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Trump drops 20% fee plan for Hormuz Strait in favour of deals with Gulf states



ANI

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday dropped the idea of charging a 20% fee on all cargo shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, and said he would instead take trade and investment deals with the Gulf states. The change of plan comes a day after Trump proposed charging a 20% fee to guard the waterway. "Based on highly productive conversations with Middle East leadership, I have decided to replace the 20% United States reimbursement fee with trade and investment deals that the various Gulf states will be making into the United States," he said in a post on

Truth Social. Trump did not mention any commitments by Gulf states, saying, "Investments will be massive but, at the same time, extraordinarily good for them, and their future."

Shortly after Trump made the 20% fee proposal on Monday, the UN's shipping agency said it opposed fees on ships passing through maritime waterways but added it would await more details of what Trump had in mind. In his post on Tuesday, Trump declared the Strait of Hormuz was open to all ship traffic except for Iran.

"We will therefore have a full blockade, but only on ships coming to and from Iranian ports, or carrying anything have to do with

Iranian cargo," he said.

An Iranian lawmaker said on Tuesday that a new bill was submitted to parliament on the regulation of transit through the Strait of Hormuz amid military escalation with the US over the waterway.

The bill was submitted "last night, coinciding with the downing of US drones", Ebrahim Azizi, head of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, wrote on X. "We remain steadfast in defending our red lines, particularly regarding the management of the Strait of Hormuz," he said. "This is the first step; subsequent measures are forthcoming," Aziz warned.

Oman said on Tuesday that it

continues "transparent and neutral cooperation" with all parties to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz amid escalating tensions between Iran and the US over the waterway.

"Oman continues its transparent and neutral cooperation with all parties to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait, in full compliance with international law," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The Sultanate of Oman remains fully committed to its obligations as a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and calls on all parties to respect and abide by international law," it added.

Field Marshal meets President Erdoğan, receives Turkish Armed Forces honour



ANI

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during his visit to Türkiye and discussed matters of mutual interest and regional security, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said CDF Munir was currently on a high-level official visit to the Republic of Türkiye, "aimed at further enhancing the deep-rooted strategic and defence ties between the two brotherly nations."

During the visit, CDF Munir held a series of high-level engagements with the Turkish political and military leadership. "CDF Munir called on President Erdoğan and Minister of National Defence Yasar Guler to discuss matters of mutual interest and regional security. These high-level deliberations underscored the shared vision of both nations to foster a more robust strategic partnership in an evolving geopolitical environment," the statement said.

According to the ISPR, CDF Munir was welcomed with a guard of honour at the Turkish General Staff (TGS) Headquarters.

He also held a detailed meeting with General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, Chief of the Turkish General Staff. The two leaders discussed regional security dynamics and

professional matters of mutual concern.

The statement further said CDF Munir was awarded the Turkish Armed Forces Distinguished Service Medal by General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu in recognition of his meritorious service and commitment to strengthening bilateral military cooperation.

CDF Munir also visited the Turkish Land Forces (TLF) Headquarters, where he was received by General Metin Tokel, Commander of the Turkish Land Forces.

"The field marshal visited Anıtkabir, the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, where he laid a floral wreath and paid respects to the founder of modern Türkiye, acknowledging his visionary leadership and the deep-rooted historical bonds between the two nations," the ISPR added. The military's media wing said CDF Munir's visit signified the resolve of both countries to further strengthen their multifaceted defence relationship and continue joint efforts for regional peace and stability.

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Islamabad, in a post on X, stated that "Rooted in brotherhood, mutual trust and a shared strategic vision, the enduring defence and military cooperation between Türkiye and Pakistan continues to grow stronger."

CDF Asim Munir arrived in Türkiye on Monday for a two-day official visit, where he received a warm welcome upon arrival.

DPM Dar meets Bilawal, discusses country's overall situation, AJK matters



ANI

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad on Tuesday.

In a post on X, the PPP said both leaders exchanged views on the country's overall situation and matters related to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) during the meeting. Last week, Bilawal also held a meeting with DPM Dar and discussed with him the situation in AJK as well as Gilgit-Baltistan. Dar congratulated Bilawal on forming the government in G-B. The PPP chief thanked the DPM for all the support of PML-N in the induction

of an elected government in G-B. Both leaders agreed on the importance of holding free, fair, and transparent forthcoming general elections in AJK. Earlier this month, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and the PPP announced an electoral alliance for the upcoming elections in AJK.

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Bilawal also held a meeting and called for dialogue to resolve the ongoing unrest in AJK. Bilawal also announced that the PPP and JUI-F would jointly contest the upcoming AJK elections. He also appealed to JAAC to remain within the bounds of the law and the Constitution.

6 more terrorists killed in ongoing Operation Shaban: security sources



ANI

Six more terrorists were killed on Tuesday during the ongoing Operation Shaban, taking the total number of terrorists killed in the operation to 85 across Balochistan since July 5, security sources said.

The joint operation by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC) and Balochistan Police was launched in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Mangi Dam Police Station and remains underway, with forces intensifying action against terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij across the province.

Terrorists ambushed police personnel deployed in the Kach Mangi Phase III area of Ziarat last Tuesday, triggering hours-long gun battles that left nine police officers,

including two station house officers, dead. The attackers also abducted several civilians and police personnel after the assault. The military subsequently launched a series of counter-terrorism operations across Balochistan. According to security sources, forces were targeting terrorists through air and ground operations, with effective action inflicting heavy losses on terrorist

groups. "Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps Balochistan and police continue their joint Operation Shaban in Balochistan, with security forces carrying out effective operations against Fitna al-Khawarij in the area," a security source said. Security sources said that since July 5, a total of 123 terrorists had been killed in Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations (IBOs). "Operation Shaban will continue in Balochistan until the last terrorist is eliminated," security sources said. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised security forces for further successes during ongoing Operation Shaban in Balochistan and said the extraordinary successes in the joint operation by the Pakistan Army, FC Balochistan, and police were commendable.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's support for Saudi Arabia after Houthi attacks

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday condemned the Houthi attacks and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kingdom's security.

"Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering support for the Kingdom's security and stands in complete solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at this critical time," PM Shehbaz said in a statement on X. The prime minister's condemnation came a day after Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi movement towards the country's south. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the prime minister strongly condemned the blatant attacks carried out against the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia last night. "Such reprehensible actions constitute a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of



Saudi Arabia and have the potential to further undermine regional peace and stability," the PMO said. The statement further said Pakistan would continue to support all sincere efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability, security and mutual understanding across the region. Earlier, the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN wrote in a post on X that Ambassador Usman Jadoon noted Islamabad's condemnation of Houthi ballistic

missile attacks against Saudi Arabia. "We express our full solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom and reaffirm our steadfast support for its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity," he said.

Further, he noted, "We also reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law." The ambassador called on concerned parties "to resolve differences through dialogue, diplomacy, and a steadfast commitment to de-escalation," particularly during "a time when the region continues to face heightened tensions and multiple interconnected crises". According to Jadoon, "A comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable peace can only be achieved through a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, facilitated by the UN, which addresses the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all Yemenis."

Rangers personnel martyred in Rawalakot attack by banned JAAC armed groups

ANI

Armed groups of the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) attacked security forces and civilians in Rawalakot, killing one Rangers personnel and injuring another, security sources said on Tuesday.

After failing to achieve their "nefarious agenda", armed groups of the banned group opened fire on a civilian area near the Matial Maira Bus Terminal in Rawalakot on the morning of July 14, the sources said in a statement. The purpose of the firing was to provoke the public and revive participation in the sit-in, they added. When police moved in to control the law and order situation following the attack, armed groups targeted police personnel with automatic weapons and ammunition, the sources said, adding that the Rangers personnel deployed to assist the police also reached the site to help restore law and order. According to the security sources, the armed groups not only opened direct fire on law enforcement personnel with modern weapons but also used improvised explosive devices.

UN political forum: Ahsan calls for greater global solidarity to achieve

ANI

NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while calling for stronger global cooperation, climate justice and reforms to the international financial system. The country's position was reiterated during Pakistan's national statement at the ministerial segment of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters.

Addressing the high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social



Council (ECOSOC), the minister said that with only five years remaining until 2030, the world faced growing chal-

lenges, including economic shocks, climate disasters, geopolitical tensions and rising debt burdens, which had slowed progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said Pakistan remained firmly committed to achieving the SDGs through its national transformation plan, URAAN Pakistan, which focused on accelerating economic growth, creating jobs, harnessing technology, strengthening climate resilience, enhancing energy security and ensuring inclusive development that leaves no one behind. He added that the government's economic reforms over the past two years had restored macroeconomic stability and strengthened confidence in the economy.



Secretary General of the Muslim World League (MWL), Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bi. Abdulkarim Al-Issa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

ICCI Calls for Stronger Trade, Investment Ties with Saudi Arabia



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Tahir Ayub, has called for transforming the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia into a stronger economic partnership by capitalizing on the opportunities offered under Saudi Vision 2030.

He expressed these views while addressing a business session on “KSA Vision 2030 & Saudi-Pakistan Investment Opportunities” organized by ICCI, attended by Bilal Mohammad Zubair, Chairman of Al Raee Group, Zohra Hotiana, Country

Head of Al Raee Group Pakistan, members of the Saudi delegation, and representatives of the business community.

Tahir Ayub said Saudi Vision 2030 has created vast opportunities in infrastructure, tourism, logistics, manufacturing, IT, healthcare, renewable energy, and other sectors, while Pakistan offers strong investment potential due to its strategic location, skilled workforce, natural resources, and growing digital economy.

On the occasion, ICCI and Al Raee Group agreed to strengthen cooperation to promote Pakistan-Saudi business linkages, facilitate investment, and enhance business-to-business

collaboration.

Bilal Mohammad Zubair said Al Raee Group is committed to helping Pakistani entrepreneurs and investors establish businesses in Saudi Arabia through comprehensive investment and business facilitation services. Zohra Hotiana said the Group's Pakistan office will serve as a bridge between the business communities of both countries by providing market-entry support and investment advisory services.

ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to working closely with Al Raee Group and Saudi partners to promote bilateral trade, investment, and joint business opportunities.

Questioning the Sacrifices of Pakistan’s Armed Forces is Injustice to the Nation: Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that Pakistan's dignity and prestige in the Muslim world and the international community are rooted in the sacrifices of its Armed Forces.

In a statement, he said the soldiers who lay down their lives defending the country's borders are the pride of the nation, adding that living nations always honour their martyrs and



heroes. He stressed that Pakistan's martyrs and veterans are the guar-

antors of the country's freedom, security, and sovereignty. Dr. Siddiqui said that questioning the services and sacrifices of the Armed Forces at this critical time is a grave injustice to the country and the nation. He urged all political forces to place national interest above political considerations. The Federal Minister also called on public figures to avoid using language that could undermine the morale of Pakistan's armed forces or hurt the sentiments of the families of martyrs.

Indonesia and Pakistan Advance a More Sustainable, Investment-Oriented Economic Partnership

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Indonesia and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral trade, promoting two-way investment, and strengthening economic cooperation at the Indonesia-Pakistan Investment and Business Forum held in Karachi.

The forum, organized by the Embassy of Indonesia in Islamabad and the Consulate General of Indonesia in Karachi with support from the Indonesia Investment Promotion Centre (IIPC) Abu Dhabi, brought together government officials, business leaders, investors, and representatives of trade bodies from both countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Indonesian Consul General Mudzakir, FPCCI Acting President Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Indonesian Ambassador Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Chandra W. Sukotjo, and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah highlighted the need to diversify trade, encourage investment, and accelerate progress towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The speakers identified manufacturing, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, healthcare, infrastructure, logistics, digital tech-



nology, and the halal industry as key sectors for future collaboration.

The forum concluded with business networking sessions and a shared commitment to

transform the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Indonesia into stronger trade, investment, and sustainable economic growth.

Newly Appointed District Information Officer Khushab Meets Director Information Sargodha Division

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA---- The newly appointed District Information Officer Khushab, Muhammad Amir Butt, met Director Information Sargodha Division, Ahmed Naem Malik, in his office. Deputy Director Public Relations Sargodha, Ali Yameen Baloch, was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, Muhammad Amir Butt discussed the ongoing activities of the district administration in Khushab and said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched numerous development projects in Khushab, as she has across the province. He added that the benefits of these projects would soon begin reaching the public.

He further stated that the Khushab district administration is working diligently under the supervision of Commissioner Sargodha Division Hafiz Shaukat Ali to ensure the timely completion of all development projects and to provide maximum



facilities to the people.

On this occasion, Director Information Ahmed Naem Malik welcomed Muhammad Amir Butt on his posting in Sargodha Division and expressed his best wishes. He said he was confident that Muhammad Amir Butt would perform his duties professionally and would utilize the platform of the Information Department to effectively highlight the public welfare initiatives of the Punjab government and ensure the timely dissemination of authentic information to the public.

Ahmed Naem Malik further stated that the district offices of the Information Department are an essential part of the district administration, serving as an effective bridge between the government, the media, and the public. He assured Muhammad Amir Butt of full cooperation in resolving his official matters and facilitating better performance.

MNA Malik Shakir Bashir Awan Visits Astana-e-Aalia Mittha Tiwana Sharif, Congratulates Sahibzada Qazi Sheikh Ahmed on Performing Hajj

BY:ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA-- Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Malik Shakir Bashir Awan visited Astana-e-Aalia Mittha Tiwana Sharif, where he held a special meeting with the spiritual leader, Sahibzada Qazi Sheikh Ahmed, and warmly congratulated him on the successful completion of Hajj, extending his heartfelt best wishes.

During the meeting, MNA Malik Shakir Bashir Awan said that the pilgrimage to the Holy Kaaba is one of the greatest spiritual blessings bestowed by Almighty Allah upon His chosen servants. He prayed that Allah Almighty may accept Sahibzada Qazi Sheikh Ahmed's Hajj, prayers, and acts of worship, and grant him continued strength and guidance to serve Islam.

The meeting was also attended by prominent social figures, including Malik Zafar Mangwalia, Malik Muhammad Ashraf Awan, Malik Arif Shaloli, and other distinguished personalities. The participants exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, public wel-



fare, religious and social harmony, regional development, and issues concerning the local community. MNA Malik Shakir Bashir Awan highly appreciated the religious and spiritual services of Astana-e-Aalia Mittha Tiwana Sharif, stating that such spiritual institutions

play a vital role in promoting love, brotherhood, peace, tolerance, and strong moral values in society. He also expressed his best wishes for the good health, long life, and continued religious and social services of Sahibzada Qazi Sheikh Ahmed.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja Directs Party Workers to Launch Door-to-Door Public Outreach

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Pakistan Awami Quwat Party Chairman and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has directed party officials and workers to launch a door-to-door campaign to engage with the public, listen to their problems, and propose practical solutions in line with the party's manifesto.

Speaking to party workers and office-bearers who visited to inquire about his health, Khawaja said the party's success depends on maintaining close contact with



the people and addressing their concerns.

He instructed workers to visit

every home and focus on issues related to technical education, healthcare, inflation, and the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens. He urged them to distribute the party manifesto and win public trust through sincere service.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja said people are facing severe hardships due to rising petroleum prices and inflation, adding that the party must stand with the public and work to resolve their problems. He emphasized that every party official and worker should actively participate in taking the party's message to every street and neighborhood.

Linking Martyrs’ Sacrifices to Salary Unacceptable: Barrister Danyal Chaudhry

BY: Kiran Shehzadi/ANI

RAWALPINDI--- Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry has strongly condemned remarks by JUI-F President Maulana Fazlur Rehman that allegedly equated the sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces personnel with salary, saying such statements hurt the sentiments of martyrs' families and the nation.

In a statement, Barrister Danyal said the sacrifices of soldiers who lay down their lives for the country reflect patriotism, faith, duty, and selflessness, and cannot be measured in financial terms. “No one sacrifices their life for money. It is love for the nation and a sense of duty that inspire such sacrifices,” he said.



He stated that members of the Armed Forces make the ultimate sacrifice every day to defend Pakistan and protect its people, adding that the country's peace and stability are the result of their bravery

and dedication.

Barrister Danyal said martyrdom is a sacred honor earned through faith and sacrifice, and linking it to material benefits undermines its dignity. He added that the sacrifices made by martyrs' families are beyond compensation and deserve the nation's highest respect.

He further said that, as a senior political leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman should exercise greater responsibility while speaking on matters related to national security, the Armed Forces, and martyrs, as such remarks can hurt public sentiments.

The Parliamentary Secretary reiterated that the Pakistani nation is proud of its martyrs and will always honor their sacrifices with the utmost respect.

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to enhance cooperation in social protection sector

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in social protection, family welfare and poverty alleviation, besides expediting the finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the relevant ministries of the two countries. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Syed Imran Ahmad Shah and Turkiye's Minister of Family and Social Services Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş on the sidelines of the 9th Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

During the meeting, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah said Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy a historic relationship founded on mutual trust, shared values and unwavering support for each other in difficult times.

He briefed the Turkish minister on Pakistan's social protection framework, highlighting the role of the Benazir Income Support Programme



(BISP), Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and other institutions in supporting vulnerable segments of society and reducing poverty. The minister said Pakistan is keen to benefit from Turkiye's experience in digital social protection systems, family-centred welfare models and programmes promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. He also described the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal and the

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), particularly the Ramadan Food Programme and the Centralised Kitchen Project, as successful examples of bilateral cooperation.

Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş appreciated Pakistan's social protection initiatives, especially the Benazir Income Support Programme, and said it is playing an effective role in supporting deserving families and economically empowering women.

Safe City, CDA join hands to improve parking, traffic management

APP

ISLAMABAD: Director General Safe City/Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Traffic Muhammad Haroon Joiya chaired a high-level meeting to review measures aimed at improving parking facilities and traffic management across the federal capital. An official told APP on Tuesday that the meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Safe City Capt. (R) Hamzah Humayun, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Kainat Azhar, and officials of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). He said participants

discussed allocating designated parking spaces at public places in collaboration with the CDA to address parking-related issues in the city. The meeting also reviewed matters relating to traffic signals, road signboards and lane markings to improve enforcement of traffic laws and facilitate road users. DG Haroon Joiya directed the relevant departments to strengthen coordination and expedite measures to improve traffic infrastructure and ensure smoother traffic flow. The official added that the initiative would help promote better traffic discipline, reduce congestion and provide greater convenience to citizens across Islamabad.

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Opinion

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A year of Palestinian defiance

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

The year 2025 started and finished with declared ceasefires in Gaza, both almost instantly and brutally shattered by Israel, which has operated with absolute, unquestioned impunity.

The operational definition of a ceasefire, from an Israeli perspective, is a de facto one-sided campaign in which the opposing party — be it the Palestinians or the Lebanese — is forcibly stripped of the right to fight back or defend itself. For Israel, the operation of its relentless war machine is always framed as an act of self-defense, even when the primary victims of these campaigns, as clearly evidenced by the two-year Gaza genocide, are women and children. More than 70,000 Palestinians have now been killed in Gaza, as well as 170,000 wounded and thousands more missing beneath the rubble.

The year, however, did not begin with such a gloomy outlook. Many had desperately hoped that the Jan. 19 ceasefire would bring the Palestinian agony to a decisive end. The agreement briefly halted the geno-

cide to allow prisoner exchanges and limited aid entry amid a rapidly spreading famine.

The respite for Palestinians proved tragically temporary, as Israel began violating the ceasefire almost immediately. By early March, Israel had suspended humanitarian aid, triggering acute food shortages and a crippling medical crisis. Even during the purported halt, Palestinians perished in massive numbers from engineered starvation and disease.

On March 17, Israel officially reengaged the conflict, commencing with intense military strikes and expanded ground operations. Palestinians mounted fierce resistance across the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of thousands who had returned to northern Gaza during the ceasefire were displaced once again and thousands were killed.

Israel's deadly wrath did not spare the West Bank in 2025, yet the territory's tragedy went largely unreported due to the catastrophic scale of the killing in Gaza. The occupied region nonetheless endured a tremendously high casualty toll, along with the expulsion of entire communities in the

northern West Bank and the razing of whole refugee camps.

The West Bank simultaneously endured a parallel campaign of calculated collective punishment and aggressive territorial seizure. Starting in January, the refugee camps of Jenin, Balata and Nur Shams, among other areas, were subjected to repeated, large-scale military incursions, leaving critical infrastructure pulverized and hundreds dead. In other areas, like Ein Shibli and the southern Hebron Hills, entire Bedouin communities were violently expelled, their homes deliberately demolished, effectively formalizing the annexation process under the guise of "security" operations.

The year saw extreme Israeli violence and a record number of newly approved settlement units. Despite international condemnation and the firm rejection of Israel's obvious attempts at colonizing and annexing large parts of the West Bank, the Israeli onslaught remained utterly un deterred.

The war's scope in Gaza also grew rapidly, reaching every last part of the Strip, where forced displacements returned with the

same, and at times even greater, ferocity than in the first year of the genocide.

In May and July, the Israeli Cabinet approved phases one and two of Operation Gideon's Chariots, respectively, both aimed at fully occupying northern Gaza, a mission Israel had repeatedly failed to achieve since the war began.

The protracted, calculated Israeli siege eventually culminated in August in the formal declaration of famine, extending its grip not only over Gaza City but across the entire north of the Strip. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, among others, confirmed that famine conditions had been met. Despite international alarm, no forceful, substantive pressure was placed on Israel to break its deadly siege.

The relentless slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank rendered hollow the wave of Palestinian state recognition by Western capitals. France, the UK, Canada and Australia, among others, officially recognized the state of Palestine in September. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

scathingly dismissed this move as a "grave mistake." "You are giving a huge reward to terrorism," he said. Following the announcements, he and his extremist ministers, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, vowed to accelerate the annexation of Area C in the West Bank and pass legislation establishing sovereignty over the Jordan Valley.

The Palestinian Authority of Mahmoud Abbas clutched at the rush to recognize Palestine, attempting to utilize it as a means of reviving its increasingly marginal role in Palestinian politics. Other Palestinian political factions saw the recognition as a necessary, albeit late, acknowledgement of the agency and fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. International solidarity, meanwhile, escalated dramatically. In Italy, which is governed by a pro-Israeli right-wing government, several general strikes were declared. The first major strike, on Sept. 22, was called by grass-roots trade unions. The strike directly targeted the government's complicity with Israel through its continued authorization of arms flows to the Israeli army.

— Arab News

‘El Sett’ can become an important soft power tool for Arabs

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

Recently a film chronicling the life of the Egyptian singer and actress Umm Kulthum, famously known as Kawkab Al-Sharq (Star of the East), hit the cinemas. The movie is very much needed today. As Arab people see what is happening in Palestine and feel helpless, the movie will ignite in them the pride of being Arab.

I rarely go to the cinema. I have a short attention span, and struggle to focus on a feature movie. "El Sett" is totally different. It is an impressive production, a world-class work of art. For two and a half hours, I could not blink.

As I left the cinema, my heart was full of pride, joy, and hope. The movie made me feel proud to be an Arab, proud to see the Arab resilience and talent represented by Umm Kulthum. I also felt proud to see such an impressive production coming not from Hollywood, but from Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The acting, directing, sets, music — everything about this film is world class.

The movie filled my heart with joy. Somehow the character of Umm Kulthum is what we aspire to be. It is not only about her talent; it is about her determination. It is about the power of her character. During the 1967 war, after Israeli warplanes flew overhead, she decided to do her part and engage. She went to every district in Egypt to mobilize support for the Egyptian army. She recalled how once when she was a child, she had to sing during a storm to earn her fee. She had to sing because her family was poor and needed the money. She told her audience that sometimes you must stand and resist or you die.

My heart was filled with hope as I saw the Palestinian people in Umm Kulthum. In the same way Umm Kulthum resisted the storm and became a star, the Palestinian people will overcome hardship. They will prevail and Palestine will rise and become a star. This is a much-needed movie that will give every Arab hope as they see themselves helpless while their Palestinian brothers and sisters are suffering from Israel's injustice, cruelty, and sadism.

On the political front, if the movie is marketed properly, it can become an

important soft power tool for Egypt and for the Arabs. If we look at American influence across the world, it is not only military bases and arms transfers, but also cultural. Hollywood has played a big role in pushing the US agenda around the world and has promoted an Israeli narrative that is anti-Arab. "El Sett" offers a counter-narrative. While Hollywood has typically presented Arabs in a negative light, this production offers a positive image.

Arab countries, namely Egypt and Saudia Arabia, which produced the film, should use their diplomatic connections to make sure "El Sett" gets the distribution it deserves. They should bear in mind that while promoting the story of Umm Kulthum, the movie promotes the story beneath the story: It is the story of Arab resilience.

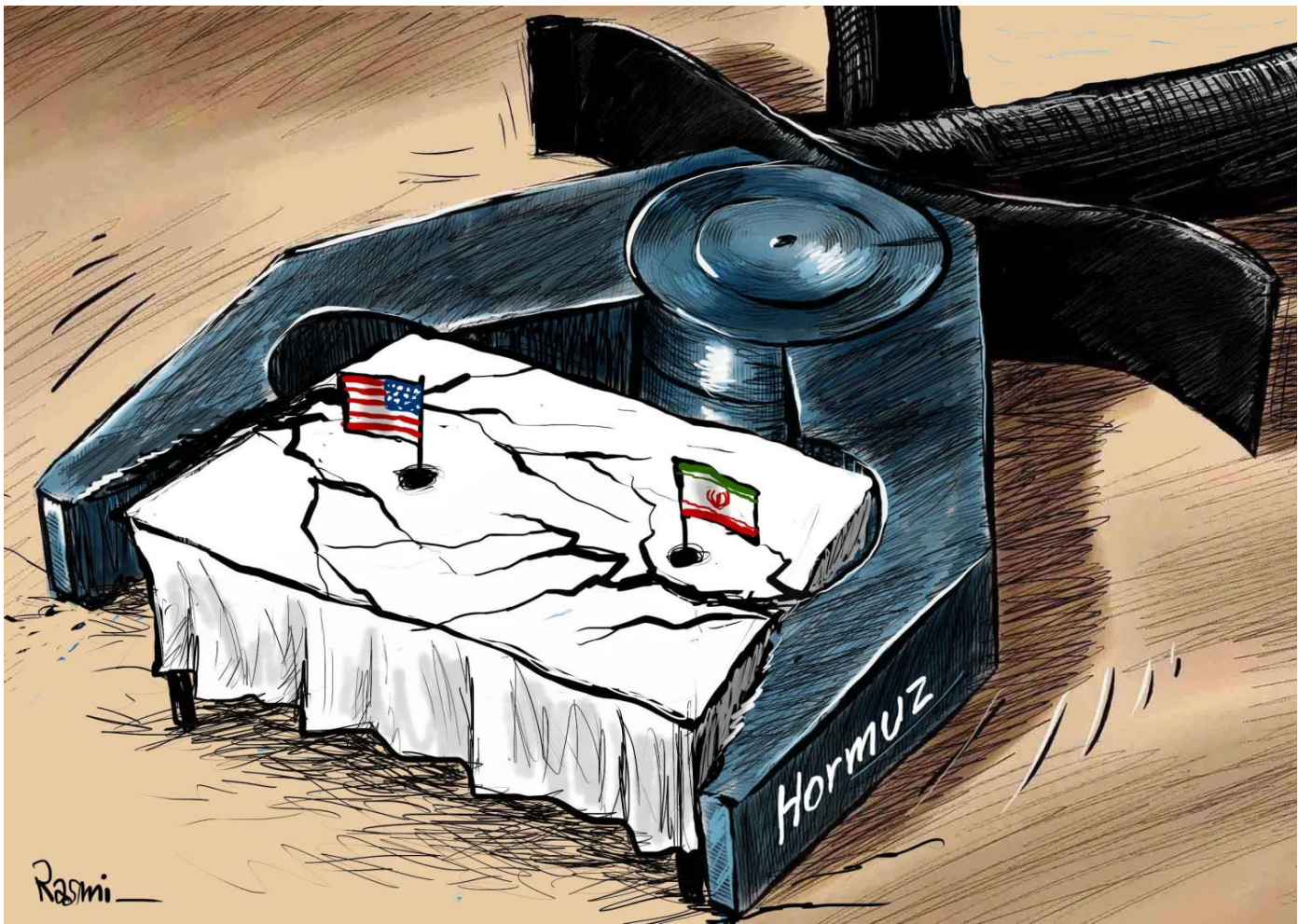
Embassies across the world should be mobilized. Every commercial attache should engage with every possible theater chain and promote the movie. Everywhere, China, Japan, Russia, Central Asia, Europe, Africa, US, Canada, South America, the movie should be watched by the public.

One might ask, why this movie? To start with, Umm Kulthum's voice transcends geography, time, and, most importantly, politics. The Arab story can be conveyed through the power of her character without needing to go through politics. The story can impress anyone. Through her character you can tell the Arab story without really telling it. You can convey a subliminal message to your audience: Arab people are strong and talented. They are principled and courageous. They are loyal to their family and their country.

These are exactly the opposite of the traits of how Hollywood has portrayed Arabs. Hollywood has shown Arabs as cowards, cruel, greedy, and unscrupulous. The story of Umm Kulthum destroys those stereotypes. While Hollywood tries to show Arab society as patriarchal, with women having no voice, the film reveals how the voice of an Arab woman mobilized not only her country but also the world.

Arab diplomats and policymakers should take a close look at "El Sett." The film ought to become an important soft power tool, an important advocacy tool that should not be overlooked.

— Arab News



The year that could be

LEA YPI

Every December in recent years, I think back to the time when Jeremy Corbyn, then the leader of the opposition Labour Party in my adopted country, the UK, quoted from a new year's speech that had a familiar ring to it. "This year will be tougher than last year," he said.

Corbyn's words were familiar because he was quoting Enver Hoxha, the infamous communist leader of my native country, Albania, who added: "On the other hand, it will be easier than next year." The comment caused an uproar, with some seeing it as evidence that Labour had turned into a Marxist cult, while others decried its insensitivity to the traumas left open by Albania's communist past.

Under "Uncle Enver," the Albania of much of my childhood was one of the most isolated places on Earth, cut off from both the "revisionist" East and the "imperialist" West. It existed in its own time capsule, a harsh reality forged through loyalty, propaganda, surveillance and the repression of dissent. Its sense of the future was shaped by past myths of heroic sacrifice and self-reliance, embedded in conspiracies of imminent foreign aggression. Every new year brought with it new paranoid, new shortages, new disciplinary measures, new calls for endurance. The only consistent investment the state made was in bunkers. How could one even remotely compare it to what was going on in the West?

Yet, for all the dark humor that Albanians and many others failed to appreciate at the time, Corbyn's speech — and that quote — turned out to be oddly prescient. It captured the creeping gloom and dread with which much of the left has greeted each new year since 2016. Back then, Brexit seemed like the ultimate catastrophe. "Taking back control," the triumphant slogan of Britain's departure from the EU, sent a shudder through cosmopolitan elites across the West. As many rushed to stockpile goods in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit, I remember being asked whether the sight of half-empty supermarket shelves reminded me of Albania under Hoxha (they did not). Yet with hindsight — after US President Donald Trump's first election, a global pandemic, the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and Trump's return to the White House — even die-hard opponents of Brexit might now concede that their panic was somewhat overblown.

Or was it? Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the Brexit vote — certainly an important symbolic milestone in the current age of globalization. The referendum signaled a return to a world in which states are increasingly isolated from one another, institutions are held hostage to the arbitrary will of individuals and the rule of law seems irreversibly in

decline.

The year ahead is unlikely to be different. The Brexiteers' call to "take back control" — once carrying at least a veneer of intellectual honesty, insofar as it invoked legitimate debates about sovereignty — has degenerated into a full-blown conspiracy narrative. Control, we are now told, is impossible, owing to the ever-present threat posed by foreigners and those deemed incapable of "integrating."

The future seems to offer only a blend of dread and paranoia. What else is to be expected in a world where the only reliably expanding markets belong to the military sector and where technological innovation appears increasingly devoted to perfecting the art of mutual destruction? Amid all this, where can one still find hope?

In his 1784 essay "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose," the German philosopher Immanuel Kant tried to identify a standpoint from which one could interpret history as more than a sorry spectacle of violence, injustice and irrationality, and identify a pattern conducive to the development of moral dispositions. It was difficult, Kant thought, because humans do not always pursue what is in their rational self-interest. They have a free will that enables them to recognize what is right but still leaves them susceptible to error.

Paradoxically, Kant identified in war — more precisely, in the irrationality of war — a key path to hope. He believed there would come a time when war would become not only utterly destructive and uncertain, but also economically unsustainable — a source of runaway debt and ruin. As he saw it, the escalating conflict between states' interests and the expansion of global trade would eventually make "the influence of every shake-up in a state in our part of the world on all other states so noticeable" that a new political configuration would have to emerge. He envisioned a future cosmopolitan federation, the likes of "of which the past world has no example to show."

Eventually, the world did produce such an example, though an imperfect one. Kant had predicted that "after many devastations, reversals and even complete exhaustion of their powers," nature would "drive humans to what reason could have told them even without much sad experience." His prophecy seemed to be borne out when, in the nightmarish conditions of the Ventotene prison camp, where Mussolini had exiled his democratic rivals, Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi in 1941 wrote a manifesto arguing for a federal Europe in which states would be bound together not by conquest, but by cooperation.

— Arab News

Letters to the Editor

Breaking down barriers

Public buildings in our area are often inaccessible to people with disabilities, denying them equal access to essential services. Hospitals, schools, offices and banks lack basic facilities like ramps, elevators and special toilets, making it difficult for wheelchair users and those with walking difficulties to enter or navigate these spaces. This exclusion limits their freedom and rights, forcing them to rely on others or avoid important places altogether. It's a form of discrimination that contradicts the principles of equality and human rights. The law mandates equal access to public services, but without proper infrastructure, people with disabilities are left behind. The authorities must take urgent action to install ramps, handrails, elevators and accessible washrooms in all public buildings. These changes will benefit not only the disabled but also elderly people and others in need. Let's work towards creating a society that is inclusive, fair, and friendly for all.

Maheena Rahim
Kolowah

Delayed schemes

Thousands of middle-class families are facing immense hardships due to the CDA's decades-long delay in developing residential sectors of

Islamabad. Sectors like E-12, I-12, I-14 and C-15 were launched years ago, yet they remain largely uninhabitable. For many allottees, these plots represent their life savings. Many elderly citizens, who bought these plots in the 1980s and 90s, hoping to build a retirement home, have passed away without ever seeing a single brick laid. Those who are still waiting are forced to live in expensive rented houses while their own land remains tied up in litigation or administrative lethargy. While the CDA frequently announces "new deadlines" and "fast-track" projects, the ground reality of broken roads and lack of basic utilities tells a different story. I urge the CDA chairman and the federal government to prioritise the completion of these existing sectors over launching new luxury schemes. The human cost of these delays is too high to ignore.

Zoya Khattak
Rawalpindi

We build coffins, not character

Nobody commits suicide for fun. Nobody rolls out of bed one day and thinks, "Let me end my life for entertainment." Nobody starts their day wanting to jump from a building, hang from a rope, or swallow poison. So, when a student dies by suicide, the question is not whether they were "too sensitive" or "mentally weak." The real question is this: What exactly was done to them before

that day? The recent viral video of Awais Sultan did not enter the bloodstream naturally. Suicide never does. Something was happening inside classrooms, homes and minds; something heavy enough, constant enough and painful enough to convince a young person that death felt like the only release. What pressures shaped his days? What was said in those rooms? And most importantly, who was listening? In Pakistan, we have built an education system that confuses oppression with discipline and pressure with preparation. Students are treated like defective machines and suspects under interrogation that must be fixed through insults, threats, and shame. Spoken up to whom? Where were the counseling rooms? Where were the trained mental health professionals? Any institution that produces academic achievers while also producing suicides is not successful; it is violent. Students are not your drilling machines. They are not containers for adult frustration. They are breathing human beings. Every educational institution in Pakistan must be forced to provide counseling rooms staffed by trained professionals, enforce zero tolerance for emotional abuse and retrain teachers to see that fear terrorists. Because once a student is dead, no prayer, excuse, or justification will matter.

Yumna Zahid Ali
Karachi

Lifting the Caesar sanctions

HANI HAZAIMEH

The decision last week by the US to lift the Caesar Act sanctions imposed on Syria is, without exaggeration, one of the most consequential and constructive shifts in international policy toward the country since the civil war began in 2011.

For years, the sanctions were framed as a tool of pressure meant to induce political change. In reality, they were a blunt instrument that deepened human suffering, froze economic life and locked Syria into a cycle of paralysis.

Their removal signals a long-overdue recognition that rebuilding societies requires engagement, not permanent isolation. The move should be welcomed, not only as a humanitarian necessity but as a strategic recalibration rooted in realism.

Syria endured more than a decade of conflict, displacement and economic collapse. The Caesar sanctions did not exist in a vacuum; they compounded the war's damage by suffocating the very mechanisms needed for recovery. By lifting them, Washington has opened a door that had been shut: the door to normalization of economic life, gradual reconstruction and political responsibility.

For ordinary Syrians, this decision is profoundly meaningful. Sanctions did not punish abstract power structures, they punished normal daily life. They restricted imports of essential goods, discouraged investment in hospitals and infrastructure, and crippled the currency.

Lifting them creates immediate space for economic relief, for humanitarian organizations to operate at scale, and for the stabilization of basic services to begin. It offers Syrians the possibility that tomorrow might be marginally better than today. For the new leadership in Syria, the lifting of the Caesar sanctions is both empowering and clarifying. It is empowering because it removes the single most significant external obstacle to economic recovery. It is clarifying because it strips away the excuses.

For years, sanctions provided a convenient explanation for everything that failed

to function. With that barrier gone, governance will now be judged on performance, not circumstance. This is precisely why the decision is so positive. It recenters responsibility where it belongs: on leadership, institutions and policy choices.

Sanctions relief gives the Syrian leadership a rare opportunity to redefine its relationship with its society and the world. Economic recovery, if managed transparently and inclusively, can begin to restore public trust.

Jobs, salaries, services and reconstruction are not merely economic indicators, they send political signals. They tell citizens whether the state exists to manage survival or to enable progress. The lifting of sanctions allows Damascus to pivot from crisis management toward state-building, from endurance to development.

Regionally, the move also carries stabilizing potential. Syria's isolation has never been cost-free for its neighbors; Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkiye have all paid the price for a collapsed Syrian economy through refugee pressure, disrupted trade, insecurity and informal economies. Allowing Syria to reenter regional markets, rebuild infrastructure, and restore trade routes serves collective interests. Stability in Syria is not an act of charity, it is in the regional self-interest.

The US decision also aligns more closely with an emerging Arab consensus that engagement, not exclusion, is the path forward. Over the past two years, Arab states have cautiously reengaged with Damascus, driven by a sober assessment that Syria's collapse benefits no one. Lifting the Caesar sanctions harmonizes American policy with this regional reality, reducing policy contradictions and opening space for coordinated diplomatic and economic initiatives.

Importantly, the lifting of sanctions does not mean abandonment of principles. Accountability, reform and reconciliation remain essential. But there is a growing recognition that accountability cannot be pursued in a vacuum of economic ruin.

— Arab News

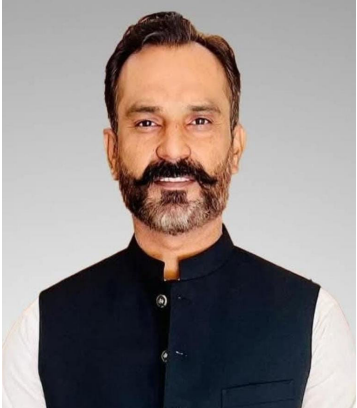
Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich Urges Urgent Scientific Action to Protect Crops from Climate Change and Emerging Pests

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich has warned that standing crops across Pakistan are under serious threat from climate change, emerging pests and plant diseases, urging the government and agricultural research institutions to launch an immediate nationwide scientific response to safeguard food security.

In a statement, Sadhraich said cotton, rice, sugarcane, maize, vegetables and pulses are increasingly under attack from new pests, while peanut crops in the Pothohar region are suffering severe damage from cutworms. He called for timely technical guidance and support for farmers facing mounting losses.

He stressed that agricultural scientists should move beyond labora-



tories and conduct extensive field research to assess emerging threats, provide practical recommendations to farmers and help formulate long-term strategies to protect crop production.

Sadhraich warned that the prevailing hot and humid weather is

creating ideal conditions for the spread of aphids, whiteflies, bollworms, armyworms, locusts, fruit flies, stem borers, termites and rodents, making immediate pest-control measures essential.

He said farmers, already burdened by rising input costs, urgently need financial assistance, effective pesticides and expert technical support. Referring to Pothohar, he urged authorities to provide peanut growers with immediate pest-control solutions and widely disseminate expert advice through all available media platforms.

Highlighting the broader impact of climate change, Sadhraich also called for improved flood preparedness, timely irrigation water supply and emergency field-based research into emerging agricultural pests and diseases to protect Pakistan's agriculture and ensure national food security.

DC Chaudhry Adeel Haider Baryar Reviews Preparations for AJK General Elections 2026



BY:ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN-- Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Baryar chaired an important meeting at the DC Office to review preparations for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly General Elections 2026.

The meeting discussed security arrangements for polling stations, provision of basic facilities, deploy-

ment and transportation of election staff, electricity, sanitation, emergency response plans, and coordination among all relevant departments.

Officials were informed that polling will be held on July 27, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A total of 17 polling stations have been established across the district for 3,228 registered voters. Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Baryar directed all departments to complete election

preparations in a timely and efficient manner to ensure a transparent, free, fair, and peaceful electoral process.

He said police, Health Department, and Rescue 1122 teams will remain on high alert throughout polling day to respond to any emergency. All election-related activities will be monitored through the district control room, while strict implementation of the Election Commission's code of conduct will also be ensured.

DPO Kamran Aamir Khan Chairs Crime Meeting, Orders Crackdown on Criminals and Human Trafficking



BY: Special Reporter

MANDI BAHAUDDIN-- District Police Officer (DPO) Mandi Bahauddin Kamran Aamir Khan chaired a district-wide crime meeting at the DPO Office to review the law and order situation and police performance.

The meeting was attended by SP Investigation Abdul Majeed Chaudhry, DSP Headquarters Chaudhry Sikandar Hayat Gondal, DSP Phalia Syed Mehdi Hassan, DSP Traffic Qamar Abbas Dhariwal, DSP

Sadr Syed Hasnat Hussain Shah, DSP Malikwal Zulfiqar Chatha, and SHOs from across the district.

The participants reviewed the investigation of serious cases, arrests of proclaimed and habitual offenders, crime prevention measures, operations against human trafficking and bonded labour, and the overall performance of the district police.

DPO Kamran Aamir Khan directed officers to intensify action against criminal elements, ensure merit-based and timely disposal of investigations,

arrest proclaimed offenders, and take strict legal action against those involved in human trafficking and bonded labour. He also instructed officers to utilize all available resources to safeguard the lives and property of citizens. Reaffirming his commitment, the DPO said Mandi Bahauddin Police will continue to perform its duties with professionalism, integrity, and dedication to maintain law and order, eliminate serious crimes, and ensure the indiscriminate enforcement of the law.

Headline: HEC Inducts Sobia Aqeel as GSN Standard Fellow, Strengthening Industry-Academia Collaboration

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has officially inducted renowned business leader and CEO of SAAF International, Mrs. Sobia Aqeel, as a Global Scholars Network (GSN) Standard Fellow. Her profile has also been published on the newly launched HEC Global Scholars Network (GSN) platform, where she is listed as a verified fellow representing Pakistan.

The HEC's Global Scholars Network is a newly established platform designed to connect Pakistani universities with distinguished global experts, academics, researchers, and industry professionals. The initiative aims to promote research collaboration, guest lectures, academic capacity building, innovation, and stronger partnerships between academia and industry. According to HEC, the network serves as a bridge between international expertise and Pakistan's higher education institutions, enabling universities to benefit from the knowledge and practical experience of leading professionals worldwide.

Mrs. Sobia Aqeel brings more than two decades of experience in interna-



tional trade, strategic innovation, entrepreneurship, textile manufacturing, and women's economic empowerment. As the Chief Executive Officer of SAAF International, she has played a significant role in advancing business development, industrial collaboration, and policy engagement.

Her appointment as a GSN Standard Fellow reflects HEC's commitment to integrating industry expertise into higher education. In her new role, she

is expected to contribute to curriculum development, collaborative research, faculty engagement, startup ecosystem development, mentoring, and capacity-building initiatives, helping align Pakistan's academic institutions with the demands of the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions. Mrs. Aqeel has also served on the Executive Committee of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) and has contributed to various national policy and economic development forums. Her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship, SME development, and public-private partnerships has earned recognition both nationally and internationally.

The newly launched HEC Global Scholars Network currently connects hundreds of verified experts from around the world with Pakistani universities, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, innovation, and sustainable academic development.

The induction of Mrs. Sobia Aqeel as a GSN Standard Fellow marks another important milestone in HEC's efforts to strengthen industry-academia linkages and enhance Pakistan's higher education ecosystem through global collaboration.

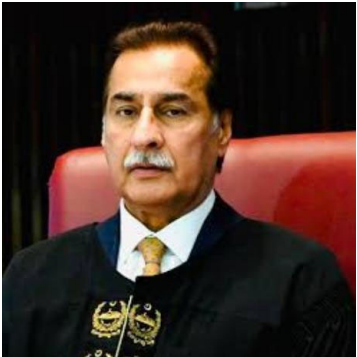
Youth Equipped with Modern Skills Essential for National Development: Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

BY: Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD-- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that equipping Pakistan's youth with technical, vocational, and professional skills is essential for national development, economic stability, and global competitiveness.

In his message on World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15 under the auspices of the United Nations, the Speaker said that with over 60 percent of Pakistan's population comprising youth, investing in modern education and skills is the key to a prosperous future.

He said this year's theme, "Skills for a Shared Future," highlights the



importance of preparing young people for the age of artificial intelligence, digital technology, automation, and innovation. He stressed that Pakistani youth have the poten-

tial to lead the country towards a technology-driven economy.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the government's initiatives to promote technical and vocational education and called for stronger collaboration among educational institutions, training centres, industries, and the private sector to equip youth with skills aligned with national and international requirements.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, in his message, urged young people to acquire skills in artificial intelligence, digital technology, cybersecurity, and data analytics, reaffirming Parliament's commitment to supporting youth through legislation promoting skills development, innovation, and modern technology.

PPP Has Always Been a Strong Voice for the Kashmir Cause, Says Sumblina Hassan

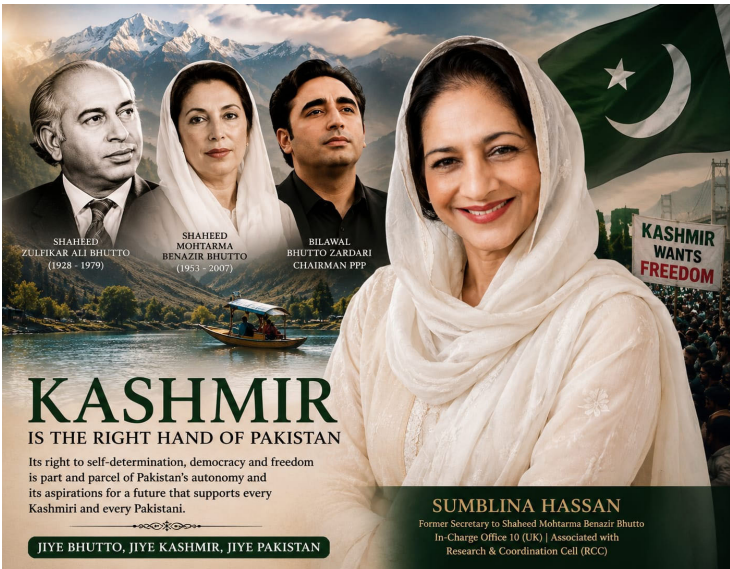
BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: UK Sumblina Hassan, Former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, In-Charge Office 10 (UK), and associated with the Research & Coordination Cell (RCC), has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has consistently regarded the Kashmir issue as a national priority and has firmly supported the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

She said that Kashmir holds immense historical, political, and emotional significance for Pakistan and remains central to the country's aspirations for peace, justice, democracy, and regional stability. According to her, the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, democratic freedoms, dignity, and a secure future has always been an important part of Pakistan's principled position on the issue.

Sumblina Hassan stated that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir share an enduring bond of brotherhood. She said that whenever the people of Kashmir face hardship, Pakistan has consistently stood beside them with unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support. She added that Pakistan remains committed to supporting the peace, prosperity, economic development, security, and long-term stability of the people of Kashmir through peaceful and lawful means.

She emphasized that any attempts to create division, instability, or undermine the unity of the Kashmiri people should be rejected. Lasting peace in South Asia, she said, can only be achieved through dialogue, respect for international law, and a



peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Highlighting the Pakistan Peoples Party's historic role, Sumblina Hassan said Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto played a landmark role in presenting the Kashmir issue before the international community and defending Pakistan's national interests. She added that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto continued to champion the rights of the Kashmiri people on global platforms, while PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has consistently reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stance and called for a peaceful and just resolution of the dispute.

She further stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party would con-

tinue extending its political, diplomatic, and moral support to the people of Kashmir and urged all political parties, state institutions, overseas Pakistanis, and civil society to remain united in presenting Pakistan's position effectively before the international community.

Concluding her statement, Sumblina Hassan paid tribute to the sacrifices of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, saying their commitment to the Kashmir cause continues to inspire future generations. She expressed hope that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir would continue to stand together for peace, democracy, justice, and the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

"Jiye Bhutto. Jiye Kashmir. Jiye Pakistan*."

Farooq Yousaf Sheikh Calls for Business-Friendly Policies to Strengthen Textile Sector

BY: ANI Correspondent:

FAISALABAD--- President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Farooq Yousaf Sheikh, accompanied by Senior Vice President Naveed Akram Sheikh and Vice President Engr. Asim Munir, participated in the 4th meeting of the FCCI Standing Committee on Council of Textiles.

The meeting brought together textile industry representatives, exporters, manufacturers, and committee members to discuss key challenges facing the sector, including exports, industrial competitiveness, energy tariffs, taxation, and access to finance.

Speaking on the occasion, Farooq Yousaf Sheikh said the textile industry is the backbone of Pakistan's economy and stressed the need for business-friendly policies and a stable investment environment to enhance competitiveness in interna-



tional markets. He reaffirmed FCCI's commitment to raising industry-related issues with the government for their timely resolution.

Senior Vice President Naveed Akram Sheikh emphasized stronger public-private coordination, innovation, value addition, and the adoption of modern technology to boost productivity and increase Pakistan's share in global textile exports.

Vice President Engr. Asim Munir highlighted the importance of sustainable industrial practices, skill development, and investment in advanced textile technologies for the long-term growth of the sector.

The meeting concluded with recommendations aimed at strengthening the textile industry, boosting exports, and ensuring sustainable economic development.

Community Policing Karachi, Plant a Million Pakistan, Sindh Forest Department Launch CPK Urban Forest Project

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI: Community Policing Karachi (CPK), Plant a Million Pakistan, and the Sindh Forest Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch the CPK Urban Forest Project aimed at expanding Karachi's green cover and promoting environmental sustainability.

Under the first phase of the project, 3,000 trees will be planted along Shahrah-e-Bhutto. The Sindh Forest Department will provide technical support, maintenance, and regular watering to ensure the healthy growth of the trees.

Speaking on the occasion, Razzak Pardesi, Chairman of Plant a Million Pakistan, said the partnership reflects the power of collaboration between public institutions and community organizations to create a greener and healthier Karachi.

Community Policing Karachi representatives urged citizens, educa-



tional institutions, businesses, and civil society organizations to actively participate in tree plantation and urban forest initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Atiq Iqbal (Chief, CPK), Faisal Rasheed (Chief, CPK Green Project), Razzak Pardesi (Chairman, Plant a Million Pakistan),

and Zeeshan Ali Chang of the Sindh Forest Department.

The initiative aims to improve Karachi's environment, combat climate change, enhance biodiversity, and encourage greater public and private sector participation in environmental conservation.