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Iran warns US, Israel against attacks ahead of funeral processions for Khamenei



ANI

TEHRAN: An Iranian military commander warned the United States and Israel on Thursday against any attack on Iran as it prepares for the state funeral of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in airstrikes on the first day of the war.

"We warn the enemies of Iran, especially the US and the Zionist regime (Israel), to avoid any miscalculation and to think about the harsh retaliation our armed forces would make to any threat and aggression against our country," Ali Abdollahi, commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said in a statement

carried by state media.

Funeral processions for Khamenei will begin on July 4 in Tehran and conclude on July 9 with his burial in his hometown of Mashhad, with additional ceremonies planned in Qom and Iraq between these dates.

On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi gave a similar warning that Tehran would deliver an immediate and powerful response to any threat against its people or leadership after comments by Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz that Iran's current Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was "marked for death." Iranian media reported heightened security measures

during the funeral period, while the head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation said on Wednesday that temporary airspace restrictions would be implemented over several cities, including Tehran and Mashhad. Iran says that any US interference in the Strait of Hormuz would trigger a "decisive and rapid" response, adding that the continued presence of US air assets across the waterway endangers regional security, Reuters reports, citing state media. Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, which coordinates Iran's armed forces operations, has said all tanker and commercial vessels must follow routes designated by Tehran for safe pas-

sage through the strait, adding that deviations or failure to comply with navigation protocols would face an immediate response. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stated that the "martyrdom of our Leader is not the end of the road, but the beginning of a new chapter" in a message carried by Press TV.

The statement comes ahead of the funeral processions that will take place on July 4.

All commercial vessels are obliged to take the Iranian-designated maritime route for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz or face the consequences, Iran's military headquarters warned according to Al Jazeera.

PM Shehbaz hails FBR for surpassing historic revenue target, sets over Rs15 tln goal for FY2026-27



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday lauded senior officers of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for surpassing the historic revenue collection target of Rs 12.957 trillion during the last fiscal year, and described the achievement as a major milestone in Pakistan's economic journey and the result of sustained reforms, digitisation and institutional teamwork.

Chairing a meeting with senior FBR officers here at the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister congratulated the officers individually and the entire FBR workforce collectively for achieving the record revenue target for fiscal year 2025-26, a news release said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the timely disbursement of nearly Rs 600 billion in tax refunds during the fiscal year had provided much-needed relief to the business community while supporting export growth.

He expressed confidence that FBR field formations and officers would maintain the same level of commitment to achieve the government's revenue target of more than Rs15 trillion during the current fiscal year. The prime minister also commended Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal, members of the government's economic team and FBR officers for their role in the institution's improved performance.

He paid tribute to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and law enforcement agencies for their efforts in curbing smuggling and ensuring the security of FBR personnel. The prime minister also praised officers serving in remote areas, acknowledging their dedication and sacrifices in enforcing tax and customs laws. Highlighting the government's reform agenda, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the FBR's record revenue collection was made possible through reforms initiated over the past two and a half years, with a strong focus on digitisation, transparency and teamwork. He noted that he personally chaired review meetings on FBR performance twice every month, underscoring that institutional reforms remained among the government's highest priorities. The prime minister said reputable officers had been posted in FBR field formations to strengthen integrity within the organisation, reiterating that there was no place for corrupt elements in the tax authority. He directed FBR officials to prioritise taxpayer facilitation alongside revenue collection, stressing that expanding the tax base, improving transparency and enhancing services for taxpayers remained central objectives of the reform programme. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif further announced that the FBR's new operating model would be based on a digital, faceless tax administration system with minimal human intervention. He also directed the formation of a high-level committee to recommend measures for improving the career progression and service structure of officers belonging to the Pakistan Customs Service and Inland Revenue Service.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign security MoU, agree to develop cricket stadium in Jeddah



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Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on security cooperation on Wednesday, while the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation (SACF) signed a separate agreement to develop an international cricket stadium in Jeddah, according to official statements issued by Saudi authorities and the cricket federation. The developments mark the latest steps in expanding cooperation between Islamabad and Riyadh, which have in recent years broadened their longstanding strategic partnership beyond traditional political and defence ties to include internal security, investment, sports, tourism and institutional collaboration. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met his Saudi counterpart, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif, in Riyadh, where the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral security cooperation before signing the MoU. Announcing the development on X, Prince Abdulaziz said the agreement had been concluded under the directives of the two countries' leadership.

"Under the directives of the leadership, I met today with my brother, His Excellency the Minister of Interior and Minister for Narcotics Control of the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan, Mr Mohsin Raza Naqvi, where we affirmed our shared commitment to strengthening security cooperation between our two countries and signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the security field," he wrote. The Saudi minister described the agreement as reflecting "the strength of the strategic partnership and the depth of the longstanding relations between the Kingdom and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan."

Separately, the Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation announced on X that it had signed a strategic MoU with the Pakistan Cricket Board to support the development of an international cricket stadium in Jeddah. The agreement was signed by Naqvi in his capacity as PCB chairman.

According to the federation, the partnership aims to establish an international-standard cricket venue in Jeddah, strengthen the Kingdom's readiness to host major international tournaments, support the development of players, coaches and match officials, expand technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing, create new investment and sports tourism opportunities, and advance the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.

The federation said the partnership's expected outcomes would help "advance cricket and support Saudi Vision 2030."

The agreements are the latest in a series of initiatives aimed at deepening Pakistan-Saudi cooperation across multiple sectors, with both governments continuing to describe their relationship as a strategic partnership built on longstanding political, security, economic and people-to-people ties. Naqvi arrived in Riyadh earlier this week on an official visit, where he was received at King Khalid International Airport by Prince Abdulaziz, according to updates shared on the Pakistani minister's official WhatsApp channel.

CPEC 2.0 to drive new era of Pakistan-China shared growth: DPM/FM Dar



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said Pakistan and China were entering a new phase of economic cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, with the next stage of the flagship initiative set to focus on industrialization, agriculture, information technology, mining, and

human resource development. He reaffirmed that the all-weather strategic partnership with China remained a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and development agenda. Addressing a reception here hosted by the Chinese Embassy to mark 105th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China, Ishaq Dar congratulated the leadership and members of the Communist Party on the occasion and lauded China's remarkable development under the CPC's leadership.

He said China's unprecedented economic progress and success in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty had benefited not only its own people but also contributed to global development through the principles of shared prosperity and a community with a shared future for mankind.

PM Shehbaz to visit Iran, Turkiye from July 3-5: FO spox

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey from July 3-5, 2026, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said on Thursday.

The spokesperson, at his weekly press briefing, said that the prime minister would be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and other cabinet ministers and senior officials. He told the media that Prime Minister Shehbaz would travel to Iran first to participate in the funeral ceremony of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei. He said that the prime minister will convey condolences on behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan to the Iranian leadership and the bereaved families while reaffirming solidarity



with the brotherly nation in their hour of profound grief. Later, he would proceed to Istanbul, Turkey, at the invitation of the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan where he would hold discussions on the entire gamut of bilat-

eral relations with a special focus on giving impetus to bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two brotherly countries. The leadership meeting would also reflect on issues concerning regional peace and security, he added. During his stay in Istanbul, the prime minister will also address a business conference being hosted by Pakistan to spotlight Pakistan's trade and investment potential in priority areas, including the SEZs, energy, trade, IT, and privatisation sectors.

"The conference will bring together leading Turkish businessmen and investors alongside senior officials, dignitaries, and other distinguished participants from the business community," Spokesperson Andrabi said.

He said that the prime minister's visit to Iran and Turkey reflected Pakistan's deep-rooted historical, cultural, and fraternal ties with the two brotherly nations.

IHC removes objections to appeals against Toshakhana-II convictions of PTI Founder, Bushra Bibi

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ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday issued a written order removing office objections to the appeals filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi against their convictions in the Toshakhana-II case.

Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro issued the written order pertaining to proceedings held on March 12, allowing the applications seeking condonation of delay in filing the appeals and directing the Registrar's Office to assign regular numbers to the appeals. The court held that the explanation offered by the appellants' counsel for the alleged delay was satisfactory and ordered that all office objections be removed. According to the order, the defence counsel argued that the appeals had been filed within the statutory 30-day limitation period following the trial court's judgment. He further contended that there was no legal requirement for filing a fresh power of attorney (vakalatnama) in the High Court where counsel had already represented the accused during the trial.

Gilani departs for Tehran to attend funeral ceremony of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Thursday departed for the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the official funeral ceremony of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, scheduled to be held in Tehran on July 3, 2026. The visit is being undertaken at the invitation of the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) of Iran, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. Amongst others, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi is also part of the delegation. Expressing pro-



found grief and sorrow over the demise of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Chairman of Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated that, on behalf of the Senate of

Pakistan and in his personal capacity, he extends heartfelt condolences to the Parliament, Government, and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia H.E. Nawaf Saeed A. Al Malkiy called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja Urges Immediate Monsoon Awareness Drive, Calls for Floodwater Conservation

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has urged the Government of Pakistan to immediately launch a nationwide public awareness campaign ahead of the upcoming monsoon season. In a statement, he said that every year the country suffers extensive damage during the monsoon, including the loss of human lives, livestock, agricultural land, standing crops, and homes. He stressed that such devastation is largely caused by the lack of timely public awareness and preparedness.



Khawaja said the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was established to ensure that precautionary measures and safety guidelines reach the public

well before the onset of the monsoon, enabling people to protect themselves and minimize losses. He also proposed that floodwaters and seasonal torrents should be stored and utilized instead of being allowed to go to waste. "Developed nations conserve rainwater and make productive use of it. The government should constitute a team of experts to devise a practical mechanism for storing this year's floodwater and using it effectively," he said. Concluding his statement, Khawaja emphasized that launching a comprehensive public awareness campaign before the monsoon is essential to safeguard lives and property and to improve the country's disaster preparedness.

DG Shahzad Sabir Launches Rotary District 3271 Year with Quaid's Mausoleum Tribute, Reaffirms Service Agenda

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Rotary International District 3271 officially commenced its 2026-27 Rotary year as District Governor Shahzad Sabir led a wreath-laying ceremony at the Mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, paying tribute to the Father of the Nation before assuming charge of the District's leadership. District Governor Shahzad Sabir was accompanied by the First Lady, his children, and his parents, while the ceremony also brought together the District's leadership team, including Vice Governor PDG Dr. Aftab Imam, Mentor PDG Muhammad Hanif Khan, District Secretary Arif Siddiqui, Advisors Syed Kashif Rafi, Waqar Ahmed Shaikh and Atiqia Vally, Deputy Governors Shoaib Ismail, Pervez Madraswala and Imdad Bughio, District Learning Facilitator Anila Chaudhary, Additional Secretary Asif Mukaty, IMPACTCON 2027 Chair Shahid Ismail, Treasurer Ravi Kumar, Joint Secretary Shafqat Ali, Sergeant-at-Arms Capt. Sajid Mehmood, and Assistant Governors. The ceremony was hosted by the Rotary Club of Karachi Bay under the leadership of Past District Governor Muhammad Hanif Khan.



Addressing the gathering, DG Shahzad Sabir said that paying homage at the Quaid's mausoleum serves as a reminder of the values of discipline, unity, and faith that should guide public service. He reaffirmed the District's commitment to Rotary International President Olayinka H. Babalola's theme, "Create Lasting Impact," while upholding Rotary's enduring motto, "Service Above Self."

He said Rotary District 3271 would continue to focus on its flagship humanitarian initiatives across Sindh and Balochistan, including

polio eradication, smart village development, literacy, clean water and sanitation, disease prevention, and healthcare services. District 3271, comprising Rotary clubs across Sindh and Balochistan, is part of Rotary International's global network of more than 1.2 million members dedicated to community service, peacebuilding, and humanitarian action. Under DG Shahzad Sabir's leadership, the District will implement its 2026-27 service agenda, with further flagship initiatives to be announced in the coming months.

IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Orders Enhanced Security for Chinese Nationals, Intensified Crackdown on Illegal Foreigners



BY: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA--- Chaired a high-level meeting at the Central Police Office and directed police authorities to further strengthen security for Chinese experts and other foreign nationals, accelerate the repatriation of illegally residing foreign nationals, including Afghan nationals, and intensify intelligence-based operations across the province. During the meeting, AIG Operations Zahid Nawaz Marwat briefed participants on security arrangements for foreign nationals, the repatriation of illegal migrants, and the overall law and order situation in Punjab.

IG Punjab Abdul Kareem ordered enhanced security at Chinese and other foreign consulates, as well as at the residences, workplaces, and movement routes of Chinese experts and other foreign nationals. He directed police, the Special Branch, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), and other security agencies to review and further strengthen existing security protocols to ensure comprehensive protection. The Inspector General also ordered that the campaign to repatriate illegally residing foreign nationals, including Afghan nationals, be expedited. He instructed the Special Branch, CTD, and intelligence agencies to identify illegal foreign residents through intelligence-

based information and continue search, sweep, and combing operations throughout Punjab, particularly in inter-provincial border areas. Expressing concern over security threats, IG Abdul Kareem directed officers deployed at inter-provincial border police check posts to remain on high alert. He further ordered strict vigilance against the activities of Fitna Al-Khawarij, Fitna Al-Hindustan, and other anti-state elements to maintain peace and law and order across the province. The meeting was attended by , , the Additional IG Special Branch, DIG SPU, while all Regional Police Officers (RPOs), City Police Officers (CPOs), and District Police Officers (DPOs) joined via video link.

DC Chagai Jahanzeb Noor Shahwani, Iranian Officials Hold High-Level Meeting to Boost Pakistan-Iran Border Trade

BY: ANI Correspondent:

NOK KUNDI--- Pakistan and Iran held a high-level border meeting in Nok Kundi to discuss measures aimed at strengthening bilateral border trade, improving border management, facilitating the movement of pilgrims, and enhancing cross-border cooperation. The Pakistani delegation was led by Deputy Commissioner Chagai, Jahanzeb Noor Shahwani, while the Iranian side was represented by senior border officials. During the meeting, both sides reviewed key issues related to expanding legal trade, improving bilateral coordination, and resolving challenges faced by traders and border communities. Discussions focused on curbing smuggling, streamlining border crossing procedures, reviewing border fencing matters, promoting law-



ful commercial activities, and strengthening overall border management. The officials stressed the need for a coordinated approach to ensure secure, transparent, and efficient border operations while encouraging legitimate trade and facilitating local communities living along the

border. Both delegations reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining close cooperation and continuing joint efforts to further enhance Pakistan-Iran border trade, strengthen border security, and deepen bilateral relations in the mutual interest of both neighboring countries.

DPO Fawad Ahmed Holds Open Court, Inspects Vaniki Tarar Police Station



BY: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA--- DPO Hafizabad Fawad Ahmed held an open court at Vaniki Tarar Police Station, where he listened to citizens' complaints and

directed officers to resolve their issues promptly. He said the initiative aims to strengthen public trust in the police and ensure better service delivery. Later, the DPO conducted a detailed inspection of the police station, review-

ing records, the lock-up, warehouse, and administrative affairs. He instructed officers to maintain discipline, ensure merit-based investigations, adopt a people-friendly approach, and provide timely justice to citizens.

District Administration Tightens Crackdown on Professional Beggars

BY: Special Correspondent:

FAISALABAD: The district administration has assigned responsibilities to the Social Welfare Department, Traffic Police and other relevant agencies to make the anti-begging campaign more effective. A meeting on the anti-begging campaign was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) Sara Zainab, during which a comprehensive strategy was devised to take action against professional and habitual beggars. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner City, officials of the Police, Traffic Police, Social Welfare Department, Child Protection Institute, NADRA, Special Education Department and other concerned departments. Deputy Director Social Welfare gave a detailed briefing on the progress of the anti-begging campaign and outlined the future course of action.



Addressing the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) Sara Zainab directed all relevant departments to conduct coordinated operations to clear the city's major roads, intersections and public places of professional beggars. She emphasized the need to adopt an effective strategy to dismantle organized begging networks and continue the campaign on a sustained basis.

She also stressed that strict and indiscriminate legal action should be taken against those who force innocent children into begging. The meeting also discussed various proposals to further strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the anti-begging campaign, while all concerned departments were instructed to enhance inter-departmental coordination and expedite enforcement actions.

LUMINO Dental Holds Free Dental Check-up Camp at ICCI, Promotes Oral Health Awareness



BY: Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD: Under the leadership of CEO Muhammad Arshad Kamal, LUMINO Dental & Aesthetics Clinic organized a free dental check-up camp at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) to promote oral health awareness and community welfare. ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mahmood inaugurated the camp and praised the initiative, highlight-

ing the importance of free healthcare camps in encouraging preventive care and raising awareness about oral hygiene. A team of dentists, including Dr. Muhammad Samama, Dr. Qurat Ul Ain Arshad (Gold Medalist), Dr. Khadija, Dr. Abdullah Saifi, and Dr. Saad Khan, provided free dental examinations, professional consultations, and guidance on oral hygiene and preventive dental care. Participants also received compli-

mentary medicines and dental care product samples. The camp attracted a large number of business community members and visitors, who appreciated the free services and awareness campaign. CEO Muhammad Arshad Kamal reaffirmed LUMINO Dental & Aesthetics Clinic's commitment to organizing more community healthcare initiatives to improve public access to quality dental care.



Islamabad: Muhammad Zaheer Malik (Secretary), Raja Osama Sarwar (along with Ibrahim), Mudassar Raja Naeem, Saab Abbasi, Sajid Abbasi, Asim Sethi, and others are participating in the launch ceremony of 'Be Green' by Prestige Builders and Marketing.

Attaullah Tarar Administers Oath to RISJA's Newly Elected Body

Government assures full support to sports journalists; committee proposed to address their issues



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- A special ceremony was held by the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) to mark World Sports Journalists Day, where Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar cut a cake with sports journalists and administered the oath to the association's newly elected office-bearers. The ceremony was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Badr Shahbaz, Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial

Coordination Mohyuddin Wani, DG Pakistan Sports Board Yawar Hussain, PFUJ President Afzal Butt, National Press Club President Abdul Razaq Sial, former Pakistan hockey captain Shakeel Abbasi, Malik Shakeel Awan, and other distinguished guests. Speaking on the occasion, Attaullah Tarar paid tribute to sports journalists for their role in promoting sports, saying the government highly values their services. He noted that veteran sports journalist Abdul Mohi Shah was awarded the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, calling it an honor for the entire journalist community.

The minister urged sports journalists to form a committee to present their recommendations, assuring them that the Ministry of Information would extend full cooperation and work to address their concerns. Federal Secretary Mohyuddin Wani said sports journalists are key partners in the promotion of sports. He added that despite challenges, hockey development has gained momentum, with federation funds increasing from Rs2 million to Rs400 million, reflecting the government's commitment to reviving national sports.

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Opinion

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Drowning or Starving: Water as a Weapon Against Pakistan



BY:Sheikh J Hassan
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Water is the source of all life, yet for millions of people living along the Indus river system, it has become a source of fear, suffering, and uncertainty. For decades, Pakistan and India have shared one of the world's most complex river basins, bound by an agreement that was meant to turn geography into cooperation. That agreement is the Indus Waters Treaty, locally known as the Sindas Moahida, signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960 after years of mediation by the World Bank. Under its terms, the three western rivers – the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab – were reserved for Pakistan's use, while India received rights to the three eastern rivers on the condition that it would not block or divert waters belonging to Pakistan. It was hailed as a rare triumph of reason over rivalry. Today, however, that promise lies broken, as India increasingly treats this shared natural resource as a tool of pressure and control.

Across the fertile plains of Punjab and Sindh, the pattern is now painfully familiar. When rains are scarce and Pakistan's reservoirs run low, India holds back water upstream, leaving fields parched and crops to wither. Then, when monsoon rains fill Indian dams to capacity, it releases massive volumes without adequate warning, sending destructive surges racing downstream that submerge villages, sweep away homes, and destroy entire harvests. This calculated switching between drought and deluge is not an accident of nature; it is the result of deliberate choices made across the border, and it stands in clear violation of the Indus Waters Treaty, international law, and basic human

decency. The cost of this policy is borne directly by the people of Pakistan. Over ninety percent of the country's agriculture depends on water from these rivers, and farming supports the livelihoods of nearly forty percent of the workforce. When flows are restricted, small farmers cannot sow seed or irrigate standing crops; entire communities face food shortages and economic ruin. Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik told a recent international conference in Islamabad that an estimated six thousand people have lost their lives in recent years due directly or indirectly to acute water scarcity created by Indian restrictions. On the opposite end of the cycle, unannounced flood releases have claimed thousands more lives over the last seventy-five years, displacing millions and causing billions of rupees in damage to homes, livestock, and public infrastructure. Families have been forced to flee their homes again and again, with no certainty of when or if they will ever be able to return.

Pakistan has raised these concerns repeatedly through diplomatic channels and the Permanent Indus Commission, but responses have been evasive or delayed. India has pressed ahead with dozens of dams, barrages and hydropower projects – including the Kishenganga, Baglihar and Shahpur Kandi schemes – many of which Pakistan argues alter natural flows beyond what is permitted under the treaty. It is not just about infrastructure; it is about intent. By controlling the tap, India is trying to gain leverage over an entire nation, turning a basic human need into a geopolitical instrument.

This dangerous game carries risks that stretch far beyond the two neighbours. Much of the water feeding these rivers originates on the Tibetan plateau, where China is also developing major water infrastructure. Dr Victor Gao, a prominent Chinese international affairs ana-

lyst, has openly warned that weaponising water sets a dangerous precedent. "If India believes it is acceptable to block water from flowing downstream to Pakistan," he has noted, "it must accept that upstream countries hold exactly the same power over its own supplies." If China were ever to restrict flows that feed into India's river systems, the impact would be devastating for hundreds of millions of people – a reality India cannot afford to ignore.

Determined to make its case heard globally, Pakistan recently hosted an international conference in Islamabad, bringing together water management experts, legal specialists and independent analysts from around the world. The event laid out detailed evidence of treaty violations, the scale of human suffering, and the long-term threat to regional stability. The message was firm but consistent: Pakistan will never surrender its legal and moral right to its share of the rivers, nor will it accept the deliberate infliction of harm on its people. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif also stated clearly that while Pakistan prefers dialogue and respect for agreements, it retains the technical and cyber capabilities to alter the status of upstream installations if its survival is threatened. "We do not want escalation," he warned, "but we will not remain defenceless while our lifeline is being cut off."

For Pakistan, the Indus rivers are more than just waterways – they are the foundation of its food security, its economy, and its future. India's current course serves no one in the long run; it only deepens mistrust, creates suffering, and risks conflict over a resource that both nations need to survive. The solution lies in honouring the treaty, sharing data transparently, and managing flows in a way that protects communities on both sides of the border. Until that happens, Pakistan will continue to stand firm, raise its voice, and defend the right of every one of its citizens to live without fear of being starved of water or drowned by it.

Pakistan's Unlikely Hour: From Pariah State to Peacemaker



BY:Komal Rasheed
Published
By:ANI

The 2026 Iran crisis has unexpectedly placed Pakistan at the centre of regional diplomacy. As tensions between the United States, Israel, and Iran threatened to escalate into a wider conflict, Pakistan emerged as a key mediator, using its unique geographical position and balanced relations with major regional and global powers.

Pakistan's interest in mediation was driven not only by diplomacy but also by national necessity. With a long border with Iran and heavy dependence on energy supplies from the Gulf, any prolonged conflict

posed serious economic and security risks. Preventing further escalation became a strategic priority.

Unlike many regional actors, Pakistan maintained communication with all sides. It preserved ties with Washington while also keeping diplomatic channels open with Tehran. At the same time, its close relations with Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey, Qatar, and other regional partners enabled Islamabad to play a constructive role in encouraging dialogue instead of confrontation.

Pakistan's leadership adopted a carefully balanced approach, avoiding direct military involvement while supporting diplomatic efforts. Senior civilian and military officials remained actively engaged with regional and international counterparts, contributing to ceasefire initiatives and helping sustain communication between the opposing sides.

Despite these efforts, Pakistan faces important challenges. Iran's internal power structure, domestic economic pressures, security concerns along its western border, and political constraints all limit Islamabad's ability to influence long-term outcomes. Lasting diplomatic success will depend on strengthening institutions rather than relying on individual leaders or temporary circumstances.

The Iran crisis has nevertheless given Pakistan an opportunity to redefine its international role. If Islamabad continues to pursue balanced diplomacy and invests in strong foreign policy institutions, it could establish itself as a credible regional mediator. Whether this becomes a lasting diplomatic identity or remains a one-time success will depend on how Pakistan builds on this moment in the years ahead.

Manza Anwar Goindi – A Symbol of Sincerity, Compassion, and Literary Excellence



BY:Raja Noor Elahi Atif
Published By: ANI

Some personalities need no formal introduction, as their character, integrity, and warmth become their true identity. Manza Anwar Goindi is one such graceful, dignified, and widely respected personality. One does not need years of acquaintance to understand her nature; a single meeting is enough for her sincerity, kindness, and genuine affection to leave a lasting impression, creating a bond that feels as though it has existed for a lifetime. Manza Anwar Goindi belongs to a distinguished literary and intellectual family that has made a remarkable contribution to promoting literature, culture, and intellectual awareness in Sargodha. She not only inherited her father's rich literary and academic legacy but also strengthened it through her own talent, dedication,

and exemplary character. Her achievements in the fields of literature, education, social service, and ethics have earned her a unique identity and demonstrate that true greatness is defined by character, competence, and service rather than lineage alone.

Her personality is a beautiful blend of wisdom, knowledge, dignity, and compassion. Her association with literature is not merely formal but deeply rooted in her nature. Courtesy is reflected in her speech, humility in her conduct, and sweetness in her temperament. These admirable qualities have earned her respect, admiration, and affection in every circle she is associated with.

Manza Anwar Goindi is among those rare individuals who genuinely share the sorrows of others, wholeheartedly celebrate their joys, and nurture relationships with sincerity, trust, and mutual respect. To her, love is not merely an emotion but a graceful way of living. This is why everyone who meets her becomes deeply impressed by her personality, humility, and kindness.

In today's materialistic world, where personal interests often overshadow human relationships, personalities like Manza Anwar Goindi stand as a beacon of hope, compassion, and humanity. Through her conduct, she teaches that honor, respect, and genuine affection are not achieved through wealth, fame, or position, but through noble character, sincerity, humility, and selfless service to others.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Manza Anwar Goindi is not merely an individual but a symbol of sincerity, love, literature, grace, and high moral values. A few written paragraphs can hardly do justice to her remarkable personality, for some people are remembered not because of words written about them, but because of the place they earn in the hearts of others through their character and compassion.

May Almighty Allah bless her with good health, happiness, honor, long life, and continued success, enabling her to keep illuminating society with the light of literature, kindness, and humanity.

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 recon-

sider. Last week, for example, the government decided to freeze \$2.2 billion in federal funding to Harvard University.

Beyond the potential weakening of educational 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.

The situation has only worsened in the past year. While US activists advocating for justice in Palestine deserve unwavering support and defense for their profound courage and humanity, Americans must also recognize that they, and the remnants of their democracy, are equally at risk. "Our defense is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere," is a timeless quote associated with Abraham Lincoln. Yet, every day that Khalil and others spend in their cells awaiting deportation stands as the starkest violation of that very sentiment. Americans must not permit this injustice to persist.

— Arab News

YOSSI MEKELBERG

Israel, as a country and as a nation, has always suffered from a good measure of siege mentality. Being distrustful of the outside world is understandable considering the history of the Jewish people, but it has also become a useful political tool for cynics. For those on the right wing, it is ingrained in their ideology and state of mind. But it is equally a ploy to always portray Israel as a victim on whose behalf only they are willing and able to stand up to all those hateful foreigners who they claim wish for the destruction of the country.

The bizarre saga of two British MPs who were this month refused entry after flying to Israel is just another example of a self-inflicted PR wound inflicted by a government that is becoming increasingly paranoid and thrives on friction with the international community. The two rather anonymous first-term British Labour parliamentarians, Abtisam Mohammed and Yuan Yang, had been traveling to Israel and the West Bank as part of a parliamentary delegation. But immediately after their arrival, they were detained at the airport and forced to fly back to the UK the next day. What makes this story even more peculiar is that the two lawmakers were given clearance to enter the country before they set off, meaning their arrival was hardly a surprise to the Israeli government. Someone must have whispered in the ear of Israeli Interior Minister Moshe Arbel, between their clearance for entry and their detention at the airport, that two "troublemaker" British MPs were about to land in Israel, resulting in this hasty and reckless decision to prevent their entry. According to The Times of Israel, the Interior Ministry explained that it had refused Mohammed and Yang entry because, when questioned about the purpose of their visit, they had stated that it was "to document Israeli security forces and spread hateful rhetoric against Israel." It is hardly believable that they were so naive as to use these exact words to immigration officials. But even if this was what those who questioned them understood, it would have been smarter of the Israeli authorities to weigh carefully the miniscule degree of harm that would result from allowing two relatively unknown lawmakers to conduct their fact-finding mission against the extremely negative publicity that was bound to be caused by refusing them entry.

The Israeli Embassy in London, which must have approved their visit or at least known about it, all of a sudden suffered a bout of amnesia and entered the fray, declaring that their country "will not allow the entry of individuals or entities that act against the state and its citizens

(who are) actively involved in promoting sanctions against Israeli ministers," or boycotting the country.

These positions are certainly uncomfortable to Israel, but would it not have been better for the Israeli Foreign Ministry to invite critics of its policies, such as these two British MPs, to a briefing at the ministry and a meeting with experts and bestow on them the utmost "hasbara" to explain their actions, whether justified or not? Or is it the case that those in charge of defending Israel's policies on the Occupied Territories do not believe that their position is defensible?

Showing lawmakers a more friendly attitude would have at least saved Israel much of the negative publicity it received from most British politicians, with the exception of the Conservative Party and its leader Kemi Badenoch, which is hardly an endorsement that does anyone a favor. Upon their return, Mohammed and Yang, along with Cabinet ministers including Middle East Minister Hamish Falconer and more than 70 other parliamentarians, staged a joint photocall in Westminster Hall in a show of solidarity that was widely reported in the national and international media. To top this, Foreign Secretary David Lammy made a public statement describing Israel's act as

Macron's apparently unforgivable sin was to say that France could recognize a Palestinian state in a matter of months. The instant reply to the French president on X by the younger Netanyahu, a response which reflects the depth of his intellectual prowess and good manners, was: "Screw You."

"unacceptable, counterproductive and deeply concerning." Game, set and match for Israel's self-inflicted damage to its relations with the UK and beyond.

However, this incident runs deeper than Israel's inability to tolerate any criticism, let alone acknowledge that there are any faults in its policies toward the Palestinians. Self-evidently, not every criticism of Israel is justified or reflects a genuine understanding of the complexities of this conflict and the wars it generates. There is usually too much of a binary

approach and a tendency to unquestionably support either one side or the other, rather than offering constructive ideas and measures on how to bring it to an end.

Nevertheless, what does Israel expect after 58 years of oppressive occupation that has resulted in the illegal building of hundreds of settlements on occupied land in violation of international law, which has allowed settler terrorism and the general oppression of the Palestinians there, and more recently the mass killings and devastation in Gaza? The more Israel bars politicians, researchers, journalists and activists from visiting these places, the more it becomes obvious that the Israeli authorities have much to hide and that even they no longer believe they can justify their positions to anyone beyond their most ardent and least inquisitive supporters.

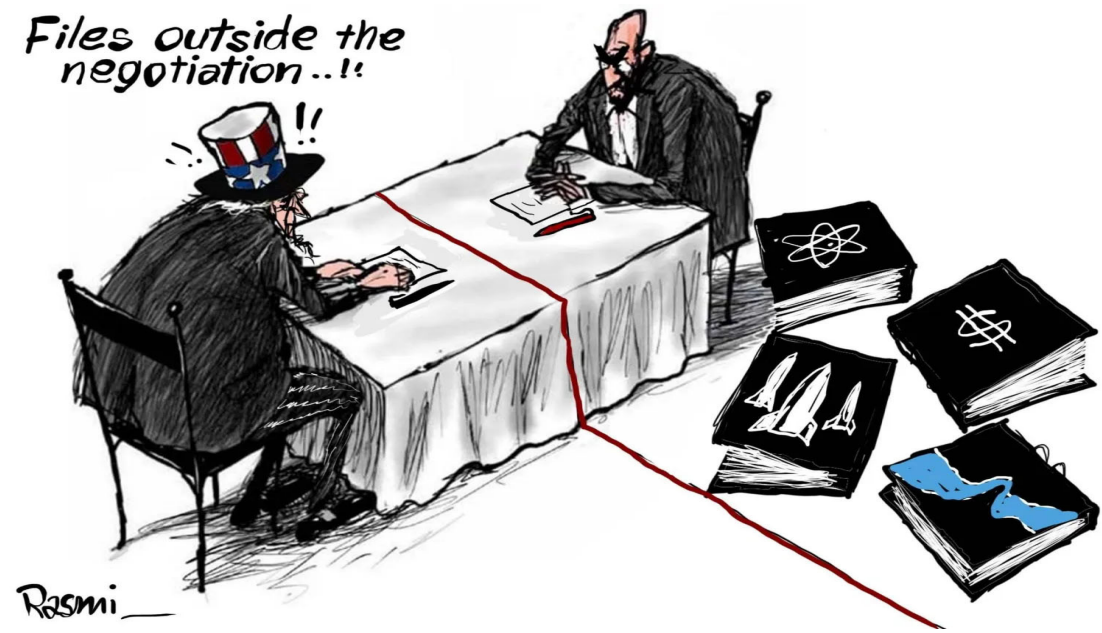
To make things worse for Israel's relations with its allies, last week it was the turn of a much higher-profile politician, French President Emmanuel Macron, to be on the receiving end of an obscene attack. It came from a certain self-exiled individual in Miami, who lives in luxurious conditions that nobody knows who pays for, while surrounded by Shin Bet bodyguards who we do know are funded by Israel's taxpayers. This individual is Yair Netanyahu – yes, the son of the much-discredited Israeli prime minister.

Macron's apparently unforgivable sin was to say that France could recognize a Palestinian state in a matter of months. The instant reply to the French president on X by the younger Netanyahu, a response which reflects the depth of his intellectual prowess and good manners, was: "Screw You." He also suggested that France has no moral right to criticize Israel because it deprives lands such as New Caledonia, Polynesia and Corsica of independence.

In one tweet, he exposed both his rudeness and his ignorance of the fact that the residents of these territories are French citizens. Corsica enjoys autonomy and the people of New Caledonia voted several years ago against independence – a far cry from anything that the Palestinians are being offered by Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu also took to social media to express his love for his son, mildly criticizing his manners but nevertheless supporting his boy's distorted content.

Macron and the UK and its Parliament are not enemies of Israel, but allies with strong reservations about Israel's approach to the Palestinians. To alienate them with this kind of behavior is yet another act of self-harming folly that is characteristic of the senior Netanyahu and his government.

— Arab News



Pakistan Proud of Its Women Diplomats’ Global Contributions, Says Misbah Khar

Young women should not choose between family and career; greater participation of women in diplomacy and decision-making is essential



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Advisor to the Chairman Senate on International Affairs and Ambassador of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers’ Conference (ISC), Ms. Misbah Khar, said Pakistan takes immense pride in the achievements and global contributions of its women diplomats, parliamentarians, economists and public servants, whose leadership has strengthened the country’s image and advanced international cooperation.

She was addressing as chief guest at a ceremony organized by the Pakistan Overseas Women Association (POWA) to mark the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

Ms. Misbah Khar said women have demonstrated outstanding leadership in diplomacy, conflict resolution, governance, humanitarian action, climate advocacy and multilateral engagement. Their perspectives, she noted, enrich deci-

sion-making and strengthen the foundations of peace, cooperation and sustainable development.

She emphasized that the true strength of women lies in unity, resilience and strong character, urging women never to compromise their values, intellect or dignity for the approval of others. “Success comes through consistency and determination, not merely strength,” she remarked. “Water breaks rock not because of its strength, but because of its consistency.”

Ms.Misbah Khar said dialogue among legislators, parliamentary friendship groups and inter-parliamentary forums has become an effective means of building trust, strengthening bilateral relations and addressing shared global challenges. She added that women leaders and parliamentarians continue to play a vital role in these efforts.

Referring to the younger generation, Ms.Misbah Khar encouraged women not to believe they must

sacrifice family life to build successful careers. She said women can excel professionally while raising families, provided they receive support from their families and society, adding that young girls should be encouraged to pursue both personal and professional aspirations.

Reaffirming Parliament’s commitment to women’s empowerment, she said greater participation of women in diplomacy and decision-making is essential for achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable outcomes. She called for continued efforts to remove barriers, expand opportunities and enable more women to assume leadership roles.

Congratulating the award recipients, Ms.Misbah Khar praised POWA for recognizing distinguished women diplomats and expressed hope that the initiative would inspire future generations of women leaders to contribute to diplomacy, peace and international cooperation.

Attorney General Malik Mansoor Usman Awan, Major (R) Malik Azhar Awan Discuss Khushab’s Public Issues

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA--- Major (R) Malik Azhar Awan met Attorney General of Pakistan Malik Mansoor Usman Awan in Islamabad to discuss key public issues facing Union Council Khora, Tehsil Nowshera, and the wider Khushab District.

Major (R) Malik Azhar Awan highlighted concerns including the shortage of clean drinking water, inadequate education and healthcare facilities, and the need for faster development projects. Attorney General Malik



Mansoor Usman Awan assured him of his commitment to addressing these issues, emphasizing that public welfare and regional development remain

top priorities. Both leaders agreed to continue working together to improve public services and accelerate development in the area.

Punjab MPAs Mehr Kashif Rang Elahi Padhiyar and Sardar Khan Bahadur Dogar Inaugurate Admission Campaign at Baba Guru Nanak University



BY: ANI Correspondent:

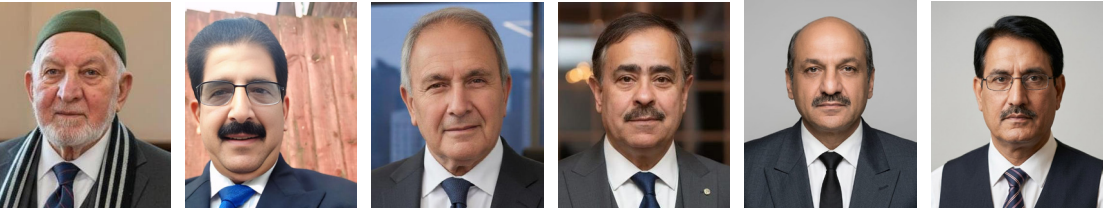
NANKANA SAHIB--- Punjab Assembly members Mehr Kashif Rang Elahi Padhiyar and Sardar Khan Bahadur Dogar inaugurated the admission campaign at the new state-of-the-art campus of Baba Guru Nanak University, Nankana Sahib. The ceremony was attended by

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Tasleem Akhtar Rao, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Imran, Registrar Mubashir Tariq, faculty members, political and social leaders, and students.

Speaking on the occasion, the guests said the university has earned a strong reputation in a short period by providing quality

education. They said the Punjab government, under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has released over Rs600 million for the development of the new campus and assured continued support to complete the remaining work. The guests also visited students’ projects and exhibitions and appreciated their talent.

PPP UK Leaders Pay Tribute to President Asif Ali Zardari on His 73rd Birthday, Laud His Democratic Services



BY: Correspndent:

LONDON--- Senior leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) UK extended warm birthday greetings to President Asif Ali Zardari on the occasion of his 73rd birthday, paying tribute to his longstanding political, democratic, and public service. They said President Zardari has played a significant role in strengthening democracy, upholding the Constitution, and safeguarding the rights of the people throughout his political career.

The joint statement was issued by former President of PPP Birmingham UK Chaudhry Fazal Hussain Kharak, former Senior Vice

President of PPP UK Chaudhry Muhammad Manzoor, Senior Vice President of PPP Birmingham UK and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Shabir Hussain, former Secretary General of PPP Midlands Birmingham Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, Chairman of the Kashmir Committee PPP UK Naib Hussain Mughal, Member of the Federal Council of PPP UK Chaudhry Muhammad Amin, and Chaudhry Muhammad Malik.

The leaders stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party remains firmly committed to the vision of President Asif Ali Zardari and the democratic philosophy of Shaheed

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. They reaffirmed the party’s commitment to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting constitutional supremacy, and serving the people of Pakistan.

The PPP UK leaders also thanked the people of Gilgit-Baltistan for their overwhelming support of Pakistan Peoples Party and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the recent elections. They said the public mandate is a sacred trust and pledged that every commitment made to the people would be fulfilled through practical measures aimed at the region’s development and prosperity.

Gilani, Portuguese Ambassador Dominguez Discuss Expanding Pakistan-Portugal Ties

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani met with Paulo Miguel Guedes Dominguez at Parliament House to discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Portugal.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Chairman Senate Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to deepening its longstanding and friendly ties with Portugal. He said both countries enjoy cordial relations and cooperate closely at bilateral and multilateral forums to promote peace, stability, and sustainable development.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of sustained high-level engagement and expressed confidence that the upcoming Bilateral Political Consultations in Islamabad would further enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Highlighting economic relations, Gilani noted the steady growth in bilateral trade and stressed the need to expand collaboration in trade, investment, agriculture, information technology, education,



culture, and the blue economy. He also appreciated Portugal’s continued support for Pakistan, particularly regarding the GSP Plus framework, and expressed hope for further cooperation in this regard.

Referring to the Pakistani community in Portugal, he described the diaspora as an important bridge between the two nations. He also emphasized expanding educational cooperation, academic exchanges, and workforce mobility, expressing hope for the early conclusion of the Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement.

Chairman Gilani further underscored the role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilat-

eral ties and welcomed continued interaction between Parliamentary Friendship Groups and legislators of both countries.

Ambassador Paulo Miguel Guedes Dominguez thanked Chairman Senate Gilani for the warm welcome and reaffirmed Portugal’s commitment to expanding cooperation with Pakistan in the political, parliamentary, economic, educational, and cultural fields.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-Portugal relations and enhancing cooperation for the mutual benefit of the people of both countries.

Malik Sohail Hussain, Ambassador Paulo Domingues Agree to Boost Pakistan-Portugal Trade; Portuguese Trade Minister Expected to Visit Pakistan

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), and Paulo Domingues, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, have agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation through enhanced business-to-business engagement, exchange of trade delegations, and closer collaboration between the private sectors of both countries.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Ambassador Paulo Domingues and an FPCCI delegation at the Embassy of Portugal in Islamabad. The delegation was led by Malik Sohail Hussain on behalf of Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, President ECO-CCI, Senior Vice President SAARC CCI, Vice President CACCI, and Deputy Chairman SCO Business Council.

Ambassador Paulo Domingues informed the delegation that the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs is planning a high-level visit by the Portuguese Minister responsible for Trade to Pakistan during September or October this year. He said the visit is expected to further strengthen bilateral economic engagement and open new avenues for trade and investment cooperation.

The FPCCI delegation included Haider Raza Naqvi, Founder and President of the Mandi Bahauddin Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Aun Raza Naqvi, Patron-in-Chief of the Mandi Bahauddin and Hafizabad Chambers of Commerce & Industry; and Omar Hashmi, Director FPCCI. Also present were Houria Sheikh, Trade and Cultural Officer, and Rifat Fatima, Political Officer at the Embassy of Portugal.

During the meeting, both sides



discussed expanding bilateral trade, promoting investment opportunities, and strengthening institutional cooperation between the business communities of Pakistan and Portugal. They also agreed in principle to organize a high-powered FPCCI trade delegation to Portugal, comprising representatives from the Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, and Sargodha Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The delegation will explore cooperation in healthcare, information technology, textiles, agriculture, real estate, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and investment while facilitating direct business-to-business meetings with Portuguese companies and institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Sohail Hussain welcomed the proposed ministerial visit and reaffirmed FPCCI’s commitment to promoting stronger commercial relations between Pakistan and Portugal. He announced that FPCCI would host a Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum in honour of the visiting Portuguese Trade Minister, bringing together chambers of commerce, trade associations, exporters, inves-

tors, and private-sector representatives from across Pakistan.

Haider Raza Naqvi extended a special invitation to Ambassador Paulo Domingues to visit Mandi Bahauddin and Hafizabad to witness the region’s historical heritage and economic potential. He said such a visit would provide first-hand exposure to Pakistan’s internationally recognised rice industry, thriving textile sector, modern agricultural practices, and agro-based enterprises, further strengthening trade, investment, tourism, and people-to-people ties between the two countries. Concluding the meeting, Malik Sohail Hussain said FPCCI remains committed to translating diplomatic engagement into tangible commercial outcomes through direct business partnerships, joint ventures, and sector-specific investment opportunities. He expressed confidence that the proposed trade delegation and the Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum would lay the foundation for a long-term economic partnership, leading to increased bilateral trade, investment, and sustainable economic cooperation between Pakistan and Portugal.

ISSI hosts seminar on “CPC 105 Years: achievements, experiences, and the China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future”



ANI

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPCSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG), on Thursday organized a commemorative Seminar titled “CPC 105 Years: Achievements, Experiences, and the China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future”.

The seminar brought together senior government officials, diplomats, scholars, academics, media representatives, and students to reflect on China’s remarkable development under the leadership of the CPC and to discuss its significance for Pakistan-China relations and the evolving All-Weather Strategic

Cooperative Partnership, said a press release.

The Chief Guest, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, described the CPC’s 105-year journey as an extraordinary example of national rejuvenation, visionary leadership, and people-centred governance. She observed that China’s modernization demonstrates the importance of pursuing development in accordance with national conditions while investing in education, innovation, technology, and human capital. Reaffirming Pakistan’s commitment to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, she emphasized that the next phase of Pakistan-China cooperation should increasingly focus on edu-

cation, scientific research, skills development, innovation, youth empowerment, and stronger collaboration among universities, think tanks, and research institutions.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, Board of Governors, ISSI, described the 105-year journey of the Communist Party of China (CPC) as a remarkable testament to visionary leadership, long-term strategic planning, institutional resilience, and sustained reform. He highlighted China’s unprecedented achievements in economic development, poverty alleviation, technological innovation, modernization, and high-quality growth, observing that China’s development experience offers valuable lessons for developing countries. He noted that this experience holds particular relevance for Pakistan, whose All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China continues to deepen and expand beyond traditional political and strategic cooperation into emerging areas such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence, green development, agricultural modernization, and human resource development under the evolving framework of CPEC.

Ms. Wang Lei, Representative of China Media Group (CMG), appreciated ISSI for jointly organizing the Seminar and noted that it coincided with both the 105th anniversary of the CPC and the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations.