private sector.

The appointment of Dr. Danish Aman is aimed at further strengthening the board's efforts to institutionalize and develop sports activities across the Sindh Police.

Senate Railway Committee Reviews Operations, Land Management and Modernization Projects



Report: F T Reporter :

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on Railways held a high-level meeting at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Shahadat Awan to review key operational, financial and administrative matters of Pakistan Railways. The meeting also welcomed newly appointed member Senator Bushra Anjum Butt.

The committee reviewed compliance with recommendations made during its meetings held on February 25 and May 11, 2026. It also examined the management of railway commercial assets and land, including 53 petrol pumps operating on railway property.

Officials informed the committee that the petrol pumps were being operated in accordance with PPRA rules. The committee directed that commercial rents be reviewed and fixed strictly in accordance with the law.

The committee also expressed

concern over pending inquiries with NAB and FIA dating back to 2021 and directed the ministry and railway authorities to conduct departmental inquiries, determine responsibility and identify officials named in inquiry reports.

Regarding theft of High Speed Diesel (HSD), officials informed the committee that such incidents had been brought down to zero after fuel began being directly injected into train engines.

The committee expressed displeasure over incomplete or misleading reports submitted by officials and ordered a 15-day investigation into the matter. It also appreciated the recovery of 376 acres of railway land from illegal encroachments and directed authorities to accelerate the anti-encroachment drive and submit a comprehensive report within two months.

The committee further reviewed pending compensation cases and directed authorities to ensure fair and timely payments in accordance

with court orders.

Minister for Railways assured the committee that transparency would be maintained in all future operations and that no railway land would be leased arbitrarily. He said all transactions would strictly follow the law.

The meeting also discussed major infrastructure projects, including the modernization of historic railway tracks and the 1,254-kilometre Main Line-2 (ML-2) project under a public-private partnership framework. The committee directed the ministry to finalize the MoU with the Sindh government at the earliest.

The Minister was also directed to personally visit the historic Dadu Railway Station, built in 1890, to assess its condition. Urgent instructions were issued for restoration of railway bridges damaged by recent heavy rains and flooding. Senators Dost Ali Jeessa and Bushra Anjum Butt, the Minister for Railways and senior officials of concerned departments attended the meeting.

RPO Sargodha Reviews Performance of Educators Police Public High School

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SARGIDHA-- Regional Police Officer (RPO) Sargodha Region, Muhammad Shehzad Asif Khan, chaired a meeting to review the performance of Educators Police Public High School and discuss proposed measures for further improvement.

SP RIB Azhar Yaqoob, ADIG, the school principal and vice principal



attended the meeting.

During the meeting, RPO Muhammad Shehzad Asif Khan approved necessary measures to ensure quality education for students and promote co-curricular activities. He also approved the organization of a speech competition at the school to encourage students to develop their communication and public-speaking skills.

FIA Gujranwala Zone Arrests 16 Suspects in Major Crackdown on Human Trafficking and Immigration Fraud

BY: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA -- The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Zone has launched a major crackdown against human traffickers, agents, illegal immigration networks and individuals allegedly involved in fraud against citizens seeking employment abroad, arresting 16 suspects.

According to FIA officials, the suspects were arrested during separate operations conducted by FIA Gujranwala Circle, FIA Gujrat Circle and FIA Sialkot Circle. The arrested individuals include alleged human traffickers, agents and suspects wanted in various cases involving overseas employment fraud and illegal immigration. The suspects allegedly collected substantial amounts of money from citizens on the pretext of sending them to Canada, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Greece, Germany,



Turkey, Iraq, Bahrain and other countries for employment or settlement.

During the operations, FIA officials also arrested an individual who had previously been deported from Libya. Initial investigations have reportedly revealed important information regarding the alleged role of agents involved in facilitating illegal travel abroad. According to FIA, the cases registered against the arrested suspects involve

alleged financial fraud amounting to approximately Rs 28.89 million, while additional amounts of USD 50,000 and Rs 250,000 are also involved in separate cases.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Israr, Muhammad Sajim, Haji Muhammad Ejaz, Shoaib Sarwar, Muhammad Hizbullah, Wajid Ali, Muhammad Ashfaq, Nisar Ali, Nisar Ahmed, Riaz Aziz, Amir Sohail, Muhammad Akhtar, Muhammad Afzal, Owais Ali, Muhammad Asif and Muhammad Ahsan.

The FIA Gujranwala Zone said further investigation against all arrested suspects is underway, while efforts are continuing to identify and arrest other individuals allegedly involved in the networks. The agency reiterated that action against elements involved in human trafficking, illegal immigration and overseas employment fraud will continue.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Meets Delegation of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met a delegation of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP).

The delegation included Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis Awn Chaudhry, Member of the National Assembly Manza Hassan and MNA Gul Asghar Khan.

Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif was also present during the meeting.

The meeting discussed the overall situation in the country and matters of mutual interest.



Punjab Governor Visits Family of Martyr Malik Mubashir in Attock, Pays Tribute to Sacrifice

Report: ANI :

ATTOCK -- Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited the residence of martyr Malik Mubashir, who embraced martyrdom while bravely fighting terrorists in Noshki district of Balochistan.

The Governor met the martyr's father Malik Muhammad Muram, family members and relatives and expressed heartfelt condolences. He paid tribute to Malik Mubashir's sacrifice for the country and prayed for the departed soul.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan offered a special prayer along with the martyr's family, seeking forgive-



ness and a high place for the deceased in Jannat-ul-Firdous and patience for the bereaved family.

The Governor said Malik Mubashir's sacrifice was a source of pride for the entire nation. He said those who lay down their lives for the security, sovereignty and peace

of Pakistan were national heroes whose sacrifices strengthened the country's resolve against terrorism.

He said terrorism remained a national challenge and personnel of the armed forces, police and other security institutions continued to sacrifice their lives in the fight against it.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan assured the martyr's family that the Punjab government and relevant institutions would extend all possible support and assistance. He said the families of martyrs were held in the highest respect and that the government would continue efforts to address their needs and problems.

DGRE to Hold Meeting on Madaris Issues in Islamabad, Tahir Ashrafi

BY: FT Correspondent:

LAHORE -- Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Prime Minister's Coordinator on the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the Directorate General of Religious Education (DGRE) will hold an important meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday to discuss issues facing Madaris across Pakistan.

Addressing an annual prize-distribution ceremony organized by Nizam-ul-Madaris Pakistan, Ashrafi said significant progress was expected on issues including registration of seminaries, bank accounts and other administrative matters.

He said Pakistan has around 33,000 Madaris, of which 22,000 have been registered with the DGRE. He added that the country has 15 recognized religious education boards, with 10 already registered with the directorate.

Ashrafi said there was no objection to seminaries that wished to continue registration under the pre-



vious system. He highlighted the contribution of Madaris in providing students with both religious and contemporary education.

He said the success of Madaris students in securing positions in various educational boards reflected their growing contribution to education and national development.

Ashrafi said the Mutaahida Madaris Council remained committed to resolving the sector's longstanding issues and appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in facilitating solutions.

He added that Madaris were playing an important role in promoting peace, tolerance, interfaith and intra-faith harmony and standing against extremism and terrorism.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of Ulema, Mashaikh and Shuyukh from Pakistan and abroad to honour students who secured prominent positions in their examinations.

Crackdown on Vapes and Flavored Cigarettes in Murree, Large Quantity of Banned Items Seized

BY: ANI Correspondent:

Murree Following the directives of the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Director General Punjab CNE, the Narcotics Control Station Murree has launched an awareness campaign and crackdown to protect the younger generation from the growing trend of drug use, vaping, and flavored cigarettes. As part of the campaign, the Narcotics Control Station Murree team visited various educational institutions. School principals expressed serious concern over the increasing trend of vaping and flavored cigarettes among students, stating that these products are easily available at shops and pose serious risks to the physical and mental well-being of young people. Meanwhile, the Director of Narcotics Control Station Murree conducted surprise inspections of shops located on Mall Road and Cart Road. During the inspections, a large quantity of



vapes, flavors, and banned cigarettes was recovered and taken into custody. The shopkeepers involved were issued strict warnings and cautioned that further violations would result in legal action. Deputy Commissioner Murree also took immediate notice of the matter and directed PEERA authorities to take action against

shopkeepers selling such prohibited items and seal their shops where necessary. The Narcotics Control Station Murree spokesperson said that the awareness campaign and crackdown against drugs, vapes, and flavored cigarettes would continue without interruption to protect the younger generation.

Renewable Energy Vital for Energy Security, Industrial Growth: Saif-ur-Rehman

Report: ANI Correspondent:

MULTAN: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif-ur-Rehman on Sunday said renewable energy was a strategic necessity for Pakistan's future and stressed the need to accelerate the transition towards clean, affordable and sustainable energy sources. Talking to a delegation of industrialists, he said Pakistan had enormous potential for solar, wind, hydropower and other renewable energy resources. Proper utilization of these resources could reduce dependence on imported fuels and help conserve valuable foreign exchange.

Saif-ur-Rehman said expanding renewable energy would strengthen energy security, support industrial



growth and create new employment opportunities for skilled youth.

He urged the government to intro-

duce consistent and investor-friendly policies, simplify regulatory procedures and encourage greater private-sector participation in renewable energy projects.

He also emphasized the development of decentralized solar systems for agriculture, small businesses and households, saying these could reduce pressure on the national grid and improve access to reliable electricity. Saif-ur-Rehman stressed the importance of modern technology, research and public-private partnerships for developing the renewable energy sector. He said a long-term national strategy with effective implementation could help Pakistan move towards a greener economy and achieve sustainable economic development.