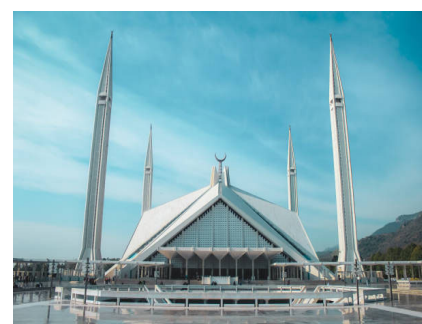




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Suspect arrested for promoting India-funded anti-Pakistan content: Tarar



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Security agencies arrested a suspect for running an India-linked digital disinformation network aimed at spreading anti-Pakistan propaganda through coordinated social media campaigns, said Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attullah Tarar on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the information minister said that the person, who was arrested some time ago, was offering digital marketing services, adding that investigations revealed that the digital services provided by the suspect had links with India.

He said that payments for pro-

moting anti-Pakistan content on social media were made from India, Radio Pakistan reported.

The minister further said the investigation uncovered a network of bot farms being used to spread misinformation and amplify content targeting Pakistan, its sovereignty, the government, the armed forces, and state institutions. Tarar said the suspect disclosed during interrogation that a significant portion of the content he received was related to the activities of the proscribed Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Azad Kashmir.

The information minister said that the probe exposed the banned JAAC's nexus with India.

He said the banned JAAC had been working to undermine the Kashmir cause and weaken the relationship between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan. Tarar further said the committee had no connection with the interests of the Kashmiri people or the Kashmir cause, adding that if its members were sincere, they should participate in the democratic process by contesting elections. The information minister said violent protests by the group resulted in the martyrdom of Kashmiri police personnel and created a law and order situation in AJK. He added that the group's activities have links with India and that the government possessed irrefutable evidence in this

regard. Tarar said the people of Kashmir have rejected the politics of violence and conspiracy, demonstrating that the relationship between Pakistan and Kashmir can neither be broken nor weakened. He said investigations into the arrested suspect were continuing and stressed that countering misinformation is the government's responsibility. The minister highlighted that Pakistan remains a strong advocate of global peace and, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, the country's dignity and international standing have been further enhanced.

Federal, Balochistan govts vow stronger coordination to eliminate terrorism



ANI

QUETTA/ISLAMABAD: The federal and Balochistan governments on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening security coordination, accelerating the implementation of a comprehensive peace strategy and ensuring that the writ of the state is enforced across the province, declaring that there would be "no space for terrorists" in Balochistan. The pledge was made during a high-level law and order meeting co-chaired by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in Quetta. The meeting reviewed the province's overall security situation, ongoing counterterrorism operations and future measures aimed at restoring lasting peace and stability.

Chief Minister Bugti briefed participants on the security environment, progress on ongoing operations and the provincial government's roadmap for tackling security challenges. The meeting decided to further enhance the professional capacity of Balochistan Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) and the provincial police, while expediting previously approved reforms to strengthen the police force. The interior ministry assured the provincial government of its full support in providing the resources required to improve Balochistan's security infrastructure and law enforcement capabilities.

Speaking at the meeting, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the federal government would continue extending

every possible assistance to ensure sustainable peace in the province. He stressed that the immediate and effective implementation of peace restoration master plan was the need of the hour and called for incorporating the experience and expertise of former Balochistan police chiefs into the province's security strategy. Naqvi stated that modern technology, enhanced intelligence gathering and a coordinated operational approach were essential to defeating terrorism. He said the federal and provincial governments were moving forward with complete unity and close coordination to confront evolving security threats.

Chief Minister Bugti reiterated the provincial government's resolve to stay ahead of terrorist elements on every front, stating that no pressure would deter the state's campaign against terrorism. "The writ of the state will be established at all costs, and no place will be left for terrorists in Balochistan," he said.

The chief minister also highlighted the government's focus on engaging young people through education, skills development, employment opportunities and constructive activities. He said promoting merit-based opportunities was critical to restoring confidence of youth and ensuring equal prospects for their future.

Bugti added that peace, development and prosperity were closely linked and pledged that the provincial government, with continued federal support, would simultaneously advance security measures and accelerate the implementation of development projects across Balochistan.

AJK EC warns of action if federal, provincial resources used in polls



ANI

ISLAMABAD/MIRPUR: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission has indicated strict action against violations of the election code of conduct. A spokesperson for the Election Commission clarified on Sunday that during the election campaign, any announcement of new development schemes, financial packages or public welfare projects is strictly prohibited. The spokesperson further stated that the use of official resources, machinery, vehicles or other equipment by federal or provincial governments for electoral purposes constitutes a clear violation of the code of conduct. According to the spokesperson, federal and provincial ministers are permitted to participate in the election campaign; however, they are not allowed to use official protocol, vehicles, resources or machinery during their activities. In case of any violation, vehicles, equipment or relief goods sent by the federal or provincial government may be seized and legal action will be initiated

against those found responsible.

The clarification comes days after Maryam Nawaz announced to provide 10 modern electric buses to AJK during an election rally in Muzaffarabad. Meanwhile, according to the PMLN, party's supremo Nawaz Sharif has delivered on his commitment as 10 electric buses gifted by the Punjab CM have arrived in AJK. The electric buses convoy was greeted by PMLN leaders, party workers and local residents. The fleet had departed from Islamabad a day earlier for Azad Kashmir. The buses were adorned with banners bearing Maryam Nawaz's photograph alongside a message describing them as a gift for the AJK people.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Secretary General Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari called on JK Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retired) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, and demanded immediate notice be taken of the matter. Bokhari urged the Election Commission to take action against, what he termed, a clear violation of the election code of conduct.

CJP terms judicial wellbeing essential to independent and effective justice system

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi has said that the wellbeing of judges is fundamental to judicial independence, institutional integrity and public confidence in the rule of law, emphasizing that a strong justice system depends not only on sound laws and institutions but also on the welfare of those entrusted with administering justice. In a message issued on the International Day for Judicial Wellbeing, the chief justice said judges shoulder immense responsibility, often under demanding circumstances, and must be supported by institutions that promote professional growth, modern working environments, effective administrative systems, and a culture of respect and recognition.

He said the judiciary of Pakistan remained committed to embedding these principles within its ongoing reform agenda. He noted



that continued investments in digital transformation, improved court infrastructure, institutional support and judicial education reflected the judiciary's belief that strength-

ening judges ultimately strengthens justice itself. Justice Yahya Afridi paid tribute to the dedication, integrity and resilience of judges across the country for administering justice with courage, professionalism and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

He paid special tribute to judges serving in remote and far-flung districts under difficult and challenging circumstances, saying their service exemplified the highest traditions of Pakistan's judiciary.

The chief justice said the observance of the International Day for Judicial Wellbeing should reaffirm the commitment to a judiciary that values both excellence in adjudication and the human dimension of justice.

He stressed that every judge deserves institutional support to serve with dignity, confidence and excellence, adding that strengthening judges ultimately strengthens justice itself.

Sindh will never be divided, says PPP minister

ANI

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah has dismissed speculation about the division of Sindh, saying such claims are not taken seriously and that the province will never be divided. Speaking alongside Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab at the inauguration of the Munawar Chowranghi Underpass in Karachi, Shah said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had carried out more development work in the city than any other government.

He said the PPP had constructed numerous underpasses and bridges across Karachi, adding that several marriage halls built on public playgrounds had been demolished under the city administration led by Mayor Wahab to restore public spaces. Rejecting claims that Karachi had become one of the world's worst cities, Shah said the city's continued population growth reflected its economic importance and attractiveness. "If Karachi were in such poor condition, people would not continue to move here," he said, describing the metropolis as a "Mini Pakistan" where citizens from all parts of the country are welcome to live and work.

Security forces kill 16 terrorists in Operation Al-Azm in Balochistan

ANI

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed 16 terrorists in ongoing intelligence-based operations under Operation Al-Azm in Balochistan, where multiple militant hideouts have also been destroyed and weapons and explosives recovered, security sources said on Sunday.

The intelligence-based operations have been launched in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the area. Earlier, security forces launched Operation Shaban after terrorists attacked the Mangi Dam Police Station. A district and sessions judge and his security guard were also killed after unidentified



fied armed men opened fire on their vehicle on the national highway in Mastung, while an additional sessions judge and another person sustained serious injuries. The sources said counterterrorism operations were continuing in several parts of the province,

including Killi Kundi Umrani, Khad Kocha and Mastung, where the group referred to by the state as Fitna al-Hindustan had suffered heavy losses. Fitna al-Hindustan is the term used by the state for terrorists belonging to the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and other militant groups operating in the province. According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple militant hideouts and ambush positions during the operation and recovered weapons and explosive material from the sites.

The sources added that operations would continue until terrorism is eliminated from Balochistan and peace and order are fully restored.

29 killed, 203 injured in Punjab monsoon rain-related incidents: PDMA

ANI

LAHORE: The Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has released its report on losses caused by this year's monsoon rains, reporting 29 deaths and 203 injuries in rain-related incidents across the province. The authority has also issued a fresh alert to the administration ahead of the third spell of monsoon rains. According to the PDMA report, most fatalities were caused by the collapse of mud and dilapidated houses, lightning strikes, and electrocution during the ongoing monsoon season. The report further stated that 52 houses sustained partial damage due to heavy rainfall, while six livestock animals were also killed. PDMA Director General has directed the district administration to



remain on high alert in view of the upcoming third spell of monsoon rains, warning of possible urban flooding and flash flooding in several areas. Authorities have been instructed to ensure preparedness and take precautionary measures to minimize risks.



Former Federal Minister and Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khawaja Saad Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Sherry Rehman Pays Tribute to President Asif Ali Zardari on His Birthday

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD— Vice President Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman, in her message on the birthday of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, praised his role in strengthening democracy and said that his services for the continuity of democratic institutions are commendable.

Senator Sherry Rehman said that President Zardari has struggled for the Constitution and democracy in every era and remained steadfast despite facing a long period of imprisonment.

She said that President Asif Ali



Zardari transferred presidential powers to Parliament, while the 18th Constitutional Amendment granted

greater autonomy to the provinces. She added that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was given its identity and the “Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan” package was introduced for the province of Balochistan.

Paying tribute to his political resilience, Sherry Rehman said that during the difficult period following the martyrdom of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, President Zardari raised the slogan of “Pakistan Khappay”. She said that under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan’s democratic journey continues. Senator Sherry Rehman also prayed for his good health, happiness, and success.

Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry Demand Immediate Anti-Dengue Spray in Islamabad, Urge Action Against Shopping Bag Factories

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran and Traders Action Committee Islamabad Ajmal Baloch, along with Secretary and Chairman Traders and Market Development Committee ICCI Khalid Chaudhry and General Secretary Aabpara Market Akhtar Abbasi, have demanded immediate anti-dengue spray across Islamabad, stating that the district administration has imposed fines worth crores of rupees on traders in the name of dengue prevention, but no effective

spraying campaign has been launched so far.

Ajmal Baloch and Khalid Chaudhry questioned whether dengue mosquitoes exist only in shops, saying that residential areas of Islamabad must also be included in the anti-dengue campaign.

They alleged that around 300 people were presented before a magistrate’s court last Sunday, but neither the magistrate nor the Assistant Commissioner was present. They further claimed that police officials collected Rs10,000 from each person without issuing receipts.

The traders’ leaders demanded that anti-dengue spray should be carried out in markets from where significant revenue is collected. They said that instead of raiding shops over shopping bags, action should be taken against the manufacturing factories producing such bags, as the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Ajmal Baloch appealed to Chief Commissioner Islamabad Sohail Ashraf to stop harassment of traders and ensure a fair and transparent system.

Economic Diplomacy Forum Honours Malaysian and Iraqi Consuls General at Farewell Breakfast in Karachi



BY: ANI Special Correspondent:

KARACHI-- The Economic Diplomacy Forum (EDF) hosted an exclusive farewell breakfast at Beach Luxury Hotel in honour of H.E. Mr. Herman Hardynata Ahmad, Consul General of Malaysia, and H.E. Dr. Maher Mjhid Jejan, Consul General of the Republic of Iraq, in recognition of their distinguished diplomatic services and significant contributions to strengthening Pakistan’s bilateral relations with their respective countries.

The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, including H.E. Hattori Masaru, Consul General of Japan; Mr. Feng Deheng, Acting Consul General of China; H.E. Sakib Sadakat, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh; as well as leading businessmen, industrialists and representatives of the business community.

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Muhammad Farooq Afzal, Founder

President of the Economic Diplomacy Forum, said the gathering had been intentionally kept small and personal to pay tribute to two distinguished diplomats whose efforts had strengthened friendship, economic cooperation and people-to-people ties between Pakistan, Malaysia and Iraq. He also acknowledged the continued support of both diplomatic missions in promoting trade, investment and mutual understanding.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Herman Hardynata Ahmad thanked the Economic Diplomacy Forum for the warm farewell and praised the hospitality extended to him during his tenure in Karachi. He expressed confidence that Malaysia and Pakistan would continue to expand cooperation in trade, investment, education, tourism and cultural exchanges.

H.E. Dr. Maher Mjhid Jejan also expressed gratitude to the Forum for organising the event and reaffirmed the longstanding brotherly relations

between Iraq and Pakistan. He stressed the importance of enhancing collaboration in trade, investment, education and cultural exchanges while extending his best wishes for stronger bilateral ties.

Mr. Rehan Hanif, President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), commended both outgoing Consuls General for their valuable role in promoting business cooperation and strengthening Pakistan’s relations with Malaysia and Iraq. He encouraged continued engagement between the diplomatic community and Pakistan’s private sector to further expand trade and investment opportunities.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Economic Diplomacy Forum presented Shields of Appreciation and Farewell Tribute to both Consuls General in recognition of their outstanding diplomatic services. Traditional Sindhii Ajraks and Sindhii Caps were also presented as symbols of Sindh’s rich cultural heritage and hospitality.

First Phase of AJK Legislative Assembly Elections: Polling Underway in 13 Constituencies of Mirpur Division

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MUZAFFARABAD--- The first phase of the general elections for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is being held today, July 27, 2026, with polling taking place in 13 constituencies of Mirpur Division.

The Election Commission of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has divided the elections into three phases due to security and administrative reasons. In the first phase, constituencies of Mirpur Division are included, while polling for Muzaffarabad Division and refugee seats will be held on August 2, and voting in Poonch Division will take place on August 10.

The constituencies included in the first phase are as follows:

- District Mirpur (4 Constituencies)
- LA-1 Mirpur-I: Dadyal
- LA-2 Mirpur-II: Chakswari / Islamgarh
- LA-3 Mirpur-III: New Mirpur City



LA-4 Mirpur-IV: Khari Sharif District Bhimber (3 Constituencies)

LA-5 Bhimber-I: Barnahni

LA-6 Bhimber-II: Samahni

LA-7 Bhimber-III: Bhimber City

District Kotli (6 Constituencies)

LA-8 Kotli-I: Raj Mahal

LA-9 Kotli-II: Fatehpur Thakiala (Nakyal)

LA-10 Kotli-III: Kotli City

LA-11 Kotli-IV: Sehnsa

LA-12 Kotli-V: Charhoi

LA-13 Kotli-VI: Khuiratta

The Election Commission has stated that special security arrangements have been made during all phases of the elections to ensure peaceful polling, transparency, and maintenance of law and order.

Tarihar Flood Protection Bund Damaged, Residents Demand Emergency Repairs

BY:GNM

SIBI— The flood protection bund of Tarihar area in Lehri has been severely damaged due to heavy rains and flood torrents, with several parts affected by erosion. A breach occurred in the bund following high-level flooding in the Lehri River, which local residents repaired on a self-help basis.

Residents said that despite the flood alert issued by the Balochistan government and PDMA, the Irrigation Department Sibi failed to take timely action, leaving the area vulnerable to floods.

They recalled that similar breaches occurred during the floods of 2010 and 2022, causing widespread destruction in Tarihar city. Residents claimed that funds allo-

cated for the bund’s rehabilitation after the 2022 floods were not properly utilized, forcing locals to carry out repairs themselves.

They urged the Commissioner Sibi Division, Deputy Commissioner Sibi, and concerned authorities to take immediate measures to restore the damaged bund and prevent any major disaster during the ongoing monsoon season.

Legend Cricket Group Mansehra Holds Uniform Distribution Ceremony, Announces Cricket Academy



BY: Naseer Anwar :

GARHI HABIBULLAH--- The Legend Cricket Group Mansehra organised a simple yet dignified ceremony to distribute uniforms among veteran cricketers and honour the newly elected Finance Secretary of the District Cricket Association Mansehra, Nazeer Gohar. More than 40 group members from across the district attended the event.

The ceremony was attended by prominent social figure Haji Ghulam Jilani as the chief guest, while Haji Wali Dad presided over the event.

The group’s Patron-in-Chief, retired Police Inspector Raja Aftab, hosted the gathering along with other local members.

Renowned Hindko poets Akhtar Zaman Akhtar and Noor Muhammad recited their poetry, receiving warm appreciation from the audience.

Addressing the gathering, Raja Aftab, Haji Wali Dad, Haji Ghulam Jilani, Nazeer Gohar, Group Administrator Sher Afzal Khan Afridi, Stage Secretary Muhammad Arshad, and other speakers highlighted the importance of sports

activities at every stage of life. They said that staying involved in sports promotes physical fitness while providing younger players with the opportunity to benefit from the experience and guidance of senior cricketers. During the ceremony, Patron-in-Chief Raja Aftab and senior journalist Naseer Anwar also announced the establishment of a Cricket Academy to promote local cricket talent. The announcement was warmly welcomed by the participants. The event concluded with a dinner hosted in honour of all participants.

Mangroves Vital for Coastal Protection, Sustainable Fisheries: Junaid Anwar

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Sunday highlighted the vital role of Pakistan’s mangroves in protecting the Arabian Sea coastline, sustaining fisheries and strengthening climate resilience.

In a statement issued on the eve of World Mangrove Day, he called for concerted efforts to protect and restore the country’s mangrove ecosystems and unlock their potential for the blue economy. The minister noted that Pakistan is home to the world’s largest arid-climate mangrove forest, concentrated in the Indus Delta in Sindh, with smaller patches in Balochistan.

He said Pakistan currently ranks around seventh globally in mangrove forest area and could move to fourth or fifth place through sustained restoration efforts. Junaid Chaudhry said mangroves act as a natural shield against shoreline erosion, flooding and storm surges while protect-



ing coastal communities, ports and marine biodiversity. He warned that degradation of these ecosystems threatens food security and the livelihoods of fishing communities, as mangroves serve as breeding and nursery grounds for fish, shrimp, crabs and other species that support fisheries and emerging aquaculture. He estimated that Pakistan’s mangrove carbon market could generate \$20–50 million annually, depending on carbon-credit prices and volumes. The minister said Balochistan’s roughly 4,058 hectares of mangroves could also contribute to national carbon-market

initiatives. He added that mangroves can sequester roughly four times more carbon than terrestrial forests.

Acknowledging past degradation caused by encroachments, pollution and reduced Indus flows, Junaid Chaudhry outlined rehabilitation efforts by the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and provincial authorities.

He said KPT had recovered mangrove areas from squatters, launched afforestation drives along Mai Kolachi Road and nearby coastal areas, and organised weekly clean-ups. KPT had also appointed environmental activist Almas Kasmani as its ambassador for coastal mangrove restoration. The minister said she had already restored 4,000 mangrove plants and set a target of planting another 100,000. The minister called for greater public awareness, stricter enforcement against encroachment and increased public-private investment in blue economy initiatives, urging stakeholders to turn commitments into action as Pakistan marks World Mangrove Day.

Citizen Facilitation Center Issues 2,226 Documents in One Week

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has reported continued delivery of public services through its Citizen Facilitation Center, where 2,226 documents and certificates were issued over the past week. The weekly performance report showed that the center processed 604 international driving permits, 859 domiciles, 204 character certificates, 149 birth certificates, and 207 MRCs and DRCs, reflecting the range of services available to residents under one roof.

According to the district administration, the Citizen Facilitation Center has been established to provide multiple public services at a single location, reducing the need for residents to visit different offices for routine documentation and certification requirements. The weekly report revealed that 604 international driving permits were issued during the reporting period. In addition, 204 character certificates were provided to applicants, while 859 domicile certificates were

processed and delivered. The center also issued 149 birth certificates during the week. Another 207 cases related to Marriage Registration Certificates (MRCs) and Death Registration Certificates (DRCs) were completed and handed over to citizens. The report further stated that 47 surety bond cases were processed during the same period. Meanwhile, officials handled 156 document attestation cases, enabling applicants to obtain verification of important records through the facility.

District administration officials said the center continues to provide a broad range of services under one roof, helping residents complete official procedures through a centralized system. The administration noted that the facility has been equipped with modern service infrastructure to support efficient public service delivery. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon said that citizens visiting the center are being provided access to various government services at a single location.

Director IT orders software upgrades across Islamabad Police offices

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Director Information Technology (IT) Atif Abbas chaired a meeting to review the performance of digital systems and directed the early completion of software upgradation and system improvement initiatives across Islamabad Police offices.

A police official told APP on Monday that the meeting reviewed the functioning of software applications currently being used in various police offices and discussed measures to enhance their efficiency and reliability.

Atif Abbas directed the officers concerned to expedite the renewal and upgradation of software, improve the overall performance of IT systems and ensure the timely completion of assigned targets. He emphasized that modern, reliable and efficient digital systems are essential for improving administrative performance, strengthening service delivery and enhancing the overall operational efficiency of Islamabad Police.

ICT Police crack down on illegal shisha cafés, Spa centre; 21 held

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested 21 suspects during a major crackdown on illegal shisha cafés and spa centres operating in a private housing society on the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi.

An official told APP on Sunday that the operation was carried out by Lohi Bher Police under the supervision of SHO

Muhammad Yousaf Jutt as part of the ongoing drive against illegal businesses and immoral activities. During the raid on a shisha café, police arrested 15 individuals and recovered eight shisha units, shisha pipes and various tobacco flavours. The recovered items were taken into custody and legal proceedings were initiated. In the same crackdown, police also raided several spa centres in the private housing society and arrested six men and women allegedly involved in immoral activities.

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Opinion

3

The Arctic remains a zone of sustained competition

LUKE COFFEY

US President Donald Trump’s recent statements about the need to acquire Greenland caused considerable division within the transatlantic community. Fortunately, these tensions appear to have been resolved for now. One positive consequence of the Greenland debate, however, has been to elevate the strategic importance of the Arctic region on the international agenda.

The Arctic region is home to some of the harshest terrain and environmental conditions on Earth. There are eight countries that can call themselves Arctic states: the US, Canada, Denmark via Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Many more countries are now seeking to expand their influence in the region. The region is important for scientific, environmental, trade, transit, and energy reasons. Tourism has also been growing, boosting local economic activity. The region is widely believed to contain vast amounts of untapped oil and gas reserves, along with significant quantities of rare earth minerals. The challenge lies

in finding ways to access and extract these resources that are both economically viable and environmentally responsible. This is made even more difficult by the lack of infrastructure and limited logistical connectivity.

The Arctic Council, an intergovernmental body led by the eight Arctic states, was established to promote cooperation on issues such as search and rescue coordination, environmental protection, and scientific research. However, the council has all but stopped functioning since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, severely limiting one of the few institutional mechanisms for Arctic-wide cooperation.

For the US, it is clear that the Trump administration views the Arctic primarily through the lens of great power competition. The US became an Arctic state in the 1860s with the purchase of Alaska from Russia. What was widely seen at the time as a mistake has since proven to be one of the most strategic decisions made in the post-Civil War era. Despite the rhetoric from multiple Washington administrations, however, relatively little emphasis has been placed on

improving American capabilities or presence in the Arctic. For example, the US Coast Guard currently operates only one heavy icebreaker there.

So far in his first year in office, Trump has placed renewed focus on the region, including moving forward with a significant purchase of new icebreakers in cooperation with Finland. Even during the first Trump administration, the US role in the Arctic was framed largely in the context of great-power competition, particularly in relation to China. There is little reason to assume the second Trump administration will approach the region any differently.

Russia is the world’s largest Arctic state, with roughly half the world’s Arctic coastline located within the Russian Federation. For Moscow, the Arctic has long been a source of national pride and identity, dating back to the era of Peter the Great. After many Arctic bases and military facilities were shuttered at the end of the Cold War, President Vladimir Putin has invested heavily in reopening, modernizing, and expanding these installations. In recent years,

Russia has also fielded specialized military units designed to operate in extreme Arctic conditions.

Moscow also views the Northern Sea Route, the shipping corridor between Europe and Asia that runs along its Arctic coastline, as both geopolitically and economically significant. Russia has invested substantially in infrastructure along this route in an effort to attract more commercial shipping between European and Asian markets. However, many of Russia’s ambitious cargo-volume targets have not been met, and it remains unclear whether the route will become as commercially viable as Russian officials hope. For China, the Arctic represents yet another region where Beijing seeks to expand its global influence. Although China is not an Arctic country, it has declared itself a “near-Arctic state,” despite being roughly 1,200 km from the Arctic Circle at its closest point. Beijing has leveraged international institutions such as the Arctic Council to expand its presence in the region and has taken advantage of Russia’s growing isolation from the West to deepen Arctic coopera-

tion with Moscow, often in ways that disproportionately benefit China.

China has tried to pursue investments in key Arctic infrastructure projects, including some located in NATO members, and maintains a small, but strategically significant, scientific outpost in Norway’s Svalbard archipelago. While China has not conducted overt military activity above the Arctic Circle, it has sent numerous scientific missions, research vessels, and icebreakers to the region – assets that could serve dual civilian and military purposes. In the years ahead, China can be expected to seek an even greater role in the Arctic. Meanwhile, it has not always been clear to Europeans, beyond those countries that are Arctic states, what role the rest of the Continent should play in the region. While the EU as an institution holds policy competencies over many issues that directly affect the Arctic, member states that are Arctic countries have largely kept decision-making at the national level. In fact, the EU has attempted multiple times to join the Arctic Council as an observer, only to be blocked.

—Arab News

Fragile consensus as Africa heads to the polls

HAFED AL-GHWELL

Africa enters 2026 with elections scheduled in more than a dozen countries and with voter rolls that now exceed 600 million people across the continent. Elections have become the most common ritual of political life in Africa, more frequent than coups, civil wars, or constitutional rewrites. Yet frequency has not produced comfort. Voting has turned into a dual-use instrument: a tool for peaceful transfer of power in a minority of cases, and a method for laundering political capture in many others. It is a contradiction that now sits at the heart of what this year is likely to bring. Uganda offers a useful example. Yoweri Museveni, the country’s president, secured another term, extending a rule that began in 1986. Official results awarded him almost three-quarters of the vote, despite urban districts breaking heavily for the opposition and youth unemployment hovering around 60 percent. Turnout slipped below 60 percent as security forces ring-fenced the process, curtailed opposition rallies, and intermittently restricted digital platforms. Uganda demonstrated how elections now function in many entrenched systems: a choreographed exercise that delivers continuity while preserving the appearance of democracy.

Similar dynamics will likely shape several of the other headline contests this year. First, Benin is often cited as a reform success story of the 1990s. Today, it offers a perfect illustration of the “buy-in paradox.” President Patrice Talon is constitutionally barred from a third term, but the political field has been narrowed to the point where succession remains a controlled affair. Electoral laws passed since 2019 require parties to meet high national thresholds before fielding candidates, a rule that has sidelined most opposition groups. Parliamentary races since then have produced legislatures with over 80 percent pro-government seats.

Yet voters are still asked to participate, foreign observers invited, and results tabulated in public view. Opposition leaders face a puzzle: boycott and concede legitimacy or compete and validate a contest structured against them. Many will choose the latter, because absence guarantees irrelevance.

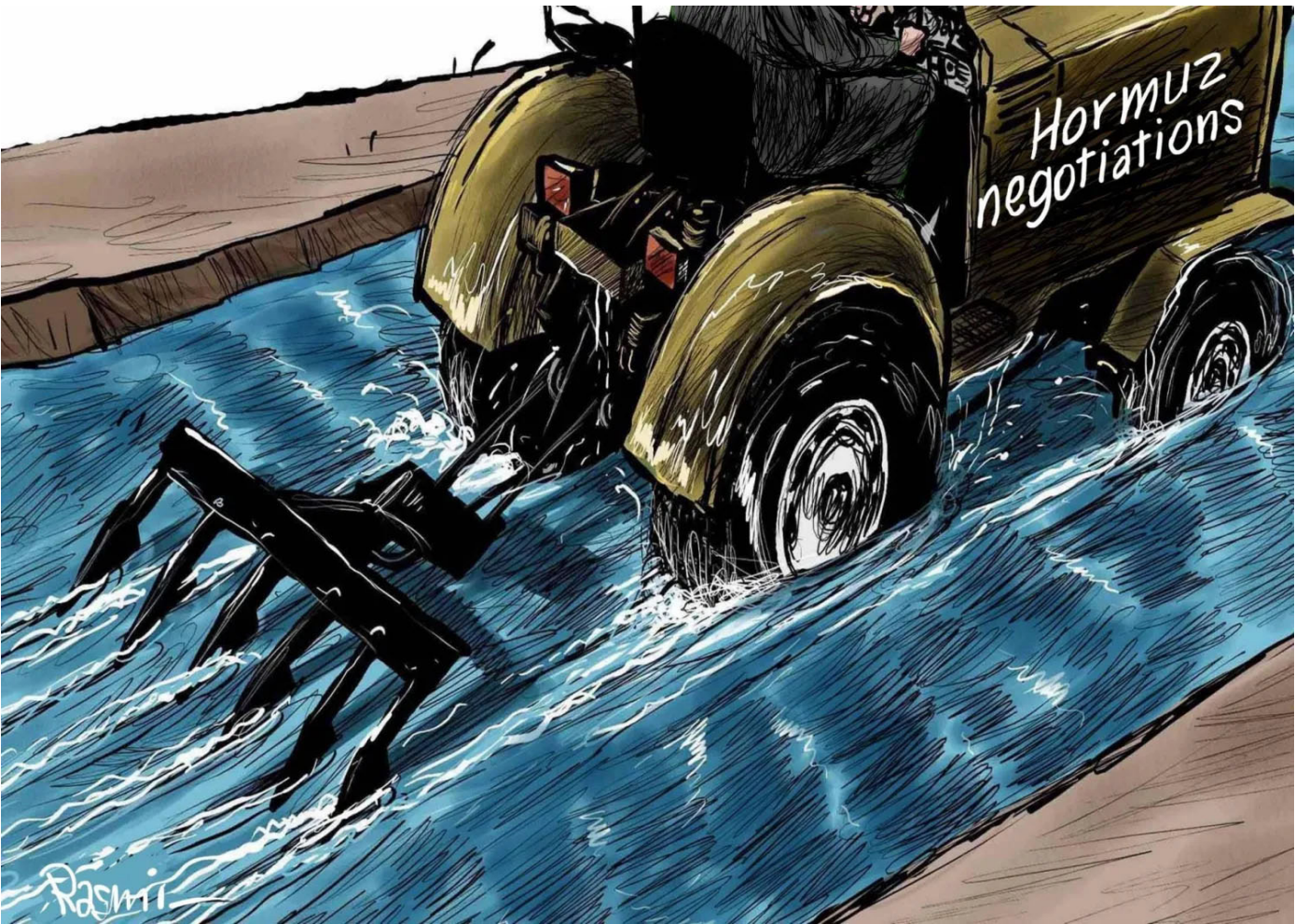
Second, Ethiopia’s general elections will be the most complex event on the calendar. The country has more than 120 million people, dozens of armed factions, and federal regions that are still operating under emergency regulations since the Tigray

war. The 2021 polls were held in stages because of insecurity and logistical failure. In 2026, similar obstacles remain. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali retains national visibility, but his coalition is thinner than when he took office in 2018. Ethnic parties control large regional blocs, and voter registration in contested areas remains incomplete. The result may still produce a government with a parliamentary majority, but one whose mandate is geographically uneven and politically fragile.

Third, Somalia plans indirect elections again, relying on clan delegates rather than universal suffrage. Roughly 14,000 elders select members of parliament, who then choose the president. The system is defended as pragmatic in a country where Al-Shabab is steadily increasing the territory it controls. Zambia and Gambia represent a rather different picture. Zambia’s 2021 election removed an incumbent through the ballot box for the third time since 1991. President Hakainde Hichilema enters 2026 with approval ratings near 60 percent, buoyed by debt restructuring, and the return of International Monetary Fund support. Inflation remains high, and youth job creation lags behind population growth, but institutions showed resilience in the last transfer of power.

Gambia, after ousting Yahya Jammeh in 2017, held a competitive vote in 2021 and is preparing for another. Turnout exceeded 80 percent, among the highest on the continent. Media pluralism has expanded, and civil society monitoring is now routine. Neither country is immune to backsliding, yet both demonstrate that electoral credibility can still compound over time. Similarly, Cabo Verde, with a population under 600,000, continues to rank among Africa’s strongest performers on electoral integrity. Power has alternated peacefully multiple times since the 1990s, and voter turnout remains above 60 percent. Politics there is dull in the best sense, with arguments over budgets, ports, and tourism strategy rather than existential questions of who controls the state. Across these cases runs the same thread: Elections are cheaper than repression and more acceptable to donors than open autocracy. Authoritarian incumbents have learned to keep polling stations open while closing political space. Over the past 15 years, average turnout in competitive African elections has fallen. At the same time, margins of victory for long-serving presidents have widened. Citizens show up less often, but winners win by more.

—Arab News



Kashmir and Åland Islands: History Offers Lessons for Peace

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai Calls for Dialogue, Diplomacy and Inclusive Approach to Resolve Kashmir Dispute
BY:Report ANI

The history of the Åland Islands dispute between Finland and Sweden offers valuable lessons for resolving long-standing territorial conflicts, including the Kashmir dispute, writes Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice.

Dr. Fai argues that while Kashmir and the Åland Islands have different historical, legal, and geopolitical backgrounds, both cases highlight the importance of balancing sover-



Finland while ensuring guarantees for the islands’ Swedish language, culture, autonomy, and demilitarized status.

According to Dr. Fai, the Åland settlement demonstrates that international diplomacy, legal frameworks, and political compromise can help transform deeply rooted disputes into peaceful arrangements.

Discussing Kashmir, he noted that since the partition of British India in 1947, India and Pakistan have maintained competing positions over the territory, while the people of Kashmir have also expressed their own aspirations. The dispute has resulted in wars, military tensions, and prolonged instability between two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Dr. Fai highlighted that India considers Kashmir an integral part of the country and supports a bilateral approach under the Simla Agreement, while Pakistan maintains that the issue remains unresolved and should involve the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

He stressed that recent developments have once again demonstrated the risks associated with continued tensions, emphasizing that Kashmir remains one of the world’s most sen-

sitive regions.

“The lesson of Åland is not that Kashmir should follow the same path, but that even complex disputes can find solutions through dialogue, international engagement, and institutional guarantees,” Dr. Fai stated.

He called for a durable settlement that addresses the legitimate concerns of India and Pakistan while ensuring that the voices and interests of the people of Kashmir are considered.

Dr. Fai concluded that history shows conflicts involving territory, identity, and sovereignty can be managed through courage, compromise, and diplomacy, adding that a negotiated solution involving India, Pakistan, and genuine Kashmiri leadership remains essential for lasting peace and stability in the region.



Greenlanders’ fever dream over but nightmares continue

NIC ROBERTSON

On Sunday, after two and a half weeks’ reporting from Nuuk, Greenland, my team and I finally boarded a plane and said goodbye. Leaving is hard. Greenland has me in its thrall, in rapture of its raw beauty and seduced by its quiet Inuit culture. But it’s a good thing to exit. Tonnes of journalists and equipment, clearing out, making space for Greenlanders to reflect on what just happened.

As our producer, Ben, sagely observed, their fever dream has broken. Residents of this giant, icebound Arctic island could be forgiven for thinking they might awaken back to a simpler time, before the trauma of President Donald Trump’s ratcheting up of demands to own Greenland just a few weeks ago.

But they are not where they began and they know it. Instead, they are awakening to an uneasy new reality. Trump’s capricious claims over their sovereignty are not over and his apparently flimsy grasp of basic facts about their homeland does not appear to have improved.

White House tweets make that abundantly clear. Were it not for his declaration at Davos last week, forswearing a military invasion of Greenland, an image posted of the president trudging across a snow field toward a Greenland flag, hand in wing with a penguin, would be triggering a renewed fever for its residents.

The apparent trolling is hard to fathom, much less take seriously. For a start, penguins – as everyone knows – live exclusively at the South Pole. Greenland is at the opposite end of the planet. But such incontrovertible truths seem to have become eclipsed by expansionist ambitions. Trump says he must own Greenland for the US’ “national security,” so he feels “psychologically” empowered to take it for his soon-to-be-built Golden Dome missile protective shield for the US. He might deny that he covets the minerals

and rare earths buried below its ice sheets, but many are skeptical.

What’s more, both objectives are already within his grasp. As Denmark, of which Greenland is a semi-autonomous territory, has made repeatedly clear to Trump’s diplomats, the 1951 defense agreement between these two sovereign nations grants sweeping rights for the US to base missiles and troops, as well as mine minerals and rare earths, to its heart’s content.

What I learned during my all-too-brief time in Greenland is that nature and its preservation are at the heart of Inuit culture. Locals told me they believed that Trump would have no regard for their most precious commodity, which is inextricably linked to their identity. Instead, the White House’s messaging seems to indicate they are either planning to introduce an alien species to Greenland or simply do not understand what it is they covet. Greenlanders, on the other hand, know exactly what they fear and why. They do not trust Trump. The president’s apparent about-face at Davos, rescinding threats of military action and announcing, after meeting NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, that an “agreement” had been hatched, giving him everything he wanted, carries no water – or ice for that matter – in Greenland. For Greenlanders, Trump is an open book, each new chapter strewn with the same falsehoods and self-aggrandizement. They also saw what he did in Venezuela, a leader plucked from a country with air defenses and an army, of which Greenland has neither. Instead, it relies on Denmark and, by extension NATO – and America, to defend it. The night before we left, the power abruptly went out across Nuuk, its 20,000 residents plunged into darkness. A few hours later, the internet also throttled back. Plenty of well-educated and rational Nuummioqs (as the capital’s residents are known) fretted they were about to experi-



eignty, security concerns, and the aspirations of local populations.

The Åland Islands dispute emerged after Finland gained independence from Russia in 1917, when the predominantly Swedish-speaking islanders sought reunification with Sweden. Finland opposed the move, considering it an internal matter, but the issue was referred to the League of Nations. The international body ultimately granted sovereignty to

Daycare centres

As of 2023, nearly 35 per cent of female doctors remain unemployed, mostly because many of them have had to leave their careers and ambitions after marriage due to societal pressures and concerns about childcare. This challenge can be addressed by introducing affordable and good quality daycare facilities in both private and government hospitals. Subsidised daycare would allow female doctors and nurses – and other working women for that matter – to return to work post-partum without stress or hesitation, knowing their children are safe, cared for and near them. These daycare centres should be equipped with modern facilities like cameras, so parents can check on their children whenever they want. By investing in such childcare solutions, we not only can support working mothers but can also strengthen Pakistan’s healthcare workforce. Setting up daycare centres in Pakistan’s hospitals isn’t just a convenience, it’s vital to keep our healthcare system fully staffed and help save lives.

Alishba Saleem
Karachi

Manageable challenges

As a nation, we are faced with so many

Letters to the Editor

fronts on which our performance is negative. We have to contend with a number of issues, many of which have been carried forward from the previous year or years. A lot of our issues are either external or complicated and would, therefore, require time to sort themselves out. Economic failure is one. Social stagnation is another. Terrorism, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, is yet another. Problematic international relations with our two immediate, important and largest neighbours – India and Afghanistan – is yet still another. And so forth. But what about internal political harmony and stability? Well, this issue is certainly in our control if we can muster the courage to resolve it. An olive branch has already been offered to PTI with its parliamentarians or like-minded ones assuming important responsibilities as the respective leaders of the opposition in both houses of parliament. Fair enough and very good so far.

There is hope that we can bring political harmony in the country in 2026. If we are able to do so, the helmsmen can go about resolving the other issues without any hindrance, fear or favour. Perhaps, ‘political stability’ is the tool that could trigger a positive domino effect on all our remaining contentious issues.

Abbas R Siddiqi

Lahore

GRE: an outdated and unfair metric

The GRE isn’t a measure of intelligence; it’s a rigged obstacle course designed to humiliate you. It’s not a test; it’s a filter. A brutal, outdated gate that stands between you and your future, demanding that you “prove yourself” through things that have nothing to do with your actual field of study. You want to study English? Literature? Language? Too bad. The GRE doesn’t care. You’ll still have to solve math problems. And not just basic math, you’ll be forced to study algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pie charts, bar graphs, number sequences, quadratic equations – topics you haven’t touched since high school. It’s not optional. It’s required, and if you can’t solve them, you’re seen as “not good enough”, even if you’ve read 500 books and written brilliant essays. And if you’re from a Math or Engineering background, don’t think you’re safe either; you’ll be forced to study advanced English and Verbal Reasoning; you’ll be expected to master obscure, outdated vocabulary like obfuscate, recalcitrant, pulchritude, sesquipedalian, turpitude, ersatz, quixotic. Words nobody uses in real life – not in offices, not in classrooms, not even in novels.

Pakistan Senate Delegation Participates in 17th Wroxton Workshop in UK



BY: ANI Correspondent:

Islamabad/ UK -- A delegation of the Senate of Pakistan participated in the 17th Wroxton Workshop held in the United Kingdom, where parliamentarians, constitutional experts and scholars discussed parliamentary oversight, democratic governance and emerging legislative challenges.

The Pakistani delegation included Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, Senator Jam Saifullah Khan and Senator Maulana Atta-ul-Haq. The two-day international forum brought together distinguished legislators and academics from around the world to exchange views on democratic accountability, legislative

oversight and modern governance. During the sessions, the Pakistani delegation shared Pakistan's legislative experience and actively contributed to discussions on enhancing parliamentary transparency, strengthening public trust in democratic institutions, and ensuring ethical oversight of artificial intelligence (AI) within parliamentary systems.

WASA Intensifies Rainwater Drainage Operation in Mandi Bahauddin Despite Sunday Holiday

By ANI Correspondent

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Managing Director WASA Mandi Bahauddin, Ali Ahmed Chaudhry, personally supervised field operations on Sunday as rainwater drainage efforts continued across the city despite the public holiday.

Following heavy monsoon rains, WASA teams have been working round the clock for the past three days, using suction machines and other available machinery to ensure the immediate removal of accumulated rainwater from various parts of the city.

The teams are focusing on clearing water from low-lying areas, major roads, highways and public places to minimise inconvenience for commuters and restore normal



traffic flow.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adel Haider Baryar said that providing maximum relief to citizens during the monsoon season remains the district administration's top priority. He added that WASA personnel have remained fully operational, even on

holidays, to accelerate drainage work and address rain-related issues promptly. The Deputy Commissioner further stated that all relevant departments are working in close coordination to facilitate the public, mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall and restore normal life as quickly as possible.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja Calls for Nationwide Hepatitis Awareness Campaign, Inaugurates Development Project in Kohsar Town



BY: ANI Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD-- Chairman of Pakistan Awami Quwat (PAQ) and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has called for urgent national measures to combat the growing incidence of hepatitis, stressing the need for a comprehensive awareness campaign to educate the public about prevention and early diagnosis.

He made these remarks while addressing a seminar organised by the Department of Medicine and Gastroenterology at Rawal Hospital under the auspices of Rawal Institute of Health Sciences. The event, hosted by Associate Professor Anwar Abbasi and Professor Shah Sattar,

was attended by leading physicians, healthcare professionals and medical students from across Pakistan.

Marking World Hepatitis Day, medical experts delivered presentations on hepatitis prevention, treatment and public awareness. Researchers also presented papers highlighting the increasing burden of the disease, its transmission, preventive strategies and the urgent steps needed to curb its spread.

An interactive question-and-answer session enabled doctors, paramedical staff and participants to engage with experts on key issues related to hepatitis. At the conclusion of the seminar, Chief Guest Khaqan Waheed Khawaja distributed certificates among participants and was presented with a commemorative shield by the organisers.

Earlier, Mr Khawaja inaugurated work on a sewerage system project in Kohsar Town, Jhang Syedan. He was warmly received by local dignitaries, including Raja Zubair, Shahid Satti and Raja Musaddiq, who welcomed him before he formally launched the project by cutting the ribbon.

Addressing residents, Mr Khawaja said Pakistan Awami Quwat and the Rawal Foundation remained committed to serving the public through self-help and community development initiatives, even while not in government. He said the party understood the people's challenges and would continue expanding development projects across the country, expressing confidence in a stronger future for Pakistan under the vision of Pakistan Awami Quwat.

Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich Warns of Looming Wheat, Flour Crisis over Government Procurement Policy

BY:ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich on Sunday warned that flawed government wheat procurement policies and administrative failures could trigger a severe wheat and flour crisis, with wheat prices potentially rising to Rs. 6,000 per maund and flour prices reaching Rs. 190 per kilogram or higher.

In a statement, Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich said influential middlemen had forced farmers to sell wheat at distress prices and were now in a position to manipulate the market, creating the risk of sharp price increases that would burden millions of consumers.

He claimed that despite announcing large-scale wheat procurement,



the government purchased less than 10 per cent of the promised quantity from farmers and was now considering wheat imports through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), while substantial wheat stocks in PASSCO warehouses remained unused and were deteriorating.

Sadhraich said Pakistan could face a wheat shortfall of 3.5 million tonnes due to policy failures, forcing the government to spend between US\$1 billion and US\$1.5 billion on imports, adding further pressure on the national economy.

He further alleged that although the Punjab government had pledged to procure 3 million tonnes of wheat, it ultimately purchased only 480,000 tonnes, allowing private traders to dominate the market after buying wheat from farmers at low prices.

Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich urged the government to regulate wheat stocks held by the private sector, release domestic reserves into the open market instead of relying on imports, and take immediate steps to protect both farmers and consumers from an avoidable wheat and flour crisis.

Acting AJK President Chaudhry Latif Akbar Receives Annual Audit Report for Financial Year 2025-26

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MUZAFFARABAD-- Director General Audit Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muhammad Saeedullah Khan Niazi presented the Annual Audit Report on the Accounts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2025-26 to Acting President of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar at the President House, Muzaffarabad.

The presentation was made under Article 50-A (6) of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974.

On the occasion, Director General Audit Muhammad Saeedullah Khan Niazi briefed the Acting President in detail about the annual performance of the Audit Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and its activities during the financial year 2025-26.

Acting President Chaudhry Latif Akbar directed that the audit system in Azad Jammu and Kashmir should



be made more transparent and effective, and all possible efforts should be utilised to further improve the system. He assured the Director General Audit of his full cooperation in this regard.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and other important issues were also discussed between the Acting President and the Director General Audit Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Leadership Reflects the Aspirations of the Kashmiri People: Sumblina Hassan

By ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader and former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Sumblina Hassan, has said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's energetic public outreach campaign for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections has revitalised enthusiasm among party workers and voters.

In a statement, she said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's election campaign has centred on employment, development, youth empowerment, women's rights, and the key issues confronting the people of Kashmir, reflecting the genuine aspirations and expectations of the electorate.

Sumblina Hassan emphasised that the Pakistan Peoples Party's politics are founded on public service, democratic values, and national unity. She added that the party's relationship with the people of Kashmir extends far beyond electoral politics and is deeply rooted in historical, ideological, and emotional bonds.

She said the nation must never forget the enduring struggles and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, who have faced immense hardships over the years. According to her statement, countless families have endured suffering, displacement



and loss, making it all the more important that their aspirations for dignity, peace and justice remain at the forefront of national attention.

She further stated that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership is shaped by his own personal experiences of loss and sacrifice, giving him a deep sense of empathy for those who have suffered. As the grandson of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the son of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, she said he carries forward a legacy of public service and understands the challenges faced by the people of Kashmir.

Sumblina Hassan said it is time for the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to see lasting solutions to

the challenges confronting them. She expressed confidence that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision offers hope, unity, development and peace for the region while ensuring that the voices of the Kashmiri people remain central to the democratic process. Recalling the legacy of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, she said his historic address on the Kashmir issue at the United Nations continues to inspire generations and remains a powerful reminder of Pakistan's longstanding support for the Kashmiri people. She added that the Bhutto family's commitment has always been to stand by the people of Kashmir and to strive for a future where they can live with dignity, prosperity and security.

She urged all political parties to demonstrate responsibility, tolerance and maturity throughout the electoral process in order to strengthen democratic traditions and ensure that voters are able to exercise their democratic right in a peaceful and transparent environment. Expressing confidence in the party's electoral prospects, Sumblina Hassan said that on 27 July, the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir would support the Arrow, the election symbol of the Pakistan Peoples Party, as a vote for development, prosperity, political stability and people-centred leadership.

Over 500 Athletes Participate in GSE Taekwondo Championship at NUML University

BY:ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- More than 500 athletes from across Pakistan participated in the GSE Taekwondo Championship held at NUML University, Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Muhammad Aoun Hamdani, Member of the Organizing Committee and GSE Operations Manager, said the successful event reflected the collective efforts of organizers, coaches, officials, and athletes. He paid tribute to Sir Mahmood Shah, President of the Islamabad Taekwondo Association, for his leadership, effective supervision, and guidance to coaches, athletes, referees, and technical officials throughout the championship. He also appreciated the contributions of Irfan Majeed (General Secretary, GSE), Kamran Khan (Finance Secretary, GSE), Asma Usman (CEO, GSE), Syeda Rubina



Sadaqat (GSE Manager), and Dr. Tariq Bangash (Event Coordinator) for their dedication and excellent event management.

Aoun Hamdani congratulated the medal-winning athletes and praised all participating coaches for their

commitment to developing young sporting talent. He reaffirmed GSE's commitment to organizing similar events in the future to promote youth sports, encourage healthy activities, and help Pakistan achieve greater success in international competitions.



Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Irfan Chaudhry and former Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry called on Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad, Kainat Azhar Khan, to discuss matters of mutual interest and traffic-related issues.