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Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

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Iran, Oman mull proposal for joint shipping route through Hormuz Strait



ANI

Oman and Iran on Tuesday discussed a proposed framework for establishing a temporary joint shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz.

The proposal was raised at a meeting in Tehran between Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi and his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, according to a joint statement released by the two countries and carried by the state-run Oman News Agency.

The statement added that the two top diplomats had held "constructive" discussions on developments related to the Hormuz Strait, a critical maritime corridor

for global trade and energy exports.

Meanwhile, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that Tehran conveyed its conditions regarding the Hormuz Strait to Washington via Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Tasnim quoted a source close to Iran's negotiating team as saying that CDF Munir's visit had not been intended to deliver a threat but to convey Tehran's position and pave the way for possible talks. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tehran's position had been plainly conveyed to the Pakistani side at meetings attended by CDF Munir.

According to Tasnim, Tehran's conditions include a demand for the US to return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and implement its provisions. Iran specifically demands implementation of Article 5 of the MoU, which covers arrangements related to the Strait of Hormuz.

Article 5 calls for Iran to ensure the safe passage of commercial shipping through the waterway and consult Oman on the strait's future management, including maritime services. United States President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that all mines had been successfully removed or detonated in the international waters of the Strait of Hormuz.

"Iran has been notified that any ship or boat placing new mines will be immediately and systematically destroyed," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. He emphasised a "zero tolerance policy" on mine placement, asserting that Washington was using Space Force technology to monitor "every square inch" of the strategic waterway, as well as Pickaxe Mountain and "the already destroyed three other nuclear sites".

He earlier condemned the mounting executions in Iran of people allegedly linked to mass protests earlier this year, before the Middle East war began, AFP reported.

SC to hear Uzma's contempt petition against violation of Imran medical transfer order on Sept 16

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday fixed for hearing on September 16 a contempt petition by Uzma Khanum, the sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, against the alleged violation of an order for his medical transfer. Last week, the apex court had directed that Imran be shifted to Shifa International Hospital for treatment for the next few days and instructed the government to arrange weekly meetings between him and his family. However, the government took him to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) instead. The PTI had subsequently filed a contempt of court petition in the SC over the alleged violation of the apex court's August 18 order.

The PTI resubmitted the contempt of court petition filed by Uzma after addressing objections raised by the SC registrar earlier today. Speaking to the media outside the SC, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said that he met the registrar at the public facilitation centre, where the registrar informed him that objections had been raised to their petition.

"We have been given back the file of the contempt petition," he said.

Gohar said that the party would address the objections and file the contempt petition again.

"We want the same bench to be constituted today so that the case can be heard on Thursday," he added.

PTI chairman further said that the SC's August 18 decision had not been implemented. "We requested an early hearing of the contempt petition," Gohar said.

He said the PTI founder's health was very important. "Please arrange meetings between the PTI founder and his family members." Read: 'Imran Khan would not have spent three years in jail if he wanted a deal,' says Barrister Gohar

Separately, Dr Uzma also filed an application before the SC seeking an early hearing of her contempt of court petition. "The founder's health is deteriorating," the application states, adding that the request



for an early hearing is linked to his health and life. The application alleges that the government disobeyed the court's decision. "If any clarification was required, the relevant court should have been approached," it states.

The application maintains that the court's decision could not have been deviated from. Dr Uzma has requested that the contempt petition be fixed for hearing during the current week. "Further delay may cause irreparable loss," the application states. It further argues that, in the absence of a stay order from the court, there could be no justification for seeking a review of compliance with an order.

The application requests the SC to fix the contempt case for hearing this week, keeping in view the requirements of justice.

The government had also filed a review petition before the apex court, calling its order "discriminatory in nature". Following the order, speculation emerged that Imran may have reached an understanding with the authorities over his possible release from prison.

On August 21, Imran was taken to PIMS for a medical examination in the early hours of the morning and returned to Adiala jail after doctors declared him "medically fit". Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said Imran was taken to the government-run facility because of the security situation created by PTI workers outside and on the way to Shifa International Hospital.

According to the sources, the parties facing contempt allegations were not provided with a list of the allegations.

PPP warns parliamentary sessions cannot conclude amid unresolved issues

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday said the party would not allow parliamentary proceedings to be considered complete until its outstanding concerns with the PML-N-led government were addressed. Rehman made the remarks while speaking to the media alongside PPP leaders after a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq in his chamber on Tuesday. Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and PPP leader Farooq H Naik also spoke to the media after the huddle.

Earlier, PPP and PML-N delegations had reached the speaker's chamber to discuss the prevailing political situation in the country. The PML-N delegation comprised PML-N Senator Rana Sanaullah and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, while the PPP delegation included Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Sherry Rehman, Murtaza Wahab, Farooq H Naik and Sindh Interior Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Janjar. Speaking to journalists, Rehman said regular meetings were held in the speaker's chamber regarding parliamentary sessions, adding that the current session was nearing its conclusion and the issues between the coalition partners needed to be discussed.

"We have differences among ourselves, which is a clear fact," she said, adding that matters of disagreement were also discussed during the meeting.

Rehman said the PPP had not come merely to complete the quorum. "We have had differences and want the issues to be resolved." She further stated that if the two parties were in a coalition, the coalition also had to be respected. "Until the issues are resolved, the sessions will remain incomplete," Rehman said. Her remarks came



days after PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said the party would withhold its support for the PML-N-led government until its concerns, including over the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections, were addressed.

"My party has decided that PPP's cooperation, coordination and legislation with the PML-N on general issues cannot continue until our legitimate concerns are addressed," he had warned.

Meanwhile, Wahab — while speaking to the media today — said the two parties had been working together for a long time, adding that the meeting was held to discuss issues and find solutions.

"We always talk about issues and want the problems to be resolved," Wahab said, describing the meeting as a routine interaction between the coalition partners.

Farooq H Naik said the meeting had taken place in a good and pleasant atmosphere, adding that "everything is fine".

'No-confidence motion'
Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the government had repeatedly invited Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for talks but had now become tired of extending such invitations and would not issue further calls for negotiations. He said the resignations submitted by PTI members from parliamentary committees had not yet been accepted.

PM Seeks Strategic Economic Partnership with Saudi Arabia

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said Pakistan was keen to elevate its economic relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into a mutually beneficial strategic economic partnership in line with the vision of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

A high-level Saudi business delegation, led by Chairman of the Saudi-Pak Joint Business Council, Prince Mansour bin Mohammad Al Saud called on the prime minister here at the PM House, a news release said. During the warm and cordial meeting the Prime Minister conveyed his respectful regards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and to Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. While recalling the longstanding brotherly ties



between Pakistan and the Kingdom, the prime minister discussed avenues for expanding economic cooperation and investment between the two brotherly countries.

In this regard, he recalled Prince Mansour's

earlier visits to Pakistan and expressed the hope that the current visit would build on those discussions and culminate in the signing of MoUs and agreements across multiple sectors.

Three Adiala prisoners approach IHC for treatment at private hospitals

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Three prisoners at Adiala jail have moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking permission to receive medical treatment at a private hospital, similar to the relief granted to PTI founder Imran Khan. The petitioners include murder case suspect Ilyas Khan, cheque dishonour case accused Awais Altaf and Muhammad Ismail Khan. Their counsels have requested that the inmates be shifted to either Shifa International Hospital or Quaid-e-Azam International Hospital for treatment. IHC's Justice Muhammad Asif sought a response from jail authorities by August 27 and directed the superintendent of Adiala jail to submit the prisoners' medical reports. The court further directed the parties to submit para-wise comments before the next hearing.

The development came days after the Supreme Court, in its August 18 order, directed authorities to move the former prime minister, who is incarcerated at Adiala jail, to Shifa International Hospital for a medical examination.

Govt to Act on Imran's Medical Order After SC Clarification

ANI

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan on Tuesday told the Senate that the Supreme Court (SC) would decide on September 16 whether, and to what extent, its August 18 order concerning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan's medical examination had been complied with, assuring the senators that the government would implement any further direction issued by the apex court. "On September 16, the court will decide where the order was complied with, to what extent it was complied with



and whether there was any deficiency," Sanaullah told the House while responding to points raised by Senator Ali Zafar and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Raja Nasir Abbas. The statement came against

the backdrop of the SC's August 18 order after Imran was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for a medical examination. The order had directed that Imran be shifted to Shifa International Hospital for treatment for the next few days and instructed the government to arrange weekly meetings between him and his family. Following the alleged violation of the apex court order, PTI filed a contempt of court petition in the SC. Sanaullah, during today's Senate session, assured the House that if the SC found any shortcoming and directed the government to take further measures, its orders would be implemented.

Info Ministry Rejects Indian Media Report on Bahawalpur Mosque

ANI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday rubbished what it said were "delusional" reports by Indian media outlets about the alleged reconstruction of Bahawalpur's Subhanallah Mosque at state expense after it was damaged in last year's May conflict between Islamabad and New Delhi. The mosque was among the sites attacked in last year's fighting between Pakistan and India. Multiple Indian media outlets reported that the site was nearly restored and operational again at a cost of Rs250 million by Pakistan. In a statement posted on X, the information ministry stated that the Indian media lived in some "delusional world" where "concocted stories are spewed", adding that these stories were circulated "at the behest of their political leadership, to desperately overcome the embarrassment faced through Pakistan's



befitting and just response during Marka-e-Haq, where innocent women, the elderly and children were attacked in a dastardly and illegal operation". "Times of India has falsely claimed reconstruction of the Subhanallah Mosque complex in Bahawalpur, with state financing of Rs250 million, following its damage during India's botched 'Operation Sindoor'," the ministry said.



A landmark Framework Agreement has been signed between Pakistan Railways and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, marking a major step towards strengthening federal-provincial cooperation for the development, modernization and rehabilitation of the railway network.

Gilani arrives in Phnom Penh to lead Pakistan delegation at ISC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, arrived in Phnom Penh on Tuesday to lead the Pakistani delegation at the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Upon arrival, the Chairman Senate was warmly received by senior dignitaries of the Senate of Cambodia and the Royal Government, including, Senator Mann Chhoeurn, Vice-President, Commission on Education, Youth and Sports, Cults, Culture, Fine Arts and Tourism, Senate of Cambodia, Bun Vouthea, General Director, General Department of Legal Services & Collective Territory, Secretariat General of the Senate of Cambodia, Sles Punnyamin, Senator, Senate of Cambodia Nop Dara, Deputy Governor of Kandal Province. Zaheruddin Babar Thaheem, Ambassador of Pakistan to Cambodia, was also present on the occasion.

During his arrival, Chairman Gilani expressed his sincere gratitude to the Senate of Cambodia and the Royal Government for hosting the conference.

He underscored Pakistan's commitment



to promoting parliamentary cooperation, dialogue, and collective efforts for peace, mutual understanding, and sustainable development among nations.

The inaugural session of the ISC was convened in Pakistan in November 2025. The Kingdom of Cambodia is now hosting the second edition, further strengthening the spirit of inter-parliamentary partner-

ship. Speaking on the occasion, Sles Punnyamin remarked that it was a distinct honour for Cambodia to host the 2nd ISC under the leadership of Chairman Gilani. He noted that Chairman Gilani's long-standing and cordial relationship with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of Cambodia, spanning several decades, pro-

vided a strong foundation of friendship and trust between the two parliaments, making Cambodia's hosting of the conference particularly meaningful.

Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani will address a plenary session of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, where he will highlight the indispensable role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering peace, inclusivity, and cooperative solutions to regional and global challenges.

On the sidelines of the ISC, the Chairman Senate will hold bilateral meetings with parliamentary leaders and heads of delegations from participating countries to further advance bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation, and people-to-people linkages.

Pakistan's active participation in the 2nd ISC reflects its abiding commitment to multilateralism, dialogue, and the promotion of peace through parliamentary engagement.

Upon arrival at the hotel, the Chairman Senate was accorded a grand reception by Ek Nath Dhakal, Secretary General of the ISC, along with members of the ISC Secretariat.

Tokyo University professor discusses Japan's Indo-Pacific Policy at QAU seminar

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Professor Endo Ken of the University of Tokyo delivered a lecture at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, on Japan's evolving diplomatic strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.

The session brought together academics, students, and diplomats to discuss regional cooperation, foreign policy priorities, and the role of middle powers in addressing emerging challenges. The lecture, titled "Japan's FOIP 3.0 and the Future of Middle-Power Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific," was held on August 24 at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) Seminar Hall of Quaid-i-Azam University.

Professor Endo, who serves as Chair and Professor of International Politics at the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, shared his views on Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) framework and its significance for regional stability, cooperation, and diplomacy. He explained how Japan's policy approach has evolved in response to changes in the regional and global environment and highlighted the growing role of middle powers in international affairs. The event opened with welcome remarks by Quaid-i-Azam University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal and SPIR Director Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Mirza. Both speakers welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of academic dialogue on international relations and foreign policy.

Deputy Speaker GB Assembly calls on Ayaz

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Assembly, Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman Tuesday called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House. Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman on his election as Deputy Speaker of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly and expressed his best wishes for the successful discharge of his new responsibilities.

The Speaker reaffirmed the National Assembly's commitment to enhance legislative cooperation among all Legislative units of the country.

He emphasized that continued cooperation in legislative and parliamentary affairs would help enhance the institutional capacity of the GB Assembly. He also highlighted the importance of training programmes under the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) for members and staff of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly to improve legislative performance and parliamentary efficiency. Ayaz Sadiq said that the Speakers' Conference serves as an effective platform for promoting coordination, consensus-building, and the exchange of experiences among the country's legislative institutions. The Speaker stated that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer for regional development and prosperity.

Mohsin Reviews Development Works in Diplomatic Enclave

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the Diplomatic Enclave to review ongoing development projects and assess progress on key infrastructure and security initiatives.

During the visit, the minister directed authorities to accelerate work on the boundary wall, road expansion, security upgrades, and public facilities while ensuring that no trees are cut during construction. He inspected work on the boundary wall, remodeling of security checkpoints, cycling tracks, and walking tracks being developed within the Diplomatic Enclave. He instructed officials to maintain round-the-clock work on the boundary wall project and emphasized that environmental protec-



tion must remain a priority throughout the construction process. Mohsin Naqvi also directed authorities to develop the cycling and walking tracks according to modern planning standards so that resi-

dents and visitors can benefit from improved recreational facilities. He further instructed officials to widen roads within the enclave to improve traffic flow and accessibility.

During the visit, the minister asked the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Security to prepare a revised and comprehensive security plan for the Diplomatic Enclave. He said security arrangements should be reviewed and updated to meet current requirements and ensure the safety of diplomatic missions, residents, and visitors. Mohsin Naqvi also announced that parks within the Diplomatic Enclave would be restored and upgraded. He said the government aims to improve public amenities and create better facilities for people living and working in the area.

"Providing international-standard facilities to residents of the Diplomatic Enclave is our top priority," the minister said while reviewing the progress of ongoing projects.

Lahore Police Finalizes Foolproof Security Plan for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

Report: ANI :

LAHORE -- Lahore Police has finalized a comprehensive security plan for Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations, with more than 8,000 police personnel to be deployed across the city.

According to DIG Operations Faisal Kamran, security arrangements have been completed for religious gatherings and processions. Around 20 major gatherings are expected to take place.

Police personnel, including officers and women police, will be deployed for security and guidance.



Punjab Safe Cities Authority cameras will be used for continuous monitoring, while Dolphin Squad, PRU and Elite Force teams will conduct regular patrols.

Routes and adjoining streets will be secured with barriers, while participants will be allowed entry through designated routes after complete checking through walk-through gates and metal detectors.

DIG Operations Faisal Kamran urged citizens to demonstrate religious tolerance and cooperate with police to ensure a peaceful and secure environment.

Punjab Police Cricket Team Wins Ghani Royal Tourney T20 Trophy Unbeaten

BY: Sports Reporter FT :

LAHORE -- Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulated the Punjab Police Cricket Team, officials, management and coaches on their outstanding achievement of winning the Ghani Royal Tourney T20 Tournament trophy while remaining unbeaten.

The Punjab Police Cricket Team, officials, team management and coaches visited the Central Police Office Lahore and met Director General Pakistan Police Sports Board and Additional IG Welfare and Finance Imran Arshad.

Additional IG Imran Arshad congratulated Patron Pakistan Police Cricket Sports Discipline Additional IG IAB Imran Mehmood, the players and management on the team's impressive victory. He also distributed cash prizes and certificates of appreciation among the players, officials and coaches in recognition of their performance.

He said Punjab Police players were demonstrating exceptional talent and performance in cricket and other sports, adding that comprehensive measures were being taken to encour-



age and support police athletes.

Punjab Police spokesperson said Team Captain Shoaib and Manager Sub-Inspector Amjad were presented with certificates of appreciation and cash prizes. Mentor Senior Traffic Warden Saleem Jutt and Coach Head Constable Nadeem were also awarded cash prizes and certificates of appreciation. The spokesperson said Punjab Police defeated Vital-T Cricket Team in a thrilling final to

National Press Club, Asas Schools Sign MoU, 25% Fee Discount for Members' Children

BY: Hurish Shah/ FT

ISLAMABAD-- The National Press Club Islamabad and Asas Schools signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under which children of National Press Club members will receive a 25% special discount on school fees.

The MoU was signed by National Press Club President Abdul Razzaq Sial and Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao, while Asas Schools Director Dr. Arshad Zia signed on behalf of the institution.

Dr. Arshad Zia said Asas Schools focuses on quality education along with the mental, social and moral development of students. He said the institution provides counselling and individual guidance based on students' academic performance and abilities.

He added that modern technology, science, robotics, artificial intelligence and other emerging fields



have been incorporated into the curriculum, while professional career counselling is also provided to guide students regarding their future education and careers.

National Press Club President Abdul Razzaq Sial said providing quality and affordable education to journalists' children was among the club's priorities. He said the agreement would provide a 25% fee con-

cession from nursery to A-Level for children of National Press Club members.

Secretary National Press Club Dr. Furqan Rao thanked Ziaqum Naqvi for facilitating the agreement and said the MoU would help members and their children access quality education. He added that further initiatives would be taken for the better future of journalists' children.

DPO Attock Reviews Security Arrangements at Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib

Report: ANI :

ATTOCK -- DPO Attock Captain (R) Ali Bin Tariq visited Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib in Hassan Abdal and reviewed security arrangements for Sikh pilgrims arriving to participate in the Rakhi Bandhan festival.

A meeting was held at the Gurdwara, attended by SDPO Hassan Abdal, SHO City Hassan Abdal, District Security Officer and other concerned officers. Security and other arrangements for Sikh pilgrims were reviewed in detail.

DPO Attock directed the officers concerned to take all necessary measures to further strengthen security arrangements and ensure fool-



proof security for the visiting Sikh pilgrims

Petroleum Division kicks off strategic reserves study as Wood Mackenzie wins competitive tender

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Tuesday chaired the kick-off meeting for the feasibility study to establish Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) in Pakistan, with international energy consultancy M/S Wood Mackenzie selected to undertake the study following a competitive tender process in which four bids were received. The Minister was briefed on the scope and objectives of the study, following which the meeting discussed and agreed on the timelines and overall architecture for the assignment, said a news release. Ali Pervaiz Malik highlighted that the Government is pursuing reforms and initiatives to advance Pakistan's energy security, recognising that

energy security is intrinsically linked to national security. He said ensuring resilience of energy supplies and reducing vulnerabilities to external shocks is a key priority of the incumbent government. He said the recent Strait of Hormuz crisis had further magnified the need to strengthen our buffers and build greater resilience against supply disruptions. The Strategic Petroleum Reserves initiative is therefore an important step towards assessing how the country can strengthen its preparedness for potential supply shocks. ECC has already approved a world-class bonded scheme for large international oil players. Ali Pervaiz Malik said the purpose of commissioning the study was to enable the Government to make an informed and evidence-based decision before embarking on such a major strategic initiative.

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Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq

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Opinion

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Respect, Justice, and the Rule of Law



By Sheikh J. Hussain
London:Published by ANI
Jawadkhayal@icloud.com

On Monday 24 August 2026, an army officer arrived at Sarhaad University Islamabad campus not on any military assignment but to stand beside a family member who serves as the Head of Student Affairs at the university. She had been surrounded and harassed by a group of people on campus, and he came to escort her safely away from a threatening and difficult situation. The woman was encircled and under pressure, and the officer stepped in to protect her. Yet the confrontation turned physical when someone from the civilian side attacked him. This incident raises far larger questions than one moment of conflict. It exposes a dangerous mindset that must be addressed.

Some people claim that society has grown disrespectful toward the uniform. But we must remember the warmth with which people greeted and saluted our soldiers on the streets after Operation Sandur. We still walk with pride because of the flags our armed forces have raised across the world. There is no widespread movement to disrespect the uniform. What exists instead is deep malice in the hearts of a small group of people who seize every opportunity to release it. That hatred may be political or it may be something else, but it is not shared by the nation. It belongs only to those who harbour it.

We must never forget what our armed forces stand for. These are the men and women who stand guard day and night to protect the honour of

our mothers, sisters, and daughters. They are the ones who defend the borders of this country, and who are ready to lay down their lives for the safety and dignity of every citizen. When an officer steps forward to safeguard a family member from harm, he is doing exactly what we expect every brave and honourable person to do. He is showing the same courage and sense of duty that he brings to his service for the whole nation. There is no shame in this. There is only pride. And any person who stands by while a woman is being harassed is not worthy of respect himself. To attack a man who is protecting his family is an act of utter brutality. It is shameful beyond words, and those who did it deserve the strictest possible punishment under the law.

The military has its own system of accountability and its own laws that are far stricter than those that apply to civilians. The military authorities will take whatever action is needed according to their own regulations. But those who harassed the Head of Student Affairs in her workplace and then physically attacked the officer must also be held fully responsible under the laws that apply to civilians. They must be identified questioned and prosecuted according to civil law. There is no reason why they should be treated more leniently simply because they are not in uniform. If anything, they started the conflict and created the entire situation, and they must face the consequences of their actions. Those who committed this act of brutality must be brought to justice and given the highest punishment they deserve. There can be no compromise here.

Around the world attacking a serving officer is taken very seriously. In the United States it is treated as a serious crime carrying up to five years imprisonment and heavy fines. In the United Kingdom assaulting an on-duty officer brings a sentence from two years up to life imprisonment. In Saudi Arabia attacking security personnel carries three to ten years in prison and foreigners are deported immediately. Under Pakistan's own law Section 353 assaulting a public servant carries punishment from two years imprisonment all the way up to

life and in severe cases even the death penalty. Canada imposes five to fourteen years and Singapore adds corporal punishment. These laws exist not to favour the uniform but to protect the order and safety of society.

This is not about taking sides. It is about upholding the rule of law. We cannot allow one set of rules to be used only when it suits a certain narrative. We cannot allow malice and political bias to decide who is right and who is wrong. The law must apply equally to the staff member the student the soldier and the civilian. But above all, the law must protect the weak and hold accountable those who use force to harm others.

We must also ask our educational institutions to reflect. Universities are meant to teach respect and critical thinking. If young people grow up believing that surrounding a woman and attacking her family member is acceptable behaviour then we have failed to teach them the most basic lessons of all. Respect for women respect for dignity and respect for the law are not political lessons. They are the foundation of any civilised society. If we lose these values, we lose everything.

The real lesson here is simple. Justice means everyone is answerable according to the laws that apply to them. The military system will deal with the officer if any wrongdoing is found. The civilian legal system must deal with those who started the trouble. Those who harassed the woman and attacked her family member must face the highest punishment they deserve under the law. Until this happens we cannot say we live in a just society. And until we teach our children that malice and disrespect have no place in our society we will continue to face incidents that divide us. We must stand for the uniform not because it is above the law but because it represents the service that protects the law. And we must stand for justice not just for one person but for every person regardless of who they are. Above all, we must stand for the protection and respect of every woman in our society, and we must honour those who are willing to stand up and defend them. That is the true mark of a civilised nation.

From Prison Cells to Power, The Sacrifices, Struggles and Political Legacy of Pakistan’s Leadership



Written by
Rana Farooq
Ashraf :
Published by
ANI

Pakistan’s political history is not merely a story of governments being formed and dismissed. It is also a history of political struggle, imprisonment, exile, persecution and personal sacrifice by leaders who, in their own ways, remained committed to their political parties and their vision of Pakistan.

The figures highlighted in the accompanying graphic represent different chapters of Pakistan’s political journey. However, the number of days shown against some names does not accurately reflect the historical record. In several cases, the actual period of detention was considerably longer, while in others the figures cannot be independently verified.

The real question, therefore, is not simply how many days a politician spent behind bars. The more important questions are: Why were they imprisoned? What political circumstances led to their detention? What did they endure? And what did they contribute to Pakistan after their release?

Asif Ali Zardari: From Long Imprisonment to Political Reconciliation

Asif Ali Zardari is among Pakistan’s political leaders who spent an exceptionally long period in detention. According to widely reported accounts, he spent approximately 11 years in prison and detention in connection with various cases. He and his party repeatedly maintained that the cases were politically motivated.

Despite years of imprisonment, Zardari remained politically active. As president, he subsequently made political reconciliation one of the defining features of his political approach.

One of the most significant developments during his presidency was the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, which strengthened parliamentary democracy and substantially altered the distribution of powers between the federation and the provinces.

His political journey offers an important lesson: a politician who had spent years behind bars later chose reconciliation rather than confrontation as a central instrument of political governance.

Benazir Bhutto: Imprisonment, Exile and Democratic Struggle

Benazir Bhutto’s political career was marked by imprisonment, house arrest and exile. During General Zia-ul-Haq’s military rule, she was repeatedly detained and spent periods in solitary confinement and house arrest before leaving Pakistan. Despite these hardships, she remained committed to her party and democratic politics and eventually became Pakistan’s first woman prime minister.

Her governments were associated with initiatives concerning women’s political participation, health and social welfare. More importantly, her political struggle became a symbol of resistance to military rule and the demand for representative government.

Her life demonstrated that political commitment is tested not during periods of power, but during periods of adversity.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto: Constitution, National Sovereignty and Political Mobilisation

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto occupies a central place in Pakistan’s political history. His contribution to the country’s constitutional and political development remains deeply significant.

Under his leadership, the Constitution of 1973 was framed and adopted with broad parliamentary consensus. It continues to provide the fundamental constitutional framework of Pakistan.

Bhutto also pursued an independent foreign policy, strengthened Pakistan’s relations with the Muslim world and played an important role in developing the country’s strategic and nuclear programme.

Following the military takeover of 1977, he was arrested, tried and ultimately executed on April 4, 1979.

His political legacy remains deeply embedded in Pakistan’s constitutional history, democratic consciousness and national political discourse.

Nawaz Sharif: Imprisonment, Exile and National Decisions

Nawaz Sharif’s political career has been marked by three terms as prime minister, military intervention, imprisonment, exile, disqualification and political comeback.

One of the defining decisions of his premiership came in 1998, when Pakistan conducted nuclear tests following India’s nuclear explosions. Despite intense international pressure, Pakistan demonstrated its strategic capability.

Soon afterwards, the Lahore Declaration opened a diplomatic path towards dialogue and confidence-building with India.

Nawaz Sharif’s governments also focused heavily on infrastructure development, motorways, economic liberalisation and private-sector growth.

His political journey demonstrates



the resilience of a leader who, despite imprisonment and years in exile, eventually returned to Pakistan and remained a major force in national politics.

Yousaf Raza Gilani: More Than Five Years Behind Bars

The graphic attributes only 95 days of imprisonment to Yousaf Raza Gilani. Historical records, however, show that he was arrested in February 2001 and remained in prison until October 2006 – more than five years.

He was subsequently elected prime minister in 2008.

His tenure was particularly significant because the 18th Constitutional Amendment was passed during his government. The amendment strengthened parliamentary democracy, enhanced provincial autonomy and reshaped the constitutional balance between the federation and the provinces.

Gilani’s political journey is another example of a leader who experienced prolonged imprisonment before returning to the highest levels of parliamentary politics.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi: Imprisonment Without Abandoning Politics

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was arrested in July 2019 in connection with the LNG case and remained in detention until February 2020. His detention lasted considerably longer than the 120 days shown in the graphic.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz described his arrest as politically motivated, while the National Accountability Bureau maintained that the case concerned alleged irregularities in the LNG contract.

As prime minister, Abbasi’s tenure was brief but significant, particularly in the energy sector and the expansion of LNG-based energy infrastructure.

His political career reflects the ability to remain engaged in public life despite legal and political adversity.

Imran Khan: More Than Three Years in Custody

Imran Khan has been in custody since August 5, 2023, making his imprisonment one of the most consequential ongoing episodes in Pakistan’s contemporary political history.

He and his party have described the cases against him as politically motivated, while the government and state institutions have maintained that the proceedings are based on legal grounds.

During his tenure as prime minister, programmes such as Ehsaas and health-sector initiatives became prominent features of his government’s welfare agenda. His government also pursued a different diplomatic emphasis, particularly in relations with China, Afghanistan and the Gulf states.

His continued imprisonment has become another powerful symbol of the political polarisation that has increasingly characterised Pakistan’s politics.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan: A Different Kind of Political Power

The graphic associates Ghulam Ishaq Khan with nearly a year of imprisonment, but reliable historical records do not establish such a period of imprisonment.

His actual political importance lies elsewhere. A senior civil servant, finance minister, Senate chairman and later president of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan became one of the most powerful constitutional figures of his era.

During his presidency, both Benazir Bhutto’s and Nawaz Sharif’s governments were dismissed. His tenure therefore represents an important chapter in the long institutional struggle between elected governments and powerful constitutional offices.

General Pervez Musharraf: A Critical Chapter

General Pervez Musharraf must be assessed differently from the political leaders discussed above. He came to power through a military takeover in 1999 that removed an elected government.

His era witnessed economic and administrative reforms and a major shift in Pakistan’s foreign and security policy after the September 11 attacks.

However, the imposition of emergency rule in 2007, the suspension of constitutional order and the removal of judges remain among the most serious controversies of his rule.

His later detention and legal difficulties were part of the political and constitutional consequences of that period.

The Larger Question: Political

Harnessing Resilience: Women-Led Entrepreneurship Can Revive Pakistan’s Flood-Affected Economy



Written By
:Sobia Aqeel
Published
By:ANI
News Agency

A Call to
Action for
W o m e n

Entrepreneurship to Rebuild Pakistan’s Flood-Hit Economy

“Embrace the strong women in your family; one day, their strength will be the foundation of yours.”

The devastating floods in Pakistan have once again shown how vulnerable our rural economy is. Crops are gone, livestock lost, and huge no of families have fallen further into poverty. Still, this crisis brings a key opportunity. By putting women-led entrepreneurship at the heart of rebuilding, we can create a recovery that is stronger, more inclusive, and better than before.

Annual Floods are a wake-up call for Pakistan: The floods in Pakistan have inflicted devastating damage, particularly in rural areas, deepening an already fragile economy. From late June through September, unprecedented monsoon rains submerged vast stretches of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Baluchistan. Every year, thousands of people displaced and affected across the nation. The disaster has claimed at high death toll, destroyed thousands of villages and wiped-out critical crops.

In Punjab alone, Pakistan’s agricultural heartland, there are huge losses of crops, especially of rice, cotton & sugarcane including the deaths of thousands of livestock. Agriculture contributes about 24% of GDP and these losses are serious to hit the GDP. Food security severely threatened with billions of economic losses. This situation drastically dropped the GDP. Analysts warn of worsening inflation from food shortages, and a widened trade deficit projected to be \$1.9 billion in FY26. This crisis shows how important it is to focus on women-led entrepreneurship as a key part of recovery. When women are fully involved, Pakistan can turn its recovery into lasting and fair economic growth. In this situation, women’s entrepreneurship stands out as a powerful way to revive the economy.

Women make up almost half of Pakistan’s population but only 22% of the workforce, with even fewer in rural areas because of limited mobility, cultural barriers, and lack of access to finance and markets. After disasters, helping women become entrepreneurs can create new jobs, boost family incomes, and make communities stronger. The 2022 floods showed this works: grants for women helped rebuild homes faster. Increasing women’s role in the economy after the floods is not only important for development, but also a constitutional right and in line with Islamic values of justice and fairness. Supporting women in business can help reduce poverty, prepare for future challenges, and build a stronger, fairer Pakistan. At the

heart of this renewal are Pakistan’s women. Strong, resourceful, and deeply rooted in their communities, women represent untapped forces for recovery. By investing in women-led entrepreneurship, Pakistan can turn disaster into a catalyst for a brighter, more sustainable economic future.

Women’s entrepreneurship matters because women do more than support their households, they drive progress. The success of empowered women benefits their families, communities, and the whole economy. Women usually save for the future, and if we help them invest those savings in their own businesses, it can change things for everyone. Women often spend a major portion of their income locally, which helps village economies. Research shows women put up to 90% of their income back into their families, improving nutrition, health, and education. This is key to reducing poverty. This move should be beyond agriculture, in services, small-scale manufacturing, cottage industry, and digital trade to reduce vulnerability to future shocks and have diversified skills that are important to boost the rural economy. Women’s networks build cooperation, enabling collective businesses like cooperatives that thrive even in crises. Simply empowering women strengthens families, and strong families strengthen nations.

A Methodology for Sustainable Recovery can apply in phases to keep it workable at every phase as follows; rebuilding requires more than charity. It demands strategy. A four-phase methodology can systematically unleash women’s potential:

Phase 1: Assessment and Capacity Building (Months 1-3): Map skills in flood-hit areas to establish Women Enterprise Hubs for training, collaboration, and support. Phase 2: Skill Enhancement and Enterprise Development (Months 4-9): Train women in climate smart agriculture, food processing, livestock care, digital literacy, and craft production.

Phase 3: Access to Finance and Markets (Ongoing): Facilitate microfinance, grants, and impact investments to support rural women-owned enterprises through venture funding and CSR initiatives with the help of welfare organizations, Akhuwat, Kashf, and others like them. Highlight rural products in city outlets, exhibitions, and online platforms. Connect women to e-commerce platforms, urban retailers, and branding support. Phase 4: Mentorship and Scaling: Pair rural women with mentors from urban business communities. Urban Women as Bridges of Change. Scale successful pilots into regional and national programs. Share expertise in finance, marketing, and technology.

The “Sister Enterprise” Model: Urban women-led businesses and professional associations can “adopt” a rural women’s cooperative. They can provide pro-bono expertise in areas like branding, digital marketing, website development, financial management, and export regulations. For



example, a Karachi-based marketing firm can help or partner with a Sindh embroidery cooperative to build an Instagram store and craft its brand story. Urban women and institutions have a vital role in connecting rural talent to national markets. When urban and rural women collaborate, they form a powerful bridge, one that carries ideas, markets, and opportunities in both directions.

From Survival to Prosperity: This is not merely about recovery from floods. It is about reimagining Pakistan’s economy by placing women entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas, at the core of resilience, inclusion, and justice. Supporting women-led enterprises strengthens the backbone of society and lays a foundation for future generations. From Fatima Jinnah to Arfa Karim, thousands of other unsung heroines in villages and towns, Pakistani women have always carried the strength of the nation on their shoulders. Today, that strength must embrace, not feared.

A Call to Action: With a proven model of the flagship program, “She Leads, She Inspires,” implemented in Faisalabad with the collaboration of local chamber of commerce after 2022 flood that offered a scalable blueprint for inclusive and sustainable recovery, its success shows we do not need to start from scratch. Chambers of Commerce, NGOs, and government agencies like BISP should partner with such projects to replicate this incubation model in every flood-affected district. There is also a call for policy advocacy for tax incentives, simplified registrations, and special quotas for women-led businesses in public procurements. By doing so, we can ensure that women, particularly those from the most vulnerable communities are not being leave behind but become architects of a stronger, more diversified, and equitable economic future. Conclusion: Pakistan’s floods have taken much, but they have not taken away our resilience. If we choose to harness the strength of women through entrepreneurship, education, mentorship, and cooperation, we can rebuild not only homes and livelihoods, but trust, dignity, and hope. This is more than recovery. This is a renewal. And at the heart of this renewal will stand the women of Pakistan not as victims of disaster, but as pillars of a prosperous and just nation.

4

National

Punjab Police Cricket Team Wins Ghani Royal Tourney T20 Trophy Unbeaten



BY: FT Sports Reporter :

LAHORE -- Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulated the Punjab Police Cricket Team on winning the Ghani Royal Tourney T20 Tournament trophy while remaining unbeaten. Additional IG Welfare and

Finance Imran Arshad also congratulated the team and presented cash prizes and certificates of appreciation to players, officials and coaches.

Punjab Police defeated Vital-T Cricket Team in a thrilling final to clinch the title. Eight teams from across the country participated in the tournament.

International cricketer Asif Ali, representing Punjab Police, played a key role in the victory by scoring an impressive 99 runs off 36 balls. Punjab Police participated in the tournament for the first time and won the championship without losing a match.

NA Speaker Felicitates Chaudhry Tariq Farooq on Election as AJK Assembly Speaker

BY: Naseem Hassan

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has congratulated Chaudhry Tariq Farooq on his election as Speaker of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and expressed his best wishes for his new responsibilities. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Chaudhry Tariq Farooq's election as Speaker reflects the confidence of the Assembly members and leadership in his abilities. He described him as an astute, experienced and seasoned political leader.

The Speaker expressed hope that under Chaudhry Tariq Farooq's



leadership, parliamentary traditions in the AJK Legislative Assembly would be further strengthened and the Assembly would play an active role in addressing the issues of the people of Azad Kashmir.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also prayed for

Chaudhry Tariq Farooq's success in discharging his new responsibilities.

Renowned Artist and Musician Fawad Alam Khan Meets Deputy Commissioner Gilgit

Report: ANI :

GILGIT -- Renowned artist and musician Fawad Alam Khan met Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Gilgit, Captain (Retd.) Arif Ahmed.

During the meeting, Fawad Alam Khan briefed the Deputy Commissioner on his artistic journey, contributions to music and efforts to promote the cultural and literary identity of Gilgit-Baltistan at the national and international levels.

Deputy Commissioner Arif Ahmed appreciated his services and said artists from Gilgit-Baltistan were playing an important role in highlighting the region's culture and positive image before the world.

Fawad Alam Khan thanked the Deputy Commissioner and reaffirmed his commitment to promoting the culture, music and positive identity of Gilgit-Baltistan.



Ikram Sehgal Hosts Farewell for French Ambassador Nicolas Galey and Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI: Mr. Ikram Sehgal, patron in Chief hosted a farewell in honour of H.E. Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, and Mr. Alexis Chahtahtinsky, Consul General of France in Karachi, as they concluded their respective diplomatic assignments in Pakistan.

The event brought together distinguished members of the diplomatic community, business leaders, academics, intellectuals and prominent citizens to bid farewell to the two French diplomats and acknowledge their contribution towards strengthening Pakistan-France relations.

Mr. Ikram Sehgal, in his remarks, appreciated the services of Ambassador Nicolas Galey and Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky during their tenure and highlighted the importance of France-Pakistan relations. He noted that the relationship between the two countries extends beyond government-to-government contacts and encompasses trade, investment, education, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

He particularly appreciated the efforts of both diplomats in maintaining close engagement with Pakistan's business and intellectual communities and in promoting greater understanding between the people of France and Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Nicolas Galey reflected warmly on his time in Pakistan and expressed gratitude for the hospitality and friendship extended to him throughout his tenure. He recalled his interactions with Pakistani leaders,



officials, business representatives, academics and members of civil society, noting that these engagements had given him a deeper appreciation of Pakistan's people, culture and potential.

Ambassador Galey also emphasized the importance of continuing to strengthen bilateral relations. During his tenure, France-Pakistan cooperation remained active in areas including education, trade, investment, public health and development cooperation. He expressed confidence that the relationship between the two countries would continue to grow in the years ahead.

Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky also spoke fondly of his years in Karachi and recalled the warmth and affection he had received from the people of the city. He said that Karachi had provided him with many memorable experiences and meaningful friendships.

His tenure has coincided with significant efforts to strengthen France-Pakistan business and cultural ties.

He remained actively engaged with the Pakistan-France Business Alliance, the business community and cultural institutions, helping promote greater interaction between French and Pakistani stakeholders.

Mr. Ikram Sehgal, while offering his farewell remarks, said that although diplomatic assignments come to an end, the friendships and relationships developed during such assignments often endure for many years. He expressed the hope that Ambassador Galey and Consul General Chahtahtinsky would continue to remain ambassadors of goodwill for Pakistan and France wherever their future assignments take them.

The evening concluded with expressions of gratitude, warm wishes and prayers for their continued success in their future endeavours. The farewell was a reflection of the enduring bonds of friendship between Pakistan and France and a celebration of the diplomatic, cultural and personal ties that continue to connect the two nations.

Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Calls on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

BY: Hurish Shah/ FT

ISLAMABAD -- Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on Tuesday.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman on his election and expressed his best wishes for his new responsibilities.

The Speaker stressed the importance of stronger legislative cooperation between the National Assembly and the GB Assembly, including training programmes through the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

He said CPEC was a game changer for regional development and highlighted Gilgit-Baltistan's potential in tourism and mineral resources. He



also emphasized the importance of modernizing the mining sector through transparent and systematic mechanisms.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the Diamer-Bhasha Dam was of great importance for water security, energy generation and economic development.

Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman thanked the Speaker for his good wishes and continued support.

Pakistan, Nepal Discuss Strengthening Parliamentary and Bilateral Ties



BY: Kiran Shehzadi/ANI

ISLAMABAD-- Pakistan-Nepal+Bhutan Parliamentary Friendship Group of the National Assembly, led by its Convener Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, held a meeting with Nepalese Ambassador to Pakistan Rita Dhital at Parliament House to discuss bilateral relations and ways to enhance parliamentary and people-to-people exchanges.

Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani said Pakistan and Nepal enjoy longstanding cultural, historical and friendly relations, stressing the need for regular parliamentary interaction and greater cooperation in trade, investment, education, tourism, culture, IT and youth exchanges.

The Nepalese Ambassador welcomed the initiative and emphasized strengthening parliamentary exchanges, connectivity and business-to-business cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting also discussed expanding bilateral trade and restoring direct air connectivity between Pakistan and Nepal to promote tourism, trade and people-to-people contacts. Both sides expressed hope that increased parliamentary engagement would further strengthen the longstanding relations between Pakistan and Nepal.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Launches Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign

BY: Kiran Shehzadi/ ANI

Islamabad -- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inaugurated the Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign by planting an olive sapling at the Parliament House lawn.

Members of Parliament, senior National Assembly Secretariat officials and media representatives participated in the plantation ceremony. A special prayer was also offered for the country's progress, prosperity and security.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said tree plantation was essential for environmental protection and a secure future for coming generations. He urged Parliamentarians and the public to actively participate in plantation campaigns, stressing that



trees play an important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The Speaker said Pakistan's climate was suitable for olive cultivation and promoting olive farming could help the country achieve self-sufficiency in edible oil production. He emphasized collective efforts by the government and the public to make Pakistan greener, cleaner and healthier. The Speaker also thanked MNA Faisal Ameen for providing the olive sapling.

Punjab Police Reviews Major Crime Cases, Strengthens Accountability Measures

By: ANI Correspondent :

Gujranwala, August 25, 2026: Punjab Police reviewed major crime cases and ongoing investigations, with authorities emphasizing transparent investigations and strict action against those involved in criminal activities.

A medical board confirmed the presence of nine different types of drugs in samples of two women who died within the jurisdiction of Lahore's Township area. The board unanimously concluded that both women died due to cardiac arrest. Police said further investigation into the case is underway.

Progress was also reviewed in the Harra Javed murder case, with three suspects named in the FIR and two already arrested. Police said efforts were continuing to apprehend the remaining suspect.



Authorities also reviewed the Abdullah Tahir murder case, saying the alleged shooters had escaped to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their current whereabouts had not yet been confirmed. Investigations and legal proceedings are continuing for their arrest.

Punjab Police leadership also reviewed the performance of the Dolphin Force and Command and Control system and directed officials to improve policing and strengthen public service delivery.

The police reiterated a zero-tolerance policy against corruption, directing that complaints be investigated transparently and accountability mechanisms be strengthened across the department.

Women's Parliamentary Caucus Reviews Tobacco Control and E-Cigarette Regulation

BY: Maryam Sajid/ANI

ISLAMABAD--- The 9th meeting of the Working Council of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly was held at Parliament House under the chairpersonship of WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani.

The meeting, arranged with a briefing by the Aurat Foundation, focused on tobacco control and regulation of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-cigarettes and other emerging nicotine products.

Members expressed concern over the growing use and promotion of e-cigarettes, particularly among young people, and discussed their potential health risks for children, women and pregnant women.

The Council reviewed proposed ENDS legislation and called for stronger regulations, including lim-



its on nicotine concentration, restrictions on flavoured products and their marketing, enhanced penalties and stronger monitoring and enforcement.

Participants also proposed increasing graphic health-warning coverage to 70-80% and ensuring strict implementation of the 50-metre smoke-free restriction around educational institutions.

The WPC emphasized greater coordination among Parliament, government institutions, health experts and civil society to strengthen tobacco-control legislation and public awareness, particularly among youth and women.