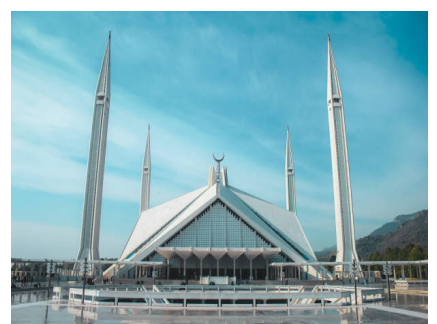


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Thousands feared dead in Venezuela after two major earthquakes; world sends aid



ANI

Thousands of Venezuelans were feared dead on Thursday after two powerful earthquakes wreaked havoc in and around the capital Caracas, trapping people beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings and setting off powerful aftershocks.

A magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit about 160km west of Caracas on Wednesday afternoon, followed less than a minute later by a magnitude 7.5 tremor, according to the US Geological Survey.

Emergency workers scrambled over the debris of collapsed buildings in Caracas as night fell, while distraught relatives sought help for

loved ones feared trapped. Dazed survivors were taken away, some on stretchers.

"When we went downstairs, the scene was like a horror movie," said Maria Alejandra, a resident from a nearby building, who did not give her surname. "We had to climb over the rubble and everything. The building superintendent with the baby and all the neighbors coming down. But from that building, I only saw that one family got out."

Website shows more than 24,000 people unaccounted for. Interim President Delcy Rodriguez said at least 164 people were confirmed dead and nearly 1,000 injured, and the government was working with business to deploy heavy machin-

ery to accelerate efforts to help those still trapped. The worst-affected area was La Guaira state, near Caracas and home to the city's airport. Witnesses' footage showed scenes of panic as ceilings came down in the airport and rubble from destroyed buildings along the seafloor.

"Dozens of buildings have collapsed, and we are currently carrying out very intense rescue efforts to save as many lives as God allows us to save," Rodriguez said on state television just before 1am local time (0500 GMT) on Thursday.

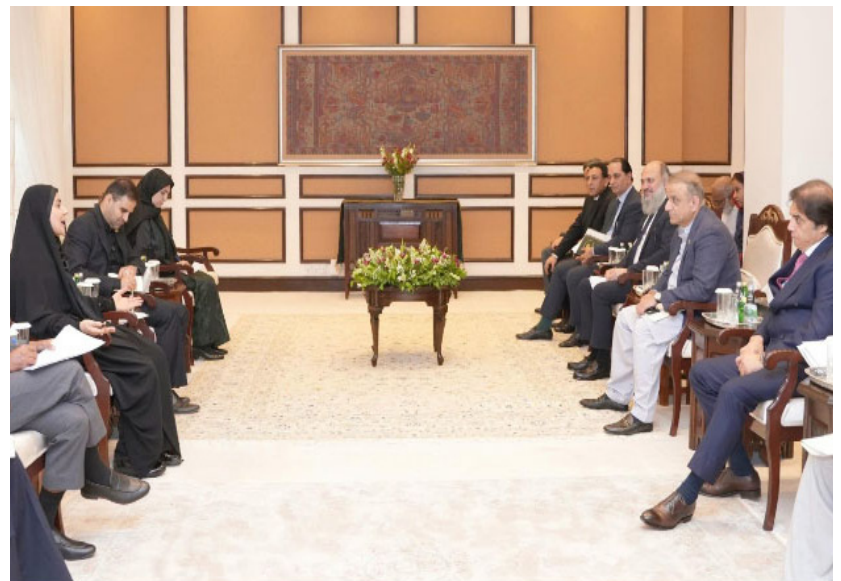
"La Guaira state is a true tragedy, and has become a disaster zone." Houses collapsed near the quake's epicenter in Morn, a small seaside

town in the state of Carabobo, where there was no water or electricity.

"It felt like all those houses were collapsing on top of us," said Geilin Morales, 29, who had just left her home with her husband and 6-year-old daughter when the quake destroyed it. The USGS, using predictive modeling to estimate the death toll, said it would most likely run into the thousands, with a substantial probability of exceeding 10,000.

A website set up to track missing people by leaders from the country's opposition, many of whom are outside Venezuela, listed more than 24,000 people as unaccounted for at 10.4am. local time (1440 GMT).

Pakistan, Iran agree to strengthen road, rail connectivity



ANI

Pakistan and Iran agreed to strengthen road and rail connectivity and reactivate the Pakistan-Iran Joint Transport Committee to address longstanding transport and border-related issues between the two countries, according to an official statement released on Thursday. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh, and Minister for Communications Aleem Khan, who is leading efforts to expand transport links and trade cooperation with neighbouring countries. Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, and Maritime Affairs Minister Junaid Anwar Chaudhry were also part of the Pakistani delegation. During the meeting, the communications minister expressed satisfaction over the restoration of peace in the region and said stronger road and rail links between Pakistan and Iran would create new trade opportunities and further deepen bilateral relations. The Iranian minister also raised issues relating to the clearance of trucks and containers moving between the two countries. Officials from both sides agreed

to pursue joint measures to address pending matters at the Pakistan-Iran border and facilitate smoother movement of goods and transport vehicles.

"The two sides discussed a range of proposals aimed at improving transport connectivity and agreed to work towards resolving outstanding issues affecting cross-border transport," said the statement. Sadegh thanked Pakistan for its role in promoting peace and supporting efforts that led to a ceasefire and peace agreement in the region. "We value the support and cooperation extended by our Pakistani brothers," she said. A day earlier, Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni in a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Mohsin Naqvi, also agreed to enhance cooperation in several areas, including security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity and immigration.

Earlier in the week, Iranian President Pezeshkian arrived in Islamabad alongside Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Eskandar Momeni. During the visit, the Iranian delegation held talks with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Pakistan, Türkiye sign energy cooperation MoUs



ANI

ISTANBUL: Pakistan and Türkiye have signed three key memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to expand cooperation in the energy sector, focusing on institutional collaboration, technical expertise sharing and joint development initiatives. The agreements were signed during a high-level intergovernmental consultation meeting in Istanbul, marking a new phase of cooperation between the two countries in the power sector. The signed MoUs include an agreement between Pakistan's Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) and Türkiye's Energy Exchange (EPIAS), a memorandum between ISMO and Türkiye's Transmission System Operator (TEİAŞ), and a cooperation agreement between Pakistan's Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC) and Türkiye's TEDAŞ. Under the agreements, both countries will cooperate in areas including post-privatisation governance frameworks, electricity market development, ancillary services regulations, power system operations, transmission planning, electricity distribution man-

agement and digitalisation.

The two sides also agreed to enhance institutional capacity, exchange technical expertise and benefit from modern practices through training programmes, study visits, expert exchanges and joint technical projects. Federal Energy Minister Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari welcomed the signing of the MoUs, saying the partnerships would help strengthen Pakistan's energy institutions and accelerate reforms in the power sector.

He said Pakistan would benefit from Türkiye's experience in electricity market reforms, transmission system development, distribution sector modernisation and post-privatisation governance. He added that closer institutional cooperation would improve operational knowledge, efficiency, service delivery and governance. The Turkish side also expressed commitment to maintaining long-term institutional cooperation with Pakistan. The Pakistani government described the agreements as a significant outcome of bilateral energy discussions, reflecting growing strategic cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye in the energy sector.

Pakistan, China urge for stronger implementation of UNSC resolutions

ANI

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan and China called for stronger mechanisms to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, arguing that selective or prolonged non-implementation undermined the council's credibility, weakened its authority and prolonged unresolved conflicts, including those in Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. At a meeting convened by Pakistan and China on Thursday, titled "Bridging the Implementation Gap: Security Council Resolutions and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security", Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said Security Council resolutions were "not mere expressions of intent but legal obligations under the UN Charter". The meeting was



briefed by UN Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khari, Security Council Report Executive Director Shamala Kandiah, and International Crisis Group's Richard Gowan. The briefers stressed that implementation lies at the heart of the council's credibility, authority, and effectiveness, and argued that resolutions must be accompanied by realistic mandates, clear implementation pathways, sustained reporting, adequate resources, political will, and follow-up mechanisms capable of translating council decisions into action on the ground. Iftikhar, addressing the meeting, said "selective or prolonged non-implementation weakens the Council's authority, prolongs unresolved disputes and deepens human suffering", including in situations such as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

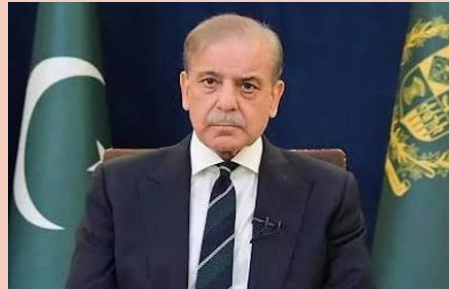
PM Shehbaz calls for inter-sect harmony, tolerance on Ashura

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said Youm-e-Ashura served as a profound reminder of faith, patience, perseverance, sacrifice and commitment to truth, urging the nation to promote inter-sect harmony and counter hatred and incitement.

The month is observed as a month of mourning to commemorate the seventh-century martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) — the grandson of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) — along with his family and companions in the Battle of Karbala.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz, in his message on the occasion of Ashura (10 Muharram), said the day commemorated God's support, the triumph of the faithful and the sacrifices made for the supremacy of truth. He said the great sacrifice rendered by Imam Hussain and his devoted



companions had given Youm-e-Ashura a unique and enduring significance in Islamic history. The prime minister said the tragedy of Karbala conveyed the message that adherence to principles and values formed the foundation of a dignified and civilised society. "Through his conduct, Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) demonstrated that sacrificing for truth, justice and the

protection of human dignity was far superior to submitting to oppression, injustice and falsehood," the statement quoted the prime minister as saying. PM Shehbaz said the event of Karbala represented a struggle for the reform of the Muslim community, the revival of the Prophet's traditions and the promotion of virtue while discouraging wrongdoing. He said these objectives required individuals and society to promote justice, patience, tolerance and a sense of responsibility in both collective and personal life. The prime minister stressed that strengthening mutual respect, tolerance and unity should remain a priority instead of allowing differences, hatred and division to prevail. PM Shehbaz appealed to the entire nation, particularly religious scholars, spiritual leaders, speakers, the media and the younger generation, to highlight the true message of Ashura, promote inter-sect harmony and mutual respect, and prevent incitement and hatred.

IHC sets June 29 hearing for Imran Khan's appeal in 190 million pounds case

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has fixed June 29 for hearing appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, against their convictions in the £190 million case.

According to the cause list issued by the registrar's office, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif will hear the appeals challenging the trial court's verdict related to the settlement of funds recovered by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and the transfer of land linked to the Al-Qadir Trust. The couple has also moved contempt of court petitions, alleging delays in implementing court orders regarding the submission of signed powers of attorney. During earlier proceedings, defence counsel informed the court that procedural complications and difficulties in meeting the accused at Adiala Jail had prevented them from obtaining the required documents within the seven-day deadline set by the court.

FM Dar credits US-Iran mediation role for Pakistan's emergence as global 'peacemaker'

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday said Pakistan had emerged as a recognised "peacemaker" and "middle power" on the global stage, crediting the country's recent role as a mediator in the US-Iran war for raising the country's international standing. Speaking to the media at Data Darbar, FM Dar said Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue between rival countries had transformed perceptions of the country abroad. "Today, Pakistan is being recognised across the world as a peacemaker," he said. "A country that was once portrayed only through the lens of terrorism is now being acknowledged as a middle



power and a net security provider."

FM Dar said that people used to say Pakistan was diplomatically isolated, whereas now, Pakistan was making headlines across the world: "Countries that barely knew about Pakistan are now talking about it." He credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence

Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir and the foreign office for what he described as intensive diplomatic efforts. "The team captain is PM Shehbaz," FM Dar said.

"Alongside him, Field Marshal Asim Munir and the foreign office worked tirelessly, day and night." Referring to Pakistan's mediation efforts, FM Dar said Islamabad had helped bring together two countries that had not held direct talks in decades, "Pakistan's role was to facilitate honestly and impartially." He said extensive behind-the-scenes diplomacy had been conducted by the prime minister, military leadership and diplomats, but much of it had not been publicised because "a facilitator cannot become a party to the dispute".



Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi in a photo with Honorable Mr. Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Chief Justice Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan and H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Russian Federation during the 14th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum (SPILF), held from 24-26 June 2026 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

CDWP approves 15 projects worth Rs34.74bn, refers nine schemes of Rs431bn to ECNEC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Thursday approved 15 development projects worth Rs34.74 billion and recommended nine major projects, costing Rs431.02 billion, to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for final approval.

Chairing the meeting, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives/Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Professor Ahsan Iqbal stressed that strategic investments in technology, connectivity and infrastructure would accelerate economic growth.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Awais Manzur Sumra, Chief Economist, VC PIDF, Members of the Planning Commission, Federal Secretaries, heads of Provincial Planning & Development Board Departments, and senior representatives from relevant federal ministries and provincial governments.

The minister said the projects were aligned with the vision of Uraan Pakistan, focusing on digital transformation, modern infrastructure, human capital development and sustainable growth.

He emphasized that investments in artificial intelligence, data infrastructure and connectivity were essential for building a competitive, knowledge-based economy. Among the projects approved by the CDWP were exploration of radioactive minerals in the Marwat Range, installation of CT Scan and MRI machines in DHQ and teaching hospitals of AJ&K, establishment of Prime Minister's E-Sports Arenas and Training Centres in higher education institutions, and development of the Geospatialx Complex (GEO-AI Development and Innovation Hub). The forum also approved upgradation of IT infrastructure at the Faculty of Security Studies of the National Defence University, the PAKAWAZ Secure Mobile Communication Ecosystem, construction of accommodation and operational facilities for Intelligence Bureau and Frontier Corps personnel, a 120-bed hospital for Frontier Corps South in Turbat, and establishment of a Robotics Centre of Excellence. In the power sector, approval was granted for the supply of three-phase Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters under LESCO's Power Distribution Strengthening Project-II, while two revised road connectivity schemes in Punjab were also cleared. The projects referred to ECNEC included the Rs7.93 billion Establishment of Emerging Technologies Data Centre, aimed at providing sovereign AI and high-performance computing infrastructure, and the Rs13 billion National Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem Development Programme (NAIEDP) to strengthen Pakistan's AI ecosystem through detailed feasibility and implementation planning. The CDWP also recommended the Rs37.19 billion Pakistan Communication Satellite-2 (PakSat-2) project, which will enhance national satellite communication capabilities through deployment of a new communication satellite and upgradation of ground control facilities. Other projects referred to ECNEC included establishment of a Special Protection Unit facility for Islamabad Police, strengthening and improvement of electricity supply networks in AJ&K, construction of the Lalamusa Bypass on N-5, upgradation of the 996-kilometre ML-3 railway section from Rohri to Taftan, construction of the Mashkel-Chedgi Road in Balochistan, and the revised Rathoa Haryam Bridge project in Mirpur, AJ&K.

While reviewing the Rathoa Haryam Bridge scheme, Ahsan Iqbal noted that the project had remained stalled for years and said the government had prioritized its revival after assuming office in 2022.

He said completion of long-delayed projects reflected the government's commitment to ensuring timely delivery of development initiatives and improving regional connectivity.

Hajj 2027 online registration continues smoothly, over 80,000 Pilgrims registered in first 3 days

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs, on Thursday said that the mandatory online registration process for Hajj 2027 is continuing uninterrupted, allowing prospective pilgrims to complete their registration from the comfort of their homes. According to a spokesperson, the latest statistics generated through the Hajj Management System, developed by the National Information Technology Board (NITB), reveal a strong response from intending pilgrims across the country. More than 80,000 applicants have registered within the first three days of the registration drive. Among them, those wishing to depart from Karachi constitute the largest group, followed by applicants selecting Lahore and Islamabad as their departure stations. The registered pilgrims include approximately 47,000 men and 33,000 women. Officials have described it as encouraging that the majority of registered applicants fall within the 25 to 50-year age bracket. Educational data of registered applicants shows that around 1,000 hold PhD degrees, 17,000 possess master's degrees, 21,000 have bachelor's qualifications, and 12,000 have completed intermediate (FA) education. The Ministry stated that, with the support of the National Information Technology Board, the Hajj operation is being transformed into a fully paperless and end-to-end digital system, aimed at improving efficiency and transparency.

Security on high alert as 9th Muharram processions held across Pakistan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Mourning processions marking the 9th of Muharram are being held across Pakistan today to commemorate the sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala, with authorities placing security forces on high alert nationwide.

Police, Rangers and other law enforcement personnel have been deployed along procession routes in major cities, while surveillance has been intensified at entry and exit points. Authorities have also installed walk-through gates, CCTV cameras and other monitoring systems at sensitive locations.

Traffic diversion plans have been implemented in several cities, and mobile phone services may remain partially suspended in selected areas as part of security measures. In Lahore, the main 9th Muharram procession will commence from Pando Street in Islampura and conclude at Khaima-e-Sadaat Imambargah after passing



through its traditional route.

In Islamabad, the central procession will start from Imambargah G-6 Ithna Ashari, with roads along the route closed to traffic. Karachi's main procession is

scheduled to begin at 1pm from Nishtar Park following a majlis to be addressed by Allama Shehenshah Hussain Naqvi. The procession will proceed through its traditional route, including Shah Nawaz

Bhutto Road and M.A. Jinnah Road, before concluding at Hussainia Iranian Imambargah in Kharadar.

In Multan, the central mourning procession will emerge from Mumtazabad Imambargah, with authorities monitoring the route through CCTV surveillance.

Multiple processions are also scheduled across Peshawar from various imambargahs, where security and administrative arrangements have been finalised. Several major processions will take place throughout the day and into the evening under heightened security measures.

In Quetta, the Shabeeh Zuljanah procession will be taken out from Nasir-ul-Aza Imambargah. Mobile phone services have been suspended in the city, while roads and streets adjoining procession routes have been sealed with containers. Markets and shops located along the routes have also been closed as a precautionary measure.

Capital's women lead Muharram food distribution preparations

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the country, Islamabad is observing the sacred days of 9th and 10th Muharram with religious devotion and solemnity.

Women in the federal capital are preparing food and refreshments for mourners participating in Muharram processions. They remain engaged in acts of devotion and community service, ensuring that the spirit of generosity and remembrance remains an integral part of Muharram observances.

In homes, community centres, Imambargahs, and neighbourhoods, women are taking part of the distribution of tabarruk, meals, and drinking water, continuing a longstanding tradition associated with remembrance, charity, and public service during Muharram.

From preparing large quantities of rice, haleem, sweets, traditional dishes to arranging water, milk, and cold beverages for participants in processions, women remain at the forefront of these efforts.

Many volunteer their time and resources days in advance to ensure the smooth distribution of food and refreshments on both the 9th and 10th of Muharram. Across Islamabad and other major cities, including Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta, families have established sabels (energizing drinks) along procession routes where volunteers, many of them women, help organize supplies and coordinate distribution activities. Talking to APP, Rubina, a housewife, said preparations begin well before Muharram. "Women in our family gather to cook food and prepare packets for distribution among mourners and needy people. It is a tradition passed down from one generation to another," she said. Another volunteer, Shazia Ahmed, told APP that women contribute in various ways, from cooking and packaging meals to managing logistics and ensuring hygiene standards. "Everyone participates according to their capacity. The purpose is to serve people and uphold the values of compassion and generosity associated with these sacred days," she added.

DIG Tariq reviews Safe City surveillance at G-6 Muharram control room

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq on Thursday visited the Muharram Control Room established at Imambargah G-6/2 and reviewed the Safe City surveillance system monitoring the central 9th Muharram procession.

An official told APP, Director IT Atif Abbas and Assistant Director Safe City Abbas Mehdi briefed the DIG on the surveillance mechanism, live monitoring and operational capabilities of the Safe City camera network deployed for Muharram security.

Tariq was informed about the real-time monitoring of procession routes, sensitive locations and security points through the Safe City cameras to ensure timely detection of any untoward incident. DIG Tariq reviewed the operational readiness of the control room and directed officers to maintain uninterrupted surveillance, strengthen coordination with field formations and ensure an immediate response to any emergency.

Amir Muqam pays tribute to Poonch's sacrifices, reaffirms govt's commitment to public relief

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam, paid tribute to the people of Poonch Division and Rawalakot for their unwavering love for Pakistan and their historic sacrifices.

He said that Poonch Division has a proud and distinguished history of sacrifices for both Pakistan and Kashmir. Referring to the legendary figure Sepoy Maqbool, the minister said that despite having his tongue cut out, he continued to raise the slogan "Pakistan Zindabad," symbolizing the extraordinary loyalty and commitment of Kashmiris to Pakistan. Muqam remarked that Sepoy Maqbool's sacrifice became a lasting testament to the unparalleled devotion of the Kashmiri people.

He noted that Azad Kashmir's first

President, Sardar Ibrahim Khan, played a historic role by presenting the Resolution of Accession to Pakistan in Srinagar despite the presence of Indian forces.

Muqam said that the people of Poonch have a remarkable history of patriotism, sacrifice, and struggle that cannot be overlooked. He stressed that questioning the patriotism of an entire city, region, or population because of a handful of individuals with a particular mindset is neither fair nor appropriate. He further stated that the views of a few individuals cannot be attributed to the people of an entire region or division. The anti-Pakistan or anti-Kashmir narratives do not represent any specific geographical area but rather reflect the thinking of certain elements. He reiterated that the people of Rawalakot, Poonch, and Azad Kashmir have consistently demon-

strated loyalty and solidarity with Pakistan. Addressing public welfare matters, Muqam confirmed that the relief measures agreed upon with the Public Action Committee remain fully intact and that the government is committed to honoring its promises. He clarified that no changes have been made to agreements concerning public relief, including electricity and flour subsidies. The minister also assured that the benefits of the 38-point public relief package will continue in the future. Speaking about political affairs, Muqam highlighted the extraordinary level of interest in Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party tickets, noting that dozens of candidates submitted applications in several constituencies. He said that ticket allocations were made on the basis of merit and electoral strategy.

Rizvi inspects rooftop, route security for central 9th Muharram procession

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Thursday visited Imambargah Asna Ashri in Sector G-6 and reviewed security arrangements for the central 9th Muharram procession. An official told APP, the IGP Rizvi inspected route security, point deployment and rooftop duties to assess the implementation of the comprehensive security plan for the procession.

Rizvi reviewed the operational preparedness of police personnel deployed at key locations and ensured that all security measures were being implemented effectively. IGP Rizvi also met DIGs and other senior police officers and issued necessary directions to further strengthen security arrangements and maintain close coordination throughout the procession. He directed officers to remain vigilant, strictly enforce the security plan and ensure a peaceful environment for mourners.

Tariq was informed about the real-time monitoring of procession routes, sensitive locations and security points through the Safe City cameras to ensure timely detection of any untoward incident. DIG Tariq reviewed the operational readiness of the control room and directed officers to maintain uninterrupted surveillance, strengthen coordination with field formations and ensure an immediate response to any emergency.

Pakistan, Türkiye sign three MoUs to strengthen cooperation in power sector

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Türkiye on Thursday signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing institutional collaboration, technical cooperation and knowledge sharing in the power sector during high-level consultations held in Istanbul. The agreements were signed as part of ongoing cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the energy sector, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division). The agreements reflect the shared commitment of both countries to deepen institutional collaboration, promote knowledge exchange, and strengthen technical cooperation across key areas of the power sector. The MoUs were signed between Pakistani and Turkish energy sector entities, Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) and Energy



Exchange Istanbul (EPIAS), ISMO and the Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation (TEIAS), and the Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC) and the Turkish Electricity Distribution Corporation (TEDAS).

The agreements establish formal frameworks for cooperation in areas

including post privatization governance framework, electricity market development, ancillary services regulations formulation, power system operations, transmission planning, distribution sector management, digitalisation, capacity building, institutional strengthening.

9th Muharram procession: DC, ACs, magistrates deployed across all routes

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Authorities deployed the Deputy Commissioner, all Assistant Commissioners and magistrates along the routes of the central 9th Muharram procession, while security and administrative arrangements were reviewed at multiple locations.

Officials said personnel would remain on duty until the procession concludes to ensure smooth management and public safety. The central mourning procession of 9th Muharram was held in Islamabad under a comprehensive administrative and security plan. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad personally monitored arrangements along different sections of the procession route and reviewed measures taken to facilitate participants. During the inspection,

the Deputy Commissioner assessed traffic management, public services and coordination among departments deployed for the event. Officials examined preparations aimed at maintaining the movement of the procession and addressing any issues that could arise during the gathering. The Deputy Commissioner also joined the Inspector General of Police in reviewing security arrangements around the Central Imambargah. The visit focused on security deployment, monitoring systems and coordination between law enforcement agencies responsible for maintaining order during Muharram observances. As part of the oversight process, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Islamabad Police Control Center to review monitoring operations and receive updates on security and administrative measures being implemented across the city.

Karbala in literature: A timeless symbol of truth and resistance

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Battle of Karbala, fought in 680 AD on the 10th of Muharram, remains one of the most emotionally profound and symbolically significant events in Islamic history.

The martyrdom of Imam Hussain ibn Ali (R.A.), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and his small group of companions against the vast forces of the Umayyad caliph Yazid has inspired centuries of reflection, resistance, and remembrance.

This tragic episode holds immense religious and cultural significance and occupies a prominent place in world literature across languages, genres, and eras.

From the earliest days, poets and writers composed elegies (marsiyas) to mourn Imam Hussain (R.A.) and celebrate his virtues. These literary works served not only as expressions of grief but also as powerful acts of resistance, preserving the memory of Karbala in

the face of oppression.

In Urdu literature, the Karbala narrative found its most refined expression in marsiyas—lengthy elegiac poems that recount the events of Ashura. Mir Anees, the celebrated 19th-century poet of Lucknow, is widely regarded as the master of the genre. His works are admired for their vivid imagery, rhythmic brilliance, and emotional depth. His contemporary and literary rival, Mirza Salaamat Ali Dabeer, also made significant contributions. Their poetic legacy continues to resonate today, particularly during Muharram mourning gatherings (majalis).

More than mere lamentations, these marsiyas are dramatic literary works rich in dialogue, moral reflection, and emotional intensity. Imam Hussain (R.A.) is portrayed as the embodiment of courage, sacrifice, and righteousness, while Yazid symbolizes tyranny and injustice. Through poetry, Karbala emerges as a timeless struggle between truth and falsehood.

In Arabic literature, poets such as Al-Farazdaq and Kumayl ibn Ziyad composed verses expressing profound grief and reverence for the martyrs of Karbala. In Persian literature, poets like Mohtasham Kashani elevated the tragedy to epic proportions. His famous verses mourning Karbala continue to be recited and remembered centuries later.

The symbolism of Karbala has also influenced modern political and revolutionary literature. During Iran's Islamic Revolution of 1979, references to Karbala became a powerful source of inspiration. The slogan, "Every day is Ashura, every land is Karbala," emerged as a rallying call for justice, resistance, and moral courage.

In South Asia, renowned poets such as Faiz Ahmad Faiz drew subtle parallels with Karbala to critique authoritarianism and advocate social justice. In their works, Karbala became a universal metaphor for standing steadfast against oppression, regardless of era or geography.

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Opinion

3

What crackdown on pro-Palestine voices means for US rights

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate student detained by America's Immigration and Customs Enforcement, last week eloquently wrote from his cell that "rights are granted to those who align with power." This poignant statement came soon after a judge ruled that the government had met the legal threshold to deport the young activist on the nebulous ground of being a threat to "foreign policy." "For the poor, for people of color, for those who resist injustice, rights are but words written on water," Khalil further lamented. The plight of this young man, whose sole transgression appears to be his participation in the nationwide mobilization to halt the Israeli genocide in Gaza, should terrify all Americans. This concern should extend even to those who are not inclined to join any political movement and who possess no particular sympathy for — or detailed knowledge of — the extent of Israel's atrocities in Gaza or the US' role in bankrolling this devastating conflict. The perplexing nature of the case against Khalil, like those

against other student activists such as Turkish visa holder Rumeysa Ozturk, starkly indicates that the issue is purely political. Its singular aim appears to be to silence dissenting political voices.

Judge Jamee Comans this month confirmed the legality of the Trump administration's decision to deport Khalil with an uncritical acceptance of the language employed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Rubio had previously written to the court, citing "potentially serious foreign policy consequences" stemming from Khalil's actions, which he characterized as participation in "disruptive protests" and "antisemitic conduct." The latter accusation is the reflexive rejoinder to any form of criticism leveled against Israel, a tactic that was prevalent long before the current catastrophic genocide in Gaza.

Those who argue that American citizens remain unaffected by the widespread government crackdown on freedom of expression must reconsider. Last week, for example, the government decided to freeze \$2.2 billion in federal funding to Harvard University.

Beyond the potential weakening of educa-

tional institutions and their impact on numerous Americans, such financial measures also coincide with a rapidly accelerating and alarming trend of targeting dissenting voices within the US. Also last week, Massachusetts immigration lawyer Nicole Micheroni, a US citizen, publicly disclosed receiving a message from the Department of Homeland Security requesting her self-deportation. Furthermore, oppressive new bills are under consideration in Congress, which could grant the Department of Treasury expansive measures to shut down community organizations, charities and similar entities under various pretenses and without adhering to standard constitutional legal procedures. Many readily conclude that these measures reflect Israel's profound influence on US domestic politics and the significant ability of the pro-Israel lobby in Washington to interfere with the democratic fabric of the US, whose Constitution's First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and assembly. While there is much truth in this conclusion, the narrative extends beyond the complexities of the Israel-

Palestine issue.

For many years, individuals, predominantly academics, who have championed Palestinian rights have been subjected to trials or even deported based on "secret evidence." This essentially involved a legal practice that amalgamated various acts, such as the Classified Information Procedures Act and the Immigration and Nationality Act, among others, to silence those critical of US foreign policy.

Although some civil rights groups in the US challenged the selective application of the law to stifle dissent, the matter hardly ignited a nationwide conversation regarding the authorities' violations of fundamental democratic norms, such as due process (as protected by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments). Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, however, much of that legal apparatus was also applied to all Americans in the form of the Patriot Act. This legislation broadened the government's authority to employ surveillance, including electronic communications, and other intrusive measures.

Subsequently, it became widely known that social media platforms were integrated into government surveillance efforts. Recent reports have even suggested that the government mandated social media screening for all US visa applicants who have spent "any length of time in an official or diplomatic capacity" in the Gaza Strip since Jan. 1, 2007.

In pursuing these actions, the US government is effectively replicating some of the draconian measures imposed on the Palestinians by Israel. The crucial distinction, based on historical experience, is that these measures tend to undergo continuous evolution, establishing legal precedents that swiftly apply to all Americans and further compromise their already deteriorating democracy. Americans are already grappling with their perception of the country's democratic institutions, with a disturbingly high 72 percent believing that US democracy is no longer a good example for other countries to follow, according to a Pew Research Center survey from April 2024.

— Arab News

What chance of a sustainable Gaza ceasefire?

CHRIS DOYLE

Given that the world has meekly accepted that Israel can starve an entire population under its control to collectively punish them as part of its genocide in Gaza, it is hard to envisage an exit from this horror. But if fishing for miniscule crumbs of comfort, one could entertain faint hope for at least a temporary pause, while some may even indulge in extraordinary ill-founded optimism for a permanent ceasefire deal. But what are the chances? For the Israeli public, the focus is understandably on securing the release of the 58 hostages reportedly left in Gaza, of whom 24 are thought to be alive. They know that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's feverish determination to intensify the Israeli military onslaught on Gaza poses a serious risk to the hostages' lives. Sadly, this does not appear to be the priority of the Israeli government. Netanyahu broke the January deal on March 15, ending six weeks of lower-level hostilities. Israel still killed 170 Palestinians in this period.

This is why the protests in Israel have been so vociferous and the opinion polls show that Netanyahu is not trusted to prioritize the hostages' freedom.

Hamas has its pressures. Protests against it still take place in Gaza. Some Palestinians allege that these are inspired and organized by Fatah. Even if this is partly true, there is significant dissatisfaction with Hamas' rule and its strategy. Many do not see Hamas as having advanced Palestinian rights or their liberation, while, through its actions, it has given Israel the opportunity to decimate Gaza. The Palestinians in the Strip are approaching breaking point. They have endured enough already but the Israeli siege reimposed on March 2 has now lasted more than 50 days, the longest such siege in 18 months. The impact is devastating, though a full scientific determination of how much closer the population is to famine has yet to be made.

So, how are the talks progressing? The head of Hamas' political bureau, Khalil Al-Hayya, last week presented a comprehensive deal that essentially involved the release of all the hostages in exchange for an end to the war, the release of an agreed number of Palestinian detainees, the lifting of the siege and the start of reconstruction. This has effectively been on the table for months, ever since last July.

Israel offered a 45-day ceasefire in return for the release of 10 hostages. Hamas rejects any partial deals and will only accept an agreement that provides for a permanent

end to the hostilities.

For any long-term deal, Israel demands a complete Hamas surrender. This is simply not a serious negotiating platform. Another demand of the same ilk is that Hamas gives up all its remaining weapons. Maybe there could be room for this in a deal, but how could anyone be sure that all weapons had been handed in? It is still unlikely. Hamas claims to be defending Palestinians and will just see this as surrender by another name.

If Israel and Hamas are not close to a deal, what about the brokers? One issue is that Steve Witkoff, US President Donald Trump's key man on the issue, is also engaged in the Russia-Ukraine talks and the talks held on Iran. It is too early to say whether this erstwhile businessman has any talent for brokering such international deals to end conflicts, but the idea of sorting out three of the most serious issues on the planet in a matter of weeks would be too much for anyone.

Trump is sticking to his lines. He still parrots his plan, as he did when meeting Netanyahu for a second time early this month, that Gaza was an "incredible piece of important real estate" that should be under American control.

This line makes it nigh impossible for Arab brokers to move forward. Much as Egypt and Qatar would both wish to secure a sustainable ceasefire, inflammatory comments from the White House only serve to empower the most militaristic and genocidal tendencies in Netanyahu's Cabinet, while discouraging any trust that could result in a sustainable deal. Palestinians still fear that the real agenda is to force them out of Gaza or to kill those who refuse — in short, ethnic cleansing or genocide.

European powers remain inactive, with France perhaps the exception. President Emmanuel Macron has said France will hold an international conference in June alongside Saudi Arabia. He has indicated Paris might recognize a Palestinian state. "We must move toward recognition and we will do so in the coming months," he said. If he does, will other European powers like the UK follow suit? Only a united front will count. The Palestinians in Gaza cannot wait. Famine is unfolding in plain sight. The humanitarian crisis is more severe than at any time over the last 18 months. More than two-thirds of Gaza is under evacuation orders and Israel is using about 30 percent of the entire Strip for buffer zones it states it will not leave.

— Arab News



Echoes of Karbala: Timeless Lessons for Today's Pakistan



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The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic Hijri calendar, a period that occupies a

place of profound reverence in the hearts of Muslims across the world. It was upon the sun-scorched plains of Karbala, along the flowing banks of the Euphrates River, that this sacred month witnessed one of the most momentous events in human history—a clash that was not merely between armies, but between the eternal forces of truth and falsehood. This is an encounter whose legacy transcends the boundaries of time and geography; its message has echoed through every century, reaching the farthest corners of the East and the West, and will continue to resonate until the Day of Judgment. No person of wisdom or conscience can overlook its profound significance, for it stands as a living testament to values that remain as vital today as they were fourteen centuries ago. Muharram is far more than a change in dates; it is a divine teacher that instills within us the principles of unwavering honesty, selfless devotion, supreme sacrifice, steadfast faith, the unity of the Muslim community, mutual compassion, and the virtue of peaceful coexistence. Its sanctity is ordained by Allah Almighty Himself, as clearly stated in Verse 36 of Surah Taubah, which declares Muharram as one of the four sacred months wherein justice and peace are held in the highest regard.

To truly understand the depth of this event, one must journey back through history to grasp the circumstances that led to that fateful day. Following the passing of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the Muslim community flourished under the guidance of leaders who upheld the principles of justice, consultation, and piety. However, as decades passed, the spirit of governance began to shift. The Umayyad dynasty gradually transformed the caliphate—a system based on religious merit and collective trust—into a hereditary monarchy, where power was passed down through lineage rather than earned through devotion to faith. When Yazid ibn Muawiyah ascended to the throne, he sought to formalise this deviation by demanding that all distinguished figures of the time, including Hazrat Imam Hussain ibn Ali, pledge their allegiance to him. This demand was not merely a political formality; it was an attempt to legitimise a rule that stood in direct contrast to the teachings of Islam. Hazrat Imam Hussain, the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet, born into the household of revelation and raised under the direct guidance of the Messenger of Allah, found himself at a defining crossroads. He was the son of Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatimah, and his very existence was a living reflection of the prophetic mission. To swear allegiance to Yazid would have meant accepting a system where worldly power overruled moral principle—a compromise that his conscience and faith could never allow. With unshakeable

resolve, he declared, "A person like me can never pledge allegiance to a person like Yazid," and thus began a journey that would redefine the meaning of honour and sacrifice for all time.

This brings us to a question that demands deep and honest introspection: what is the true philosophy of Karbala, and what lessons does it hold for us, especially in the context of contemporary Pakistan? We must stand before the court of our own conscience and ask ourselves sincerely: have we truly walked in the footsteps of the grandson of the Last Prophet? Have we understood the spirit of his struggle and the eternal significance of the sacrifices offered by the martyrs of Karbala? Have we preserved this noble message and passed it on to the younger generations with the same passion and clarity with which it was entrusted to us? If we hesitate in answering these questions, then we must pause and reflect deeply, for only through such contemplation can we uncover the true essence of Karbala and understand the very purpose of our own creation as the finest of all beings.

The philosophy of Karbala is, in its purest form, the philosophy of enduring hardship for the sake of righteousness—often described as karb o bala. It is a chapter in history that reveals a difficult but undeniable truth: the cause of Islam was often harmed more severely by those who claimed to be part of it than by any external enemy. The hypocrites of that era, driven by greed for power and worldly gain, cast aside all decency and humanity. They surrounded the small camp of Hazrat Imam Hussain, cutting off access to water and supplies, and eventually sent a vast army against a small group of seventy-two loyal companions, along with women and children. Their cruelty was so extreme that historical accounts speak of the heavens themselves grieving at the injustice. Yet, in the face of overwhelming numbers and impossible odds, Hazrat Imam Hussain and his followers never wavered. They stood firm not to conquer lands or seize power, but to uphold the word of Allah and protect the true teachings of their faith. This was a confrontation that drew a clear line between what is right and what is wrong, between submission to truth and surrender to tyranny.

Hazrat Imam Hussain sacrificed his beloved family, his closest companions, and finally his own life, but he never bowed down to oppression. He chose a death of honour over a life of humiliation and compromise. By laying down his life, he did not perish; rather, he breathed eternal life into the spirit of Islam. His sacrifice became a guiding light that would illuminate the path of righteousness for generations to come. This supreme act of selflessness teaches us that the ultimate purpose of human existence is not the accumulation of wealth, status, or authority, but the attainment of the pleasure of Allah. Complete submission to the will of the Creator must be the central aim of every life. We must strive to earn His blessings, for it is this alone that gives meaning to our existence and serves as our true legacy in the hereafter. When this becomes our highest goal, all worldly desires and ambitions lose their hold over us.

Today, these lessons carry special weight for

Pakistan, a nation founded on the ideals of Islam, justice, and equality. Our homeland is currently navigating a challenging path, facing political, social, and economic trials that test our collective resolve. We live in an age where moral clarity is often clouded, and there is a growing distance between what we profess and how we act. Many among us express deep love and reverence for our faith, yet in practice, we often fall short of its noble standards. There is a risk that we may become like structures that appear strong from the outside but are hollow within—people who observe rituals but lack the wisdom, compassion, and courage that true faith requires. We have drifted away from true understanding and sensitivity, often rushing through the days without pausing to reflect on our ultimate purpose.

In our pursuit of progress and stability, we sometimes forget the immense sacrifices made by those who preserved the light of faith for us. We must ask ourselves difficult but necessary questions: where is our nation heading, and what kind of society are we building? Why do we remain silent and indifferent in the face of division, injustice, and prejudice? What impact will our apathy, selfishness, and lack of collective conscience have on the youth of Pakistan—the generation that will one day lead this nation? What values are we instilling in their hearts? Are we fostering an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood, or are we allowing differences to tear us apart? If we find ourselves falling short, then this sacred month offers us a blessed opportunity to make a solemn resolution to change our ways.

We must resolve to walk firmly on the path of righteousness. It is essential that we break free from the chains of sectarianism, factionalism, and narrow-mindedness that have weakened our social fabric. We must nurture the spirit of brotherhood, humanity, and compassion in our hearts and communities, so that Pakistan may truly become a cradle of peace, love, and justice. It is our collective duty to ensure that the cause for which Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions laid down their lives remains alive and vibrant until the end of time. Our efforts to uphold truth must be pure, consistent, and unwavering. We must work together to uproot the poison of religious intolerance and hatred from its very foundations, so that it may never take root again. We must always stand firmly with the oppressed and against tyranny, no matter the circumstances. To honour the sanctity of Muharram, we must actively promote a culture of tolerance, kindness, and mutual respect. Furthermore, we must extend our full cooperation and support to the law enforcement agencies and authorities who work tirelessly to maintain peace and order across the country. Comprehensive preparations must be made to meet any unforeseen challenges, and just as we have done in previous years, we must stand united as one nation to defeat any threats of violence or extremism that seek to disrupt the sanctity of this holy month. By acting with pure intentions and striving to uphold these noble values, we place our trust in Allah Almighty, the Most Merciful and Gracious, who guides those who walk the path of truth.

Jordan arrests a wake-up call to Muslim Brotherhood threat

DALIA AL-AQIDI

Jordanian authorities last week arrested 16 individuals linked to the Muslim Brotherhood who were allegedly plotting a series of drone and rocket attacks inside the kingdom. This was not some isolated extremist cell — it was a coordinated network, reportedly trained and funded out of Lebanon, that was preparing to unleash violence and instability on Jordanian soil. Security forces uncovered a drone manufacturing site and even a rocket ready for launch. This level of planning speaks to the enduring organizational strength and ideological reach of the Brotherhood, despite repeated claims of its decline.

Jordan's government has been monitoring this network since 2021. But the timing of the arrests was telling, coming just seven months after the Brotherhood's political arm in the country, the Islamic Action Front, gained significant traction in Jordan's 2024 parliamentary elections.

The same group that promises reform at the ballot box is tied, through ideology and network, to plots of destruction behind closed doors. And that should send a chilling message to the rest of the world. Because the threat is not limited to Jordan, it is already in the West, cloaked in slogans and protests and backed by forces determined to weaken societies from within.

The Muslim Brotherhood has long mastered the art of political doublespeak. In the Middle East, it uses religion as a tool to manipulate the masses and gain power. In the West, it wraps itself in the language of democracy and human rights. Its operatives have learned how to navigate liberal institutions, exploit civil liberties and embed themselves in community organizations under the guise of advocacy.

Make no mistake: this is a radical Islamist movement that has never given up on its founding goal: the creation of regimes that rule by Shariah. The only

thing that has changed is its strategy. Violence remains on the table, but the preferred battlefield is now cultural and political. The Brotherhood does not need to overthrow governments when it can influence them from within.

In the US, Canada and Europe, Brotherhood-inspired groups have built an extensive network of nonprofit organizations, media platforms, lobbying groups and campus alliances. They have positioned themselves as the voice of Muslim communities, while silencing dissenting moderate voices. They claim to fight for justice but their real aim is control. They have also found unlikely allies: far-left activists who have little in common with Islamists but unite in their hatred of Western civilization. This alliance is not built on shared dreams of the future, it is built on a shared enemy. To them, America, Israel and the West are the villains. The Islamists want a theocracy. The radicals want a socialist utopia. They may not agree on what they want to build, but they are absolutely aligned on what they want to destroy.

Together, they have weaponized language. "Islamophobia" has become their shield. Any criticism of Islamist ideology is labeled as hate speech. Anyone who questions the Brotherhood's political agenda is smeared as a racist. These tactics have been frighteningly effective. Institutions, media outlets and even government agencies now walk on eggshells, too afraid to confront the very real threat of political Islamism in the name of sensitivity. But we must draw a line between respecting religion and enabling a radical movement that hides behind it. What happened in Jordan is a glimpse into the Brotherhood's long game. Its rise in the polls was no accident. The alleged plot to unleash drones and rockets is not an anomaly. This is what the Brotherhood does: it gains political cover, builds a network and strikes when the moment is right.

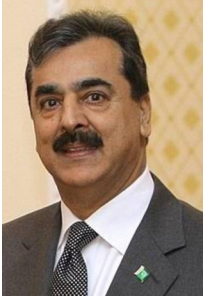
— Arab News

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Says Youm-e-Ashur Symbolizes Truth, Sacrifice and Resistance Against Oppression

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Senate Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, in a special message on Youm-e-Ashur, said that the 10th of Muharram stands as an eternal symbol of truth, righteousness, patience, sacrifice and steadfastness against oppression. He stated that the tragedy of Karbala carries a timeless message for humanity, guiding every generation in distinguishing between right and wrong.

The Chairman Senate said that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his devoted companions made unparalleled sacrifices on the plains of Karbala to uphold the supremacy of Islam, protect



human dignity and preserve the principles of justice and fairness. He added that the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA) teaches that true success and honour lie in standing firmly for the truth and making every sacrifice required in its defence.

Senator Gilani further remarked that Youm-e-Ashur conveys a powerful

message of unity, tolerance, brotherhood and national cohesion. He emphasized that society should draw inspiration from the noble character and teachings of Imam Hussain (RA) and work collectively to promote peace, justice, harmony and mutual respect. Urging the nation to reflect on the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala, the Chairman Senate called upon citizens to embody the values and principles for which the Ahl-e-Bait (RA) made everlasting sacrifices. He also offered special prayers for Pakistan's progress, peace and stability, as well as for the unity and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

Karbala's Legacy Inspires Resistance Against Oppression and Upholds Justice, Says NA Speaker

BY: Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD--- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid tribute to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), Ahl-e-Bait (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala on Ashura, describing Karbala as a timeless symbol of sacrifice, truth, justice and steadfastness.



He said the message of Karbala continues to inspire humanity to stand against oppression and promote tolerance, unity and social harmony. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah also paid tribute to the martyrs of Karbala, urging the nation to uphold the values of truth, justice, brotherhood and human dignity.

Bowser Vehicles Set Ablaze in Nushki's Mall Area, Security Operation Launched

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA: Unidentified armed men reportedly set several bowser vehicles on fire in the sensitive Mall area of Nushki district, Balochistan. According to local sources, the attackers are suspected to be affiliated with the banned BLA and targeted



vehicles parked along the highway. The incident triggered fear and panic among residents, while police and security forces launched an immediate operation in the area. Authorities are investigating the attack, which follows a series of similar incidents reported from the same locality.

Dawood Global Foundation, UNOOSA Sign Landmark Agreement to Expand Space Sector Opportunities for Young Women

BY: ANI Correspondent:

VIENNA/AUSTRIA----- The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Dawood Global Foundation (DGF), through its LADIESFUND Educate a Girl initiative, have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at creating new opportunities for young women in the global space sector.

The agreement was signed at the Vienna International Centre during a high-level side event held alongside the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS). The event marked the conclusion of the three-year Space4Women Landmark Study on Gender Equality in the Space Sector (2024-2026), led by UNOOSA with support from the Republic of Korea.

Under the partnership, UNOOSA and the Dawood Global Foundation will work together to facilitate internships, training, and professional development opportunities for young women from Pakistan and other countries pursuing careers in space science, technology, engineer-



ing, research, and leadership.

Speaking at the ceremony, UNOOSA Director Aarti Holla-Maini welcomed the collaboration, stating that the agreement would help expand training and professional opportunities for young women aspiring to enter the space sector.

Founder and President of the Dawood Global Foundation, Tara Uzra Dawood, emphasized the importance of ensuring that girls and young women from Pakistan

and the developing world are represented in the future of space exploration, innovation, and leadership. She noted that Pakistani girls possess immense talent and should be provided with access to global opportunities, mentorship, and international platforms.

The initiative received strong support from international partners. Representatives from the Korean Aerospace Administration, the Philippine Space Agency, and the Brazilian Space Agency praised the partnership and expressed interest in future collaboration aimed at promoting greater participation of women in the global space industry.

The MoU is being viewed as a significant milestone for Pakistan's engagement in international space and STEM development efforts. It also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals related to gender equality, quality education, and international cooperation while advancing UNOOSA's mission of ensuring that the benefits of space science and technology are accessible to all humanity.

Federal Secretary Education Inspects Upgraded Science Labs at IMCB F-8/4



BY: ANI Coeerspondond

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training, Nadeem Mahbub, visited Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) F-8/4 to inspect its newly upgraded state-of-the-art science

laboratories. Accompanied by senior officials of the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), he reviewed the modern facilities and advanced scientific equipment installed under the project. The secretary said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to

promoting practical, research-based learning and providing students with world-class educational facilities. The upgraded laboratories are expected to significantly enhance science education and experimental learning for students.

Punjab Ministers Review Youm-e-Ashur Security Arrangements in Chiniot



BY: ANI Correspondent:

FAISALABAD-- Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan and Adviser to the Chief Minister Malik Zeeshan reviewed security and admin-

istrative arrangements for Youm-e-Ashur during a visit to Chiniot. Officials were briefed on procession routes, security plans, traffic management, medical and rescue services, and public facilitation measures. The delegation expressed

satisfaction over the preparations, while directing all departments to maintain close coordination and ensure peaceful observance of Muharram through effective monitoring and strict security measures.

IG Punjab Orders High Alert Security Across Province for Ashura; Over 152,000 Personnel Deployed

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem has directed strict high-alert security arrangements across the province for Ashura (10th Muharram), emphasizing that no compromise will be made on the security of mourning processions, majalis, and mourners. According to Punjab Police, more than 152,000 officers and personnel have been deployed for Ashura security,



while over 70,000 personnel performed duties on the 9th of Muharram. A total of 1,697 processions and 3,869 majalis were held across Punjab on the 9th of Muharram under stringent security measures. The IG Punjab also ordered strict monitoring of sensitive areas, enforcement of Section 144, and enhanced surveillance through CCTV cameras, control rooms, snipers, and plainclothes commandos to ensure peaceful observance of Ashura.

No Justification for Lockdown After Ceasefire, Petroleum Prices Should Be Reduced Further, Traders' Leaders



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran and Traders Action Committee Islamabad, Ajmal Baloch, and Secretary and Chairman of the Traders and Market Development Committee of ICCI, Khalid Chaudhry, welcomed the ceasefire agreement between the

United States and Iran, describing it as a positive development in which Pakistan played a significant diplomatic role.

They praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for their diplomatic efforts. The traders' leaders said that

with global oil prices falling below pre-conflict levels, the government should pass on the benefit to consumers by further reducing petroleum prices. They also stressed that inflation continues to affect businesses and ordinary citizens, calling for immediate relief measures to support economic activity and ease the burden on the public.