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# Pakistan highly values its brotherly ties with Iran: PM



DR WAHEED M KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, reaffirmed that Pakistan highly valued its close and brotherly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He emphasized that Pakistan would continue its sincere diplomatic efforts to promote peace and stability across the region.

The prime minister met with a six-member delegation led by Iranian Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Seyyed Muhammad Atabak that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime

minister noted that he recently held a productive discussion with Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian regarding the establishment of lasting peace in the region and the further enhancement of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, particularly in the area of trade.

Expressing his optimism, he said sustained efforts by both countries would help achieve the bilateral trade target of US\$10 billion, as set by the leadership of Pakistan and Iran. He highlighted that expanding trade, especially in food, agricultural commodities, and related products, would bring significant economic benefits to both countries.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Jam Kamal Khan, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, Special Assistants Syed Tariq Fatemi, Haroon Akhtar, Talha Burki, and senior government officials.

Both sides agreed to enhance cross-border trade by improving border facilities to ensure 24-hour border operations, strengthening logistics infrastructure and harmonizing customs procedures.

They also agreed to increase cooperation in the mining sector, particularly in the processing and value addition of precious stones.

The prime minister also conveyed his best wishes to Iran's

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei and President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian.

Speaking on the occasion, Iranian Minister Seyyed Mohammad Atabak expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Iranian delegation.

He praised Pakistan's leadership and people for their sincere diplomatic efforts toward regional peace and for expressing solidarity with Iran.

The Iranian minister reaffirmed Tehran's desire to further expand economic and commercial relations with Pakistan.

## Pakistan, US make progress on reciprocal trade framework: finance ministry

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States made "significant" progress in negotiations on a reciprocal trade framework and are aiming to agree "at the earliest", Pakistan's Finance Ministry said on Wednesday following talks between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. The virtual meeting reviewed the latest round of negotiations aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation, with both sides expressing satisfaction over the pace of discussions and agreeing to maintain regular engagement to finalise the remaining elements of the framework.

The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul and senior officials from the Office of the US Trade Representative. According to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry, Aurangzeb recalled recent discussions held in Washington and welcomed "the steady progress made by the respective negotiating teams," while appreciating "the constructive engagement that has characterised the dialogue over time." The ministry said both sides noted that negotiations on the proposed reciprocal trade framework had "advanced significantly" and reaffirmed "their shared commitment to concluding the agreement at the earliest."

During the meeting, Aurangzeb stressed the importance of sustaining the current pace of negotiations in line with Pakistan's economic priorities.

The finance minister added that a stronger trade and investment partnership with the US would contribute to Pakistan's "export-led growth strategy", support economic resilience and create "greater commercial opportunities for businesses in both countries."

He also highlighted the importance of continued collaboration with the US Export-Import Bank (EXIM) to facilitate bilateral trade and investment.

The statement by the Finance Ministry noted that Ambassador Greer welcomed Pakistan's continued engagement throughout the negotiations and acknowledged the progress made on "labour and regulatory



reforms, including measures relating to forced labour compliance."

It added that the US trade representative reaffirmed Washington's commitment to maintaining "the positive trajectory of bilateral trade discussions" and expressed confidence that the remaining issues could be resolved through continued technical engagement.

Further, Aurangzeb underscored the need for "maintaining close coordination and accelerating technical-level discussions" to build on the progress already achieved, the statement said.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far and agreed to continue working closely to finalise the remaining elements of the reciprocal trade framework. They also agreed to maintain regular engagement with a view to concluding the agreement soon, further strengthening what the Finance Ministry described as the "longstanding economic partnership" between Pakistan and the US.

The talks came amid a broader push by Islamabad to deepen economic ties with Washington and restore its access to global capital markets.

Last month, Aurangzeb launched a strategic partnership with a consortium of international banks under Pakistan's Global Medium-Term Note and International Sukuk programmes, a move aimed at facilitating future sovereign debt issuances. The government has said the three-year arrangement could support up to \$10 billion in conventional and Islamic financing over time, subject to market conditions and financing needs, as it seeks to diversify funding sources following an improvement in macroeconomic indicators.

## Maryam, JICA president agree to expand cooperation across key sectors



ANI

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Akihiko Tanaka, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), along with his delegation to discuss ongoing development projects in Punjab and ways to strengthen future cooperation. The chief minister welcomed the JICA delegation to Lahore. The meeting reviewed ongoing JICA-supported develop-

ment projects in Punjab, public welfare initiatives and opportunities for collaboration in priority sectors. The two sides also reviewed progress on water supply projects in Faisalabad and agreed to expand cooperation in education, healthcare, nutrition, women's empowerment and human resource development. Nawaz expressed interest in extending the Faisalabad model for water supply, sanitation and urban infrastructure to other cities across Punjab with JICA's support.

## Pakistan, US reaffirm joint resolve against terrorism at Washington dialogue

ANI

Pakistan and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to deepen counterterrorism cooperation and confront terrorist groups, including ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K), al-Qa'ida (AQ), the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), during the fourth round of the US-Pakistan Counterterrorism Dialogue held in Washington on Tuesday. The joint statement, issued by the two governments on Wednesday, said the meeting underscored the two countries' "shared interests in the US-Pakistan counterterrorism partnership" and their "determination to confront terrorism" amid the evolving regional and global threat landscape. According to the statement, the dialogue was led by US Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Gregory LoGerfo and Pakistan's Special Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign



Affairs, Ambassador Nabeel Munir. The two delegations "exchanged views on the current threat environment, explored avenues to enhance collaboration, and discussed steps to strengthen border security and disrupt terrorist facilitation net-

works", the statement said. It added that the US and Pakistan affirmed their "joint resolve to confront terrorist organisations that endanger the safety of their citizens and the stability of the region," specifically naming ISIS-K, AQ, the TTP,

## Sindh cabinet approves Rs43,000 minimum monthly wage for workers

ANI

KARACHI: The Sindh provincial cabinet has approved a 7.5 per cent increase in the minimum monthly wage for workers across the province, raising the rate for unskilled labourers from Rs40,000 to Rs43,000. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Minister, according to the chief minister's spokesperson. The revised minimum wage will be applicable from July 1, 2026, the spokesperson said. Under the approved wage structure, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled workers will also receive corresponding increases in their minimum wages. The revised rates will apply to all notified industrial and commercial establishments across Sindh. The government said the measure is aimed at ensuring effective implementation of the minimum wage system and providing greater economic protection to workers. The chief minister said the Sindh government was committed to improving the welfare of labourers and protecting their economic interests.

## AJK Poll: 21 More Winners Officially Notified

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission has officially notified the results of 21 successful candidates elected during the second phase of the AJK Assembly elections, formally completing the second stage of the electoral process.

The notifications cover nine constituencies in the Muzaffarabad Division and 12 seats reserved for Kashmiri refugees residing in Pakistan. With the issuance of the notifications, the Election Commission has completed all formalities relating to the second phase



of the polls.

The second phase of the elections had originally been scheduled for August 2. However, adverse weather conditions, including heavy rainfall and landslides, forced authorities to postpone polling at several polling stations in two constituencies. Fresh

polling was later held on August 4, allowing the Election Commission to finalise the results.

Muzaffarabad seats According to the official notification, Shah Ghulam Qadir was declared successful from LA-25 Neelum Valley-I, while Mian Abdul Waheed won LA-26 Neelum Valley-II.

In the Muzaffarabad constituencies, Noreen Arif secured victory from LA-27 Muzaffarabad-I, Syed Basil Ali Naqvi was declared elected from LA-28 Muzaffarabad-II, and Sardar Mukhtar Abbasi Ahmed Khan emerged victorious from LA-29 Muzaffarabad-III.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Nihal Hashmi, Wednesday, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

### APPEAL FOR PEACE, UNITY & PROTECTION OF LIVES

**Jiye Kashmir, Jiye Pakistan**

It is heart wrenching and very sad, and painful to see my brothers and sisters being brutally disrespected to the point that lives have been taken!!! We are entrapped divided intentionally by those that want our division. Their game is to break our provinces to serve the interest of those who want to rule us, and our enemies who will pay to break us. Our women, children and men are innocent!!!

A simple act of voting has been made into a crisis of disproportionate vengeance and hate.

Kashmir is a testing ground for these culprits because it is has a sensitive issue, a valuable contention of self determination and a proclamation that freedom is the right of Kashmir's and this factor plays into the play book of our enemies.

They infiltrate traitors and groups amongst us purely for their own interests.

#### WHAT WE MUST DO

**TAKE CARE. PROTECT YOURSELVES AND STAY IN DOORS.**

**COMPLAIN TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT AND ADDRESS YOUR ISSUES AND HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE SO THAT IT IS RECORDED AND RECTIFIED.**

**LIFE MATTERS!! Don't let them rob us of our dignity so that we are fettered and helpless and then we won't be empowered to fight this discord.**

**DEMOCRACY WORKS ON THE PREMISES OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.**

**KASHMIRI ARE AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL PATRIOTS. Don't let speakers bring people against each other!! Stay disciplined.**

We will entrap ourselves by causing divisions and this will **not** benefit us our our country's interest.

Appeal by : **Sumblina Hassan**  
Former Secretary to  
Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto  
In charge of Office 10 UK, RCC Bilawal House

# Anjuman Faiz-ul-Islam Marks Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir with Solidarity Rally

BY: ANI Reporter :

RAWALPINDI --- Anjuman Faiz-ul-Islam organized a rally to mark Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, where its President, Professor Dr. Riaz Ahmad, condemned India's August 5, 2019 decision regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), calling it a violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

Addressing the participants, he reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and said the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with international law and UN Security Council resolutions.



The rally was attended by teachers, students, and staff of Anjuman Faiz-ul-Islam, along with members of the public, who carried banners and placards expressing solidarity with the people of

Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Group Captain (Retd.) Pervez Akhtar also reiterated Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiri people.



Bilal Azhar Kayani chairs a meeting with traders' representatives in Islamabad.

# Kashmir Exploitation Day: PPP UK Leaders Reaffirm Support for Kashmiris' Right to Self-Determination



ANI

ISLAMABAD/BIRMINGHAM: On the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) UK leaders reaffirmed their unwavering support for the people of Kashmir and said that the people of Pakistan, particularly the PPP, had always stood by the Kashmiris in their just struggle for the right to self-determination and would continue to raise their voice at every national and international forum.

The statement was issued by Chaudhry Shabbir Hussain Dadayalvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and Senior Vice President, PPP Birmingham Branch (UK); Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, Former General Secretary, PPP Midlands (UK); Chaudhry Muhammad Manzoor, Former Senior Vice President, PPP UK; Chaudhry Fazl Hussain, Former President, PPP Midlands (UK); Chaudhry Muhammad Amin, Federal Council Member, PPP UK; and Mirza Gulzar Hussain, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of

Azad Kashmir and Leader, PPP UK.

The PPP UK leaders said that August 5, 2019, marked a dark chapter in the history of the Kashmiri people, when the special constitutional status of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir was revoked, undermining the fundamental, political and human rights of the Kashmiri people.

They said that despite continued hardships, restrictions and serious concerns over human rights, the people of Kashmir had maintained their courage and determination to pursue their legitimate political rights.

The leaders said that PPP Co-Chairman and President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had consistently supported the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. They reaffirmed that the PPP remained committed to the principled position of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohdarma Benazir Bhutto that the people of Kashmir should be given the right to determine their future in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

tions.

They called upon the international community, the United Nations and international human rights organisations to take effective notice of the situation in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and play a meaningful role in ensuring justice and the protection of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

On Kashmir Exploitation Day, the PPP UK leaders reiterated that under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Pakistan Peoples Party would continue providing political, diplomatic and moral support to the people of Kashmir at every level.

They said that the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people would not go in vain and expressed hope that the day would come when the people of Kashmir would be able to determine their own future through their free will.

"The Pakistan Peoples Party stood with the people of Kashmir, stands with them today, and will always stand with them."

By ANI Reporter :

JHELUM --- A solidarity rally was held in Jhelum on Kashmir Exploitation Day under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgun to express support for the people of Kashmir. The rally started from the Deputy Commissioner's Office and concluded at the Jhelum Press Club.

Administrative officers, civil society representatives, teachers, students, traders, journalists, and members of the public participated, carrying Pakistani and Kashmiri flags along with banners expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Addressing the rally, the Deputy Commissioner said Pakistan



stands firmly with the people of Kashmir and reaffirmed continued moral, political, and diplomatic support for their cause. Additional Deputy Commissioner Alize Rehan and Assistant

Commissioner Abdullah Ghazi also addressed the participants. The event concluded with special prayers for the people of Kashmir, the martyrs, and for peace and prosperity in Pakistan.



BY: Ms Bukhari  
Published by: ANI News Agency

There are moments in history that leave an imprint on the hearts of generations. As children, we grew up witnessing the brutalities and atrocities in Indian occupied Kashmir, etched into our childhood memories, watching the heartbreaking images and stories emerging from Indian occupied Kashmir. I am a born Kashmiri, I remember as a speaker and debater during my teenage, I used to raise voice through speeches, hold debates and participation in gatherings for solidarity of Pakistan and Kashmir with the people of Indian occupied Kashmir. Singing taranay on every solidarity event like,

Ay dunya k munsifo dunyaaa k munsifo salamt k zamino, Kashmir ki jalti waadi mein behty hovy khoon ka shor suno

Azad Kashmir; a land of emerald valleys, snow-capped peaks, and rivers that sing through centuries of history is today echoing with a different sound: the cries of its people. What we once saw only in childhood memories from Indian-occupied Kashmir; brutality, blood on streets, bodies dragged and displaced is now unfolding around us. We always prayed that no other part of our homeland would ever witness such suffering.

Today, seeing fear, uncertainty, damaged homes, grieving families, and lives lost in Azad Kashmir is deeply painful. Streets that should have echoed with laughter now carry sorrow. Valleys that deserved to be known across the world for their breathtaking beauty, rich culture, and mystical history are instead appearing in images of tragedy. Kashmir has always been a land of extraordinary natural beauty, hospitality, and resilience. It should be celebrated through tourism, culture, education, and peace not remembered through scenes of violence and suffering.

Since early June 2026, Azad Jammu & Kashmir has been gripped by mass protests over governance, economic hardship, and political representation. There is a severe damage beyond words in clashes between protesters and security forces at both sides. Internet and mobile services remain suspended, markets are closed, and essential supplies are scarce. All of us know the situation and consequences well.

Azad Kashmir is not just a headline of pain; it is a home of beauty, resilience, and hope.

World is witnessing a painful contrast: the wounds and the will to heal.

As a nation, we all understand that the problem lies somewhere in the power corridors of political dynamics. History is witness that this is a part of political system and happens all over the world since ages; decisions made far from the ground realities ultimately impacting the innocent people the most.

In these difficult political moments, it is important to distinguish between governments, institutions, political dynamics, and ordinary people. Political circumstances will change, governments will change, and policies will change but the bond between people should never become a casualty of political disagreements.

This is a highly sensitive time seeking for a wisdom behind and we need to be sensible. Let us be very clear: Our issue is with the situation and system, not with the people of Pakistan or with Pakistan as a nation.



This is indeed a difficult time and it is important to remain thoughtful and responsible in our words. Our concern is with the situation and the decisions that have led to the present crisis not with the people of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan are our born brothers and sisters. We share far more than a border. We share history, faith, families, traditions, languages, sacrifices, and generations of social and moral bonds. Above all, we trust, as we have been inherited the belief in Quran, we have been inherited with the belief that Kashmir is a jugular vein of Pakistan, which is the strongest of all bonds, I believe. While we heard since our childhood that the letter "K" in Pakistan stands for Kashmir.

Here I would like to refer to one of the truth recently revealed in a vlog by Hamid Mir, a famous Pakistani Journalist, about the statement of Shaheed Maqbool Butt through his book Shaoor e Fardan, all of us must know this part of reality.

English Translation: "In Jammu & Kashmir there is a very popular slogan, "Pakistan is ours, we belong to Pakistan" and in Azad Kashmir there is also a very popular slogan "Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan/ Kashmir will become Pakistan" a part from this, some people may also say that Kashmir should become independent (a different political school of thought)"

Referring to the book of Maqbool Butt Shaheed, the historical leader of Kashmiris, whose quotes are being shared by few people as a hatred against Pakistan. While the truth is, Maqbool Butt Shaheed did criticize certain policies of Pakistan or the political setup because of the injustice and oppression that might have happened to him, but in his writings in his books published, he mentioned in very strong words that "The real essence and reality of Kashmir lies with the common people of Pakistan." So Kashmiris have

no fight, or feeling of hate for common people of Pakistan. Here we see, things are being manipulated using the names and credibility of our heroes in history especially at such critical times, without any research, study, facts and data and without calculating the possibility of loss and damages of assets and lives that took ages to build and grow. We may follow different political

thoughts and affiliations, but should not impose our affiliations and respect the disagreements.

The situation is today and will end up soon Insha'Allah, but it needs our wisdom more than our anger. We must ensure that our emotions do not turn into hatred. Such division only deepens wounds and weakens the collective call for justice, dignity, and peace. Our strength is in unity, not in division.

There is a huge fight of arguments and hatred speech seen on social media among the people of Pakistan and Kashmir especially during this

crises. Please remember that this struggle and time needs every voice that believes innocent lives deserve protection, dignity, and peace. Let us honor those who have suffered by becoming ambassadors of wisdom rather than rage.

We need to be lenient, now the realities, raise our voice for Kashmir, for justice, and for peace but do not damage the relationship that has held us together for decades. Look around, World is witnessing, that across Pakistan, many citizens, students, journalists, artists, influencers, civil society members, political parties and ordinary families have expressed solidarity with Kashmiris. Many have raised their voices, organized peaceful demonstrations, offered humanitarian support, and stood beside grieving families in every way they could.

Let us raise our voice for Kashmiris, with Pakistanis, and for a future where no more blood is on the streets and this bond becomes way stronger than ever before.

Let us protect the centuries-old bond between Kashmiris and Pakistanis while continuing to advocate peacefully for justice, human rights, and a future where at least this part of Pakistani Administered Kashmir is remembered once again for its mountains, rivers, culture, and hope not for the suffering of its people.

At the same time, we especially appeal to the overseas Kashmiri community; your voice carries great weight on international platforms. Please continue speaking for the rights, safety, and dignity of the people of Kashmir. But let your words be guided by facts, wisdom, and responsibility. Avoid generalizing or directing hostility toward the people of Pakistan. Raise awareness with compassion rather than anger, and seek accountability without abandoning humanity.

Azad Kashmir was meant to be highlighted for its natural beauty and mystical history.

The high command of Pakistan is dealing and directing the international political dynamics and resolutions, a little focus and sympathy domestically may turn this disaster to prosperity.

This part of Kashmir known as paradise on Earth should invite the world to witness its serenity and not the suffering. We must not forget, even in this darkness, our message must remain clear: Our issue is with the situation, not with our Pakistani brothers and sisters. Today, Kashmir needs unity more than division, it needs healing more than hatred, and it needs truth more than propaganda.

Let us stand together; Kashmiris and Pakistanis for justice, peace, for our beautiful land and bonding. Let's highlight the land of innocence out of the images of brutality to the world. And let our voices rise not in hatred, but in humanity.

# Jhelum Police Pays Tribute to Martyrs on Police Martyrs' Day

By ANI Reporter :

JHELUM --- Jhelum Police observed Police Martyrs' Day with a ceremony at the District Police Lines under the leadership of District Police Officer Shafiq Ahmed Chaudhry to honor the sacrifices of police martyrs.

The event began with Quran recitation, prayers, and a salute at the Martyrs' Memorial for the departed heroes. Police officers and officials paid tribute to the martyrs for their courage and dedication in protecting the country and its people.

Addressing the ceremony, DPO

Shafiq Ahmed Chaudhry said the sacrifices of police martyrs would always be remembered and described them as the pride of the nation. He reaffirmed that the families of martyrs remain the responsibility of the police department and would continue to receive its full support.

# Junaid unveils transshipment incentives to boost Karachi Port, Port Qasim trade

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Wednesday announced a unified transshipment incentive package offering major concessions at Karachi Port and Port Qasim to cut cargo handling costs and attract regional shipping traffic.

The package, jointly introduced by the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Port Qasim Authority (PQA) and their container terminal operators, includes reductions in wet charges, wharfage, storage fees and terminal handling charges for containerised, bulk and break-bulk transshipment cargo.

Giving details of the framework, Junaid Chaudhry said the incentive framework introduces a slab-based concession on Port Wet Charges for vessels carrying transshipment cargo (Containerized & bulk/break bulk cargo). Vessels with 5-10% transshipment cargo will receive a 20% concession, increasing to 30% for 11-25%, 50% for 26-50%, 70% for vessels carry-

ing 50-90% transshipment cargo (minimum 2,000 TEUs for container vessels) and 80% for vessels carrying 90-100% transshipment cargo (minimum 3,500 TEUs for container vessels).

In addition, KPT will provide Wharfage concessions ranging from 20% to 80% (For 70%, minimum 2,000 TEUs for container vessels whilst for 80% minimum 3,500 TEUs for container vessels), 14 days of free storage at terminals and 30 days of free storage at the TPX cargo area of KPT under agent responsibility. PQA will grant 100% Wharfage concession together with 7 days of free storage at terminals, extendable to 21 days at PQA for cargo movement under agent responsibility.

To complement the port incentives, Pakistan's four major container terminals have also announced substantial reductions in Terminal Handling Charges (THC) for transshipment containers. Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT), South Asia Pakistan Terminals (SAPTL), Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited

(KGTL) of Karachi Port Trust whilst Pakistan International Container Terminal (QICT) of Port Qasim Authority will offer Terminal Handling Charges (THC) concessions of 10% on 5-10% of Transshipment Cargo manifest, 20% on 11-25 percent of Transshipment Cargo manifest and up to 25% for more than 25 percent of Transshipment Cargo manifest. These incentives apply to both 20-foot and 40-foot containers and significantly reduce the overall handling cost for shipping lines.

The minister said the new framework replaces all previous transshipment concession notifications and SROs with a single, transparent and performance-based regime applicable at both Karachi Port and Port Qasim. KPT Chairman Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed said the package was expected to lower transshipment costs, attract additional mainline shipping services, improve vessel turnaround times and increase regional cargo volumes through Pakistani ports.

# Pakistan Marks Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Government and the people of Pakistan on Wednesday observed the seventh anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people and its steadfast support for their inalienable right to self-determination.

In their messages marking Youm-e-Istehsal, the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic and moral support for the just cause of the Kashmiri people.

ple. They emphasized that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute must be resolved in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Office.

The leadership reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue advocating the Kashmir cause at all international forums and underscored that India's unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 cannot alter the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister addressed a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, highlighting the

latest developments in IIOJK and urging renewed efforts towards the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination.

A solidarity walk, led by the Foreign Secretary, was held along Constitution Avenue in Islamabad, with the participation of officers and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan's diplomatic missions abroad, together with the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora, also held commemorative events to raise international awareness of the situation in IIOJK and reaffirm support for the Kashmiri people's just cause.

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Opinion

3

## \*Remembering August 5, 2019 A Kashmiri Perspective on Identity, Justice, and Peace\*

**\*BY : Qurat ul ain Ali Khawaja**  
**Published By:ANI News Agency\***

Today marks seven years since 5 August 2019, the day on which the Government of India revoked the special constitutional status of Jammu & Kashmir by rendering Article 370 inoperative and removing Article 35A, while reorganising the former state into two Union Territories. For many Kashmiris, this date represents far more than a constitutional decision; it symbolizes a turning point that reshaped the political landscape, altered everyday life, and deepened the emotional wounds of a people whose history has long been intertwined with conflict.

From New Delhi's perspective, the move was presented as a constitutional integration aimed at improving governance, strengthening national security, promoting investment and ensuring uniform application of Indian laws. However, many Kashmiris, Pakistan, and numerous international human rights organisations argued that the decision was taken without the consent of the people most directly affected and was followed by prolonged restrictions, communication blackouts, detentions, and limitations on civil liberties.

Strategically, many analysts believe the decision sought to consolidate administrative control, strengthen India's long-term security posture, and integrate the region more firmly into its constitutional framework. Critics, however, continue to raise concerns regarding political representation, demographic implications, cultural identity and the broader implications for a territory whose status remains internationally disputed. For ordinary Kashmiris, the consequences extended beyond constitutional debates. Education, healthcare, businesses, journalism, family life and economic activity all experienced disruption. Internet shutdowns became a recurring reality, mobility was restricted, and uncertainty became part of daily life.

The emotional impact was equally profound across Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). A significant proportion of AJK's population traces its roots to families displaced from what is now Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir during and after the events of 1947. Even today, countless families remain divided across the Line of Control, connected by blood, history and memory despite political separation.

Every period of heightened tension therefore affects not only security calculations but also families waiting for a phone call, communities unable to meet loved ones, and generations growing up separated from relatives they know only through photographs and stories.

For Kashmiris, Kashmir is not merely a piece of land. It is a civilisation, a culture, a language, a heritage and an identity that has existed for centuries. It carries traditions, literature, architecture, spirituality and a collective memory that cannot simply be measured through maps or

political boundaries.

Today, on 5 August, Kashmiris across Pakistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and the global diaspora commemorate this day through seminars, conferences, academic discussions, peaceful demonstrations and awareness campaigns. Their objective is to remind the international community that behind every constitutional decision are real people whose lives continue to be shaped by its consequences.

Today, I also had the opportunity to participate in various commemorative events across Islamabad in my capacity as a Kashmiri Ambassador. While travelling through the city, I saw banners, public displays and awareness campaigns highlighting the significance of this day. I also visited art exhibitions, including those organised at PNCA and Centaurus Mall, where visual storytelling portrayed the humanitarian dimensions of the Kashmir conflict. The exhibitions illustrated the suffering of civilians, the disruption of everyday life and the long-term human cost of conflict in a manner that statistics alone often fail to convey. Art possesses a unique ability to communicate what politics sometimes cannot. It transforms human suffering into collective memory and reminds societies that behind every policy debate are individuals, families and communities whose lives have been permanently altered. I appreciate that Pakistan continues to highlight the humanitarian dimensions of Kashmir on international platforms. At the same time, I sincerely hope that this same spirit of empathy, listening and responsibility is equally reflected in addressing the concerns of the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Strong states are built not only by defending borders but also by strengthening trust between governments and their citizens.

Meanwhile, conflicts cannot be sustainably managed through security measures alone. One of the most widely cited approaches in peace-building is the concept of Human Security, introduced through the 1994 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report, which argues that genuine security is achieved when people feel politically secure, economically protected, socially respected and free from fear in their daily lives.

Similarly, conflict resolution scholar John Paul Lederach emphasises that sustainable peace is created through dialogue, relationship-building and the restoration of trust rather than through zero-sum thinking. In deeply divided societies, differences in political opinion should be recognised as part of the conflict environment rather than automatically interpreted as hostility.

Kashmir is a conflict region. It is therefore natural that different communities, families and generations hold different political perspectives shaped by their own experiences, histories and circumstances. Diversity of opinion should not become a reason for division among Kashmiris themselves, nor should it

weaken the relationship between Pakistan and the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

For this reason, I deliberately refrain from labelling any peaceful political group or segment of society. Every community has its own perspective, grievances and aspirations. Democratic societies become stronger when disagreements are addressed through dialogue, constitutional processes and mutual respect rather than suspicion and polarisation.

My greatest concern is that no misunderstanding, political disagreement or external agenda should ever succeed in weakening the historic relationship between Pakistan and the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Those who seek to create mistrust benefit only from division; the people themselves do not.

Personally, my own journey of advocacy also began around 2019. Since then, I have been privileged to participate in numerous international forums, conferences, research initiatives, media platforms and human rights discussions dedicated to Kashmir. The journey has not always been easy. Often, some of the greatest resistance has come not from those outside the cause but from within our own society. Nevertheless, every challenge reinforced my conviction that meaningful advocacy requires patience, credibility, professionalism and consistency. My position remains unchanged. I condemn every action that undermines the dignity of Kashmiris, weakens trust between the people of both sides of Kashmir, distances divided families, or threatens the cultural and historical identity of our homeland. Human dignity should never become collateral damage in political conflict. Likewise, I sincerely hope that stability, dialogue and institutional confidence are restored in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. I am not affiliated with any political party or political movement. My commitment is solely to the people. I do not wish to see instability, violence or the loss of innocent lives in a land whose people have sacrificed so much.

I respectfully urge the Government of Pakistan and all relevant state institutions to continue strengthening their engagement with the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir through inclusive governance, meaningful dialogue, development, public trust and responsive institutions. The historic bond between Pakistan and Kashmir has always been rooted not only in politics but also in shared history, emotions and human connections. Seven years after 5 August 2019, my hope remains the same: that dignity triumphs over division, dialogue over hostility, and humanity over conflict. Kashmir deserves a future where identity is protected, families are reunited, institutions inspire confidence, and peace is built not merely through political agreements but through justice, empathy and mutual respect.

History will remember borders and policies.

"Humanity, however, will remember how we treated people".

## Kashmir's Future Demands Peace, Courage and Democratic Wisdom



**RCC Bilawal house**  
**Published By:ANI News Agency**

Kashmir is passing through a deeply painful and distressing period. It is heartbreaking to witness our brothers and sisters facing humiliation, suffering and, most tragically, the loss of precious human lives. Behind every life lost is a family, a home, a mother, a father, a child and a future that can never be brought back.

At such a sensitive moment, the first responsibility of every individual, political leader and community representative must be the protection of human life.

Life matters. Every Kashmiri life matters.

Our women, children and men are innocent. They should never become victims of political confrontation, rivalry, anger or hatred. Differences over elections, political representation or public policy are part of democratic life, but they must never be allowed to develop into violence against our own people.

We must ask ourselves honestly: who benefits when Kashmiris are pushed against one another?

Division has always been a powerful instrument for those who seek to weaken societies. When people become trapped in confrontation, their attention moves away from the real issues affecting their lives. Political differences become personal hostility, communities become suspicious of one another, and genuine grievances are buried beneath anger and fear.

Kashmir must not be allowed to become a victim of such a cycle.

The Kashmir question is deeply sensitive and carries profound historical, political and emotional significance. The aspirations of the Kashmiri people, their dignity, their rights and their desire for a peaceful and secure future remain central to the issue. Because of this sensitivity, Kashmir can also become vulnerable to those who may attempt to exploit internal differences for political or strategic purposes.

This demands political maturity and vigilance from all of us.

We must be careful of anyone who deliberately attempts to create hatred between communities, provinces or political groups. We must reject inflammatory rhetoric and refuse to become instruments of those who benefit from instability.

At the same time, legitimate grievances must never be ignored.

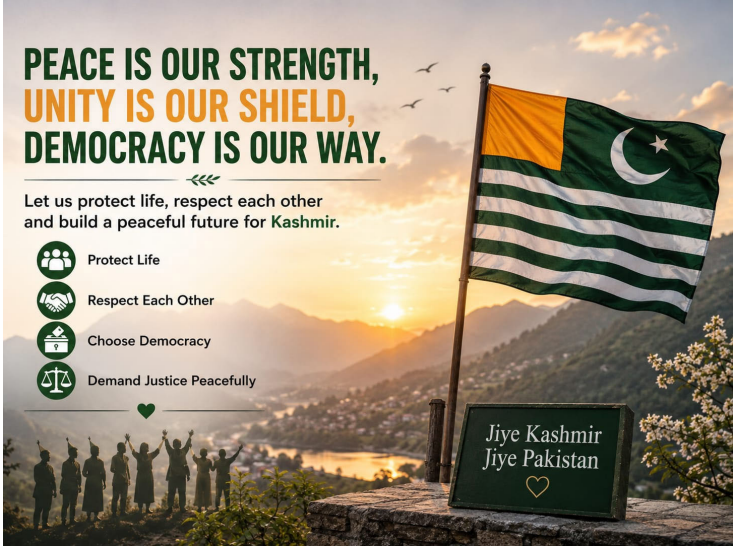
Citizens have the right to question their representatives. They have the right to demand accountability. They have the right to protest peacefully and to raise their concerns before elected representatives and constitutional institutions.

But there is a proper way to seek justice.

Complaints should be formally recorded. Evidence should be examined. Investigations should be conducted fairly and transparently. Those responsible for wrongdoing must be held accountable according to law.

Accountability must lead to justice not revenge.

A simple act of voting should never become a reason for disproportionate vengeance and hatred. Democracy gives people the right to choose differently. One person may



support one candidate while another supports a different political party. This is not a reason for them to become enemies.

The strength of democracy lies precisely in our ability to disagree peacefully.

Democracy cannot flourish without peace, tolerance, dialogue and respect for the rule of law. If every political disagreement becomes an excuse for confrontation, then society loses the very foundations that allow democracy to function.

This is why political leaders and public figures must exercise extraordinary responsibility at times of tension.

Words have power.

A responsible statement can calm an anxious population, while an inflammatory speech can deepen divisions and turn frustration into confrontation. Those who have public platforms must therefore use their influence to promote restraint, peace and constitutional methods rather than encouraging people to turn against each other.

We must not allow speakers, politicians or social media campaigns to convince us that fellow Kashmiris are our enemies.

Our differences do not make us enemies.

We can disagree politically and still respect one another. We can support different candidates and still share the same communities. We can demand our rights while respecting the rights and dignity of others.

That is the true test of democratic maturity.

At this moment, people must also take care of themselves and their families. Where tensions remain high, citizens should avoid unnecessary exposure to danger and take reasonable precautions to protect children, women and elderly family members. Community leaders should encourage calm and discourage confrontation.

Protecting ourselves does not mean remaining silent.

It means choosing responsible action over reckless reaction.

Kashmiris have demonstrated courage and resilience through generations. Today, that courage must be accompanied by wisdom, discipline and restraint. We must not allow anger to destroy the very society whose rights and future we seek to protect.

Our children deserve to grow up without fear. Our women deserve safety and dignity. Our families deserve peace. Our young people deserve education, opportunity and a future in which political differences do not threaten their lives.

We must therefore refuse every attempt to turn Kashmir's political and constitutional concerns into a source of permanent internal conflict.

We can stand firmly for our rights without promoting hatred.

We can demand justice without

seeking revenge.

We can defend our democratic choices without attacking those who choose differently.

And we can remain proud Kashmiris while respecting the dignity and humanity of every person around us.

The future of Kashmir cannot be secured through violence or division. It can only be strengthened through responsible leadership, peaceful political participation, democratic accountability and respect for human life.

Let us raise our concerns with our representatives in Parliament and demand answers. Let us insist that legitimate complaints are properly recorded, investigated and resolved. Let us hold those entrusted with public responsibility accountable through lawful and constitutional means.

Most importantly, let us protect our communities from those who would benefit from chaos.

There will always be people who attempt to exploit anger for their own interests. There will always be those who seek to deepen divisions because a divided society is easier to manipulate.

We must not give them that opportunity.

Kashmir deserves better.

It deserves peace without surrendering principles, democracy without violence, accountability without revenge and political debate without hatred.

Our strength must be measured not by how fiercely we confront one another, but by how courageously we protect our people and defend our democratic and constitutional rights.

Let us choose dialogue over confrontation.

Let us choose justice over vengeance.

Let us choose democratic institutions over violence.

Let us choose responsibility over provocation.

And let us remember that no political objective can justify the unnecessary loss of innocent human life.

Kashmir's future belongs to its people. It must not be sacrificed to hatred, division or political opportunism.

Let us remain calm, disciplined and courageous. Let us protect our families and our communities. Let us speak for justice, but let us do so peacefully. Let us defend our rights, but let us never forget our responsibility to protect human life and dignity.

The time has come for wisdom to prevail over anger and for democratic principles to prevail over confrontation. Peace is not weakness. Restraint is not surrender. Democracy is not revenge.

Kashmir needs responsible voices, courageous leadership and a commitment to peace.

Jiye Kashmir — Jiye Pakistan!

## Embedding Sustainable Finance and ESG Education in Business Schools to Shape Tomorrow's Green Leaders



**BY: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed**  
**Published By:ANI News Agency**

The global transition to a low-carbon economy will ultimately depend less on the availability of capital than on the quality of leadership. Governments are strengthening climate policies, regulators are embedding sustainability into financial oversight, and investors are directing unprecedented capital towards environmental, social and governance (ESG) opportunities. Yet one critical institution remains behind the curve: the business school.

While financial markets are rapidly redefining value creation, many business schools continue to educate future executives using frameworks designed for an economy that no longer exists. The result is a widening gap between what employers require and what graduates are prepared to deliver.

This educational mismatch carries profound economic consequences.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, resource constraints and social inequality are no longer peripheral concerns. They have become material financial risks affecting capital allocation, corporate valuation and long-term competitiveness. Financial institutions increasingly incorporate climate exposure into lending decisions. Asset managers assess ESG performance alongside traditional financial indicators. Regulators are introducing mandatory sustainability disclosures and climate-related stress testing. These developments are fundamentally reshaping modern finance.

Yet sustainability often remains an elective rather than an organising principle within management education. Business schools must move beyond treating ESG as a specialist subject. Sustainable finance should become an integral component of corporate finance, investment analysis,

accounting, economics, governance, entrepreneurship and strategy. Future executives will not simply manage sustainability departments; they will lead organisations where sustainability increasingly defines investment decisions, operational resilience and competitive advantage. This demands more than curriculum reform. It requires a redefinition of how business leadership itself is taught.

Tomorrow's finance professionals must understand climate-risk pricing, transition finance, green bonds, sustainable supply chains, carbon markets and evolving global disclosure standards. They must be capable of evaluating both financial returns and societal impact, recognising that these objectives are becoming increasingly interconnected rather than mutually exclusive. Equally important is the development of analytical and digital capabilities. Artificial intelligence is reshaping finance, from investment analysis and risk management to ESG reporting. Business schools must therefore equip future leaders with both technological expertise and the ethical judgement required to apply these technologies responsibly. Experiential learning is equally important. Strong partnerships between universities, financial institutions, regulators and industry can bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world practice, preparing graduates to lead sustainable finance in an increasingly complex global economy.

Emerging economies have a particularly important contribution to make.

Much of the global sustainability debate has been shaped by advanced economies, yet many of the world's most pressing climate, development and financing challenges are concentrated elsewhere. Universities across Asia, Africa and Latin America are uniquely positioned to generate context-specific solutions that integrate sustainable finance with inclusive growth, financial inclusion and economic resilience. Their experience should not merely complement the

global conversation; it should help shape it.

International collaboration will be equally critical. Business schools should jointly develop sustainability curricula, share teaching cases, promote faculty exchanges and establish research partnerships addressing the financial dimensions of climate transition. Accreditation bodies, meanwhile, can accelerate progress by embedding sustainability competencies into quality-assurance standards rather than treating them as optional enhancements.

The market is already signalling where education must evolve.

Employers increasingly seek graduates capable of integrating financial performance with environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance and long-term stakeholder value.

Investors expect executives who understand climate-related financial risk. Students themselves are demanding an education aligned with the realities of a rapidly changing global economy. Institutions that fail to respond risk producing graduates equipped for yesterday's challenges rather than tomorrow's opportunities.

Business schools have historically shaped the leaders who transformed global commerce. They now face an equally consequential responsibility: preparing the generation that will finance, govern and accelerate the transition towards a more resilient and sustainable economy.

Embedding sustainable finance and ESG education is therefore not simply an academic reform. It is an economic imperative.

The future competitiveness of businesses, the resilience of financial systems and the achievement of global sustainability objectives will depend, in no small measure, on the decisions made in today's classrooms. If business schools succeed in placing sustainable finance at the heart of management education, they will do more than prepare graduates for the future; they will help define it.

A Sustainable World for All of Us

ZAID M. BELBAGI

Ethiopia's completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in 2025 marked a turning point in the long-standing dispute over the Nile River. For Egypt, the dam poses a serious threat to its water supply, which relies almost entirely on the Nile. Ethiopia, on the other hand, sees the dam as a necessary step for its development and energy needs. This growing tension is just one example of how water scarcity is becoming a major issue in the Middle East and North Africa region, with countries competing for control over increasingly limited resources. As water becomes scarcer, the risks of conflict over shared resources are rising, threatening regional stability.

Water has always been a central factor in the development of civilizations. Ancient Sumerians, Egyptians and other early societies depended on river systems like the Tigris, Euphrates and Nile to thrive. These rivers were more than just natural resources; they were the backbone of agriculture, trade and the very survival of these civilizations. For them, water was a source of life.

The ancient Egyptians referred to the Nile as the "Gift of the Nile," viewing it as the divine source of all life. Similarly, the ancient Iranians held water in reverence as the source of life, nourishing plants, animals and humans alike. In their cosmology, water was considered the second of the seven "creations" that divided the world. This intimate connection

between water and power continues today, with nations in the MENA region fiercely vying for control over shared water resources.

The ongoing dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is a clear example of how water, once seen as a source of life, is now viewed as a tool of power and leverage. As such, the issue is not just about dam construction, it is about sovereignty over a river that is vital to the survival of multiple nations. This dispute has escalated despite years of diplomatic efforts to find common ground. Ethiopia completed the filling of the dam's reservoir but, as yet, no binding agreement on water release schedules or dispute resolution has been reached between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan.

For Sudan, the issue is complicated. In fact, the dam promises hydroelectric power, but there are concerns about its impact on water availability, particularly during droughts. Tensions have been exacerbated by the broader issue of water scarcity in the region, which is only intensifying with climate change. MENA is home to some of the world's most water-stressed countries, with per capita water availability well below the threshold of absolute water scarcity. Iraq and Syria, for instance, are highly vulnerable to water shortages, especially as upstream countries such as Turkey and Iran control the flow of key rivers.

Turkiye's damming of the Euphrates and Tigris has drastically reduced water flow to Iraq and Syria, contribut-

ing to water shortages and ecosystem degradation. In 2025, Turkiye agreed to temporarily release additional water to Iraq amid severe drought conditions, but such gestures fail to address the underlying issue of water allocation. As the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates diminishes, Iraq's agricultural sector, already reeling from conflict, faces the prospect of further collapse. Meanwhile, Syria is unable to invest in long-term water solutions, exacerbating the country's vulnerability. The effects of climate change, coupled with rapid population growth and poor water management, are driving the region toward a critical juncture. By 2050, water scarcity in MENA is projected to result in a significant reduction in gross domestic product, with Iraq and Syria expected to bear the brunt of the economic fallout. Agriculture, a key pillar of these nations' economies, is already experiencing a decline due to water shortages. With water becoming a more valuable commodity, the risk of conflict over this scarce resource is growing. However, despite the growing tensions, there are efforts to address these challenges through regional diplomacy.

Organizations such as the Arab Water Council and the Arab League's Council of Water Ministers are playing an important role in fostering dialogue between countries. But these efforts have been largely limited in scope and the region has yet to achieve a comprehensive framework for managing shared water resources.

— Arab News

## R-4 Foreign Ministers Reaffirm Support for Palestinian Statehood, Call for Regional Stability

By ANI Reporter

ISLAMABAD --- The Foreign Ministers of the R-4 Group, comprising the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Republic of Türkiye, met in Amman on August 5, 2026, to discuss the Palestinian issue and the evolving regional situation.

The Ministers reiterated their unwavering support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State based on the pre-June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.



ance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

They reaffirmed that a just, comprehensive, and lasting resolution of the Palestinian issue remains essential for achieving durable peace and stability in the Middle East.

The Ministers also reviewed the evolving regional developments and stressed the import

## Pakistan Reaffirms Unwavering Support for Kashmiris at Youm-e-Istehsal Ceremony in Kabul

By ANI Reporter :

KABUL --- The Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul observed Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir with a ceremony reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic, political, and moral support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Addressing the event, Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani, said Pakistan's consistent support for the Kashmiri cause remains a cornerstone of its foreign policy. He stressed that Pakistan will continue to raise the issue of the fundamental rights of Kashmiris at every relevant international forum.

Ambassador Nizamani stated that India has failed to gain either domestic or international legitimacy for its illegal and hegemonic actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said the Kashmiri people remain steadfast in resisting India's attempts to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory.

He further remarked that the unity of Kashmiris across the region sends a



clear message that they will continue their struggle until their legitimate right to self-determination is realized. He added that India's coercive and draconian policies have only strengthened the resolve of the Kashmiri people. During the ceremony, messages from President Asif Ali Zardari,

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar were read out. A documentary highlighting India's illegal actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was also screened.

## Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir Marked Across Balochistan with Rallies from Chaman to Gwadar

BY : ANI Reporter :

CHAMAN --Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir was observed across Balochistan with rallies and solidarity events held in district headquarters from Chaman to Gwadar, Qila Abdullah, and other areas.

A major rally in Chaman was led by Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangalzai, where participants expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the people of Kashmir are their brothers and expressed hope that their struggle and sacrifices would ultimately succeed. Participants in the rallies raised slogans in support of the



Kashmiri people and reiterated their commitment to their right to self-determination.

Separately, a meeting of district departments chaired by the Deputy

Commissioner reviewed ongoing development projects and finalized arrangements to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14 with enthusiasm and national spirit.

## Commissioner Reviews Security Arrangements for Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS)

By ANI Reporter :

SARGODHA -- Commissioner Sargodha Division Hafiz Shaukat Ali reviewed security arrangements for the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) during a visit to the Safe City Authority Control Room, accom-

panied by senior police officials.

He inspected the CCTV surveillance system, monitoring of processions, traffic management, and emergency response arrangements. Officials briefed him on security measures and inter-departmental coordination for the peaceful observance of the

Chehlum. Later, the Commissioner inspected the route of the main procession and reviewed security, cleanliness, lighting, barricading, and traffic arrangements. He directed all departments to remain fully alert and ensure a peaceful, secure, and well-organized observance of the Chehlum.

## Chaman Chamber of Commerce Delegation Arrives in China to Promote Trade Ties



By ANI Reporter :

CHINA -- A delegation of the Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry has arrived in the historic Chinese city of Kashgar on an official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and business cooperation.

The delegation is led by Chaman Chamber President Nafay Jan Achakzai and includes senior chamber members, former office-bearers, and business leaders, including Haji Abdul Manan Khan Durrani, Haji Hameedullah Khan Achakzai, Haji Muhammad Qasim Khan Achakzai, Malik Moheebullah, and Naseer

Ahmad.

During the visit, the delegation is scheduled to hold meetings with business communities and various chambers of commerce in different Chinese cities to discuss trade opportunities, investment, and measures to enhance commercial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

## Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Congratulates Ahsan Mehsud on Winning Gold at Heroes International Taekwondo Championship

BY: Hurish Shah/FT

ISLAMABAD--- Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has congratulated Pakistani taekwondo athlete Ahsan Mehsud on winning the gold medal at the Heroes International Taekwondo Championship held in Thailand.

In his congratulatory message, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq praised Ahsan Mehsud for his outstanding performance, stating that the young athlete's remarkable achievement has

brought pride and honour to Pakistan. He commended the athlete from Waziristan for displaying exceptional skill, determination, and commitment while defeating competitors from several countries, including India, to secure the gold medal.

The Speaker said Ahsan Mehsud's victory reflects his hard work, dedication, and extraordinary talent. He expressed confidence that the young champion would continue to excel in future international competitions and bring further glory to the country.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the success of Pakistani youth on the global stage is a source of immense national pride and reflects the country's bright future. He added that talented and committed athletes like Ahsan Mehsud are valuable assets to Pakistan and play an important role in promoting the country's positive image internationally.

The Speaker extended his best wishes to Ahsan Mehsud and prayed for his continued success in future international competitions.

## Balochistan Students Explore Pakistan's Parliamentary System During Senate Visit

By : Hurish Shah :

ISLAMABAD --- A 39-member delegation of students from various universities in Balochistan visited the Senate Secretariat at Parliament House, Islamabad, as part of a study tour aimed at enhancing their understanding of Pakistan's parliamentary system.

The delegation was welcomed by Dinesh Kumar and taken on a tour of

the Senate Museum, where they received an overview of the Senate's history, legislative process, and constitutional role. They also visited the Senate Hall, where Rabia Anwar, Principal Secretary to the Chairman Senate, briefed the students on the Senate Secretariat's functions, parliamentary procedures, and the role of standing committees.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Dinesh Kumar said Pakistan's youth

are the country's greatest asset and encouraged the students to pursue education with dedication so they can contribute to national development. The delegation also visited the Senate Broadcasting Room to learn about the audio and video recording system used during Senate proceedings.

The students described the visit as informative and memorable, thanking the Senate Secretariat for its hospitality and comprehensive briefings.

## ISSI Seminar Reaffirms Support for Kashmiris' Right to Self-Determination on Youm-e-Istehsal

By ANI Reporter :

ISLAMABAD --- The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) commemorated the 7th anniversary of Youm-e-Istehsal by hosting a seminar titled "5 August 2019: The Continuing Struggle for Self-Determination," bringing together diplomats, policymakers, and experts to discuss the Kashmir issue.

Former Federal Minister and Senator Sherry Rehman attended as the Chief Guest, while Ambassador Tahir Andrabi was the Guest of Honour. Addressing the seminar, speakers emphasized that the Kashmir issue is fundamentally about the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and reaffirmed Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic, and moral support for their cause.

The speakers described India's August 5, 2019 actions as unilateral and maintained that any attempt to alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir is inconsistent with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. They also stressed that lasting peace in the region requires a peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

## Danyal Chaudhry Says Kashmiris' Struggle for Self-Determination Cannot Be Suppressed

BY : Kiran Shehzadi/ANI

RAWALPINDI --- Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said India's August 5, 2019 move to alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir has failed to achieve its objectives and has been rejected by the Kashmiri people.

Addressing a Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir ceremony at Waqar-un-Nisa College, Rawalpindi, he said Pakistan stands firmly with the people of Kashmir and will continue to support their right to self-determination. The event was attended by elected representatives, government officials, academics, students, and members of civil society.

Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said



India's actions of August 5, 2019, were in violation of international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He maintained that the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be changed through unilateral measures and alleged that efforts to alter the region's demographic com-

position would not succeed.

He further stated that despite restrictions and hardships, the Kashmiri people remain steadfast in their decades-long struggle for self-determination, reaffirming Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic, and moral support for their cause.

## FGEHA Holds Solidarity Walks to Mark Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir

BY: ANI Reporter :

ISLAMABAD --- The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) organized solidarity walks at its Head Office in G-10/4 and the G-13 Site Office to mark Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, expressing support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The walks were attended by FGEHA officers, officials, employees, and members of the local community, who carried the national flags of Pakistan and Kashmir and reiterated their support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, as well as for peace, justice, and human dignity.

Speakers on the occasion said August 5, 2019, marked a significant development in the history of the



Jammu and Kashmir dispute and had far-reaching implications for regional peace and stability. They maintained that the issue should be resolved peacefully in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, international law, and meaningful dialogue.

Participants paid tribute to the

resilience and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed Pakistan's continued moral, diplomatic, and political support for their cause. They also stressed the importance of justice, tolerance, and mutual respect in promoting lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

## Khakan Waheed Khawaja Says Journalists and Artists Are Key Pillars of National Development

BY : ANI Reporter :

ISLAMABAD -- Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, and head of Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party, Khakan Waheed Khawaja, said journalists and artists are two vital pillars of society whose role is essential for the country's progress.

Speaking during a meeting with journalists, artists, and political and social figures at his office, Khakan Waheed Khawaja briefed participants on his party's manifesto and policies. He said the party is working not only on healthcare, technical education, and employment but also for the development of the media and cultural sectors.

He added that the party aims to pro-



vide a strong platform for journalists and artists to promote public awareness and contribute positively to society.

Participants, including media profes-

sionals and members of the artistic community, appreciated the party's vision and future programme, expressing support for its objectives and commitment to contributing to its mission.