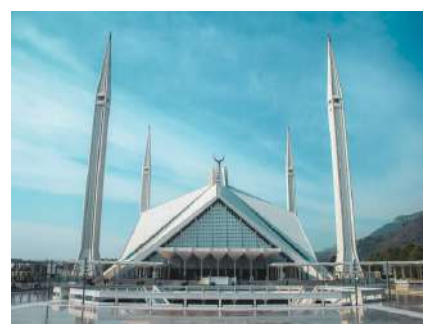


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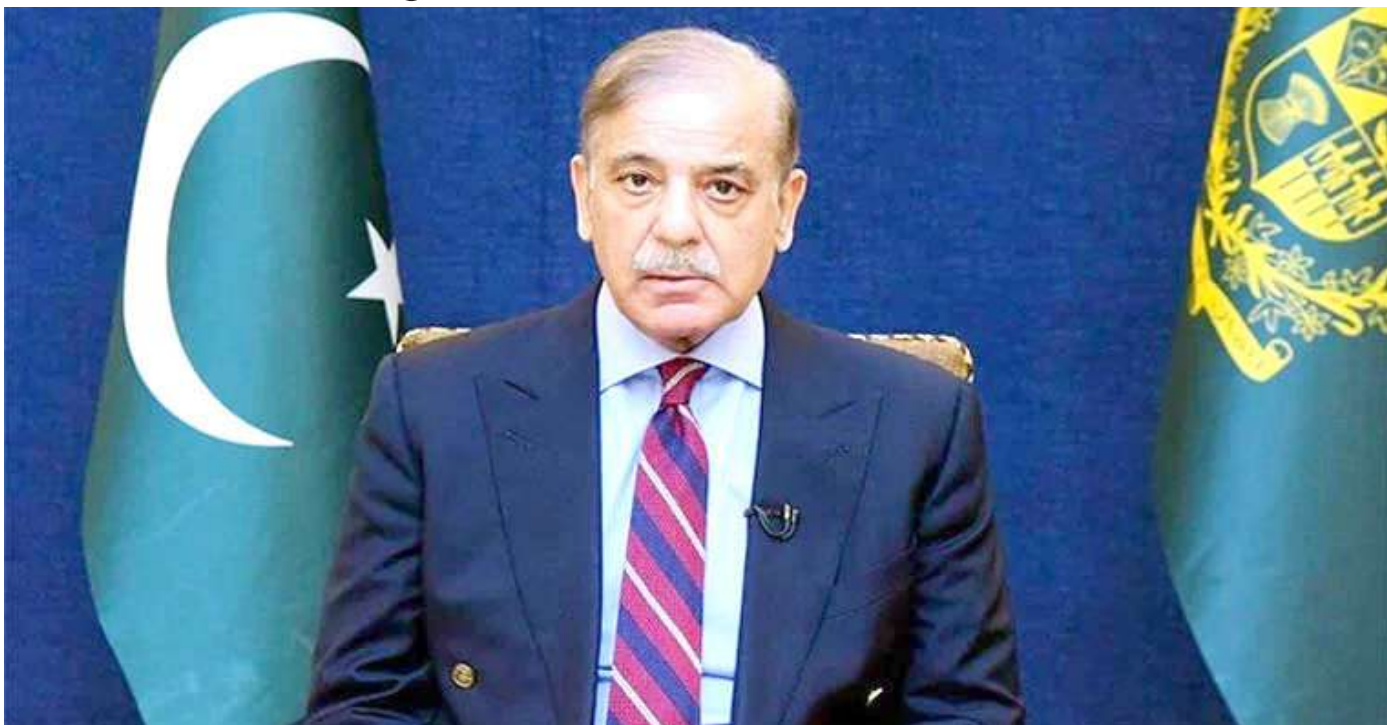
Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 15 Issue: 03 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Monday September 14 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

PM Shehbaz announces Rs100 per litre petrol relief for motorcycles, small vehicles



ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced a special relief scheme offering Rs100 per litre off petrol for motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingqi rickshaws and cars with engines of up to 800cc. "In this hour of difficulty, we will not leave the public alone. To alleviate the burden of rising oil prices on users of motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingchis, and small vehicles, a special scheme is being initiated. Under the special relief scheme, petrol users of motorcycles, rickshaws, Chingchis, and vehicles up to 800cc will receive a relief of 100 rupees per litre," said a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The US-Iran conflict in the Middle

East has pushed global oil prices higher, while attacks from Yemen on Saudi energy facilities have introduced a fresh source of market risk, broadening concerns beyond Iran and the Strait of Hormuz. To cope with the crisis, the government introduced a daily petroleum pricing mechanism in July, replacing the previous weekly system, as global oil prices became increasingly volatile amid geopolitical tensions. Since then, repeated price increases have pushed petrol to Rs375.82 per litre and high-speed diesel (HSD) to Rs403.32 per litre.

The PMO said the prime minister had taken immediate notice of the burden on the public caused by rising oil prices following recent tensions in the Middle East and the resulting increase

in global oil prices. PM Shehbaz said that the "government fully understands the burden being placed on the public by the increase in oil prices," he said, adding: "We will not leave the people alone in this difficult time." "Owners of cars with engines of up to 800cc will receive the same relief on up to 30 litres of petrol per month," it said. It further added that the scheme would be implemented in Islamabad from the night between Monday and Tuesday, while it would take effect across Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, from the night between Wednesday and Thursday. "Registration for the relief scheme began on Sunday. The registration process will be explained to the public through an awareness cam-

paign," the PMO said. PM Shehbaz thanked the provinces for cooperating in providing information on motorcycles, rickshaws and small cars for registration under the scheme. The latest relief scheme is not the first subsidy introduced by the government in response to surging fuel prices. In March, the federal and provincial governments agreed on a technology-based framework for providing fuel subsidies, after petrol and diesel prices were sharply increased amid the Middle East conflict. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25, petroleum products constitute one of the country's largest import categories, making the economy highly vulnerable to changes in global crude oil prices.

Pakistan to continue efforts for 'defusing' regional tensions, PM tells Saudi crown prince



ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday told Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman that Pakistan would continue its efforts for "defusing" regional tensions and expressed solidarity with the Gulf state in light of recent Houthi attacks. The development comes amid renewed tensions in the region, with Yemen's Houthi rebels launching attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia earlier this week, injuring 73 people. A day earlier, a crucial Saudi oil pipeline also came under attack by drones launched from Iraq.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in a phone call, the premier condemned the recent attacks on Saudi's civilian and economic infrastructure. PM Shehbaz also expressed alarm that the Houthi actions "threatened regional peace and security and could further disrupt the global economy and energy supplies".

He told the Saudi crown prince that he, alongside Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, "would continue their efforts for defusing tensions and bringing peace in the region".

"In this regard, the prime minister lauded the Saudi crown prince for his wise and sagacious leadership throughout the crisis," the statement said.

The prime minister also conveyed regards to the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. For his part, the Saudi crown prince appreciated Pakistan's support and its efforts for regional peace and stability, PMO said. "The two leaders agreed to continue to remain in close contact, and looked forward to meeting each other at an early date," the statement added.

In August, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye signed a defence pact, aiming to strengthen collective deterrence and empower its signatory states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them. Earlier this week, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif cautioned that the agreement could become operational if there was a "spillover" of the conflict in Yemen into Saudi Arabia.

The FO, however, said on Thursday rejected speculation that Pakistan was considering joining Saudi Arabia in military strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, saying the newly signed agreement was still being firmed up and should not yet be viewed in terms of its operationalisation.

Govt to present IMF plan to retire Rs3.6tr gas-sector



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will present to the International Monetary Fund with a three-year plan to eliminate the gas sector's Rs3.6 trillion (\$12.9 billion) circular debt, as the government seeks to meet a key IMF condition ahead of economic review talks scheduled for the last week of September.

The Finance Ministry is expected to brief the IMF on the proposed settlement plan during the upcoming review, with the final framework to be settled after consultations with the lender, according to officials familiar with the matter.

The gas sector's circular debt has risen to about Rs3.6 trillion, comprising Rs2.1 trillion in interest and Rs1.5 trillion in principal. The debt has accumulated through a combination of tariff differentials, unpaid

receivables and policy-related costs. A report presented to a government committee put the tariff differential at Rs1.4 trillion, while power-sector receivables stood at Rs123 billion, sales and income tax receivables at Rs211 billion and litigation costs at Rs58 billion.

The burden has also been compounded by costly LNG supplies. Gas utilities diverted expensive imported LNG to domestic consumers, while disruptions to LNG supplies under Pakistan's agreement with Qatar forced the country to arrange spot cargoes at substantially higher prices.

The proposed settlement relies on multiple sources. About Rs840 billion is expected to come from dividends of gas companies, while Rs270 billion could be generated through the petroleum levy.

The plan also envisages reducing the debt by Rs310 billion through the deferral of additional LNG cargoes from Qatar, Rs15 billion through the power sector's take-or-pay arrangements and Rs60 billion through full recovery of LNG costs. The government also plans to settle the interest component of the circular debt. However, full LNG cost recovery could increase gas prices for consumers, raising concerns about additional inflationary pressure.

The government is expected to discuss the potential impact with the IMF before finalising the plan.

PPP and PMLN agree to ease friction

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) conveyed serious reservations to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) over the non-implementation of its concerns on key public issues, but the two coalition partners agreed to bridge their differences and continue working together on matters of national interest. The understanding was reached at a meeting of the coordination committees of PPP and PMLN at the Governor House Lahore, convened to ease tensions between the two coalition partners.

The PPP delegation comprised former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Hassan Murtaza, Qamar Zaman Kaira and Ali Qasim Gilani. The PMLN delegation included Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Senator Anusha Rahman, Khawaja Saad Rafique and Punjab Senior Minister



Marriyum Aurangzeb. The two sides agreed to hold regular meetings to discuss outstanding issues, address reservations and resolve differences through mutual consultation. During the meeting, the PPP raised concerns over the delay in local government elections, inflation, petroleum

prices, loadshedding and problems faced by farmers. The party also complained about the non-implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at previous meetings and expressed displeasure over what it described as a lack of progress in addressing its reservations.

Pakistan strongly condemns drone attacks on EW pipeline in KSA

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, on Saturday, strongly condemned the reprehensible drone attacks on the East-West Pipeline in Riyadh and Madinah regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, causing damage to the pipeline and injuries to civilians. "These attacks and targeting of civilian infrastructure are a flagrant violation of the international law as well as sovereignty and territorial integrity of the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and pose a serious threat to regional peace, security and stability," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement. Pakistan reaffirmed its unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and prosperity of the Kingdom, and reiterated its solidarity with the leadership, Government and brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"Pakistan has been and will continue to make earnest efforts for achieving lasting peace and stability in the region," it was stressed.

PTI announces support for JI's ongoing sit-ins against petroleum levy, inflation

ANI

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan on Sunday announced support for Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) ongoing sit-ins against the petroleum levy and inflation, saying his party would invite the JI to join its long march for justice and would stand by its struggle against rising prices. Gohar also welcomed JI Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman's statement regarding the release of PTI founder Imran Khan.

"We support JI's sit-ins and welcome Rehman's statement regarding Imran Khan's release," Gohar said. He added that the JI would be invited to participate in the long march for justice and



that the PTI would support its campaign against inflation. Meanwhile, JI's countryside sit-ins against the petroleum levy and inflation entered their 29th day on Sunday. Protest camps and sit-ins continued at more than 35 locations, including Lahore, Karachi,

Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Haripur and Swat. Preparations are also under way for the JI's planned long march to Islamabad on September 20. Rehman said the longer the government delayed negotiations, the more the sit-ins would expand. He said the party's struggle would continue until relief was provided to the people. He also announced that the sit-ins would continue alongside the long march. Reacting to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement of a scheme offering relief of Rs100 per litre on petrol for motorcycles, rickshaws and small cars, he said the government had been forced to offer the relief as a result of the JI's campaign against the "unjust" petroleum levy.

Pakistan courts resume hearings after summer recess



ANI

The Pakistan's courts have ended their summer recess, with hearings in cases due to resume as normal from tomorrow.

The Federal Constitutional Court will hear a petition against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi tomorrow, while the Supreme Court will hear several petitions, including a request for the transfer of PTI founder Imran Khan to a hospital, on Wednesday.

A bench headed by Federal

Constitutional Court Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan will hear the petition against Afridi. The petition was filed by Sher Afzal Marwat and also seeks the restoration of Ali Amin Gandapur as chief minister. The same three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan, will also hear

petitions seeking treatment at private hospitals for other prisoners, as in the case of Imran Khan. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court will hear the case concerning Imran Khan's transfer to Shifa Hospital on September 16. It will also hear on the same day the government's review petition against the August 18 order. The court will also hear a contempt petition filed by the PTI over the alleged failure to implement the order.

The Supreme Court website has yet to publish the cause list for the next judicial week.



Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal visiting a stall established in 23rd Health Asia International Exhibition and Conference at Expo Centre

PMYP, SMEDA team up to boost youth, small businesses

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Prime Minister's Office to expand support for young entrepreneurs and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across Pakistan, with the partnership focusing on entrepreneurship, skills, access to finance, capacity building and inclusive economic opportunities, particularly for women and underserved communities.

The agreement was signed during a high level meeting chaired by PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and witnessed by senior officials, including SMEDA Chief Executive Officer Nadia Jahangir Seth, General Manager Policy and Ecosystem Group Sheharyar Tahir and PMYP Joint Secretary Dr Muhammad Ali Malik. Adviser to the Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan was also present. Under the MoU, the two institutions will work together to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem by combining their institutional expertise, resources



and outreach to provide greater access to knowledge, business development support and entrepreneurial opportunities. The collaboration is also expected to complement existing government initiatives aimed at improving access to financing for young entrepreneurs, including the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture

Loan Scheme. PMYP is a flagship government initiative aimed at empowering young people through education, skills development, employment, entrepreneurship and other avenues of youth development. SMEDA, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Industries and Production, is mandated to promote and facilitate the growth of SMEs and provides policy advice and support to stakeholders involved in the sector.

Officials said the partnership would help improve institutional coordination and create more sustainable economic opportunities for young people and businesses, while promoting inclusive growth and financial inclusion.

The initiative places particular emphasis on ensuring that women entrepreneurs and other under-served and marginalised groups are able to benefit from emerging opportunities in enterprise development.

The agreement is being viewed as a step towards strengthening the country's youth and MSME sectors and advancing the government's broader objectives of entrepreneurship promotion, employment generation, inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.

Ashrafi, former Archbishop Welby discuss global peace efforts

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Coordinator of National Paigham-e-Aman Committee Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi met former Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby at his residence here and discussed ways to promote global peace and interfaith harmony. The meeting focused on the prevailing global situation, promotion of interfaith dialogue, strengthening contacts among religious leaders and enhancing their joint role in combating extremism and terrorism. Both leaders agreed that leading religious figures from different faiths should come together to promote global peace. They also decided to initiate preliminary contacts to bring religious leadership together for dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect, said a press released issued here. Justin Welby appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional and global peace and praised the role of Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in promoting peace. He particularly appreciated Pakistan's efforts to help reduce tensions involving the United States, Iran and Arab and Islamic countries, saying the world urgently needed peace and that Pakistan was playing an important role in this regard. Welby also appreciated efforts in Pakistan to promote interfaith harmony, dialogue, tolerance and peace. He congratulated Ashrafi on receiving the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation 2026. Ashrafi said stronger dialogue and contacts among religious leaders of different faiths were urgently needed in view of the prevailing global situation.

Pak-Africa Economic Council launched to unlock potential, raise trade to \$15 billion by 2030

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the African countries at the launch ceremony of the Pakistan-Africa Economic Council (PAEC) reaffirmed their resolve to raise bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2030, diversify economic and trade relations, and bring closer their private sectors including the chambers of commerce.

The two sides also reiterated their commitment to promoting mutual investment and, through comprehensive and long-term planning, fully exploiting their untapped resources to develop bilateral economic and trade relations to new heights. The inaugural ceremony featured detailed discussions on promoting trade, investment, economic cooperation and business ties between Pakistan and African nations.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners



and Consuls General from various African countries, including Rwanda, Mauritius, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia, attended the ceremony. Pak-Africa Economic Council

including agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, minerals and mining, technology, food, education and infrastructure, that offer significant trade and investment potential in Africa, emphasizing that both regions should leverage their large populations, resources and expansive markets.

Federal Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat Hiraj congratulated the organizers on the establishment of PAEC and said that the forum would play a great role in enhancing economic and trade ties between African countries and Pakistan, describing it as a milestone in the economic history of both sides.

The Minister said that Africa's population of 1.5 billion represented huge potential for Pakistan and that the private sector's role was significant in increasing economic and trade ties.

50 young leaders from 25 climate-hit Districts join nationwide climate action initiative

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Fifty young climate leaders from 25 climate-affected districts across Pakistan have been selected for a nationwide initiative aimed at turning climate awareness into practical action, with 25 leaders from Balochistan receiving training in Quetta.

The Progressive Climate Foundation (PCF) Pakistan, through its Balochistan Chapter, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on "Behavior Change for Climate Action" in Quetta as part of the initiative, said a press release on Saturday. The training focused on helping young people turn climate awareness into simple actions that families and communities can follow in their daily lives.

Participants were trained in saving energy, household engagement, green household commitments, community mobilisation, peer networking, data collection, feedback and reporting, and youth leadership.

They were also given practical guidance on encouraging families to save electricity and water, improve waste management and reduce unnecessary use of resources.

Dr Muhammad Akbar Sajid Assumes Charge as Acting Head of English Department at NUML Multan

Report: ANI

MULTAN: Dr Muhammad Akbar Sajid, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at NUML Multan Campus, has assumed charge as Acting Head of the English Department.

According to an office order issued on September 10, 2026, Dr Sajid will perform the duties until the appointment of a regular head. The formal handing and taking-over process was directed to be completed by September 11.

Dr Sajid has previously served as Head of the English Department



and brings experience in managing

its academic and administrative affairs. After assuming charge, he began overseeing academic programmes, teaching arrangements, departmental administration and coordination with faculty and campus authorities.

The academic community welcomed his appointment and expressed confidence that his experience would contribute to the department's continued academic progress and smooth functioning.

The office order was issued by Brigadier Muhammad Waqar Khalid, Regional Director of NUML Multan Campus.

DC Okara Orders Investigation, District-Wide Crackdown on Illegal Fireworks

By: ANI Correspondent:

OKARA -- Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ikram Malik reached Chak 33 following a fire incident involving fireworks material at a house and ordered a complete investigation into the incident.

The Deputy Commissioner directed authorities to take strict action against those responsible, following which an FIR was registered immediately. He also ordered a fresh search and sweeping operation across the district to recover illegal fireworks and flammable material.

Muhammad Ikram Malik said the presence of flammable material at



the house resulted in the loss of precious lives and stressed that a zero-tolerance policy would be adopted against those involved in the illegal fireworks business.

He urged citizens to identify and report such elements so that strict action could be taken against those endangering the lives of innocent people.

AJK PM Iftikhar Gilani Vows Modern, Digital and People-Centric Governance

Report: Naseem Hassan/ANI

ISLAMABAD -- Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Iftikhar Gilani has said the government's 100-day reform programme is only the beginning of efforts to make AJK modern, digital, transparent and people-friendly.

Addressing a high-level meeting at Jammu and Kashmir House, he said education, healthcare, a clean environment, improved infrastructure and modern civic facilities were among the government's top priorities.



ties.

He said scholarships for talented students, model educational institutions, modern rescue services and new IT-based opportunities for youth would be introduced.

Gilani also announced plans to launch a one-window online service, enabling citizens to apply for government services from anywhere in the world.

He said the government was committed to taking development and better governance to every household in AJK.

Women parliamentarians call for improved healthcare for marginalized communities in KP

APP- PESHAWAR: Women parliamentarians have called for strengthened HIV/AIDS prevention and response measures and greater access to inclusive healthcare services to improve the health and well-being of marginalized communities, particularly women and transgender people, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking at a meeting of the Provincial AIDS Network, the parliamentarians stressed the need for comprehensive awareness and educational programmes, saying that according to a survey, more than 70 percent of respondents lacked basic knowledge about HIV transmission, increasing the risk of infection. The

meeting was organized by Da Hawwa Lur (Daughter of Eve), a non-governmental organization working to promote gender equality. Female parliamentarians including Shazia Tehmas, Amina Sardar, Rehana Ismail, Aiman Jalil, Meher Sultana and Ashar Jan Jadoon attended the meeting.

Denmark employment visa fraud: FIA Islamabad arrests human smuggling suspect at immigration

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Islamabad Zone has arrested a wanted human smuggling suspect while he was allegedly attempting to leave the country, after his name triggered an alert on the IBMS stop list during immigration clearance.

An official told APP on Sunday that the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle (AHTC) Islamabad arrested the accused, identified as Ibrahim Khan, who was wanted in human smuggling case No. 290/2025.

According to the case, the accused and his accomplices allegedly promised to arrange Denmark employment visas for the victims against Rs2.2 million per person.

The official said most of the agreed amount had already been paid by the victims.

He said Ibrahim Khan was attempting to travel abroad when his details generated a stop-list hit in the Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) during immigration clearance, leading to his arrest.

The accused was subsequently handed over to FIA AHTC Islamabad for further legal action and investigation. The official said investigation was continuing to determine the role of the accused's other accomplices and facilitators in the case.

PTI Kisan Wing to Approach Judiciary Against Mass Arrests and Misuse of 3-MPO in Punjab

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD: Central Information Secretary of the PTI Kisan Wing Khalid Nawaz Saddhrai has announced that the party will approach the higher judiciary against what he described as unconstitutional arrests of PTI workers across Punjab and misuse of Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (3-MPO).

In a statement issued after meeting PTI Central Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, Saddhrai urged the judiciary, particularly the



Constitutional Court, to take notice of alleged violations of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

He alleged that thousands of PTI

workers were being detained across Punjab and claimed police were also seeking written guarantees from workers that they would not participate in the September 27 protest or welcome the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister during his Punjab tour.

Saddhrai said the PTI Kisan Wing supported the Pakistan Kissan Ittehad's announced farmers' march towards Islamabad on September 25. He maintained that the party would challenge the alleged crackdown and misuse of 3-MPO in the higher courts.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Opinion

3

Women Empowerment in Pakistan: Challenges, Progress and the Way Forward



Written By: Mahmood Khan
Published By: ANI News Agency

Women constitute almost half of Pakistan’s population, yet their participation in the country’s economic, political and social life remains considerably below its potential. No nation can achieve sustainable development while a large part of its population is unable to enjoy equal opportunities. Women empowerment in Pakistan is therefore not merely a matter of women’s rights; it is a national necessity linked to economic growth, social stability, education, democracy and human development.

Pakistan has made important progress over the years. Women are increasingly visible in education, politics, business, medicine, law, journalism, science, sports and public administration. Women have served as prime minister, judges, ambassadors, parliamentarian, pilots, entrepreneurs and senior civil servants. Millions of Pakistani women are also contributing to agriculture, small businesses, education and the informal economy, often without adequate recognition or financial protection.

Despite this progress, serious barriers remain. One of the greatest challenges is unequal access to education. Although female enrolment has improved, many girls, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas, still face difficulties reaching and completing school. Poverty, inadequate transport, early marriage, social restrictions and a shortage of educational facilities can prevent girls from continuing their education.

Economic empowerment is another major challenge. Female labour-force participation remains relatively low compared with many

other countries. Many women work in agriculture, domestic employment, home-based businesses and the informal sector, but their contribution is often invisible or poorly paid. Women entrepreneurs also face difficulties obtaining finance, property, technology, markets and professional networks. Without economic independence, social and political empowerment remains incomplete. Workplace discrimination is another concern. Women may encounter unequal pay, limited career progression, harassment and unsafe working environments. Although laws and institutional mechanisms exist to protect women, effective implementation remains essential. Legislation has little value if victims cannot access justice or if complaints are ignored.

Violence against women is perhaps one of Pakistan’s most serious social challenges. Domestic violence, forced and early marriages, harassment, honour-based violence and other forms of abuse continue to affect women. Addressing these problems requires not only stronger law enforcement but also a transformation in social attitudes. Violence cannot be justified in the name of culture, tradition or family honour.

Political empowerment is equally important. Pakistan has introduced measures to increase women’s representation in political institutions, including reserved seats. However, representation should go beyond numbers. Women need genuine opportunities to participate in decision-making at national, provincial and local levels. Political parties should provide women with greater opportunities to contest elections on general seats and develop leadership skills.

Technology provides a new opportunity for women’s empowerment. Digital education, online employment, e-commerce and entrepreneurship can enable women—particularly those who face restrictions on mobility—to participate in the modern economy. However, the digital

gender gap must be addressed through affordable internet access, digital literacy and technological training.

Education remains the foundation of long-term empowerment. An educated woman is better equipped to make informed decisions about health, family, employment and citizenship. Investment in girls’ education therefore produces benefits not only for women but for entire families and communities.

Pakistan also needs to recognise the importance of men’s role in women’s empowerment. Empowerment should not be presented as a conflict between men and women. Men, families, religious scholars, educators, political leaders and civil society all have responsibilities in creating a society where women can live with dignity and equal opportunity.

The way forward requires a comprehensive national strategy. Pakistan should prioritise girls’ education, vocational training, healthcare, women’s employment, equal pay, financial inclusion, property rights, political participation and protection from violence. Laws must be implemented effectively, police and judicial institutions strengthened, and workplaces made safer. Special attention should be given to women in rural areas and economically marginalised communities.

Women empowerment is ultimately about giving women the freedom and opportunity to fulfil their potential. Pakistan cannot build a strong economy, modern democracy or stable society while millions of women remain excluded from meaningful participation.

The future of Pakistan depends upon the abilities of all its citizens. Empowering Pakistani women is not giving them a privilege; it is removing the barriers that prevent them from contributing fully to the country’s progress. A Pakistan in which women are educated, economically independent, politically active and socially respected will be a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Pakistan.

Beyond the Battlefield: How the Pak Army Confronts Terrorism, Guards the Frontiers and Stands with the Nation in Every Crisis



By Dr. Abdul Ghani
E. Mail: ghanillm@yahoo.com

A nation usually remembers its soldiers when guns begin to roar, borders come under attack or flags are lowered over the coffins of martyrs. Yet the performance of the Pak Army cannot be measured only through wars fought or enemies defeated. Its contribution becomes equally visible when terrorism threatens innocent citizens, floods swallow villages, earthquakes reduce homes to rubble or stranded families wait for help in areas beyond the immediate reach of civilian institutions.

For Pakistan, the battlefield is no longer confined to a clearly marked frontier. It may emerge in the mountains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the difficult terrain of Balochistan, a flooded settlement in Sindh or a snow-covered valley disconnected from the rest of the country. The Pak Army must therefore remain prepared for conventional defence while simultaneously confronting terrorism, protecting strategic frontiers and assisting the nation during emergencies.

Terrorism remains one of the gravest challenges. Militants do not wear identifiable uniforms or respect recognised boundaries. They exploit difficult terrain, hide among local populations, use improvised explosive devices and attack soldiers, police personnel and public places. Fighting such an enemy requires more than weapons. It demands accurate intelligence, operational patience, precision and the willingness to make sacrifices away from public attention.

Operations in Bajaur, North and South Waziristan, Balochistan and other vulnerable regions illustrate the severity of this struggle. In September 2025, the military reported that security forces killed 35 militants during operations in Bajaur and South Waziristan, while 12 soldiers embraced martyrdom. In another series of clashes near the Afghan frontier, 19 soldiers were killed and 45 militants were reportedly eliminated. These figures represent more than battlefield statis-

tics. They reveal the price being paid to prevent terrorist networks from regrouping and carrying violence into Pakistan’s towns and cities.

The wider security picture remains deeply troubling. The Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies reported a sharp increase in combat-related deaths during 2025 as militant violence intensified. This does not mean that the sacrifices of security personnel have failed. It demonstrates that they are confronting a determined, adaptable and persistent enemy. Every successful intelligence-based operation may prevent an attack whose intended victims will never know how close they came to tragedy.

The defence of Pakistan’s frontiers carries another extraordinary responsibility. Pakistan shares borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran and China. Its eastern frontier demands constant conventional preparedness, while parts of the western border remain vulnerable to infiltration, smuggling and militant movement. Soldiers posted in mountains, deserts and high-altitude regions endure harsh weather and prolonged separation from their families while the rest of the country continues its normal routine.

The absence of an attack is often treated as if nothing has happened. In reality, peace along a frontier may be the result of continuous surveillance, professional readiness and credible deterrence. Sometimes a soldier’s greatest achievement is the battle that never occurs because the country was adequately prepared.

The Pak Army’s relationship with the people becomes most visible when nature turns against them. Pakistan has repeatedly suffered devastating earthquakes, floods, landslides and other emergencies. During the 2005 earthquake, military personnel reached destroyed communities, evacuated the injured and established relief networks in mountainous regions. During the floods of 2010 and the catastrophic monsoon of 2022, soldiers used boats, helicopters and ground transport to rescue stranded families, distribute food and medicines and reconnect isolated areas.

Such operations give genuine meaning to the phrase “beyond the battlefield.” A soldier trained for

combat may suddenly be required to carry a frightened child through floodwater. A military helicopter may become the only means of transporting medicines to a cut-off village. An engineering unit may be ordered to restore a damaged road or construct a temporary bridge. In these moments, military capability becomes humanitarian capacity.

Beyond Pakistan’s borders, Pakistani soldiers have also served under the United Nations flag in conflict-affected regions. From Africa to the Balkans, they have protected civilians, supported humanitarian missions and helped stabilise communities devastated by conflict. Some have sacrificed their lives while serving people who did not share their nationality, language or culture. Their service demonstrates that the Pakistani soldier is recognised internationally not only as a defender but also as a peacekeeper.

Genuine appreciation, however, must remain different from empty praise. The defeat of terrorism cannot be achieved through military operations alone. Soldiers may clear an area, but effective governance must prevent militants from returning. Roads, schools, courts, employment opportunities and responsive policing must follow security operations. Lasting peace requires both military courage and civilian competence.

Behind every uniform stands a human being: a mother waiting for a telephone call, a wife managing a family during a prolonged deployment and children hoping for their father’s safe return. When a soldier embraces martyrdom, the loss is not merely an entry in an official statement. An entire family pays the price of national security.

The Pak Army stands beyond the battlefield because Pakistan’s security extends beyond the battlefield. Whether confronting terrorism, guarding remote frontiers, rescuing flood victims or serving under the banner of international peace, its personnel continue to shoulder responsibilities that demand courage, discipline and sacrifice. Whenever the nation faces violence, disaster or grave uncertainty, its soldiers are often among the first to arrive and, when duty requires, the last to leave.

A New Direction for Education in Balochistan: Reviewing Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani’s Two-and-a-Half-Year Performance



By: Ch Shabbir Balochistani
Published by ANI

Education has always been one of the biggest challenges facing Balochistan. Its vast geographical area, scattered and remote settlements, shortage of teachers, non-functional schools, inadequate infrastructure, limited opportunities for girls, and, above all, high dropout rates have continued to place the education sector under enormous pressure. In this challenging environment, the two-and-a-half-year performance of Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani should be assessed not merely through political statements, but on the basis of practical measures, projects and institutional reforms.

1. Revival of Non-Functional Schools – A Major Achievement

One of the most notable developments during the current period has been the reactivation of more than 3,100 schools. According to the provincial education authorities, this initiative has created renewed educational opportunities for approximately 81,000 children.

For a province like Balochistan, this is far from a minor achievement. A non-functional school is not merely an inactive building; it effectively deprives an entire community of educational opportunities for its children.

The initiative is particularly significant because making existing educational infrastructure functional can provide access to education to a large number of children within a relatively short period, compared with the time and resources required to construct new schools.

2. A Strict Policy Against Cheating and Improvement of the Examination System

The Education Minister has repeatedly emphasized eliminating the culture of cheating in examinations. Measures aimed at improving transparency in the examination system and action against cheating in areas including Kohlu have been presented as an important component of the government’s education reforms.

This policy is important because increasing the number of schools alone cannot improve the quality of education. Transparency in examinations, merit and credibility of academic assessments are equally fundamental to a functional education system.

3. Balochistan Education Support Programme – BES Phase-II

Progress has also been made on the Balochistan Education Support Programme (BES Phase-II), being implemented with the cooperation of the Government of Balochistan and UNICEF. Activities related to this five-year programme were undertaken in June 2026 under the supervision of the Education Minister.

The programme has the potential to provide an important foundation for improving access to education, increasing enrolment, bringing out-of-

school children into the formal education system and strengthening educational facilities.

4. Encouragement of Higher Education and Universities

The Education Minister has also participated in and supported activities at universities and higher education institutions across Balochistan. At the third convocation of the University of Turbat, she appreciated the institution’s performance and highlighted that the number of academic programmes had increased from 30 to 62, while MPhil, MS and PhD programmes had also been introduced.

This development indicates the importance being attached to expanding higher education opportunities for the youth of Balochistan within the province itself.

5. Revival of College Libraries and Provision of Modern Books

In September 2026, an initiative was also undertaken to provide modern and quality books to the libraries of 21 male and female colleges in Quetta.

Although this may appear to be a relatively simple measure, a library is, in reality, the intellectual heart of any educational institution. If such initiatives are linked with digital libraries, research journals, competitive examination material and modern scientific resources on a permanent basis, their impact could be far greater.

6. Linking Education with Sports and Youth Development

The Education Minister has also identified the promotion of sports among young people as a government priority. In November 2025, she stated that promoting sports among the youth was among the government’s priorities.

This approach is important because modern education is not limited to textbooks and examinations. It is a combination of education, physical health, sports, character development and creativity.

Overall Assessment

A broader assessment of the last two-and-a-half years reveals five major areas of focus in the education sector under Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani:

Revival of schools, expansion of access to education, examination transparency, encouragement of higher education, and improvement of the academic environment within educational institutions.

However, Balochistan’s educational crisis is so extensive that simply declaring a few projects successful would not be sufficient. The real measure of success will be whether these initiatives lead to clear and sustainable improvements in literacy rates, enrolment, attendance, learning outcomes and dropout rates.

My Suggestions for the Next Phase

1. Establish an Education Performance Dashboard for every district.

Monthly data on the number of schools, students, teachers, attendance, non-functional schools and examination results should be made publicly available for every district.

2. Adopt a “No School Non-Functional” policy.

The restoration of more than 3,100

schools is a significant achievement, but these institutions now require continuous monitoring to ensure that they do not become non-functional again.

3. Give special priority to girls’ education.

In remote areas, girls’ schools, transportation, safe educational environments and, where necessary, hostel facilities can play a fundamental role in reducing dropout rates.

4. Focus on teachers’ attendance and quality.

Appointing teachers alone is not enough. Continuous professional training, merit-based postings, digital attendance systems and performance-based evaluation are essential.

5. Establish modern model schools in every division.

Such institutions should offer modern facilities for science, information technology, English, mathematics, libraries and sports so that children from Balochistan do not have to migrate to major cities merely to access quality education.

6. Make AI, IT and technical education part of the curriculum.

The youth of Balochistan should not be restricted to conventional academic degrees. They should be equipped with modern skills such as coding, artificial intelligence, freelancing, digital marketing, cybersecurity and other technical competencies.

7. Transform the library initiative into a Digital Library Mission.

Instead of limiting the initiative to 21 colleges, it should gradually be expanded to colleges and major schools across Balochistan.

8. Publish an annual Education Performance Report.

The Education Minister should issue a comprehensive public report every year outlining how many schools were made functional, how many children were enrolled, how many teachers received training, what changes occurred in educational outcomes, and what targets have been set for the following year.

Final Assessment

In my view, the most positive aspect of Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani’s tenure has been the fact that the Education Department’s focus has not remained confined to the construction of new buildings. Attention has also been given to restoring non-functional institutions, improving the examination system, promoting higher education, strengthening libraries and encouraging youth activities.

The restoration of more than 3,100 schools and the reopening of educational opportunities for approximately 81,000 children constitute one of the most significant and noteworthy developments of this period.

However, the next phase is even more important: from access to quality, from schools to learning outcomes, and from individual projects to lasting institutional reforms. If this direction is maintained and strengthened, the Education Department of Balochistan can evolve beyond being merely an administrative institution and become one of the most powerful engines of social and economic transformation in the province.

BRICS: A New Challenge to Dollar Dominance



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

The global economic and political order is passing through a period of significant transformation. The recent BRICS summit in New Delhi has further highlighted this transition. BRICS is no longer merely a forum for emerging economies; it has evolved into an important platform influencing debates on global governance, financial sovereignty, unilateral sanctions and the balance of global power. Yet before viewing it as an alternative to the West, it is important to examine its internal contradictions and limitations.

The origins of BRICS can be traced to 2001, when Goldman Sachs economist Jim O’Neill coined the term BRIC to identify Brazil, Russia, India and China as emerging economies with the potential to become major forces in the global economy. In 2006, the four countries began formal political and diplomatic cooperation, followed by the first BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. South Africa joined in 2010, transforming BRIC into BRICS. Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates subsequently joined, while Indonesia has also become a full member. BRICS has therefore developed into one of the most significant collective platforms representing the interests of the Global South.

The primary motivation behind BRICS was not initially confrontation with the West but a demand for greater representation for emerging economies within the global order. Decision-making structures in institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have long reflected the disproportionate influence of established Western powers. The global financial crisis of 2008 strengthened the perception that countries contributing an increasing share of global economic output should also have a greater voice in shaping the international financial system. BRICS consequently emerged as an advocate of a more balanced, representative and multipolar global order.

China has a central role in this transformation. It is not only the largest economic power within BRICS but also possesses the financial and technological capacity to advance initiatives involving the New Development Bank, trade in local currencies, digital payments and infrastructure investment across the Global South. Yet China’s

growing influence raises an important question: could BRICS eventually replace US dominance with greater Chinese financial influence? If that were to happen, it would not represent the end of financial dominance but merely a shift from one centre of power to another.

This is where the concept of de-dollarisation needs to be viewed realistically. BRICS has not yet introduced a common “BRICS currency”. The current debate is primarily about increasing the use of national currencies in bilateral trade, developing mechanisms to manage currency risks and creating cross-border payment systems that can reduce dependence on the US-dominated financial architecture.

This distinction is crucial. Removing the dollar from the global financial system is a political aspiration; creating a credible alternative global currency or financial system is an extraordinarily complex economic undertaking. The dollar’s strength rests not only on the size of the US economy but also on its central role in international trade, banking, financial markets, the US Treasury market and global foreign-exchange reserves, as well as the institutional confidence associated with it. BRICS therefore cannot realistically replace the dollar in the short term. It can, however, gradually reduce the world’s dependence on it.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian’s recent position illustrates this emerging agenda. Addressing the BRICS summit in New Delhi, he called for stronger resistance to unilateral sanctions, the transformation of competition into cooperation and the establishment of a permanent BRICS secretariat to ensure more effective and rapid implementation of its decisions. He also advocated stronger political coordination based on respect for the UN Charter and national sovereignty, as well as economic and financial relations independent of monopolistic mechanisms. Greater cooperation in science, technology, energy and food security, he argued, should also be pursued.

Pezeshkian’s most significant economic proposal concerned the increased use of national currencies. Merely conducting trade in local currencies, however, is not enough. Such a system requires mechanisms for managing currency risks, mutual settlement arrangements and financial instruments capable of protecting trade from political shocks and sanctions. This represents a more practical interpretation of de-dollarisation.

The Iranian president also linked

the Palestinian question to the moral credibility of the international system. He argued that respect for the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination represents a serious test of the legitimacy of global governance and called for a more active BRICS role in ending occupation and safeguarding the legitimate rights of Palestinians.

Yet BRICS’ greatest weakness remains its internal political diversity. Strategic competition between China and India, differing interests among Russia and India, divergent priorities among Gulf members and the varying geopolitical calculations of Iran and other members make it difficult for BRICS to evolve into a unified military or political alliance. At the recent summit, India also emphasised that BRICS should not become an alliance directed against any particular country, but rather remain a platform for the Global South and for reform of international institutions.

The future of BRICS, therefore, is more likely to lie in the creation of an alternative economic and financial network than in becoming a military bloc against NATO. The New Development Bank, increased trade in local currencies, alternative payment mechanisms, digital financial infrastructure and cooperation in energy and food security are more realistic avenues through which BRICS can reshape the global order.

This development is also important for Pakistan. Islamabad should view its engagement with BRICS not merely through the lens of geopolitical alignment but in terms of trade, investment, energy, technology and regional connectivity. Pakistan has already been included among the countries associated with the wider BRICS framework, making closer economic engagement increasingly relevant.

Ultimately, the question is not whether BRICS will suddenly abolish the dollar. The more important question is whether it can contribute to the emergence of a genuinely multipolar financial system in which no single currency, country or financial centre exercises disproportionate influence.

The immediate collapse of dollar dominance remains unrealistic. A gradual reduction in dependence on the dollar, however, is a credible possibility. BRICS will succeed only if it moves beyond political rhetoric and builds reliable financial institutions, transparent payment mechanisms and mutual confidence among its diverse members. That is the real test of its ambition to reshape the global economic order.

World First Aid Day Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm in Attock

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ATTOCK -- World First Aid Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in District Attock on September 12, in line with celebrations held across the world. Rescue 1122 Attock organized various training and public awareness activities across the district to highlight the importance of first aid and emergency response.

District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Attock, Dr. Mian Muhammad Ashfaq, said that the purpose of observing World First Aid Day was to raise public awareness about the importance of first aid, particularly Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), which can help save lives during medical emergencies.

A special training session was organized at the Central Rescue Station Attock for members of the journalist community and the general public. During the session, Dr.



Mian Muhammad Ashfaq provided participants with practical CPR training and registered them as Rescue 1122 volunteers.

He further stated that similar first aid and CPR training sessions were also conducted in other tehsils of Attock by the respective tehsil in-charges and Rescue 1122 teams. The

sessions were held for students of schools and colleges as well as various community groups.

Individuals who participated in the training sessions were also registered as Rescue 1122 volunteers, contributing to the development of a better-informed and more prepared community.

FPCCI Committee Discusses Strategy to Boost Exports and R&D

Report: ANI :

KARACHI -- A meeting of FPCCI's Central Executive Committee on Corporate Relations & Communication was held at Federation House under Convener Syed Turab Shah, with business leader Mian Zahid Hussain attending as Chief Guest.

Mian Zahid Hussain highlighted FPCCI's efforts to promote research and development in export-oriented industries and expand "Made in Pakistan" products in international markets. Tourism promotion and support for the beauty care products sector were also discussed.

The committee considered a proposal for a Rs0.50 surcharge on bank transactions to create a dedicated fund for national R&D initiatives.



Ali Pesnani, Vice Chairman of SBC Group, briefed the committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, focusing on increasing seafood exports and developing aquaculture in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab. The FPCCI R&D team was tasked with

exploring markets including the EU, Saudi Arabia, UK and US.

The meeting decided to launch a comprehensive media campaign highlighting FPCCI's initiatives and achievements through social, print and electronic media.

Indonesia Medica Signs Three MoUs Worth Indicative USD 625 Million

Report: ANI

KARACHI-- Indonesia Medica at Health Asia Expo & Conference 2026 concluded with three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Indonesian and Pakistani institutions and companies, carrying a combined indicative value of USD 625 million in projected trade transactions.

The MoUs were signed between Indonesia's HIPELKI and the Healthcare Devices Association of Pakistan (HDAP); PT Borden Eagle Indonesia and Muller & Phipps Pakistan; and PT Tele Sehat Indonesia and Educast Global Pakistan.

Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Mudzakir said the agreements reflected stronger institutional cooperation, direct business partnerships and efforts to turn discussions into practical commercial opportunities.

The HIPELKI-HDAP agreement covers business matching, market



access, regulatory information exchange, R&D, technology transfer, manufacturing cooperation, joint ventures, local manufacturing and digital health.

The other two agreements focus on expanding direct business links between Indonesian and Pakistani companies. The meeting also highlighted opportunities to increase

Pakistan's seafood exports and strengthen healthcare-sector cooperation.

The Consulate General said it would continue follow-up efforts with relevant stakeholders to develop the partnerships and promote Indonesia Medica as a regular Indonesian platform at future Health Asia editions.

Grand Procession of Devotees Begins from Masjid Noorani Chowngi No. 7, 17 Naat Groups Participate

By: Ejaz-ul-Hassan/ANI

ATTOCK -- A grand procession of devotees of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which commenced from Masjid Noorani, Chowngi No. 7, was formally inaugurated in the presence of prominent religious and social personalities.

A large number of devotees from different areas participated in the procession with great religious enthusiasm and devotion. As many as 17 Naat recitation groups from across the area also took part and expressed their love and devotion for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Prominent personalities present on the occasion included President Central Seerat Committee Attock Haji Muhammad Ilyas, President Seerat Committee Masjid Noorani Malik Sajjad Khan, Allama Maulana Al-Haj Qari Raqib Ahmed Chishti, Malik Yasir Iqbal, President Central Seerat Committee Tehsil Saddar and Khateeb Masjid Noorani Allama Maulana Qari Nisar Ahmed Chishti, Sunni Tehreek Attock leader Chishad Al-Qadri, Tehsil President Sunni Tehreek Attock Allama Maulana Syed Mumtaz Hussain Shah, Haji Malik Irfan Qadri, Finance Secretary Pakistan Journalist Association Attock Malik Kamran Akhtar, renowned Naat reciter Faisal Naqshbandi, Allama Maulana Qari Shahid Aqeel Attari, Allama Qari Umair Attari, Allama Maulana Qari



Israr Ahmed, Malik Altaf Awan and other distinguished personalities.

During the procession, participants recited Naats in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with utmost reverence and devotion and continuously offered Durood-o-Salam. Various Naat groups presented beautiful recitations, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere. The participants also expressed their love and devotion through Durood-o-Salam and slogans of "Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah (PBUH)."

The participants maintained discipline and order throughout the procession while displaying great religious zeal and enthusiasm. At various points along the route, local residents and citizens warmly welcomed the procession and expressed their love and respect for the participants.

Addressing the gathering, religious scholars and speakers said that

the blessed life and character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) serve as a perfect example for all humanity. They emphasized that following his teachings is the true path to success in this world and the Hereafter.

The speakers urged Muslims to shape their lives according to the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah and to make love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) an integral part of their character and actions.

A large number of religious scholars, Naat reciters, religious personalities, respected members of the community and devotees of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) participated in the procession. The participants expressed their determination to continue promoting the Seerat and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and to express their profound love and devotion to him in the future as well.

Journalist Foundation Holds Oath-Taking Ceremony for Newly Elected Body

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD -- The Journalist Foundation held an oath-taking ceremony for its newly elected body, attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Raja Osama Sarwar, MNA Huma Akhtar Chughtai, National Press Club President Abdul Razzaq Sial, Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao, Finance Secretary Abid Abbasi, Prime Minister's Youth Programme Focal Person Farzana Kausar, Punjab Arts Council Director Muhammad Shakoor and a large number of journalists.

MNA Huma Akhtar Chughtai administered the oath to the newly elected office-bearers.

Addressing the ceremony, Raja Osama Sarwar and Huma Akhtar Chughtai said journalism is the fourth pillar of the state and plays an important role in strengthening democracy and keeping the public



informed. They stressed accuracy, research and verification in news reporting. National Press Club office-bearers appreciated the Journalist Foundation's efforts for journalists' welfare and assured continued cooperation. Journalist Foundation President Z.A. Malik and General Secretary Riffaqaat Hussain called for unity and cooperation among journalist organisations to address the community's collective issues.

Several other speakers, including

Farzana Kausar, Muhammad Shakoor and Waqar Fani Mughal, also addressed the ceremony.

Among those taking oath were President Z.A. Malik, General Secretary Riffaqaat Hussain, Senior Vice President Riaz Akhtar, Vice President Saifullah, Finance Secretary Aamir Mehboob, Joint Secretary Haleema Gilani, Joint Secretary Qamar Rashid, Chief Coordinator Kausar Qureshi and members of the Governing Body.

23,500 Police Personnel Sought from Provinces for Islamabad Security

Report: ANI :

ISLAMABAD -- The Cabinet Division has issued a formal notification for the deployment of 23,500 additional police personnel in Islamabad for security duties.

According to the notification, 15,000 personnel will be requisitioned from Punjab, 8,000 from Sindh and 500 from Balochistan. The personnel will be deployed in Islamabad on September 20. The federal government has directed the provincial governments to make necessary arrangements for the timely deployment of the police force.



Shazia Rizwan Pays Tribute to Kulsoom Nawaz on Death Anniversary



Report: ANI :

RAWALPINDI -- A ceremony was held at the Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi Arts Council, to commemorate the death anniversary of former First Lady Begum Kulsoom Nawaz.

Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan attended the ceremony and paid tribute to Kulsoom Nawaz,

describing her as a courageous and dignified woman who struggled for democracy, the Constitution and people's rights.

Shazia Rizwan said Kulsoom Nawaz's political insight, perseverance and sacrifices would always be remembered.

She added that her struggle remained an inspiration for women and highlighted the Punjab government's efforts for women's develop-

ment and empowerment under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

A large number of women attended the ceremony and paid tribute to Kulsoom Nawaz. PML-N Chief Organizer Malik Rizwan Afzal was also present.

Shazia Rizwan offered prayers for Kulsoom Nawaz's forgiveness and a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, as well as patience for her family.

Rawalpindi Cantonment Residents Get Major Relief as House, Water and Sanitation Taxes Cut



Report: ANI :

RAWALPINDI -- Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Cabinet Division Malik Ibrar Ahmed announced major tax relief for Rawalpindi Cantonment residents after negotiations with the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB).

The residential house tax increase

for 2026-2029 has been reduced from 30 percent to 20 percent, with three installments allowed and surcharges on previous arrears waived. Water and sanitation charges have also been reduced, while commercial sanitation charges will be fixed at one percent of Annual Rental Value.

Malik Ibrar said a 30-day notice would be mandatory before prop-

erty sealing and essential businesses would be protected from sealing drives.

He also announced 15 MGD water supply from Daducha Dam and a Rs100 million grant for solarisation of tube wells and water facilities. Supplies from Chahan and Daducha dams are expected to raise cantonment water availability to 50 MGD.