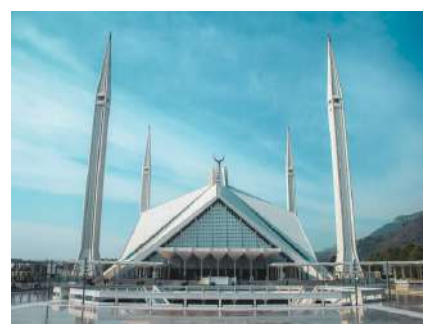


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# Rangers deployed in Islamabad, Punjab districts ahead of PTI's Sept 27 march



ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** The federal government has approved the deployment of Rangers in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and several districts of Punjab ahead of the PTI's planned march on the federal capital on Sept 27.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, the deployment has been authorised from Sept 20 to Oct 5. "Pursuant to the request made by the chief commissioner, Islamabad Capital Territory ... and Home Department, government of Punjab ..., the federal government is pleased to authorise deployment of sufficient strength of troops of Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) in ICT and different districts of Punjab province," the notification reads. The deployment has been authorised under Sections 7(b) and 10 of the Pakistan Rangers Ordinance, 1959, and Sections 4 and 5 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, to perform functions specified under the laws, as authorised by the Islamabad chief commissioner or the provincial government.

"The deployed troops may respond appropriately in self-defence to any threats or violent activities encountered in the course of their duties as per rules/regulations in vogue," the notification states. The interior ministry separately directed that in case of attacks by disruptive and armed groups, Rangers and police would take all appropriate and necessary counter-action in self-defence and take measures to deal with any violent activity.

The Punjab government on Wednesday requested the federal government to deploy Rangers in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali districts from Sept 22 to Oct 5 to assist the provincial police in maintaining law and order.

The PTI has called for a nationwide protest on Sept 27 to demand Imran's release from jail and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution.

Authorities have stepped up security measures in the capital and Punjab to maintain law and order ahead of the opposition's planned march.

Punjab has already imposed a ban on gatherings across the province for 13 days and prohibited inciting people to "unlawful assembly". A similar ban under Section 144 has been enforced in Islamabad as well for two months.

Gatherings in the federal capital are also banned under the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024, which had been rushed through the National Assembly amidst the opposition's outcry ahead of a PTI gathering.

# Pakistan carries out strikes on 10 Afghan locations after drone attacks: Tarar

ANI

Pakistan carried out "precision" aerial and drone strikes against 10 locations in Afghanistan after drones launched from Afghan territory entered Pakistani airspace, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said in the early hours of Thursday, describing the strikes as a response to a "deliberate and unlawful incursion". "In exercise of its sovereign right to self-defence, Pakistan conducted precision aerial and drone strikes against 10 locations in Afghanistan used for launching and storing these drones. The strikes were deliberate, precise, calibrated and proportionate and strictly limited to identified military objectives directly linked to the attempted attacks against Pakistan," said Tarar in a post on X. The strikes were in response to drone attacks from Afghanistan. A day earlier, Pakistan's air defence systems had shot down eight drones after they entered the country's airspace from Afghanistan. Security sources said four of the drones were brought down in areas adjoining the Torkham border, while another four were shot down in mountainous areas near the border with Kohat. Tarar said the drone incursion on September 23 was a "blatant violation" of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a "grave and unacceptable act of aggression". "Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms the deliberate and unlawful incursion into Pakistan by drones on September 23, launched from Afghan territory," he said.

The minister said that Pakistan's Air Defence systems detected, tracked and neutralised all intruding platforms before they could reach any of their intended targets, comprehensively thwarting the attempted attack. The minister said Pakistan for years had repeatedly conveyed its concerns to the Afghan Taliban regime and its interlocutors over the continued presence of terrorist sanctuaries and support networks on Afghan soil.

"Instead of dismantling these networks and taking credible and verifiable action against those using Afghan territory to perpetrate terrorism against Pakistan, the Afghan Taliban regime has chosen to escalate the situation through hostile drone operations against Pakistan," he said. Tarar warned that Pakistan would



not tolerate attacks launched from Afghan territory, "whether by terrorist groups or by the Afghan Taliban regime itself."

"Any violation of Pakistan's sovereignty will be met with an immediate and decisive response," he added.

He called on the Afghan Taliban regime to immediately cease all hostile activity against Pakistan and take effective, concrete, verifiable and sustained action against terrorist entities operating from Afghan soil.

"Afghan territory must not be used to launch attacks or conduct hostile operations against Pakistan," Tarar said. He added that Pakistan did not seek escalation and remained committed to "regional peace, dialogue and constructive engagement". "This commitment must not be mistaken for weakness or an unlimited tolerance of hostile actions," he said. "Pakistan will defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the lives of its citizens with full resolve and will take all necessary measures to protect them," Tarar added. In a separate post, Tarar said, "Through precise aerial and drone strikes, as seen in the attached clip, terrorist hideouts and support infrastructure, including drone launching and storage sites across 10 locations in areas under the control of the Afghan Taliban regime, were comprehensively destroyed," Tarar said. "Pakistan will continue to defend its territorial integrity and protect the lives and property of its citizens against any externally sponsored, sheltered and abetted threat by terrorist proxies," he added.

The recent tension started between the neighbouring countries after a blast at a mosque in Kohat's Police Lines during Friday prayers, in which 23 people, including 15 police personnel, were martyred.

# Talal Warns New KP Police Law Could Weaken Command Structure



ANI

**ISLAMABAD:** Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Thursday warned that a new Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) police law could politicise the provincial force by weakening its professional command structure, saying provincial legislation could not override federal Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) rules.

The K-P Cabinet on Wednesday approved the K-P Police Act 2026. The new legislation empowered the provincial government to return the services of federal police officers, including the Inspector General, in cases of unsatisfactory performance. It also established a clear separation between police policy and operational matters, created new oversight boards, and overhauled the investigation and dispute-resolution systems.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Chaudhry said the K-P cabinet had approved the legislation, which would now go before the provincial assembly, and questioned whether a province could use its legislative powers

to alter a system governed by the Constitution and federal law. "If Balochistan wants to make its own army, can it make an army through legislation?" he asked.

Chaudhry said PSP rules had been challenged before high courts and the Supreme Court (SC) over different periods and that the resulting legal principles had become settled. "Police Service of Pakistan rules cannot be overridden by provincial legislation," he said. He said the proposed K-P legislation went beyond the existing powers of chief ministers over police postings, which were broadly similar across all four provinces. "The chief minister already has consultation powers, but those powers do not affect the command structure, morale, recruitment, training and promotions," he said.

The proposed law, he said, would instead affect appointments and postings from grade 17 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSP) upwards, including positions for which Regional Police Officers (RPO), Deputy Inspector Generals (DIG) and additional IGs currently exercised authority. "This is not only about the IG. You have taken back the entire command structure," Chaudhry said.

He said that powers over appointments, transfers and postings were being placed under political control, allowing decisions ranging from grade 17 DSP postings to appointments at IG level to become subject to the chief minister and ruling party. That, he said, could change the way officers viewed their professional responsibilities.

# PM Shehbaz meets Iranian President Pezeshkian on UNGA sidelines

ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. In a post on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the meeting had begun, adding that the two would discuss Pakistan-Iran relations and the situation in the region. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi are also present at the meeting, as well as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, the PMO said. The two leaders had previously held a meeting in Kyrgyzstan, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting in August, during which they reaffirmed the close and long-standing ties between both countries.



At the same time, PM Shehbaz had also stressed the importance of restraint and sustained diplomatic engagement to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region amid the US-Iran conflict.

Thursday's meeting with the Iranian president comes as Islamabad continues efforts to bring the United States and Iran back to the negotiating table regarding the war in the Middle East.

Pezeshkian on Wednesday struck a defiant tone speaking at the UN for the first time since Washington and Israel launched an all-out war on his country, vowing Tehran would never "bend at the knee".

He made no reference to the talks to resolve the stalled war in his steely speech.

However, the Iranian side earlier this week indicated its willingness to return to dialogue with the US to de-escalate tensions. The flexibility on the issue was indicated by the Iranian side in a meeting between Pezeshkian and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi during the latter's visit to Tehran. The latest diplomatic activity follows the collapse of the 14-point Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding brokered by Pakistan on June 17. The conflict has since continued with sporadic strikes and a US naval blockade of Iranian ports, while Iran has maintained control over traffic through the strategic waterway.

# Cop martyred, 3 injured as terrorists open fire on raiding CTD party near Peshawar

ANI

**PESHAWAR:** A cop was martyred and three others were injured on Thursday during an exchange of fire between terrorists and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on the outskirts of the provincial capital, police said. According to a senior CTD official, the department had received information about the presence of terrorists in the Garhi Sherdad area near Warsak Road, following which the authorities planned an operation against them. "The moment the CTD team reached the area, the terrorists opened fire at the raiding party," the official said. In a subsequent post about the raid, KP Police said one CTD personnel embraced martyrdom, while three were injured in exchange of fire. "In retaliatory action, one terrorist [was] killed," the statement added, highlighting that a "major terrorist plot" was foiled. The police said the operation was carried out on "credible intel" about the presence of three would-be suicide bombers.

# PML-N's Najeed Naqi takes oath as 23rd president of AJK

ANI

Dr Muhammad Najeed Naqi of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) on Thursday took the oath as the 23rd President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) at a ceremony held at the President House in Muzaffarabad. The AJK Supreme Court Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan administered the oath to the newly elected president.

AJK Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani, PML-N AJK President Shah Chulam Qadir, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam, Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Adviser to the Prime



Minister Rana Sanaullah, Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, AJK High Court Chief Justice Justice Sardar Liaqat Hussain, former prime ministers Raja Farooq Haider Khan and Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, former federal minister Khurram Dastgir Khan, members of the AJK Cabinet and Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan, Inspector General of Police, senior government officials and other prominent people attended the ceremony.

At the outset, Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan read out the notification declaring Dr Najeed Naqi as the newly elected president. The oath was then administered by the AJK Supreme Court chief justice. Following the oath-taking ceremony, a police contingent presented President Najeed Naqi with a guard of honour.

# Kohat attack: CTD traces terrorist network, arrests made

ANI

Investigators probing the Kohat Police Lines attack have made significant progress, with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and a joint investigation team tracing the terrorist network allegedly involved in the attack.

According to investigative officials, two terrorist organisations jointly planned the assault, while members of the network stayed in Kohat for several days before carrying out the attack.

Investigators said a raid was conducted at the house where the suspected terrorists had stayed before the incident.

The operation resulted in arrests, while the investigation team also recovered crucial evidence that could help establish the network's involvement and movements before the attack. Authorities have also obtained important data related to the vehicle used by the suicide bomber, along with other details relevant to the investigation.

According to investigators, two terrorist organisations jointly planned the attack on the Kohat Police Lines. The probe has focused on tracing the wider network involved in planning and facilitating the assault, including the terrorists' movements and their stay in Kohat in the days leading up to the incident.

Officials said the latest findings have provided investigators with crucial information about the planning and execution of the attack.

Similar attack planned last year  
Investigators also revealed that the terrorists had planned an attack on the Kohat Police Lines last year.

However, the planned assault could not be carried out because the terrorists were arrested before they could execute the attack, according to officials.

The latest investigation is examining the connection between the earlier plot and the recent attack as authorities continue efforts to trace the entire terrorist network.

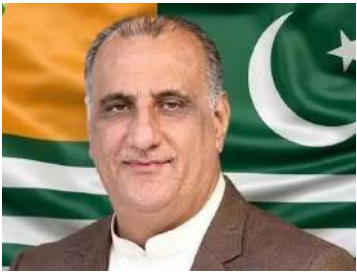


New York: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Tarique Rahman

## Dr Najeeb Naqi Elected 25th President of Azad Kashmir

BY: Naseem Hassan/ANI

MUZAFFARABAD-- Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqi has been elected the 25th President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir after securing 32 votes in the presidential election held at the AJK Legislative Assembly. Pakistan Peoples Party candidate Chaudhry Latif Akbar secured 13 votes, while one member remained



absent. Dr Najeeb Naqi received 31 votes from PML-N members and one additional vote from another assembly member. Dr Najeeb Naqi belongs to the Sudhanoti-Palendri constituency of Poonch Division. He served as AJK Health Minister from 2006 to 2011 and also held the health portfolio during the PML-N government from 2016 to 2021.

## Acting Foreign Secretary Receives European Parliament Delegation



By ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Acting Foreign Secretary Ambassador Khalil Hashmi received a delegation of Members of the European Parliament, led by MEP Mary Khan-Hohloch of Germany's AfD party. The two sides held a candid and constructive exchange on Pakistan-EU relations, including GSP+, legislative reforms and regional developments. The MEPs appreciated Pakistan's mediation role in the US-Iran conflict and expressed understanding of Pakistan's perspectives on key issues. The interaction provided an opportunity to exchange views and reaffirm the importance of continued dialogue and engagement between Pakistan and the European Union.

## Raja Sikander Khan Congratulates AJK President Sardar Najib Naqi Khan

Report: ANI Correspondent:

Islamabad/Uk --Chairman Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council Raja Sikander Khan has extended his heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Najib Naqi Khan, on assuming his new responsibilities. Raja Sikander Khan prayed that Almighty Allah bless the AJK President with strength, courage, wisdom and foresight to lead Azad Jammu and Kashmir towards prosperity, development, peace and stability. He said the people of AJK need leadership that rises above political differences and brings all stakeholders together in the larger public and national interest.



Raja Sikander Khan expressed hope that the new government would adopt an inclusive and constructive approach, particularly through meaningful dialogue with the Awami Action Committee, to address genuine public concerns and build mutual trust. He stressed that restoration of law and order, protection of citizens' rights and dignity, and preservation of peace should remain among the highest priorities. Dialogue, reconciliation and democratic engagement, he said, are essential for resolving differences and achieving lasting stability. He also prayed that Almighty Allah guide the AJK President in every decision and enable him to serve the people with integrity, justice and dedication.

## National Flag Day Ceremony Held at Iranian Consulate in Karachi

By ANI Correspondent :

KARACHI -- The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi held a flag-hoisting ceremony to mark Iran's National Flag Day, attended by Consul General Akbar Eissa Zadeh and members of the diplomatic mission. The Iranian national flag was ceremonially hoisted to the national anthem, followed by a formal pledge by diplomats and consulate staff reaffirming their commitment to national responsibilities and peaceful relations. Addressing the ceremony, Consul General Akbar Eissa Zadeh said the occasion highlighted Iran's national identity, cultural heritage and commitment to sovereignty and peace. He said the hoisting of the Iranian flag in Karachi also reflected Iran's commitment to strengthening economic, cultural and people-to-people relations with Pakistan. The Consul General highlighted the longstanding friendship between Iran and Pakistan and extended greetings to the people of both countries, expressing hope for continued peace, friendship and progress.



## Shagufta Jumani-led NA Committee Expresses Concern Over Hajj Selection Transparency, Saudi Delegation Arrangements



By ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD --The National Assembly Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, chaired by Shagufta Jumani, reviewed arrangements for parliamentary delegations to Saudi Arabia, revised criteria for selecting Moavineen for Hajj 2027-2030, and the updated Ziarat Policy. The Committee expressed concern over complaints regarding transportation, accommodation, security, reception and coordination during a recent Saudi visit. It directed the Ministry to submit a comprehensive report on arrangements and expenditure and decided to seek clarification from the concerned Director General at its next meeting. The Ministry told the Committee that 42,778 applications were received in one Moavineen category, with 500 candidates selected, while 524 candidates were selected for the medical mission from 8,607 applications. Members questioned the transparency of written and physical tests, third-party testing, result verification, treatment of experienced employees and the female quota. Shagufta Jumani stressed that the selection process should be transparent, merit-based and objectively verifiable. The Committee also reviewed the revised Ziarat Policy for pilgrims travelling to Iran, Iraq and Syria. The Ministry said 260 companies had been registered as ZGOs, while 922 others had received Interior Ministry clearance and were completing documentation. The Committee emphasized monitoring, financial transparency, service standards and protection of Zaireen. A Sub-Committee headed by MNA Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq was also constituted for further scrutiny.

## Axle load policy to be strictly enforced: Aleem Khan



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Thursday directed the authorities to ensure strict and non-discriminatory implementation of the axle load policy, saying no relaxation would be allowed in prescribed weight limits. The minister issued the directives during a meeting with a delegation of the All-Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance, led by its Central President Malik Shehzad Awan, which discussed issues faced by goods transporters, implementation of the axle load policy, improvements in the conduct of the Motorway Police and other matters related to the transport sector. The representatives of the goods transporters offered thanks to Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan for the improvements and cooperation of the Motorway Police and expressed their satisfaction and confidence in the measures being taken by the Ministry of Communications to address the problems faced by the transport community. Talking in the meeting, the Minister said that compliance with the law and prescribed weight limits was essential for protecting roads and the national highway infrastructure. The meeting also considered a proposal to authorize the Motorway Police to register FIRs in cases of violations. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further directed that industries, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other relevant departments be brought into the consultation process for the formulation of a comprehensive and coordinated policy on axle load and other transport-related matters. Abdul Aleem Khan said that Goods Transporters should have no complaints regarding the Ministry of Communications or its relevant departments. He directed the officials to resolve the issues faced by trans-

porters on a priority basis and maintain effective coordination with the provincial Governments concerned. Abdul Aleem Khan directed the Secretary Communications to convene the next consultative meeting with the goods transporters on September 30 to review progress on the issues under consideration and decide on further measures. During the meeting, representatives of the All-Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance also apprised the Federal Minister of the issues being faced by transporters in connection with cement factories. The minister directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures and hold consultations on these matters. At the conclusion of the meeting, the All-Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance announced its continued full cooperation with the Government and expressed satisfaction and confidence in the measures being taken by Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan. The meeting was attended by Malik Shehzad Awan, President, All Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance; Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Gul, Chairman, All Pakistan Goods Owners Association; Nisar Hussain Jafri, Chairman, Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance; Owais Chaudhry, Advocate, President, All Pakistan Goods Transport Owners Association; Bakhtawar Khan Wazir, Chairman, All Pakistan Edible Oil Association; and Haji Azhar Siraj, Senior Vice President, All Pakistan Goods Transport Association.

## 72 young women from Balochistan complete skills training at IRM

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Seventy-two young women from Balochistan's Kech, Gwadar and Panjgur districts on Thursday completed professional training in Beautician and Cosmetology under the Government of Balochistan-funded RISE Programme at the Institute of Rural Management (IRM), Islamabad. Certificates were distributed among the graduates at a ceremony held at the IRM Complex, with Provincial Minister for Education, Government of Balochistan, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, as chief guest. Dr. Roomi S. Hayat, CEO IRM, Dr. Tahir Rasheed, CEO Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), and Ms. Shandana Humayun Khan, CEO Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), were also present on the occasion. Ms. Ambrina Bakhtiar, Chief of SDGs, Government of Pakistan, attended the ceremony as a distinguished guest. Speaking at the ceremony, the chief guest commended the Chief Minister Balochistan for initiating the programme and appreciated the graduates for their determination to acquire professional skills, saying such initiatives would contribute to sustainable socio-economic development in the province. Dr. Roomi S. Hayat, CEO IRM, called the occasion one of genuine significance. He noted that the graduates had come from districts where simply seeking a skill is an act of courage, and that their completion of a rigorous programme represented real transformation.



## DPM Dar, Nepali FM review bilateral relations, mull over ways to boost cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday met with Foreign Minister of Nepal, Shisir Khanal on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where the two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation, including through the Political Consultations and Economic Consultations mechanisms. The DPM/FM conveyed condolences over the loss and devastation caused by the recent flash floods in Nepal, assuring that Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Nepal in this difficult time. Foreign Minister Khanal expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support and briefed the DPM/FM on the extent of the calamity and its impact on people and infrastructure, a DPM's Office news release said.



## Margalla Enclave Underpass eases Park Road traffic, draws public attention

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The newly opened Margalla Enclave Underpass on Park Road has begun attracting public attention not only for easing traffic movement but also for its illuminated interior and colourful artwork, with commuters stopping to photograph the newly developed facility. The underpass is part of the wider Park Road infrastructure project aimed at improving connectivity and traffic flow along one of the capital's important road corridors and adjoining residential areas. The facility has become particularly noticeable after months of construction-related disruption, during which commuters faced traffic diversions, dust and prolonged travelling times. Several commuters interviewed by APP at the site said journeys that had previously taken around one and a half hours during the construction period were now being completed within minutes. "There was a huge hassle. The commute used to take around one and a half hours. Now it gives a very luxurious feeling," said a commuter who had recently returned from Saudi Arabia, adding that the facility reminded him of infrastructure he had seen there. Another commuter said the journey, which previously took considerably longer because of congestion, dust and construction activity, had become much easier. "For the last three or four days, whenever we pass through this route, it gives a very good feeling. It feels as if we are travelling on infrastructure built to international standards," he said. The visual treatment of the Margalla Enclave Underpass has also emerged as a talking point. Colourful artwork on the walls, complemented by decorative lighting, has given the structure a distinctive appearance, particularly after sunset. Motorists and visitors have been seen taking photographs and selfies at the site, turning the underpass into a new visual feature along Park Road. A commuter said he had not expected the project to be developed on such a scale.

## NPC inks MoU with JDC, announces 25% discounts for members

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad and Jinnah Dental Clinic (JDC), Jinnah Memorial Hospital Rawalpindi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide discounted dental treatment to NPC members and their families. Under the agreement, members and their families will be entitled to a flat 25 percent discount on all dental treatment facilities at the clinic. The facility will also cover treatment of jaw fractures resulting from traffic accidents, along with other dental and jaw-related diseases and conditions. The MoU was signed by NPC Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao and Chief Executive Officer and Surgeon of Jinnah Dental Clinic Dr. Amir Shoaib. On the occasion, Dr. Furqan Rao thanked President of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photojournalists Association Sajjad Haider for his key role in facilitating the agreement.

## Health ministry orders safety audit of healthcare facilities

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal has directed a comprehensive review of fire safety and basic infrastructure at all hospitals, healthcare institutions, Basic Health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centres (RHCs) under the Ministry of Health. Chairing an important meeting on Thursday, the minister reviewed measures to strengthen safety standards across healthcare facilities. The meeting was attended by Joint Secretary (Hospitals), Director General Health, Joint Secretary (Administration) and other senior officers. The meeting decided to engage an expert consultancy firm to conduct a detailed assessment of fire safety arrangements and key infrastructure systems at health institutions. The assessment will cover fire safety, electrical systems, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC), medical gas systems, biomedical equipment and medical waste management.

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Opinion

3

## When Law Bends to Power



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

A photograph circulating online places Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu side by side against the backdrop of the UN General Assembly hall. Its caption laments that Putin cannot address the Assembly because of an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant, while Netanyahu, also wanted by the court, speaks there freely. Whatever one makes of its wording, the image captures a grievance shared far beyond social media: the rules meant to bind all states seem to bind only some.

In March 2023, the ICC issued a warrant for Putin over the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children. Western capitals welcomed it as proof that no leader stands above the law. In November 2024, the same court issued warrants for Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza, including the use of starvation as a method of warfare. The reaction was strikingly different. Washington attacked the court rather than the conduct it described, and in 2025 the Trump administration imposed sanctions on ICC officials. Several European governments hedged on whether they would enforce the warrant if Netanyahu landed on their soil. The institution and the legal process were identical, but the response was opposite.

Fairness requires acknowledging the technicalities. Russia, Israel and the United States are not parties to the ICC's Rome Statute, so Washington, as host of the UN headquarters, has no treaty duty to arrest anyone. Netanyahu addressed the Assembly in September 2025 without incident, while Putin has not spoken there in person since 2015, and Moscow usually sends its for-

eign minister. But this explanation exposes the problem instead of resolving it. The gaps that shield some leaders were not created by nature. They were written into the system by those with the power to write them. When enforcement depends on which powerful patron stands behind the accused, law stops being law and becomes leverage.

The post-1945 order was built on a contradiction. The UN Charter proclaims the sovereign equality of states, yet the Security Council gives five permanent members a veto over the body's most consequential decisions. Those five can shield themselves and their allies from collective action. Both Moscow and Washington have used the veto to block resolutions on conflicts in which they or their partners were involved. The pattern extends well beyond one Russian and one Israeli leader. The 2003 invasion of Iraq, launched without Security Council authorisation on claims that proved false, produced no tribunal. Human rights are invoked loudly in some crises and quietly in others, depending on whether the violator is an adversary or an ally.

For much of the world, including Pakistan, none of this is new. Security Council resolutions on Kashmir have gathered dust for over seven decades. Palestinians have watched countless resolutions pass or die without consequence. When Western governments demand accountability for Ukraine while resisting it for Gaza, it confirms what many in the developing world long suspected: the "rules-based order" describes who makes the rules, not a promise that everyone must follow them. The cost is real. Every selective application of justice weakens the moral authority of the institutions involved. It hands cynical leaders everywhere a ready excuse to ignore international norms, since if the guardians of the system exempt themselves, why should anyone else comply? The ICC itself, short of enforcement power, is left dependent on the goodwill of the very states it might one day need to hold

accountable.

It is easy to stop at outrage. But a double standard so exposed can also be a moment of clarity. It shows where the real problems lie: in the concentration of power in a handful of states, in enforcement mechanisms that answer to politics rather than principle, and in institutions designed for the balance of 1945 rather than the world of today. This is why the erosion of international law's credibility, painful as it is, offers humanity a chance to ask deeper questions. What kind of world do we want to build? One where justice depends on geography and alliances, or one where the same standard applies to a president in Moscow, a prime minister in Jerusalem, and a warlord in a distant province?

The answers are neither simple nor quick, but they are not unimaginable. Reform of the Security Council, including limits on the veto in cases of mass atrocities, has been debated for decades and blocked by those who benefit from the status quo. Wider ratification of the Rome Statute, including by the great powers themselves, would close the gap that lets them stand outside the court's reach. Middle powers and regional blocs can also refuse to treat selective justice as normal by applying the same standard in their own diplomacy, whichever capital is involved. Citizens who insist on consistency, who ask why a warrant is celebrated in one case and dismissed in another, make hypocrisy politically costly.

The picture of two leaders, both wanted by the same court, treated so differently in the same hall, is uncomfortable because it is instructive. It shows that a legal order without equal application is an order of privilege. The world need not accept this as its permanent condition. The collapse of faith in a system that applies its rules selectively is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of an overdue conversation about whether we can build institutions that deserve the trust the old ones have squandered.

## Standing Firm with the Pak Army Amid Islamabad's Political Tensions: Countering Misleading Propaganda with Verified Facts



By: Dr. Abdul Ghani  
E. Mail: ghanillm@yahoo.com  
Published By: ANI News Agency

Islamabad belongs to every Pakistani. Its streets should reflect the confidence of a democratic nation, where political differences are addressed responsibly and public institutions serve the people. When confrontation threatens that confidence, words carry consequences. An unverified accusation can deepen suspicion, inflame emotions and damage the relationship between citizens and those entrusted with their defence.

The present situation demands careful judgment. Reuters reported a planned march towards Islamabad on 27 September and the interior minister's determination to prevent it. Political arrests ahead of the demonstration have intensified the dispute between the government and opposition supporters. These developments require responsible reporting and credible answers from the authorities concerned. On 23 September, police announced closures affecting major routes into Islamabad ahead of the planned protest.

However, these developments do not, by themselves, establish that the Pakistan Army ordered every arrest, road closure or administrative restriction. Such responsibility must be demonstrated through evidence. Turning suspicion into certainty and then presenting it as established truth is precisely how misleading narratives gain strength.

Those who accuse the Army must answer a straightforward question:

what verifiable evidence supports the specific allegation? A political speech cannot substitute for an authenticated document. An anonymous account cannot automatically become a reliable witness. Repeating a claim thousands of times does not remove the obligation to prove it.

Equally, defending the Army requires intellectual honesty. We should reject allegations shown to be false, challenge unsupported claims and acknowledge what remains unresolved. A credible defence of an institution rests on accuracy. Sweeping denials without investigation can weaken public confidence just as sweeping accusations can damage it.

The attempt to portray the Army solely through the bitterness of political confrontation also overlooks the dangers faced by its personnel. On 18 September, the Associated Press reported that six soldiers had been killed in a roadside bombing in Hangu the previous day. Their deaths are a painful reminder that security threats continue while political arguments dominate public attention.

On 20 September, the Associated Press also reported the military's account of an operation near Kalat in which security forces freed 23 hostages and killed five militants. Such reporting deserves attention alongside the political headlines. The protection of civilians is central to any fair assessment of the forces' service.

Behind every fallen soldier is a family whose loss cannot be measured by a news cycle. Behind every rescued civilian is a life that might otherwise have been destroyed. Political disagreement should never make us indifferent to those realities. Recognising sacrifice is a matter of fairness and humanity.

Another damaging suggestion is

that citizens must choose between supporting the Army and valuing democratic freedoms. Pakistan needs both professional national defence and a public life in which people can raise concerns peacefully. Respect for soldiers and respect for citizens strengthen the same country.

Political leaders, commentators and online activists therefore carry a serious responsibility. They should identify specific decisions, name the authority responsible when evidence permits and pursue their arguments through peaceful means. Collective blame directed at an entire institution obscures responsibility and encourages resentment against people who had no part in the disputed decision.

The government also has responsibilities. Restrictions should be explained, public inconvenience minimised and allegations of wrongdoing examined credibly. Protest organisers should discourage violence, protect public property and avoid circulating unverified material. Every side should help prevent political disagreement from becoming a lasting rupture in national trust.

We stand with the Pakistan Army, with its soldiers, its bereaved families and its duty to protect Pakistan. That support is strongest when expressed through truth, fairness and commitment to lawful service.

Islamabad needs restraint and dialogue. Pakistan needs citizens who check before sharing, leaders who speak responsibly and institutions that answer concerns with clarity. Our answer to misleading propaganda must remain firm: produce the evidence, correct the falsehood and never allow political anger to erase the service and sacrifice of those who defend our country.

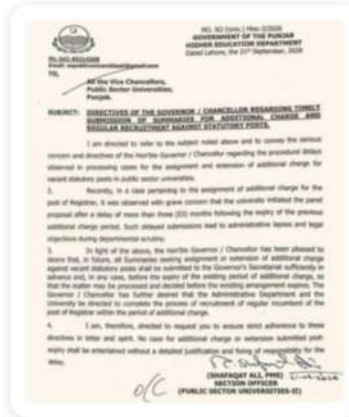
## BZU's Acting Registrar Controversy, After Supreme Court Directions, Repeated Media Questions and the Governor's Latest Directive, How Long Will It Take to Follow the Rules and Appoint a Regular Registrar?

By: Hurish Shah : Published by ANI

A public university cannot demand respect for its rules while leaving serious questions about a statutory appointment unanswered. At Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, the controversy surrounding Ejaz Ahmad and the office of Acting Registrar has now been followed by a directive conveying the Governor/Chancellor's concern about delays in filling such posts. The question is no longer whether the matter deserves scrutiny. It is whether the authorities will respond with records, reasons and action.

Daily Financial Times has raised these concerns before. On 22 June 2026, Hurish Shah's column, "The Supreme Court Spoke. Did BZU Listen?" Paragraph 39(c), the Six-Month Rule, the Rule of Law, and the Continuing Controversy Over the Acting Registrar at BZU Multan," questioned the duration of the acting arrangement and whether a regular recruitment process had begun. On 3 August 2026, Ms. Hurish Shah's "When Official Silence Becomes Institutional Failure: The Unresolved Challenge to Ejaz Ahmad's Appointment, BZU's Acting Registrar Arrangement, Withheld Records, and the Inaction of the Governor's Secretariat, HED and HEC" examined the pending challenge to his earlier appointment, reported difficulties in obtaining official records and the absence of a clear decision. Both columns asked for an accountable response. Neither a newspaper column nor an allegation, however, is a finding that an appointment is illegal. That determination requires examination of the complete record by the competent authority.

The latest official communication makes that examination more urgent. In a letter dated 21 September 2026, bearing the reference "NO. SO (Univ.) Misc-3/2026 GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB HIGHER



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Dated Lahore, the 21st September, 2026," the Punjab Higher Education Department conveyed the Governor/Chancellor's serious concern about procedural delays in assigning or extending additional charge against vacant statutory posts. It described a Registrar case in which a university initiated a panel proposal more than three months after the previous additional charge period had expired. The letter does not identify that university by name. It would therefore be wrong to present this example as a proven finding against BZU. Its directions, however, were addressed to all vice chancellors of Punjab's public sector universities, including BZU.

Those directions are plain. Summaries for additional charge or its extension must reach the Governor's Secretariat sufficiently early, and before the existing period expires, so that a decision can be made in time. The university and administrative department are also to complete recruitment of a regular Registrar within the additional charge period. A proposal submitted after expiry will not be entertained without a detailed justification and responsibility being fixed for the delay. Why should a university need such an instruction? The expiry date of an additional charge order is

known from the day it is issued. Preparing a proposal on time and pursuing regular recruitment are basic administrative duties. When an acting arrangement continues without a transparent account of its authority and duration, uncertainty spreads through the institution. Staff, students and the public are entitled to know who lawfully holds a statutory office and what steps are being taken to fill it permanently.

BZU should now place the relevant facts on record. When did each additional charge period begin and end? When were extension or panel proposals sent to the competent authority, and what decisions were received? Has recruitment for a regular Registrar been advertised and progressed? The university should also address the pending challenge to Ejaz Ahmad's earlier appointment through a reasoned decision, after giving those concerned a fair opportunity to respond. Requests for official records should be dealt with according to law, with any refusal explained in writing.

The Higher Education Department and Governor's Secretariat have responsibilities of their own. Issuing a directive is necessary; checking compliance gives it meaning. They should establish whether the applicable orders and deadlines have been followed at BZU and ensure that any pending representation is decided on its merits. If an official delay is found, responsibility should be determined as the new directive requires. If the appointments and extensions are lawful, the documents and reasons should make that clear as well.

This controversy should end with a documented answer, not another round of silence. The media has asked difficult questions, and the Governor/Chancellor has now set out clear expectations for timely action. BZU and the oversight authorities must show, through the official record, that those expectations are being met.

## 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

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?

There must be steps taken — now. First, an immediate and unconditional ceasefire is the only way to begin halting the famine. Second, the complete and unrestricted entry of

*There must be steps taken — now. First, an immediate and unconditional ceasefire is the only way to begin halting the famine. Second, the complete and unrestricted entry of humanitarian aid must be guaranteed by a binding international resolution, not vague promises. Third, accountability must follow. War crimes, including the deliberate starvation of civilians, must be investigated and prosecuted, no matter the perpetrator.*

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

humanitarian aid must be guaranteed by a binding international resolution, not vague promises. Third, accountability must follow. War crimes, including the deliberate starvation of civilians, must be investigated and prosecuted, no matter the perpetrator.

Finally, there is a role for all of us as individuals. Speak up. Do not allow this atrocity to continue in your name. History will remember what we did — or did not do — when Gaza cried out not for help but for bread.

In 2025, the world is being tested not just by war but by its own conscience. Will we choose humanity or will we rationalize genocide with politics and diplomatic fatigue? Gaza is dying, not in silence but in full view of the world. Let history record that we saw — and that some of us refused to look away.

— Arab News



## Sindh Delegation Visits Tharparkar to Assess Climate Vulnerabilities, Explores Climate Finance Opportunities

By Nareender Hemnani / ANI

MITHI -- Faisal Ahmed Uqaili, Secretary, Environment, Climate Change & Coastal Development Department, Government of Sindh, along with a delegation from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan, and Pakistani technical experts, visited various areas of Tharparkar to assess climate-related vulnerabilities and explore opportunities for developing climate-resilient interventions with potential access to international and bilateral climate finance.

The field mission focused on understanding the climate, environmental, socio-economic and livelihood-related challenges faced by local communities and identifying potential interventions that could be developed into bankable and investment-ready climate projects.

During the visit, the delegation engaged with local stakeholders and examined potential areas of intervention, including water security



and resource management, climate-resilient livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem and land restoration, renewable energy, indigenous knowledge, nature-based solutions and community-based climate resilience.

The mission forms part of the Government of Sindh's broader efforts to strengthen climate action and climate finance readiness, translate identified climate priorities into technically sound and potentially

financeable project concepts, and enhance cooperation with national and international climate, development and technical partners.

The Government of Sindh remains committed to promoting locally appropriate, inclusive and sustainable climate-resilience solutions, particularly for vulnerable communities, while pursuing opportunities to mobilize climate and development finance through national and international partnerships.



Chairman Senate Of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Has Arrived In Belarus For An Official Visit At Minsk National Airport Is Being Received By Sergey Aleynik, Chairperson Of The Standing Committee On International Affairs And National Security Of The Council Of The Republic Of The National Assembly Of The Republic Of Belarus

## Muslim League Balochistan Announces Nawaz Sharif International Civil Award

By ANI Correspondent

QUETTA -- In collaboration with the Balochistan International Think Tank and Friends of Universe Society Pakistan, the "The Real Democrat, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif International Civil Award 2026-27" is being introduced under the platform of Muslim League Balochistan.

According to a statement issued by the party's Secretary Information, the award proposal was presented by Secretary General Jamal Shah Kakar to honour former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for his services to democracy, governance and the nation.

A committee has been formed to oversee the awards, headed by Jamal Shah Kakar. Its members include Mir Haji Younas Lehri, Haider Khan Achakzai, Shakir Muhammad Hasni, Nisar Ahmed Khan Achakzai, Fateh Jamali and Chaudhry Shabbir.

Addressing the committee meeting, Jamal Shah Kakar said the



award would honour Nawaz Sharif's role in Pakistan's democratic history and promote democratic values, tolerance and national unity.

According to the statement, the main award ceremony will be held

in Lahore, while the launching ceremony will take place in Balochistan on September 28 at 3 pm, with prominent intellectuals, writers, journalists and civil society representatives expected to attend.

## FGEHA Signs MoU for 1,600-Kanal Housing Project in Charsadda

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a consortium of M/s Zee Brothers (Pvt) Ltd. and M/s Ruya Developers (Pvt) Ltd. for development of a housing/apartment project over approximately 1,600 kanals in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The MoU was signed at the FGEHA office in the presence of Director General Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal, senior officers and representatives of the consortium.

Located around six kilometres from the Charsadda Interchange on the M-1 Motorway and about 15 minutes from Peshawar, the project will be developed under the Land Sharing Model in accordance with FGEHA (JV & PPP) Rules, 2025. It is expected to provide residential facilities to around 700 to 800 registered FGEHA members.



Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal directed officials to ensure transparency, quality, merit and strict compliance with rules, while maintaining close monitoring to ensure timely completion. He said FGEHA was also focusing on ongoing projects, including Sector F-14/F-15, Green Enclave-I and Lifestyle Residency Apartments, G-13. Possession of Margalla

Orchard Block-A is targeted for July 2027, while possession of Sky Garden Blocks-A, B and D is targeted by December 31, 2026.

The Director General said the Charsadda project would provide modern residential facilities while also contributing to infrastructure development, employment and economic activity in the region.

## Senate IT Committee Reviews Telecom Rules, Rs172bn Call-Centre Fraud



By ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, chaired by Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, reviewed a wide-ranging agenda, including proposed telecom competition rules, PTCL property issues, cybercrime, call-centre fraud and alleged consumer overcharging.

Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, senators and senior officials from the Ministry of IT, PTA, NCCIA, FIA and other relevant departments attended the meeting. The Committee was informed that

consultations with telecom operators and other stakeholders on the proposed Telecommunication Competition Rules were underway. Officials sought additional time to finalise the rules and assured that the Competition Commission of Pakistan would also be consulted.

The Committee also reviewed recoveries from Etisalat and unresolved property transfers involving PTCL. It decided to take up the matter jointly with the Senate Standing Committee on Privatisation to expedite its resolution.

NCCIA officials briefed the Committee on action against accounts containing blasphemous material, while the Committee

directed that investigations be expedited. FIA and NCCIA officials further briefed the Committee on alleged fraud of Rs172 billion through call centres. The officials said specialised technical expertise was required and the matter was being referred to NCCIA for further investigation. The Committee stressed the need for Pakistan to develop its own social media application for secure messaging and communication and sought a briefing on the proposed initiative. The Committee also decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to investigate allegations that a major telecom company had charged consumers additional amounts.

## NA Finance Committee Reviews IMF Programme, Privatization and Fiscal Reforms



By Ahmed Shamsur Rehman / ANI

ISLAMABAD -- The National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, chaired by Syed Naveed Qamar, reviewed Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Programme with the IMF, fiscal reforms, energy-sector measures, privatization, SOE governance, climate commitments and austerity measures at Parliament House.

The Chairman stressed that fiscal consolidation should be supported by a transparent and sustainable economic strategy while promoting investment, exports, employment and economic growth. Members said IMF reforms should be assessed not only against formal benchmarks but also through measurable economic and social outcomes.

The Finance Division briefed the Committee that the \$7 billion EFF

Programme was approved on September 25, 2024, with approximately \$4.5 billion disbursed and three reviews completed. Members also examined revenue mobilization, provincial fiscal positions, social-sector spending and the retailer tax-registration scheme.

The Committee reviewed the proposed privatization of Distribution Companies (DISCOs), with officials stating that three entities were at an advanced stage with international investor interest. Members sought clarity on transaction structures, assets, liabilities and proposed terms.

The proposed transaction involving Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was also discussed. Officials reported a net asset position of around Rs9 billion after restructuring and said the Government was considering a transaction involving

75 percent ownership. Members sought detailed financial information on valuation, liabilities and proceeds.

The Committee further reviewed climate reforms under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, energy-sector reforms and public-sector austerity measures, including a 50 percent temporary reduction in fuel provision for official vehicles and a 5 percent cut in the non-ERE budget for FY2026-27, estimated at Rs16.1 billion. The Committee called for outcome-based reporting on IMF benchmarks, revenue measures, energy reforms, privatization, climate commitments and austerity savings. It also deferred agenda items concerning the CSR Bill, 2026 and PIAHCL after expressing displeasure over the absence of the SECP Chairman and inadequate presentations by concerned officials.

By Maryam Sajid/ANI

ISLAMABAD -- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Dr Najeeb Naqi on his election as President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and expressed his best wishes for his new responsibilities.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Dr Najeeb Naqi's election reflected the confi-



dence of the members of the AJK Legislative Assembly in his capabilities. He expressed hope that under Dr Najeeb Naqi's prudent leadership, Azad Jammu and Kashmir would continue on the path of development and progress.

The Speaker also conveyed his best wishes to Dr Najeeb Naqi as he assumed the responsibilities of the presidency.

## PPHI Health Facility in Daim Rahmoon Wasayani Reportedly Remains Non-Functional

By Nareender Hemnani / ANI

THARPARKAR -- Residents of Daim Rahmoon Wasayani village in Dahli Taluka have raised serious concerns over the alleged lack of basic healthcare facilities at the PPHI-run Basic Health Unit (BHU), claiming that the centre has effectively become non-functional.

According to local residents, the health facility lacks a regularly available doctor and adequate supplies of free medicines. They alleged that the

centre remains closed for most of the month and is opened only for a few days.

Residents further claimed that the doctor posted at the facility has allegedly remained absent for months and visits only occasionally. They also alleged that government-supplied medicines frequently run out, forcing patients to purchase medicines from outside.

With a population of more than 2,000, villagers said women, children and other patients are forced to

travel to Dahli and Mithi even for minor illnesses, causing significant hardship for poor families.

Elders and residents have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar, District Health Officer Tharparkar and PPHI Head Office Karachi to take immediate notice, ensure regular attendance of medical staff and guarantee the availability of essential medicines.

Residents warned that they may expand their protest if the alleged lack of healthcare services continues.

## LFW Presents Brings Kaleidoscopic Karachi to IVS

By ANI Correspondent

KARACHI --- LAAM Fashion Week (LFW) will present Kaleidoscopic Karachi on September 26 at the historic Nusserwanjee Building of the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (IVS), marking the second edition of LFW Presents and its first outside Lahore.

The five-designer showcase will feature Deepak Perwani, Khaadi, The Pink Tree Company, Wardha Saleem and Sana Safinaz, with an archival exhibition by renowned photographer Tapu Javeri opening the evening.

The event will celebrate Karachi's diverse cultural and creative identity through fashion, craft and heritage.



Maheen Kardar, Executive Director Designer Experience and Curation, said the showcase aims to present five distinct interpretations of the city.

Tapu Javeri will present Four Decades of Fashion Through the Lens of Tapu Javeri, drawing from his archive of Pakistani fashion and Karachi.

The participating designers will offer varied perspectives: Deepak Perwani will present modern Western wear; Khaadi will combine its Khaadi and Chapter 2 lines; The Pink Tree Company will highlight traditional craft and contemporary design; Wardha Saleem will showcase Sindhi-inspired embroidery and modern silhouettes; while Sana Safinaz will present its 20-piece heritage collection, Mastaani.

The historic Nusserwanjee Building, originally located in Kharadar and later reconstructed at the IVS campus, will provide the setting for the showcase, bringing together Karachi's architectural heritage and contemporary fashion.

## Maldivian Parliamentary Delegation Visits PNCA Islamabad

By ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD -- A parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Maldives visited the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad, on Thursday at the invitation of Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture Division.

Ms. Shaista Khan, MNA and Convener of the Pakistan-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group, was also present.

The visiting delegation, comprising Maldivian parliamentarians and officials, was warmly welcomed at PNCA and attended a cultural programme showcasing



Pakistan's rich artistic traditions and diverse heritage.

The delegation appreciated the performances and expressed interest in further promoting cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and the

Maldives.

The visit highlighted the friendly relations between the two countries and the importance of parliamentary and cultural exchanges in strengthening bilateral ties.