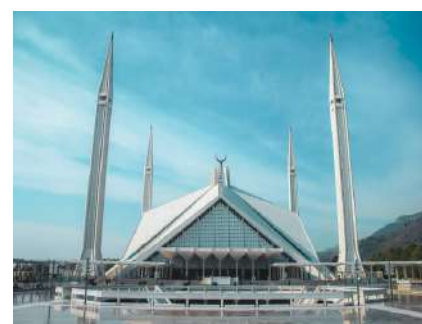




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NA, Senate pass resolutions endorsing Centre's imposition of emergency in KP



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Shortly after the National Assembly passed a resolution endorsing the federal government's imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, the Senate also gave its approval for the measure.

The Centre had imposed governor's rule and emergency in KP on Sunday, citing the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. The move followed weeks of political tensions between the Centre and the PTI after the latter announced a long march to Islamabad to demand the release of its jailed founder, Imran Khan.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry tabled the motions regarding the proclamation of emergency before both Houses.

In the Senate, the resolution was passed amid the opposition's outcry, with PTI senators staging a walkout.

The Senate's approval followed a heated debate between treasury and opposition members, during which Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar defended the procedural propriety presenting the resolution in the House and getting it approved.

He argued that a "constitutional resolution" had been laid before the House in accordance with the

Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate. "Under Article 232, a copy of [the proclamation of] emergency has been laid before the House. An attempt to bypass the constitutional procedure cannot succeed," he said, adding that the requirement of a seven-day notice for tabling a resolution did not apply to one presented under a constitutional necessity. "If its opponents have any objections, they should reject the resolution through their vote after the debate. We cannot deviate from the Constitution and rules of the House," he said. As opposition voiced opposition to the resolution, Senate Chairperson Yousuf Raza Gilani asked them to

exercise patience. "This is not a classroom, do not make noise," he remarked as senators from the opposition benches continued sloganeering. Among them, PTI's Humayun Mohmand said independent Senator Faisal Vawda had said months ago that governor's rule would be imposed. He alleged that terrorism being cited as the reason for the measure was just an excuse and the actual "target is the PTI".

"The decision to impose governor's rule and emergency was taken months ago," he alleged. Seemingly referring to the creation of Bangladesh, he said the federal government's decision since 1970 had proved wrong.

PM expresses displeasure over slow progress on Gemstones Pilot Project



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed displeasure over slow progress on Gemstones Pilot Project and delays in implementing measures for the sector's development, directing to prepare a time-bound action plan on priority basis. "Measures for the development of the gemstones and jewellery sector are a priority, and no delays will be tolerated," the prime minister said while chairing a meeting to review progress in the gemstone sector. He stressed that a complete ecosystem for value addition should be developed, covering gemstone mining, cutting and polishing.

The country suffers annual losses worth billions of dollars due to sub-standard gemstone mining practices and smuggling, the prime minister said. "Pakistan has been blessed by Almighty Allah with abundant natural resources," he said directing to prioritize measures to increase exports by harnessing the country's extensive reserves of gemstones and minerals.

He stressed that work should be undertaken to establish Brand Pakistan for gemstones and jewellery, along the lines of other countries in the region.

He further directed to develop a roadmap for the early establishment of Centres of Excellence for value addition. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif instructed that all obstacles to pilot projects and the development of model gemstone mines be removed to ensure their early completion.

During the meeting, the prime minister received a detailed briefing on progress regarding the pilot project for gemstone exploration, cutting and polishing, value addition, and preparation for export.

He was informed that 4.8 kanals of land had been transferred for the Centre of Excellence project in Hussainabad, Skardu. The required funds were available, and construction would commence soon.

It was further informed that land had been identified for the project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad. Until the Centre of Excellence in Islamabad is constructed, the facility will be made fully operational at an alternative location.

The meeting also received a briefing on policy measures for the development of the sector. It was informed that geological mapping of identified gemstone-bearing areas had been completed. Eight new blocks in Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been identified for further exploration and discovery of gemstones.

An allocation of Rs1 billion has been earmarked under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the development of the sector during the current year, the meeting as informed.

To facilitate exporters, export facilitation desks have been established at 80 branches of 10 banks across seven cities.

The prime minister directed that a comprehensive action plan for establishing Centres of Excellence for gemstones and jewellery, along with measures for the development of the sector, be prepared and presented next week.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Lieutenant General (Retd) Nauman Mahmood, the first Secretary General of the Mecca Defence Alliance.

Bilawal offers to approach PM for ending K-P emergency if PTI agrees to political dialogue

ANI

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday renewed his call for dialogue with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying he would personally request Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to end the emergency in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) if political conditions were created that made the measure unnecessary. "Even today, I invite you to come and hold talks with the government and political parties and create conditions in which there will be no need for this emergency in K-P. If you create these political conditions, I will personally stand in this House and request the prime minister that the time has come to end this emergency," said Bilawal while addressing the National Assembly (NA). Bilawal maintained that the federal government had made every possible



political effort to engage the opposition before taking the constitutional step, saying that the opposition had every right to speak against the decision and oppose it, but argued that PTI could not deny its own role in creating the

political, legal and constitutional circumstances that led to the situation.

The PPP chairman accused PTI of carrying out a "political suicide attack" on its own government in K-P, adding that opposition leaders could blame the federal government or President Asif Ali Zardari for the loss of their provincial government, but maintained that PTI, particularly its provincial leadership, had played a significant role in creating the circumstances. He said responsible figures within the opposition were aware of these circumstances, even if they were unwilling to acknowledge them publicly. He argued that if the federal government had concluded that K-P was facing war-like conditions and that its internal situation prevented an effective response to terrorism, the provincial government should have provided political, legal or constitutional grounds for rejecting the proposed measure.

PTI Chairman Gohar moves PHC against emergency, governor's rule

ANI

PESHAWAR: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Wednesday moved the Peshawar High Court (PHC) against the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, requesting the court to declare the move unconstitutional.

The emergency, declared on Sunday, follows heightened tensions between the PML-N-led federal government and the PTI-led KP government. The Centre and opposition have been at odds over various issues, particularly the counterterrorism policy, which was one of the main reasons cited by both parties behind the breakdown of their Oct 3 talks. Governor

Faisal Karim Kundi has assumed the role of running the province on behalf of the Centre, with an 11-member technocratic KP Advisory Council formed to assist him. The federal government has also authorised the deployment of Pakistan Army troops and assets in aid of civil power in KP. Advocate Shah Faisal Ilyas submitted the petition challenging the emergency proclamation on behalf of the PTI chairman. A copy is available with Dawn. The petitioner requested the PHC to declare the Oct 11 emergency proclamation as "unconstitutional, ultra vires, coram non iudice, tainted with malice in law and fact, devoid of objective material, and of no legal effect"; and urged it to set the proclamation aside.

Cancelled mutation entries cannot, by themselves, establish legal ownership, rules SC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday has ruled that cancelled mutation entries cannot, by themselves, establish legal ownership of property, observing that where title is disputed, a suit seeking possession alone is insufficient and must also seek a declaration of ownership. The court dismissed an appeal concerning possession of one kanal of land in Kamalia, upholding the Lahore High Court's judgment.

In a judgment authored by Justice Shahid Waheed, the court held that the legal heirs of deceased appellant Abdul Rahim had failed to establish their lawful title to the disputed land. The relevant mutations had been cancelled by the District Officer Revenue on November 23, 2004, while the original sale deeds were not produced before either the trial court or the appellate

court.

A three-member bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan heard the case on October 13, 2026.

According to the judgment, the appellant claimed to have purchased the land from Ilahi Bakhsh and others through Mutation No. 8106 dated September 30, 1985, and filed a suit for possession on July 21, 1993. The government educational institution concerned, however, maintained that the land had been in the possession of Government Normal School Kamalia since 1926. The institution is now known as Government College Elementary Teachers Kamalia.

The Supreme Court observed that revenue entries do not, by themselves, constitute documents of title, and their cancellation does not automatically invalidate the underlying sale deeds.

Governor Kundi says province is moving towards peace and progress

ANI

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the people of the province have emerged from a tunnel and are now moving towards the light.

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Faisal Karim Kundi said that although there are challenges related to the border, no compromise will be made when it comes to the country's interests. He added that those who have been announcing deadlines have already lost their credibility. He reiterated that the people of the province have emerged from the tunnel and are moving towards the light. He further said that the suggestions of the province's people would be heard. Commenting on his publicity, he remarked that it had been arranged in Karachi and that it would have been better if it had been done in Islamabad. He said that for the past 13 years, the province had not taken ownership of federal policies aimed at combating terrorism, but his administration would now take responsibility for implementing those policies.

Achakzai warns Sindh could be next to face governor's rule

ANI

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Wednesday warned that Sindh could be the next province to face governor's rule, citing potential disputes over water, mineral resources and canals, as he condemned the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). Addressing the National Assembly, Achakzai warned that the government's actions against provinces and their political representatives could deepen political confrontation, urging it to reverse its decisions and restore the elected government in K-P. "Next governor's rule will be



imposed in Sindh over the occupation of water, on the occupation of mines, of the rivers, and then you will remember what mistake we made," he said. The opposition leader also criticised members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for supporting the government's measures, saying he was saddened that his "Sindh brothers" had become part of what he described as a calamity. Calling for the reversal of emergency and governor's rule in K-P, the opposition leader urged the government to make parliament the centre of political authority and resolve disputes through democratic means. "There is still time, reverse it, reverse these decisions. Come, make this house a fountainhead of power. Repent," he said. Achakzai subsequently termed the federal government a "terrorist government", alleging that it had been formed through money, coercion and the support of uniformed institutions.



Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokolov calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

OIC- COMSTECH, Alecso sign two-year programme for scientific cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-Comstech) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) on Wednesday signed a joint executive programme for 2027-2028 to promote scientific, technological and academic cooperation across the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The programme was signed by OIC-Comstech Coordinator General Prof Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary and Alecso Director General Prof Dr Mohamed Ould Amar during a strategic dialogue held at the Comstech Secretariat.

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar attended the ceremony as chief guest. HEC Executive Director Prof Dr Ziaul Haq, Ambassadors from Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Tunisia and representatives from Embassy of Kazakhstan, Russia, Qatar, Sudan, vice chancellors, scientists, academics and government officials were also present.

The two-year programme will facilitate institutional coordination, exchange of



experts, joint scientific activities, technical cooperation and mobilisation of partner organisations and financial resources.

Its implementation will be monitored through periodic meetings, annual progress reports and a final evaluation. The programme is expected to connect Alecso's academic and scientific institutions in Arab countries with Comstech's network of universities, research institutions and centres of excellence in OIC member states.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Wajiha Qamar said science and technology had become essential for economic develop-

ment and international cooperation.

She said challenges such as climate change, food and water insecurity, emerging diseases, energy transition and rapid technological change required coordinated regional responses. She called for joint research projects, academic mobility, professional training, university networks and partnerships with industry and development institutions.

Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital transformation, climate resilience, water conservation, space sciences, biotechnology, healthcare, renewable energy and green technologies were identified as

potential areas for cooperation.

Ms Qamar also stressed the need to expand scholarships, fellowships and mentorship opportunities for young researchers and ensure greater participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Welcoming the Alecso delegation, Prof Choudhary said the Arab and Islamic worlds shared a rich scientific and intellectual heritage that should be used to inspire new generations of researchers.

"No war should end a scientific career," he said, calling for greater support for researchers and scholars displaced from conflict-affected countries.

He also proposed expanding fellowships for women scientists, promoting inclusive education and improving the international standing of universities in Arab and Islamic countries.

Prof Choudhary said the partnership should create stronger linkages among universities, laboratories, scientists and young researchers across the two regions.

Prof Amar thanked Comstech for hosting the delegation and said the visit had provided an opportunity for meaningful consultations between the two organisations.

Experts call for strengthening psychiatric services

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Mental health experts have called for strengthening psychiatric services, investing in professional development and expanding international collaboration to improve mental healthcare in Pakistan.

The call was made during a session titled "From Pakistan to the Globe: Mental Health Research and Academic Excellence" at the Mental Health Summit, where national and international experts discussed the country's achievements, challenges and future priorities in mental health. The session opened with a presentation titled "Global Contributions to Mental Health: Learning from International Leaders" by Associate Professor Dr. Sadia Yasir, Head of Psychiatry at Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore, and Professor Dr. Irum Aamer, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Fatima Jinnah Medical University. Under the theme "We Did Not Come From Nowhere - We Stand Because They Stood," the speakers paid tribute to generations of psychiatrists whose contributions have shaped clinical practice, research, education and mental health policy in Pakistan.

The tribute recognized senior professionals, including Professors Khalid Mufti, Unaiza Niaz, Khalid Tareen, Saad Bashir Malik, Rizwan Taj, Fareed Aslam Minhas, Ghulam Rasool and Iqbal Afridi, for their contributions to the development of psychiatry in the country. It also acknowledged contemporary leaders, including Professors Aftab Asif, Ali Madeeh Hashmi, Wahab Yousafzai, Ayesha Rashid, Nazish Iman, Wajid Ali Akhundzada, Aftab Qadir.

Pakistan offers vast investment opportunities to Chinese investors: Qaiser

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Wednesday invited Chinese investors to explore Pakistan's vast investment potential in manufacturing, technology, agriculture, minerals and infrastructure to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. The minister said during a meeting with Dr. Li Kouqing, Deputy Director of the CAREC Institute, and Dr. Ghulam Samad, Chief of its Research Division, which focused on enhancing institutional cooperation, promoting investment and expanding economic collaboration between Pakistan and China, said a news release.

Senior officials of the BoI, including Additional Secretary Zulfiqar Ali and Director General Mehmood Tufail, also



attended the meeting.

Welcoming the delegation, the minister appreciated Dr. Li Kouqing's efforts to strengthen institutional engagement and promote economic cooperation. Recalling his participation in a CAREC event in

Urumqi, China, last year, he acknowledged the CAREC leadership's role in facilitating his meeting with the Chinese finance minister on the sidelines of the event.

He underscored the importance of sus-

taining such engagements and expressed his desire to further strengthen interaction with Chinese leadership and institutions to advance mutually beneficial economic ties.

Dr. Li Kouqing expressed interest in exploring further cooperation between the CAREC Institute, BOI and relevant government institutions. He also proposed organising investment focused events in different Pakistani cities to bring together policymakers, researchers, investors and business communities and showcase the country's economic potential. Welcoming the proposal, Qaiser Sheikh assured full government support and facilitation for such initiatives, noting that direct engagement among institutions and investors could help identify promising sectors and encourage greater investment flows.

IBCC advances NEQSI for 27 Public-Sector boards

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pursuant to the directives of the Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) convened the first meeting of the Steering Committee on the National Examination Quality Standardized Index (NEQSI) at the IBCC Secretariat, here. The meeting, chaired by Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director, IBCC, reviewed the proposed framework for establishing common, internationally benchmarked standards across Pakistan's 27 public-sector examination boards. The initiative reflects the Federal Government's commitment to improving the quality, transparency, fairness and credibility of educational assessment nationwide.

The Steering Committee reviewed the proposed indicators, performance targets and implementation milestones. To further strengthen the framework, a Subcommittee was constituted to refine the proposed indicators and targets and present its recommendations at the next meeting. NEQSI aims to establish a robust and consistent mechanism for evaluating examination quality across the country.

Govt earmarks Rs12.75bn for six major infrastructure projects

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated Rs12.75 billion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2026-27 for six major infrastructure projects with a combined PC-I cost of Rs1.065 trillion. According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the allocation comprises Rs9.60 billion in local funding and Rs3.15 billion in foreign assistance. The projects include major highway and motorway schemes, tunnel-related infrastructure and land acquisition for road development. The document shows that first-quarter releases for FY2026-27 totalled Rs199.4 million, while recorded utilisation stood at Rs53.48 million. Cumulative expenditure on the six projects up to June 2026 amounted to Rs505.698 million. The largest allocation of Rs5 billion has been earmarked for the relocation of the Karakoram Highway between Thakot and Raikot due to the construc-

tion of dams on the Indus River. The 241-kilometre project, listed as China EXIM-funded, has a PC-I cost of Rs502.6 billion, making it the most expensive of the six schemes.

Its annual allocation includes Rs4.5 billion in local funding and Rs500 million in foreign assistance. Another major scheme is the Lahore-Sahiwal-Bahawalnagar Motorway, which has been allocated Rs2 billion against a PC-I cost of Rs435.72 billion. The project covers 295 kilometres of motorway construction, along with an 18-kilometre link connecting the Lahore Ring Road at Raja Jang Interchange to Kasur Road. According to the document, the project's revised PC-I is undergoing approval. The revised Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project has received an allocation of Rs2.5 billion for FY2026-27.

The World Bank-funded scheme carries a PC-I cost of Rs77.91 billion, while cumulative expenditure up to June 2026 stood at Rs214.38 million.

IMDC, ANTH screen over 200 people for Hepatitis C

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC), in collaboration with Dr Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH), screened more than 200 people for Hepatitis C during a community outreach camp in Bhara Kahu.

The screening camp was organized by the Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine at IMDC at The Smart School, Bhara Kahu Campus, as part of the Prime Minister's National Hepatitis C Elimination Programme.

The initiative aimed to promote early detection, improve public awareness and facilitate timely medical guidance for people potentially affected by the viral infection.

The camp was led by the Hepatitis C Community Outreach Core Team, comprising Dr Mian Muhammad Saad Irfan and Abdul Ghaffar Mastoi, with the support of trained phlebotomists.

The two individuals who tested reactive were identified for further medical guidance and evaluation to determine the appropriate course of care.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Issues Production Orders for Two MNAs in Police Custody

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has issued production orders for Members of the National Assembly Sanaullah Khan Masti Khel and Dawar Khan Kundi, who are currently in Punjab Police custody, following a request from the Opposition.

The orders were issued under Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, to enable the two lawmakers to attend the ongoing session of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly Secretariat has forwarded copies of the orders to the relevant federal and Punjab govern-



ment authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, Punjab Chief Secretary, Islamabad Chief Commissioner and the Assembly Sergeant-at-Arms.

IG Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry Directs Officers to Improve Public Facilitation at Police Stations

BY: ANI Reporter:

ISLAMABAD-- Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry held a meeting with SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza and SP Rural Zeeshan Ali to discuss public service initiatives and facilities for citizens at police stations across the capital.

During the meeting, the IG Islamabad directed the officers to further improve measures aimed at facilitating citizens at the police station level and ensure the provision of efficient and accessible public services.



PYCA urges checks on industry influence in food standards

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA) on Wednesday urged the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) to ensure transparency and independence in Pakistan's food standards-setting process, warning that proposed changes to its National Standard Setting Committee for Agriculture and Food Products (NSCAF) must not allow commercial interests to undermine public health. In a press state-

ment, PYCA welcomed PSQCA's decision to postpone the committee's scheduled meeting following concerns raised last week. It called for inclusive consultations and balanced representation in any decision on the committee's composition, including public-health professionals, independent civil society experts and relevant government institutions. "Any proposed reconstitution of the committee should involve meaningful consultations with stakeholders, including provincial food authorities, civil society organisations.

RCCI hosts B2B session with Chinese delegation to boost bilateral trade links

ANI

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized a business-to-business (B2B) interactive session with a visiting Chinese delegation on Tuesday to expand bilateral trade, joint ventures, and market access for Pakistani enterprises. Chaired by RCCI President Noshervan Khalil Khan, the meeting was attended by Senior Vice President Waseem Aslam, Vice President Ikram Abbasi, former presidents Raja Amer Iqbal and Malik Shahid Saleem, executive committee members, and trade representatives. Speaking on the occasion, RCCI President Noshervan Khalil Khan expressed appreciation for the delegation's support in facilitating the participation of over 75 RCCI member firms in the upcoming 140th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair).

He emphasized that the participation of local business entities reflects the growing commitment of Pakistan's corporate sector to enter



international supply chains and deepen commercial ties with Chinese markets. Leading the Chinese delegation, Cindy Chen briefed participants on the operational dynamics and trade prospects of the 140th Canton Fair, noting that the venue offers a global platform for Pakistani entre-

preneurs to connect with both Chinese and international buyers.

The two sides held discussions on direct business engagement, targeted industrial collaboration, and establishing sustained institutional linkages between the commercial sectors of both nations.

IBCC advances NEQSI for 27 Public-Sector boards

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Islamabad: A foreign tennis player plays a spectacular shot during a match held at the Pakistan Tennis Federation. —Photo: Tahir Naveed (ANI)

Daily

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Opinion

3

Pakistan Peoples Party Central Punjab: The Politics of a Few Faces and the Decline of Party Workers

By: Rana Farooq Ashraf
Published By: ANI News Agency

It is painful to discuss the present state of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Central Punjab. My criticism does not arise from personal differences, a desire for office, or factional politics. It comes from the disappointment of a political worker who devoted his youth, time, resources, and years of struggle to the party. The question today is why workers, who once formed the backbone of the party, now struggle to reach their own leadership.

I still remember the days when I entered politics after completing my education and becoming involved in business. At that time, the party was led by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who was in exile. We were actively participating in the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD), struggling for the restoration of democracy. In Lahore, Mian Misbah ur Rehman was the president. We participated enthusiastically in political activities, protests, and party events to raise our voices for democracy, public welfare, and political rights.

I remember writing two emails to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto as an ordinary party worker. On the first occasion, I contacted her regarding political developments and arrests connected with the ARD struggle in Lahore. In response, she directed Maj. Anwar Alvi to contact me so that we could work on the matter. On another occasion, I wrote to Mohtarma again, and Senator Palwasha Shah contacted me from Islamabad, informing me that Mohtarma had recommended my name for the Overseas Committee. At that time, Babar Awan was associated with the party and was looking after the Overseas Committee.

These experiences reflected a political culture in which the leadership listened to its workers, recognised their contributions, and maintained direct communication with them. This was the vision that encouraged workers to remain committed to the party. An ordinary worker could raise an issue and receive a response from the highest level of leadership.

Later, I moved overseas but continued participating in party activities and remained involved in its organisational work. Our family also contributed to the party's political struggle. Party tickets were awarded to members of our family for national and provincial assembly elections, including Rana Mahmood Ashraf and myself. For nearly two decades, we remained associated with party activities, organisational responsibilities, and electoral struggles, often using our own resources.

Yet today, a troubling question confronts us: when we were young and our political activities were at an early stage, the leadership knew us, recognised our work, and listened to our concerns. Why, after years of commit-



ment and political struggle, have workers found it so difficult to communicate directly with their leadership?

For the past several years, I have tried to highlight the party's position through newspaper articles and political commentary, particularly drawing attention to organisational weaknesses in Central Punjab. I have repeatedly pointed out that the PPP's identity in this region has become confined to a handful of familiar faces. The same five or seven individuals appear in meetings, gatherings, and photographs, while serious questions remain about their grassroots activities, public engagement, and ability to mobilise workers.

These familiar faces have increasingly become a barrier between the leadership and the party's rank and file. When access to senior leaders, participation in decisions, and opportunities for political representation revolve around a limited circle, where are new workers supposed to go? Who will listen to the concerns of long-serving party members? And who will carry the party's message to the public?

My position is clear: proximity to the leadership cannot be the ultimate measure of a politician's contribution. Public support, electoral performance, organisational ability, and the confidence of party workers must be the principal criteria. If a leader fails to maintain public engagement, strengthen the organisation, or build lasting relationships with workers, that leader's performance must be reviewed. Those who have received ministerial positions, advisory appointments, or other public offices should also be assessed on the basis of their contribution to strengthening the party.

Across various districts and divisions of Punjab, concerns are being raised about the effectiveness of the party's provincial organisation. Questions have emerged regarding the activity of the provincial president and the organisational role of Hassan Murtaza, General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party Central Punjab. The office of general secretary demands political maturity, organisational discipline, a clear vision, and the ability to unite and mobilise workers. It is not merely a title; it carries the responsibility of keeping the entire organisation active and connected.

The performance of Hassan Murtaza and other prominent provincial officeholders should be examined in this context. The party needs leaders who can build confidence among workers, remain engaged with public

issues, and play a practical role in strengthening the organisation throughout Central Punjab. Instead of dismissing criticism, the leadership should encourage an impartial assessment of performance and accountability.

The most important question, however, is for Bilawal Bhutto Zardari: Has the central leadership compromised on Central Punjab, or has it failed to give this region the attention it deserves? If the situation is unacceptable to the central leadership, why have longstanding organisational weaknesses not been addressed effectively?

Punjab is not simply another province; it occupies a decisive position in Pakistan's national politics. If the PPP cannot rebuild public confidence in Punjab, present a clear political narrative, and establish a strong organisational structure, its ambition of returning to federal power will face a formidable challenge. The party cannot restore its national political standing while neglecting the importance of Punjab.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari must look beyond the five or seven familiar faces that have come to define the party's public image in Central Punjab. The leadership must establish direct connections with workers at the district, tehsil, and union council levels. People who understand their constituencies, engage with the public, organise party activities, and maintain meaningful relationships with workers should be given opportunities. Party tickets and organisational positions should be awarded on the basis of performance, public support, and organisational capability rather than personal proximity to senior leadership.

The Pakistan Peoples Party has a history of sacrifice, resistance, and public politics. This legacy cannot be confined to the limited politics of a few individuals. Workers are not a burden on the party; they are its foundation. If the leadership continues to overlook committed workers and depend on a narrow circle of familiar faces, rebuilding the party in Central Punjab will become increasingly difficult.

My question remains the same: The leadership that once responded to the email of an ordinary party worker—is it prepared to listen to its committed workers today?

If the PPP wants to regain its political standing in Punjab, it must move beyond photographs and closed-door meetings and reconnect with the people. The leadership must restore direct communication with workers, make performance the standard for organisational appointments, and provide opportunities to those who can contribute meaningfully to the party's revival.

Otherwise, history will not merely record that the PPP declined in Punjab. It will also ask why those responsible for leading the party failed to take timely action to address that decline.

Where Old Stairs Still Breathe: At Theakada, Crones Challenges the Prejudice That Ages Women Before Their Time

By: Sobia Ali
Published By: ANI News Agency

KARACHI: Karachi never sleeps, never waits and rarely looks back. Yet on a few old roads, time seems to slow down, allowing the city to remember its past.

Lined with old trees and graceful historic buildings, these streets have preserved their heritage through generations, even as the city around them continues to change. Here, old Karachi still breathes through arched windows, sun-worn stone and trees that have stood for decades. Its buildings have witnessed empires fade and generations pass, quietly holding on to the stories they have gathered along the way.

Follow one of these streets a little further, and an unassuming doorway leads to a flight of old stairs. Climb them, and they seem to guide you gently into another time. At the top, a small, old-fashioned door opens onto a space filled with the fragrance of books, art and free-thinking minds.

This is Theakada, and it welcomes you.

In an age when everyone seems busy and attention spans have shrunk to the length of a social media reel, this little room asks for something we have almost forgotten how to give: the time to sit still, put our phones away, watch an entire film together and then discuss it as if ideas still matter. Here, they do.

Theakada is the creation of Kulsom Aftab, one of Pakistan's respected dramatists, a poet, actor, director, academic and social activist who has spent more than two decades in the performing arts. She served at the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) for 20 years, headed two of its departments and established Pakistan's first theatre masterclass. She also translated Konstantin Stanislavski's An Actor Prepares into Urdu, voiced a character in 3 Bahadur, Pakistan's first animated feature film, and directed the award-winning documentary Our Jacob.

Two principles underpin her work: original content and empowerment. Both are reflected in Theakada, which describes itself as Pakistan's only woman-led film and theatre academy offering an integrated, practice-based curriculum. Its small groups learn through practical experience, encouraging a community in which participants create together rather than simply observe.

Its latest initiative, Theakada Film Screenings, brings independent films to audiences seeking stories beyond the mainstream. Yet perhaps its greatest achievement is the space itself.

In an atmosphere where opinions can feel unwelcome and people often learn to keep their thoughts to themselves, Kulsom has created a place where progressive, open-minded people can sit together and speak freely without fear of judgement. Housed in an old building steeped in history, Theakada offers a quiet warmth that is immediately felt upon entering. The existence of such a space is a credit both to the institution and to the woman who dared to create it.

On Sunday evening, those old stairs led visitors to the Pakistan premiere of Crones: A Celebration, a feature documentary by Joshinder Chaggar.

Among the guests were Mahnaz Rahman, veteran journalist and women's rights activist who led the Aurat Foundation in Sindh, and Ameena Saiyid, former managing director of Oxford University Press Pakistan, director of the Adab Festival and founder of Lightstone Publishers. Others attending included personalities from the worlds of art and film, among them Jami, Saïma Saleem, Mahera Omar, Aquila Rehman, Niiïlofer Farrukh, Ajmal Kamal, Talha Ahmed, Maria Rubab and Sobia Ali.

What they watched was a quiet act of rebellion against one of society's oldest stereotypes: that a woman has an age limit and, beyond a certain point, should retire from her own life. She is expected to stay at home, abandon her ambitions and stop wanting more. Her dreams are dismissed as outdated, her body judged to be past its prime, and her place in public life gradually diminished.

Crones challenges this assumption. Its makers describe it as "a joyful and defiant celebration of ageing and visibility".



The title itself represents an act of reclamation. Today, the word "crone" is often used as an insult, evoking the wicked old woman of fairy tales. Yet words such as "crone" and "hag" once carried associations with wisdom and power. The crone was the experienced older woman whose knowledge served her community. Over time, prejudice transformed that respect into ridicule.

The film reclaims the word and, with it, the dignity that once accompanied it.

The prejudice at the heart of the film is known as ageism, and it extends far beyond individual experience. According to the Global Report on Ageism, published in 2021 by the World Health Organization and other United Nations bodies, one in every two people worldwide holds ageist attitudes.

For women, the burden is often doubled. A grey-haired man may be described as distinguished, while a grey-haired woman may be considered past her prime. In Pakistan, as across South Asia, older women may be respected as elders while being overlooked as individuals with ambitions, desires and lives of their own.

Perhaps the most damaging form of ageism is the kind women internalise themselves: the quiet voice that tells them, "I am too old for this," long before anyone else has said it.

Filmed over five years beginning in March 2020, Crones: A Celebration unfolds against the colourful worlds of Bollywood dance and Melbourne's independent theatre scene. The 67-minute documentary follows three women whose lives develop before the camera, showing how one woman's decision to pursue her dream can inspire others to reconsider their own possibilities.

Karin Kuusk, 72, an amateur Bollywood dancer, has carried one dream since childhood: to stand before the Taj Mahal. When the film first introduces her, the dream still seems distant. Through a weekly dance class and the friendships it nurtures, she gradually regains her health, energy and enthusiasm for life. In October 2023, well into her seventies, she finally travels to India.

Her journey provides some of the film's most moving moments, capturing the uncertainty, determination and emotion involved in pursuing a long-held ambition. Her story becomes, in the filmmakers' words, a testament to "the power of a dream, at any age".

The second central figure, Natalie Gamsu, 62, is no stranger to the stage. Born in Namibia and trained in drama at the University of Cape Town, she developed a following in South Africa through her solo cabaret performances. She subsequently spent a decade in New York, singing at venues including the Oak Room and the Russian Tea Room, and won the Backstage Bistro Award and a MAC Award for Outstanding Female Vocalist.

Her career in Australia has included appearances in Mary Poppins, Barrie Kosky's Women of Troy and Baz Luhrmann's Strictly Ballroom. She has also played Jan Barton in the television soap Neighbours and Fatima in the film Ali's Wedding.

Despite this experience, opportunities begin to dry up as she enters her sixties, reflecting an entertainment industry that frequently sidelines older women.

Rather than waiting for someone to offer her a role, Gamsu writes and stages her own one-woman show. With humour, creativity and determination, she challenges the assumptions that restrict older women's opportunities in theatre. The documentary follows her journey from the first ideas to opening night, while

also exploring her questions about identity, purpose and self-worth.

Around these two women is a lively supporting cast: a Bollywood dance class for senior women in Melbourne. Dressed in bright Indian costumes, these energetic women gather every week to dance, stay fit and enjoy one another's company.

Through intimate and unhurried conversations, they reflect on the meaning of the word "crone" and ultimately claim it for themselves. The camera follows them in the classroom and backstage, capturing the everyday gestures of care, companionship and solidarity that bind them together.

Their stories challenge familiar stereotypes: that older women are necessarily frail, that their dreams have expired and that the stage belongs exclusively to the young.

The final story belongs to the woman behind the camera herself.

In her late forties, Joshinder Chaggar pursued her long-held ambition of making a feature film. In doing so, she demonstrated the very message her documentary seeks to convey: that creativity and ambition do not have an expiry date.

For Karachi, Chaggar's story carries a particularly meaningful connection. Born in India and raised in Nigeria and Australia, she once lived and worked in the city, teaching movement at NAPA and choreographing for television and music videos, including Zeb and Haniya's Aitebar.

A passionate storyteller who values women's empowerment, humour and resistance to restrictive labels, Chaggar has worked in dance and theatre for two decades and with older communities since 2018. She has also completed a PhD exploring intercultural identity and storytelling.

Her first short documentary, More Than Cute, focused on the same Bollywood dance class. It won Best Documentary at the Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival in New York in 2022 and was selected for festivals in Melbourne, London, Mumbai, Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

Crones: A Celebration, her first feature documentary, was directed, produced and filmed by Chaggar herself. The production team included Jan Allan as executive producer, Lucy Paplinska as editor, Erika M. Martinez as creative producer, Emmy-winning Jackie Turnure as impact producer, Thomas "Soup" Campbell for the music, and Pakistani documentary filmmaker Tazeen Bari as consulting editor.

Film, art and theatre have long been among the most powerful ways to hold a mirror up to society, forcing it to confront realities it might otherwise prefer to ignore. Crones: A Celebration does precisely that, without resorting to a lecture.

The film is engaging throughout, filled with colour, music and movement. Its characters are vivid and complex, and their experiences invite laughter, empathy and moments of genuine reflection. Each woman's story offers something recognisable, reminding viewers that the desire to grow, create, explore and find purpose does not disappear with age.

With this documentary, Joshinder Chaggar challenges the glass ceiling that society builds over women's lives as they grow older. The film's message resonates long after the screenings end.

As the audience descended Theakada's old stairs and returned to the noise of the city, they carried with them a simple but powerful reminder: a woman's dreams do not come with an expiry date, and her time is never truly over.

It is simply, as the film insists, her time.

Turkey and Pakistan Friendship: A Partnership Rooted in History and Shaping the Future



By: Mahmood Khan
Published by: ANI News Agency

The friendship between Türkiye and Pakistan is one

of the most enduring relationships between two Muslim-majority countries. It is rooted in history, strengthened by mutual respect and sustained by close people-to-people ties. Over the years, the relationship has evolved beyond traditional diplomacy into a broad partnership covering defence, trade, education, technology, energy and regional cooperation.

The roots of this friendship go back to a period before Pakistan came into existence. Muslims of the Indian subcontinent expressed strong support for the Turkish people during the Turkish War of Independence. The establishment of the modern Turkish Republic also inspired many Muslims in South Asia. When Pakistan emerged as an independent country in 1947, these historical connections provided a strong foundation for relations between the two nations.

Since then, successive governments and people in both countries have maintained close ties. Natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies have repeatedly provided opportunities for Türkiye and Pakistan to support each other. Such solidarity has given the relationship a strong public dimension that goes beyond formal diplomatic engagement.

Strengthening Institutional Cooperation

The institutional framework between the two countries has also expanded over time. In 2009, Türkiye and Pakistan established the High-Level Cooperation Council, which was later upgraded to the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC).

The seventh session of the HLSCC was held in Islamabad in February 2025. During the meeting, both sides agreed to deepen and institutionalise cooperation across a range of sectors. New standing committees dealing with security and defence, health, and science and technology were also established, reflecting the growing scope of bilateral relations.

Defence and Strategic Cooperation
Defence cooperation remains an important pillar of the Pakistan-Türkiye partnership. The two countries have developed extensive cooperation in military training, defence production and technology. Their relationship has increasingly moved towards joint projects and a more structured approach to defence and security cooperation.

In July 2025, Türkiye and Pakistan inaugurated a Joint Standing Committee on Security, Defence and Intelligence, creating another institutional mechanism for cooperation in these areas.

The partnership gained an additional strategic dimension in August 2026 when Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. The agreement underlined the three countries' interest in closer defence cooperation and enhanced collective security.

Expanding Economic Relations

While defence and strategic cooperation remain significant, economic relations may offer some of the greatest opportunities for the future. A strong political relationship becomes more sustainable when it translates into investment, employment, trade and technological development.

Pakistan and Türkiye have identified several sectors with considerable potential, including trade and investment, energy, mining, information technology, agriculture and connectivity. During the July 2026 meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, both sides reaffirmed their ambition to increase bilateral trade towards the US\$5 billion mark.

Energy is another promising area. Companies from both countries have explored opportunities in petroleum and natural-gas exploration, while mineral resources and other sectors also offer room for greater cooperation.

For Pakistan, Turkish experience in industrial development, infrastructure and technology can provide valuable opportunities. For Türkiye, Pakistan offers a large consumer market, a growing technology sector and a strategically important location linking South Asia with other regional markets.

Education, Culture and People-to-People Ties

The relationship is not limited to governments and institutions. Education

and culture have become important bridges between the two societies.

Turkish educational institutions and cultural programmes have expanded their presence in Pakistan. In 2025, Türkiye's Foreign Minister stated that the Türkiye Maarif Foundation had more than 80 schools in Pakistan, with further expansion planned.

Turkish television dramas have also gained considerable popularity in Pakistan, while tourism, student exchanges and academic cooperation have created additional opportunities for interaction. These cultural links matter because the long-term strength of bilateral relations will depend not only on political leaders but also on younger generations.

The Road Ahead
The friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye has a strong foundation, but its future will depend on how effectively both countries convert goodwill into practical outcomes.

There is considerable scope for increasing two-way trade, encouraging private-sector investment, simplifying business procedures and improving transport and connectivity. Cooperation can also be expanded in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

Pakistan can benefit from Türkiye's industrial and technological experience, while Turkish businesses can explore opportunities in Pakistan's large market and strategic geographic position. Greater interaction between the private sectors of both countries could therefore become an important driver of the next phase of the relationship.

Ultimately, the strength of Pakistan-Türkiye relations lies in the combination of a shared historical bond, public goodwill and strategic interests. The challenge for both countries is to translate that goodwill into greater economic opportunity, educational exchange, technological cooperation and regional stability.

Pakistan and Türkiye have often described their relationship as "Two Souls, One Heart." The coming years will show how effectively that sentiment can be transformed into stronger institutions, deeper economic partnerships and lasting opportunities for the people of both countries.



Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev Meets Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

Report: ANI

RAWALPINDI -- Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Kolokoltsev called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest and the regional security environment, with a particular focus on strengthening bilateral security cooperation. They underscored the importance of closer institutional ties and improved coordination between the security institutions of Pakistan and Russia.

Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to



strengthening its longstanding relations with Russia and expanding practical cooperation in areas of shared interest, particularly security. The visiting Russian dignitary appreciated Pakistan's contributions to regional peace and stability and acknowledged the professionalism and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

President Asif Ali Zardari Receives Credentials of Saudi and French Ambassadors-Designate

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- President Asif Ali Zardari Receives Credentials of Saudi and French Ambassadors-Designate President Asif Ali Zardari received the credentials of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador-designate, H.E. Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, and France's Ambassador-designate, Mr. Jean-Noël Poirier, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Pakistan and Oman Sign Five Agreements and MoUs, Agree to Expand Bilateral Cooperation

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD --Pakistan and Oman have signed five agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to strengthen cooperation in media, information technology, trade, investment and other sectors during the official visit of Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi to Pakistan on October 13-14, 2026.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and the Omani foreign minister co-chaired the 8th Session of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), discussing cooperation in trade, investment, energy, agriculture, workforce mobility, education and technology.

The agreements cover mutual visa exemption for diplomatic, special, official and service passport holders,



records and archives, media cooperation, communications and information technology, and news exchange. The document exchange ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's House in the presence of the prime minister.

Both sides emphasized implementing agreed decisions, promoting business exchanges and strengthening people-to-people ties. They also agreed to hold the 9th JMC session in Muscat next year.

The discussions also covered regional and international developments. The Omani foreign minister appreciated Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace, while Ishaq Dar outlined Pakistan's position on Palestine, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, and the Indus Waters Treaty.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Pays Tribute to Rural Women, Calls for Economic Empowerment

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD-- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has paid tribute to the invaluable contributions of rural women to agricultural development, food security and Pakistan's socio-economic progress, stressing the need to ensure equal opportunities, economic empowerment and protection of their rights.

In his message ahead of the International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on October 15, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the vital role of rural women in agriculture, livestock management, household economies and community



development. He noted that rural women continue to face challenges in accessing quality education, healthcare, financial resources and economic opportunities. He empha-

sized the need to improve their access to vocational training, modern agricultural technologies and financial services, while safeguarding their legal, property and inheritance rights. The Speaker said Parliament has an important role in promoting gender equality through effective legislation and oversight. He called for coordinated efforts by relevant institutions and stakeholders to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural women.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed that empowering rural women is essential for poverty alleviation, agricultural growth, food security and sustainable national development.

ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia Chairs Consultative Meeting with Islamabad Traders

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD --President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia addresses a consultative meeting with representatives of market associations, traders and other stakeholders at the Chamber House.

ICCI Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatah, Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran President Ajmal Baloch, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan President Kashif Chaudhry, former ICCI President Mohammad Ejaz



Abbasi, Executive Members Abrar ul Haq and Shahid Abbasi, along with other trade leaders, are also attending the meeting.

PARC Renames Crop Sciences Institute After Founding Chairman Dr. Amir Muhammed

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) held a condolence reference at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to pay tribute to its founding Chairman, late Dr. Amir Muhammed, Hilal-i-Imtiaz, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural research and national development.

As a tribute to his legacy, the Crop Sciences Institute at NARC has been renamed the Dr. Amir Muhammed Institute of Crop Sciences.

Chairman PARC Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi highlighted Dr. Amir Muhammed's visionary leadership and pioneering role in establishing a coordinated national agricultural research system. He said his contributions laid the foundation for PARC as Pakistan's leading agricul-



tural research organization and continue to inspire scientists and researchers.

Dr. Amir Muhammed also served as the founding Director of the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad, Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, and founding Rector of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST). He led PARC as Chairman from 1978 to 1990.

The condolence reference was attended by his daughters and other family members, serving and retired PARC scientists, and representatives of research institutions. Speakers paid tribute to his scientific achievements and lasting contributions to agricultural research and higher education in Pakistan.

Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani Calls for Sustainable Solutions to Poverty



Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD -- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has stressed that poverty alleviation must go beyond immediate relief by creating sustainable economic opportunities, ensuring social justice and enabling people to live with dignity and independence.

Addressing the closing session of an international conference titled "Inclusive and Resilient Economic Empowerment and Growth – From Poverty to Prosperity" as chief guest at a local hotel in Islamabad, he said inclusive growth required a comprehensive approach encompassing social protection, skills development, economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Recalling his tenure as Prime Minister, Gilani highlighted the launch of the Benazir Income

Support Programme (BISP) as a vital safety net for deserving families. He also underscored the significance of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and appreciated the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for promoting community-driven development, interest-free financial services and livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and disadvantaged communities.

He called for stronger coordination between social protection, skills training, productive assets, market access and employment opportunities. Emphasising women's empowerment and youth development, he also stressed the need to protect vulnerable communities from climate-related challenges and economic shocks through coordinated efforts by the government, parliament, development partners and civil society. Quoting Nelson Mandela, Gilani

said, "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice." He reaffirmed the Senate's commitment to inclusive development, social justice and public welfare, urging stakeholders to translate the conference declaration into practical measures that improve people's lives. The Senate chairman also congratulated recipients of the Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan Excellence Awards, describing women's empowerment as essential to Pakistan's socioeconomic progress. He commended the PPAF, the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, development partners and participating institutions for their contributions to the conference. A large number of women parliamentarians attended the event. Gilani acknowledged their role in legislation and policymaking and presented shields in recognition of their services.

Khakan Waheed Khawaja Highlights Healthcare Initiatives and E-Commerce Employment Opportunities

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD --Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party Chairman and Chairman of Rawal General and Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khakan Waheed Khawaja, has said that initiatives are being taken to improve healthcare services and create employment opportunities for young people through e-commerce.

Speaking to delegations of paramedical staff and political and social leaders, he emphasized that healthcare is essential for building a healthy society. He said that



health card facilities are being provided even without being in government.

Khawaja added that e-commerce and microfinance are being pro-

moted to help unemployed youth acquire three months of e-commerce training and earn a livelihood. He said public welfare projects would continue at the same pace.

Keeping Sibi Clean Is Our Collective Responsibility; Action to Be Taken Against Encroachments and Littering, Says Chief Officer Muhammad Qayyum Dehpal

Report: ANI

SIBI -- Chief Officer of the Municipal Committee Sibi, Muhammad Qayyum Dehpal, has said that keeping the city clean is a shared responsibility, warning that legal action will be taken against those involved in littering and

establishing illegal encroachments.

Speaking to media representatives, he urged shopkeepers to dispose of their waste at designated places or in dustbins and refrain from throwing garbage on roads. He said practical measures would be taken to improve cleanliness across the city and ensure

the smooth flow of traffic. He warned that strict legal action would be initiated against those found dumping waste on roads or creating illegal encroachments. The chief officer appealed to citizens and traders to cooperate with the Municipal Committee and play their role in keeping Sibi clean and orderly.

Commissioner Salman Ghani, VC Dr. Tayyaba Zareef Inaugurate First Mega Book Fair at Rawalpindi Women University

Report: Kiran Shehzadi/ANI

RAWALPINDI --Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Salman Ghani and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zareef inaugurated the first two-day Mega Book Fair at Rawalpindi Women University to promote reading habits and strengthen the academic and literary environment on campus. Following the inauguration, Salman Ghani and Dr. Tayyaba Zareef visited various book stalls, where students briefed them on the subjects and content of the books on display.

Appreciating the initiative, Commissioner Salman Ghani praised the quality and diversity of the books and commended students for their knowledge. He stressed the importance of encouraging young people to reconnect with reading in the digital age, saying, "Books are the best friends when it comes to solving



problems."

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Zareef said books play a vital role in developing critical thinking, intellectual maturity and concentration. She encouraged students to benefit from artificial intelligence and modern technology while maintaining regular reading habits.

She also announced that the university library would be upgraded with the latest editions to provide students with quality reading material and promote learning beyond the prescribed syllabus.

The two-day fair features books on a wide range of subjects, enabling students and faculty members to explore new publications and broaden their intellectual horizons.