

Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: <https://dailyfinancialtime.com>

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Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 359 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Friday September 11 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

Parliament to hold debate on new provinces in October: Tariq Fazal



ANi

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Thursday said parliament would take up the issue of creating new provinces for debate in October.

In a statement, the minister said that the National Assembly and Senate sessions scheduled for that month would provide the appropriate forum for the discussion.

He said no sessions of the National Assembly or Senate were being held in September, but that October sessions would facilitate the debate. "The real place for the debate on new provinces is Parliament House," he said. Clarifying a separate but related matter, Tariq Fazal said Islamabad

was not going to become a new province, but was instead moving toward adopting a new governance model. "There has been no talk of making Islamabad a separate province," he said.

Earlier on Sept 6, Geo News — citing sources — reported that a high-level committee had presented Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with a draft proposal to establish a 27-member elected assembly for Islamabad Capital Territory, complete with a chief executive and 27 administrative departments.

The announcement came amid a growing political debate over Pakistan's governance structure, with ruling allies Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) appearing divided over the creation of new

administrative units or provinces.

The debate was ignited in July by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who said the country's governance system had "collapsed" and called for fundamental reforms, arguing Pakistan should move toward new administrative units with greater powers devolved to lower levels.

He later stood by his assessment that the system had been "completely destroyed", while clarifying he was referring to its deterioration over the past 80 years rather than any particular government.

On September 5, Naqvi said the creation of new administrative units should be based on the people's wishes, describing the moment as requiring a system reset. "Reset does not mean breaking down the system. Reset means

making wrongs right," he said, adding that work on new administrative units would only proceed if backed by the people of Pakistan. The debate subsequently widened when Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal called for a national discussion on Pakistan's administrative structure and proposed 12 to 15 provinces.

He said an administrative reforms committee should examine possible changes and stressed that any new provinces would require political consensus. Iqbal argued that Pakistan's four provinces had become overly centralised despite devolution under the 18th Amendment, and proposed around 160 empowered district governments as an alternative.

IHC seeks record of action against past court order violators ahead of PTI Sept 27 march

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ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday rejected the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) advocate general's request for two days to prepare arguments in a petition challenging the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned September 27 long march, and sought by Friday a record of action taken against those who had previously violated court orders. Chief Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar, heading a larger bench comprising Justice Muhammad Azam Khan and Justice Muhammad Asif, said higher court orders had been violated in the past and stressed the IHC's constitutional responsibility to protect the rights of Islamabad's residents. "This is the Islamabad High Court, and it has constitutional protection to safeguard the rights of the citizens of Islamabad. This court cannot allow anyone to violate the rights of the citizens of Islamabad," Chief Justice Dogar remarked. The petition, filed by citizen Waqas Ahmed, argued that the PTI's planned September 27 protest and long march could affect his business in Islamabad. His lawyer raised concerns over the possible use of government machinery and referred to the party's previous attempt to enter the capital in 2024.

The bench asked whether the 2024 order had been challenged before any court and whether the K-P chief secretary and inspector general of police were bound by it.

In November 2024, the IHC had ruled that no protest, rally or sit-in could be held in Islamabad in violation of the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024. The court directed the Interior Ministry to engage PTI leadership to resolve the matter while ordering the authorities to maintain law and order and protect public life and foreign dignitaries. The order came as PTI planned a November 24 protest in the capital, coinciding with a visit by the Belarusian president and a 65-member delegation.

Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan told the court today that, to the best of his information, the order had not been challenged before any court.

The discussion centred on the use of



government machinery and officials for political protests. The court observed that "government resources cannot be used for protests" and that "government officials cannot be used for protests", asking who would be held responsible if its directions were violated.

Awan agreed that the K-P chief secretary and IGP were bound to implement the IHC's 2024 order. "Yes, absolutely. They are bound to implement that order," he said.

The attorney general maintained that no officer should comply with an order that was not in accordance with the Constitution and the law, while noting that it would be difficult for any officer not to comply with an order issued by the chief executive of a province.

The court, however, stressed the authority of its own directions, with Awan stating that "if this court issues an order, it will be binding on anyone holding an executive position".

He further argued that the High Court could issue directions to anyone within its jurisdiction concerning citizens' fundamental rights and said all provincial IGPs, being employees of the Police Service of Pakistan rather than the provinces, should be directed to abide by the Constitution.

The attorney general then drew the court's attention to statements by public office holders, including the K-P chief minister, and other senior PTI figures regarding the proposed protest.

"Statements have come from important and responsible people within the party that they will besiege Islamabad," Awan said, adding that statements by the K-P chief minister and others holding responsible positions could not be ignored.

DPM Calls for Early Implementation of Development Priorities in AJK



APP- ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday stressed the need for early implementation of the development interventions so that the impact of these efforts is translated into tangible improvements in the lives of the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The deputy prime minister expressed these views amid chairing a meeting to review and fast-track development priorities in AJK and to take appropriate measures for their implemen-

tation, a DPM's Office news release said. The DPM/FM emphasized that the development and welfare of the people of AJK remained a key priority for Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Government of Pakistan and the Government of AJK.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Chief Secretary AJK, and senior officials from the Government of AJK and the Federal Government.

Pakistan warns Iran to rein in Houthis as Riyadh hits back



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ANKARA/ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has delivered a Saudi warning to Iran to rein in its Yemeni Houthi allies after they stepped up attacks on the kingdom, in a coordinated effort to prevent the crisis from spiralling, Saudi, Pakistani and Iranian sources said.

The Houthi attacked the southern Saudi cities of Abha, Khamis Mushait and Jazan with ballistic missiles and drones on Wednesday, after striking an airbase in Khamis Mushait and oil infrastructure in nearby cities on Tuesday, wounding 73 people. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said on Wednesday that Saudi warplanes carried out 54 airstrikes across vari-

ous Yemeni provinces over the past 12 hours, adding that they would "not go unanswered and unpunished". Pakistan's warning to Iran carries significant weight because of its defence pact with Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

While officials in Islamabad stressed any military role would be confined to defending Saudi territory, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said attacks spilling into the kingdom could trigger a joint security arrangement involving Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad. Speaking Geo News programme "Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Saath", Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned that Houthi attacks on Saudi territory would invoke the Makkah Defence Alliance.

FO: No Military Response Discussed Under Makkah Defence Pact

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Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday that there were no discussions about a military reaction under the Makkah Defence Agreement in response to the Houthis' attacks on Saudi Arabia, saying that Pakistan would act when the "time comes".

"There is no such thing under discussion right now ... When time comes (we) will act under the agreement," foreign ministry spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said at a weekly media briefing, in response to a question asking how Islamabad planned to fulfil its obligations under the joint defence accord signed with Turkey and Saudi Arabia. The statement came after Houthi attacked the southern Saudi cities of Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran, injuring 73 people. In response, Saudi-led coalition aircraft



carried out several airstrikes on Yemen's western Al-Hudaydah province. The recent Houthi attacks came at a time when Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye had just formalised their longstanding strategic ties through the signing of the "Makkah Joint Defence

Agreement", a trilateral security framework that its proponents describe as a defensive arrangement aimed at strengthening collective deterrence, enhancing military cooperation and promoting regional stability.

The spokesperson further added that the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement was already in force and Islamabad would play its role in accordance with the requirements of the agreement, while stressing that no discussions were currently underway with any party on expanding the arrangement. Khan said Saudi Arabia and Pakistan also had a bilateral defence agreement and were part of a trilateral arrangement involving Türkiye.

"The Makkah agreement is purely defensive in nature. The agreement is a defence-oriented alliance whose objective is to ensure security in the region primarily through deterrence," the spokesperson said.

Four suspects remanded in Peshawar sexual assault case

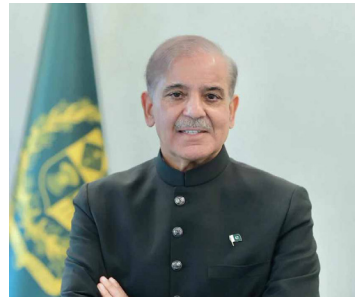
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PESHAWAR: A Peshawar judicial magistrate on Thursday granted police a one-day physical remand of four suspects, including the owner of a house, in connection with the alleged sexual assault of two women in Garhi Mosam Khan on the outskirts of Peshawar. The suspects were arrested after armed men allegedly entered a house on Ring Road within the jurisdiction of Rehman Baba Police Station and assaulted the women. Police said the suspects also took the women's mobile phones after the alleged assault. According to details shared by SSP Operations Farhan Khan at a press briefing on Wednesday, the two women, who were co-wives, were assaulted after the suspects allegedly entered their rented home, held their husband at gunpoint and tied him up. Khan said children present at the house were also allegedly threatened and intimidated during the incident. A case was registered at Rehman Baba Police Station under Sections 170 (personating a public servant), 375-A (gang rape), 377-B (punishment for rape), 395 (punishment for dacoity) and 449 (house-trespass in order to commit an offence punishable with death) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), along with Section 50.

PM gives in-principle approval to Auto Policy 2026-31

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LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has given in-principle approval to the Automotive Industry Development Policy (AIDP) 2026-31, setting out a new framework for the auto sector that links incentives to exports, localisation and domestic value addition. The policy, developed by an inter-ministerial steering committee, will operate alongside the New Energy Vehicles (NEV) Policy 2025-30. It is intended to replace the previous framework, which expired on June 30, 2026. The new framework projects \$17.7 billion in



cumulative foreign-exchange savings through localised completely knocked-down (CKD) assembly and \$4.586 billion in vehicle and auto-parts exports over five years.

It also targets the protection of 2.5 million jobs and a net fiscal surplus of Rs21.11 billion. The policy proposes a simplified four-tier customs structure of zero per cent, 5.0 per cent, 10 per cent and 15 per cent, reducing the weighted-average import tariff from 15.7 per cent to 5.99 per cent by 2030. Customs duties on completely built-up (CBU) vehicles will be reduced gradually by fiscal year 2030-31, with rates reaching 35 per cent for vehicles up to 850cc, 40 per cent for 851-1,000cc, 45 per cent for 1,001-1,500cc, 77 per cent for 1,501-1,800cc and 115 per cent for vehicles above 1,800cc.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chairs a high-level meeting with Ambassador of Portugal Paulo Miguel Guedes Domingues.

Indonesia Strengthens Healthcare Cooperation with Pakistan

Report: FT

KARACHI: Indonesia is strengthening its engagement with Pakistan's healthcare sector through 'Indonesian Medica', a dedicated showcase at Health Asia Expo & Conference 2026, being held from September 10 to 12 at the Karachi Expo Centre, with Indonesia as the Country Partner.

Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal inaugurated Health Asia 2026 and later visited the Indonesian Medica pavilion, where he joined Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Mudzakir for a symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The initiative, facilitated by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Karachi, brings together the Indonesian Medical Device Ecosystem Development Association (HIPELKI) and Indonesian companies, including PT Sugih Instrumento Abadi, PT Ocean Medica and PT Eagle Indo Pharma, known for its Cap Lang products.

The showcase features medical devices, healthcare and hospital-related products, as well as consumer health and wellness products. It also aims to connect Indonesian manufacturers with Pakistani importers, distributors, hospitals, medical-device manufacturers, healthcare associations and other industry stakeholders.

"We want Indonesian companies



not simply to exhibit products, but to understand the Pakistani market, meet the right partners and build sustainable business relationships," Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Mudzakir said.

Ahead of the expo, the Indonesian Consulate facilitated direct engagement between HIPELKI and the Healthcare Devices Association of Pakistan (HDAP). HDAP represents around 300 importers and manufacturers, while HIPELKI brings together approximately 250 companies and stakeholders across Indonesia's medical-device ecosystem. Mudzakir said the objective was to turn business meetings into

connections, business leads and long-term trade and industrial partnerships.

Pakistan's demand for imported medical devices, coupled with efforts to promote local manufacturing and import substitution, is creating opportunities for Indonesian companies in distribution partnerships, technology cooperation, production machinery and joint manufacturing.

Through Indonesian Medica, Indonesia aims to establish a stronger presence in Pakistan's healthcare market and create new opportunities for bilateral trade, investment and long-term cooperation between the two countries.

CEO WMC Reviews Sanitation Arrangements in Gujranwala

Report: FT

GUJRANWALA: CEO Gujranwala Waste Management Company (WMC) and Managing Director Suthra Punjab Agency Abdul Razzaq Dogar conducted a detailed visit to Union Council 31 Kashmir Colony and Union Council 65 Kotli Nawab in Tehsil Sadar on September 10, 2026, to review sanitation, solid waste management and door-to-door garbage collection arrangements.

During the visit, the CEO inspected various areas, including Rajewala, Timur Khanwala Gullah, Main Road Wahandu, Mohalla Sabri Chowk, Kotli Nawab Main Road, Mohalla Gullah Chiragabad and Dhengwali.

He inspected cleanliness conditions in streets and residential areas, road and passage cleaning, door-to-door collection of solid waste, waste collection points and other sanitation facilities being provided to citizens. He also reviewed the presence and performance of sanitation staff in the field and assessed routine cleaning activities in designated areas.

Abdul Razzaq Dogar closely monitored sanitation operations at different locations and issued necessary



instructions to concerned officers and field staff to further improve cleanliness standards.

During the visit, he also met citizens and local businessmen and sought direct feedback regarding sanitation arrangements, door-to-door waste collection and the performance of sanitation workers. He directed the concerned authorities to address the issues highlighted by citizens on a priority basis and take practical steps to improve the sanitation system.

Speaking during the visit, the CEO said that ensuring effective sanitation and waste management in urban areas is among the top priorities under the Suthra Punjab programme. He said field operations were being continuously monitored to make the sanitation system more effective,

while the door-to-door waste collection system was also being improved and integrated.

He directed officers to ensure effective monitoring of the attendance and performance of sanitation staff across all areas. He further instructed that solid waste must be collected from every household according to the prescribed schedule, with no negligence or delay in providing sanitation services to citizens.

Abdul Razzaq Dogar stressed that there would be no compromise on the quality of sanitation services. He directed officers and field staff to perform their duties with responsibility and diligence, ensure effective field monitoring, promptly address citizens' complaints and maintain continuity in cleaning operations.

Murree Hospitals Conduct Fire Safety Mock Drills to Assess Emergency Preparedness



BY : Raja Usman Ali/ ANI :

MURREE -- Fire safety and emergency preparedness mock drills were conducted at public and private hospitals across Murree to assess emergency response capabilities and ensure the safe evacuation of patients and staff.

The drills were organized by Rescue 1122 Murree under the supervision of the District Emergency Officer, following directions from the Punjab government and Deputy

Commissioner Murree Agha Zaheer Abbas Sherazi.

Rescue 1122 personnel and hospital staff participated in simulated fire emergencies, demonstrating fire-fighting, rescue operations, safe evacuation, first aid and coordination among emergency teams.

The exercises also assessed emergency response time, communication, fire safety arrangements and the availability of emergency resources. Shortcomings identified during the drills were noted for

timely corrective measures.

Hospital administrations were directed to ensure strict compliance with fire safety protocols, keep emergency exits accessible, maintain safety equipment, and conduct regular training and monthly mock drills for Emergency Response Teams.

The district administration and Rescue 1122 emphasized that regular training and coordinated emergency response are essential to protect human lives and minimize potential losses.

Main Accused in Hafizabad Triple Murder Case Arrested Within 24 Hours

BY: ANI Correspondent

HAFIZABAD ---Hafizabad DPO Fawad Ahmed briefed the media on the triple murder in Sukhiki Mandi and the arrest of the main accused within 24 hours.

According to police, accused Abu Dujana allegedly killed his stepmother, stepsister and stepbrother in Mohalla Farooq Azam on September 7 before fleeing the scene and switching off his mobile phone.

Police teams used modern technology, human intelligence and surveillance to trace the suspect. Acting on a tip-off, the accused was arrested from an army forest near Bhubhara, Sukhiki Mandi. The alleged murder weapon and Rs142,000 in cash were also recovered.

Two other suspects, Khalid



Saifullah and Naseem Bibi, had already been arrested, police said.

DPO Fawad Ahmed appreciated the police teams and said those

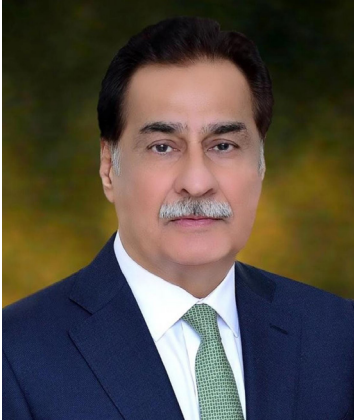
involved in serious crimes cannot escape the law. He reiterated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the police's top priority.

Quaid-e-Azam's Leadership and Constitutional Vision Remain Guiding Light for Nation: NA Speaker

BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his 78th death anniversary, saying his visionary leadership, political wisdom and constitutional struggle made the creation of Pakistan possible. The NA Speaker said Quaid-e-Azam's commitment to the rule of law, democracy, constitutionalism, equality and fundamental rights remained an enduring source of guidance for the nation.

He stressed the need to educate younger generations about the Quaid's life, struggle and political thought, saying his vision remained



highly relevant to Pakistan's present and future. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called

for renewed commitment to the principles of Faith, Unity and Discipline, saying these values were essential for Pakistan's stability, progress and prosperity.

He said Parliament was the custodian of Quaid-e-Azam's democratic and constitutional vision, while strengthening Parliament, upholding the Constitution and ensuring the rule of law were vital to realizing that vision.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah also paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam, describing his political vision, perseverance and commitment to democracy, constitutionalism and rule of law as an invaluable legacy for Pakistan.

Maryam Aurangzeb Chairs Punjab Public-Private Partnership Authority Meeting



BY: ANI Bureau Report

LAHORE: Senior Punjab Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb chaired an important meeting of the Punjab Public-Private Partnership Authority to review ongoing and proposed projects

under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework.

The meeting was attended by Chairman WASA Punjab Nawabzada Chaudhry Sher Ali Khan, MPA, along with the Chairman Planning & Development Board Punjab, Secretaries of Finance, Law and

Parliamentary Affairs, Highways, School Education and other departments, as well as senior officials.

Participants discussed strengthening public-private cooperation, accelerating development projects and improving the delivery of public facilities and services across Punjab.

Public Issues Must Be Resolved on Priority, Revenue Matters Addressed Within Deadline Khurram Hameed

BY: City Reporter ANI

SARGODHA -- A meeting of the revenue field staff was held at the Assistant Commissioner's Office in Noorpur Thal under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Khushab Khurram Hameed. Assistant Commissioner Noorpur Thal Shazia Rehman, Tehsildars, and other revenue officers and officials attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed various revenue-related matters, ongoing field activities, and the provision of revenue services and facilities to the public. The concerned officers and field staff briefed the meeting on the progress of matters under their respective jurisdictions.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Khurram Hameed directed the revenue officers and officials to give priority to resolving public grievances, ensure that revenue-related matters are disposed of within the stipulated time, and keep official records completely accurate and up to date.

He emphasized that the field staff must perform their responsibilities efficiently and ensure the timely provision of relief to citi-



zens. He further stressed the importance of public service and directed the officials to discharge their duties with dedication and responsibility.

FPCCI Academia-Industry Forum Calls for Stronger Collaboration to Bridge Skills Gap



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) hosted an Academia-Industry Forum titled "Skillings Pakistan: Challenges and Learning from Best Practices", bringing together educationists, policymakers, industry leaders and university heads.

Participants called for stronger academia-industry collaboration to bridge the skills gap, improve graduate employability and equip

youth with market-relevant skills.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh stressed that applied research, industry partnerships and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced technology into higher education were essential for Pakistan's economic development. He said universities should become innovation hubs that produce job creators rather than job seekers.

Speakers recommended industry participation in curriculum development, mandatory practical

internships, workplace exposure and greater corporate involvement in university research and startup development.

The forum also called for strengthening Business Incubation Centres and research facilities, including through corporate support. Prime Minister Youth Programme Director General Dr. Syed Shahbaz Hussain Shamsi announced that the federal government has declared 2027 as the Year of Skills to accelerate vocational education nationwide.



Director of Public Relations Tariq Jamil Durrani addressed the annual Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebration organized by Muzaffarabad and the Information Department, while Naat Khawans Sheikh Osama, Asim Hashmat and others offered floral tributes in the Salat Tab.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Opinion

3

When Exams Disrupt Learning



Written By:Dr
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Agency

The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Islamabad, has long been regarded as one of Pakistan’s more credible examination bodies. Its jurisdiction extends across the country as well as to Pakistani educational institutions operating abroad. Over the years, it has earned a reputation for relatively high academic standards, structured procedures and institutional discipline.

That reputation also places a greater responsibility on the board to ensure that changes in examination policy strengthen, rather than disrupt, the educational process.

The recent policy allowing students who have passed their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examinations to reappear in subjects for grade improvement has raised concerns among educationists, parents and educational institutions. The intention behind the policy may be understandable. Students should have opportunities to improve their grades and remain competitive in an increasingly examination-driven education system.

But the central question is not whether students deserve a second chance. They do. The real question is whether that second chance should come at the cost of regular learning.

This is where the present arrangement deserves serious reconsideration.

Improvement examinations held during an ongoing academic session can create a fundamental conflict between examination preparation and classroom learning. Students who have already passed their examinations may choose to appear again in the hope of securing higher marks. In preparing for these examinations, some may remain away from their schools or colleges for extended periods while their institutions continue teaching the next stage of the curriculum.

The result is a paradox: a student leaves the classroom to improve an examination result, only to return with gaps in the coursework that is essential for the next stage of education.

Education is not simply a collection of marks that can be improved independently of the learning process. It is cumulative. Concepts build upon one another, particularly at the SSC and HSSC levels. Mathematics, sciences, languages and other subjects require sustained classroom engagement, regular practice and continuous interaction with teachers. Missing several weeks of instruction cannot easily be compensated for through independent study or a few additional classes.

The danger, therefore, is that an examination policy intended to improve academic performance may

inadvertently weaken it.

There is another contradiction that deserves attention: the conflict between attendance requirements and examination arrangements. Educational institutions are expected to enforce minimum attendance requirements, yet students are simultaneously given reasons to remain absent from regular classes because of board examinations.

This places schools and colleges in an uncomfortable position. Should an institution strictly enforce attendance when a student is preparing for an officially sanctioned examination? Or should it accommodate the absence and somehow compensate for the lost teaching time?

Either option creates difficulties. Institutional discipline depends on consistency. Students need to understand that classroom attendance is an essential part of education, not an optional activity. If they begin to view board examinations as a routine reason for missing classes, the authority of the institution can gradually be weakened.

The problem becomes particularly serious in Grades 10 to 12, when students are preparing for important academic transitions. At this stage, interruptions in learning can have consequences for subsequent studies.

The policy also has a psychological dimension. Young people already face considerable pressure over grades, university admissions, careers and parental expectations. Repeated opportunities to improve marks can unintentionally reinforce the belief that every grade must be maximised and that an already satisfactory result is somehow inadequate.

A student who has passed may begin to feel compelled to appear again simply because classmates are doing so or because a higher percentage is perceived as essential for future success. Improvement then stops being an opportunity and begins to feel like an expectation.

This can contribute to a cycle of examination anxiety. Students prepare for one examination, return to regular classes, sit another examination and then face the possibility of trying to improve yet again. Instead of encouraging meaningful learning, the system risks turning education into a continuous competition for higher numerical scores.

Parents, too, can become part of this cycle. In an environment where marks increasingly influence perceptions of ability and future prospects, many parents may feel compelled to support repeated examination attempts. Private tuition and coaching can then become the default solution for students trying to recover the learning they missed in the classroom.

This has an important social consequence. Families with greater financial resources can afford additional tutoring, while others cannot. An examination policy intended to provide greater opportunity could therefore unintentionally widen educational inequality.

Teachers are also placed under considerable pressure. When stu-

dents return after prolonged examination-related absences, teachers have to balance the progress of the regular class with the needs of students who have missed lessons. They may be expected to provide remedial instruction without additional time or resources.

This is not merely a question of workload. It can affect the quality and pace of teaching for the entire class.

The wider institutional environment suffers as well. Schools and colleges require predictable academic calendars. Teaching, assessments, co-curricular activities and examinations are planned around a structured academic year. Repeated mid-session examinations can disturb this rhythm and create uncertainty for administrators, teachers and students alike.

None of this means that students should be denied a reasonable opportunity to improve their academic record. Circumstances change, students mature, and an examination result obtained at one point in life should not permanently define an individual’s academic potential.

But opportunity must be designed around learning, not against it.

A better policy would therefore separate improvement examinations from the regular academic calendar. Students who wish to improve their grades should be given a clearly defined opportunity at a time that does not require them to abandon ongoing classroom instruction. The number of attempts, subjects and eligibility conditions could also be rationalised to prevent the system from becoming an endless pursuit of higher marks.

Most importantly, any major change in examination policy should be preceded by meaningful consultation. Educationists, principals, teachers, psychologists, parents and students should have a voice in assessing its likely consequences. Examination policy cannot be designed successfully from an administrative perspective alone; its real test is what happens inside the classroom.

The issue, ultimately, is one of priorities.

If the education system rewards students primarily for repeatedly improving examination scores, it risks sending the wrong message: that marks matter more than learning. But if examinations are organised to complement the academic calendar, they can provide genuine opportunities without undermining classroom education.

FBISE should therefore review the timing and structure of its improvement policy.

The objective should not be to deny students a second chance, but to ensure that the second chance does not damage the first responsibility of an educational institution – to provide continuous, meaningful and effective learning.

An examination system must serve education, not compete with it. Students should leave the classroom better prepared for examinations, not leave the classroom in order to prepare for them.

Two years of sheer hell, and it is not finished

YOSSI MEKELBERG

At last, negotiators in Sharm El-Sheikh have agreed an end to this period of the most horrific bloodshed in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1948. Albeit it will only be a long haul toward a return to normality. Yet aside from indulging in some cautious optimism, it is perhaps also time for some initial reflection within both societies. How did they get into such a catastrophic nightmare? Benjamin Netanyahu’s recent triumphalist speeches and statements, often utterly contradictory, are the legacy of his long, much too long, time as Israeli prime minister. It is a legacy that will take years to overcome and rectify, not only for the Palestinians and others in the region, but also for Israel and its own people. Netanyahu’s premiership is not over yet but is nearing its end; it is just a matter of time, and how much more damage he is prepared to inflict on everything and everyone within his orbit, until he exits the political stage for good. If anything should have hastened the end of his career, it was the utter failure to anticipate and prevent the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, and his reported paralysis for the first few days that followed it as he realized that the greatest security failure in Israel’s history had taken place on his watch. But neither he nor his lieutenants in this worst-ever government in Israeli history have been of a mind even to acknowledge their colossal failure, never mind apologize for it, do the decent thing by resigning, and subject themselves to the judgment of the people by calling a general election and establishing an independent inquiry into Oct. 7. At no previous point in Israel’s history has the nation been so internally divided and so internationally isolated, as it stands accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It will take more than a single general election to rectify the damage caused by the increasingly reckless actions of this sixth Netanyahu government. It began its term in office by legitimizing the most abhorrent elements in Israeli politics, the ultranationalist-messianic groupings, resulting in an unabated attack on the very foundations of Israeli democracy. Moreover, to appease the settler elements in his government, the prime minister allowed settlements to expand and settler violence to run rampant with impunity.

This government has left Israeli society divided, battling not external enemies but those who are trying to destroy the soul of the country from

within. It has also delivered to Israel’s enemies a message of weakness, mixed with no hope for ending the occupation of Palestinian land, which proved to be a lethal combination.

The events of Oct. 7 were horrific and inexcusable but they cannot justify, in any shape or form, Israel’s appalling response. Great leaders bring out the best in their societies and make them better places to live. Populist leaders of Netanyahu’s breed exploit the weaknesses, fears, and prejudice among their own people to create the worst possible version of their societies, thereby allowing them to control the narrative even as, in the case of the Israeli prime minister, the narrative keeps changing to suit personal needs. Unsurprisingly, the attack by Hamas traumatized Israelis, and some kind of response to it was inevitable and justified. But nothing can justify the nature of a response that has left more than 67,000 people dead, most of them civilians and many of them children, and a territory of scorched earth, razed to the ground. The war in Gaza has raged for two years, not out of any strategic considerations but to ensure Netanyahu’s political survival and prevent his corruption trial from concluding. In pursuit of this goal he has been prepared to prolong the war indefinitely, sacrificing the hostages and his soldiers, and ensuring that the self-proclaimed notion of the Israeli military the “most moral army in the world” rings more hollow than ever.

This has all been said many times before, but when the war comes to an end, the question for Israelis will be how they will climb out of the deep, dark abyss. There is no magic formula for this, but part of the necessary soul searching must be to admit that there are trends within Israeli society that have weakened it as a liberal democracy, and that there has always been a tension, though not one that could not be resolved, between the concepts of being Jewish and being democratic. The occupation of Palestinian land and depriving its people of their political and human rights has not yet eroded the idea of what Israel aspires to be. But the occupation and the daily oppression of Palestinians has led to the country being held captive by a small group of settlers: messianic, delusional extremists with autocratic tendencies who believe the answer to all security challenges lies in the use of force and force alone. The resultant conditions of constant insecurity have been exploited by a populist-opportunistic leader who has pre-

sented himself as a savior.

As an initial part of the healing and reflection process, a state inquiry into the failures of Oct. 7 must be established. It must have the power to investigate all aspects of the events leading up to that disastrous day, and everything that followed, including all ministerial decisions. It must not tolerate any cover ups. Only when this groundwork allows the truth to emerge can Israel also begin to start asking itself how it allowed a government of extremists and incompetents to lead it into a war that was more about revenge and the political survival of a ruling coalition, than ensuring the failures of Oct. 7 can never happen again.

Whatever the events that led up to that day, they cannot serve even as a pretext, let alone an excuse, for the massacre that took place that morning. But equally, the events of that day can never serve as an excuse for what the Israeli military subsequently did in Gaza: the killings, the destruction, the multiple displacements, and the deliberately inflicted famine.

As traumatic as Oct. 7 was, the Israeli loss of empathy for the plight of civilians in Gaza necessitates profound soul-searching. Instead of blaming the entire population of the territory for being complicit in the terrible events of that day, Israelis need to ask themselves this: How did their own country, which previously enjoyed heartfelt support from so many governments and ordinary people across the world, come to stretch the patience of its friends and allies to the very limit?

Times of deep crisis also present opportunities. In this case, it could be a chance to define, or maybe redefine, what kind of country Israel wants to be. Does it wish to be one that lives eternally by the sword, as Netanyahu and his messianic partners would prefer, and continues to violate the rights of other people on an industrial scale? Or one that is prepared to embark on a genuine, if extremely difficult, path toward peace and reconciliation that will ultimately result in coexistence as equals?

Peace with the Palestinians is not a matter of doing them a favor. It is not only a moral imperative, it is also in the best interests of Israel itself. Putting more than 100 years of conflict and bloodshed behind them will enable both societies to define who they are and what their destiny should be. These are questions that for far too long have been mainly defined by conflict and bloodshed.

— Arab News

So that what happened in Gaza never happens again

FAISAL J. ABBAS

By any measure, the recent developments in Gaza mark a pivotal moment in the region’s long and painful history. And while cynics may scoff and skeptics may roll their eyes, it is time to acknowledge what must be said plainly: US President Donald Trump deserves credit for his bold and determined efforts to broker peace in Gaza.

Two years after countless failed initiatives, the current US-led push — chaired personally by the president as head of the newly formed Board of Peace — seems to be not just another diplomatic gesture with a fancy name. It has all the attributes of a serious, high-stakes undertaking that, if supported and sustained, could finally begin to reverse the devastation that has plagued the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people.

Is the plan perfect? Far from it. Could it fail? There is definitely a high risk, given the many spoilers. With an extremist, trigger-happy Israeli government still in power, and a not-so-encouraging track record of Hamas, the road ahead is treacherous. But perfection is not the measure of progress. And repeating the same failed UN mechanisms while expecting different results is, as the famous quote says, the definition of insanity. I say this while fully and wholeheartedly wishing that the reality was otherwise. The reality is, unfortunately, that this is more a case of the Arabic proverb which says “and so cure it with what caused the illness to start with.” In other words, this is a matter of resorting to America precisely because President Trump is the dealmaker that he is, Washington has the leverage and the trust of Israel, and

that everything else has failed so far. My point is having a plan, with all its faults, is far better than allowing the killing to continue as a result of having no plan. Besides, pleasing everyone is an illusion and a recipe for failure in itself.

Even within the same political camps, reactions are and will continue to be divided. In Israel, some see the initiative as a lifeline for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — a way to climb down from a tree he has been perched on for far too long. Others argue it unjustly rewards Hamas, whose refusal to surrender has come at the expense of thousands of innocent lives and the near-total destruction of Gaza.

On the Palestinian side, the sentiment is understandably bitter. For many, this effort feels like “too little, too late.” After tens of thousands of deaths, widespread famine and what a UN agency has now labeled genocide, the scars are deep and trust is thin. Yet among Hamas ranks, the narrative is spun as a victory — proof that they have not capitulated. This, of course, ignores the staggering human toll of their obstinance.

But these debates, while important, must not distract from the larger truth: Trump is not just paying lip service, but is now fully invested as the chairperson of this peace initiative. That matters. It matters because it places real pressure on all parties, including Israel, to honor commitments. And it matters because it limits Netanyahu’s ability to maneuver or escape accountability under the guise of security concerns.

Arab and Muslim nations have, to their credit, rallied behind the initiative. Their support is both morally necessary and strategically wise. But

let us not be lulled into premature celebration. The war is not over. The suffering is not over. And the peace is far from being won.

Labeling this effort as anything less than sincere and serious would be a disservice to the cause of peace. Yes, it is fresh. Yes, it is fragile. But that fragility demands our full support — not just in words, but in action. Humanitarian aid must flow freely. Food, shelter, and medical supplies must reach those in need before winter deepens the crisis. This is not the time for political posturing or ideological purity tests. It is the time for pragmatism, compassion, and rapid resolve.

If we are truly committed to ensuring that what happened in Gaza never happens again, then talk of a two-state solution must follow immediately. Not eventually. Not “when the time is right.” But now — as that is the only logical and just way to safeguard against another future atrocity.

The horrors of Oct. 7 and the Israeli genocide committed since must serve as a wake-up call. The region cannot afford another cycle of vengeance and victimhood. The international community must push for a viable, just, and enforceable resolution that guarantees security for Israelis and protection, statehood, and dignity for Palestinians. President Trump’s initiative may not be perfect, but it is a start. And in a region where starts are rare and hope is often fleeting, that alone is worth applauding. The question now is whether Israel and Hamas will rise to meet this moment — or squander it, as they have so many times before. Let us hope, for the sake of Gaza and for the future of the region, that they choose wisely.

— Arab News

The UN Cannot Restore Trust With Speeches Alone



By: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai
Chairman, World Forum for Peace
& Justice
(Published by ANI News Agency)

The United Nations cannot restore global trust through speeches alone. If it is serious about strengthening faith in the international system, it must demonstrate that the principles of the UN Charter and international human rights law apply equally to powerful and weaker states.

Recent statements by UN officials have highlighted growing conflicts, declining respect for international law and increasing restrictions on human rights and civic freedoms. These concerns are important, but they also raise a fundamental question: what happens when the UN itself documents serious violations but fails to ensure meaningful follow-up?

Kashmir remains a significant example. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports issued in 2018 and 2019 documented allegations of serious human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir and recommended consideration of mechanisms, including an independent international investigation. The reports also called for cooperation with UN Special Procedures.

Years later, questions remain about the implementation of these recommendations. If the UN expects member states to respect its human rights mechanisms, it must also demonstrate that its own findings and recommendations are taken seriously.

The theme of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly—“Restoring trust, managing transformation: a



United Nations that delivers for all”—therefore carries particular significance. Trust cannot be restored simply by declaring that it must be restored. It must be earned through consistent action.

The Kashmir dispute also demonstrates the dangers of leaving unresolved conflicts to deteriorate. India and Pakistan are nuclear-armed states, making every major confrontation between them a matter of international concern. Preventive diplomacy, dialogue and credible international mechanisms are therefore essential—not merely after a crisis, but before one begins.

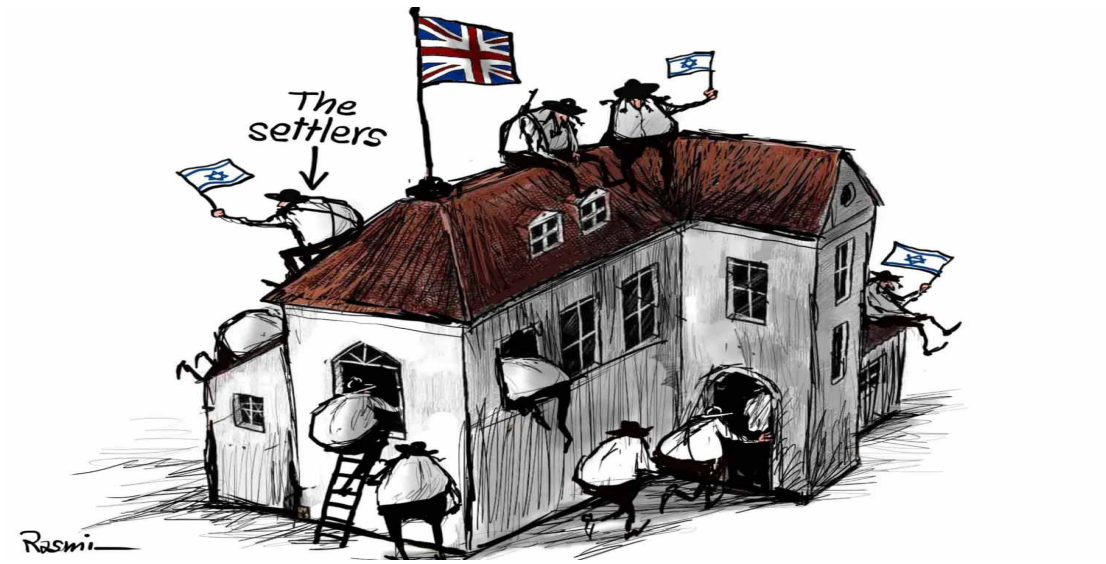
The new President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Khalilur Rahman, has an opportunity to strengthen the credibility of the organization by encouraging member states to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms and by ensuring that outstanding recommendations receive serious atten-

tion. This does not require prejudging the final political status of Kashmir; it requires upholding universal principles of human rights, accountability and peaceful dispute resolution.

The world needs a United Nations that does more than repeat the language of peace and international law. It needs an organization willing to demonstrate that the Charter has consequences and that international law is not selectively applied.

The people of Kashmir, like people affected by conflicts elsewhere, deserve more than diplomatic statements. They deserve meaningful efforts for peace, human rights, accountability and dialogue.

The next crisis between India and Pakistan should not become another test of whether the international community learned from the previous one. Preventive diplomacy must begin before the next crisis—not after it.



4

National



Islamabad: Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani is presenting an award to Asiya Jahangir-a former provincial minister and leader of the Pakistan People's Party's Women's Wing-on the sidelines of the ‘Pakistan Women Leadership and Policy Summit 2026’ seminar held at the ICCI.

HEC Leadership Discusses Digital Readiness and AI Integration in Universities

By: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The top leadership of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan held a detailed session on making universities digitally ready and integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into higher education.

The session, chaired by HEC Chairman Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, discussed a phased roadmap for digital transformation, including infrastructure development, pilot projects, scaling up and system integration. Participants also examined the inclusion of AI through basic, Generative AI, application development and certification courses.

Dr. Niaz stressed continuous digital upgrading and enhanced AI literacy, directing officials to develop



practical initiatives for AI education, training, curriculum reforms and financial requirements.

Huawei Global Education Division CTO and Vice President Meng Gengang briefed participants on the growing role of AI across industries and its impact on future workforce requirements. He stressed that AI integration in higher education is

critical to addressing emerging talent gaps.

The forum also discussed a unified AI literacy framework, curriculum development, capability building and strategic transformation, as well as leveraging HEC infrastructure and the CPEC Consortium of Universities to benefit from Chinese expertise in emerging technologies.

Defence Day Pictorial Exhibition Held in Rawalpindi

Report: ANI Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI --The Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi, organized a pictorial exhibition to mark Defence Day, with senior PML-N leader and MNA Tahira Aurangzeb and Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan attending as chief guests.

Artists showcased paintings highlighting the historic September 6, 1965 war, the sacrifices of martyrs and veterans, the bravery of Pakistan's armed forces, patriotism and national unity. The chief guests viewed the artworks and appreciated the artists' creative efforts.

Director Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi Muhammad



Shakoor, thanked the guests and said such cultural and artistic activities play an important role in pro-

moting patriotism, national unity and love for the country among the younger generation.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan Pakistan Reviews Key Diplomatic, Regional and Foreign Policy Developments

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Foreign Office Spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan briefed the media on Pakistan's key diplomatic engagements, regional developments and foreign policy priorities during the weekly briefing.

Sajjad Haider Khan said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's September 2 visit to Kyrgyzstan resulted in progress on 17 agreements and memorandums of understanding covering energy, trade, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, tourism, the digital economy, defence and security.

The spokesperson said Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held telephone conversations with his counterparts in Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, Kuwait and Norway. Pakistan condemned Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed its support for the country's sovereignty and security.

On Palestine, Sajjad Haider Khan said Pakistan, along with Türkiye, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, rejected proposals involving the forced displacement of Palestinians and reaffirmed support for a two-state solution.

He said Pakistan supports an independent Palestinian state based on pre-



1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Regarding Jammu and Kashmir, the Foreign Office spokesperson rejected Indian assertions and reiterated that the Kashmir dispute remains on the UN Security Council agenda. He said its final status should be determined in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Sajjad Haider Khan also expressed concern over the reported demolition of a century-old mosque in Saharanpur and the destruction of Islamic heritage and places of worship.

On Afghanistan, the spokesperson said Pakistan seeks friendly relations with Afghanistan but stressed that Afghan territory must not be used for terrorism against Pakistan. He clari-

fied that Afghan students holding valid visas and enrolled in valid degree programmes can continue their education.

He said the Anti-Narcotics Force seized around 200 kilograms of methamphetamine at Karachi Port, while intelligence shared by Pakistan also contributed to an operation in Sri Lanka.

Sajjad Haider Khan said Pakistan will host the 14th South Asian Games from April 4 to 11, 2027, in Islamabad, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with more than 6,000 athletes and officials expected to participate.

Regarding the Makkah Defence Agreement among Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, the spokesperson clarified that the agreement is purely defensive in nature and its expansion is not currently under discussion.

Pakistan has also sent 100 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to Nepal following floods and landslides.

The Foreign Office spokesperson said Pakistan seeks constructive relations with the United States, China and Russia and does not want to become part of any geopolitical confrontation, stressing the importance of a balanced and independent foreign policy.

PFUJ Reaffirms Commitment to Quaid-e-Azam's Principles and Responsible Journalism

By: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- On the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) reaffirmed its commitment to his principles, particularly the vision of a free, responsible and principled press.

In a joint statement, PFUJ President Rana Azim and Secretary General Shakeel Ahmed said an independent and responsible press is essential to

democracy. They pledged to uphold professional standards, protect journalists' rights and promote truth, accountability and national unity.

The PFUJ leaders said Pakistan faces serious internal and external challenges, including instability and terrorism, making responsible journalism more important than ever. They rejected yellow journalism, malicious propaganda and the misuse of journalism for personal or foreign interests, while emphasizing that criticism and accountability

remain fundamental to the profession. They also urged the Federal Government, particularly the Information Ministry, Secretary Information and Principal Information Officer, to recognize PFUJ as a genuine and representative organization of Pakistani journalists. The leaders said PFUJ would continue its struggle for press freedom, journalists' rights, democratic values, responsible journalism and the national interest, while protecting the dignity of the journalistic profession.

Senate Minority Caucus Reviews 5% Quota Shortfalls and Workplace Discrimination



Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Parliamentary Caucus on Minorities, convened by Senator Danesh Kumar, reviewed minority rights, implementation of the 5% recruitment quota and workplace discrimination across federal ministries.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Ramesh Lal, Naveed Aamir, Ms. Neelam and Minister of State Kesoo Mal Kheal Das, along with senior officials from the Ministries of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and Human Rights.

The committee expressed strong displeasure over the absence of the Secretary Establishment Division

and Chairman NHA, issuing a final warning and directing them to attend the next meeting. Senator Danesh Kumar said the committee would maintain zero tolerance on the matter and could initiate a privilege motion.

The committee also noted incomplete documentation and missing quota figures, deferring two agenda items and directing officials to submit complete records before the next session.

DG Human Rights said constitutional provisions and Establishment Division directives provide for carrying forward unfilled minority quota seats, but implementation remains a major challenge.

MNA Ramesh Lal rejected claims of a shortage of qualified minority candidates, while Senator Danesh Kumar raised concerns over discriminatory recruitment advertisements, particularly those restricting certain low-grade jobs to non-Muslims.

The Ministry of Human Rights proposed a centralized data portal, special recruitment drives, age relaxation and targeted publicity to clear the quota backlog.

Senator Danesh Kumar directed that the recommendations be included in the official minutes and instructed all concerned Federal Secretaries to personally attend the next meeting with updated figures.

33 Additional Plots Proposed in PHA Officers Residencia Kurri Road Housing Secretary Assures Merit-Based Resolution

Report: ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: A fresh dispute has emerged over a proposal to create 33 additional residential plots/houses in the green and open areas of PHA Officers' Residencia on Kurri Road, while the Secretary Housing & Works has assured the Senate Standing Committee on Housing that the matter will be resolved on merit. The housing scheme was approved in July 2006 for officers belonging to federally constituted professional groups. According to available records, land was initially identified in Kurri, while the PHA later received 90.82 acres (727 kanal).

Residents say the proposal for additional plots had previously been considered before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in 2018. Following a site inspection by two MNAs/members of PAC and in the presence of the then CEO PHA-F, based on their recommendations, the PAC directed that the original CDA-approved layout plan should not be altered. Residents further state that the decision was endorsed by the Wafaqi Mohtasib and reflected in the PHA Foundation's 33rd Board meeting held on April 9, 2019.

However, on March 17, 2023, the PHA Foundation proposed an amendment to the 2012 layout plan for creation of 33 additional plots. PHA-F proposal remained pending in



CDA without any action as some residents met the then Member Planning CDA and explained the PAC directive and Wafaqi Mohtasib's judgments on creation of additional plots. After transfer of the said Member Planning CDA and passing of 2.5 years, CDA reopened the case and asked PHA-F for publication of a public notice on August 11, 2025.

Residents including 588 allottees, have raised concerns that the proposed plots would reduce green/open spaces. They claim that more than Rs. 501.5 million had been paid for protection and development of these areas, in addition to the predetermined cost of their houses.

They have also raised concerns regarding drainage, sewerage, water supply and other infrastructure, saying the existing facilities were

designed according to the original scheme. Some residents have questioned whether the proposed changes require fresh environmental assessment or clearance.

The residents have urged the Housing Ministry, CDA and PHA Foundation to review the proposal in light of the original 2012 layout, PAC and Wafaqi Mohtasib decisions, available green space and the capacity of existing infrastructure.

They expressed hope that the Secretary Housing & Works would resolve the matter transparently and strictly on merit. At the time of filing this report, no formal response had been received from CDA or the PHA Foundation regarding the objections and demands raised by the residents. Their response, if received, may also be incorporated into the report.

AJK Government Plans Modern Technology Integration in Educational Institutions

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- A meeting chaired by Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani was held at Jammu and Kashmir House to discuss educational reforms, including the introduction of IT, Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics and modern technical education in educational institutions.

Representatives of organizations and firms working in the education sector under public-private partnerships briefed the Prime Minister on AI-based projects and successful initiatives implemented in different provinces.

Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani said education was his government's top priority, emphasizing that the future of nations is shaped in classrooms. He said the government's mission was to ensure that every young person in AJK becomes skilled, self-reliant and capable of creating employment opportunities rather than merely



obtaining a degree.

He said IT, Artificial Intelligence, robotics, online business and modern technical education would remain key priorities. The government is also preparing a plan to equip AJK educational institutions with modern technology and facilities so that students can compete with their counterparts in developed countries.

The meeting was attended by

Higher Education Minister Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Federal Secretary Inter-Provincial Coordination Mohyuddin Wani, LearnOBots CEO Muhammad Faisal Laghari, NAVTTC Executive Director Amir Jan, TechValley CEO Umar Farooq, Joint Secretary Hamid Niazi, Allah Wali Foundation Chairman Shahid Loon and TechForPakistan CEO Khadija Bakhsh, among others.

Law minister vows further steps to improve legal education

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday said the government would continue taking all necessary measures to improve legal education, describing it as the foundation of the justice system and stressing that its quality directly affected the Bar and the Bench. Addressing the launching ceremony of the Annual Report of the Directorate of Legal Education of the Pakistan Bar Council, the minister said several reforms had already been introduced to address longstanding issues in legal education.

He said evening law courses had been abolished to curb substandard and "ghost" admissions in law col-



leges, while the Law-GAT had been introduced to improve the standard of students entering the legal profession. Senator Tarar said that after his election as a member of the Pakistan Bar

Council in 2010, he had been given the responsibility of Chairman of its Legal Education Committee, following which efforts were undertaken to introduce reforms in the sector.