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Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to strengthen bilateral ties, economic cooperation, regional connectivity



DR WAHEED M KHAN

President Asif Ali Zardari and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties, expanding economic cooperation, and enhancing regional connectivity.

A day earlier, President Zardari arrived in Kyrgyzstan for a four-day official visit at the invitation of Japarov. The trip followed President Japarov's visit to Pakistan in December last year.

Speaking at the delegation-level talks with the Kyrgyz president, President Zardari said Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan shared "deep-rooted brotherly relations based on

common faith, shared history and cultural links". He stressed the need to further deepen cooperation by increasing trade, improving connectivity through more direct flights, and exploring new avenues of collaboration.

The president said both countries should work together to achieve shared progress, noting that neighbours must strengthen cooperation for mutual prosperity.

He also congratulated Kyrgyzstan on its election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2027-2028 term, describing it as a reflection of the international community's confidence in the country's constructive role in promot-

ing peace, security, and multilateral cooperation. President Zardari said Pakistan looked forward to working closely with Kyrgyzstan on regional and international issues. He highlighted the historic links between the two countries through the ancient Silk Route and expressed confidence that the long-standing relationship could be strengthened further. He said Pakistan was keen to expand trade by supplying quality products to Kyrgyzstan at competitive prices and called for enhanced cooperation in industry, research, innovation, and modern technology.

The president also emphasised the importance of investing in the younger generation and creating a

peaceful and prosperous future through joint efforts. Speaking on the occasion, Japarov said Kyrgyzstan attached great importance to its brotherly relations with Pakistan and was committed to taking bilateral ties to new heights. He reaffirmed his country's resolve to implement the CASA-1000 project and enhance cooperation in the energy sector. Japarov also said the two countries would expand collaboration in agriculture, textiles, mines and minerals, the halal industry, healthcare, information technology, science, education, and tourism.

Cabinet approves new Haj policy aimed at improving pilgrim services



DR WAHEED M KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Monday approved a comprehensive Haj Policy for 2027-2030, aimed at providing more facilities to pilgrims and improving operational efficiency. The cabinet commended Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and his ministry's team for the excellent Haj arrangements made this year.

A detailed briefing on the new Haj policy was presented to the cabinet. The meeting was informed that, unlike previous one-year policies, the new framework is the country's first comprehensive four-year plan aimed at ensuring long-term planning, improving operational efficiency and providing better facilities to pilgrims. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) and other regulations will be formulated, and they may also be amended whenever necessary to remain aligned with the laws and regulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The cabinet was informed that, under the new policy, prospective pilgrims will no longer need to register annually. Instead, they will be able to register at any time for Haj in any year until 2030, enabling uninterrupted registration according to their preference. This will facilitate the preparation of a priority waiting list. Additionally, a Shariah-compliant Haj savings scheme will be introduced, allowing people to save in advance for their future pilgrimage. The cabinet was also informed that the entire Haj management system is being digit-

ised, including digital payment mechanisms, a digital complaints management system and digital monitoring mechanisms.

Under the policy, separate quotas have been allocated for government and private Haj schemes, as well as long- and short-duration Haj packages, mandatory training for pilgrims, and provisions for Takaful (Islamic insurance) and emergency response services.

The cabinet also directed that Haj assistants be appointed through a transparent, merit-based process and that third-party validation of both government and private operators be ensured.

The federal cabinet also approved the outsourcing policy for the Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre (IHITC) and the Regional Blood Centre (RBC), both in Islamabad, to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services to citizens.

Following the decision, the Ministry of National Health Services will carry out the outsourcing process in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

The cabinet also received a briefing from Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi on the performance of Pakistan Railways (PR).

The meeting was informed that PR's revenue increased from Rs95 billion in FY 2024-25 to over Rs115 billion in FY 2025-26, reflecting a 24.1 per cent increase.

Freight revenue increased by more than Rs8 billion, property and land revenue by more than Rs6 billion, and other revenue by more than Rs7 billion. Passenger revenue recorded an increase of 3.37 per cent.

SC seeks replies on Imaan sentence plea



ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the federation and other respondents on a petition seeking suspension of the sentences awarded to lawyer Imaan Mazari and Barrister Hadi Ali Chattha while their appeal remains pending before the IHC.

Earlier, on May 12, a three-member SC bench headed by Justice Shahid Waheed directed the IHC to decide the applications "preferably within two weeks" while hearing petitions filed by the couple. The matter, however, remains pending before the apex court.

Despite the SC directions, the IHC has yet to decide the applications. The matter is now before a differently constituted SC bench. It remains unclear whether the case was assigned to the new bench by the three-member committee constituted under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act.

The IHC last heard the matter on June 1, when the prosecution sought time to prepare its arguments. The hearing was adjourned until June 4. However, the cause list for June 4 was cancelled on June 2, and the case has not been relisted since then. Subsequently, Faisal Siddiqi, counsel for Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha, approached the SC seeking an early hearing of the matter.

Legal observers say the bench may adopt one of three courses: refer the matter back to the IHC with directions for its early disposal, withdraw the apex court's May 12 order, or decide the sentence suspension applications itself.

heard," Siddiqi argued before the bench.

Justice Mazhar observed that the SC generally does not interfere even in interim orders passed by high courts, whereas in the present case, the IHC had not yet even issued notices to the prosecution. Accepting the request made by the petitioners' counsel, the apex court issued notices to the additional attorney general and other respondents and adjourned the hearing until July 21.

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Jl announces nationwide protests on July 10 against petroleum levy, rising fuel prices and inflation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Tuesday announced nationwide protests on July 10 against the petroleum levy, rising fuel prices, inflation, and what he termed the government's ineffective economic policies. Speaking at a press conference in Lahore, Rehman said the demonstrations would continue until the government provided meaningful relief to the public. JI Deputy Emir Liaqat Baloch, JI Central Punjab Emir Muhammad Javed Kasuri and Lahore Emir Ziauddin Ansari flanked Rehman during the presser.

The JI chief berated the government's overall handling of the energy sector, claiming that although the official price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was fixed at Rs241 per kilogramme, it was being sold in the market for around Rs500/kg. He added that prolonged gas load-shedding



and high LPG prices were an added burden on the consumers. Referring to the government's recent reduction in petrol prices, the JI leader called the Rs1.97-per-litre relief "inadequate".

He also described the Rs118-per-litre in compounded taxes and levies on petrol collected by

the authorities as "extortion" and claimed that the government collected around Rs8.5 trillion, which was used to meet tax collection targets instead of improving energy supply infrastructure. Rehman urged the public to stand up against what he described as an unjust system, asserting that the retail price of petrol should not exceed Rs225 per litre. He made a special appeal to the young people to participate in Friday's nationwide protests.

The JI chief also challenged the collection of the climate support levy on petroleum products and asked where, according to him, approximately Rs60 billion collected under the levy had been spent. He highlighted that the petroleum levy disproportionately affected low-income and middle-class citizens, including labourers, students and motorcycle users, while influential landowners continued to dodge taxation. He demanded the immediate abolition of the levy and reiterated that petrol prices should not exceed Rs225 per litre.

CTD says it foils Karachi terror plot, arrests two suspected BLA members

ANI

KARACHI: bThe Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said on Tuesday that it foiled a terrorist plot in Karachi after arresting two men it said are affiliated with the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), according to a CTD statement.

The CTD said the suspects, identified as Mujahid Baloch and Fareed Baloch, also known as Zakir Bin, were detained during an intelligence-based operation (IBO). The handout said the pair had received training at BLA camps, including in reconnaissance and communications, and had been operating in Karachi on the instructions of commanders Sajid Baloch and Basheer Zeb. According to the CTD, "the suspects had been gathering information on sensitive installations and were attempting to establish a network to carry out attacks against security forces and other key sites in the city". Officials said, "They recovered 4kg of explosives, detonators, primacord, and ball bearings during the operation". A case was registered under the Explosives Substances Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Nine police officers, including two SHOs, martyred in Balochistan terrorist attack

ANI

QUETTA: At least nine police officers, including two Station House Officers (SHOs), were martyred on Tuesday in an attack by terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij in the Kach Mangi Phase III area of the tourist district of Ziarat in Balochistan, police said. According to Ziarat Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Qadoos Dehwar, the terrorists targeted police personnel deployed on duty in Kach Mangi Phase III. Following the attack, secu-



rity forces, police and other law enforcement agencies carried out a joint clearance operation in which 15 terrorists were killed. Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Those martyred included SHO Mangi Muhammad Hussain, SHO Kawas Sohbat Khan, Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) in-charge Head Constable Saifullah and other police personnel. Police and the terrorists exchanged heavy

gunfire for several hours after the attack. The bodies of the deceased have been shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital in Ziarat for legal formalities and post-mortem examinations.

One killed, four injured in Bannu quadcopter attack

ANI

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: One person was killed, and four others were injured in a quadcopter attack in the Bakakhel Customs area of Bannu, police said on Tuesday.

According to Bannu Regional Police Officer Rab Nawaz Khan, terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij carried out the attack by dropping an explosive device within the jurisdiction of Baka Khel police station. Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He said that preliminary information indicated that an explosive shell dropped from the quadcopter detonated, killing Khattirullah, son of Gul Bahadur. Four others were injured: Saifullah, son of Khattirullah, aged around 14 to 15, Asad Jan, son of Gul Marjan, Ameerullah, son of Mir Aslam, and Shakir. All four injured were shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital in Bannu,



where they were receiving treatment. Khan said police had successfully thwarted several quadcopter attacks targeting police and security forces through the deployment of anti-drone guns and other security measures at police stations, checkpoints, and other sensitive locations.

"Following these failures, the terrorists have turned their cowardly actions towards unarmed and innocent civilians in an attempt to spread fear and panic in the area," he said.



President Asif Ali Zardari being welcomed by President Sadyr Japarov at a formal reception held at the Rukh Ordo Cultural Complex in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, celebrating the enduring friendship between

PM vows to eliminate terrorism, strengthen Pakistan-Türkiye economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism from the country, as the country's security forces were working tirelessly and the day was not far when the menace would be completely eliminated.

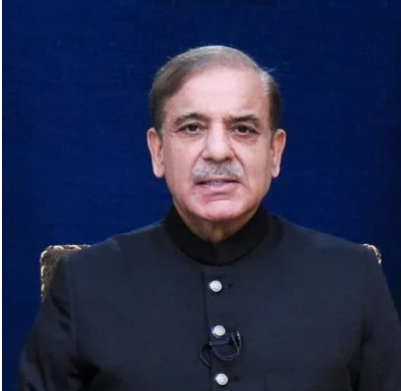
Addressing the federal cabinet at the start of its meeting, the prime minister paid tribute to Pakistan Air Force Group Captain Asim Tariq, who was martyred a few days ago in Islamabad while intervening to stop an assault on a woman. He prayed for the elevation of the martyr's ranks and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

The prime minister said the accused had been arrested and would be brought to justice in accordance with

the law. He also lauded the sacrifices of the country's security forces in the fight against terrorism, referring to the recent killing of 15 terrorists in Balochistan. He said the armed forces and law enforcement agencies were continuing operations day and night to restore lasting peace across the country.

The cabinet offered Fateha for the martyrs on the prime minister's request. Highlighting his recent foreign engagements, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif referred to his visit to Türkiye, where he attended a comprehensive business conference featuring presentations on the privatization of Pakistan's power distribution companies, renewable energy, transmission losses, and investment opportunities in the mines and minerals sector.

He said a large number of Turkish



investors and business leaders attended the conference and expressed keen interest in Pakistan's economic potential. The prime minister said extensive

preparations by both sides had helped present Pakistan's investment prospects effectively, including opportunities in the maritime sector and other key areas.

He expressed confidence that the visit would further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation, adding that productive discussions were held with Turkish leadership on expanding collaboration in multiple sectors.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also appreciated the support of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and said both countries remained committed to deepening their longstanding brotherly ties. He expressed optimism that Pakistan-Türkiye relations would continue to grow stronger in the days ahead through enhanced trade, investment and strategic cooperation.

Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to Nishan-e-Haider recipient Havaldar Lalak Jan on martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a heartfelt tribute to Havaldar Lalak Jan on his martyrdom anniversary, describing the decorated soldier as a timeless symbol of courage, patriotism, and sacrifice whose legacy will continue to inspire generations of Pakistanis. In a statement issued on the occasion, the minister said Havaldar Lalak Jan wrote an immortal chapter of bravery through his unwavering courage and devotion to the nation. He said the Pakistani nation would remain proud of the martyr's unparalleled sacrifice on the Kargil War front for all time. Mohsin Naqvi said Havaldar Lalak Jan laid down his life in defence of the country, thwarting the enemy's hostile designs through exceptional valour. He described Lalak Jan and all other martyrs of the nation as Pakistan's true guardians and a source of national pride. The interior minister said the Nishan-e-Haider recipient displayed extraordinary courage and the highest standards of patriotism by advancing to the front lines and standing firm against the enemy under the most difficult circumstances. He said the sacrifices rendered by the country's brave soldiers in defence of the homeland were a priceless national asset that could never be forgotten. Quoting a well-known national sentiment, Mohsin Naqvi said, "The death of a martyr is the life of the nation," adding that heroes like Havaldar Lalak Jan would forever live in the hearts of the people.

Huawei, NIBAF launch Huawei ICT academy to advance Pakistan's digital skills

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan and the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) Tuesday inaugurated the Huawei ICT Academy at NIBAF, reinforcing a shared commitment to developing Pakistan's Financial Sector workforce through internationally recognized ICT education and certification.

The inauguration ceremony brought together officials of the State Bank of Pakistan, industry leaders, academia, financial sector representatives, and technology experts to celebrate the launch of the Huawei ICT Academy that will equip professionals with the advanced digital skills required to thrive in the modern economy, said a news release.

The Huawei ICT Academy at NIBAF will deliver world-class training in key technology domains including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud Computing, Data Communications, Cybersecurity, Big Data, and other emerging digital technologies. Participants will benefit from Huawei's globally recognized curriculum, hands-on learning, and internationally accredited certification pathways.

Speaking at the inauguration, Lubna

Farooq Malik, CEO NIBAF, welcomed the collaboration and highlighted its significance for the country's financial and technology sectors.

"The establishment of the Huawei ICT Academy represents an important milestone in NIBAF's journey to prepare future-ready professionals. As digital transformation accelerates across every sector, this partnership will provide our learners with access to cutting-edge technologies, globally recognized certifications, and practical skills that are increasingly demanded by employers both within Pakistan and internationally," the CEO NIBAF said.

Addressing the ceremony, Huawei's leadership highlighted the critical role of industry-academia collaboration in building a digitally empowered Pakistan.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud, CEO AI and Cloud Business, Huawei Pakistan, said: "Digital talent has become the most valuable resource for every nation's future. Huawei believes that



investing in people is the foundation for sustainable digital transformation. Through the Huawei ICT Academy at NIBAF, we are creating new opportunities for Pakistani professionals specifically working in the Pakistan Financial Sector to acquire globally competitive skills that will enable them to contribute to Pakistan's digital economy while competing successfully in international markets."

He further emphasized Huawei's long-term commitment to Pakistan's digital development through partnerships that promote innovation, knowledge transfer, and technology leadership.

The Huawei ICT Academy forms part of Huawei's global education initiative that partners with leading universities and professional institutions to bridge the gap between academia and industry. The programme provides curriculum, instructor enablement, digital learning resources, laboratory platforms, certification opportunities, and participation in international innovation and ICT competitions.

Huawei has remained one of the leading contributors to Pakistan's ICT talent ecosystem through its nationwide Huawei ICT Academy Programme, university partnerships, faculty development initiatives, ICT competitions, and national digital skills programmes. Thousands of students across Pakistan have already benefited from Huawei's training and certification initiatives, with many pursuing successful careers in technology, telecommunications, finance, and digital services. The launch of the Huawei ICT Academy at NIBAF further expands this ecosystem by bringing internationally benchmarked ICT education to professionals and learners seeking to build careers in the rapidly evolving digital economy.

Funeral prayers for Group Captain Asim Tariq Shaheed offered

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers for Group Captain Asim Tariq Shaheed, who embraced Shahadat while courageously intervening to rescue a woman in distress in Islamabad, were offered on Tuesday. The martyred officer was laid to rest with full military honours in recognition of his exceptional courage, selfless devotion and unwavering sense of duty, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, attended the funeral prayers along with senior officers, airmen and a large gathering of civil community to pay final respects to the valiant officer and honour his supreme sacrifice. Chief of the Air Staff paid rich tribute to Group Captain Asim Tariq Shaheed, stating that the sacrifice epitomizes the finest traditions of the Pakistan Air Force and the Armed Forces of Pakistan, the news release said. He observed that by laying down his life while protecting an innocent citizen, the martyred officer demonstrated that the men and women of the Pakistan Air Force remain steadfast in their commitment not only to safeguarding the nation's frontiers, but also to protecting the lives, dignity and honour of their fellow countrymen.

"Any Attempt to Deny Pakistan's Water Rights Will Be Considered Act of War" Barrister Danyal Chaudhry

RAWALPINDI--- Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its water rights, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, warning that any attempt by India to deprive Pakistan of its lawful share under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) would be considered an "act of war."

In a statement, Barrister Danyal strongly condemned India's unilateral actions concerning the treaty, terming them a clear violation of international law, treaty obligations, and the established principles governing shared international watercourses. He emphasized that the IWT is a legally binding international agreement that cannot be suspended or rendered ineffective through unilateral action. Any attempt to undermine the treaty, threatens the water security of over 240 million Pakistanis and undermines the credibility of the international



tional treaty system.

"The Indus Waters Treaty is not a favour granted by any nation, it is a legally secured right". "Any attempt to block, divert, or weaponize Pakistan's share of water will constitute a grave threat to our security and will be considered an act of war."

Barrister Danyal said Pakistan reserves the right to pursue all diplomatic, political, and legal remedies available under international law. He reiterated that while Pakistan remains committed to peace and dialogue in accordance with the UN

Charter, its desire for peace should never be misconstrued as weakness.

Referring to the 276th Corps Commanders' Conference chaired by Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at GHQ, he said the forum endorsed the decisions of the National Security Committee and reaffirmed the Armed Forces' resolve to protect Pakistan's water rights at all costs.

He said the government, parliament, armed forces, and the people stand united under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in defending the country's water security. He also welcomed China's principled position in support of international law and peaceful dispute resolution.

The Parliamentary Secretary called upon the United Nations, friendly countries, and all stakeholders to play their role in preserving the treaty's integrity. He said lasting peace in South Asia can only be achieved through respect for international law, faithful implementation of treaty obligations, and meaningful dialogue.

Raja Masood Sharif and Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan Congratulate Newly Elected Office-Bearers of Pakistan Press Club UK

UK/ISLAMABAD --- Raja Masood Sharif, Executive Editor of ANI Media Group and Financial Times, and Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Group Editor of ANI Media Group and Financial Times Pakistan, have extended their heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected office-bearers of the Pakistan Press Club UK.

In their joint congratulatory message, they congratulated President Arshad Rachyal, Senior Vice President Sheraz Khan, Vice Presidents S. M. Irfan Tahir and Imran Raja, Secretary General Raja Mussarat Iqbal, Joint Secretary Dr. Azhar Raja, Secretary Information Sarfraz Ahmed, and Finance Secretary Ateeq Rehman Chaudhary, along with the entire newly elected Executive Body and all members of the Pakistan Press Club UK.

They expressed confidence that,



under the collective leadership of the newly elected team, the Pakistan Press Club UK will continue to grow in strength, prestige, and professionalism while making significant contributions to the welfare, rights, unity, and professional development of the journalistic community.

Raja Masood Sharif and Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan wished the newly elected leadership every success in their new responsibilities and prayed that Almighty Allah grants them wisdom, strength, integrity, and dedication to serve with excellence.

Pakistan Awami Quwat Party Stands with People in Times of Grief, Says Delegation During Abbottabad Visit



ISLAMABAD--- On the special instructions of Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, Chief of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, the party's Secretary General, Malik Ejaz Hussain, visited the residence of prominent political and social figure Atta-ur-Rehman Abbasi in Birote,

Abbottabad, to offer condolences on the demise of his father.

During the visit, the delegation offered Fateha for the Esal-e-Sawab of the deceased and prayed to Almighty Allah to grant him the highest ranks in Jannah, bless him with His mercy and forgiveness, and give the bereaved family the strength to bear the loss with patience.

Conveying heartfelt condolences

on behalf of Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, the delegation expressed solidarity with Atta-ur-Rehman Abbasi and his family, stating that the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party stands shoulder to shoulder with its friends and the people in every hour of grief, sorrow, and hardship.

The delegation accompanying Malik Ejaz Hussain included Tahir Khan, Qazi Zafar, Shiraz Baig, Agha Naseem, and Sohrab Latif Baig.

NA body raises concerns over selection of 500 nurses for NCLEX Nursing Training Programme without advertisement

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training expressed serious concerns over the selection of 500 nurses for NCLEX Nursing Training Programme, noting that the opportunity had not been publicly advertised and that candidates had been nominated by the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council (PNMC). During the 24th Meeting under the Acting Chairmanship of Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MNA at Committee Room, Parliament

House, here, it sought an explanation regarding the selection of the International Center for Skills (ICS) as the implementing partner for the NCLEX Nursing Training Programme, said a press release on Monday. While informed that the programme aims to prepare Pakistani registered nurses for international licensure and employment, the Committee sought clarification on its transparency. Highlighting that approximately Rs. 300,000 is being spent on each trainee from the public exchequer, the Committee questioned the transparency and merit of the selection process. Seeking further clar-

Three detained dacoits injured in accomplices' firing during police raid in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Three detained members of a dacoity gang were injured after their accomplices opened indiscriminate fire on a Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police raiding team during an operation in the jurisdiction of Noon Police Station, while the police personnel remained unhurt due to bulletproof jackets and protective measures. An official told APP on Tuesday that a police raiding team was taking the detained suspects to Sector I-15 for the arrest of their accomplices and recovery of stolen property on their identification when armed gang members hiding in a vacant house opened fire on the team. The official said the detained suspects, identified as Arslan, Salman and Shahzaib, were injured by

bullets fired by their own accomplices during the exchange, while the police team remained safe because of protective gear.

According to the official, the injured suspects were shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, while police launched a search operation to arrest the fleeing attackers. The official said the arrested suspects had recently injured Constable Saleh Muhammad in firing during a police encounter in the jurisdiction of Noon Police Station and were wanted by Islamabad Police in several cases of armed attacks on police, dacoity, robbery and shop robberies. Police also recovered two snatched motorcycles, dozens of stolen mobile phones and wallets, along with three pistols and ammunition used in criminal activities.

NATO must be ready for key summit in pivotal year

LUKE COFFEY

The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last week highlighted an ongoing rift between the worldview of the US and that of its transatlantic partners in Europe. This time, the dispute centered on Greenland — specifically, America’s desire for greater access to and control over the territory. While tensions were high at times, it was NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte who ultimately helped calm the situation and get transatlantic relations back on track.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a pivotal year for NATO, with a major summit scheduled to take place less than six months from now in Ankara, Türkiye. To ensure the summit’s success, policymakers must begin shaping the agenda immediately. While the meeting may seem far off, in terms of statecraft and diplomacy, six months is very little time at all. Aligning the US and its European partners more closely will require early preparation, sustained engagement and political will on both sides of the Atlantic. Getting the transatlantic relationship right carries sig-

nificant economic implications — not only for North America and Europe, but for the global economy as well. Together, the two account for nearly half of the world’s gross domestic product. Europe and the US are each other’s largest export markets and each is responsible for trillions of dollars of investment in the other’s economy, supporting millions of jobs. When rifts emerge across the Atlantic, the consequences are felt well beyond security policy, with ripple effects across trade, investment and global growth. As the alliance heads toward the July summit, four major issues are likely to dominate discussions. Policymakers would be wise to begin laying the groundwork now to ensure the meeting delivers tangible results rather than political friction.

The first issue, unsurprisingly given the recent focus on Greenland, is Arctic security. Just as Donald Trump has done more than any other US president to push NATO members to increase their defense spending, he has also done more than any predecessor to force the alliance to take the Arctic seriously. Until recently, NATO avoided even mention-

ing the region in its official documents, largely due to internal disagreements among Arctic allies over what role the alliance should play there.

With growing competition in the High North and with Trump’s renewed emphasis on Greenland’s strategic importance, Arctic security has been pushed near the top of NATO’s agenda for the first time. For this summer’s summit to proceed smoothly, allies should expect concrete deliverables related to NATO’s posture, presence and coordination in the Arctic.

The second issue likely to be raised concerns NATO’s relationship with the broader region — a matter of particular importance to the host country, Türkiye. While Türkiye has been an integral part of transatlantic security since joining NATO in the 1950s, Ankara also places increasing emphasis on security issues in the Black Sea region and the Middle East. Notably, it was a Turkish initiative at the 2004 NATO Summit in Istanbul that led to the creation of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, which formalized NATO’s engagement with several

Gulf states. Since then, the framework has provided a useful platform for high-level dialogue, though it has produced relatively few tangible outcomes in terms of shared security. With the political momentum that comes from hosting the summit, NATO should seize the opportunity to revamp, or at least reenergize, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and strengthen its relationships with key Gulf partners.

The third issue, and one that will no doubt be a top priority for Trump, will be the health of the alliance’s defense spending. Dating back to his first term in the White House, Trump has been among the most vocal US presidents in urging European allies to spend more on defense. At last year’s summit in The Hague, NATO took a historic step by agreeing to aim for defense spending of 5 percent of gross domestic product. This is three percentage points higher than the long-standing 2 percent benchmark. While this goal is not expected to be met until the early 2030s, there is little doubt that Trump will be closely monitoring progress in the meantime.

At present, only a handful of allies, primarily the Baltic states and Poland, come even close to meeting the 5 percent target. If Trump succeeds in working with Congress to pass his proposed \$1.5 trillion defense budget, the US itself would reach that threshold. The faster European allies demonstrate meaningful progress toward this goal, the smoother alliance management is likely to be between the White House and European capitals. The final issue, though unlikely to receive much public attention, will be discussed intensively behind closed doors: the war in Ukraine. Trump has made slow but steady progress in pushing Russia and Ukraine toward negotiations and NATO’s posture at the summit will depend heavily on how far diplomatic efforts have advanced by then. Trump has been clear that Ukrainian membership of NATO is off the table, meaning the alliance will need to find creative ways to remain engaged with Kyiv — strengthening cooperation and support without crossing political red lines set by Washington.

— Arab News

Netanyahu the biggest obstacle to Trump’s Gaza plan

OSAMA AL-SHARIF

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was never on board when US President Donald Trump announced his 20-point Gaza peace plan, which led to the Oct. 10 ceasefire agreement. He has resisted pressure to honor Israel’s commitments under phase one of the plan: allowing the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid and stopping the killing of Palestinians in Gaza. More than 450 Palestinians, including women and children, have been killed since the ceasefire came into effect. And Israel has prevented the entry of the caravans and shelter needed to protect tens of thousands of displaced Gazans from the bitter cold that has swept the region for weeks. Infants have died of cold and exposure as a result.

Netanyahu was equally unhappy with Trump’s idea of establishing a “Board of Peace” to oversee the implementation of his plan, including the naming of a Palestinian national committee to run the enclave and inviting international troops to serve as a stabilization force in Gaza.

When Trump unveiled the four-tier structure of his Board of Peace this month — with an executive committee, a Palestinian national committee, a US general to head the stabilization force and a high commissioner to liaise between the Palestinian technocratic body and the executive committee — Netanyahu found himself cornered. Trump had stripped him of leverage regarding the fate of the Palestinian enclave. The US president also announced it was time to move to the second phase of the plan, which would entail Israel’s gradual withdrawal from Gaza, in addition to disarming Hamas.

But the real challenge for the Board of Peace will be forcing Netanyahu to yield and embrace the plan and its requirements fully and unconditionally. One litmus test is the opening of the Rafah border crossing. Trump sent his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and his special envoy, Steve Witkoff, to Israel earlier this week to push this step forward. Netanyahu resisted, reiterating that for the crossing to open, Hamas must hand over the body of the last Israeli captive.

Within 24 hours, the Israeli military found the hostage’s remains in an area under its control in Gaza. Netanyahu bowed — but not before setting new conditions. He would allow the Rafah crossing to open not for aid trucks, but only for pedestrians to travel between Gaza and

Egypt as part of a “limited reopening.”

Meanwhile, Israel continues to refuse entry to the 15-member Palestinian committee tasked with assuming responsibilities in the beleaguered Strip.

Whatever the outcome of Kushner and Witkoff’s trip to Israel, the general impression is that Netanyahu will continue fighting to have a final say on what happens next in Gaza. While the two US envoys met with Netanyahu, Israeli shelling killed at least three Palestinians in various parts of the Strip. The Israeli army has also continued expanding areas under its control beyond the so-called Yellow Line. It is believed to occupy nearly 60 percent of Gaza. The areas under its control have been flattened, while the army is digging deep trenches to prevent Palestinians from returning to what used to be their homes.

Trump’s Board of Peace has sent tremors across the globe because it has been given a mandate that extends beyond Gaza. Most of America’s Western allies have declined the invitation to join. The Arab and Muslim nations that have joined have done so after a careful assessment of the costs and benefits. Being on board regarding Gaza’s future is better than opting out. Working with Trump and his aides from within far outweighs being locked out of the deliberations and discussions. The Palestinian Authority has not been represented at any level of Trump’s plan and is unlikely to have a role in the near future, pending its much-touted reform, which is a red herring. As much as the PA needs genuine reform and accountability, Israel will never approve of a Palestinian body that seeks to fulfill the ambition of a two-state solution. Even so, Netanyahu’s recent political maneuvers do not bode well for the Board of Peace and Trump’s peace plan. He remains the biggest obstacle to ending the carnage, opening border crossings and allowing much-needed aid and supplies to enter freely. Ironically, Netanyahu and his far-right partners still espouse a plan to forcibly remove Gazans from the enclave, retain open-ended military control of the Strip and prevent reconstruction efforts. The opening of the Rafah crossing will put Trump’s plan and his board to the ultimate test. Already, Netanyahu is seeking to derail that effort. He now plans to establish another crossing point, totally controlled by Israel, next to Rafah inside Gaza. Netanyahu is always planning ahead, working to impose new conditions that will keep him in the game.

— Arab News



Us ... after the Davos fog lifts

EYAD ABU SHAKRA

It is difficult for an analyst to come away with an accurate picture of the deliberations of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. With such events, it is very useful to understand the atmosphere, body language, implicit messages and positional “test signals.” The stances expressed in speeches and discussions are carefully calibrated; they reflect participants’ principles and vested interests. However, this task requires prudence that makes them easier to swallow and more readily accepted by the broader public. In fact, participants know their audience well and are aware of what is expected to be heard. Yet the more perceptive speakers understand that the message is stronger and more effective when it transcends narrow interests and impacts the wider sphere of interests. When a figure from the forum’s elite, such as Larry Fink, chairman of the trillion-dollar asset management giant BlackRock, speaks of the challenges facing capitalism, he raises this issue out of concern for its survival in a changing world that can seem ungoverned at times. In other words, people like Fink feel that capitalism may sometimes need to be rescued from its own excesses in a world where technology threatens to remove constraints, remove the brakes and universalize unknowns.

According to Fink, this trajectory threatens the “legitimacy” of the global economic system. Here, the American news site Axios reported that Fink reminded his audience that economic prosperity is not confined to cumulative growth (in the sense of the size of a country’s gross domestic product or the market capitalization of major corporations), but includes the breadth of the population that feels it, experiences it and builds its future upon it. On another front, the influential global billionaire predictably addressed the impact of artificial intelligence, explaining that it will negatively affect the fate of office and clerical jobs to the same extent that globalization negatively affected manual labor jobs. Accordingly, he stressed that this challenge must be seriously and directly addressed. From this perspective, the head of BlackRock called for greater engagement in intensive dialogue across the world: more listening and less lecturing. Against this deep realism, there were of course predictable excesses expressed in several economic and political quarters. As usual, the political spotlight focused on the positions of the US, which President Donald Trump conveyed in word and deed.

Trump arrived at Davos having just finished the “raid” on Venezuela that led to the removal of President Nicolas Maduro and amid his multi-pronged effort to capture the island of Greenland and remove it from

Europe’s “embrace,” and his project for the future of the Gaza Strip.

In this regard, it has become clear that the world is beginning to absorb the shock, adapting to an unfamiliar American leadership with “out-of-the-box” views that, since the end of the Cold War at least, had seemed unthinkable in the West. The rise of the Soviet Union as a global power at the end of the Second World War (on the ruins of Nazism, fascism and Japanese militarism) allowed for the emergence of a “global economic shift” following the success of the Maoist revolution in China.

Thus, the combined Soviet-Chinese effort, together with the emergence of a nonaligned Third World force outside the two major blocs (the capitalist West and the communist East), led to the growth of global “liberation” movements across Asia, Africa and the Americas. But the rules of the game changed with the end of the Cold War, the collapse of European communism and with it the fall of the Berlin Wall.

For a few decades, it seemed that a new world order had emerged from the “end of history” that Francis Fukuyama heralded, marked by the West’s “victory,” while laying the groundwork for the “clash of civilizations” between the West and the Islamic world that Samuel Huntington anticipated. Indeed, despite tremors here and there, the “new world order” appeared to be steadily consolidating. But four developments altered the trajectory. First, Russian President Vladimir Putin succeeded in preventing his country’s collapse and launched a retaliatory counter-war against the West, beginning with his embrace of far-right extremist forces. In truth, Putin exposed the fragility of democracy and of the integration project of the “institutional state” in Western Europe, and then in the US itself. Second, China got back on its feet, successfully (so far) distracting the world from its strategic ambitions by appearing to focus on the economy, manufacturing and scientific research. Third, the exponential acceleration of the technological revolution, from communications and information technologies to AI, could change various formulas worldwide. Fourth, building on these three developments, came the change in patterns of thinking and the redefinition of priorities in the US through the nationalist, populist “Make America Great Again” current, under the political leadership of Trump and the ideological vision of figures like Steve Bannon. Under MAGA, the priorities shifted. The traditional enemy was no longer an enemy and the traditional ally was no longer an ally. The language of diplomacy was set aside, replaced by the language of imposition or threats. Long-term calculations were replaced by quick deals. In Davos, Trump confirmed this shift.

— Arab News

US-Europe rift serves neither, but is it inevitable?

YOSSI MEKELBERG

A rift between the US and Europe is quickly brewing. However, neither side can afford it or will benefit from it. Worse, this long-standing alliance now faces its severest test yet, which is bound to remain for the next three years. It is already leaving deep scars.

The security and prosperity of what is known as the West depend on close transatlantic relationships. When this alliance weakens, it only serves those the US and Europe perceive as their main rivals: China and Russia. One would not be surprised if the leaderships in Beijing and Moscow were rubbing their hands with glee at every spat between the Trump administration and America’s NATO allies. The American administration’s insistence on acquiring Greenland has proven to be, for the EU, the UK and Canada, the final straw. For them, this was a red line they could not afford to let Washington cross without mounting a challenge, as they did.

The strategic importance of Greenland — the world’s largest island — is indisputable and it will only increase because of the unfortunate impact of climate change. Its strategic position between the US and Russia makes it a front-line area of growing importance as the ice sheets melt. Global warming is causing Greenland’s ice sheet and the rest of the Arctic’s sea ice to melt, opening new sea routes that will serve as an alternative to traditional, costly navigation through the Suez and Panama canals. Add to this Greenland’s rich mineral and hydrocarbon deposits and the attraction of this massive island, despite its harsh weather, lack of infrastructure and remoteness, is turning it into the US’ latest frontier.

Alas, the way President Donald Trump is going about it alienates his country’s closest allies and does so needlessly. The idea of the American frontier underpins

the country’s historical westward expansion, with European settlers moving from the original settlements along the Atlantic Coast toward the Pacific Coast. This was a combination of ideology and utilitarianism, eventually resulting, for instance, in the purchase of Alaska in 1867 for the modest sum of \$7.2 million (about \$150 million today).

Acquiring territories reflected the “manifest destiny” notion, coined by John L. O’Sullivan in 1845, that America had a special destiny to stretch across the continent. However, it was another US president, Woodrow Wilson, with his notable 14 points during the First World War, who made his country the champion of the right to self-determination — a position that now seems reversed by the current US administration.

Greenland, in Trump’s thinking, epitomizes this. And it is no longer a fight between the so-called new world and the old world of colonial Europe, but a confrontation that undermines the closest of allies, which share similar security concerns and, at least until recently, similar values and respect for the norms of a rules-based world order.

Before Trump’s arrival at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the fear was that the issue of Greenland was going to cause irreparable damage to the US’ relationship with most of the other members of NATO, which believed that Trump would not climb down from his demand for American sovereignty over the island.

The day before Trump addressed the forum, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney urged his fellow “middle powers” to form new alliances, accusing the great powers of abandoning the post-Second World War system of freer trade and international norms, which required an adequate response. “We understand that this rupture calls for more than adaptation,” he said, as “the old order is not coming back. We should not mourn it.

Letters to the Editor

Utilising excess power

Pakistan is producing excess electricity which is adding to the prevailing financial crisis in the country, as the government has had to pay for the electricity but cannot sell it further because the demand is low due to high cost. It is therefore advisable for the government to increase electricity usage – through its own projects. One way can be to start electricity tram-trains in congested cities. They are very efficient, reliable and easy to use. Tram-trains, like all public transport, are not profitable and require government subsidies in first few years. And this is where excess electricity can be put to use. Another easy way would be to construct cold storage in partnership with local entrepreneurs. Such facilities would improve food security and raise exports through increased electricity usage. The government can also fast-track construction of industries with heavy electricity use by allocating land on lease and creating business plans for projects through SMEDA. These new businesses can then be sold to public investors who can make investment and run these industries. Reducing taxes and cost of electric appliances can also increase electricity usage in domestic sector. Besides, export of electric-

ity to neighbouring countries is also always a good option.

Shahryar Khan Baseer
Islamabad

Educate every girl

A nation that denies education to its daughters denies itself progress, prosperity and peace. Yet across Pakistan — and particularly in Balochistan — millions of girls remain out of school, their potential wasted and our collective future diminished. Educating girls is not charity; it is the smartest investment any society can make. Educated girls become doctors healing communities, teachers inspiring generations, engineers building infrastructure, and leaders driving social change. Education gives girls agency over their own lives — the confidence to dream, decide, and determine their destinies. Yet cultural barriers, poverty, inadequate school infrastructure and lack of female teachers keep countless girls confined to homes instead of classrooms. In rural Balochistan, girls’ enrollment drops dramatically after primary school due to distance, safety concerns and regressive attitudes. We must act decisively. The government should build more girls’ schools in underserved areas, recruit and train female teachers, provide transportation and stipends for economically dis-

advantaged families, and launch community awareness campaigns challenging outdated mindsets. When we educate a girl, we educate a family, a community, a nation. Pakistan’s progress depends on unlocking the potential of all its children — daughters and sons alike.

Hafsa Abdullah
Turbat

In a shambles

About two weeks back, I visited the Academy of Letters in Islamabad to attend a book launching ceremony. It was deeply disappointing to see the Academy in a dilapidated condition – poorly maintained and inadequately managed. This not only disrupted the spirit of the event but also compromised the prestige of the Academy. The Academy of Letters is a respected national institution, and it is distressing to see it gradually falling under the influence of vested groups and informal “mafias” that seek to control literary forums for their own benefit. Urgent steps need to be taken to improve maintenance and cleanliness of the Academy premises and ensure better management and transparency in future literary events so the institution remains protected from exploitation by self-serving elements.

Muhammad Saeed Akhter

Government Extends Tenure of PM Inspection Commission Chairman Brig (R) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha for Two More Years

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- In recognition of his outstanding performance and effective leadership, the federal government has extended the contract appointment of Brigadier (Retd) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha as Chairman of the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission (PMIC) for another two years.

The Establishment Division has issued a formal notification confirming the extension. According to the notification, Brig (R) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha will continue to serve as Chairman of the PMIC, operating under the Prime Minister's Office, with effect from July 1, 2026, on the existing terms and conditions until



further orders.

During his tenure, the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission played a vital role in strengthening governance by submitting a number of practical and result-oriented recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency, transparency, and

accountability of federal institutions. Several of these recommendations are already being implemented by the federal government.

The Commission also conducted comprehensive inspections and evaluations of key development projects, public welfare initiatives, and administrative matters, submitting detailed reports and policy recommendations directly to the Prime Minister for timely action.

Appreciating the Commission's exceptional performance, commitment to transparency, and contribution to improving institutional oversight, the federal government approved the extension of Brig (R) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha's tenure for a further period of two years.

Sohail Ismail Appointed General Secretary (Punjab) of PIHRO

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD---Sohail Ismail has been appointed as the General Secretary (Punjab) of the Pakistan International Human Rights Organization (PIHRO).

The appointment was officially announced through a notification issued by Habib Malik Orakzai, Chairman of PIHRO. The notification entrusts Sohail Ismail with the responsibility of strengthening the organization's activities and promoting its mission across Punjab.

PIHRO expressed confidence that Sohail Ismail's dedication and leadership will contribute significantly to advancing human rights initiatives and expanding the organization's outreach in the province.



Shahid Riaz Satti Calls for Protection of Overseas Pakistanis' Rights in GCC Countries

BY:ANI Correspondent:

MURREE--- Former MPA, former Parliamentary Secretary, and political and social leader Shahid Riaz Satti has urged the government to take concrete steps to protect the rights and welfare of overseas Pakistanis, particularly the nearly five million Pakistanis working in GCC countries.

In a statement, Shahid Riaz Satti said overseas Pakistanis are a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, contributing an estimated US\$24-25 billion annually in remittances. He noted that these remittances support millions of families and play a crucial role in maintaining the country's economic stability.

He said Pakistan has achieved a stronger and more respected position on the diplomatic front under



the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir. According to him, Pakistan's relations with brotherly Islamic countries, especially the Gulf states, have grown stronger and should now be leveraged to

ensure greater protection and welfare for Pakistani workers abroad.

Shahid Riaz Satti called on the government to engage in effective negotiations with GCC countries to resolve key issues faced by Pakistani expatriates, including long working hours, annual leave concerns, protection of labour rights, simplified immigration and visa procedures, and other legal and welfare-related matters.

He stressed that Pakistanis working overseas, who contribute billions of dollars to the national economy each year, deserve full protection of their rights, dignity, and well-being. He added that a truly strong Pakistan is one that values its overseas workers not only as a source of foreign exchange but as one of the nation's greatest assets.

Islamabad Chamber Hosts Special Session with CTO to Discuss Traffic Management

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Kainat Azhar Khan visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and held a meeting with the business community to discuss traffic management, parking facilities, encroachments, and measures to improve traffic flow in the federal capital.

Speaking on the occasion, the CTO said Islamabad Traffic Police and the business community share the common goal of making the capital a model city for traffic discipline and public convenience. She assured traders of full cooperation and announced visits to commercial



centers to address traffic-related issues through consultation with stakeholders. ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mahmood welcomed the initiative and reaffirmed the Chamber's

commitment to working closely with Islamabad Traffic Police to improve traffic management and resolve long-standing issues affecting businesses and commuters.

Rwanda Marks 32nd Liberation Day in Islamabad, Highlights Unity, Progress and Pakistan Ties



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Embassy of Rwanda in Pakistan celebrated Rwanda's 32nd Liberation Day (Kwibohora) in Islamabad, bringing together federal ministers, diplomats, parliamentarians, business leaders and members of the diplomatic community to commemorate the country's journey of resilience, unity and development.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, the chief guest, said Liberation Day

reflects the courage and determination of the Rwandan people and praised Rwanda's remarkable progress in governance, healthcare, education and economic development. He also highlighted the growing cooperation between Pakistan and Rwanda in trade, defence, education and multilateral diplomacy.

Rwanda's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Fatou Harerimana, paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives to end the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and said Rwanda has emerged as one of Africa's fast-

est-growing economies under the leadership of President Paul Kagame. She highlighted the country's achievements in technology, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, gender equality and innovation while reaffirming Rwanda's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan.

The ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment from both countries to expand cooperation and promote peace, sustainable development and stronger people-to-people ties.

PPP's Politics Marked by Ingratitude and Broken Promises, Says Iftikhar Rashid

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and central leader of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Sardar Iftikhar Rashid, has strongly criticized the leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), alleging that the party's political history is marked by ingratitude and failure to honor commitments made to its loyal and influential leaders.

In a written statement, Sardar Iftikhar Rashid said that the PPP had previously sidelined Ghazi-e-Millat, failed to fulfill its political commitments to Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, and has now repeated the same approach with former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan. He stated that the PPP leadership



appears to have underestimated Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, who, according to him, has emerged as a strong political force in a short period. He said the reactivation of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and preparations to field candidates in

several constituencies reflect Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan's political vision, public support, and leadership strength.

Sardar Iftikhar Rashid further warned that those who consider Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan politically weak should be prepared to face the political consequences of that miscalculation. He added that the public is closely observing the political situation and that history always remembers the decisions and conduct of political leaders.

He concluded by saying that the upcoming elections will not merely be a contest for power or seats, but a decisive test between loyalty and betrayal, principles and political expediency, and public trust versus political conduct. He said the people's verdict will determine the future direction of politics

MPA Sardar Zafar Abbas Khan Baloch Meets Deputy Commissioner Khushab to Discuss Jhelum River Erosion

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA--- Member of the Provincial Assembly Sardar Zafar Abbas Khan Baloch held a special meeting with Deputy Commissioner Khushab Dr. Jahanzeb Hassan Laber to discuss the alarming erosion along the banks of the Jhelum River and its impact on surrounding areas.

Former District Council Chairman Malik Zafar Iqbal Sago, prominent social figure Ali Raza Khan, Malik Mouna Bakhsh Awan, and Sardar Sajid Khan were also present during the meeting. During the discussion, MPA Sardar Zafar Abbas Khan Baloch highlighted the serious threats posed by the riverbank erosion to local communities, agricultural land, and public infrastructure. He stressed the urgent need for immediate and effective protective measures to prevent further damage.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Jahanzeb Hassan Laber assured the



participants that the district administration is in close coordination with the relevant departments to address the issue. He reaffirmed that every possible step will be taken to safeguard the lives and property of the residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar

Zafar Abbas Khan Baloch stated that the protection of people's lives and property, as well as the development of the region, remains the top priority. He pledged to raise the issue of the Jhelum River's erosion at every appropriate forum to ensure a permanent and sustainable solution.

DC Reviews Development Work at Wheel-Free Sadr Bazaar in Mandi Bahauddin



BY: Special Correspondent

MANDI BAHAUDDIN-- Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Bariar, accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Raja Haider Abbas and Chief Municipal Officer Rizwan Bashir Agha, visited the wheel-free Sadr Bazaar to inspect the ongoing development, beautification, and renovation work.

During the visit, Chief Municipal Officer Rizwan Bashir Agha and Administrator Municipal Committee Raja Haider Abbas

briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the progress of the wheel-free development project, including infrastructure upgradation, shop beautification, paintwork, cleanliness, and other renovation measures. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that all development work is completed with the highest quality standards and within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized that the project aims to provide citizens with a modern, clean, and attractive commercial environment while transforming Sadr Bazaar into a model

business hub of the district in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Adeel Haider Bariar said Sadr Bazaar is being developed on the pattern of a model bazaar with modern infrastructure, uniform shop facades, quality paintwork, and improved sanitation arrangements. He expressed confidence that the project would enhance the shopping experience for citizens and create a more organized and aesthetically pleasing business environment.

HEC, Wuhan Textile University Discuss Enhanced Academic and Research Cooperation

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan hosted a high-level delegation from Wuhan Textile University (WTU), China, to explore opportunities for expanding cooperation in higher education, research, and innovation.

The meeting, chaired by HEC Executive Director Dr. Zia Ul Haq, was attended by senior HEC officials and representatives from NUTECH, the Pakistan Science Foundation, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and other stakeholders.

During the discussions, both sides explored collaboration in joint research, faculty and student exchange programmes, postgraduate supervision, curriculum devel-



opment, and academic partnerships. The Chinese delegation also stressed the importance of Chinese language education for Pakistani students seeking higher education opportunities in China.

HEC and Wuhan Textile University agreed to identify Pakistani universities for future col-

laboration, promote faculty exchanges, expand Chinese language programmes, and explore technical training initiatives for university staff. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening long-term academic and research cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Only Two Days Left to Surrender Illegal Weapons in Mandi

BY: Special Reporter:

BAHAUDDIN--- DPO Kamran Amir Khan Warns of Strict Action

By Raja Muhammad Ayub
Mandi Bahauddin: Mandi Bahauddin Police have launched a district-wide crackdown against illegal weapons on the directions of District Police Officer (DPO) Kamran Amir Khan. Citizens possessing unlicensed weapons have been given only two days to voluntarily surrender them at



their nearest police station.

The DPO said those who comply within the deadline will receive legal concessions. After the deadline, police will conduct search, combing, and intelligence-based operations, and strict legal action, including arrests and registration of cases, will be taken against violators. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the police in maintaining peace and assured that the identity of informants would remain confidential.