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Houthi leader calls US, Israel 'source of evil, instability in world'



ANI

The leader of Yemen's Houthi rebels, Sayyed Abdul-Malik Al Houthi, has accused the US and Israel of fueling global instability, while blaming the Saudi leadership for advancing US and Israeli objectives in the region in a televised address.

According to a report by AlJazeera, al-Houthi said that "the United States and Israel are the source of evil and instability in the world."

He added that the US, Israel and their allies "fuel instability through warmongering and the plundering of the wealth of nations, from Palestine to other regions".

Al Houthi also said that Israel's aim of changing the map of the Middle

East to create a "Greater Israel" is the "driving force behind all the wars in the region". "This axis has no respect for international agreements and United Nations resolutions, but also boasts of genocide against nations and the destruction of civilisations," Al Houthi added.

He alleged that Saudi Arabia's attacks on Yemen were ongoing for years, had no legal justification, and were "carried out within the framework of alignment and loyalty to the United States and Israel".

US Vice President JD Vance said some members of the Israeli government had tried to influence US public opinion to oppose a deal by the US to end the war with Iran, in a podcast episode with host Joe Rogan posted

on Wednesday.

The comments echoed earlier criticism of Israeli government policy by Vance, whom many view as a potential future presidential candidate, in a widening public rift between the two countries. "You have seen this very discreet, extremely well-funded campaign to try to derail the negotiation and try to derail the deal," he said. "A bunch of people who have quite literally been paid by a former Trump campaign person who was himself paid by certain elements within the Israeli government. And those people are attacking me viciously," he added. Vance defended a deal reached last month to end the war with Iran, which critics in the US and Israel have slammed for failing to

curb Iran's missile program and providing no clear path to dismantling its nuclear facilities, while constraining Israel in its war with Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. "I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that there have been people within the Israeli government who are trying to, like, actually shift us away from that policy because they want to continue the military campaign," Vance said. The vice president said that, while he has "good relationships" with some members of the Israeli government, "there are some people within their system that we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that are manipulating and trying to change American public opinion to keep the war going on indefinitely."

Pakistan calls for restraint amid rising Iran-US tensions

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Office has said that tensions between Iran and the United States are not in the interest of anyone and urged both sides to exercise restraint.

Speaking during a weekly briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said Pakistan was concerned over the renewed tensions between Iran and the US and was closely monitoring the regional situation.

He said Pakistan believes in the continued implementation of the memorandum of understanding and supports dialogue for resolving issues. He added that Pakistan supports uninterrupted trade and oil transportation through the Strait of Hormuz. The Foreign Office spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's call for the uninterrupted safety, security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, stressing that stability in the strategic waterway remains critical for global trade and energy security. He noted that the ongoing crisis is disproportionately affecting many developing nations, particularly those in the Global South, by disrupting energy supplies, trade flows and food security. Pakistan, he said, recognises the urgent need to minimise the economic fallout caused by the tensions and expressed hope that normal shipping operations through the Strait would resume soon.

Regional tensions have escalated after Iran announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, prompting the United States to restore its naval blockade around Iranian ports. Military activity in the region has further disrupted maritime traffic through the crucial route, which previously handled nearly one-fifth of the world's oil and gas shipments.

The disruption has driven international oil prices sharply higher, fuelling inflation concerns worldwide. Pakistan earlier this month increased petrol and diesel prices by more than Rs13 per litre, while global crude prices climbed to their highest level in four weeks.

The Foreign Office said Islamabad remains actively engaged with regional partners to support dialogue, reduce tensions and encourage a peaceful resolution



to the conflict. The spokesperson highlighted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent conversations with the Emir of Qatar and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, during which he emphasised the importance of diplomacy and urged all sides to preserve hard-earned peace.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has also maintained close contact with his Saudi and Iranian counterparts as part of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions.

The renewed fighting since July 8 has cast uncertainty over the future of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 18, which sought to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and pave the way for ending the conflict after an additional 60 days of negotiations.

US President Donald Trump recently declared the previous ceasefire effectively over while indicating that further negotiations remain possible.

Meanwhile, the conflict has expanded across the Gulf, with Iran launching attacks on US military installations in Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait. The latest strikes marked the most intense violence since the ceasefire reached between Tehran and Washington in April.

The conflict, which began after US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, has destabilised the Gulf region, while restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz have continued to push global energy prices upward.

Addressing a separate issue, the Foreign Office said Pakistan has no involvement in the case of convicted child grooming gang leader Shabbir Ahmed in the United Kingdom.

Ahmed, who once held dual British-Pakistani nationality, lost his British citizenship after being convicted in 2012 on multiple child sexual abuse charges.

MQM-P urges political leaders to avoid remarks that could benefit Pakistan's enemies



ANI

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leaders on Thursday urged political figures to avoid making statements that could be used by Pakistan's adversaries, saying political leaders had a responsibility to protect the country's image and institutions. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said experienced political leaders should ensure their remarks were not exploited by the media of countries hostile to Pakistan. "Is there any statement we could make that the media in a country hostile to Pakistan would highlight? Is there any statement we could make that would make our adversaries happy?" Siddiqui said.

"If that is not the case, then I do not think any experienced, responsible political figure or national leader would make such a mistake."

Siddiqui said political leaders should ensure that if their statements reached international media, they reflected positively on Pakistan rather than being asso-

ciated with criticism of the state or its institutions. "If our statements reach the international media, they should promote the country's good name. They should not be associated with criticism of the state, the country or the institutions that protect it," he said.

Referring to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Siddiqui said he hoped the veteran politician would clarify his remarks if, in his view, the choice of words had allowed Pakistan's adversaries to take advantage.

"I am sure such an experienced and responsible political figure understands when his remarks become the focus of the media in a country hostile to Pakistan," he said. The remarks were made by the JUI-F chief during a recent public gathering, where his comments about the armed forces and the country's martyrs drew criticism from political leaders and other quarters. Siddiqui also praised Pakistan's military leadership, saying it had protected both Pakistan and the wider region during recent tensions.

Sindh Leaders Demand Fazl Retract Remarks on Armed Forces

ANI

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Nehal Hashmi and Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Thursday urged Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to withdraw his recent remarks regarding Pakistan's armed forces and martyrs, saying the statement had caused pain to the families of fallen soldiers and sent the wrong message at a time when the country should remain united.

The remarks were made by the JUI-F chief during a recent public gathering, where his comments about the armed forces and the country's martyrs drew strong criticism from political leaders and other quarters.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Memon said he respected the veteran politician but believed he should reconsider his comments. "My request to

Maulana Fazlur Rehman is that he should take his statement back," he said, adding, "Withdrawing your words does not diminish your stature; rather, it enhances it. We are all human and can make mistakes." He said the rank of martyrs remained unchanged regardless of political statements but argued that such remarks could discourage the families of those who had sacrificed their lives for the country.

Memon said Indian media had amplified the remarks and questioned who stood to benefit from such statements. Referring to the recent conflict with India, he praised Pakistan's armed forces, saying the army, air force and navy had successfully defended the country. "When Pakistan and India were in conflict, the entire nation stood together," he said, adding, "Politics will continue, but on issues concerning the country and its martyrs, we must remain united."

PM Shehbaz warns renewed US-Iran conflict could hit economy again

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed concern over the recent rise in tensions between the United States and Iran, warning that the national economy could again be affected by the negative impact of the escalating regional situation. The remarks came as the prime minister chaired a meeting to review the impact of regional tensions on the country's economy, as well as austerity and thrift measures amid the recent conflict.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz directed the relevant authorities to maintain complete preparedness to address every possible challenge as uncertainty persists in the regional situation.

Speaking at the meeting, the prime minister



said the public had played a full role in the previous austerity and thrift campaign, for which he was "wholeheartedly grateful".

"By the grace and mercy of Allah, the national economy is stable; a comprehensive plan of action should be prepared for timely measures if needed," the statement quoted the prime minister as saying.

He also praised the public for their cooperation in the national campaign to conserve petroleum products and energy, while expressing satisfaction over the country's fuel supply. "Through timely and effective government strategy, the fuel supply situation in the country has been managed in the best possible manner," he said, adding that the government had protected the common man, motorcyclists, rickshaw drivers and transporters. The

prime minister further said that, as a result of the subsidy provided by the government, the effects of the increase in fuel prices had been effectively controlled. He directed the authorities, in collaboration with the provincial governments, to take strict action against those creating artificial shortages of petroleum products.

FCCP seeks reports on child abduction, forced labour

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court has directed the federal and all provincial governments to submit detailed reports regarding the issues of child abduction, forced begging, child labor, and overall child protection.

The court has further instructed authorities to present a comprehensive, data-driven overview of the situation to the bench.

A three-member bench, presided over by Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, heard the case on Thursday. During the proceedings, Justice Rizvi emphasized that the government must develop a complete database regarding children in vulnerable situations. The court inquired specifically about the number of children forced into begging or child labor, demanding a granular report on these figures. Justice Rizvi expressed deep concern over the prevalence of forced child labor, noting that children as young as eight to ten years old are frequently observed performing manual labor in public. He pointed out that while the "contractors" who exploit children for begging profit from this illicit activity, the court's intent is not to criminalize the children themselves.

Three cops martyred as police foil terrorist attack in Lower Dir: IG KP

ANI

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed on Thursday said three police officials were martyred and several were injured as the force thwarted a "severe three-pronged terrorist attack" in Lower Dir a day earlier. "At least three cops were martyred, and several others were injured during the terrorist attack that occurred during a combing operation in the area. This was an extensive search and strike operation of police, wherein special teams searched and cleared three valleys," said Hameed while addressing a

press conference in the Lower Dir District Police Office.

Sharing the details of the operation, Hameed said that the terrorists suffered heavy losses during a "search and strike" combing operation. "Special teams had inflicted heavy losses on the terrorists, as indicated by eyewitness accounts and photographic evidence available to the police," said Hameed. The IGP added that he was proud of the teams for fighting courageously and repelling the three-pronged attack despite being outnumbered.

"The district police officer, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) superintendent of police and

others extracted the police party ambushed by terrorists," he said. Hameed further added that the condition of the injured personnel was improving, and most officers were expected to be discharged soon from the hospital.

The IGP reiterated the resolve to uproot terrorism, saying, "The war that is being waged against us and is injuring and martyring our people will not affect the determination of the police or other security institutions, and we will continue to protect areas under our jurisdiction."

"Those trying to pose a threat to us will be neutralised," the police chief warned during the presser.



President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

PML-N Balochistan Leaders Stress Unity for Peace, Stability and Development

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--- PML-N Balochistan Information Secretary Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani met former Chief Minister Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Barozai to discuss the province's political, social, economic, and law and order situation.

During the meeting, Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani emphasized the need for national unity, political stability, mutual trust, and meaningful dialogue to address the challenges facing Balochistan. He urged all patriotic political and social forces to work together on a common national agenda and requested Nawab Barozai to use his political experience to promote peace, national harmony, and sustainable development.

Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Barozai said Balochistan's long-standing issues can only be resolved through political



wisdom, public participation, tolerance, mutual confidence, and continuous dialogue. He reaffirmed his support for every sincere initiative aimed at ensuring lasting peace, development, prosperity, and national cohesion. Both leaders agreed that political

differences should be set aside in the larger interest of Balochistan and stressed that collective efforts are essential to strengthen peace, encourage investment, resolve public issues, and accelerate the province's development.

WASA Mandi Bahauddin Completes Monsoon Preparations, Says MD Ali Ahmed Chaudhry

BY: Special Reporter:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN---- On the special directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, WASA Mandi Bahauddin has completed comprehensive preparations to tackle the monsoon season, Managing Director Ali Ahmed Chaudhry said.

He stated that, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Adeel Haider, all major and minor drains and sewer lines across the city have been cleaned, while WASA teams remain on high alert to ensure smooth drainage during rainfall.

Ali Ahmed Chaudhry said that rainfall is being monitored through cameras and rain gauges, and monsoon emergency camps equipped with the necessary machinery and equipment have been established at key locations. He added that the recent rainfall of 52 mm was managed efficiently, with field teams



clearing water from roads and highways in a timely manner. He further said that WASA teams, under the supervision of Deputy Director Rana Muhammad Kashif, are continuously monitoring and cleaning the drainage network to prevent water-logging. All available resources are

being utilized to keep the sewerage system fully functional during the monsoon. The MD appealed to citizens to cooperate with the administration by maintaining cleanliness and avoiding the disposal of garbage into drains and sewer lines to ensure an effective drainage system.

DC Rawalpindi Reviews Healthcare and Development Projects During First Official Visit to Kahuta

BY: ANI Correspondent

KAHUTA---- Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Captain (R) Nadeem Nasir paid his first official visit to Kahuta after assuming office, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Shireen Gul. He inspected THQ Hospital, Kahuta Bazaar, the Municipal Committee, and the Assistant Commissioner's Office to review ongoing public welfare and development projects.

At THQ Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner visited various departments, met patients and attendants, and directed the hospital administration to ensure timely treatment with dignity and compassion. He reaffirmed the Punjab Government's commitment to providing quality healthcare services.

He also inspected the beautification project in Kahuta Bazaar and instructed officials to complete the work within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining high standards.

During visits to the Municipal Committee and the Assistant Commissioner's Office, the Deputy



Commissioner reviewed the progress of the Suthra Punjab programme and other development initiatives. He directed officials to further improve sanitation and ensure the timely completion of all projects.

Speaking to the media, Captain

(R) Nadeem Nasir said the district administration, under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is committed to public service, good governance, and the timely completion of development projects for the benefit of the people.

Security Operation Underway in Mastung; DHQ Hospital on Emergency Alert



BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--- An exchange of fire was reported between security forces and suspected militants in the Khad Kocho area of Mastung district, Balochistan, following reports that a security forces convoy came under attack at multiple locations.

According to local sources, clashes were reported in the Kund Umrani,

Garro, and Anjiri areas, while Pakistan Army helicopters were seen moving towards the affected locations. As a precautionary measure, traffic on the Quetta-Karachi National Highway has been suspended. The district administration has declared an emergency at DHQ Hospital Mastung. On the instructions of Medical Superintendent Dr. Saeed Ahmed Mirwani, leave of all

doctors, paramedical staff, and other medical personnel has been cancelled, and ambulances have been placed on high alert.

No official statement has yet confirmed the reported attacks, casualties, or details of any security operation. Authorities said the situation is being closely monitored, and further information will be shared as it becomes available.

Sufficient petroleum stocks available to meet demand: NCMC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Coordination and Management Council (NCMC) on Thursday noted that sufficient petroleum product stocks were available in the country to meet the prevailing demand.

The meeting was convened to comprehensively review the availability

of petroleum products across the country. Representatives of the Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC), the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Customs Wing, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), and other relevant stakeholders attended the meeting, according to a news release. During the meeting, the supply-side challenges highlighted by

OCAC representatives were discussed and addressed. The committee observed that the concerns raised by the OCAC primarily stemmed from an abnormal increase in petroleum product sales during the first 15 days of July. An analysis presented by OGRA also indicated the possibility of hoarding in anticipation of a potential price increase.

Breakthrough in Ziarat Tragedy Talks; Judicial Commission Agreed in Principle



BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA ---- Talks between the Balochistan government, the families of the Ziarat tragedy victims, and the sit-in committee made significant progress, with both sides reaching com-

sensus on several key demands, including the in-principle establishment of a Judicial Commission.

The government delegation left for the Chief Minister's House to brief Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, who will make the final decision on the imple-

mentation of the agreed points. Sources said the latest round of dialogue has strengthened hopes for a peaceful resolution. Meanwhile, the sit-in committee warned that if negotiations fail, a province-wide shutter-down strike will be observed on Friday, July 17.

VC Ziauddin Uni visits FGP, discusses collaboration on research, climate action

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor of Ziauddin University, Karachi, Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh visited the office of Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) and held detailed discussions on strengthening collaboration in research, climate action, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

The meeting focused on the importance of forging stronger partnerships between academia and development organizations to equip Pakistan's youth with future-ready skills, promote women's economic empowerment, and develop practical solutions to climate change-related challenges.

Dr. Shaikh met with FGP Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Anwar, Board Director Urooj Raza Sayyami, Strategic Policy Advisor Shafqat Aziz, and Head of Economy Dr. Shahbaz Tariq to explore cooperation in higher



education, research, policy advocacy, youth entrepreneurship, climate resilience and capacity building.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shaikh said universities must move beyond their traditional academic role and become active partners in driving innovation. He said stronger collaboration between higher education institutions and the development sector would equip young people with practical

skills, promote leadership and innovation, and create greater economic opportunities for youth and women. Welcoming the visiting vice chancellor, Muhammad Anwar highlighted that FGP is committed to building partnerships that bring together academia, policymakers, civil society and the private sector to generate evidence-based solutions and translate ideas into meaningful community impact.

ITP, Atlas Honda Hold Road Safety Camp for Motorcyclists in Islamabad

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP), in collaboration with Atlas Honda, organized a special road safety camp for motorcyclists to promote safe riding practices and encourage compliance with traffic laws in the federal capital.

An ITP official told APP on Thursday that Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Kainat Azhar Khan visited the

camp and distributed free helmets and side mirrors among motorcyclists, while riders were also provided with the facility to replace defective motorcycle lights and side mirrors free of cost. Speaking on the occasion, CTO Kainat stressed the importance of wearing helmets, maintaining motorcycles in road-worthy condition and strictly observing traffic rules to ensure safer roads for all road users. She said the

Islamabad Traffic Police would continue practical road safety campaigns in collaboration with public and private sector partners to create greater awareness among citizens and reduce road traffic accidents. The CTO Kainat urged motorcyclists to adopt all necessary safety measures before travelling, emphasizing that the use of helmets and properly functioning motorcycles were the basic requirements for a safe journey.

South Air Launches Scheduled Flights from Karachi, Expanding Domestic Connectivity

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's domestic aviation network received a significant boost on Wednesday as South Air commenced scheduled flight operations from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, introducing new routes aimed at improving regional connectivity and supporting tourism and economic activity across the country.

The airline launched scheduled services from Karachi to Quetta via Turbat and from Karachi to Islamabad via Bahawalpur, marking its entry into regu-

lar passenger operations from Pakistan's busiest airport. The inaugural flights, Z8911 to Turbat and Z8942 to Bahawalpur, departed from Jinnah International Airport earlier in the day. The new operations add fresh capacity to the country's domestic aviation sector, offering passengers more travel options while improving access to key regional destinations. The move is expected to strengthen links between southern Pakistan and other parts of the country, particularly underserved areas where air travel plays an important role in mobility and commerce.

Under its initial schedule, South Air

will operate one weekly flight on the Karachi-Turbat route and three weekly flights on the Karachi-Bahawalpur route. The airline has also announced plans to further expand its domestic network with future services connecting Karachi to Peshawar, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Gwadar. Operating under the Tourism Promotion and Regional Integration (TPRI) Licence, South Air's expansion is expected to contribute to the promotion of tourism, facilitate trade and business travel, and improve access to regional destinations through enhanced air connectivity.

DC highlights one dedicated helpline for overseas Pakistanis, urges land complaint reporting

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad district administration has strengthened support for overseas Pakistanis through a dedicated land complaint helpline, 0300-4024255, aimed at addressing property-related disputes and illegal occupation cases. During a meeting with overseas Pakistanis, Deputy Commissioner Irfan Memon said complaints received through the helpline and email are reviewed immediately, while participants acknowledged the quick response provided by the administration.

The meeting focused on measures taken by the district administration to assist overseas Pakistanis facing land and property issues in the federal capital.

Deputy Commissioner Irfan Memon informed participants about the special mechanisms established to receive and process complaints related to land disputes, illegal occupation, and other property matters. He said the dedicated hel-

pline is fully operational and serves as a direct channel for overseas Pakistanis seeking assistance. During the discussion, overseas Pakistanis appreciated the administration's response system and said the helpline has helped identify issues that may otherwise have remained unreported. Participants noted that the availability of a dedicated complaint platform has improved communication between citizens living abroad and local authorities.

The deputy commissioner explained that every complaint received through the helpline or email is examined without delay. He said relevant departments are directed to investigate reported issues and take action where required. Irfan Memon urged overseas Pakistanis to report all land-related concerns, particularly cases involving illegal occupation or disputes over ownership and possession. He emphasized that timely reporting helps authorities take action and prevents matters from becoming more complicated.

IG Islamabad reviews investigation performance, orders faster justice delivery

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, chaired a meeting with Deputy Inspector General (Headquarters), Muhammad Ateeq Tahir and Senior Superintendent of Police (Investigation), Muhammad Usman Tariq Butt to review departmental affairs and further improve the investigation system. An official told APP on Thursday that the meeting discussed the progress of under-investigation cases, the overall

performance of the Investigation Wing and various administrative matters aimed at enhancing the efficiency of policing in the federal capital. The IGP Rizvi reviewed the pace and quality of investigations and directed officers to ensure timely disposal of cases through professional, transparent and merit-based investigations. He emphasized that providing citizens with prompt justice remained a top priority and instructed investigators to further improve investigation standards by adopting modern policing practices.

Over 325,000 pilgrims register online for Hajj 2027-2030

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The digital registration process for Hajj 2027-2030 is continuing through the online Hajj portal, with the number of registered intending pilgrims surpassing 325,000.

According to the spokesperson of the religious ministry, a total of 283,000 pilgrims registered through the Hajj portal, while 43,000 completed their registration using the Pak Hajj mobile application.

Among the registered applicants, 235,000 selected the government Hajj scheme, while 90,000 opted for the private Hajj scheme.

The registered pilgrims include 191,000 men and 134,000 women. The online Hajj registration process will continue until further announcement. The National IT Board has also developed an online system for the collection of Hajj dues. Details of the Hajj packages and the procedure for payment will be announced soon.

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Opinion

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Pakistan Army and the Emergence of Imam Mahdi (AS)



BY:Dr Maqsood Ahmad Shanawar : Published by ANI

For centuries, Muslims have reflected upon one of the most profound questions concerning the End Times: when Imam Mahdi (AS) appears, which nation and which army will stand alongside him in the struggle for justice and truth? Which countries will be entrusted with defending Islam during one of history's most decisive periods? While no human being can answer these questions with certainty, Islamic scholars have long debated them in the light of the Qur'an, the Sunnah, and historical developments.

Over the years, various analysts have associated Afghanistan, Iran, Türkiye, the Arab world, and Pakistan with these discussions. Yet, no authentic Islamic source conclusively identifies any modern state or military as the definite supporter of Imam Mahdi (AS). Therefore, any attempt to assign such a role remains an interpretation rather than an established religious fact.

The prophetic traditions describe major trials and conflicts involving regions such as Sham (the Levant), Hijaz, Iraq, and neighboring lands. Some narrations also refer to Persia and parts of the Arab world. However, scholars have differed over the authenticity and interpretation of several of these reports, making caution essential when drawing conclusions.

Today, the Middle East is experiencing one of the most volatile periods in its modern history. Escalating ten-

sions involving Iran, Israel, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and other regional actors have pushed the region toward greater uncertainty. Should these conflicts intensify further, their consequences may extend far beyond the Middle East, affecting the entire Muslim world.

Against this backdrop, Pakistan has emerged as an increasingly influential Muslim nation. Through military professionalism, technological advancement, strategic planning, and an active diplomatic role, Pakistan has gained growing international recognition. Its armed forces are widely respected, and many Muslim countries regard Pakistan as an important pillar of regional stability and security.

Many people continue to wonder how a country with modest economic resources succeeded in becoming a nuclear power and establishing itself as a significant strategic actor. The answer lies not only in military capability but also in scientific excellence, institutional strength, disciplined leadership, and the determination of its people.

Supporters of Pakistan's strategic policies believe that recent regional confrontations have provided the country with an opportunity to demonstrate its military preparedness before the world. From this perspective, Pakistan's performance during its military confrontation with India strengthened its international reputation by highlighting effective planning, operational discipline, and strategic decision-making. They argue that the true strength of any military can only be measured when it is tested under real battlefield conditions.

Pakistan's long-standing defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia further reinforces this discussion. For

decades, Pakistani military personnel have participated in training missions and defensive cooperation within the Kingdom. Because of this relationship, some observers believe that if the Holy Mosques were ever to face a serious external threat, Pakistan could be among the countries expected to contribute to their defence.

Nevertheless, Muslims should remember that strengthening faith, adhering to the Qur'an and Sunnah, promoting unity within the Ummah, and preparing wisely for future challenges are far more important than engaging in speculation about future events. Faith should always be accompanied by knowledge, wisdom, and responsibility.

Some religious commentators suggest that the Muslim world will ultimately require a force led by visionary leadership, highly trained soldiers, unwavering courage, and advanced military technology. They also interpret certain narrations as indicating that hostile forces moving toward Madinah would be confronted before reaching their objective. From a strategic and geographical perspective, some analysts note that Pakistan has maintained a military presence and defense cooperation in Saudi Arabia. Based on this, they speculate that if such a situation were ever to arise in the future, Pakistani forces could potentially be among those defending the region. At present, supporters of this view argue that no other Muslim country's military has a comparable strategic presence there. Whether Pakistan is ultimately chosen by Allah for such a historic responsibility remains part of personal belief and religious speculation, and only Allah has complete knowledge of the future.

The Next Corporate Revolution: ESG Experts and Sustainability Clinics



BY:Babar Akhtar Published By: ANI

The business world has entered the time when only the knowledge of the business world does not suffice to tackle problems of the future, as every industry has been ruled by seasoned professionals specializing in finance, law, engineering, and business strategy. Even though the individuals mentioned above have significantly contributed to the success of companies and economic development, the business world has gone through huge changes. The impact of climate changes, evolving expectations among investors, carbon regulations, and resource deficiency, as well as world sustainable standards in business, has changed the nature of competition between companies. As of today, modern firms do not need to clarify whether ESG issues need addressing; they need to realize whether the top management has enough knowledge to lead through the transition period.

Everywhere in the world, sustainability has developed from a corporate accountability campaign to a vital business tactic. Investors are becoming more drawn to businesses that have successfully integrated ESG into their operations, banks examine companies' environmental risks before lending to them, and big businesses would rather work with suppliers who can prove that their operations are sustainable. Governments are implementing tougher rules regarding climate-related reporting, and customers are only accepting companies that adhere to good principles for environmentally responsible business operations. Even when this happens, however, many businesses continue to treat ESG as something that needs to be adhered to and left for the operations department instead of understanding it as something that must be dealt with by the board of directors. By doing this they forget that the matter of climate risk, carbon markets, sus-

tainable finance, resource management, and long-term sustainability is decided at the level of the board. Therefore, having ESG experts on the board should not be viewed as a trend but as a necessary investment in the ability to remain competitive, in good decision-making, and to create sustainable value.

For Pakistan, achieving this transformation offers both a risk and an opportunity. The export-oriented sectors are increasingly put under pressure to respect sustainability standards and banks, investors, and development partners are gradually embracing the ESG framework in their financing. Global markets are getting more carbon-sensitive, which means that companies that rely only on traditional management techniques may begin to struggle with competitiveness. Pakistan's firms need directors with the knowledge of industrial de-carbonization, climate finance, ESG reporting, carbon accounting, principles of the circular economy, and sustainable investment methods. Such knowledge will allow companies to predict and adapt to the upcoming regulations, discover the opportunities, minimize operational risks, and improve their positions in the international markets.

Nonetheless, effective leadership in isolation is not sufficient. Businesses - particularly small to medium enterprises - generally don't have the necessary technical abilities to effectively convert their sustainability goals into action. This is where Pakistan must come up with a completely new idea: Sustainability Clinics. These clinics could be located inside universities, chambers of commerce, industry associations, and even major businesses, thereby becoming the centres for practical solutions and innovations. Most importantly, Sustainability Clinics would not act as monitoring bodies, but rather help businesses assess their carbon footprints, develop ESG reports, find funding opportunities, and grow their energy effectiveness, as well as help businesses to develop the decarbonization plans and understand changing requirements of international standards. They would also provide training, technical support and consulting for companies.

Sustainability Clinics would, therefore, help businesses to adopt sustainability into their operations as easily as possible as well.

The effect of the integration of ESG knowledge within the boardrooms and Sustainability Clinics may go well beyond sustainability. Organizations will increase their operating efficiency, lower energy expenses, reinforce management effectiveness, attract ethical investments, and facilitate the access to green financing. Above all, the organizations will be more capable to withstand risks related to climate change, choice of consumers, and trade policies. For Pakistan specifically, when industrial competitiveness is increasingly linked to sustainability, this approach may help increase exports, promote innovation, create green jobs, and make local companies preferred partners in international supply chains. Sustainability should not be perceived as a cost or duty but should be regarded as an important factor of productivity.

Pakistan keeps on proving its priorities regarding sustainable development merely because resources are insufficient and due to the bottleneck issues caused by climate changes. The next logical step is to increase the efficiency of institutions enabling commercial companies to go through this transformation. It is essential for all boards to include an ESG expert responsible for the development of a long-term strategy and for providing every company with the possibility to access a Sustainability Clinic that will make complex sustainability requirements available in a commercial format. Together these two suggestions do not only represent good principles of corporate governance but a new vision of sustainable economic development. Those companies that will be pivotal in the future are not the ones with a strong balance sheet but the companies that are aware that sustainability development can be a source of innovation and competitive advantage. The next corporate revolution will not be based solely on technology but on the combined effect of managerial excellency, ESG expertise, and existence of Sustainability Clinics.



What if Israel breaks the ceasefire?

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire during talks with American, Turkish, Qatari, and Egyptian mediators. The first phase involves Israel stopping the bombing and withdrawing from Gaza to an agreed line. Hamas, in turn, will return all hostages within 72 hours of the agreement. The question we must ask ourselves now is what prevents Israel from resuming its bombing campaign once the hostages are returned? And what can Arab and Islamic countries do to prevent such a scenario, which some might say is probable? From the Hamas point of view, the hostages are the only card the group holds that provides leverage over Israel. It is also important to note that two years of war has greatly weakened the group. However, the situation on the ground pushed everyone to converge on US President Donald Trump's plan; Gaza was undergoing a genocide, people were starving, and an immediate solution was needed. There is little reason to believe that the ceasefire will successfully progress to the next phase, however. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needed to accept the ceasefire because the pressure on his government was increasing, not only internationally but domestically as well, with the plight of the hostages providing fuel for opposition parties. However, we should not forget that during the past two ceasefire agreements, Israel recovered some of the hostages and then resumed its genocide.

We have also to remember that once the war ends, Netanyahu will face accountability. There has been no proper investigation into the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks. Some news outlets have recently alleged that forces surrounding Gaza were ordered to stand down at the time. If this is true, and if Netanyahu really allowed all this to help him avoid his own domestic woes, what will happen to him?

In addition to the potential repercussions of Oct. 7 there is the matter of the corruption charges he faces. There is also the issue of his fragile coalition government, which is torn between those who believe that

Orthodox Jews, who currently are exempt from the national military service most Israelis are obliged to complete, should be conscripted and those who believe they should not. The war pushes all such issues into the background. Once he gets the hostages back, scoring a point against the opposition and appeasing the Israeli public, will he resume the war in Gaza? Maybe. Maybe he will return to pounding the territory. Or maybe he will open another front in the West Bank. Or Lebanon. Or Iran.

Whatever might happen, the most important thing right now is to make sure the ceasefire holds in Gaza, and to that end Trump is expected to maintain the pressure on Netanyahu to move beyond the first part of the agreement. When Trump was asked about this, he said the most important issue was to get the hostages home, and "then we will see." This, however, prompted a sense of déjà vu; ceasefire agreements in November 2023 and January 2025 proved to be short-lived. In addition, pressure is not equivalent to guarantees. Israel can apply counterpressure to the US. It has a powerful political lobby working at full steam. This raises the question of what should Arab and Islamic countries be doing? What is their Plan B? What kind of pressure can they exert on Israel to ensure Netanyahu does not stray from the ceasefire?

Türkiye has already said it will send forces to monitor the early stages of the truce. However, there are still no details about subsequent phases. Arabs and Muslims should heed the advice of Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who in a speech to the UN General Assembly last month, called for the creation of an international force in Gaza through the General Assembly Resolution 377, also known as the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. Israel should be made aware that if it does not comply with the peace plan and withdraw from Gaza, Arab and Islamic countries will push for action under Resolution 377, which potentially can override the power of veto held by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council by taking a resolution to the General Assembly for a vote on collective measures, including the use of

armed force when necessary.

There might be pushback to the suggestion. Israel might react to such a threat with cynicism. United for Peace had been effective in the past when backed by a superpower, either the Soviet Union or the US. Here, Arab countries might allude to China, which seeks to play a bigger role in the Middle East and was the mediator and the security guarantor for the Saudi-Iran deal. Would the US like to see its allies increasingly warm to China? Not really. Empty threats will not work. Arab and Islamic countries need to start organizing.

Each country should engage with all states with which they have good relations and influence. The message must be clear: If Israel does not fully commit to the ceasefire there will be repercussions.

The pressure should not end with the ceasefire agreement; it should continue on the issue of achieving a Palestinian state. All Western countries should be encouraged to follow the lead of Spain, and others, that have clearly called for recognition of a Palestinian state and efforts to advance a two-state solution to the wider conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, with Gaza connected to the West Bank and free access to shipping through Gaza's port.

The international popular pressure should not let up. It is as a result of popular protests that many Western countries began to put pressure on Israel to end the war in Gaza. As deliveries of aid are stepped up, humanitarian and other nongovernmental organizations, and the media, should be granted free access to the territory. The more reporting there is of the destruction, the state of famine and the condition of the Gazan people, the more pressure there will be on Western governments to compel Israel to maintain the ceasefire.

There should also be a clear, well-defined strategy for the ongoing ceasefire. The Arab and Islamic countries that mediated it should lead this effort. Unless Israel believes there will be dire repercussions for breaking the ceasefire, it is likely to be as short-lived as the November 2023 and January 2025 ones.

— Arab News

Two years of sheer hell, and it is not finished

YOSSI MEKELBERG

At last, negotiators in Sharm El-Sheikh have agreed an end to this period of the most horrific bloodshed in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1948. Albeit it will only be a long haul toward a return to normality. Yet aside from indulging in some cautious optimism, it is perhaps also time for some initial reflection within both societies. How did they get into such a catastrophic nightmare? Benjamin Netanyahu's recent triumphalist speeches and statements, often utterly contradictory, are the legacy of his long, much too long, time as Israeli prime minister. It is a legacy that will take years to overcome and rectify, not only for the Palestinians and others in the region, but also for Israel and its own people. Netanyahu's premiership is not over yet but is nearing its end; it is just a matter of time, and how much more damage he is prepared to inflict on everything and everyone within his orbit, until he exits the political stage for good. If anything should have hastened the end of his career, it was the utter failure to anticipate and prevent the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, and his reported paralysis for the first few days that followed it as he realized that the greatest security failure in Israel's history had taken place on his watch. But neither he nor his lieutenants in this worst-ever government in Israeli history have been of a mind even to acknowledge their colossal failure, never mind apologize for it, do the decent thing by resigning, and subject themselves to the judgment of the people by calling a general election and establishing an independent inquiry into Oct. 7. At no previous point in Israel's history has the nation been so internally divided and so internationally isolated, as it stands accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It will take more than a single general election to rectify the damage caused by the increasingly reckless actions of this sixth Netanyahu government. It began its term in office by legitimizing the most abhorrent elements in Israeli politics, the ultranationalist-messianic groupings, resulting in an unabated attack on the very foundations of Israeli democracy. Moreover, to appease the settler elements in his government, the prime minister allowed settlements to expand and settler violence to run rampant with impunity.

This government has left Israeli society divided, battling not external enemies but those who are trying to destroy the soul of the country from within. It has also delivered to Israel's enemies a message of weakness, mixed with no hope for ending the occupation of Palestinian land, which proved to be a lethal combination. The events of Oct. 7 were horrific and inexcusable but they cannot justify, in any shape or form, Israel's appalling response. Great leaders bring out the best in their societies and make them better places to live. Populist leaders of Netanyahu's breed exploit the weaknesses, fears, and prejudice among their own people to

create the worst possible version of their societies, thereby allowing them to control the narrative even as, in the case of the Israeli prime minister, the narrative keeps changing to suit personal needs. Unsurprisingly, the attack by Hamas traumatized Israelis, and some kind of response to it was inevitable and justified. But nothing can justify the nature of a response that has left more than 67,000 people dead, most of them civilians and many of them children, and a territory of scorched earth, razed to the ground. The war in Gaza has raged for two years, not out of any strategic considerations but to ensure Netanyahu's political survival and prevent his corruption trial from concluding. In pursuit of this goal he has been prepared to prolong the war indefinitely, sacrificing the hostages and his soldiers, and ensuring that the self-proclaimed notion of the Israeli military the "most moral army in the world" rings more hollow than ever.

This has all been said many times

As traumatic as Oct. 7 was, the Israeli loss of empathy for the plight of civilians in Gaza necessitates profound soul-searching. Instead of blaming the entire population of the territory for being complicit in the terrible events of that day, Israelis need to ask themselves this: How did their own country, which previously enjoyed heartfelt support from so many governments and ordinary people across the world, come to stretch the patience of its friends and allies to the very limit?

before, but when the war comes to an end, the question for Israelis will be how they will climb out of the deep, dark abyss. There is no magic formula for this, but part of the necessary soul searching must be to admit that there are trends within Israeli society that have weakened it as a liberal democracy, and that there has always been a tension, though not one that could not be resolved, between the concepts of being Jewish and being democratic. The occupation of Palestinian land and depriv-

ing its people of their political and human rights has not yet eroded the idea of what Israel aspires to be. But the occupation and the daily oppression of Palestinians has led to the country being held captive by a small group of settlers: messianic, delusional extremists with autocratic tendencies who believe the answer to all security challenges lies in the use of force and force alone. The resultant conditions of constant insecurity have been exploited by a populist-opportunistic leader who has presented himself as a savior.

As an initial part of the healing and reflection process, a state inquiry into the failures of Oct. 7 must be established. It must have the power to investigate all aspects of the events leading up to that disastrous day, and everything that followed, including all ministerial decisions. It must not tolerate any cover ups. Only when this groundwork allows the truth to emerge can Israel also begin to start asking itself how it allowed a government of extremists and incompetents to lead it into a war that was more about revenge and the political survival of a ruling coalition, than ensuring the failures of Oct. 7 can never happen again.

Whatever the events that led up to that day, they cannot serve even as a pretext, let alone an excuse, for the massacre that took place that morning. But equally, the events of that day can never serve as an excuse for what the Israeli military subsequently did in Gaza: the killings, the destruction, the multiple displacements, and the deliberately inflicted famine.

As traumatic as Oct. 7 was, the Israeli loss of empathy for the plight of civilians in Gaza necessitates profound soul-searching. Instead of blaming the entire population of the territory for being complicit in the terrible events of that day, Israelis need to ask themselves this: How did their own country, which previously enjoyed heartfelt support from so many governments and ordinary people across the world, come to stretch the patience of its friends and allies to the very limit?

Times of deep crisis also present opportunities. In this case, it could be a chance to define, or maybe redefine, what kind of country Israel wants to be. Does it wish to be one that lives eternally by the sword, as Netanyahu and his messianic partners would prefer, and continues to violate the rights of other people on an industrial scale? Or one that is prepared to embark on a genuine, if extremely difficult, path toward peace and reconciliation that will ultimately result in coexistence as equals?

Peace with the Palestinians is not a matter of doing them a favor. It is not only a moral imperative, it is also in the best interests of Israel itself. Putting more than 100 years of conflict and bloodshed behind them will enable both societies to define who they are and what their destiny should be. These are questions that for far too long have been mainly defined by conflict and bloodshed.

— Arab News

PM’s ‘Dead Horses’ Remark on Agri Research Rejected; PTI Says Pakistani Scientists Are Powering Australian, NZ Agriculture

Failed Policies Forced Top Agricultural Scientists Built Others’ Agriculture, Not Ours’

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers Wing has strongly reacted to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s remarks reported by a section of national press, describing Pakistan’s agricultural & livestock research centres as “dead horses”, saying that the robust and internationally acclaimed agricultural economies of Australia and New Zealand have greatly benefited from the expertise of Pakistani agricultural scientists who chosen to leave their homeland in search of better opportunities, professional recognition and better environment for research facilities.

Commenting on the Prime Minister’s statement on Thursday, PTI Farmers Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich termed the remarks deeply regrettable and reflective of a complete disconnect from the realities confronting Pakistan’s agricultural research sector.

He said our policy makers should look at neighboring countries such as India, China, Bangladesh and others, where up to 20 per cent of annual agricultural budgets are allocated to research and innovation. In contrast, Pakistan allocates only around 5 to 8 per cent of its agricultural budget, primarily for irrigation and subsidies, while investment in agricultural research has remained stagnant for years. “It is unfortunate to neglect the scientific research and then label the institutions as ‘dead horses,’” he said, adding that the Prime Minister should also explain who was responsible for reducing these institutions to their present condition and what factors had contributed to their decline.

Sadhraich recalled that only a few decades ago, Pakistan’s agricultural research institutions and scientists were recognized among the world’s finest, playing a pioneering role in developing and introducing modern agricultural technologies, particularly zero-tillage farming. Owing to their exceptional competence, countries including Australia, New Zealand and China offered Pakistani researchers attractive incentives, world-class research facilities and professional opportunities, successfully recruiting many of the country’s brightest scientific minds.

He said Pakistani agricultural scientists are now making significant contributions to the advancement of agriculture and livestock in Australia and New Zealand through collaborative research programmes, universities and organizations such as the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Their work has led to major breakthroughs in climate-resilient agriculture, crop bio fortification, livestock management and sustainable soil health. He questioned why such highly qualified experts were unable to continue serving Pakistan and what institutional and policy failures had driven them abroad. He said that during the tenure of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, meaningful progress had been made towards revitalizing the agricultural sector, noting that Khan personally visited farms, interacted with farmers and took a keen interest in addressing their challenges.

He further recalled that, until a few decades ago, agricultural research institutions regularly organized workshops, training sessions and Farmers Field Schools through National Rural Support Programme and Punjab Rural

Support Programme, where farmers were introduced to modern farming practices and emerging agricultural & livestock technologies.

However, he said that since the present ruling political parties made the pursuit of political power their overriding priority, institutional decline had accelerated across the country, extending far beyond agricultural research organizations.

Highlighting the strategic importance of agriculture, Sadhraich said the sector contributes around 24 per cent to Pakistan’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides direct or indirect employment to more than 60 per cent of the country’s youth. Despite agriculture accounting for only a single-digit share of GDP in countries such as India and China, those nations allocate three to four times more funding to agricultural research than Pakistan.

“There was a time when Pakistani scientists contributed to the advancement of Chinese agriculture. Today, the Prime Minister is talking about sending Pakistani youth to China for agricultural & livestock training. This reflects the extent of our national decline,” he remarked.

Sadhraich demanded the immediate formulation of an active, farmer-friendly agricultural policy, calling for substantial investment in agricultural research institutions through competitive salaries, modern facilities and adequate financial resources for researchers.

He expressed confidence that if Pakistan’s agricultural scientists were provided with the support and environment they need, they possess the capability to once again place the country among the world’s leading nations in agricultural and livestock innovation and scientific excellence.

Open House Highlights Student Innovation, Industry Partnerships, and Emerging Talent for the Future at National University of Technology (NUTECH)



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- NUTECH has successfully organized its Open House, showcasing a remarkable display of innovation, research, and technological excellence. The event brought together students, industry leaders, CEOs of prominent organizations, and distinguished guests on a common platform to witness the creativity, skills, and problem-solving capabilities of NUTECH students. The Open House featured a diverse range of final-year projects developed by students across various disciplines, reflecting practical solutions, emerging technologies, and research-driven

approaches aligned with contemporary industry demands. The event provided an opportunity for industry representatives to engage with young innovators, explore potential collaborations, and identify promising talent.

The ceremony was graced by Mr. Wahaj Siraj, CEO of Nayatel Pvt. Limited, as the Chief Guest, Mr. Numan Faruq, Vice President of JAZZ Enterprise, as the Guest of Honour, and Mr. Zamurrad Khan, CEO of Pakistan Sweet Home, as the Special Guest. CEOs and senior executives from leading organizations also participated in the event, underscoring the growing partner-

ship between academia and industry.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Wahaj Siraj encouraged students to embrace critical thinking, innovation, and perseverance while utilizing their skills with a positive mindset. Mr. Numan Faruq commended NUTECH’s efforts in bridging the gap between academia and industry through practical, market-oriented education.

The successful Open House reaffirmed NUTECH’s commitment to nurturing industry-ready professionals, encouraging entrepreneurship, and contributing to Pakistan’s technological and economic progress.

Maryam Nawaz Assures Resolution of Public Issues; More Electric Buses Planned for Mandi Bahauddin

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BHAHAUDDIN-- Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with MPAs Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood Ranjha and Chaudhry Akhtar Abbas Bosal to discuss public issues, the political situation, and development projects in Mandi Bahauddin.

The lawmakers highlighted the needs of people in PP-42 and PP-43, and the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to resolve the issues on a priority basis.

The MPAs appreciated the launch of the electric bus service in Mandi Bahauddin and praised the Punjab government’s development initiatives. Maryam Nawaz said more



electric buses would be introduced in other districts, including Mandi Bahauddin, and highlighted major projects such as Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar, Safe City, Clean Punjab, and the expansion of Punjab’s road net-

work. Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood Ranjha said new green bus routes will be launched after the arrival of additional electric buses, providing affordable and modern transport facilities to the people.

Digital Trade Essential for Export Growth, Says Tahir Ayub

BY: Hurish Shah :

ISLAMABAD--- Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Tahir Ayub, said digital trade is no longer an option but a necessity for business growth, export diversification and global competitiveness. He urged Pakistani entrepreneurs and SMEs to adopt e-commerce platforms to access international markets.

Addressing a Sellers Onboarding Session organized by ICCI in collaboration with Alibaba.com Pakistan, he said businesses embracing digital technologies would strengthen exports, create jobs and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Representatives of Alibaba.com Pakistan briefed participants on the platform’s ecosystem, seller onboarding process and strategies for reach-



ing global buyers through digital B2B commerce.

ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment to promoting exports and digital transformation through

partnerships with national and international organizations. The session, moderated by Aizaz Mohammad, was attended by a large number of entrepreneurs and ICCI members.

Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich Rejects PM’s ‘Dead Horses’ Remark, Says Pakistani Scientists Power Australian, NZ Agriculture

BY: FT Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD---- PTI Farmers Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich has strongly rejected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s reported remarks describing Pakistan’s agricultural and livestock research centres as “dead horses,” saying the country’s top agricultural scientists are helping strengthen the agriculture sectors of Australia and New Zealand after leaving Pakistan due to poor policies and inadequate research support.

Sadhraich said Pakistan’s agricultural research institutions have suffered from years of neglect and



underfunding, forcing talented sci-

entists to seek better opportunities abroad. He noted that Pakistani experts are making significant contributions in climate-resilient agriculture, livestock management and sustainable farming through leading international research organizations. He urged the government to adopt a farmer-friendly agricultural policy, substantially increase investment in research institutions, provide competitive salaries and modern facilities, and create an environment that enables Pakistani scientists to contribute to the country’s agricultural development. He said that with proper support, Pakistan could once again emerge as a leader in agricultural and livestock innovation.



Parliamentary Secretary Information & Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry addressing Workers Convention alongside Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and MNA Tahira Aurangzeb in Rawalpindi.

PMYP, OPGF join hands to empower youth, overseas Pakistanis

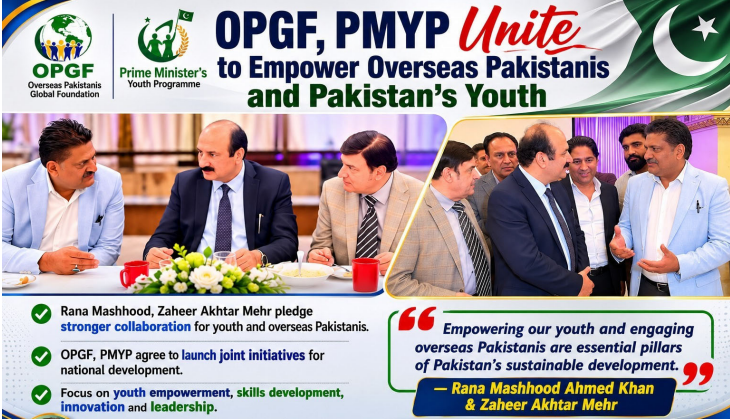
APP- ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister’s Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Overseas Pakistanis Global Foundation (OPGF) have agreed to strengthen cooperation to empower Pakistan’s youth and deepen engagement with overseas Pakistanis through joint initiatives in entrepreneurship, skills development, digital innovation, and diaspora engagement.

According to a press release received here Thursday from the Overseas Pakistanis Global Foundation in New York, the understanding was reached during a meeting in New York between PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and OPGF Chairman Zaheer Akhtar Mehr. Both sides discussed expanding collaboration to promote national development and create new opportunities for young Pakistanis at home and abroad.

Welcoming the OPGF delegation, Mashhood described overseas Pakistanis as one of the country’s greatest national assets, making remarkable contributions through remittances, investment, knowledge transfer, and professional expertise.

The OPGF delegation was led by Chairman Zaheer Akhtar Mehr and included General Secretary Mian Athar Hafeez and other senior office bearers.

Rana Mashhood said the government highly values the contribution



of overseas Pakistanis and remains committed to introducing policies that facilitate their active participation in Pakistan’s economic and social development.

He said the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme is implementing a comprehensive strategy to provide educational opportunities, technical and vocational training, entrepreneurship support, digital skills, and employment prospects for young Pakistanis. He added that empowering youth is essential for achieving sustainable economic growth and enhancing Pakistan’s competitiveness in the global economy.

The PMYP chairman emphasized that collaboration with organizations representing overseas

development, and employment opportunities.

The delegation invited Khakan Waheed Khawaja to visit Peshawar, and he accepted the invitation. He is expected to visit the city soon.