

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

Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 15 Issue: 08 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Saturday September 19 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

# 21 Martyred, Over 80 Injured in Kohat Police Lines Mosque Attack



BY: ANI Correspondent:

KOHAT -- At least 21 people, including 15 police personnel, were martyred and more than 80 others injured when an explosives-laden vehicle exploded near a mosque inside the Kohat Police Lines during Friday prayers on Friday.

According to senior police and district health officials, the blast was followed by an attack on the police compound. Security personnel launched a clearance operation in the area following the incident.

District Health Officer Dr Nasir Hassan Afridi confirmed the death toll and said more than 80 injured people were taken to hospitals for

treatment, with some reported to be in critical condition.

The powerful explosion damaged the mosque and nearby structures, while rescue teams reached the site and shifted the injured to medical facilities. Security forces cordoned off the area and continued the clearance operation following the attack. Authorities are

investigating the circumstances of the incident and the identity and affiliation of those involved.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and expressed grief over the loss of lives, while directing the authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured.

## Govt to stop anyone marching on Islamabad 'in every possible way', says Naqvi



ANI

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Friday that the government would stop anyone from marching towards the federal capital "in every possible way" and file contempt of court proceedings against those who violated a recent Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision. He was addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside other officials. The interior minister's remarks came in the wake of PTI's call for a nationwide protest, including in Islamabad, on September 27 to demand the release of party founder Imran Khan and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution. Last week, the administrations of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad started preparations to counter the PTI's announced countrywide protest, including a request for detention of activists, arranging containers, seeking additional personnel and procuring anti-riot gear.

At the outset of his press conference on Friday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said a detailed meeting had been held to discuss the upcoming protest call and the law and order situation. Officials from all provinces and federal law enforcement agencies had also attended the meeting.

"In light of the detailed IHC judgment, there is no possibility of ravaging the federal capital or any other province," he said.

The minister said that if anyone took to the streets, the government would first pursue legal action by filing a contempt petition against them for violating the IHC order. At the same time, he said, "We will stop the marchers in every possible way." All law enforcement agencies had been informed of the decision "with all clarity", Naqvi added.

He said weapons had been used and losses suffered in protests in the past.

"This time, we are communicating very clear rules of engagement to our law enforcement agencies. They will not remain silent if a bullet is fired at them," he said.

He urged the protesting party's leadership to hold demonstrations in their respective provinces and cities. "Plans for locking down the capital or charging into another province will never be allowed," he said. "It is our responsibility to stop this protest to ensure the protection of the lives and property of the capital's residents," the interior minister said.

The interior minister drew a distinction between a political protest aimed at pursuing political interests and a violent campaign involving people armed with weapons. "There is complete clarity. The organisers of this march will be held accountable if even a single life is lost," he said. Naqvi said there were still some "sensible" voices within the opposition and hoped they would reconsider their decision.

## 10 khwarij killed, 6 Armed Forces personnel embrace martyrdom



ANI

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces have killed 10 khwarij belonging to Indian sponsored Fitna Al Khwarij in multiple engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the last three days, while six brave sons of the soil embraced martyrdom. "On reported presence of khwarij, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by Security Forces in North Waziristan District. During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location and after intense exchange of fire, six khwarij belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna-al-Khwarij were sent to hell. In another encounter that took place in Hangu

District, own troops successfully neutralized four more Khwarij," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). "On 17 September 26, an improvised explosive device exploded on a security forces convoy, resultantly, six brave sons of the soil, rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat", it further said. Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from killed Indian sponsored khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Kharji found in the area, as a relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under the vision "Azam e Istehkam" (as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country. These sacrifices of our brave soldiers further reinforce our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation at all costs," the news release said.

## PM expands petrol relief scheme to older vehicles

ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the immediate inclusion of 20-year-old motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqi rickshaws in the Prime Minister Fuel Relief Scheme, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Friday.

According to the PMO's statement on X, the prime minister had issued "special directives" to provide further relief to the public under the scheme. The statement further added that all motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqi rickshaws registered after January 1, 2006, would be eligible for registration in the Prime Minister Fuel Relief Scheme.

"Individuals operating 20-year-old motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqi will also be able to benefit from the Prime Minister Fuel Relief Scheme," the PMO said.

The Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme,



announced on September 13 and rolled out across the country at midnight on September 16 amid a continuous rise in fuel prices due to a war in the Gulf, provides a Rs100-per-litre petrol subsidy to eligible motorcycles, rickshaws, other two- and three-wheelers, and cars of up to 800cc

The prime minister directed the establishment

of facilitation desks comprising administration officials, volunteers and petrol pump staff to assist citizens in easily obtaining the subsidy. He directed that personnel deployed at the facilitation desks should guide eligible citizens and provide them with all possible assistance in registration and other necessary procedures. PM Shehbaz also asked the relevant authorities to remain proactive in creating public awareness about the scheme.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme had been designed primarily to support low-income citizens, including delivery riders, rickshaw drivers and families dependent on motorcycles and small cars. The minister said eligible motorcycle users would receive Rs100 per litre in fuel relief on up to 20 litres of petrol per month, providing maximum monthly assistance of Rs2,000.

## At UN, Pakistan demands global action to defeat 'virulent' Islamophobia

ANI

UNITED NATIONS: Highlighting Islamophobia as one of the "most virulent forms of hate speech", Pakistan called for defeating the flawed mindset which incites violence and discrimination against fellow humans.

"As a firm defender of human dignity, equality and freedom, Pakistan shall continue its engagement with the member states and UN to continue our fight against hate speech-for posterity, our cherished values and for our civilization," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told a global conference on promoting interreligious and cultural dialogue held at UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

Hate speech, he said, is an assault against shared humanity- it disrupts social fabric, militates against human dignity, and dehumanizes the entire groups.

"Digital revolution has accentuated threats posed by this menace: online platforms amplify hatred, peddle disinformation, and provoke violence against fellow humans, particularly vulnerable communities." Organized by Morocco, the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (UNOSAPG) and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the conference brought together member states, United Nations entities, international organiza-



tions, political figures, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, media, civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders. Opening the conference, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for concerted action by governments, technology companies and civil society to stamp out hate speech, emphasizing that "its toxic message is spreading fast and striking deep".

"In its worst forms, hate speech incites violence, drives conflict, and contributes to the perpetration of atrocities including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing," the UN chief said. In his remarks, Ambassador Asim Ahmad voiced concern that hate speech was continuing to run amok in the world, having proliferated into mainstream discourse, with identity weaponized, vulnerable communities marginalized, and hate crimes mainstreamed. Islamophobia was evident in attacks on Muslims' lives, identity and symbols; desecration of mosques; and curbs on religious freedoms, the Pakistani envoy said.

## Supreme Court admonishes Sindh police over delays in filing FIRs

ANI

ISLAMABAD:

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed strong displeasure over delays in the registration of first information reports (FIRs) in Sindh, cautioning police officials that they could face contempt proceedings over any future delays. A two-judge SC bench, comprising Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar and Justice Salahuddin Panhwar, upheld the life sentence of a man convicted of a 2012 murder in Sindh's Dadu district while hearing the jail petition of Ali Raza Siyal, who had challenged the Sindh High Court's Aug 24, 2023, Circuit Bench at Larkana judgment upholding his sentence. "We observe with dismay, once again, the consistent practice of delayed registration of FIRs in the province of Sindh," Justice Salahuddin Panhwar observed in a seven-page judgment, adding that despite earlier directions — and even after the Sindh inspector general had appeared before the court — the practice showed no sign of abating. In this case, the FIR was registered after a delay of more than three days. Although information had been furnished the same night.

## Pakistan's commitment to Saudi security is unconditional: ISPR DG

ANI

KARACHI: Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the spokesperson for Pakistan's armed forces, said on Thursday that Pakistan's commitment to Saudi security is unconditional. Speaking to Arab News, he said Pakistan is already there for the protection of Haramain Sharifain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "We remain not only committed but we are already there for the protection of the Haramain Sharifain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are there to protect them," the DG ISPR said. Lt Gen Chaudhry stressed that Pakistan would go to any extent



as required by the Saudi leadership and the people of Saudi Arabia because "our commitment to Saudi security is unconditional".

He explained that the commitment stems from "an emotive, a deep-

rooted historical and unbreakable bond between the people of Pakistan, between the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between the political and the military leadership of both countries. So nothing stops us. Nothing bars us". He remarked that nothing would make Pakistan hesitate from fulfilling its commitment to going. "So whatever is required, whatever is asked, we will go to any extent to do that."

When asked if Pakistan is already there physically or if it is available whenever needed, the DG ISPR said: "I think the words express themselves fully once we say that we are there."



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jameel Ahmad, and members of the Pakistani delegation, in a group photo during the J.P. Morgan Emerging and Frontier Markets Opportunities Conference in London

# Ahsan stresses chip design, human capital to drive Pakistan’s future exports

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday emphasized the need for Pakistan to develop human resources and design capabilities in chip designing and other advanced technologies to build the foundations of a modern, export-oriented economy.

Addressing an event organized by Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), the minister said that semiconductor chips were at the heart of virtually every modern device, from mobile phones and laptops to vehicles, sophisticated machinery and small equipment. “This is the capability on which the modern economy is based,” he said, stressing that Pakistan had lagged behind in the sector but could still establish its ecosystem by investing in human resources and design capabilities.

The minister said the first building block for developing any new technological ecosystem was skilled human capital capable of designing and developing advanced technologies. He welcomed the participation of around 160 trainees in the program, including approximately 46 women, saying that it was encouraging to see Pakistani women preparing to play a meaningful role in modern technological fields.



He expressed the hope that some trainees would establish small chip-design laboratories, while others would find employment with international companies and, eventually, build billion-dollar technology companies. The minister said the modern value chain was

no longer limited to acquiring knowledge or education, but required the ability to transform knowledge into technology, technology into products and products into commercially viable businesses. He observed that in the past, exports were largely associated with physical goods transported through contain-

ers, whereas the future economy would increasingly be driven by intellectual property, knowledge and knowledge-based products. The trainees to emerge from the program as technology entrepreneurs capable of converting their skills into intellectual property, commercially successful products and businesses that could contribute to Pakistan’s economic development, he added. Recalling his earlier association with the vision behind the GIKI, the minister said he had witnessed how an ambitious institutional concept could ultimately be transformed into reality. He said the institute had developed into a major engineering institution and was contributing highly trained human resources to Pakistan. Referring to Pakistan’s economic and technological history, the minister said the country had been regarded as a rising star internationally during the 1960s and 1970s, but had gradually fallen behind other nations. He stressed the importance of national self-confidence and said the way an individual or nation viewed itself could affect its sense of self-esteem and its ability to move forward. The minister also discussed the changing nature of power in the modern world, saying that influence was not confined to military strength but also involved the ability to shape how people think and perceive the world.

## PTA contacts QoS survey results

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has published Quality of Service (QoS) Survey results for the second quarter of 2026 (April-June), covering Cities, Focused and Rural Areas, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) & Gilgit Baltistan (GB). Conducted under the Cellular Mobile Network QoS Regulations 2021, the surveys evaluated all Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) against licensed KPIs for coverage, mobile broadband, voice, and SMS services. PTA field teams travelled extensively, testing approximately 27,300 voice calls and SMS with 0.19 million broadband samples in 11 major cities, 3,300 voice/SMS and 24,000 broadband samples in Focused and Rural Areas, and 4,100 voice/SMS with 3,960 broadband samples across six high altitude sites in AJ&K & GB. The rural surveys highlighted critical digital inclusion gaps, identifying unclaimed coverage areas. Persistent challenges remain due to prolonged load shedding, theft and vandalism of telecom infrastructure, fiber cuts, RoW constraints, and security limitations in remote regions. Efforts are being made to cover unserved/ underserved areas through Universal service Fund (USF) and also coordinating with Federal & provincial governments to streamline RoW approvals and uninterrupted commercial power solutions. Results highlighted strong compliance in SMS and voice KPIs nationwide, but disparities observed in mobile broadband performance.

## Ayaz condemns terrorist attack at Police Lines in Kohat

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Friday, strongly condemned the terrorist attack and blasts at the Police Lines in Kohat during Friday prayers, expressing deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives. He said that targeting police personnel and innocent civilians during Jumma prayers was a cowardly and highly condemnable act. Ayaz Sadiq expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those martyred in the blast, saying that he shared their grief and stood with them in their hour of sorrow. The Speaker prayed for the early and complete recovery of those injured in the incident, stressing that the terrorists responsible for such heinous acts must be dealt with firmly and swiftly in accordance with the law. Ayaz Sadiq said that terrorists targeting innocent citizens in pursuit of their nefarious objectives, shall never succeed in their designs. He said that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and law-enforcement agencies in their fight against terrorism and remains committed to supporting their efforts to protect the lives and security of the people. Ayaz Sadiq prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs and for patience and fortitude for the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

# Zamurd Khan lauds Alkhidmat Razi Hospital’s affordable healthcare services

ANI

**RAWALPINDI:** Pakistan Sweet Home Chairman Zamurd Khan visited Alkhidmat Razi Hospital Rawalpindi and praised Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan for providing quality healthcare services to deserving people at affordable rates.

He was accompanied by Al-Jabbar Foundation Chairman and All Parties Hurriyat Conference Jammu and Kashmir Executive Member Altaf Ahmed Bhat, said a press release here. Alkhidmat Razi Hospital Management Board Chairman Engineer Abu Umair Zahid, Vice Chairman Syed Arshad Farooq and other board members welcomed the guests.

Zahid briefed them on the hospital’s welfare-based healthcare model. He said thousands of patients were being provided mod-



ern medical facilities at highly subsidised rates, while deserving patients received free treatment with the support of philanthropists. He said the hospital’s services were being provided with the sole aim of serving humanity and seeking the pleasure of Allah Almighty.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat appreciated the hospital’s commitment to serving people without discrimination. He said the hospital had remained true to its vision of ensuring that no person was denied medical treatment due to a lack of financial resources.

Zamurd Khan expressed satisfaction over the quality of facilities being provided to patients and appreciated the tireless efforts of the hospital management. He paid tribute to the administration for its selfless service to humanity and assured it of his full support in advancing the hospital’s welfare mission.

## NDMA sets urban flood resilience plan by 2027



ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Friday here convened a seminar to address recurring urban flooding and identify structural and institutional measures to strengthen the resilience of Pakistan’s cities before June 2027, bringing together government departments, development authorities, urban planners, water management experts and other stakeholders at the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC).

The seminar, titled “Urban Flood Resilience Measures – Vision 2027: Beyond the Rains and Floods,” examined the urban flooding experienced during 2025-26, focusing on flood prone areas, vulnerable infrastructure, drainage capacity and gaps in stormwater management and institutional coordination. Participants stressed that urban flooding could not be tackled through rainfall management alone and called for a broader approach covering drainage capacity, urban development,

infrastructure maintenance, stormwater management and coordinated emergency preparedness. The discussions reviewed the condition and capacity of existing drainage networks, stormwater runoff, retention and pumping arrangements, deterioration of drainage infrastructure and the need to restore natural drainage corridors. The participants also identified priority interventions to be completed before June 2027, including improved drainage maintenance and preparedness, enhanced stormwater management and drainage capacity, protection of natural waterways and integration of flood resilience measures into urban planning and development. The seminar brought together representatives of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Lahore Development Authority (LDA) and other development authorities and partner organisations to identify institutional responsibilities and areas requiring coordinated action.

## PM expresses confidence as forex reserves reach historic high of \$21.4 billion

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed satisfaction over the State Bank of Pakistan’s (SBP) foreign exchange reserves reaching a historic high of \$21.4 billion, terming it another milestone towards economic stability.

In a statement issued by the PM’s Office, the prime minister expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah and said the increase in reserves reflected the sustained efforts of the economic team and the government’s measures in the right direction.

He said significant improvement in remittances and services exports, a better current account position and fiscal discipline had played an important role in strengthening the country’s foreign exchange reserves. The prime minister said Pakistan’s successful return to international capital markets was also a manifestation of restored global confidence in the country’s economy. He said the increase in foreign exchange reserves would strengthen the country’s capacity to meet external payment obligations and enhance its ability to withstand global economic challenges.

## RDA Continues Crackdown on Illegal Housing Schemes

Report: ANI Correspondent:

**RAWALPINDI --** The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) continued its crackdown on illegal housing schemes, unauthorized construction and unlawful development in areas under its jurisdiction.

On the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division and DG RDA Salman Ghani, enforcement teams conducted operations at three locations: Downtown opposite Askari-14 on Defence Road, a land subdivision near Dhok Nawaz Graveyard, and an illegal housing scheme near Riaz Chowk in Morgah.

During the operations, illegally constructed roads and infrastructure, manholes, sewerage pipelines and unauthorized barriers were



demolished on the spot under relevant laws and regulations.

The RDA said regular inspections and enforcement actions would continue against illegal development, unauthorized construction and commercial activities to ensure compli-

ance with approved plans and zoning regulations.

The operation was supervised by Deputy Director Planning Muhammad Dawood, with other planning officers and field staff participating.

## CDA recovers over 2,490 kanals in Anti-Encroachment Drive

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has intensified its across-the-board campaign to make Islamabad encroachment-free, resulting in the recovery of over 2,490 kanals of valuable state land worth billions of rupees.

The campaign reflects CDA’s commitment to protect public property, enforce planning and building regulations, prevent illegal commercialization of state land and ensure development as per approved master plan. Among the major achievements is the recovery of more than 1,400 kanals, including the former Muslim Colony, after completion of prescribed legal procedures. A site office was also established to examine legitimate claims of local residents. In another major phase, CDA recovered over 712 kanals from illegal occupants after serving notices and completing legal formalities.



The Enforcement Directorate also retrieved 320 kanals in Saidpur and adjoining areas of the National Park with the help of satellite-based geo-mapping and digital maps. The recovered land is being planned for environmental restoration and plantation. Earlier, more than 800 kanals were recovered along with action against

illegal constructions on GT Road, Tarnol, Islamabad Expressway and Srinagar Highway. These operations collectively represent over 2,490 kanals of recovered land. Historic progress has been made in Sector E-12, where approximately 290 kanals have been recovered. The operation is significant as portions of acquired land were being used for unauthorized commercial renting and private monetization.

In E-12/2 alone, about 16 kanals were retrieved which were being used for private security guards, a holiday home and 14 shops being commercially rented out. After verification of record and completion of legal process, possession was restored and development work resumed.

Residents and allottees of E-12 have welcomed the action, expressing hope that it will accelerate provision of roads, infrastructure and civic facilities.

## Kashmiris’ Struggle Has Kept Kashmir Issue Alive, Iftikhar Gillani

Report: Naseem Hassan ANI

**ISLAMABAD--** Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gillani has said that the courage, resilience and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people have kept the Kashmir issue alive at the national and international levels.

He made the remarks while speaking at the book launch ceremony of senior journalist Shehzad Ahmed Rathore at the National Press Club Islamabad.

Congratulating the author, the prime minister termed the book a valuable contribution to presenting the Kashmir dispute in its historical context. He said a case based on research, facts and credible evidence was the most effective way to advance the Kashmir cause.

Gillani said the book covered different dimensions of the Kashmir issue and developments from 1947 to the present, adding that research and reason were the best means of



presenting one’s position.

He said Kashmiris living on the other side of the Line of Control continued to demonstrate a strong desire and resolve for freedom, which had kept the issue alive at national and international forums.

The prime minister also welcomed differences of opinion, describing

them as a hallmark of a positive and mature society.

Former prime ministers Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, Dr Nazir Gillani, former secretary Akram Sohail, former attorney general Raja Niaz Rathore and others attended and addressed the ceremony.

## DIG visits CTD headquarters and CIA, reviews operations against criminals

ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem visited the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Headquarters and Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), reviewing their performance, professional matters and ongoing operations against criminal elements in the federal capital. An official told APP on Friday that during the visit to CTD Headquarters, SSP CTD Saud Khan gave the DIG Ali a detailed briefing on the department’s working, professional matters and various operational measures. Ali directed CTD officers to further improve operations through an effective strategy and

perform their professional responsibilities with dedication and efficiency. During his visit to the CIA, the DIG Ali inspected the record room, lock-up and other sections. He also held an introductory meeting with CIA In-charge DSP Suleman Shah, the in-charge of the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Unit (AVLU) and investigation officers. The meeting reviewed the CIA’s overall performance, investigation work and ongoing operations against criminal elements. The DIG Ali directed officers to launch effective and result-oriented action against active gangs involved in car and motorcycle theft and street robberies. He also ordered the preparation of lists of proclaimed offenders with previous criminal records and directed officers to ensure their arrest.

Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq  
Executive Editor: Naseem Hassan Awan, Joint Editor: Hurish Shah

Disclaimer: All articles, columns, and opinions published in Financial Times are solely the views of their respective authors. The publication does not necessarily endorse or agree with the opinions, views, or positions expressed therein.

Daily

FINANCIALTIMES

# Guardians of a Sacred Brotherhood: How the Pakistan Army’s Unmatched Professionalism, Strategic Readiness and Decisive Resolve Stand Against Houthi Aggression and Safeguard the Security of Saudi Arabia



By Dr. Abdul Ghani :  
Published by ANI :  
E. Mail: Ghanillm@yahoo.com

The relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is not an ordinary diplomatic arrangement shaped by temporary interests. It is a historic partnership founded upon faith, mutual trust, strategic cooperation and deep public affection. Whenever Saudi Arabia’s sovereignty or the sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques is threatened, the people of Pakistan naturally express concern. At such sensitive moments, however, national responsibility requires that emotion be guided by facts, law and strategic wisdom.

The Houthis, officially known as Ansar Allah, emerged as a political and armed movement in northern Yemen. They captured the capital, Sana’a, in 2014 and displaced the internationally recognised government. Their rise transformed Yemen’s political crisis into a devastating civil war that has caused enormous human suffering and drawn regional powers into a prolonged confrontation.

Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen in 2015 at the request of the internationally recognised Yemeni government. The Houthis subsequently began treating Saudi territory as part of their military theatre. Missile and drone attacks against Saudi cities, airports and energy installations have endangered civilians and undermined regional stability. Regardless of political grievances, attacks that place civilian lives, religious sites or essential infrastructure at risk cannot be justified.

The Houthi threat is not confined to Saudi Arabia. Their growing missile and drone capabilities, combined with their position near the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, have wider consequences. This strategic maritime passage connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and serves as a vital artery of international commerce. Any disruption there can affect global shipping, energy prices and supply chains. Houthi aggression must therefore be viewed not merely as an internal Yemeni issue but as a

serious challenge to regional peace and international economic security.

In this delicate environment, the professionalism of the Pakistan Army assumes particular importance. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have maintained defence cooperation for decades. Pakistani military personnel have contributed to the training and professional development of Saudi forces, while the armed forces of both countries regularly conduct joint exercises and share expertise in counterterrorism, defence planning and operational preparedness.

This cooperation was further strengthened by the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, signed in September 2025 and sometimes described in public discourse as the “Makkah Defence Accord.” The agreement declared that aggression against either country would be considered aggression against both. It reflected the depth of the relationship and sent a clear message that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would not stand isolated when confronted by external aggression.

The Houthis must not mistake Pakistan’s preference for peace as a sign of weakness. The Pakistan Army has repeatedly demonstrated, including during confrontations with India, that it possesses the discipline, operational readiness and professional capability to deliver a swift, proportionate and decisive response whenever sovereignty or vital security interests are threatened. Houthi leaders should therefore carefully consider the consequences before undertaking any aggression against Saudi Arabia. Pakistan seeks neither escalation nor war; nevertheless, its history establishes one unmistakable principle: it exercises restraint for the sake of peace, but when compelled to defend itself or fulfil a lawful defence commitment, its armed forces possess both the resolve and capacity to respond effectively.

This warning must not be interpreted as reckless enthusiasm for war. A professional military does not act through slogans, anger or speculation. It operates under constitutional authority, clearly defined national policy and lawful governmental decisions. No claim should be made about Pakistani forces entering the Yemeni conflict unless

officially confirmed. Pakistan’s defence commitment should remain focused on deterrence, preparedness, training, intelligence cooperation and the protection of Saudi sovereignty.

The Pakistan Army commands international respect not only because of its combat capability but also because of its discipline and experience. From counterterrorism operations within Pakistan to participation in United Nations peace-keeping missions, it has demonstrated an ability to operate in exceptionally difficult environments. Its professional strength lies in combining readiness with restraint, and courage with strategic judgement.

Protecting Saudi Arabia does not mean supporting an endless war in Yemen. Pakistan must continue advocating an inclusive political settlement that respects Yemen’s sovereignty, restores peace and alleviates the suffering of its people. Islamabad also maintains important relations with Iran and should use its diplomatic position to encourage de-escalation. Dialogue remains the preferred course, but meaningful dialogue cannot flourish under the shadow of missiles and drones.

The Muslim world needs responsible leadership, regional cooperation and firm opposition to attacks on civilians. The Houthis must recognise that military pressure can provide Yemen with neither permanent peace nor legitimate governance. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, possesses the inherent right to protect its citizens, territory and critical infrastructure.

Pakistan’s message should consequently be balanced but unmistakable: it seeks peace in Yemen, values constructive relations with regional states and opposes unnecessary escalation. At the same time, its historic friendship with Saudi Arabia and its commitment to the Kingdom’s security cannot be disregarded.

The Pakistan Army stands as a disciplined guardian of this sacred brotherhood, not through reckless rhetoric, but through preparedness, professionalism and resolve. Its objective is not to expand war but to deter aggression, protect peace and demonstrate that loyalty, restraint and strength remain Pakistan’s most credible contributions to collective security.

## The Plane, Rs 27.5 Million and the People’s Questions



Written by Rana Farooq Ashraf :  
Published by ANI

In politics, sometimes a single explanation raises more questions than it answers. The controversy surrounding Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz’s recent use of the provincial government’s aircraft for a London trip has now reached precisely that point.

Maryam Nawaz has said that the aircraft does not belong to her personally but to the office of the Chief Minister of Punjab. She has also stated that she personally paid approximately Rs27.5 million for the London trip, undertaken to attend her daughter’s graduation ceremony, and indicated that the payment receipt would be made available.

The central issue, therefore, is not simply where a chief minister travelled. The real issue is public office, public resources and financial transparency.

If the entire cost of the trip was genuinely paid from the chief minister’s personal funds, then the matter should be capable of being settled through documentation. The public deserves to know the complete amount paid, the recipient of the payment, the invoice, the method of payment, the applicable government rules governing the use of the aircraft and whether any cost—fuel, parking, security, crew, maintenance or other operational expenses—was ultimately borne by the public exchequer.

There is another legitimate question that naturally follows the claim of personal payment. If Rs27.5 million was paid personally, what was the documented source of that money?

There is nothing inherently improper about a public office-holder spending personal wealth. But when a senior elected official makes a personal expenditure of this magnitude, questions about declared income, assets and the financial source of the payment are matters of legitimate public interest. The appropriate test is not political rhetoric but documentary consistency between declared income, assets and major expenditures.

This does not mean that an allegation should automatically be treated as proof of wrongdoing. It means that transparency should be sufficient to answer the question.

The controversy has already generated competing claims. An opposi-



tion member of the Punjab Assembly sought clarification over allegations that approximately Rs12.5 million had been spent from the public exchequer on fuel, parking and other expenses connected with the London journey. The government, however, has maintained that Maryam Nawaz herself bore the expenses.

That difference makes one thing particularly important: the release of verifiable records.

Questions about the aircraft itself also deserve clear answers. Under what legal and administrative procedure was the aircraft acquired? What was the approval mechanism? What procurement rules were followed? Was competitive tendering conducted where required? Who recommended the aircraft and on what technical grounds? What is its annual operating and maintenance cost? Under what rules can it be used for a journey connected with a family event?

These are not questions that should be dismissed merely because they are politically inconvenient.

A chief minister is undoubtedly required to remain connected with government affairs. Maryam Nawaz has argued that a chief minister or prime minister is never truly “off duty” and that she continued to work during the journey. But that argument does not, by itself, settle the separate question of whether the use of a state aircraft for a particular journey complied with the applicable rules.

There is also a broader principle involved. Pakistan is a country where government expenditure is ultimately supported by taxpayers. At a time when the federal government

has itself been reintroducing austerity measures, questions about the privileges and expenses of public office-holders naturally attract public attention.

The answer to such questions should not be anger, ridicule or political counterattack. It should be transparency.

If Maryam Nawaz paid the entire amount personally, the receipt and payment trail can establish that fact. If public money was spent on any part of the journey, the relevant expenditure should be disclosed along with the legal authority under which it was incurred. If the payment came from personal income or assets, the relevant financial declarations should provide a basis for understanding it.

Democracy does not weaken when citizens ask questions. It becomes stronger when public officials answer them with records.

The principle should therefore remain the same regardless of political party or personality: public office demands public accountability. The people should not have to rely on competing political narratives when official documents can settle the matter. The question is not whether Maryam Nawaz is entitled to travel. The question is whether every rupee connected with the use of public resources can withstand public scrutiny.

If the answer is yes, then transparency is the simplest defence.

And if the money was genuinely personal, the documentary evidence should make that fact clear.

That is not hostility towards a government. It is the ordinary price of holding public office in a democracy.

# Opinion3

## Another flawed Mental Health Policy Framework in the making



Written By: Ms Sanaa Khetran :  
Development Professional Polaris Response & Resilience Foundation Sanaashpk7@gmail.com  
Published By:ANI News Agency

National Consultation on Mental Health Policy Framework for MH policy 2026-2035 was held at Ramada Hotel from 1st-2nd of September, 2026. It was arranged in assistance with GIHD, Shifa Tameer-e Millat, UNICEF and WHO by Ministry of Health, Pakistan. The basis of the consultation is conferences held abroad and findings incorporated in the inception report. They defined policy areas and that were descriptive in nature for an electronic survey for which groups were formed. Not align with the strategy, the feasi-

bility report based upon surveys conducted through NGOs in communities, teaching hospitals working on mental health, educational institutes would have been a better option.

If we say that it was a platform for discussion to get feedback for the development of mental health policy, it is wrong as speakers were invited to inaugurate the session and though some questions were asked but there was no coherence between the policy points displayed in presentation mode, moderator’s description and electronic survey. The groups were divided depicting provinces but as no one knew what was happening in real, many sat as per convenience and electronic survey could not tally provincial feedback.

The question arises that while making policies, why we don’t consider feedback from urban and rural communities for which by and large the policy is being developed. That’s why we have seen lack in policy development and implementation.

There is no single policy drafted that has inclusive growth model. Mental health issues have seen increased in Pakistan due to many factors that could be unemployment, inflation, lack of bonding and understanding in relationships, and now many other like children using mobile phones, games AI and cyber insecurity.

Addressing issues is prevention and building resilient approach through cognitive behavioral therapy starting from early childhood can bring down the accelerating trend in suicide. All stakeholders should be listed and invited for open dialogue. NGOs can collect data through survey from communities. Focus group sessions are to be held. This session went wrong and needs to be held again not to waste more time and budget as the policy drafted on these lines as happened in Islamabad will only rest in cover and there will be a huge gap remained in policy development and implementation.

## Wani: A Social Stigma That Pakistan Must End



Written By: Mahmood Khan  
Published By:ANI News Agency

Wani is one of the most painful manifestations of gender-based injustice in Pakistan. It is a customary practice in which a girl or young woman is given in marriage to another family as part of a settlement of a dispute, often involving murder, honour, or a long-running tribal conflict. The girl herself is rarely responsible for the dispute, yet she is treated as a bargaining instrument for restoring peace between families.

The tragedy of wani is not simply that it violates a woman’s freedom; it exposes a deeper social problem in which traditions, tribal pressure, poverty, patriarchy and weak enforcement of law can combine to deny vulnerable people their fundamental rights.

At the heart of wani is the idea that a woman can be used to compensate for the actions of others. A family may be pressured to hand over a daughter to the family of an aggrieved party. In some cases, the girl is very young and has no meaningful opportunity to consent.

This transforms marriage from a relationship based on dignity, choice and mutual respect into an instrument of punishment and reconciliation. The girl effectively pays a price for a crime or conflict in which she had no involvement.

Such practices also perpetuate the notion that women are the property or responsibility of men and families rather than autonomous citizens with rights of their own.

The Human Cost  
The consequences can be devastating. A woman forced into such a marriage may enter a household where she is regarded not as a wife but as compensation for a wrong committed by someone else. She may face emotional abuse, social isolation, domestic violence and life-

long insecurity.

Children born from such marriages can also experience the consequences of family hostility and stigma. Instead of ending a cycle of conflict, wani can transfer that conflict into a new generation.

The psychological impact is particularly serious. A young woman who is separated from her family and forced to live among people connected with an old dispute may experience fear, humiliation and a profound loss of identity.

Tradition Cannot Justify Injustice  
Supporters of customary dispute resolution sometimes argue that practices such as wani help prevent bloodshed and restore peace. Resolving disputes peacefully is certainly desirable. But peace achieved through the forced sacrifice of an innocent person cannot be regarded as genuine justice.

Culture and tradition deserve respect when they promote human dignity, social harmony and moral values. But no tradition should be immune from criticism when it violates fundamental rights.

Pakistan’s Constitution guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Forced marriage and practices that deprive women of their free consent are also incompatible with Pakistan’s legal and human-rights framework.

The challenge, therefore, is not to attack culture itself but to distinguish between positive cultural traditions and customs that perpetuate injustice.

Why Does Wani Survive?

Wani does not survive because there is a single cause. Several factors contribute to its persistence. In some rural areas, tribal and family structures remain extremely influential. People may fear social exclusion if they challenge influential elders. Poverty and lack of education can further restrict women’s choices.

Another major problem is the gap between law and implementation. Pakistan has legislation intended to protect women, but laws are meaningful only when police, courts and

local authorities enforce them effectively.

Women who resist forced marriages may also lack financial independence, legal knowledge or family support. Consequently, the formal protection provided by law may not always reach those who need it most.

Ending wani requires more than legislation. Pakistan needs a comprehensive social response.

First, the law must be enforced without compromise. No jirga, panchayat or informal gathering should be permitted to override the marriage of a woman as compensation for a dispute.

Second, education is essential. Girls and boys must learn about equality, consent, constitutional rights and the dignity of every human being.

Third, women need accessible legal and social support. Victims of forced marriage should have safe shelters, legal assistance and protection from retaliation.

Fourth, religious scholars, tribal elders, teachers, journalists and community leaders should openly reject practices that have no legitimate moral or religious justification.

Finally, the media has an important responsibility. Instead of treating wani as an exotic rural custom, journalism should expose its human consequences and give victims a voice.

Wani is not merely a dispute-resolution custom; it is a profound violation of human dignity. A society cannot claim to uphold justice while punishing innocent women for crimes committed by others.

Pakistan’s progress should be measured not only by economic growth, technology or infrastructure, but also by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens.

No daughter should ever be offered as compensation for a crime she did not commit. No woman should become the price of someone else’s conflict. Ending wani is therefore not simply a women’s-rights issue—it is a test of Pakistan’s commitment to justice, equality and humanity.

## Gaza famine a death sentence delivered by global inaction

HANI HAZAIMEH

Famine in Gaza is no longer a speculative threat, nor is it merely a rhetorical tool to shame the international community into action. It is now a brutal, undeniable fact. The situation has evolved from a humanitarian crisis into a full-blown catastrophe and the numbers speak for themselves. According to the UN, 96 percent of Gaza’s population faces acute food insecurity. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warns that at least 500,000 people are living under “catastrophic” conditions — one step before mass starvation.

These are not projections. They are the present realities. Gaza, already strangled by an 18-year blockade, is now walking barefoot into famine under the shadow of total siege and relentless bombardment. The current Israeli assault, which began in October 2023, has not only flattened entire neighborhoods and displaced more than 1.7 million people, it has also systematically targeted the infrastructure that makes survival possible: bakeries, food distribution centers, water facilities and even the UNRWA aid warehouses that once formed the backbone of humanitarian relief.

Hospitals are collapsing. Children are dying — not only from bombs, but from hunger. Videos and photographs released by health workers in Khan Younis and northern Gaza show toddlers with protruding ribs, skeletal arms and lifeless eyes. Mothers have been filmed weeping as they try to feed their children with boiled grass and stale bread mixed with animal feed. These are not isolated cases — they are the norm in a place where malnutrition is spreading faster than any ceasefire can catch

up. In previous conflicts, Gaza’s suffering was often buried under the weight of geopolitical calculations and narratives of moral equivalence. This time, the truth has become too grotesque to ignore. The UN has repeatedly stated that Gaza is on the brink of famine. In June, the World Food Programme declared that 100 percent of Gaza’s population is “food insecure” — a statistic unprecedented in modern times. In March, famine was declared in northern Gaza by multiple humanitarian agencies, citing more than 30 children dying of starvation in just two hospitals. The rest of the deaths go undocumented, with bodies buried under rubble or in makeshift graves. To continue treating Gaza’s starvation as a “pressure tactic” used by Palestinian officials or international nongovernmental organizations is to participate in a lie that masks a genocide in progress. What we are witnessing is not a food crisis born of natural disaster or logistical failure. It is manufactured. It is the deliberate denial of food, water and medicine as a weapon of war — what international law classifies as collective punishment and, in some interpretations, genocide.

Let us call it what it is: engineered starvation. And it is working.

The scenes unfolding in Gaza are reminiscent of the worst famines in modern history: Ethiopia in the 1980s, Sudan’s Darfur and the besieged cities of Syria. But there is one critical difference: never has the international community had such real-time access to the suffering — drone footage, eyewitness testimonies, satellite images — and still failed to meaningfully intervene. We cannot say we did not know. We know everything and yet we are doing nothing. Or worse — we are enabling.

The Biden administration continued to send military aid to Israel, including bombs and surveillance technologies, despite multiple reports from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and even former UN officials calling for arms embargoes. European leaders offer lukewarm appeals for “humanitarian pauses” while failing to impose any meaningful consequences.

This is no longer about political alliances, strategic partnerships or counterterrorism narratives. Standing with Gaza is no longer a political choice or a symbolic gesture — it is an existential test of our humanity. In the face of children starving to death on live television, neutrality becomes complicity. Silence becomes endorsement.

What is more, supporting Gaza today is not a matter of political affiliation or ideological alignment. It is not reserved for Muslims, Arabs or left-leaning activists. It is a universal moral imperative. Every human being who still believes in dignity, in life, in the right of a child to eat and sleep safely, has a role to play. This is not about Hamas. This is about humanity. The flood has reached its limit. The time for cautious statements and deferred action is over. The international system, including the UN Security Council and major humanitarian agencies, is facing a crisis of legitimacy. If these bodies cannot prevent the slow death of an entire population by hunger, what are they for? What is the value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights if it cannot be applied to Gaza? What purpose does international law serve if starvation tactics are used with impunity?

—Arab News

## Deputy PM Forms Three-Member Committee to Probe Document Verification System

**Report: Hurish Shah**

ISLAMABAD --The Deputy Prime Minister has taken notice of a media report concerning the apostille and document verification system and constituted a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the system of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to a notification, Secretary Petroleum Hamid Yaqub Sheikh will serve as convener, while



Secretary Law Raja Naeem Akbar and Special Secretary Finance

Qamar Sarwar Abbasi will be members of the committee. The committee will identify any misuse or irregularities in the apostille/document verification system, review the role of courier services and determine any possible involvement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. The committee will also recommend necessary reforms to improve the system and submit its findings and recommendations within two weeks.

## Minority Caucus Reviews Cemetery Issues in Islamabad, Rawalpindi



**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD-- A meeting of the Minority Caucus reviewed the availability, management and capacity of cemeteries for Christian and other minority communities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, including alleged encroachment on Christian graveyard land at the Roman Catholic Christian Cooperative Housing Society, Humak.

The Committee was informed that several Christian graveyards in

Islamabad have reached capacity, while the H-8/1 graveyard, established in 2024 over 9.58 acres, has a capacity of around 9,000 graves, with about 1,120 already utilized.

Regarding the Humak housing society, officials said 10 kanals were earmarked for a Christian graveyard. Of this, 2.5 kanals are utilized, 6.25 kanals remain vacant, while 1.25 kanals had been allotted for three plots during 2006-08. The three plots were cancelled on June 28, 2026.

An inquiry and special audit for

2012-2025 have been initiated to identify irregularities and fix responsibility. The Chairman directed the CDA and Rawalpindi authorities to constitute a committee to examine the matter and submit a comprehensive report.

The Committee decided to revisit the issue after three weeks and also directed authorities to assess cemetery facilities and address minority communities' grievances through legal and administrative mechanisms.

## Senate Committee Passes Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Amendment Bill



**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, chaired by Senator Sarmad Ali, considered key legislative and policy matters, including amendments relating to the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and access to information.

The Committee considered the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2025, moved by Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, which seeks parliamentary representation on the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Board. Despite opposition from the Ministry of Information on grounds of the restrictions under the SOEs Act, 2023, the Committee

passed the bill, with Senator Pervaiz Rashid voting against it.

Chairman Sarmad Ali observed that the relevant legal framework may require reconsideration and recommended an amendment to the SOEs Act, 2023.

The Committee also considered the Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2021, and recommended that it not be passed.

Discussing the media sector, Senator Sarmad Ali stressed the need for financial support through state advertising to strengthen mainstream media and combat fake news. He also questioned the continued relevance of the National Press Trust following privatization of its newspapers and sought details of its proper-

ties and funds.

The Committee directed that advertisements to media organizations not registered with EOBI should be stopped and decided to seek a detailed briefing from EOBI. It was also informed that health insurance for journalists and media workers has been revived, while life insurance is under consideration.

The Committee decided to visit Karachi to inspect buildings of the National Press Trust, PTV and Radio Pakistan. It also directed that the exhibition of the film Buleha remain on hold until its name is changed and the disputed dialogue drawing an analogy between Baba Bulleh Shah and the film's lead character is removed.

## Babar Awan Calls September 27 Protest a Fight for 'Haqeeqi Azadi'

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD -- PTI Kisan Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich briefed former federal law minister and PTI leader Dr. Babar Awan on preparations for the nationwide protest scheduled for September 27.

Sadhraich said the protest would see participation from across Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, along with rallies by overseas Pakistanis.

He attributed public grievances to inflation, unemployment, perceived injustice and restrictions on constitutional rights, and said farmers were facing financial difficulties due to rising agricultural input costs and fuel prices.

Sadhraich also alleged that containers were being placed in



Islamabad and Rawalpindi ahead of the protest, restricting citizens' right to peaceful protest and expression.

Dr. Babar Awan described the September 27 protest as a struggle for "Haqeeqi Azadi" and called for

nationwide participation to demand the release of Imran Khan and raise public grievances. He also appreciated the PTI Kisan Wing for highlighting farmers' issues.

## FGEHA Board Reviews Housing Projects and Auction

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD -- The 52nd meeting of the Executive Board of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) was held at the Ministry of Housing and Works, chaired by Federal Minister Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

The meeting reviewed ongoing housing projects, recent developments, the Authority's successful auction and future plans. The Federal Minister appreciated FGEHA's efforts and said the auction reflected investors' confidence in the Authority.

The Minister directed that work on FGEHA projects, including Sector F-14/F-15 and Margalla Orchard, be expedited. He also directed authorities to speed up the process of handing over possession to existing allottees after completion of requisite develop-



ment works.

The meeting was informed that new housing schemes were also being considered for allottees on the waiting list. The

Minister emphasized coordinated efforts for timely completion of ongoing projects and provision of housing facilities to allottees.

## Naqvi Warns Against Violation of IHC Order on Islamabad Protests

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD -- Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, along with Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, said the government would ensure full implementation of the Islamabad High Court's detailed judgment regarding protests and marches towards the federal capital.

Naqvi said clear instructions had been issued to all law-enforcement and security institutions, warning that those violating the court's order would face legal action, including contempt proceedings.



He said peaceful protest was a democratic right, but blocking roads, highways or disrupting citizens' movement would not be allowed.

Political activities, he added, must be conducted while maintaining law and order.

The minister urged opposition leaders to reconsider the protest plan, saying confrontation would cause losses for the country, provinces and people. He said the government was ready to resolve political issues through dialogue and was willing to discuss all matters in Parliament.

Naqvi also said that in case of any untoward incident, those responsible for organising the protest would be held accountable.

## NA Speaker Condemns Terrorist Attack at Police Lines in Kohat

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the terrorist attack and blasts at Police Lines in Kohat during Friday prayers, expressing grief over the loss of precious lives.

He termed the targeting of police personnel and civilians during Jumma prayers a cowardly and highly condemnable act and



expressed condolences to the families of those martyred.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq prayed for the early recovery of the injured and called for firm and swift action against those responsible in accordance with the law.

He said terrorists targeting innocent citizens would never succeed in their objectives, adding that the nation stands united with security forces and law-enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.

## Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Calls on Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani

**Report: Hurish shah**

ISLAMABAD -- Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry called on Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani at his residence and discussed parliamentary affairs, the legislative process and coordination between the Senate and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation to enhance the effective role of parliamentary institutions and reinforce the democratic process.

Yousaf Raza Gilani stressed that effective coordination between Parliament and the government is essential for facilitat-



ing legislation and ensuring timely progress on matters of public importance.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry assured the

Chairman Senate of the Ministry's full cooperation and support for the smooth conduct of legislative and parliamentary business.

## Fuel Subsidy Scheme Revised After Public Feedback

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

ISLAMABAD-- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the National Steering Committee on Fuel Subsidy to review the implementation of the Prime Minister's Special Relief Scheme.

Following public feedback, the Prime Minister approved two changes for motorcycles, three-wheelers and rickshaws. The minimum five-litre purchase requirement has been removed, allowing beneficiaries to use the weekly Rs. 500 fuel token for any quantity. The eligibility age limit has also been increased from 15 to 20 years.

For four-wheelers up to 800cc, the existing arrangement of one 10-litre token every 10 days will remain



unchanged. The full Rs. 500 token value will be passed to consumers, with fuel stations barred from making deductions or service charges.

Ishaq Dar directed the State Bank of Pakistan to provide payment-status reports twice daily and ensure

rejected transactions are promptly identified and rectified. He also ordered alternative arrangements for fuel stations in areas with limited or no internet connectivity, including AJK, GB, KP and remote rural areas.

## Uzbekistan Condemns Attempted Attack on Holy City of Mecca

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

TASHKENT --The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan has strongly condemned the attempted attack involving an unmanned aerial vehicle targeting the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Uzbekistan expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia and said any actions threatening holy sites, civilians or civilian infrastructure are



unacceptable.

The ministry called on all sides to exercise maximum restraint, comply with international law, and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states.

It also reaffirmed support for efforts to reduce tensions, prevent further escalation and promote peace, security and stability in the region.

## Rotary Club Karachi Nexus Holds Focus Meeting on Literacy Month

**Report: ANI Correspondent:**

KARACHI -- Rotary Club Karachi Nexus organized a focus meeting to mark Literacy Month, attended by Rotarians, district officials and representatives from various sectors, including UNDP, UN agencies, NADRA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Chief Guest Faiz Kidwai, Chairman Rotary Pakistan UTC, said that improving the quality of education requires fixing the structure of government schools. He stressed the need for long-term education planning and developing children into responsible citizens.

District Governor Rotary International District 3271 Pakistan Shahzad Sabir appreciated the club's Out-of-School Children Project and assured district-level support. He said he had promoted the initiative at various forums and supported making it a district-endorsed pro-



ject.

General Secretary Muhammad Ali Haider briefed participants on the project aimed at ensuring that no school-age child remains out of school in two Union Councils.

Rotary Club Karachi Nexus President Malik Tahir Iqbal Arain highlighted the club's initiatives in

the education sector and announced plans to develop a disability agenda. The meeting also featured discussions on literacy, non-formal education and collaboration with partner organizations.

New members were also presented membership certificates during the event.