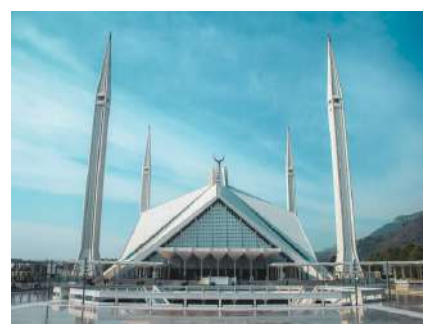


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Trump says Iran wants deal with US 'quickly and badly'



ANI

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Iran wanted to reach an agreement with Washington "quickly and badly," while saying he would decide whether the US engages with Tehran.

"The failing nation of Iran wants to make a deal, quickly and badly," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social.

"I will determine whether or not the USA will choose to engage - The concept of which we are open to," he added. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received US Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper and

his accompanying delegation in Jeddah, the state news agency SPA reported. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and the US, as well as the latest regional developments.

The meeting was also attended by Saudi Minister of State, Cabinet member and National Security Adviser Musaed bin Mohammed Al-Aiban.

The statement comes amid escalation between government forces and Houthis in Yemen, and the rebel group's attacks on energy facilities in Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said members of the BRICS and Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) use every opportunity to demonstrate their opposition to the US unilateral approach and to seek solutions to counter its consequences, according to IRNA.

Addressing his press conference on Monday, Baghaei dismissed the notion that Iran can be isolated, saying that a country which defends itself cannot be sidelined.

He pointed to the US' declining credibility, citing the US attack on Iran and its partnership with a genocidal regime as a serious strategic error. The international community, including the region, has recognized that US actions have undermined inter-

national norms essential to global peace and security, he added.

Baghaei accused Washington of instrumentalising the UN, politicising the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and violating the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force. Countries are using multilateral platforms like the SCO and BRICS both to voice opposition and to devise practical responses to the consequences of US behavior, he stated. He went on to say that even the US' traditional allies - Canada, Europe, and others - have begun to recognize the need to contain the US' belligerent and destructive unilateralism.

Indonesian Navy chief praises Pakistan Army's role in regional peace during meeting with CDF Munir



ANI

Indonesian Navy Chief Admiral Dr Muhammad Ali praised the Pakistan Army's role in regional peace during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir, the military's media wing said in a statement. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Admiral Ali called on CDF Munir at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, where matters of mutual interest, regional security and bilateral defence cooperation were discussed. "The two sides expressed satisfaction over the existing military-to-military relations and reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen cooperation, particularly in the domains of professional training, defence collaboration and joint exercises," the statement said. The ISPR said CDF Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding and brotherly relations with Indonesia, particularly in the defence and security domains. "Admiral Ali appreciated the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their contributions towards regional peace and stability," it said. In January, Indonesia's Minister of Defence Lt Gen Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (ret'd) had expressed the desire to further expand defence ties with Pakistan across

multiple domains in a meeting with CDF Munir.

Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening institutional linkages, training collaboration, and defence industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Indonesia, the statement added.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

A defence delegation led by Indonesia defence minister also called on Air Chief Marshal Ziaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

The meeting reaffirmed the historic and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Indonesia and focused on strengthening bilateral Air Force cooperation, particularly in capacity building, training and technological collaboration.

The air chief briefed the delegation on PAF's modernisation drive, including infrastructure development, revamped training and induction of niche capabilities to enhance readiness for multi-domain operations.

The Indonesian defence minister praised PAF's professionalism, combat readiness and indigenisation achievements under the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park, and expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation in training, aviation and aerospace domains.

Bilawal says India 'started a war based on a lie' after Malaysian PM's interview with Indian media

ANI

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said India had "started a war based on a lie and lost miserably," after Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim declined to describe Pakistan's alleged involvement in terrorism as state-sponsored during an interview with Indian broadcaster NDTV.

"India now stands exposed internationally," Bilawal said in a post on X, responding to a clip of Anwar's interview with NDTV journalist Vishnu Som. "The truth is India started a war based on a lie and lost miserably," the PPP chairman said, adding that India must honour its commitments made at the time of the ceasefire with Pakistan. He urged India to discuss "all friction points with Pakistan" so the two countries could work together to bring "peace, prosperity and stability to our region." Anwar had been in New Delhi over the past weekend to attend the BRICS summit when he gave the interview. Som asked Anwar whether he considered Israel's actions against Hamas to



be terrorism.

"Yes, it's state terrorism," Anwar replied, adding that it was terrorism and "state terrorism." Som then asked whether, by the same standard, Anwar would consider what Pakistan had allegedly done in Pahalgalam, Kashmir and against India to be state terrorism. "I wouldn't go to that extent," Anwar said. He acknowledged that he was being particularly sensitive because he was speaking in India, before referring to his relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "But of course, I'm a close friend of Modi ji," the Malaysian prime minister said. Anwar said Malaysia continued to engage with Pakistan and, "We thought that these issues can be resolved," he said, while also praising India as a country with a "great civilisation, great culture" and "great history." Som then pressed Anwar on why he was not more direct in condemning Pakistan over alleged terrorism. Anwar said the allegations first had to be established. "I mean, I'm not suggesting that there were no terrorist acts," he said, but added that they had to be ascertained with certainty.

CJP inaugurates Judicial Year 2026-27 with renewed focus on improved service delivery



ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Monday opened the New Judicial Year 2026-27 with a renewed commitment to speedier justice, better case management, improved services and measurable institutional reform.

The ceremony, held in Courtroom No. 1 of the Supreme Court of Pakistan here, was presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, and attended by all Judges of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General for Pakistan, the Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, the President, Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, and numbers of members of the legal fraternity. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Justice reviewed the Court's institutional reform agenda, structured around five key pillars: technology-enabled service delivery; access and transparency; strengthening of the legal and

regulatory framework; leveraging national and international resources; and revitalisation of justice-sector institutions. He apprised the gathering that, out of 86 reform actions across eight functional areas, 65 have been completed, eight are on track, while 13 require further attention. He emphasised that the ultimate objective of reform is better justice, with judicial independence accompanied by institutional accountability. Highlighting the Court's digital transformation, the Chief Justice referred to the digitisation and barcoding of pending and fresh cases, electronic transmission of orders and judgments, e-Office, paperless court systems and e-filing. He emphasised that the next phase of digital reform must move beyond digitisation towards an integrated and interoperable digital justice architecture, supported by stronger data infrastructure and robust cybersecurity.

Court orders passports blocked for KP CM, 24 PTI lawmakers

ANI

An anti-terrorism court in Islamabad on Monday ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to block the passports of 24 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and lawmakers, including Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and Omar Ayub in connection with a case registered at Kohsar Police Station. According to a copy of the court order available to The Express Tribune, Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain issued the order after police sought permission to block the passports of the accused. The investigating officer told the court that they could flee the country to avoid legal proceedings and requested that their passports be blocked.

Among those named in the order are former speaker of the National Assembly Asad Qaiser, Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, Junaid Akbar, Shahid Khattak, Zubair Wazir and several other PTI



lawmakers. "As per available records, all the accused persons [are] implicated with heinous allegations regarding attack on state institutions and advancing the cause. An instant FIR has been registered on 26.11.2026, but accused persons named above have failed to surrender before the court and some accused named above

who obtained ad-interim bail from this court had not joined the investigation of instant case till date despite lapse of considerable period," said the order. The court allowed the investigating officer's request and directed the FIA authorities to impound the passports of the accused persons until further orders. The cases against the PTI workers were registered at Margalla and Kohsar police stations. These FIRs include various charges connected to protest activities that took place in the federal capital on Nov 26 in 2023. Last week, the ATC in Islamabad also maintained arrest warrants for CM Afridi, PTI lawmaker Junaid Akbar and several other accused in a case related to the November 26 protest. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra rejected exemption applications filed by the accused who failed to appear for the hearing and ordered police to submit the challan against Afridi and the other accused as soon as possible.

Mir Raza Probe: Police Surgeon Alleges Pressure to Conceal Murder Evidence

ANI

KARACHI: Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed Tariq on Monday told a judicial commission investigating the murder of Mir Raza that she had faced threats, surveillance and pressure over her post-mortem findings, alleging that she was asked not to mention that the evidence was inconsistent with suicide in the report. Mir Raza, 25, was allegedly found dead in the bushes near a wedding hall in Gulistan-e-Johar on July 29. The case had initially been surrounded by uncertainty over whether he had been murdered or died by suicide. The court ordered a second post-mortem exam of the victim after the first report failed to determine the circumstances surrounding his death. The findings of the second post-mortem consolidated his family's longstanding claim that he had been murdered. The police probe is under constant scrutiny by the public because of earlier lapses that were even admitted by the Sindh Police chief.

Fitna al-Hindustan Commander Among Three Killed in Mastung: State Media

ANI

Three terrorists including Fitna al-Hindustan commander Nageeb were killed by security forces during an operation in Balochistan's Mastung district, state media said on Monday.

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as Fitna al-Hindustan, accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through the outfits. According to state media, the security forces targeted a vehicle carrying the terrorists using a quadcopter. The strike killed all three terrorists and completely destroyed their vehicle, Radio Pakistan and APP said, citing security sources.



ing security sources.

The sources added that security forces remained committed to eliminating terrorism and that operations would continue until the last terrorist was eliminated.

Separately, Balochistan Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) killed six terrorists of a banned outfit in an

operation conducted in Pishin district, Radio Pakistan reported. According to the CTD spokesperson, four CTD personnel were also injured during the operation that resulted in the execution of terrorists and the recovery of a large quantity of arms and ammunition. He further said that the terrorists killed in the operation were involved in attacks on security forces in the area. On August 21, security forces, in coordination with police, killed 49 terrorists in a series of intelligence-based operations (IBOs) across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan over several days, according to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).



Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, addressing the full court reference on commencement of the new judicial year 2026-2027 at Supreme Court of Pakistan

Clean Punjab Campaign in Kahuta: Dustbins Distributed Among Shopkeepers

By: Raja Usman Ali/ANI

KAHUTA --- Under the Punjab Chief Minister's Clean Punjab vision, a special campaign has been launched in Kahuta to improve the cleanliness system and promote awareness among the business community.

Under the patronage of CTDS Board of Directors Chairman Amir Shafi, the supervision of CTDS General Manager Rana Shoaib, and with Operational Manager Waqar Kiyani directly present in the field, CTDS teams visited various markets in Kahuta and distributed waste bins (dustbins) among shopkeepers. On the occasion, Operational Manager Waqar Kiyani briefed traders and shopkeepers about the objectives of the campaign. He said that every shopkeeper must play an active role in keeping the markets clean and free from waste.

He appealed to shopkeepers to dispose of dry waste, paper, shopping bags, and other waste in the provided dustbins instead of throwing it on roads or into drains, so that the waste can be



collected in a timely and proper manner. The business community appreciated the initiative taken by the

Government of Punjab and CTDS, assuring their full cooperation with the sanitation teams to help keep Kahuta city clean and hygienic.

Number of measures introduced to facilitate students with dyslexia during examinations, NA body told



ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Dyslexia, a number of measures have been introduced to facilitate students with dyslexia during examinations. These measures include provision of additional time and assistance in reading the question paper to students requiring such support.

The 26th meeting of the committee was held under the Acting Chairmanship of Anjum Aqeel Khan, Member National Assembly (MNA) at Parliament House, here, said a press release on Monday.

The Committee stressed the need for regular psychological support and the availability of trained reme-

dial teachers in educational institutions to identify learning difficulties at an early stage and provide appropriate assistance to affected students in the classroom.

A Committee Member further informed that legislation relating to dyslexia has also been enacted by the Punjab Assembly, highlighting the need for a comprehensive and uniform approach to address the educational needs of children with dyslexia. The Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) informed the Committee that, being a coordinating forum for educational boards across the country, it would take up the matter with all Boards to promote uniform measures and ensure that appropriate facilities and support mechanisms for students with dyslexia are adopted nationwide. Meanwhile, the committee deferred the government Bill on the "Hyderabad Institute for Technology and

Management Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2026" to next meeting of the committee.

On the issue of growing menace of narcotics in educational institutions, the Committee expressed grave concern over the issue and observed that the increasing reports of drug use and supply among students requires immediate, coordinated and result-oriented action by the concerned authorities.

The Committee stressed on the need for an effective coordination mechanism among the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Police, Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) to identify the sources of drug supply and prevent the involvement of criminal elements in and around educational institutions. The Committee emphasized that the responsibility for ensuring a safe, secure and drug-free learning environment requires a coordinated response involving educational institutions, law-enforcement agencies and regulatory authorities, with clear responsibilities, effective monitoring and strict enforcement.

The Committee sought comprehensive and verified data on reported cases of drug use and supply in educational institutions, including the number and nature of cases, action taken by the concerned authorities, the mechanism adopted for inter-agency coordination, and details of the penalties and punishments awarded to those found

DC Khushab Reviews Progress Under Suthra Punjab Programme



BY:Raja Noor Ilahi Atif

SARGODHA ---Deputy Commissioner Khushab Dr. Jahanzeb Hussain Labar chaired an important review meeting at the Conference Hall to assess the performance and progress of the Suthra Punjab Programme.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Municipal Services and Managing Director Suthra Punjab Zaryab Sajid briefed the meeting on sanitation arrangements in Tehsil Khushab, Nowshera, Noorpur Thal, Quaidabad,

Utra and other areas.

He provided a detailed briefing on various activities being carried out under Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Suthra Punjab Programme, including cleaning of streets and drains, door-to-door waste collection, cleanliness of main roads and other public areas. The meeting also reviewed the deployment and performance of Suthra Punjab workers, supervisors and tehsil managers, besides the availability and utilization of equipment and machinery.

Dr. Jahanzeb Hussain Labar

directed tehsil managers, supervisors and field workers to remain fully active and visible in the field to ensure effective sanitation services. He said that negligence or dereliction of duty in implementation of the Chief Minister's Suthra Punjab Programme would not be tolerated.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that 100 percent results must be achieved in cleanliness and sanitation operations, directing all concerned officials and staff to ensure strict implementation of a zero-tolerance policy.

Chaman Police Arrest Suspect in Killing of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Worker

By: Syed Sardar Khan/ANI

CHAMAN-- A worker of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Nazar Muhammad, was martyred in a firing incident on College Road, Chaman, yesterday.

Following the tragic incident, various political parties in Chaman staged a sit-in by placing the deceased's body in front of the Deputy Commissioner Complex. During negotiations with the protesters, Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangalzai assured them that the killers would be arrested at all costs.

On Monday evening, Deputy District Police Officer Chaman Abdul



Jabbar Achakzai told journalists at an emergency press conference that, following the incident, SP District

Chaman Aitezaz Arif had formed an inquiry committee headed by Ashfaq Ahmed. Using all available resources, the police arrested the accused, Quadratullah, along with the murder weapon.

Abdul Jabbar Achakzai further said that the arrested suspect was the victim's nephew and had confessed to the crime. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

Inspector Jahangir Khan Kakar and other police officers were also present at the press conference. It is worth mentioning that Chaman District Police has been conducting a large-scale operation against crime and drugs for the past several days.

Gujranwala DC Hears Public Complaints Under Open Door Policy

By: Dr. MB Qamar/ANI

GUJRANWALA ---Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed heard public complaints under the open door policy in line with the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He also reviewed implementation of fixed public dealing hours from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm in government offices. The DC issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers for immediate resolution of citizens' complaints. He directed assistant commissioners and departmental heads to avoid unnecessary visits by citizens, resolve grievances promptly according to law and ensure public-friendly services. He warned that negligence or delay in resolving public complaints would not be tolerated.



Punjab Governor Signs Amendment Bringing Academies and Coaching Centres Under Regulatory Framework

By: Ijaz-ul-Hassan/ANI

ATTOCK -- An amendment passed by the Punjab Assembly on September 1 has become law after Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan signed it on September 10, bringing academies, coaching centres and tuition centres under the regulatory framework governing private educational institutions.

Under the Punjab Private

Educational Institutions (Promotion and Regulation) Act, 2026, the definition of private educational institutions has been expanded to formally include academies, coaching centres and tuition centres.

The amendment provides for the regulation of these institutions in a manner similar to private schools, including a formal registration process. The institutions may also be subject to appli-

cable taxes and other regulatory requirements.

Private educational institutions have strongly opposed the legislation, describing it as a major hurdle to the promotion of education in Punjab. They have demanded that the provincial government withdraw the law and reconsider the regulatory measures imposed on academies, coaching centres and tuition centres.

CDA, JICA sign 36-Month deal to secure Islamabad's water future till 2050

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday to prepare an integrated Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Master Plan for Islamabad Capital Territory, with 2050 as the target year.

CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf signed on behalf of CDA, while JICA Detailed Planning Survey Team Leader MIYAGAWA Masahito signed for JICA at a ceremony held at CDA Headquarters. The event was also attended by Director General Islamabad Water Sardar Khan Zimri, Joint Secretary Japan at Economic Affairs Division Fakhryia Anjum and other senior officials. The agreement follows a detailed JICA survey con-



ducted from August 24 to September 14, during which consultations were held with CDA, Islamabad Water and relevant institutions to finalize the project framework. The 36-month

technical cooperation project will primarily cover ICT Zones 1 to 5, with detailed facility planning for Zone 1 and strategic assessment for Zones 2 to 5.

JKDFP condemns arrests, raids and property seizures in IIOJK

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) Advocate Arshad Iqbal has condemned recent arrests, raids on homes and seizure of properties in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, terming the actions an attempt to suppress the political voice of Kashmiris and create fear among the people. In a statement issued here on Monday, he said thousands of Kashmiris were imprisoned in different jails across India and were being kept far from their homes and families under difficult conditions. He named several political leaders and activists among the prisoners, including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Masrat Alam

Butt, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Muhammad Qasim Faktoo, Zafar Akbar Butt, Naeem Ahmad Khan and Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, former president of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association. Iqbal said Kashmiri prisoners held in Tihar, Agra and other jails were facing extreme heat, inadequate medical facilities, prolonged separation from their families and other hardships. He expressed particular concern over the condition of sick, elderly and long-term prisoners. He appealed to Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations and other international human rights organisations to take immediate notice of the situation and urge the Indian government to ensure respect for the fundamental rights and dignity of Kashmiri prisoners.

Petrol relief scheme to cover motorcycles, rickshaws, vehicles up to 800cc: Shaza Fatima

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Monday that the Prime Minister's special petrol relief scheme had been designed to facilitate eligible vehicle users, including those using rented motorcycles and rickshaws for their livelihoods. Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar and Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, she said the government had reviewed lessons from the previous phase of the programme and introduced measures to make registration easier for the public. "During the last programme, we registered motorcycles only in the names of their owners, but registration remained very low," she said.

Shaza Fatima said ownership would not necessarily be required for motorcycle and rickshaw users operating vehicles rented from others. However, ownership

of an 800cc vehicle would be required to avail the facility.

She said many vehicles were being used on open transfer letters, while some had been purchased and handed over to family members or staff. Similarly, many workers operated rented rickshaws and motorcycles to earn their livelihoods.

"The Prime Minister has closely reviewed the programme and directed that it should not unnecessarily restrict people from benefiting from the scheme," she said. However, she said certain verification requirements were necessary to prevent misuse of public funds and protect genuine beneficiaries.

Under the current process, applicants have to send four pieces of information to 971: their CNIC number, vehicle number plate, province where the vehicle is registered and the vehicle's registration date. Shaza Fatima explained that the first verification would establish whether the mobile number being used for registration was registered against the same CNIC.

Governor Kundi, Auditor General discuss financial discipline, transparency in KP

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Auditor General of Pakistan Maqbool Ahmad Gondal on Monday discussed matters related to financial and administrative affairs of the province, audit issues and promotion of transparency and financial discipline.

They also exchanged views on various issues of mutual interest, including alleged losses due to non-deduction of federal taxes by the provincial government and matters related to corruption and accountability.

Governor Kundi stressed that ensuring effective and transparent utilization of public resources was of utmost importance. He said financial discipline and an effective audit system could help improve the performance of public institutions and enhance the quality of services being provided to the people.

The Governor said resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were a public trust and their transparent and efficient use was essential for provincial development and public welfare.

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Opinion

3

Pakistan’s Foreign Financing Challenge Beyond Borrowing

By: Babar Akhtar
Published By:ANI News Agency

Pakistan’s external situation is now better than last year in 2026-27 but debt indicators have little scope to be complacent. One of the issue with which policy makers are concerned is no longer just about acquiring new funds. The more important is to set up an economic structure which is capable of generating foreign currency to meet the future obligations. As per State Bank of Pakistan data, the external debt stock of the country increased to Rs24.1 trillion (\$138.85 billion) at the end of July 2026. The external debt of the federal government amounted to around \$87.03 billion, of which almost \$77.2 billion was long-term debt. It is also, however, the composition of this debt that is significant.

The external liability of Pakistan is nearly 30 per cent with China with Chinese liabilities of \$30 billion are almost three times that of external liability of International Monetary Fund for Pakistan. Bilateral borrowing from non-Paris Club countries is over \$19 billion and multilateral institutions continue to be one of the major sources of external financing. In FY25-26, Pakistan took foreign loans and rollovers valued at approximately USD 27.2 billion of which USD 2.2 billion was received from the IMF, USD 5 billion from Saudi rollovers and USD 4 billion from China. These inflows have eased immediate pressures for financing, but have not taken away any future obligations for the repayment of those funds.

These measures have helped to build up reserves, but improved reserves are not a sufficient precondition for lasting external stability. For an improvement in the external position of Pakistan to be sustainable, the economy must earn foreign exchange

through increasing exports, remittances and foreign investments. In the context of this, Pakistan’s re-entry into international capital markets is a significant move. The nation recently sold \$3 billion in its most significant bond sale ever to international markets, and received orders valued at nearly \$6 billion, nearly double the amount sold. It featured \$1.75 billion in 5.5-year notes with a 7.50 per cent coupon and \$1.25 billion in 10-year bonds with a 7.90 per cent coupon. The investor response was encouraging, and has restored confidence in the country’s capacity to fulfill external obligations and re-integrate with the world financial markets. Obtaining credit, however, should not be regarded as a permanent solution to basic economic problems. While borrowing can help provide liquidity and ease the burden in the short-term, it is not a substitute for a more competitive export sector and an economy that is more productive.

The question that needs to be asked is whether the borrowed resources can help generate future foreign exchange earnings that are adequate to cover such obligations. It is here that structural reforms are crucial. The Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has recognized the short-comings in the domestic financial system and has said that the government will move towards less use of commercial banks to finance the fiscal deficit. For decades the main source of financing for government borrowing has been the banking sector, which is mainly attributable to the fact that government securities offer attractive and relatively safe investment opportunities. But, too much reliance on bank financing may reduce the flow of credit to businesses that need it to expand and invest. To foster a more balanced financial system, bond mar-

kets, equity markets, pension funds, insurance companies, and mutual funds and other institutional investors must be developed. Deeper capital markets will be able to harness domestic savings more effectively and lessen the strain on commercial banks.

The government’s attraction to dollar settled bonds issued in rupee denomination as well as to digital debt tokenization is aimed at increasing the number of investors and modernizing the financial markets. Global financial centers have experience of how technology can enhance the effectiveness of financial asset issuance, trading and settlement. But technology can’t replace good economic management. The use of digital financial instruments alone will not decrease fiscal deficits, boost exports and build investor confidence. In addition to credible institutions, effective regulation and responsible economic policies, they can only be effective in underpinning stronger markets.

The successful re-entry into international capital markets is thus a milestone and not an ultimate goal for Pakistan. The country’s long-term solvency will rely more on ability to export and to attract productive investment rather than on borrowing capacity, and also on the ability to raise capital markets and cut back on the need for regular foreign financing. Chinese debt is close to Rs 30 billion and external obligations amounting to Rs 11-12 billion every year are still a great challenge for Pakistan. Now the focus needs to shift from mobilizing foreign investment to developing economic capacity to pay back the investment. Only then can external financing become a tool for growth rather than a recurring necessity.

Sardar Saleem Haider: A Governor with a Human Touch



By: Rana Farooq Ashraf
Published By:ANI News Agency

The office of the Governor of Punjab carries constitutional responsibilities, but the true character of a person holding such a position is often revealed beyond official ceremonies and protocol. It is reflected in the way he treats ordinary people, listens to those who have little access to power, responds to human suffering and, perhaps most importantly, remembers the people who stood with him during his political journey.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, who assumed office as Governor of Punjab in May 2024, has gradually developed a public image that goes beyond the formalities of the Governor House. A longstanding Pakistan Peoples Party worker and political leader, he has maintained contact with party workers, students, social organisations and ordinary citizens. His political journey from the grassroots to one of Punjab’s highest constitutional offices remains an important part of his public identity.

One of the most notable features of his personality is his attitude towards political workers. He has repeatedly described himself as a proud party worker and has maintained that workers are the real strength of any political organisation. Even after becoming Governor, he has tried to remain accessible to PPP workers and has encouraged them to visit Governor House and discuss their concerns. For workers who spend years in political struggle without holding public office, such recognition carries considerable emotional value.

There is also a softer and more personal side to his public personality. During an interaction with students at Governor House, Sardar Saleem Haider spoke openly about his childhood, political journey and personal experiences. What attracted attention was not merely his willingness to answer political questions but the calm and respectful manner in which he engaged with young people. In an increasingly polarised political environment, the ability to listen to disagreement without turning every discussion into a political confrontation is a quality worth recognising.

A particularly revealing incident was reported during a discussion concerning university appeals. According to a published account, a matter involving the daughter of one of his close relatives came before him. Despite the personal connection, he reportedly chose to deal with the matter according to law and merit, while speaking to the young woman with the concern and firmness of an elder. Such incidents may not make major headlines, but they offer a glimpse into the personal values of a public office-holder when relationships and principles happen to meet at the same point.

His response to human suffering has also been visible during natural disasters. During the 2025 floods, he visited affected areas and relief camps, met families who had lost homes and property, and expressed solidarity with them. His emphasis was not limited to immediate relief;



he also spoke about compensation for damaged homes and livestock and the need for long-term support for affected families.

His interaction with children suffering from thalassemia and haemophilia provides another example of his compassionate approach. During a visit to Sundas Foundation, he spent time with the children, asked about their wellbeing and distributed gifts. He subsequently spoke about those moments with visible emotion and encouraged young people to donate blood. For families dealing with a life-long blood disorder, such personal attention from a senior public official can have a significance that cannot be measured through official statistics.



Education has remained another important part of his tenure. As Chancellor of universities in Punjab, he has emphasised merit, research, modern technology and opportunities for young people. His interactions with students have also provided them with an opportunity to raise questions directly with the Governor. At a time when young Pakistanis are increasingly concerned about employment, skills and their future, his emphasis on practical education and modern technologies is particularly relevant.

His relationship with the PPP leadership has also remained strong. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari welcomed his appointment as Governor Punjab and recognised him as a political worker with a long history of service to the party. Senior PPP leaders have also appreciated his engagement with workers and his

efforts to strengthen the party’s presence in Punjab. For someone whose political career began at the grassroots, recognition from the party’s central leadership represents more than a ceremonial endorsement; it reflects a political relationship built over years.

Sardar Saleem Haider’s political role, however, cannot be separated from his identity. He has spoken openly about inflation, petroleum prices, farmers’ problems and issues affecting ordinary citizens. His political statements have sometimes attracted criticism from opponents, particularly because the Governor’s office carries an important constitutional character. Critics believe that greater political restraint is necessary, while his supporters argue that remaining connected with public issues is part of democratic politics.

This tension between political identity and constitutional responsibility will remain one of the major tests of his tenure. A Governor is not the Chief Executive of Punjab, and therefore the province’s entire administrative and development performance cannot fairly be attributed to him. His record should instead be assessed through his constitutional responsibilities, his role as Chancellor, his public engagement, welfare initiatives and contribution to institutional and political dialogue.

Yet politics is not always remembered through statistics and official notifications. Sometimes it is remembered through small human moments: a worker being received with respect after years of political struggle, a flood victim finding someone willing to listen, a sick child

Who Pays for Pakistan’s Petrol Relief



Written By: Muhammad
Published By:ANI News Agency

Pakistan’s new petrol subsidy comes with a clear headline

and an incomplete public account. Citizens are told how much they may save on an eligible litre. They are not given, in the scheme information supplied for this assessment, the total approved allocation, a firm end date or the source financing the discount. Those omissions deserve attention before the announcement is treated as evidence of affordable, widespread relief.

The scheme’s stated allowances provide Rs100 per litre on up to 20 litres monthly for motorcycles and three-wheelers, and 30 litres for cars up to 800cc. These are maximum benefits of Rs2,000 and Rs3,000. They are partial subsidies linked to verified transactions, rather than a general Rs100 reduction in the price paid by every fuel consumer.

Start with the public bill. Each million motorcycle beneficiaries redeeming the full allowance costs Rs2 billion a month before administration. Each million eligible car beneficiaries costs Rs3 billion. Actual expenditure depends on how many people qualify, how much petrol they redeem and how long the programme lasts. None of those questions can be answered by the discount rate alone.

For illustration, five million motorcycle users and one million car users would cost Rs13 billion monthly at full redemption. Raising the respective allowances to 30 and 50 litres would increase that cost to Rs20 billion. Over three months, the additional direct cost is Rs21 billion. These are transparent scenarios, not forecasts of actual beneficiaries.

I favour negotiating those higher allowances because the present caps cannot be assumed adequate for every working household. Commercial rickshaws require a separate assessment. But expansion must come with an explicit funding schedule. If four-wheeler coverage extends beyond 800cc, the number of recipients may also rise, making a calculation based

on unchanged headcounts insufficient. The government should identify whether the discount is financed through budget expenditure, a levy adjustment, an existing fund or cross-subsidies from other consumers. Each route has a different incidence. A household may gain on eligible petrol while paying more through another charge. Public reporting must make that trade-off visible rather than present the discount as money without a source.

Finance Division hosts a Petroleum Prices Stabilization Fund document. Its existence does not establish the amount available or whether this pro-

Clarify the position of renters and shared-vehicle users: the supplied text does not explicitly require the vehicle to be registered to the applicant. If the goal is support for everyone without vehicle information, cost a common mobility payment, including for passengers. CNIC alone cannot establish different motorcycle and car entitlements.

The promise of immediate discounts at all petrol pumps also needs a payment contract. Who advances the subsidy? How quickly are valid dealer claims settled? What happens during a network outage? The advertised helplines should publish complaint-reso-

Provide assisted CNIC-based access without compulsory personal-SIM ownership or manual date entry. Clarify the position of renters and shared-vehicle users: the supplied text does not explicitly require the vehicle to be registered to the applicant. If the goal is support for everyone without vehicle information, cost a common mobility payment, including for passengers. CNIC alone cannot establish different motorcycle and car entitlements.

gramme can draw on it. Publish the fund’s commitments and usable balance if it is part of the financing plan. Likewise, expenditure savings should count only after they are identified and are not already financing another obligation.

Access rules can distort the financial picture. The scheme requires a personal SIM, CNIC and vehicle details, including the registration date. Applicants then request a token. A low spending figure may reflect exclusion or failed transactions rather than an efficient programme. Success should be measured by relief delivered to the intended population, not simply by keeping expenditure below an advertised ceiling.

Provide assisted CNIC-based access without compulsory personal-SIM ownership or manual date entry into

lution standards and results. A telephone number provides a channel; it does not establish that disputes will be resolved promptly.

A funded, temporary levy reduction should remain available for comparison. It avoids beneficiary registration, but gives larger absolute savings to heavier consumers. The government should compare its cost and distribution with a quota scheme rather than assume either approach automatically reaches those most affected.

Publish the allocation, financing source, release schedule and actual settlements together with the number of people redeeming relief. Without that account, Pakistan risks mistaking a visible discount for a demonstrated policy achievement. The public deserves to see the full bill, including who pays it.

Public Under the Burden of Inflation



By: Raja Usman Ali
Published By:ANI News Agency

The continuous increase in petroleum prices has made the lives of ordinary people even more difficult. Whenever petrol prices rise, transportation fares, food items, and other daily necessities become more expensive, directly affecting the poor and middle-class segments of society.

People living in hilly and rural areas are already facing difficulties due to limited resources and fewer employment opportunities. The increase in fuel prices has further raised their travel expenses, while

essential items such as groceries, vegetables, pulses, flour, medicines, and other necessities are increasingly becoming unaffordable. Many families are being forced to cut down on their basic needs simply to manage their monthly expenses.

On the other hand, heavy electricity and gas bills, various taxes, and rising daily expenses have placed an enormous burden on the public. For an ordinary worker or a person with a limited income, paying the electricity bill often means compromising on household groceries. Paying children’s school fees can make it difficult to afford medical treatment. The lower-middle and white-collar classes are among the most affected because they often cannot openly express their financial difficulties.

The question is: despite collecting

taxes and substantial amounts under various heads from the public, why do rural and hilly areas still lack basic facilities? Even today, many areas suffer from inadequate access to clean drinking water, paved roads, sanitation, healthcare, and quality education.

The responsibility of governments is not merely to increase prices and collect taxes; they must also provide relief to the people. The public needs practical measures rather than political promises. There is an urgent need for effective economic planning that puts ordinary citizens at the centre and works to reduce the growing burden of inflation.

Today, the public is asking only one question: How long will they continue to bear the burden of inflation, heavy utility bills, and the lack of basic facilities?

Demolishing UNRWA headquarters an act of folly and weakness

YOSSI MEKELBERG

In every sphere of activity in which Israel’s government operates, it does so in a sluggish and mindless manner. Nuance, subtlety, restraint, consideration, and weighing options are just not in its vocabulary. The immorality of this approach is obvious and in the long term self-defeating, leaving the country living by the sword, with fewer friends, and constantly losing public sympathy. The latest episode in this long-running series of acts of sheer folly took place last week when the government sent its enforcers, accompanied by security forces, to demolish the headquarters of UNRWA, the UN agency that since 1949 has been in charge of providing services for the well-being and protection of Palestinian refugees until a just resolution of the question of Palestine is found. This is an Israeli government that tries to conceal its true intentions and incompetence with performative politics. Does it really believe that if UNRWA ceases to exist, the Palestinian refugees will disappear with it, and that their political, human, and civil rights will no longer exist? Israel blames UNRWA for perpetuating the Palestinian right of return by granting refugee status to successive generations. However, it is not UNRWA that perpetuates the right of return; it is their legal right in line with international law and UN General Assembly Resolution 194, for instance, which states that “refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return.” Mistakenly, negotiations over the issue of refugees were framed as addressing the right of return rather than how to translate this right into practical terms that would avoid a mass return leading to new difficulties. The right of return is recognized under international law, and hence not negotiable as such. UNRWA is not the custodian of this right — international law is. Years of negotiations to translate this right into practice have yielded a number of plans for workable solutions, including trade-offs for those who will not return, such as becoming citizens of a Palestinian state, becoming citizens of their current host countries, and compensation for their loss and suffering.

Destroying the UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem will not make the Palestinian refugees and their rights go away. It is a mere act of vandalism, which activated a piece of legislation passed in the Knesset in October 2024, barring the agency from operating in Israeli territory and curtailing its activities in Gaza and the West Bank by banning state authorities from having any contact with it. In addition, late last year, in another act of harassment, a law prohibiting the provision of electricity or water to facilities owned by or

operated on behalf of UNRWA passed its third and final reading in the Knesset. This was another Pyrrhic victory, which appeals to the current government’s electoral base that has been fed endless lies about the objectives and operations of this UN agency, leading the base to believe that it is hostile to Israel. Awareness among Israelis of the humanitarian nature of the organization and its contribution to the well-being of millions of Palestinians, to whose plight Israel has been a major contributor for so many decades, is almost nonexistent. By declaring all-out war on UNRWA, Israel gets closer to a moment of reckoning when it must demonstrate that it has found an alternative humanitarian instrument to the UN agency. Unquestionably, UNRWA is at a crossroads. However, the answer to whether it stays or goes should be given by the international community, not by Israel. In December last year, 151 countries supported renewing the agency’s mandate for three years. On the face of it, this was an overwhelming vote of confidence in the work of the organization — support that was earned not only by sweat but also by blood since the war in Gaza has cost the agency the lives of 382 of its personnel and others supporting its activities. Nevertheless, as important as extending the mandate is, it has not been matched by allocating adequate long-term funding to meet the growing needs of the 5.9 million Palestinian refugees eligible for UNRWA’s services, which include health, education, protection, relief, and social services, as well as microfinance. Last year, the agency secured £1.4 billion. However, in light of the surge in humanitarian needs, it needs almost double this amount — a shortfall with grave consequences for refugees. Moreover, international political support is needed while Israel is harassing and bullying the agency and its staff, but this backing is half-hearted. Israel replaced the UN flag with the Israeli flag over the demolished headquarters in Jerusalem, but it has not come up with an alternative in terms of budget and a qualified workforce to supply the services that UNRWA has been providing, despite the fact that the UN did not create the refugee problem in the first place, and it is not the UN that has occupied Palestinian territories since 1967. It is not beyond the current Israeli government to take actions that would deliberately cause the situation in the West Bank to explode, and then use that as an excuse for further oppression on its march to annexation. In this case Israel’s distorted logic would mean eliminating UNRWA and exacerbating the humanitarian situation. Consequently, armed resistance becomes more likely, resulting in a harsh response in terms of using military force, building more settlements, and taking further steps toward making the life of Palestinians even more unbearable.

—Arab News

Questions Raised Over Appointment of HEC’s ETC CEO



Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Questions regarding merit, transparency, and procedural compliance have emerged over the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Imtiaz Haider as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Education Testing Council (ETC) of the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

According to sources, Dr. Imtiaz Haider had applied for two positions at HEC—Manager Operations and CEO of the ETC. The scrutiny committee reportedly shortlisted him for the Manager Operations position but

did not include his name in the initial shortlist for the CEO post.

Sources claim that during his interview for Manager Operations, Dr. Haider raised an objection regarding his exclusion from the CEO shortlist. He was subsequently allegedly permitted to appear in the CEO interviews held the following day.

The development has raised questions over whether the prescribed procedure was followed in allowing a candidate who was not initially shortlisted for the CEO position to participate in the interview process.

According to HEC Office Order No.

5(713)/HRM-Personal/2026/HEC/5669, Dr. Mohammad Imtiaz Haider assumed charge as CEO of the ETC on August 24, 2026, for a three-year contract period. As part of its efforts to obtain the official position, questions regarding the selection process, shortlisting, and appointment procedure were sent to HEC and Dr. Imtiaz Haider. However, no response was received from either side by the time of publication. If any concerned authority or individual wishes to present their position on the matter, we will publish their response in our newspaper and on our digital platforms.

NA Committee Seeks Action Against Drugs in Educational Institutions

By: ANI Correspondent;

ISLAMABAD -- The 26th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, chaired by Acting Chairman Anjum Aqeel Khan, reviewed key education and student welfare issues.

The committee deferred the Hyderabad Institute for Technology and Management Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2026 until its next meeting.

Expressing serious concern over drug use and supply in educational institutions, the committee called for coordinated action by ANF, Police, HEC and FDE and sought verified data on drug-related cases, action taken and punishments awarded.

The committee also stressed that



NAVTC training programmes should be aligned with international labour market requirements, particularly in the Middle East, to improve employment opportunities for Pakistani youth.

On dyslexia, FBISE informed the committee about additional examination time and reading assistance for students. The committee called for trained remedial teachers and psychological support, while IBCC assured uniform measures across

educational boards.

Regarding the reported Cambridge examination paper leakage, NCCIA informed the committee that no evidence was found linking the leakage to Pakistan, while limited access to overseas servers restricted further investigation.

The committee was also informed that around 200-250 Grade-14 teachers’ cases are pending. The Ministry assured that the cases would be resolved at the earliest.

Rotary Club of Karachi Centennial Hosts Policy Dialogue on Karachi’s Administrative Future



Report: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- The Rotary Club of Karachi Centennial hosted a high-level policy dialogue titled “Empowering the Commercial Capital: The Economic Imperative of a Dedicated Administrative Framework for Karachi.”

Organized by President-Elect and entrepreneur Taab Ahmed Khan, the exclusive session brought together prominent business leaders, Rotary members and senior bureaucrats to discuss Karachi’s administrative and economic challenges.

Taab Ahmed Khan emphasized



the importance of the strictly non-partisan forum, saying the distinguished panelists were accomplished, honest and hardworking professionals whose independent perspectives and expert opinions could contribute significantly to shaping the city’s future.

The panel featured Sirajuddin Aziz, Federal Banking Ombudsman, who shared insights into financial governance and institutional accountability; Shabbar Zaidi, former Chairman FBR, who presented a pragmatic assessment of local taxation and economic bottlenecks; Sohail Wajahat, former Minister of

Petroleum, who discussed the relationship between resource and energy management and urban efficiency; and Ashfaq Tola, former State Minister, who presented data-driven perspectives on economic and administrative reforms. The dialogue focused on Karachi’s structural challenges and the need for an effective administrative framework capable of supporting the city’s economic potential and improving governance. The event concluded with Rotary Club President Omar Niaz and business leader Majyd Aziz presenting commemorative mementos to the distinguished guests.



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C), chaired by Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, reviewed a range of health-related issues, including regulation of private healthcare, scholarships for Balochistan students, infant formula advertisements, the BDS programme and the PIMS inquiry.

The committee deferred the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, directing the Ministry of Health to review the proposed amendments in consultation with Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, the bill’s mover.

The committee also reviewed scholarship and funding issues faced by students from Balochistan studying nursing and other medical disciplines. The Health Minister informed members that the issue had been resolved and affected students would now be allowed admission to the fifth semester.

Infant Formula Advertisements

The committee expressed strong dissatisfaction with PEMRA over the presentation of infant formula

advertisements, particularly the small English-language disclaimer stating that “mother’s milk is best for the baby.”

On the recommendation of Senator Shahzeb Durrani, the committee directed that formula milk advertisements carry prominent warnings similar to cigarette-pack warnings and clearly state through voice-over that infant formula cannot replace breast milk.

PEMRA was also directed to use the mandatory five percent free public-service airtime for a nationwide breastfeeding awareness campaign.

BDS Programme

The committee noted that its recommendation to retain the four-year BDS programme had been accepted by the government and PMDC. The four-year academic BDS programme will continue across Pakistan, followed by the mandatory house job, instead of shifting to a five-year academic programme.

Allied Health Degrees

The committee decided that graduates in Microbiology, Biochemistry and Biotechnology who completed their degrees before 2026 would be allowed to complete an additional one-year course and register with

the Allied Health Professionals Council (AHPC).

New degree programmes, including BS Medical Microbiology, Clinical Biochemistry and BS Biotechnology (Health), were also proposed.

PIMS Inquiry

The committee reviewed findings of an interim inquiry into the PIMS incident and was informed that criminal and departmental action had been proposed against eight suspended senior hospital officials, including former PIMS Executive Director Dr. Imran Sikandar and the Head of the Neonatal Department.

The Health Ministry and PIMS administration said a request had been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for criminal action against those held responsible for alleged administrative negligence.

The committee expressed serious displeasure over the failure to register an FIR directly with police. Chairman Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti termed the matter criminal negligence and directed that an FIR be registered forthwith, those responsible be arrested and their names placed on the Exit Control List (ECL).

PM AJK Says Prime Minister’s Office Doors Open to Public



By: Naseem Hassan/ANI

MUZAFFARABAD -- Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani has said that the doors of the Prime Minister’s Office remain open to the public at all times, with the government focusing on projects that deliver direct benefits to citizens at their doorsteps.

He said resolving public issues on a priority basis is the government’s

foremost responsibility, for which no effort would be spared.

The prime minister expressed these views while meeting public delegations from different parts of Azad Kashmir at the Prime Minister’s House in Muzaffarabad.

During the meetings, the delegations briefed the prime minister in detail about problems faced in their respective areas, provision of basic facilities and ongoing development-

related matters. Prime Minister Gilani said the government was working to address public grievances, ensure the provision of basic amenities and accelerate development across all regions of Azad Kashmir. He said the government’s priorities include making life easier for the common people, extending the benefits of development to remote areas and advancing development projects in accordance with public needs.

National Assembly Speaker Calls for Stronger Democratic Institutions

BY: Hurish Shah FT

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said promoting democratic values and strengthening democratic institutions are essential for Pakistan’s sustainable development, stressing that a strong democratic system guarantees a prosperous and stable future.

In his message on the International Day of Democracy, observed on September 15, he said democracy was based on freedom, equality, public participation and collective decision-making.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said respect for the public mandate, transparency,

accountability and the rule of law were essential for a strong democracy. He paid tribute to political leaders and workers who had sacrificed for the restoration and strengthening of democracy in Pakistan.

He described Parliament as a cornerstone of democracy and said elected representatives were responsible for legislation, public welfare and addressing people’s problems. He stressed that political differences should be resolved through dialogue, tolerance and consultation rather than confrontation.

The Speaker also called for greater participation of women, youth, minorities and all segments of society in political and parliamentary

processes. He urged political forces to rise above differences, uphold the Constitution and work together on issues of national importance.

Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said democracy guaranteed people’s political freedoms, while a strong Parliament, constitutional supremacy and rule of law were essential for Pakistan’s development and stability.

He paid tribute to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for their sacrifices for democracy and called for resolving political differences through dialogue and parliamentary mechanisms.

Major Operation Launched Against Illegal Construction on Forest Land in Murree, Demolition of Multi-Storey Plaza Begins

By Raja Usman Ali/ANI

MURREE --The Punjab Forest Department’s Murree Forest Division has launched an operation against illegal constructions and encroachments on government-owned forest land. The demolition of a multi-storey plaza allegedly built illegally on forest land in Ahata Noor Khan has begun.

The action is being carried out following a Lahore High Court decision, with support from the district administration, Para Force and Murree Police.

DFO Murree Sudhir Mughal said a zero-tolerance policy was being followed against illegal occupation and encroachment on government and



forest land. ADC Revenue Murree Umar Owais Kiani said the district administration was providing full support.

Officials said action against illegal encroachments would be intensified to reclaim government and forest land from illegal occupants.

Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Reviews Key Diplomatic Matters



BY: Hurish Shah/FT

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, chaired by Senator Agha Shazaib Durrani, reviewed key diplomatic matters, including appointments and absorptions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan’s mediation efforts in the Iran-US conflict, the President’s visit to Kyrgyzstan and issues concerning Pakistanis in South Africa.

Senator Danesh Kumar, Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan, Senator Rubina Qaim Khani and Senator Amir Waliuddin Chisti, along with senior officials, attended the meeting.

Foreign Ministry Appointments

The committee reviewed additional details regarding Starred Question No. 24 raised by Senator Danesh Kumar. Officials briefed the committee on deputation, absorption, temporary appointments and recruitment criteria over the past five years.

Officials clarified that deputation appointments are not made under the quota system. Committee mem-

bers expressed concerns over the absorption of personnel from fields unrelated to the core requirements of the Foreign Service and sought a comprehensive record of appointments, absorptions and the criteria adopted.

Pakistan’s Role in Iran-US Mediation

The committee received a briefing on Pakistan’s mediation efforts in the Iran-US conflict. Officials said Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts contributed to an initial ceasefire on April 8, followed by Islamabad Talks on April 10 and 11, when Iran and the United States reportedly held negotiations for the first time in 47 years.

The briefing also covered the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding on June 18 and subsequent high-level technical talks hosted by Pakistan and Qatar in Switzerland.

The committee appreciated Pakistan’s mediatory role. Officials said the situation in the Strait of Hormuz had affected the global economy, energy supplies and food security, while Pakistan continued to call for maritime security and the

normalisation of the situation.

President’s Visit to Kyrgyzstan

The committee reviewed the President’s visit to Kyrgyzstan, describing it as an important step towards strengthening bilateral relations.

Trade and investment, connectivity with Pakistani ports, CASA-1000, QITA, banking links and business cooperation were identified as key areas for follow-up. The committee stressed that the implementation of commitments would determine the visit’s success.

Situation of Pakistanis in South Africa

The committee also considered a report on the anti-immigrant crisis in South Africa. The Pakistani High Commissioner informed members that four Pakistanis killed in the country had allegedly been targeted over a personal dispute.

Local authorities are investigating the incident, while a suspected contract-killing plot has also emerged. The High Commissioner further raised concerns over the alleged involvement of criminal elements within the Pakistani community.

CFC Challenger Football Club Murree Wins Freedom Cup 2026

By: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE -- The Second Faheem Abbasi Marhoom Football Memorial Tournament, Freedom Cup 2026, concluded at Gharial Football Ground, with CFC Challenger Football Club Murree defeating Kohsar Football Club Murree in the final to lift the trophy.

A total of 16 teams from Murree and surrounding areas participated in the tournament. CFC Challenger and Kohsar Football Club reached the final after impressive performances in the knockout stage. Hamza Baig was



named Best Goalkeeper, while Mohsin Satti received the Best Forward award.

CFC Challenger management congratulated the players, coaching staff

and supporters, saying such sporting events help engage youth in healthy activities and promote football in the region.