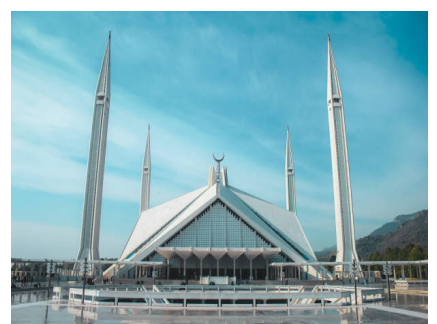


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Iran to accept major inspections to ensure 'nuclear honesty': Trump



ANI

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Monday said Iran would agree to extensive weapons inspections aimed at ensuring what he described as "nuclear honesty" in the years ahead.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote: "Everybody is fully aware that Iran will agree to have Major Weapons Inspections in order to ensure 'Nuclear Honesty' long into the future."

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will travel to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain this week to discuss regional security following a memorandum of understanding reached between the

US and Iran, the State Department announced on Monday.

In a statement, State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said that Rubio's trip, which will take place on June 23-25, will focus on "a range of regional priorities including the memorandum of understanding with Iran, efforts to secure full and free safe transit through the Strait of Hormuz, and the importance of peace and stability in the region."

In Bahrain, Rubio is scheduled to meet representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council to discuss shared regional priorities and cooperation on key issues affecting Gulf states, Pigott added.

The visit would mark one of the highest-level US engagements with

Gulf states since Washington and Tehran signed a memorandum of understanding last week, launching a 60-day negotiating process aimed at ending the four-month war that was initiated by the US and Israel against Iran. Earlier, US Vice President JD Vance said talks with Iranian officials in Switzerland had laid a "good foundation" for a final peace deal, despite tensions over the Strait of Hormuz and Lebanon.

The two sides, trying to build on an interim deal signed last week, agreed to a roadmap towards a permanent agreement within 60 days at the talks in the Qatari-owned Swiss mountain resort of Buergenstock, mediators Pakistan and Qatar said.

They also agreed on a mechanism

to end fighting in Lebanon between US ally Israel and Iran-aligned Hezbollah, and opened a communications line to help ensure safe passage for commercial ships through the strait, a vital global oil supply route. Vance said Tehran had agreed to allow in nuclear inspectors, and to establish mechanisms to handle its assets frozen abroad and manage ceasefires.

"We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," he told reporters after taking part in the talks. Since the US bombed Iran's nuclear facilities in June last year, Iran has let the International Atomic Energy Agency inspect only facilities that were not attacked in those strikes.

FO confirms Iranian President Pezeshkian's visit to Pakistan on Tuesday

DR WAHEED M KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will arrive in Pakistan on Tuesday on a state visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Foreign Office said on Monday. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said President Pezeshkian would undertake the visit on June 23. It will be his second visit to Pakistan in his capacity as Iran's president, and he will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers and other senior officials. During the visit, President Pezeshkian will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and meet the chairman of the Senate, the National Assembly speaker and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He will also hold talks with PM Shehbaz.

According to the Foreign Office, the two sides will review the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explore new avenues to deepen cooperation in trade, energy, border security, people-to-people exchanges and regional connectivity.

The visit will also provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing diplomatic engagements following the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, as well as regional and international developments of mutual interest.

"The forthcoming visit reflects the shared commitment of Pakistan and Iran to further deepen their historic and cultural ties and underscores their common aspiration for peace, stability, and sustainable progress in the region," the statement said. Earlier, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency also reported that President Pezeshkian was scheduled to visit Pakistan on Tuesday.

The one-day trip would be Pezeshkian's first overseas visit since the US and Iran launched a war on Iran in late February.

During the visit, Pezeshkian is expected to hold talks with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who chaired the quadrilateral talks - US-Iran-Pakistan-Qatar - in the Swiss lake city of Burgenstock on Sunday.

Separately on Monday, he warned against what he called messages that could fuel division inside Iran, in his first remarks after the start of US-Iran talks in



Switzerland.

In a speech in Tehran, Pezeshkian said the Iranian negotiating delegation joined the talks with the US in Switzerland "without offering any concessions," the ISNA news agency reported. "Every message that leads to division and discord serves the enemy," he said, in reference to domestic criticism of the negotiations with Washington.

"Iran would not back down if the other side ignored its rights during the negotiations," Pezeshkian said, citing that the US had stepped back on the Lebanon file in response to an Iranian request during the talks. "Some positive developments had been achieved," he added.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said early on Monday that negotiations with the US in Switzerland facilitated by Pakistan and Qatar had produced "significant progress" toward ending the war in Lebanon and easing pressure on Iran's economy.

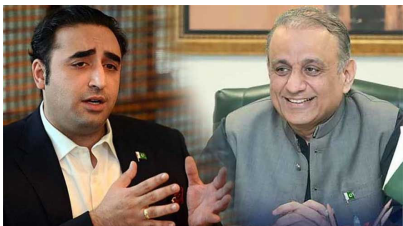
US Vice President JD Vance said on Monday that negotiations with Iran at the Burgenstock resort in Switzerland had made significant progress, adding that the parties had laid a "very good foundation" for reaching a final agreement.

"Yesterday was a very, very good day. We made a lot of good progress," Vance told reporters after talks involving US and Iranian officials, alongside mediators from Qatar and Pakistan. He said the discussions achieved several key objectives, including establishing mechanisms to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and a deconfliction mechanism between Israel and Lebanon. The arrangement is intended to ensure that "when things happen, the sides are actually talking to one another," and to prevent tensions from spiraling into a broader regional escalation, he said.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari contacts Aleem Khan, offers political alliance in Gilgit-Baltistan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, held a telephonic conversation with Aleem Khan, President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, regarding the formation of a government in Gilgit-Baltistan, according to party sources. During the discussion, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended an invitation to collaborate in forming a coalition government in the region, including arrangements for key constitutional offices and administrative positions. Sources said detailed consultations were held on the election of the Chief Minister, Speaker, and other important offices in Gilgit-Baltistan. Reports suggest that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari sought the support of Aleem Khan's party for the selection of key office-



holders, which was reportedly agreed upon in principle. Aleem Khan described the conversation as cordial and positive, stating that his party would support the Pakistan Peoples Party in the election process for the Chief Minister, Speaker, and other constitutional positions. He added that his party would also play a constructive role in ensuring the success of agreed candidates with a strong majority.

PPP will not pass disputed telecom bill containing 'draconian clauses': Sherry Rehman

ANI

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said her party would not allow any legislation related to the IT sector, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), or right of way (RWA) to pass through the Senate unless it was thoroughly scrutinised and amended by the relevant standing committee.

"For the record, PPP in the Senate will not be passing ANY IT/PTA/RWA legislation which is not thoroughly discussed threadbare in the Standing Committee of Senate with our deletions assured in the final bill," Sherry said in a post on X.

The National Assembly (NA) passed the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 on June 11. The Senate Standing Committee on IT and Telecom has since reviewed it and deferred further consideration for clause-by-clause scrutiny.

Sherry said the bill transmitted by the NA had been stopped in the Senate because it "still contained draconian clauses we had repeatedly asked to be removed, especially 27A." The section deals with rights of way for telecommunications infrastructure. The Senator also raised concerns about related provisions, including Section 27B, which allowed the government to impose fines of up to Rs50 million for obstructing or delaying the grant of such rights. According to Sherry, party members in the NA had been informed that the controversial provisions had been removed before the NA passed the legislation. "Our NA members were told these have been removed when the bill was moved there," she wrote, adding that while some objectionable provisions had been deleted, "all were still not deleted when the bill was trans-



mitted to us in the Upper House." "This is why we insisted on sending it to the Standing Committee in the Senate," Rehman wrote.

She stressed that the PPP supported the expansion of digital infrastructure but opposed provisions it considered excessive.

"We are certainly not against fiberisation in Pakistan, but have been refusing to pass the current bill with existing encroachments on right of way, egregious penalties and even redressal mechanisms, which should not be in the hands of the executive," she said.

While welcoming the formation of a government committee to review the legislation, Sherry insisted that any revised draft should first be examined by the Senate committee. "These should be brought to the Standing Committee once re-proposed. Our chair is fully briefed. There is no hurry to push it through without satisfying us and other representatives," she said.

The Senator also suggested a public hearing on the topic in an effort to "give people confidence that they are being heard."

Buyer who failed to pay balance sale consideration not entitled to transfer of property: SC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan has ruled that the remedy of specific performance is an equitable relief that could only be granted to a party that continuously demonstrates readiness, willingness and financial capacity to fulfill its contractual obligations. The Court held that a purchaser who failed to pay the balance sale consideration within the agreed period could not claim entitlement to such relief. According to the detailed judgment approved for reporting, a two-member bench comprising Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb disposed of civil appeals filed against a Lahore High Court (LHC) judgment concerning the sale of a 5-kanal, 4-marla property in Sialkot. The Court noted that under an agreement executed on March 11, 2014, purchaser Amjad Javed had paid Rs 8,00,000 as earnest money, while the remaining amount of Rs 6.48 million was required to be paid by July 27, 2014. The judgment observed that the agreement expressly provided that the earnest money could be forfeited if the balance amount was not paid by the stipulated date.

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday welcomed the "successful conclusion" of the first High-Level Committee meeting held under the framework of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding in Burgenstock, Switzerland, saying the talks have produced "encouraging progress" and a roadmap toward a final agreement within 60 days. The first round of four-party talks involving Iran and the US, with mediation by Qatar and Pakistan, concluded in Switzerland, marking the first formal follow-up engagement since the signing of the agreement earlier this week. In a post on X, PM Shehbaz said, "Alhamdulillah, the First High-Level Committee Meeting... has concluded successfully in Burgenstock, Switzerland."

He added that the discussions were held in a "positive and constructive atmosphere"



and "yielded encouraging progress," including "agreement on a roadmap toward a final deal within 60 days," the establishment of a "High-Level Committee to provide political oversight," and the start of further technical negotiations. The prime minister said he "commends the leadership of both the United States as well as Iran for their continued commitment to constructive engagement," adding that he appreciated their "continued

commitment to dialogue and diplomacy."

He also thanked "all brotherly and friendly countries" for what he called their "valuable support in advancing this historic process". PM Shehbaz singled out Qatar for special praise, saying, "I would like to express my gratitude to our brotherly country Qatar, for its critical support in creating the conditions necessary for these negotiations to move forward." He further acknowledged Switzerland's role "for their facilitation in hosting these talks." PM Shehbaz paid "special tribute to Field Marshal Asim Munir" for his "untiring efforts" that made the talks possible, adding that his "dedication, commitment and perseverance are indeed commendable without which there would have been no progress." He also praised Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, commending his "diplomatic efforts along with his team at the Foreign Office."

Ambassador Zaidong conveys DPM Dar China's commendation for Pakistan's successful de-escalation efforts

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday received Ambassador of China, Jiang Zaidong who conveyed to him China's commendation of Pakistan's successful contribution to de-escalation and reaffirmed China's steadfast support to Pakistan's mediation role for durable peace and stability in the region.



The DPM/FM shared the developments related to the high-level talks on the implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) held in Burgenstock, Switzerland. He also recalled his recent visit to Cairo, where he had participated in the R-4 Regional Foreign Ministers' Meeting alongside the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye to advance col-

lective efforts aimed at facilitating dialogue and peaceful resolution of issues, a DPM's Office news release said.



Islamabad:Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi presents a commemorative shield to United Business Group (UBG) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari during a meeting in Islamabad. Chairman Founder Group ICCI Tariq Sadiq, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Malik Shabbir Awan, Sameena Fazil, Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, Shumaila Siddiqui and Imtiaz Abbasi are also present on the occasion.

KP rich in investment opportunities, international tourism summit to be held soon: Kundi

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said the province was endowed with vast natural resources, tourism potential, agriculture, minerals, hydro-power, and oil and gas reserves, offering immense opportunities for local and foreign investors.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level delegation of the United Business Group (UBG), which called on him at his Islamabad residence.

The delegation included Founder Group ICCI Chairman Tariq Sadiq, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, former Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Talagang Chamber of Commerce President Malik Shabbir Awan, ICCI Executive Member Shumaila Siddiqui, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce President Samina Fazil, Group Leader Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, former ICCI Executive Member Intiaz Abbasi and

others. The Governor emphasized the importance of restoring border routes and regional trade corridors, saying Pakistan should have improved trade access to the Central Asian states to boost business, trade and economic activities. He announced that an international tourism summit would soon be organized to promote tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding that consultations were underway with Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and other stakeholders regarding the event. The summit is likely to be held at Nathia Gali and the Governor House Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said, adding that it would project Pakistan's positive image globally, promote tourism and create new opportunities for investment and local economic growth. Highlighting the need for women's economic empowerment, Governor Kundi said women associated with handicrafts and cottage industries were not receiving fair compensation for their skills.

He urged the business and industrial community of Islamabad to help connect skilled women artisans with national



and international markets, adding that the business community's links with diplomatic circles and major institutions could facilitate the promotion and marketing of their products.

Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Sadiq said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa possessed enormous potential in investment, tourism and minerals, stressing that close cooperation between the government and the private sector was essential to capitalize on these opportunities.

Zafar Bakhtawari said stronger inter-provincial and international trade link-

ages were vital for Pakistan's economic development, adding that improved access to Central Asian markets and the revival of trade corridors would benefit both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the national economy.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari welcomed the Governor's announcement of the international tourism summit and said Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tourist destinations, deserved greater global recognition. He assured full cooperation from the business community in promoting tourism, investment and Pakistan's positive image.

He also stressed the need for a joint strategy involving chambers of commerce, business organizations and diplomatic missions to help skilled women access international markets.

Malik Shabbir Awan called for stronger business ties between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, while Shumaila Siddiqui and Samina Fazil emphasized the need to create better marketing and export opportunities for women entrepreneurs and artisans.

Pakistan emerges as key peacemaker after facilitating US-Iran talks: Masood Khan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China and the United Nations, and former President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan said on Monday that Pakistan's successful mediation between the United States and Iran has elevated the country to the front ranks of international diplomacy, establishing it as a trusted peacemaker with growing influence across West Asia.

In a statement, he said Pakistan's diplomatic achievement was unprecedented, as it successfully brought together two adversaries that had remained hostile for nearly five decades. He noted that Islamabad hosted the first face-to-face talks between Washington and Tehran, followed by sustained backchannel diplomacy that ultimately resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at ending hostilities and launching a structured process for a broader political settlement. Khan said that when differences emerged immediately after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding over the implementation of a comprehensive ceasefire, particularly concerning developments on the Lebanese front, Pakistan once again stepped forward to prevent the diplomatic process from collapsing.

Working closely with Qatar, Pakistan facilitated emergency consultations that helped preserve momentum and keep negotiations on track.

DPM Dar announces safe repatriation of eight Iranian fishermen rescued off Pakistan coast

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday announced the successful repatriation of eight Iranian fishermen who had been rescued at sea after their boat ran aground. In a post on his official X wall, DPM Dar said the eight Iranian fishermen, who were rescued by the British vessel MMA Valour, departed from Karachi for Iran on Monday morning following the completion of all necessary arrangements. He said Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned authorities worked closely with Iranian and British officials to facilitate the fishermen's safe transit and early return to their homeland. "Glad to share that the eight Iranian fishermen rescued at sea by the British vessel MMA Valour after their boat ran aground have been successfully repatriated and departed from Karachi for Iran this morning," Dar wrote. The deputy prime minister said the coordinated efforts reflected Pakistan's commitment to humanitarian cooperation and regional goodwill.

Experts call for integrating climate risks into fiscal planning to safeguard economy

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Climate risks were increasingly undermining economic growth, fiscal stability, food security and development gains and thus, the government needed to integrate climate change considerations into Pakistan's economic and budgetary planning.

This was the consensus among policy experts and parliamentarians at a parliamentary consultation on 'Mainstreaming Climate Considerations in Pakistan's Economic and Budgetary Planning', jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Embassy of Denmark here on Monday, said a press release here on Monday.

Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Maja Mortensen, said climate and environmental concerns could no longer be addressed in isolation and must become part of mainstream economic and political decision-making. "The diagnosis of the prob-

lem already exists; the challenge now is how to translate it into policy action," she said, describing the consultation as timely in the wake of the federal budget process.

Experts call for integrating climate risks into fiscal planning to safeguard economy

She emphasized that climate resilience and economic development are complementary rather than competing objectives. She also offered Danish experience and technical cooperation in integrating climate priorities

SDPI Executive Director, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, said climate considerations must be reflected in both federal and provincial finance bills, as Pakistan's budget framework is being shaped under the International Monetary Fund's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and



Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) programmes. The IMF-supported reforms had encouraged greater allocations for disaster risk reduction, water conservation and renewable energy projects, he said, adding that some of these commitments had already been reflected in federal and provincial budgets. He cited revised water tariffs in the Punjab,

increased allocations for disaster preparedness, enhanced climate financing and plans for a pilot project linking grid-level battery storage with wind energy generation in Jhimpir.

Dr Suleri, however, warned that climate finance was shrinking globally and nationally despite rising climate-related challenges. He also stressed the need for stronger coordination between the federation and provinces to meet climate commitments.

Member National Assembly (MNA) Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Member National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said Pakistan remained among the countries most affected by climate change despite contributing minimally to global emissions. Referring to the aftermath of the 2022 flood, he regretted that much of the international financial support pledged for reconstruction had not been materialized so far.

Finance committee presents report on Finance Bill to NA

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance, Syed Naveed Qamar, on Monday presented the committee's report on the Finance Bill in the House. Presenting the report, Qamar said the committee had finalized its recommendations on the Finance Bill after extensive deliberations and consultations with stakeholders, while assuring that issues raised by dissenting members would continue to be discussed after the budget process. He said members holding differing views had submitted notes of dissent, which had been attached to the report and would be considered in future discussions to ensure that all viewpoints were accommodated in subsequent legislative reviews.

Qamar regretted the absence of opposition members from committee proceedings, saying their participation could have further strengthened the report. He expressed hope that future meetings on crucial economic legislation would witness

broader participation so that alternative perspectives could be debated and reflected in policymaking. He said the committee's report, spanning around 17 to 18 pages, incorporated recommendations relating to various sectors, including the automobile industry, the mobile phone sector, and other industries that had expressed concerns regarding the government's proposed taxation and digitization measures. He added that while reforms such as faceless customs assessment and other automated systems were aimed at improving efficiency and transparency, Pakistan still needed to significantly enhance its tax-to-GDP ratio to ensure sustainable governance and reduce reliance on borrowing and fiscal deficits. "The government cannot continue to run solely on deficits and loans. State expenditure must increasingly be financed through taxes collected in a fair and efficient manner," he said.

The committee chairman emphasized that tax reforms should be accompanied by safeguards to prevent misuse of authority by tax officials.

Hot, dry weather to persist across most parts of country on Tuesday; rain likely in upper regions

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country on Tuesday.

While isolated rain-wind/thunderstorms are likely in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and north-eastern Punjab, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

The Met Office said Islamabad and adjoining areas are expected to remain hot, with partly cloudy conditions likely during the afternoon.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, hot and dry weather is forecast for most districts, while partly cloudy conditions with isolated rain-wind/thunderstorms are expected in Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Abbottabad and Parachinar. Punjab is also likely to experience mainly hot and dry weather. However, isolated rain-wind/thunderstorms may occur in Murree, Galiyat, Jhelum, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat.

UMT Retains Place in QS World University Rankings 2027 for Second Consecutive Year

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE--- The University of Management and Technology (UMT) has once again secured its position in the QS World University Rankings 2027, marking its inclusion among leading global universities for the second consecutive year. The university has been placed in the 1201-1400 band, with only 18 universities from Pakistan making it to the list.

Chairman and President UMT, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, congratulated faculty, students, and staff on the achievement, terming it a matter



of national and institutional pride. He said UMT's continued presence in the rankings reflects its academic quality, research strength, modern facilities, and commitment to innovation.

He added that the recognition highlights UMT's growing international reputation and will help expand opportunities for academic collaboration, research partnerships, and student exchange programs. Murad emphasized that the university remains committed to promoting quality education and contributing to Pakistan's higher education development at the global level.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Congratulates Newly Elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker of GB Assembly

BY: Mayyam Sajjad / ANI.

ISLAMABAD--- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has congratulated Imran Nadeem on being elected unopposed as Speaker of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly and Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman as Deputy Speaker.

In his message, the Speaker extended good wishes to the newly

elected leadership, stating that their unopposed election reflects the complete confidence of the members of the Assembly. He said he hopes the new Speaker and Deputy Speaker will play an effective role in upholding constitutional supremacy and promoting democratic traditions.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq added that strong parliamentary institutions are vital for strengthening harmony

between the federation and its units. He noted that the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly is actively representing public aspirations and contributing to regional development.

He further expressed hope that under the new leadership, the Assembly will function more effectively in serving the people of Gilgit-Baltistan and prayed for their success in their responsibilities.

Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gilani Congratulates Newly Elected Leadership of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected Speaker Imran Nadeem and Deputy Speaker Malik Kifayat-ur-Rehman of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly.

In his message, he said their election reflects the strength of democratic traditions and the consolidation of parliamentary values in the

country. He noted that the confidence expressed by Assembly members is a testament to their leadership qualities and commitment to public service. Chairman Senate said the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly plays an important role in representing public aspirations and promoting regional development through effective legislation and parliamentary work. He expressed hope that the new leadership will strengthen constitutional supremacy, democratic

norms, and legislative processes in the region. He added that stronger parliamentary institutions are essential for national unity and federal harmony.

Yousaf Raza Gilani further stated that enhanced cooperation between the Senate of Pakistan and the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly would help strengthen the parliamentary system. He wished the newly elected leadership success in their responsibilities and future endeavors.

Pakistan plans Rs283bn national AI ecosystem programme

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The government has planned a Rs. 283 billion programme to build a secure, sovereign, and innovation-driven artificial intelligence ecosystem over the next five years. According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the National AI Ecosystem Development Programme (NAIEDP) will be implemented from 2026 to

2031. The government has proposed an initial allocation of Rs185 million for FY2026-27 to start work on the programme. The initiative is expected to serve as a cornerstone of Pakistan's broader digital transformation agenda and help position the country to benefit from the growing global AI economy. Among its key objectives, the programme aims to promote economic transformation and growth by adopting artificial intelligence across sectors.

NA approves Rs.74.35bln in grant demands for Ministry of Interior

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday approved four demands for grants amounting to Rs.74,354,334,000 for the Ministry of Interior after rejecting 123 cut motions moved by opposition lawmakers. The demands for grants were presented by Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to meet expenditures for the financial year 2026-27.

The approved grants included Rs26,651,923,000 for the Interior and Narcotics Control Division, Rs23,125,142,000 for Other Expenditure of the Interior and Narcotics Control Division, Rs23,221,446,000 for the Islamabad Capital Territory, and Rs1,355,823,000 for the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA).

Responding to various points raised by opposition lawmakers, State Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control said that Interior Ministry and its attached departments play a key role in ensuring border security, internal stability, immi-

gration control, counter-narcotics operations, NADRA services, passport issuance, and the protection of strategic national assets, including dams and other critical installations.

He said the ministry oversees around eight major institutions working in different capacities under different uniforms but with a shared responsibility of safeguarding Pakistan's internal security. He added that these institutions have collectively rendered significant sacrifices, with thousands of personnel embracing martyrdom while performing duties ranging from counterterrorism to anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations. He said Pakistan's counter-narcotics and security agencies continue to operate under limited resources, noting that the ministry currently has 3,192 personnel and operates 33 police stations across the country. Despite these constraints, he said, the units remain integrated with the broader policing system nationwide. Talal Chaudhry said that in the past year, the Interior Ministry has

undergone reforms and restructuring, including the establishment of new institutions through parliamentary legislation. These include the National Forensics Agency, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency, the Federal Criminal Prosecution Service, the Pakistan Land Record Authority, and bodies related to social media regulation. He further said the government has signed more than 70 international agreements during the past year, covering extradition of accused persons, mutual legal assistance, and passport-related cooperation, which he said have directly benefited citizens and passport holders.

Referring to narcotics control, he said that since the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the subject largely falls under provincial jurisdiction.

He questioned the performance of some provinces in fulfilling their responsibilities, noting that only two provinces have taken significant steps in establishing dedicated counter-narcotics forces.

Daily

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Opinion

3

Pakistan Welcomes Progress in US-Iran Talks Under Islamabad MoU



:BY; Asghar Ali Mubarak
Published BY: ANI News Agency

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep satisfaction over the success of the first high-level meeting between the US and Iran under the “Islamabad MoU”, describing these talks as positive, constructive and encouraging.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan has announced that the first round of high-level talks between the US and Iran under the framework of the Islamabad MoU has been successfully completed.

Pakistan and Qatar have played an important role as mediators in this historic peace process held in the beautiful resort of Bergenstock, Switzerland, and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep satisfaction over the success of the process. Moreover, Iranian President Masoud Peshmerga will arrive in Pakistan on a one-day visit today, Tuesday, June 23, where he will discuss various issues of bilateral relations, regional situation and mutual cooperation during his meetings with the top leadership of Pakistan. During the visit, he will consult with Pakistani officials and discuss important regional and bilateral issues. A meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is of particular importance on the agenda of the visit, during which the Iranian President will express his gratitude for Pakistan’s mediation and facilitation role in the recent diplomatic developments between Iran and the United States.

In a statement issued on the social media platform ‘X’, the Prime Minister appreciated the seriousness of the leadership of the US and Iran in advancing this peace process and thanked all friendly countries including the Swiss government.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister paid great tribute to the tireless efforts of Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir in particular, saying that “their dedication, determination and perseverance are truly commendable, without which no progress in this process would have been possible.”

He also warmly praised the diplomatic and political efforts of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, the

has lifted the severe sanctions on Iran’s oil exports and some of Iran’s frozen assets and billions of rupees worth of funds that were blocked around the world have also been restored.” He further said that after this major success, a huge project for the reconstruction and development of Iran will now be launched. Although the discussion on some subtle and technical matters is still ongoing, Pakistan and Qatar have reiterated their determination to continue their sincere efforts to maintain this constructive environment so that lasting peace can be established in the region. Pakistan and Qatar have issued a joint statement after the important talks between the US and Iran in the Swiss city of Bergenstock. According to the Foreign Office of Pakistan, the first round of talks between the two countries under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been successfully completed. The meeting was named the ‘Lake Lucerne Summit’, in which senior leaders of the US, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar held talks and took several major decisions to end the ongoing tension and fighting in the region. All these talks took place in a positive and good atmosphere, after which the way was opened for resolving future issues. The joint statement issued by Pakistan and Qatar after this meeting stated that a very large and high-level committee will be formed to implement the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This committee will monitor the reconciliation process between the two countries. According to the statement, separate small groups will also be formed under this committee that will work day and night to end Iran’s nuclear program, economic sanctions on it and disputes between them, and senior officers of these groups will regularly present their reports to this high-level committee. The biggest decision in this meeting was that the committee has approved a complete roadmap for completing a peace agreement within the next sixty days. Under this decision, further discussions on fine technical details will be started immediately.

Along with this, another major decision has been made for the protection of the sea route, under which

fullest extent to maintain a good atmosphere for the talks so that a final and definitive agreement can be presented to the world within sixty days. Speaking about this major achievement, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has appreciated Pakistan’s efforts. He said in a statement that “due to Pakistan’s mediation and reconciliation efforts, a great progress has been made towards ending the war in Lebanon.” The Iranian Foreign Minister, while mentioning the benefits received by his country, added that “the old restrictions on the sale of oil and chemical products to foreign countries for Iran have now been lifted, the blockade on our route has been lifted and some of Iran’s money and assets that were blocked around the world have also been restored.” The Foreign Offices of Pakistan and Qatar say that all friendly countries involved in the reconciliation will continue their efforts to make the atmosphere for the talks good and successful. These important and meticulous technical negotiations will continue in the Bernese Oberland resort of Switzerland with the aim of reaching a final agreement between the two major powers within sixty days, which will bring peace and tranquility to the entire region. It should be noted that the United States has issued a 60-day general license for the production, transportation and sale of Iranian oil and petrochemical products in the context of ongoing negotiations with Iran. According to US officials, this move was taken after the developments in Switzerland. The US Treasury Department has issued a general license related to Iran, under which the production, transportation and sale of Iranian crude oil, petroleum and petrochemical products have been allowed until August 21. US Treasury Secretary Scott Besant said in a statement on the social media platform ‘X’ that as a result of the ongoing constructive negotiations in Switzerland, Iran has committed to maintaining free and unimpeded maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and allowing inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to enter its country. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance, the United States continues to work to make the world a safer and more prosperous place. According to Scott Besant, under the negotiating framework, the Treasury Department has issued a 60-day temporary general license, which allows the production, transportation and sale of Iranian oil. This development came after talks between Iran and the United States, brokered by Pakistan and Qatar, in the Bergenstock area of Switzerland. During the talks, both sides agreed to reduce tensions, free navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, the return of IAEA inspectors to Iran, and a framework for a future comprehensive agreement. After the talks with Iran, US Vice President J.D. Vance said that “very good progress” had been made between the parties and a strong foundation had been laid for a final agreement. According to him, inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will soon visit Iran to monitor the implementation of the initial agreement, while discussions are also underway on issues related to Iran’s frozen assets and economic cooperation. After the announcement of JD Vance, oil prices have seen a decline in the global market. The price of Brent crude oil reached \$ 78.71 per barrel, while the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil was recorded at \$ 74.69 per barrel. It may be recalled that important negotiations between Iran and the United States were held in the Swiss city of Bergenstock, hosted by Pakistan and Qatar. The meeting was named the ‘Lake Lucerne Summit’, in which high-level representatives of the United States, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar participated. Various issues were discussed in the talks to reduce the ongoing tension in the region and resolve disputes, which were held in an overall positive and cheerful atmosphere. After the talks, a joint statement by Pakistan and Qatar said that the first round of talks under the Memorandum of Understanding has been successfully completed.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over this progress and appreciated the negotiation process. In his statement on the social media platform ‘X’, he praised the seriousness of the leadership of the US and Iran.

US’ Gaza ‘Master Plan’ clashes with reality

CHRIS DOYLE

Anyone who saw Jared Kushner’s PowerPoint presentation in Davos last week without knowing the topic would have struggled to identify the territory to which he was referring. Many might have thought this was for North America, with shiny new office and residential blocks and a certain space-age or Hollywood sci-fi feel to the slides of the “Master Plan.” The vaulting ambition of the speaker may have impressed his father-in-law, US President Donald Trump, who is certainly familiar with the world of real estate. No doubt Trump, the freshly minted chairman of the Board of Peace, was the premier target of the messaging. It reflected much of what was released at the announcement of Trump’s “Gaza riviera” plan last February, which envisaged the Strip being entirely emptied of Palestinians. Even this version treats Gaza as a tabula rasa to impose whatever architectural fantasies its authors can conjure up. It treats the enclave as being devoid of any culture, tradition or history.

Others have been more skeptical – and with good reason. First of all, Israel has not even adhered to the Oct. 10 ceasefire and is bombing and shelling with intensity. Second, the full entry of aid, as referenced in the Trump peace plan, has not yet been achieved. Third, the plan presumes the disarmament of Hamas, something that is far from imminent. Finally, no international stabilization force is on the horizon. Those are the significant near-term impediments. Delivering this plan, at a time when the conflict still rages, will be nigh on impossible. Just clearing the 60 million tonnes of rubble, which is peppered with unexploded ordnance and a host of toxins, will take an age and

cost a fortune.

One major element Kushner did not address was how the land would be acquired and whether owners would be compensated. According to a 2015 study, about half of the land in Gaza is privately owned. Much of the land is unregistered because owners did not wish to pay tax. What is clear is that the companies lining up to fill their coffers have no claim to the land at all. But progress also presumes the Israeli leadership will be comfortable with this. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still smarting from the invitation that was extended to Türkiye and Qatar to join the executive committee of the Board of Peace. Many members of Netanyahu’s Cabinet and right-wing Knesset members have dreams of inhabiting these plush new riviera residences themselves.

Israel will have to consent as the occupying power. For starters, it will have to allow in all the construction materials and abandon its restrictive dual-use list. Throughout Kushner’s presentation to world leaders and the business elite, it was clear that Palestinians have had no input into these plans – and not just because the Arabic on the slides was all wrong. He did not outline how the local Palestinians in Gaza would be won over by the project or where they would go during reconstruction. Kushner said Gaza would be run on free-market principles, as opposed to how Palestinians might wish to shape their economic future.

Do Palestinians want tourism, given the beachfront is all labeled for coastal tourism? Who decided on the importance of data centers at this stage? And how many of the companies making a fortune out of this dreamworld will be Palestinian and how many will be rich business-

men with no link to Gaza at all? The Palestinians in Gaza I have spoken to largely see this all as a sick joke. “Who is going to live in these villas and flashy apartments? Certainly not us Palestinians,” sighed one woman. Another said: “What will stop Israel from bombing them again? Where will our security come from? We need that before rich houses.” But there is also the issue of who will pay for it. The experts at the UN, those who actually have experience of such situations, calculate that postwar reconstruction will cost about \$70 billion. This is without the high-end infrastructure of Kushner’s presentation. The UAE has reportedly expressed an interest in funding the first planned community on the outskirts of Rafah in the south. Beyond that, it is not clear. More alarming is who might make money out of it. This is a war zone profiteering racket. US companies are lining up at the trough. This is all premised on the naive and ill-founded belief that the entirety of Gaza’s problems can be resolved with bulldozers, cranes and cement. The plan has echoes of earlier economic roadmaps for peace, but even those were not so divorced from reality. At no stage did the presentation reference a viable peace process or even mention that Gaza would be the western segment of an independent state of Palestine. It did not address a single one of the underlying causes or drivers of this 100-year-plus conflict. On this occasion, the last word goes to French President Emmanuel Macron, who was reported as saying: “Peace is not a real estate transaction. You cannot build stability on the erasure of a people’s history and the privatization of their tragedy.”

– Arab News

The affable aide to Mr. President

GHASSAN CHARBEL

Don’t say that you have a solution. You are not a decision-maker and have no right to steal the spotlight or praise. Your fate is to remain in the shadows and for others to take credit for your work. The solution comes from the source. Your participation in devising it does not give you any right to it. Solutions are part of the indisputable skills of Mr. President. No one else is party to them.

Don’t say that you have the winning idea. Salvation is not part of your duties or even your rank. Salvation is the responsibility of the man in power – the man whom the nation chose before the ballot boxes did. Men of landmark moments are not born of ballot boxes. Fate chooses them for major duties; then comes the role of the citizens in voting and applauding.

Don’t say that the situation is difficult. Always say that it is under control and that the fate of livelihoods and people are in safe hands. Always say that the man in charge is skilled at knowing the dreams, feelings and needs of the nation. Say that the people will be held responsible should any misunderstanding arise because they failed to grasp Mr. President’s pioneering ideas. You are Mr. President’s aide. You are the echo, not the voice. Don’t even dare to speak about concerns over destiny or correcting course. Destiny is the responsibility of the savior alone. The course itself is glittering, no matter how much the enemies or critics say otherwise. Your primary task is to preserve your position and safety and appease the man in charge of your fate. This means paying compliments and issuing praise whenever necessary.

Don’t say that Mr. President is following in his predecessor’s footsteps. Mr. President has his own unique path. His style is out of the ordinary and his own. He doesn’t imitate anyone and no one can imitate him. I once asked a man who worked with Saddam Hussein if any member of the Baath Party’s central command had ever implied to Mr. President that the decision to invade Kuwait was

catastrophic, reckless or costly. The answer was no secret. Tariq Aziz said it pained him to remain seated during the meeting in which it was announced that Kuwait would be annexed and become an Iraqi province. He realized the dangers but, when confronted with the ruthless people surrounding the president, he chose to keep his thoughts to himself. Saddam once met with Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement summit in Havana. The minister flattered the president. At the end of the meeting, Iraqi Ambassador to the UN Salah Omar Al-Ali described the talks as positive and that more could be built upon them. Mr. President was quick to reprimand him, saying: “Don’t ever say that again. I will break the Iranians and reclaim every inch of territory they seized.” Al-Ali realized the difficulty of offering advice to the “historic leader.” During a trip to Damascus, I met with President Bashar Assad and then-Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. I asked Khaddam about why Bashar was chosen to succeed his father Hafez. Khaddam knew the walls had many ears, so he replied by saying that he was the natural choice. Bashar was raised around his father and grew up in his environment, so it was normal for the party leadership to name him as successor. Years later, I again met with Khaddam, who by then was living in Paris after defecting from the regime. I asked him the same question and he replied that, at the time, he had been summoned by Hafez and informed that the decision related to Bashar had been taken. So, Khaddam had no role in Bashar’s rise to power. He said Bashar was not fit to assume such a major post. The party’s policy of having sons inherit their father’s position was wrong because it showed that Hafez had no one but his son to whom he could entrust the running of the country.

Libyan diplomat Ali Abdussalam Treki once told me that he hid his face in embarrassment when Muammar Qaddafi tore up a copy of the UN Charter while he was addressing the

General Assembly. Treki admitted that he did not dare to call on the leader to cut short his speech, even when he had far exceeded his allotted time. Treki most certainly did not criticize the leader after the scandalous incident.

Has the world returned to the time of the strongman who does not recognize any borders or whom no aide or adviser dares to confront with even a fraction of the truth? We don’t have the necessary information as to whether Vladimir Putin consulted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov before ordering the Russian army to enter Ukraine. We don’t know the veteran Lavrov’s opinion, even if he were consulted. It is difficult to imagine that an aide to Donald Trump would have warned him of the dangerous precedent of kidnapping Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro. It is difficult to believe that an aide urged him to tone down his statements about NATO.

We don’t know if an aide advised him to back off his demands to claim Canada or Greenland, regardless of the criticism leveled against him by the French president.

We don’t know if anyone in his entourage was blunt enough to inform Mr. President that running the White House and maintaining America’s position in the world were more important than him winning the Nobel Peace Prize. One diplomat told me that Trump’s aides lavish him with praise as if they were members of a “central command” running in Mr. President’s orbit.

Xi Jinping long ago ended the principle of collective leadership that emerged in the Chinese Communist Party after Mao Zedong’s death. He has now assumed a similar position to Mao and may even go down in history as having surpassed him. The current purge led to the dismissal of his deputy in the Central Military Commission, which has the final say in decision-making in the country. In all likelihood, no one lifted a finger to object to the dismissal. A member of the commission is expected to be docile and acquiescent and be the affable aide to Mr. President.

– Arab News



Foreign Office team and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

In this first phase of the negotiations, a formal roadmap has been approved between the US and Iran to reach a final peace agreement within the next sixty days.

A high-level committee has been formed to politically oversee the entire process, under which special groups working under it will find solutions to major and complex issues such as Iran’s nuclear program and the US economic sanctions imposed on it.

The senior negotiators of these groups will regularly submit their reports to this high-level committee so that old disputes can be eradicated.

Major decisions have also been taken between the two countries to reduce the ongoing tensions in the region and secure maritime trade.

A direct line of communication has been established between the two countries to ensure the peaceful passage of commercial ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz and to avoid any kind of misunderstanding or accident.

Along with this, it has also been agreed to form a special de-conflict cell, i.e. a peace committee, to completely stop military operations and war in Lebanon so that the peace and order situation can be closely monitored there.

On the other hand, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, while discussing the results of these talks, has separately made a big claim that a great progress has been made in ending the ongoing war in Lebanon.

He mentioned the huge economic benefits to Iran and said that “the US

a special and direct line of communication will be established to protect commercial ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz from any kind of danger or damage and to remove mutual misunderstandings so that commercial ships can pass through the sea in peace without any fear.

In addition, a major step has also been taken to permanently stop the ongoing war in Lebanon.

According to the joint statement, all parties involved in the talks have agreed to form a special de-conflict cell, i.e. a peace committee, together with the Lebanese government, which will be looked after by the peacemaking countries, namely Pakistan and Qatar.

The main task of this committee will be to ensure that no military action or fighting resumes in Lebanon and that complete peace prevails there.

More in-depth technical discussions in this regard will continue continuously throughout the rest of the week at the same Bergen Stock Resort. On this occasion, the two peacemaking countries, Pakistan and Qatar, have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the governments of the United States and Iran. They said in their joint statement that “we are grateful to the United States and Iran for their continued seriousness and commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and diplomacy.” At the same time, they also highly appreciated the efforts of all these brotherly and friendly countries that are providing their valuable help and cooperation to make this peace process a success. Pakistan and Qatar have reiterated their firm resolve to continue their efforts to the



Commissioner Reviews Muharram Security Arrangements



BY: ANI Correspondent:

FAISALABAD--- Faisalabad Commissioner Ms. Musarrat Jabeen chaired a high-level meeting to review administrative and security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram processions across the division. RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera, Pakistan Army Brigadier Yaseen, Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad

Capt. (R) Nadeem Nasir, CPO Tanveer Hussain, and other district officials participated.

The Commissioner directed authorities to strengthen security measures from 7th Muharram until Youm-e-Ashura, maintain close coordination with procession organisers and peace committees, and ensure strict enforcement of the ban on unauthorised loudspeakers. She

also ordered fully functional control rooms and clear duty assignments for all officers.

RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera stressed effective implementation of the security plan in line with SOPs, while Brigadier Yaseen expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and assured continued support from the Pakistan Army to assist the civil administration.

Saeed Anwar Emphasizes Islamic Teachings as Key to Lasting Success

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD---- Former Pakistan cricket star and renowned Islamic motivational speaker Saeed Anwar has said that lasting success can only be achieved through obedience to Allah Almighty and adherence to the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Addressing a gathering at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Monday, he said the Holy Qur'an provides a complete framework for individual and collective success. He noted that those who dedicate themselves to Allah's service, uphold moral values, and work for the betterment of society are blessed with peace, prosperity, and divine guidance.

He urged people to seek forgiveness, reform their conduct, and strengthen their relationship with Allah through prayer, remembrance, and practical implementation of Islamic teachings. He also stressed the importance of supporting charitable work, paying Zakat, promoting good deeds, and discouraging harm-



ful practices as foundations of a healthy society.

In his welcome address, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood appreciated Saeed Anwar's efforts in promoting Islamic values and social awareness, expressing hope that such engagements would encourage national unity and ethical conduct. He reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to social welfare and community development.

Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub

thanked the chief guest for delivering an inspiring address and valuable insights. The event was attended by ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, executive members, former office-bearers, business leaders, and a large number of representatives from the business community.

Saeed Anwar concluded his address with prayers for Pakistan's peace, unity, and prosperity, expressing hope for national progress through adherence to Islamic principles.

Senior Prison Officer Rana Shamshad Hussain Appointed DSP District Jail Mandi Bahauddin

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN--- Inspector General Prisons Punjab Mian Salik Jalal has appointed the senior-most and highly experienced Deputy Superintendent of Prisons, Rana Shamshad Hussain, as Deputy Superintendent District Jail Mandi Bahauddin. He has assumed charge of his new post and started performing his duties.

Rana Shamshad Hussain is regarded as a seasoned and competent officer of the Punjab Prisons Department, with extensive field experience. He is known for his



respectful attitude towards seniors and his compassionate, courteous

treatment of junior staff, earning him strong respect within the department.

Upon his arrival at District Jail Mandi Bahauddin, he was warmly welcomed by jail officials and staff led by Senior Superintendent Jail Haq Nawaz, who congratulated him on his posting. On the occasion, sweets were also distributed among staff and inmates.

According to sources, Rana Shamshad Hussain is likely to be promoted to Grade 18 in the near future, after which he may be posted as Superintendent Jail in District Jail Hafizabad or District Jail Jhelum.

Romania Captivates Karachi with Cinematic Masterpiece “Warboy” at Francophonie Film Festival 2026

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI-- Romania made a stunning impression at the Francophonie Film Festival 2026 in Karachi. Atif Farooqi, Advisor & Chief Operating Officer of the Pakistan Romania Business Council represented Romania along with Mashal Tareen, PRBC Regional Lead AI at the Romanian Film Screening.

The Romanian showcase featured Warboy, Crisan's fifth feature film -an 85-minute cinematic triumph blending adventure, war drama, and western genres that has captivated audiences across Europe.

The film delivers a deeply human perspective on history's darkest periods, celebrating the resilience of youth and the enduring bonds between families and homeland — themes that resonated powerfully with Pakistani and international audiences at the festival.

Atif Farooqi delivered an inspiring message:

"It is an honor to represent Romania here tonight at the Francophonie Film Festival in Karachi. We are proud to share



Warboy, a film that reflects the strength, resilience, and spirit of the Romanian people. Events like this promote cultural exchange, strengthen mutual understanding, and bring people and nations closer together through the shared language of cinema.

This is Romanian storytelling at its best."

He extended heartfelt appreciation to Emmanuel BREUREC, Director of the Alliance Française de

Karachi, for his visionary leadership in organizing this prestigious festival and for fostering extraordinary cultural diplomacy between Romania, Pakistan, and the broader Francophone world.

The festival, featuring cinema from eight Francophone nations.

Romania's participation marks a significant milestone in strengthening the growing cultural and economic partnership between Romania and Pakistan.

Pakistan Awami Quwat Party Holds Meeting on Party Affairs and Public Contact Campaign

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD---- A meeting of party officials was held at the media cell of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party, chaired by senior leadership and attended by key party members.

The meeting was attended by Secretary General Malik Ejaz Hussain, Media Cell In-charge Shakeel Awan, Madam Parveen, Madam Firdous, Madam Shama Munshi, Professor Umar Hayat, Haji Imtiaz Aasi, Tahir Khan, Adeeb (Kirpa), Malik Rizwan, Faizan Abbasi, and Tanveer Kamal.

Participants discussed various proposals related to party affairs and exchanged suggestions to further strengthen and accelerate the public contact campaign.



On the occasion, prayers were offered for the security and prosperity of Pakistan, as well as for the swift recovery and good health of Khaqan

Waheed Khwaja, Chief of Pakistan Awami Quwat Party and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation.

PSF Chairman Visits FABLAB Karachi, Reviews University Research Projects

Pakistan Science Foundation Chairman Prof. Dr. M. Akmal visited the FABLAB at Government,

BY: ANI Correspondent:

Comprehensive Higher Secondary Schools in Azizabad, Karachi, and reviewed ongoing research activities at leading universities.

During the visit, he was briefed on FABLAB initiatives promoting technical education and innovation

among students. He said such facilities are essential for equipping youth with modern skills and supporting a knowledge-based economy.

He also visited the University of Karachi's Marine Biology Centre and reviewed research on marine species and their economic importance. Later, he inspected PSF-supported

projects at HEJ Research Institute, Aga Khan University, and NED University.

Prof. Akmal stressed the need to convert research into practical solutions for national development and appreciated the efforts of researchers and institutions in advancing science education and innovation.

Islamabad Karate Association Organizes 2nd Al-Kabir All Pakistan Karate Club Championship

BY: ANI Sports Reporter:

ISLAMABAD--- The second Al-Kabir All Pakistan Karate Club Championship, organized by the Islamabad Karate Association, was held at The Masters Academy of Martial Arts, PWD Islamabad.

Karate clubs registered with the Islamabad Karate Association participated enthusiastically in the championship, where players demonstrated excellent skills, discipline, and strong sportsmanship.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Secretary General of the Islamabad Olympic Association Rizwan-ul-Haq, Director Sports of Rawalpindi Women University Ms. Sadaf, President of Pakistan Town and PWD Society Chaudhry Riyat, Vice President Bilal Abbasi, and owner of Friends Mall PWD Muhammad Ishtiaq as special guests. The guests distributed medals among successful players and encouraged them.

The chief referee of the event was Ijazul Haq, while the referees and judges included Muhammad Adnan Aslam, Pervez Iqbal, Fayyaz, Rabnawaz Butt, Muhammad



Rizwan, and Nimra Shakir.

Islamabad Karate Association President Adeel Sheikh congratulated all organizers, coaches, officials, and players on the successful conduct of the championship. General Secretary Muhammad Adnan Aslam served as the chief organizer of the event. The best male and female teams selected from this

championship will represent Islamabad in the Al-Kabir All Pakistan Karate Club Championship to be held in Lahore next week.

On this occasion, General Secretary Muhammad Adnan Aslam said that such events play an important role in promoting sports and encouraging positive activities among youth.

Pakistan Navy, Coast Guards Seize Massive Drug Consignment Worth \$215 Million Near Gwadar

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- In a joint intelligence-based counter-narcotics operation, the Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards, in coordination with the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC), confiscated 1,500 kilograms of hashish and 500 kilograms of ice near Pishukan, close to the Gwadar coastline.

According to officials, the seized consignment, valued at approximately USD 215 million in the international market, was being transported via the Arabian Sea to international destinations.

The recovered narcotics have been handed over to the Pakistan Coast



Guards for further legal proceedings.

Authorities said the successful operation highlights strong inter-

agency coordination in combating smuggling and underscores Pakistan Navy's resolve to prevent the use of maritime routes for illegal activities.

Punjab Police Deploys Over 45,000 Personnel for Muharram Security Across Province

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD---- Punjab Police have deployed more than 45,000 officers and personnel across the province to ensure foolproof security for Muharram-ul-Haram processions and majalis on the sixth



day. A total of 925 processions and 3,922 majalis were held across Punjab, including 56

processions and 425 majalis in Lahore. IG Punjab Abdul Kareem said strict security measures, Section 144 enforcement, and monitoring through Safe City cameras are being ensured, while CTD and other units remain on high alert.

Islamabad: Portuguese Investment Delegation Meets FGEHA Officials, Discusses Housing Sector Opportunities

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD---- A high-level investment delegation from Portugal met senior officials of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) in Islamabad to explore investment opportunities and strengthen cooperation in Pakistan's housing sector. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Hassan Shah, Project Coordinator Lifestyle Residency Mr. Tanveer Haider Khokhar, and other senior officials of the Authority. The Portuguese delegation was led by Mr. José Paulo Oliveira, President of OLAE, along with other senior representatives of the organization. During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on potential



investment in housing projects, modern residential developments, and future joint ventures. The delegation was briefed on FGEHA's ongoing and upcoming projects, including flagship housing initiatives and the G-13 Five-Star Hotel project. Project Coordinator Tanveer Haider Khokhar stated that FGEHA is committed to transparency, quality, and timely delivery of projects, while ensuring a secure and investor-

friendly environment for both local and international investors. The delegation appreciated FGEHA's professional approach and development vision and expressed strong interest in future collaboration and investment opportunities in Pakistan. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides agreeing to further strengthen cooperation in housing, investment, and sustainable development initiatives.