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Iran says military using ceasefire to strengthen combat capabilities



ANI

TEHRAN: Iran's military says it is using the ceasefire to strengthen its combat capabilities, warning that any "enemy mistake" would be met with a "crushing and decisive response", Al Jazeera reported.

Brigadier-General Mohammad Akraminia said the army was using the pause in hostilities to strengthen its armed forces.

"We will not waste a single moment or neglect this," he said.

"If the enemies make a mistake, they will definitely face a crushing and decisive response from the Iranian armed forces," he said.

Thousands of US and Israeli air attacks hit a range of military tar-

gets, energy facilities and civilian infrastructure during weeks of war that began with the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28. The attacks killed more than 3,000 people in Iran, according to state media. OPEC+ has agreed a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling due to the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for oil exports.

The oil-producing group agreed during an online meeting to increase quotas by 188,000 barrels per day from August, on top of similar increases for June and July.

Seven core members of OPEC+,

which groups OPEC and allied producers including Russia, have hiked their output quotas from April through July by almost 800,000 bpd.

Yet the increase has remained largely on paper because of the US-Israeli war on Iran, which closed the Strait of Hormuz to tanker traffic for some of the most important OPEC+ members, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

OPEC+ output fell to 33.13 million bpd in May, according to OPEC data, from 42.77 million bpd in February. It began to recover in June thanks to US efforts to help the UAE and other OPEC+ nations export more oil, but is still below

pre-war levels. Despite persisting supply disruptions, oil prices have returned to pre-war levels, pressured by lower Chinese imports, higher exports from non-Middle East producers, and a record global strategic stock release coordinated by the International Energy Agency. A memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran to end the war has also helped convince traders that supply will ultimately return to normal levels.

Brent crude prices traded near \$72 per barrel on Friday, down from recent peaks of more than \$120 per barrel and back to levels traded just before the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28.

Pakistan, Turkiye enter new and exciting chapter: PM Shehbaz



ANI

ISTANBUL: Pakistan and Turkey on Saturday expressed their commitment to increase bilateral trade volume to five billion US dollars and discussed ways to increase bilateral trade and investment in special economic zones.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the commitment while addressing a joint press conference after their meeting here. The Prime Minister, in his remarks, appreciated the unprecedented progress of Turkiye in all fields under the leadership of President Erdogan and said that Pakistan was proud of its friendship with Turkiye. He said important meetings were held with Turkish businessmen in the B2B forum and comprehensive and constructive talks were held with President Erdogan. "We discussed increasing investment in special economic zones and we are determined to achieve the target of 5 billion dollars in bilateral trade volume." He mentioned the common stance and cooperation of the two countries on global and regional disputes and said that Pakistan supported Turkiye's position on the Cyprus issue.

He thanked Turkiye for its unequivocal stance on the Kashmir issue. The Prime Minister, while mentioning the talks aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation, said that Pakistan's success was Turkiye's suc-

cess and Turkiye's progress was Pakistan's progress. "We have to give a new dimension to the partnership between Pakistan and Turkiye."

He thanked President Erdogan for the wonderful welcome and warm hospitality. He described Istanbul as a beautiful city and a beautiful blend of East and West and said that the people of Pakistan and Turkiye have deep love and attachment to each other.

"There is a heartfelt bond between the two," he said and reminded that in Turkiye's war of independence, the Muslims of the subcontinent fully supported and mothers and sisters donated their jewellery.

"This unique relationship is based on shared faith, culture, history, mutual brotherhood and sacrifices."

He said that Pakistan-Turkiye relations have a wonderful history. Both countries always supported each other in every difficulty.

"Be it war or earthquake, natural disasters or floods, Turkiye has always supported Pakistan. Turkiye's help in Muzaffargarh and other flood-affected areas is part of history," he mentioned.

He said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan himself came to flood-hit Muzaffargarh along with his wife and the Turkish President's wife even donated her necklace for the victims and her act won the hearts of the people of Pakistan.

Posters against banned JAAC appear on AJK highways

ANI

MIRPUR: The people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have displayed posters against banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) on roads and highways, showing their commitment to peace and stability in the region. The brave Kashmiri people have taken a categorical stand against the elements spreading mischief in Azad Kashmir. Posters against the banned outfit were displayed on various highways in the city of Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, which is being described as an expression of the public's stance in favour of peace and stability in the state.

The posters carry slogans "Banned Action Committee Rejected", claiming that the people of Azad Kashmir reject the agenda of the elements spreading chaos and want to maintain peace and order in the state.



The posters state that the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir will not allow any external or internal element to destroy the peace of the state and will continue to oppose all elements who try to promote unrest and chaos.

The posters also convey the view that the people of Azad Kashmir have already rejected the narrative of the outlawed Joint Action Committee and stand with peace, stability, and the rule of law in the state.

Owners' consent made mandatory in telecom bill after committee review, says law minister

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Sunday said a committee constituted by the prime minister to resolve concerns over proposed amendments to telecommunication laws had unanimously agreed to revise the draft legislation, making the consent of property owners mandatory before any telecommunications infrastructure could be installed on private land. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted the committee following strong criticism from both government allies and opposition lawmakers, who demanded a thorough review of the bill and amendments to its contentious provisions.

Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad alongside Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Tarar said the revised draft of The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) (Amendment) Bill explicitly required a property owner's consent before any right-of-way could be granted over private land.

He said the amended draft also introduced clearer definitions of key terms, including right-of-way, above-ground and underground infrastructure, and the installation of telecommunications equipment to remove ambiguity.

Explaining the changes, the law minister said the earlier draft had referred to "mutual consent", but the revised version now made such consent mandatory. "Initially, it only stated that negotiations would take place. Now we have made it clear that if access is required through any private property —



whether a house, shop, vacant plot or agricultural land — the owner's permission must first be obtained.

It is now a precondition," he said.

Tarar said if the two parties were unable to agree on the terms and conditions, they could approach the relevant authority. However, he stressed that since the arrangement was based on mutual consent and the free will of both parties, the usual enforcement mechanisms would not apply at that stage.

He added that once an agreement had been reached and consideration received, neither party could unilaterally withdraw from the contract.

"If the terms and conditions have been settled, payment has been made, and all matters agreed upon, one party cannot later decide not to continue with the agreement. In such cases, the appropriate authority will deal with the matter," he said.

The minister said that if an operator failed to make agreed payments, the authority would issue the necessary directions. Likewise, if a property owner, after voluntarily entering into an agreement and receiving payment, attempted to obstruct or terminate the arrangement during the contract period, the matter would also be dealt with under the law.

Hafiz Naeem says a few families cannot rule Pakistan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said Pakistan belongs to its people and a few families cannot rule them, adding JI is making efforts to bring a change in the existing system to empower the grassroots.

Addressing the "Bano Qabil" graduation ceremony under the Al-Khidmat Foundation in the federal capital, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman congratulated all the graduates and said that millions of youth are taking advantage of opportunities and the country has a great human capital, so there is no reason for Pakistan to lag behind. He said that according to the Constitution, every child should receive free and equal quality education, but millions of children across the country, including Punjab, are out of school while the government education system is being neglected. The JI emir said separate education systems for the poor and the rich are not acceptable, and that Pakistan's interests can never be compromised, while only the youth can lead Pakistan to the path of development and prosperity. He claimed that more than 1.6 million youth

President Zardari felicitates US leadership on Independence Day

ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Saturday, extended felicitations to President of the United States of America Donald Trump and the American people on the momentous occasion of the United States' 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

In his letter to the US President, he said that the United States continued to build upon its enduring legacy of strength, innovation and commitment to the ideals of freedom, democracy and opportunity. He noted that the remarkable achievements of the American people over the past two and a half centuries have contributed significantly to global progress and prosperity, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

President Zardari said that Pakistan and the United States shared a long-standing relationship based on mutual respect, shared interests



and a common commitment to advancing peace, security and prosperity. He emphasised that these enduring ties have been further strengthened by the vibrant Pakistani-American community, whose achievements and contributions continue to enrich both societies while serving as a lasting bridge of friendship and understand-

ing. "Describing the bilateral relationship as being on an ascendant trajectory, characterised by renewed engagement and a shared determination to build a stronger, future-oriented partnership, the president stressed the importance of sustaining this momentum through structured engagement in energy security, trade and investment, defence and counter-terrorism, and other areas of mutual interest," it was added.

Underscoring that a strong Pakistan-US partnership directly contributes to regional peace and security, the president noted that its inherent value was validated last year in May, when President Trump led the successful brokering of a ceasefire between the two nuclear-armed states.

He further said that with an evolving global landscape, this partnership strengthens, expressing appreciation for the trust and confidence placed by the US in Pakistan's mediatory role for negotiations with Iran.

Lahore DIG says 'minister-linked suspect' treated like any other criminal in foreign women case

ANI

Islamabad: Lahore Deputy Inspector General (Operations) Faissal Kamran on Sunday said police were treating a suspect reportedly linked to a senior government minister no differently from any other criminal in the investigation into the alleged abduction and sexual assault of two foreign women.

Police on Thursday rescued two foreign women within hours of receiving an emergency complaint, arrested four suspects, and launched an investigation into allegations of kidnapping, ransom demands, and sexual assault. Addressing a press conference in Lahore today, the DIG said the case was being investigated by Lahore



police instead of the Crime Control Department (CCD), as it did not fall within the latter's jurisdiction. He said the Punjab police's specialised rape investigation cell was examining the case, adding that although the CCD had handled similar cases in the past, the present matter was being investi-

gated by Lahore police. Providing a timeline of the case, Kamran said the two foreign women arrived in Islamabad on June 26 before travelling to Lahore on June 29.

He said that at around midnight on July 1, the Safe City Authority received information from a man identified as Carlos, who reported that his daughter had been abducted in Pakistan and that he had received a ransom demand. "Police subsequently launched an investigation using the relevant phone numbers, the vehicle's registration details, travel records and footage from safe city cameras, while conducting raids in Shahdara, Defence, Sargodha and other areas.

Islamabad seeks Turkish investment in energy, mining, defence and IT among other sectors: Dar

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that Pakistan particularly seeks Turkish investment in key sectors including energy, mining, minerals, power infrastructure, information technology, manufacturing, agriculture, logistics, tourism, and defence industries.

These sectors, the foreign minister said during a Pakistan-Turkiye Business Conference, "offer tremendous opportunities not only for commercial success but also for technology, transfer, industrial modernisation, and employment generation."



According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Sunday, FM Dar noted during the conference that the Pakistani government "has embarked upon an ambitious programme of economic reforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif." He added that the

programme aims to improve macroeconomic stability, enhance investor confidence, create an enabling environment, and improve the ease of doing business for business leaders and houses.

With this, he highlighted the equal importance of collaboration in emerging technologies. "Artificial intelligence, digital innovation, FinTech, advanced manufacturing, and research partnerships with increasingly determine the competitiveness of our two economies," he noted, adding that there is "enormous potential for our universities, research institutions, and private sectors to work together in these fields."

PM invites Turkish businessmen to invest in Pakistan’s industrial, power sectors

ANI

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday invited Turkish businessmen and investors to invest in Pakistan’s sectors of industry, mines and minerals, power, information technology and participate in the country’s privatization process.

He was speaking at a Pakistan-Türkiye Business Conference attended by Turkish and Pakistani ministers and businessmen. He said Pakistani delegation was in Türkiye to explore economic opportunities. Türkiye, under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, had made tremendous strides in industry, automobile sector, textiles, and agriculture in the last 20 years, he noted, adding that Pakistan wanted to learn from the success of Türkiye in the process of privatization and setting up special economic zones.

He declared that his government had earmarked 1000 acres for Turkish investors in President Tayyip Erdogan’s special economic zone in Karachi.

Similarly, in the field of mine and minerals there was great scope, he said, adding, “Now is the time to explore these natural resources through our joint cooperation.

Similarly, opportunities existed in the field of artificial intelligence and information technology. Pakistan has a young population. We are a country of 240 million people and 60 percent of it is youth and we wanted to take advantage of their talent.”

The Prime Minister said Pakistan wanted to privatize its loss-making power sector entities and was also inviting investments in alternative energy, including solar and wind. He appreciated the Turkish investors for their interest in investing in different sectors of Pakistani economy. He said Pakistan was willing to sign government-to-government agreements with Türkiye to attract investment. He lauded Türkiye for standing by Pakistan as a rock in challenging times, even bearing losses for the sake of Pakistan. He said he wanted to work with President Erdogan to strengthen the bilateral relations. He said Türkiye was one of the staunchest allies of Pakistan around the globe. “This fraternal bond between our two countries goes back centuries,” he said, adding, “This wonderful, unique relationship dates back to Türkiye’s war of independence when Muslims under the leadership of Ali brothers supported Türkiye’s sacrifices and efforts for inde-

pendence.”

He said people of Türkiye had shown compassion, friendship and support for Pakistan in times of war, earthquake and floods. He said the strength of the bilateral relationship demanded that ideas shared at the conference should be converted into concrete action for the benefit of two people.

He recalled that Pakistan, with the support of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, had been able to mediate peace between the United States and Iran. “It was not an easy but an uphill task and without the sincere support of President Erdogan, along with other friendly and brotherly countries, the mission would have been impossible. But now a ceasefire had taken place and Islamabad memorandum of understanding had been signed by Presidents of US, Iran and himself and now there was tremendous potential for benefits for the entire region,” he explained.

Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz said Türkiye was ready to open new doors of cooperation with Pakistan.

“The bilateral relations between the two countries were not just based on mutual interest, but they had stood together as

two brotherly nations in challenging times.

Pakistan is not only a leading country in South Asia today but also has a constructive role in regional and global issues impacting peace and stability as a responsible country,” he added. He said Pakistan had made great efforts to reduce tensions in the Middle East in the last months through its constructive diplomacy in a mediator role between Iran and the United States.

Türkiye greatly appreciated mediation role of Pakistan, he said, adding that without security, there could not be economic development in the country and the region. Pakistan had made great contributions to the security in the region and this would hugely support the development of the region, he continued.

The Vice President said Pakistan and Türkiye had a strong bilateral trade and economic relationship under the leadership of the two countries. The High Level Strategic Cooperation Council of Pakistan and Türkiye brought together institutions of the two countries on a regular basis for economic cooperation, he mentioned, adding, “We have the target of increasing our bilateral trade to five billion dollars.”

Govt strengthens educational support for workers’ families

ANI

ISLAMABAD: In line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and the Government’s unwavering commitment to the welfare and uplift of the working class, the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, has issued special directives to the Secretary of the Workers Welfare Fund, Zulfikar Ahmad, to ensure the implementation of a landmark initiative aimed at providing educational facilities to an additional 100,000 children of registered workers across the country, from Grade 1 to 12.

This initiative is not merely an expansion of educational opportunities; it is a reflection of the State’s trust, respect, and commitment to securing a brighter future for the working class and their families, said a press release issued here. Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain stated that this historic decision is a practical manifestation of the Government’s commitment, under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, to providing equal opportunities for prosperity, and social advancement to every working family in Pakistan. “Pakistan’s progress is not solely dependent on industries; it is equally linked to the education of the children of those workers whose hard work and dedication keep these industries running.

Today, we are not merely providing educational facilities to another 100,000 children; we are giving hope, dignity, and a better future to 100,000 families, he mentioned.

DIG Tariq reviews development projects, operational readiness

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq chaired a high-level meeting to review administrative affairs, ongoing development projects, financial management and operational preparedness of Islamabad Police.

An official told APP on Sunday that SSP Security and Administration Suleman Zafar, accountants of the Operations Division and other relevant officers attended the meeting. DIG Tariq conducted a detailed review of administrative matters, development schemes, financial affairs, transportation and other official issues to improve the operational efficiency of the force. Tariq directed the officers concerned to ensure that all ongoing construction and development projects at police stations were completed within the stipulated timeframe and in accordance with high-quality standards to further strengthen police infrastructure. The DIG Tariq also instructed officials to keep all official vehicles and motorcycles of the Operations Division fully functional and operational at all times to ensure the timely and effective delivery of police services to the public.

ICT-PEIRA honours private schools for outstanding contribution to inclusive education

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (ICT-PEIRA) organized a distribution ceremony for appreciation certificates to honour private educational institutions that achieved 100% compliance with the authority’s key educational initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education across the Islamabad Capital Territory.

The ceremony recognized schools that fully implemented ICT-PEIRA’s flagship initiatives, including the provision of 10% need-based scholarships under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012, free-of-cost education for deserving communities, and the enrollment of Out-of-School Children (OOSC) referred by ICT-PEIRA, said a press release.

The event was attended by the Chairman, ICT-PEIRA, Dr Ghulam Ali

Mallah, Chairman, Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Professor Dr Ikram Ali Malik, senior officers of ICT-PEIRA, representatives of private educational institutions, recipients of appreciation certificates, and other distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman ICT-PEIRA, Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, congratulated the recipient institutions for their exemplary commitment to educational excellence and social responsibility. He stated that the remarkable response of private schools demonstrates their dedication to ensuring that every deserving child, regardless of financial background, has access to quality education. He emphasized that the partnership between ICT-PEIRA and the private education sector has significantly strengthened the implementation of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012,

expanded educational opportunities for underprivileged children, and supported the national mission of bringing Out-of-School Children into classrooms. Dr Mallah further expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for its continuous guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support in advancing educational reforms and promoting inclusive education in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

He reaffirmed ICT-PEIRA’s commitment to working closely with private educational institutions to further strengthen access, equity, and quality in education.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman FBISE, Professor Dr Ikram Ali Malik, appreciated the invaluable role played by private educational institutions in the development of Pakistan’s education sector. He paid tribute to teachers serving in private schools who continue to educate

and nurture future generations with dedication despite working under limited financial resources and comparatively modest salaries. He also commended ICT-PEIRA for acknowledging and encouraging institutions that have gone beyond regulatory compliance to make meaningful contributions towards social welfare and educational inclusion. During the ceremony, appreciation certificates were presented to the participating institutions in recognition of their outstanding performance, commitment to public service, and active support for ICT-PEIRA’s educational initiatives. The ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment by ICT-PEIRA and the private education sector to continue working together for the promotion of inclusive, equitable, and quality education, ensuring that no child is deprived of the opportunity to learn and succeed.

Petroleum Prices Reduced, But Inflation Continues to Burden Murree Residents Citizens Urge Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to Take Immediate Notice

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE--- Despite a substantial reduction in petroleum prices, the cost of essential commodities and public transport fares in Murree has remained largely unchanged, leaving residents frustrated and demanding immediate government intervention.

According to local residents, the prices of meat, vegetables, and other daily-use items continue to exceed the rates notified by the government. In many markets across Murree, shopkeepers are allegedly selling goods at self-determined prices while openly disregarding official price lists. Mutton is reportedly being sold for around Rs. 2,700 per kilogram or more, significantly above the govern-

ment-fixed rate, while beef is also being sold several hundred rupees above the prescribed price. Vegetable prices, residents claim, also remain well above the officially approved rates.

Concerns have also been raised over excessive public transport fares. Passengers traveling on routes including Kaldana, Sunny Bank, Ghora Gali, and surrounding areas allege that transport operators are charging fares higher than those approved by the authorities, placing an additional financial burden on commuters.

Residents further complained that many shops do not display official price lists. Some traders maintain that they are unable to procure goods

from wholesale markets at government-notified prices, forcing them to sell at higher rates. Citizens have called for a comprehensive investigation into the supply chain to identify the causes of these discrepancies and ensure fair pricing.

The public has appealed to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to take immediate notice of the situation and direct the relevant authorities to launch a strict crackdown on profiteering, overcharging, and violations of official price lists. They have also urged the government to strengthen market inspections, closely monitor public transport fares, and take indiscriminate legal action against violators to provide genuine relief to the people of Murree.

Lahore Police Rescue Two Foreign Women, Arrest Eight Suspects

BY : ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE --- Lahore Police safely recovered two foreign women within hours of receiving a kidnapping complaint and arrested eight suspects, DIG Operations Faisal Kamran said. He stated that the rescue operation was carried out using modern technology, CCTV surveillance, mobile data, and intelligence-based policing



with the support of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority. Police have seized vehicles, mobile phones, documents, and other digital evidence, while forensic analysis and further investigation are underway. The victims later returned to their home country after completion of all legal formalities and appreciated the Lahore Police for their timely rescue and professional support.

IPP Issues Tickets for 35 AJK Constituencies Under Sardar Tanveer Ilyas’ Leadership

BY: ANI Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD-- The Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), under the leadership of its Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has formally launched its electoral campaign for the 2026 AJK General Elections by awarding party tickets to candidates for 35 constituencies.

The ticket-awarding ceremony was attended by IPP Central President Abdul Aleem Khan, while the names of candidates for the remaining constituencies will be announced after the completion of the consultation process.

According to the party’s official list, candidates have been nominated for various territorial and refugee constituencies. In a significant move, former Prime Minister of AJK and IPP AJK President Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan will contest from three constituencies—LA-15, LA-22, and LA-25. Political observers view the decision as a key element of the party’s electoral strategy.

The party leadership expressed confidence that Sardar Tanveer Ilyas’ active election campaign will help establish IPP as a strong political force in Azad Kashmir.

According to the list, party tickets have been awarded to Muhammad Maroof (LA-2), Taimoor Hassan Farooq (LA-4), Iftikhar Hussain (LA-5), Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni (LA-6), Raja Irfan (LA-7), Malik Zulfikar (LA-8), Tahir Fareed (LA-9), Malik Yousaf (LA-10), Raja Talib (LA-11), Sabiha Siddiq (LA-12), Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali (LA-13), Raja Faheem Farooq (LA-14), Chaudhry Ejaz Khattana (LA-16), Chaudhry Amir Nazir (LA-17), Murtaza Ali Ahmed (LA-18), Shehzad Aziz (LA-19), Bilal Shakeel Advocate (LA-21), Sardar Rais Inqalabi (LA-23), Sardar Inayatullah Arif (LA-24), Sardar Tabarak (LA-27), Raja Mazhar Qayyum (LA-31), Abdul Qadeer Gujjar (LA-35), while refugee constituency tickets have been awarded to Tahir Khokhar (LA-39), Saleem Butt (LA-40), Saleem Ahmed Dar (LA-41), Bilal Butt (LA-42), and

Hamza Bazmi (LA-43).

The party said that candidates for LA-1, LA-3, LA-20, LA-26, LA-28, LA-29, LA-30, LA-32, LA-33, and LA-34 are still under consideration and will be announced shortly.

Political analysts believe that the reorganization of the party, the proactive leadership of Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, and the timely announcement of candidates have generated fresh political momentum ahead of the AJK elections. The party leadership remains optimistic that, following the announcement of the remaining candidates and the launch of an extensive public outreach campaign, IPP will emerge as a significant political force in the upcoming elections.

A large number of party leaders, candidates, and workers attended the ticket distribution ceremony. On the occasion, IPP Central President Abdul Aleem Khan and former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan congratulated the party nominees and extended their best wishes for the election campaign.

Business Community Celebrates Pakistan’s Historic Global Hajj Excellence Award

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Pakistan’s business community hosted a special dinner to celebrate the historic achievement of Affan Zeeshan, CEO of Al Khair Hajj Group (AKHG) and Al Mairaj Group, whose organization became Pakistan’s first private Hajj operator to receive the prestigious No. 1 Global Hajj Excellence (LABAYTUM) Award from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The event, hosted by Danish Aman, Chairman of the Pakistan Tanners Association, was attended by former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Dr. Abdul Bari, Brigadier Yaqoob Awan (ISPR), prominent business leaders, diplomats, senior military officials, and media representatives.

Speakers termed the award a his-



toric milestone, stating that it reflects Pakistan’s growing excellence in Hajj services and enhances the country’s international reputation. They con-

gratulated Affan Zeeshan and his team, expressing hope for more such achievements that bring pride to Pakistan.

July 5 a Dark Day in Pakistan’s History; Those Who Undermined the Constitution Rejected by History, Yousaf Raza Gillani

BY: Hurish Shah,:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Senate and former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani has described July 5, 1977, as a dark day in Pakistan’s history, saying it marked the unconstitutional overthrow of the democratically elected government of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. In a message issued on the anniversary of the 1977 military takeover, Gillani said the unconstitutional action was not merely the removal of a government but a serious blow to

Pakistan’s Constitution, democratic institutions, and the federation. He noted that the 1973 Constitution, introduced under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s leadership, remains the foundation of the country’s democratic and constitutional framework.

Paying tribute to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, Gillani said both leaders made historic sacrifices for democracy and the rights of the people. He added that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and its workers had endured imprisonment, persecution, and

immense sacrifices for the restoration and continuity of democracy.

He reaffirmed the commitment to the supremacy of Parliament, the Constitution, and the sanctity of the people’s vote, stating that those who subverted democracy had been rejected by history, while the vision of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto continues to inspire millions. Gillani concluded by emphasizing that Pakistan’s stability and progress depend on a strong Parliament, constitutional supremacy, and the uninterrupted continuation of the democratic process.

IRM calls for skills development to boost women’s economic empowerment

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Rural Management (IRM), in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), hosted a high-level national seminar titled “Closing the Skills Gap: Women, Work and Sustainable Economic Growth” to discuss practical strategies for strengthening women’s participation in Pakistan’s workforce through skills development and inclusive economic policies. The event brought together senior government officials, development practitioners, academicians, civil society representatives, private sector leaders, media professionals and development partners, said a press release issued here.

Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan,

Secretary, Establishment Division, Government of Pakistan, attended the event as the chief guest.

Addressing the seminar, he said women’s economic participation is a national priority and emphasized that Pakistan’s inclusive and sustainable growth depends on equipping women with market-driven skills, digital literacy, entrepreneurship opportunities, financial inclusion, and stronger linkages to employment and markets.

He also appreciated IRM for organizing a timely platform that fostered collaboration among the government, academia, development partners and the private sector to translate dialogue into practical action.

Earlier, IRM Chief Executive Officer Dr Roomi S. Hayat welcomed the par-

ticipants and reaffirmed the institute’s commitment to strengthening human capital development across Pakistan. He said skills development goes beyond employment by creating opportunities, empowering communities and contributing to national prosperity. Dr Hayat stressed the need for stronger partnerships among the government, educational institutions, industry and development partners to bridge the gap between education, skills and labour market demands while promoting women’s economic participation.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Noor Fatima, Director of HRDN and Head of the Department of International Relations and Political Science at the International Islamic University Islamabad.

Daily

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Opinion

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Stolen Innocence: Pakistan’s Failing Duty to Protect Its Daughters



By: Dr. Abdul Ghani
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A society is judged not by the height of its buildings or the strength of its economy, but by the safety of its children. When a little girl leaves home to buy groceries and never returns alive, the nation loses far more than an innocent life; it loses a part of its conscience. The recent tragedy in Sargodha, where a young girl was allegedly sexually assaulted and brutally murdered, is not merely another criminal case; it is a painful reminder that Pakistan continues to fail its most vulnerable citizens. Every such incident exposes the widening gap between our laws and their implementation, our public outrage and meaningful reform, and our collective values and everyday realities.

The Sargodha case shocked the nation because of its brutality. According to the police investigation, the child had gone to a nearby grocery shop where she frequently visited. When she failed to return home, her father searched for her and eventually found her critically injured on the third floor of the shop. The First Information Report (FIR), registered under Sections 302, 376, 511 and 109 of the Pakistan Penal Code, alleges that the child was sexually assaulted before being murdered. The preliminary post-mortem report indicated possible rape and revealed multiple severe injuries to her head and neck. While the final forensic report is awaited, the incident has once again highlighted the horrifying vulnerability of children in places that should have been considered safe.

Sadly, the Sargodha tragedy is not an isolated incident. Pakistan has repeatedly witnessed similar cases that have shaken public confidence in the criminal justice system. The rape and murder of seven-year-old Zainab Ansari in Kasur in 2018 led to nationwide protests and legislative reforms. The murder of five-year-old Marwah in Karachi in 2020 again exposed weaknesses in child protection mechanisms. Although the murder of Noor Mukadam in Islamabad in 2021 involved an adult victim, it further



Stolen Innocence: Pakistan's Failing Duty to Protect Its Daughters
Sargodha Tragedy: A Brutal Reminder of Our Child Protection Crisis

demonstrated the persistence of gender-based violence irrespective of age or social status. Despite public outrage after every high-profile case, meaningful institutional reforms have often remained slow and inconsistent.

The available statistics are equally alarming. A recent study published, an organisation working for the protection of children against abuse and violence, reported that 3,630 child abuse cases were recorded across Pakistan in 2025 alone, averaging almost ten children abused every day. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reported 4,175 rape cases and 733 gang rape cases in 2024, with Punjab recording the highest number of female rape and sexual assault victims. Similarly, the Sustainable Social Development Organization documented 5,339 rape cases nationwide in 2024, of which 4,641 occurred in Punjab. These figures represent only reported cases; experts widely acknowledge that many incidents remain unreported because of social stigma, fear of retaliation and lack of trust in the criminal justice system.

Internationally, Pakistan is not alone in confronting sexual violence against children, but many countries have responded with stronger preventive systems. According to UNICEF, more than 370 million girls and women worldwide have experienced rape or sexual assault before the age of eighteen. Countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have strengthened child protection through mandatory reporting laws, integrated child advocacy centres, specialised forensic interview units, sex offender registries and comprehensive school safeguarding programmes. Although no country has completely eliminated these crimes, such measures have significantly improved early detection,

victim protection, prosecution rates and public awareness.

Pakistan must move beyond reactive policymaking driven by public outrage. Effective prevention requires a comprehensive national strategy. Child protection authorities must be strengthened and adequately funded in every province. Police officers investigating sexual offences should receive specialised training in child-sensitive investigations and forensic evidence collection. Fast-track courts dealing with child sexual abuse should ensure timely trials without compromising due process. Schools should introduce age-appropriate child safety education, teaching children how to recognise abuse, report inappropriate behaviour and seek help without fear. Parents, too, must be equipped through community awareness programmes to identify warning signs and supervise children effectively. Equally important is the expansion of psychological counselling and rehabilitation services for survivors and their families.

The true measure of justice, however, is not the number of arrests made after a child has been killed, but the number of children whose lives are protected before such crimes occur. Every murdered child represents not only the failure of an individual offender but also the failure of institutions entrusted with safeguarding society. The memory of Zainab, Marwah, the innocent girl from Sargodha, and countless unnamed victims demands more than temporary outrage. It demands sustained political will, effective law enforcement, community responsibility and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that no child in Pakistan grows up fearing the very society that is supposed to protect her.

Funeral Procession of the Great late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei



Written By:Syeda Fizza Shah from UK
Published By: ANI

The final journey of Iran's leader spans across Tehran, Najaf, Karbala and Mashhad. In the wake of these tragic events, a nation mourns the loss of its leader with profound dignity.

Accompanied by the healing solace of Islamic verses, this final pas-

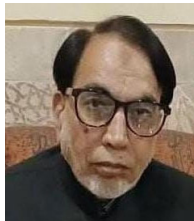
sage to his resting placenear Imam Reza serves as a journey of spiritual healing for both his family and the country.The holy month of Muharram holds a deep, sacred significance in Islam, recalling the mosttragic oppression in human history. Laying the leader to rest during this month sends apowerful message to the world, though mortals pass away, the righteous virtues and

attributes of a true leader endure forever. The immense love of his people was mirrored inthe massive crowds that gathered a testament to

his profound impact on the nation. Hisfinal words will remain forever engraved in history and his burial stands as a momentous tribute to his sacrifices for human dignity and freedom.

May this serve as a reminder that honesty and piety outlive the passage of time, as the worldwitnesses truth prevailing. In these solemn circumstances, the true meaning of global unity,peace and humanity has been redefined, leaving oppressors with a permanent seal ofdishonor. We hold onto the hope of unity, peace and humanity for all.

Tears Tribute to The Historic Farewell to a Legendary Leader



BY:Rasheed Ahmad Chughtai
Published by ANI:

A Moment That United the Muslim Ummah

In the annals of Islamic history, there are moments that transcend borders, sects, and political divides—moments when the Muslim Ummah stands as one, united in grief and resolve. The funeral of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the martyred Supreme Leader of Iran, was precisely such a moment. As millions poured into the streets of Tehran and beyond, as leaders from over one hundred nations gathered to pay their respects, the world witnessed something far greater than a state funeral. It was a profound demonstration of the unity of the Islamic Ummah—a powerful reminder that the bonds of faith, shared history, and common destiny remain unbreakable.

Pakistani Sunni scholar and religious leader Maulana Muhammad Imran Attari captured this sentiment perfectly when he declared: "I believe the funeral ceremony for this distirtry is demonstration of Muslims, while breathing new life into the spirit of freedom-seeking nations around the world". Indeed, as representatives from every corner of the Muslim world—from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, from Iraq to Turkey—stood shoulder to shoulder in Tehran, the funeral became a living testament to the enduring power of Islamic unity in the face of shared challenges.

A Nation Weeps : *The Largest Funeral in Modern History*

When the coffin of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—draped in Iran's national flag and adorned with a black turban symbolizing his lineage to the Prophet Muhammad, alongside a Palestinian keffiyeh—was unveiled at Tehran's Grand Mosalla religious complex, the scene was one of unimaginable emotion. President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i stood weeping before the coffin, their tears reflecting the grief of an entire nation.

The scale of this farewell defied comprehension. Iranian authorities estimate that between 4 million and 15 million mourners gathered in Tehran alone, with some projections reaching 20 million participants over the six-day ceremony. This surpasses even the 10 million who attended the funeral of the Islamic Republic's founder, Imam Khomeini, in 1989. Fourteen thousand journalists, including 900 foreign reporters, covered the historic event.

The emotional intensity was captured in the words of a weeping mourner, 27-year-old Hananeh Mousavi, who attended alongside her mother: "I am here to say goodbye to my beloved leader Ali Khamenei".

A Global Tribute: Over 100 Nations Pay Their Respects

Despite an extensive diplomatic campaign by the United States to discourage international participation—with reports indicating that at least 13 countries either withdrew or reduced their representation under American pressure—more than 100 countries sent delegations to Tehran. This international turnout, which Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi described as "an everlasting memory" in the history of Iran's relations with those nations, represented a powerful rebuke to those who sought to isolate Iran.

Pakistan's Powerful Delegation Among the most significant international contingents was Pakistan's high-level delegation, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. The prime minister was accompanied by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

At the funeral, Prime Minister Sharif recalled the "lasting contributions of the late Supreme Leader for Islam" and paid rich tribute to a leader who "guided the Iranian nation for decades, with remarkable wisdom and sagacity". The presence of both Pakistan's civilian and military leadership underscored the depth of Pakistan-Iran ties and Islamabad's unwavering solidarity with its neighbor during this period of national grief.

The Saudi Arabian Delegation : *A Historic Gesture*

Perhaps the most geopolitically significant attendance came from Saudi Arabia, which sent a high-level delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed El Khereiji. This was particu-

larly notable given that Saudi Arabia had faced Iranian drone attacks during the recent US-Israeli conflict. The Saudi presence was described by some media outlets as "unexpected".

Analysts viewed Saudi Arabia's participation as evidence that the China-brokered Saudi-Iran rapprochement of 2023 has largely held, with Gulf states continuing to prioritize stability and dialogue despite recent military escalations. This represented a profound shift toward pragmatic diplomacy in the Middle East, where states increasingly seek to balance relations rather than align exclusively with Washington.

Other Notable International Participants

- The international delegation included:
- Russia: Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev
- China: Senior representatives
- Iraq: President Nizar Amedi
- Turkey: Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz
- Armenia: Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan
- Tajikistan: President Emomali Rahmon
- Georgia: President Mikheil Kavelashvili
- India: Governor of Bihar and Minister of State for External Affairs
- Qatar, Oman, Egypt, and other Arab and Gulf nations

The Leader's Enduring Contributions to the Iranian Nation

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who led the Islamic Republic for over 36 years, left an indelible mark on Iran and the broader Islamic world. His contributions were recognized by leaders across the Muslim Ummah, who praised his wisdom, sagacity, and unwavering commitment to Islamic principles.

Khamenei's legacy is multifaceted. He guided Iran through decades of regional conflict, economic sanctions, and international pressure, maintaining the country's sovereignty and dignity. He was a steadfast advocate for the Palestinian cause and the resistance against oppression, positions that earned him admiration far beyond Iran's borders. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized that Khamenei's martyrdom "inspired Muslims in pursuit of unity," spending a significant part of his life advocating for unity as a key necessity for the Islamic Ummah.

His death on February 28, 2026, during US-Israeli airstrikes—alongside several family members, including his three-year-old granddaughter and the wife of his son and successor—transformed him from a national leader into a martyr whose sacrifice would galvanize the nation and the Muslim world.

:A Funeral of Defiance, Unity, and Resolve

National Unity on Display

The funeral ceremonies were presented by Iranian leaders as both a national tribute and a display of unity. The Iranian government described the funeral as more than a mourning event—it was a "demonstration of national unity, political strength and the country's resilience" in the aftermath of war.

Banners across Tehran carried the slogan "We Must Rise" in Arabic, Persian, and English, urging citizens to remain united in support of the Islamic Republic. This message of continuity was reinforced by the presence of senior military leaders, including Revolutionary Guards commander General Ahmad Vahidi, who made his first public appearance since February—a significant message of unity within the Iranian leadership.

The Cry for Revenge

Throughout the funeral, a dominant theme emerged: the demand for

revenge. Crowds chanted slogans such as "Our word is one! Revenge!", "Resistance against enemies" and "Revenge for the blood of the martyred leader". Iran's top security official noted that mourners were shouting two slogans during the farewell: "resistance against enemies and revenge for the blood of Iran's martyred Leader".

One mourner, 40-year-old Arash Rahimi, told Reuters: "Everyone here has come to avenge the blood of their supreme leader". Top military officials, including Army Commander-in-Chief General Amir Hatami, vowed that the country would "avenge the blood of the martyred leader".

Impact on the United States and the West

The funeral carried profound implications for the United States and Western powers:

First, the massive turnout—despite US diplomatic pressure to limit participation—represented a significant diplomatic defeat for Washington. The presence of over 100 delegations demonstrated that efforts to isolate Iran had not achieved their intended effect.

Second, the funeral served as a massive anti-US rally. Chants of "Death to America" echoed through the crowds, and the event was framed as a moment to condemn the United States and Israel for Khamenei's assassination. Iran used the funeral to send a "defiant message to Trump" and to project an image of resilience and continuity.

Third, the funeral tested Iran's diplomatic standing in the post-war Middle East. Western governments were largely absent from the ceremonies, highlighting diplomatic divisions that have deepened since the conflict. However, the presence of non-Western states showed that Iran maintains significant international engagement through a multipolar international environment.

The Future of Iran

The funeral projected an image of continuity through the motto "We Must Rise". Leadership transition has already occurred, with Khamenei's son, Mojtaba Khamenei, having assumed the role of Supreme Leader in March, though he has remained out of public view for security reasons.

Analysts suggest the funeral has carried symbolic weight for Iran's internal politics, projecting continuity at a moment of leadership transition while signaling cohesion within its Shiite clerical establishment and allied networks. However, questions remain about how far Iran can expand its diplomatic relationships and what role it will play in a Middle East where regional powers are increasingly pursuing independent foreign policies.

A Legacy That Endures

The funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was not merely a farewell to a leader—it was a declaration to the world. A declaration that the Iranian nation remains united. A declaration that the Islamic Ummah stands together in grief and in resolve. A declaration that the call for justice and resistance will not be silenced.

As millions of mourners across Iran and beyond bid farewell to their beloved leader, as leaders from over 100 nations paid their respects despite diplomatic pressure, and as the cry for revenge echoed through the streets of Tehran, one thing became clear: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei may have left this world, but his legacy—his vision of Islamic unity, resistance against oppression, and national dignity—will continue to shape Iran and the Muslim world for generations to come. May Ali Khamenei rest in peace, and may his memory forever inspire the pursuit of justice, unity, and freedom.

The Eternal Sacrifice of a True Guardian of Honor: Group Captain Asim Tariq Shaheed

BY::Qurat ul ain Ali Khawaja
Chairperson, All
Published By: ANI

ISLAMABAD: Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi rajj'un. Today, Islamabad mourns the loss of a towering monument of bravery, and humanity bows its head in profound grief. The heart-breaking news emerging from Shaheen Chowk has deeply wounded our hearts, yet it elevates our national pride to unscaleable heights.

On behalf of myself, the All Pakistan Media Council, and every daughter of this nation, *I offer a hundredfold tribute to the magnificent and valiant soul of Pakistan Air Force Group Captain Asim Tariq Shaheed*.

We strongly urge and demand that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives immediately install a permanent Memorial Board at Shaheen Chowk / 9th Avenue. This board must stand as



an eternal monument, reminding coming generations of supreme sacrifice, unmatched chivalry, and the highest order of civic duty.

At a time when our society is drowning in a toxic "digital disease" where bystanders choose to pull out smartphones to record tragedies rather than step forward to stop them Group Captain Asim Tariq Shaheed chose the path of true righteousness. Confronted with the blatant harassment and attempted abduction of a

young girl, he did not look away. He did not chase social media clout. Instead, he put his life completely on the line to secure a helpless daughter of Pakistan.

Though he is no longer physically among us, his peerless bravery is permanently etched into the very soul of our nation. He will eternally be remembered across global women's protection forums and human rights platforms as a true guardian of honor and modesty. Rest in eternal peace, Hero. May Allah Almighty elevate your ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

A Wake-Up Call for Authorities: Enforce Street Safety and Accountability

This heartbreaking tragedy exposes a critical, systemic breakdown in the security apparatus of the federal capital. The government and relevant authorities must wake up immediately to enforce strict institutional accountability, ensure absolute public protection, and deliver swift, exemplary justice on our streets.

Libya and the brutal reality of migrant ‘deterrence’

HAFED AL-GHWELL

Libya no longer functions as a transit space between Africa and Europe. It has become an endpoint. For tens of thousands of migrants and refugees every year, Libya is where journeys stall, bodies accumulate, and survival becomes a matter of rough ransom calculations. What has emerged goes beyond muted abuse along migration routes, but a system that profits from captivity and, increasingly, from death itself. The discovery in early 2025 of mass graves near Jikharra and Kufra, holding at least 93 mutilated migrant bodies, did not reveal a hidden crime. It merely confirmed what survivors, aid workers, and residents have long known: Libya now contains killing fields linked directly to the management of migration.

European policymakers often speak of "irregular flows" and "external borders" — language that sanitizes the reality south of the Mediterranean. Libya sits at the center of Europe's containment strategy. Since 2017, European funding, training, and equipment have turned Libyan armed groups into gatekeepers. Interceptions at sea have increased sharply. Between 2017 and 2024, Libyan forces intercepted and returned more than 130,000 people attempting to cross the central Mediterranean. Each interception represents not rescue,

but forced return to detention, extortion, or disappearance.

The moral hazard is structural. Europe pays to stop movement, not to protect lives. Libyan actors, fragmented and competitive, respond rationally. Migrants become commodities whose value can be extracted repeatedly. Detention generates ransoms. Ransoms generate liquidity. Liquidity sustains militias. When ransom fails, elimination becomes cheaper than care. Killing fields emerge, disguised as chaos alone, but driven by incentives. Libya's detention economy operates across three layers. Official centers nominally fall under state bodies, most prominently the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration. Parallel to these are semi-official facilities run by militias integrated into ministries in name only. Beyond both lies a shadow network of clandestine prisons in warehouses, farms, factories, desert compounds, and abandoned zoos. Movement between these layers is fluid. A migrant intercepted at sea may pass through all three, sold and resold along the way.

Survivor testimonies paint a consistent, horrifying picture. Men are tortured on video to extract payments from families thousands of miles away. Women are systematically abused, often until pregnancy, then subjected to forced abortions or lethal violence. Children are beaten into forced labor or trained as

guards. Tuberculosis, scabies, and malnutrition spread unchecked. Death rates inside detention remain unknowable, yet estimates by humanitarian workers suggest that in some facilities one in 10 detainees does not survive prolonged captivity.

The mass graves near Kufra are especially revealing. Kufra sits deep in Libya's southeast, a hub where routes from Sudan, Chad, and Eritrea converge. Control there has shifted among armed groups tied to trafficking networks that span the Sahel and Horn of Africa. Bodies discovered bound, burned, or shot indicate execution, not neglect. Killing in such contexts serves multiple purposes: terrorizing captives, eliminating those unable to pay, and signaling dominance to rival groups. Death becomes governance. Push factors feeding this system are intensifying, not easing. Climate stress across the Sahel has cut agricultural yields by as much as 30 percent in some regions over the past decade. Lake Chad has lost roughly 90 percent of its surface area since the 1960s, hollowing out livelihoods. Violence, unleashed by extremists, across Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and northern Nigeria has displaced more than 6 million people. Sudan's civil war has produced over 8 million internally displaced and driven hundreds of thousands toward Libya's eastern and southern corridors.

— Arab News

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National

Talented Pakistani Women Are Promoting the Country’s Positive Image Across the World: Sardar Yasir Ilyas

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Sardar Yasir Ilyas, CEO of Centaurus Group, National Coordinator and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism, and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has said that talented Pakistani women are making remarkable contributions in diplomacy, business, education, media, tourism, and other sectors, while projecting a positive image of Pakistan around the world.

Addressing a ceremony held in Islamabad to honor women diplomats and distinguished women from various walks of life, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said Pakistan has made significant progress in women's empowerment, with women now playing leading roles across both the public and private sectors. He noted that Pakistani women continue to demonstrate exceptional leadership, professionalism, and commitment in every field.

He said women are not only the backbone of their families but also key contributors to national development. Their vision, resilience, and leadership have enabled them to excel



in government, entrepreneurship, diplomacy, education, healthcare, media, and corporate management.

Paying tribute to Pakistani women diplomats, business leaders, educators, journalists, and media professionals, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said they are serving as true ambassadors of Pakistan by strengthening the country's international image through their dedication and achievements.

He also praised renowned Pakistani mountaineer Samina Baig and other women who have brought international recognition to Pakistan through their achievements in adventure tourism and mountaineering. He announced that Pakistan is organizing its first women-only mountaineering expedition, led entirely by

women, to further promote female participation in adventure tourism.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas emphasized that Pakistan is a peaceful, tolerant, and inclusive society where opportunities should be based on merit, talent, and professional competence rather than gender or religion. He rejected negative stereotypes about Pakistan and said the country's diversity and harmony are among its greatest strengths.

Encouraging women to pursue leadership roles, he said they possess exceptional intuition, resilience, and management skills that make them outstanding leaders. He urged women to remain confident in their abilities and never allow social barriers or negative perceptions to limit their potential.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to women's empowerment, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said equal opportunities for women are essential for Pakistan's sustainable development and prosperity.

Concluding his address, he said that Pakistan's bright future depends on its talented, confident, and hardworking women, and ended his speech with the slogan, "Pakistan Zindabad."

Pakistani Women Are the True Builders of the Nation, Says Rabaazka CEO Muhammad Asad Khan

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Rabaazka, Muhammad Asad Khan, has praised the outstanding contributions of Pakistani women, stating that they are playing a vital role in the country's progress by excelling in government, diplomacy, business, and the private sector.

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, Muhammad Asad Khan said Pakistan has made significant progress in women's empowerment, which was evident from the large participation of women at the event. He noted that Pakistani women are not only serving with distinction in public institutions but are also making remarkable achievements in entrepreneurship and the corporate sector.

Highlighting the role of women diplomats, he said Pakistani women are representing the country with dignity and professionalism, strengthening Pakistan's relations with the international community and serving as



effective ambassadors of the nation's image abroad.

Referring to Islamic teachings, he said that Surah An-Nisa clearly emphasizes the rights, dignity, and status of women in society. He added that Islam accords great respect to women, particularly mothers, whose role is central to nurturing families and shaping future generations.

Muhammad Asad Khan described women as the true builders of nations, saying that while men often provide

for their families, women play a much broader role as mothers, wives, mentors, and leaders who contribute to the development of society.

He also said Pakistan takes pride in being the first country in the Islamic world to have elected a woman as Prime Minister, adding that today women continue to hold key positions in both the public and private sectors and are proving their capabilities across diverse fields.

Sharing his own experience, the Rabaazka CEO said that many of the key decision-makers in his clothing company are women. He credited their creativity, vision, and understanding of the fashion industry and consumer trends as major factors behind the company's success. Concluding his address, Muhammad Asad Khan paid tribute to the achievements of women and called upon the audience to applaud their dedication and success. He expressed confidence that Pakistan's future is brighter because of its talented, hardworking, and determined women.

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Overseas President of Pakistan Nazriyati Party Malik Shamraiz Visits Kahuta, Announces Full Support for Raja Yasir

By:ANI Correspondent

KAHUTA: Overseas President of the Pakistan Nazriyati Party, Malik Shamraiz, visited Kahuta and held a meeting with local party leaders and office-bearers to discuss organizational affairs and the upcoming elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Raja Kamran Taj (Party Leader), Muhammad Adil Satti (President PP-7), Mirza Ali Raza (Vice President PP-7), Imran Satti (Senior Vice President), Abdul Sattar Gujjar (Media Secretary), and Nauman Satti (Deputy General Secretary).

During the meeting, party leaders discussed preparations for the forthcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections. The Pakistan Nazriyati Party announced its full support for Raja Yasir, the par-



ty's nominated candidate from Constituency LA-39 Jammu-6.

The participants resolved to launch a well-organized election campaign and pledged to work collectively to ensure the success of the party's candidate. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the party at

the grassroots level and effectively conveying its message to the public.

Malik Shamraiz emphasized the importance of unity, discipline, and active participation by party workers, expressing confidence that the party would perform strongly in the upcoming elections.

DPO Toba Tek Singh Vows Zero Tolerance Against Drug Dealers

BY:ANI Correspondent:

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to eradicate the menace of drugs, safeguard the younger generation and ensure effective enforcement of the law, Punjab Police is actively carrying out an extensive anti-narcotics campaign across the province. Following the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Rao Abdul Karim under the supervision of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera and the leadership of District Police Officer (DPO) Toba Tek Singh Akhlaq Ullah Tarar, the crackdown against drug dealers and their facilitators has been further intensified throughout the district. In a special statement, DPO Akhlaq Ullah Tarar said that drug abuse is a serious social evil that threatens the future of the youth, destroys families, weakens moral values and poses a major obstacle to the country's development. He said that, in accordance with the directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Police is implementing a zero-tolerance policy against drug traffickers, their facilitators and everyone involved in this illegal trade. He stated that all Station House Officers (SHOs) and investigation officers in the district have been directed to launch vigorous daily operations against drug peddlers, conduct intelligence-based raids, utilize modern investigative techniques to collect evidence and submit strong challans in courts to ensure that the accused receive the strictest punishment under the law. He emphasized that no



influential individual, criminal group or political pressure would be allowed to interfere with the implementation of justice, as everyone is equal before the law.

The DPO said that the youth are the nation's most valuable asset and protecting them from the curse of drugs is among the top priorities of Punjab Police. Alongside strict law enforcement, awareness campaigns are also being conducted to educate young people about the physical, psychological, social and economic consequences of drug addiction. He further informed that special surveillance has been enhanced at educational institutions, colleges, universities, public places, parks, bus terminals and other sensitive locations across the district to prevent drug-related activities. Police patrolling has also been increased, while coordination with relevant institutions has been strengthened to improve the effectiveness of anti-drug operations.

DPO Akhlaq Ullah Tarar stressed that the fight against drugs is not the sole responsibility of the police but a collective duty of the entire society.

He urged parents, teachers, religious scholars, media organizations, civil society, social welfare groups and responsible citizens to actively participate in protecting the younger generation from the dangers of narcotics and contribute towards building a drug-free society. He appealed to the public to immediately report any information regarding drug trafficking, suspicious activities or criminal elements to the nearest police station, the Police Helpline, or through other official communication channels. He assured that the identity of informants would remain completely confidential and that every piece of information would be acted upon promptly, transparently and in accordance with the law. The DPO added that Punjab Police is fulfilling its responsibilities with dedication and professionalism to protect not only the lives and property of citizens but also the future of the younger generation. Operations against drug dealers and their facilitators will continue without interruption and no offender will be granted any concession.

Reaffirming his commitment, DPO Akhlaq Ullah Tarar said that under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the directions of IGP Punjab Rao Abdul Karim and the leadership of RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera every available resource will be utilized to make Toba Tek Singh a peaceful, secure and drug-free district. He concluded by saying that the bright future of Pakistan depends on its youth and Punjab Police will continue to perform its responsibilities on every front to achieve this national objective.

Vertical Construction is Essential and Should Be a Government Priority: Zahid Rafiq

Banks Must Provide Affordable Long-Term Housing Finance

BY : Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- General Secretary of the Islamabad Estate Agents Association, Chaudhry Zahid Rafiq, has emphasized that vertical construction has become a necessity in view of rapid urbanization and population growth, urging the government to make it one of its top development priorities. He said that affordable housing, long-term housing finance, and improved urban planning are critical to addressing Pakistan's growing housing needs.

He noted that in developed countries, even low-income families can purchase homes through bank financing spread over 15 to 20 years. Pakistan, he said, should adopt a similar



housing finance model to make homeownership accessible to ordinary citizens.

Welcoming the government's decision to reduce withholding tax on property transactions and

abolish Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance, Zahid Rafiq described these measures as positive steps for revitalizing the real estate sector. However, he pointed out that purchasing or constructing a home remains beyond the reach of many Pakistanis due to the high cost of housing finance.

He urged commercial banks to introduce affordable, flexible, and long-term housing loan schemes so that more citizens can fulfill their dream of owning a home. He added that expanding access to housing finance would not only benefit the public but also stimulate the construction industry, create employment opportunities, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Pakistan plans Rs 2.8bn leather skills programme to boost exports

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The government is planning to launch a Rs 2.8 billion Leather Sector Skills Development Programme under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) to modernise training infrastructure, enhance workforce productivity, and strengthen export competitiveness.

According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the proposed initiative will be implemented by the Ministry of Industries and Production through the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), in collaboration with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) and provincial Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTAs).

The programme targets Pakistan's leather, garments, footwear, and leather goods value chain, which currently

employs around 400,000 workers across nearly 2,000 firms. Through the programme, the government plans to upgrade training facilities at the Institute of Leather Technology, Karachi, and a technical training facility in Gujranwala. The project aims to align workforce skills with modern industry requirements, increasing the sector's capacity to attract investment and meet international compliance standards.

Key components of the initiative include a comprehensive skills gap assessment, the development of industry-aligned curricula, the rehabilitation and expansion of technical institutes, the installation of modern machinery and equipment, workforce certification programmes, and trainer capacity building through partnerships with national and international institutions.

The programme is expected to create a more productive and internationally competitive

workforce, improve quality compliance, reduce production defects, and enhance buyer confidence in Pakistani leather products.

The project is also linked to the government's broader export growth strategy, with planners aiming to help the leather sector achieve \$2.5 billion in exports by 2039.

Under the proposed funding plan, Rs560 million will be allocated during FY2026-27, while Rs2.24 billion will be spent in FY2027-28. The project has no foreign-exchange component and is expected to be completed within two years.

The document states that public investment is essential because private firms alone cannot modernise the sector's training ecosystem at the scale required. It adds that the initiative will help reduce compliance costs for SMEs and support Pakistan's transition toward higher-value exports in global leather markets.