

Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: https://dailyfinancialtime.com

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Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 330 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Tuesday August 11 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

Pak-Saudi-Turkiye defence pact ‘entirely for defensive purposes’, not aggression: PM



ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday affirmed that the recently signed Makkah Joint Defence Agreement was “entirely for defensive purposes”, and not for any aggression. The joint defence agreement, signed on August 7 between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, aims to strengthen collective deterrence and empowers its signatory states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them.

Addressing the federal cabinet on Monday, PM Shehbaz recalled that he, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed the pact in Makkah on Friday.

The prime minister stressed that the objective of the pact is to “promote peace, progress, and prosperity in the region”.

“Its purpose is definitely not that any aggression occurs. It is entirely for defensive purposes, for peace, tranquillity and progress in the region,” he affirmed. “I believe this agreement is a source of strength not just among these three countries, but for the entire Muslim ummah,” he noted. PM Shehbaz particularly felicitated Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as well as Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir on the signing of the agreement.

Efforts for the joint defence pact had been underway for “many years

and materialised this Friday”, the prime minister said.

He noted that while Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had already entered the “Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement” in September 2025, Islamabad and Ankara also had “arrangements for decades” between them. PM Shehbaz recalled that the Pakistani nation and the army had been honoured to “defend the world’s holiest places” of Makkah and Madina for years along with the Saudi forces. “Last year, with Allah’s grace, this arrangement was officially recognised so that a proper agreement was signed. Friday’s agreement is another extension of it, with a trilateral agreement signed.”

In a statement issued by the

Foreign Office earlier in the day, Dar felicitated the nation on the agreement’s signing. He reiterated his comments from Sunday wherein he said the pact was defensive in nature and not directed against any country. Dar also noted that the term of treating an attack on one of them as an attack against all three was “consistent with the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter”.

The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement has been hailed by the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as an “important strategic step”. Kuwait, Bahrain and Somalia are among the countries that have welcomed it.

Vote count underway after polling ends in third phase of AJK elections

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: Polling in the third phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) general elections concluded at 5pm in four constituencies of Bagh and Haveli districts, with the vote counting process now underway. More than 460,000 registered voters were eligible to cast their ballots in the four constituencies. The constituencies participating in the third phase include LA-14, LA-15, LA-16 and LA-17, where a total of 82 candidates are contesting the elections. According to Election Commission officials, polling began at 8am and continued uninterrupted until 5pm. After the close of polling, election staff started counting votes at the respective polling stations. Initial results are expected to emerge as the counting progresses. A close contest is expected between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). According to the Chief Election Commissioner, polling in constituencies of Poonch and Sudhanoti districts has been postponed. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission has revised the schedule for the third phase of the 2026 general elections, postponing polling in Poonch and Sudhanoti districts due to the prevailing law and order situation.

Under the original schedule, polling was to be held on 11 seats across four districts of the Poonch Division on August 10. However, the Election Commission announced that third-phase voting will now be conducted only in Bagh and Haveli districts, while polling in all constituencies of Poonch and Sudhanoti has been deferred.

PML-N to secure two-thirds majority in AJK, says Rana Sanaullah

The Election Commission said the revised schedule was issued in view of the security situation, adding that a new polling date for the postponed constituencies will be announced after reviewing the prevailing conditions.

The first and second phases of the



AJK general elections were held on July 27 and August 2 in the Mirpur and Muzaffarabad divisions, respectively.

According to confirmed results, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has emerged as the leading party in the elections. Prime Minister’s Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah said the party had secured a simple majority and was set to form the next government in Azad Kashmir.

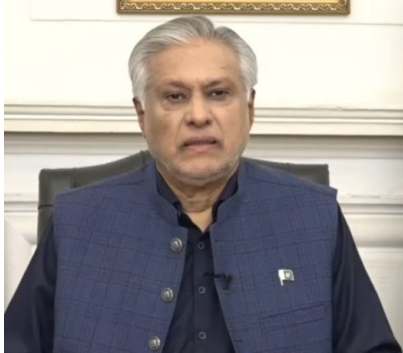
The second phase of polling was held across 21 constituencies, including nine seats in the Muzaffarabad Division and 12 reserved seats for Kashmiri refugees residing in Pakistan. Unofficial results showed the PML-N winning 15 seats, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) secured six.

In the first phase of the elections, the PML-N won nine constituencies, while the PPP secured four seats, according to provisional and unofficial results.

Both phases were accompanied by allegations of rigging and violence from the PPP. Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari described the elections as neither free nor fair and alleged widespread irregularities.

The PML-N rejected the allegations, with Rana Sanaullah challenging the PPP to present evidence before the Election Commission. He said allegations of rigging should be supported by proof rather than political claims.

Makkah Accord defensive in nature, not directed against any country: Dar



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that the Makkah Accord was defensive in nature, and it was not directed against any country. “Its purpose is to strengthen collective deterrence against external aggression and reinforce our capacity to defend our sovereignty, territorial integrity and peoples,” the deputy prime minister said in a statement issued by the Foreign Office. Extending warm felicitations to the nation on the signing of the “Makkah Joint Defence Agreement” (Makkah Accord) by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in the blessed city of Makkah Al-Mukarramah, he said this historic accord reflected the depth of our brotherly bonds, shared values and common commitment to peace, security and stability, the deputy prime minister said in his

message to the Nation.

He said the signing of the Makkah Accord was a significant milestone in Pakistan’s longstanding strategic relationships with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Türkiye. “It embodies our shared resolve to strengthen cooperation in addressing the evolving peace and security challenges facing our region.”

The DPM/FM said the Makkah Accord provided that an armed attack against any one of the three countries shall be regarded as an attack against all, consistent with the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

He underscored that Pakistan remained firmly committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes, respect for sovereignty and international law, and the pursuit of regional peace, stability and prosperity. “The Makkah Accord is not an instrument of confrontation, but an expression of our collective commitment to peace through strength, solidarity and mutual respect.”

He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the Foreign Office of Pakistan have played pivotal role in bringing this historic Makkah Accord to fruition. “The leadership and vision in safeguarding Pakistan’s national interests and strengthening our strategic partnerships with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, is commendable,” he added.

Security forces kill five Indian proxy terrorists in Panjgur operation



ANI

QUETTA: Security forces have killed five terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan in Panjgur district of Balochistan.

Sources said the intelligence-based operation was conducted in the Sarkani and Chhidgi areas under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. The killed terrorists also included a key commander identified by the sources as Wazir, son of Jamal.

Security forces recovered four motorcycles, machine guns, heavy weapons and

ammunition during the operation. The terrorists killed in the operation were allegedly involved in robberies, extortion, kidnappings and other terrorist activities targeting local traders and residents in Panjgur.

A clearance operation is continuing in the area to locate and eliminate any other suspected militants linked to Fitna al-Hindustan, the sources said.

Security forces remain committed to eliminating the militant network from Balochistan, according to security sources.

PPP leaders reject alleged AJK election rigging, vow to continue protest

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders and Senator Palwasha Khan have rejected alleged rigging in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections, saying the party will not remain silent over alleged electoral irregularities.

Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad alongside PPP leaders Shahla Raza and Sharmila Faruqi, Palwasha Khan alleged that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was involved in electoral irregularities and said the PPP had evidence to support its allegations.

Palwasha Khan claimed that government ministers had announced their victory as early as noon, alleging that an attempt was being made to form a government in AJK through alleged rigging. She said the PML-N was uncomfortable with the PPP raising its voice



against alleged electoral manipulation.

She said the PPP had been allowed to govern AJK for only six months and alleged that statements by ministers claiming to have 12 seats “in their pockets” had contributed to unrest in Kashmir. She further alleged that internal disputes within the government were being used to target the PPP, while the federal government was the actual target. Palwasha Khan also crit-

icised those calling for President Asif Ali Zardari’s resignation, saying political opponents should not forget that Zardari was president. Shahla Raza said every election was important because voters exercised their constitutional right to choose their representatives. Referring to the slogan of giving respect to the vote, she said respect for the vote also required exposing alleged electoral rigging.

Acid traces found in young trader Mir Raza’s stomach, investigation widens

ANI

KARACHI: An important development has emerged in the case of young trader Mir Raza, with evidence of acid reportedly found in his stomach, while investigators have widened their probe and detained 21 people in connection with the case. According to sources, Mir Raza’s lungs were severely affected by acid, while traces of acid and another person’s sweat were reportedly found on his shirt. Effects indicating the presence of acid were also found on his hands and feet. Sources said police have sealed a guest house located near the scene of the incident after declaring it suspicious. Six people working at the guest house have also been taken into custody. A total of 21 people have so far been detained in connection with the case, including Mir Raza’s friends and business partners. Statements of the detained individuals have also been recorded. Meanwhile, the Sindh government has decided to form a judicial commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding Mir Raza’s death.

AJK polls peaceful, PML-N poised to form govt: Rana Sanaullah

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah has said polling in the third phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections is proceeding peacefully in the remaining constituencies of Poonch Division, particularly Haveli and Bagh, with only a few isolated incidents reported.

Speaking to the media, Sanaullah said the elections were being held after the AJK and federal governments agreed to give protesters sufficient time to reconsider their position. He said those who had sought to prevent the elections should now



accept that they had failed to stop the democratic process.

“Those who wanted to stop the elections should now realize that they have failed. The people of Azad

Kashmir have exercised their right to vote and given their mandate to their elected representatives,” he said.

Sanaullah said the completion of the third phase would pave the way for government formation in AJK. The elected government, he added, would address the legitimate problems and concerns of the people through democratic means.

He urged protesting groups to end their sit-ins and return to the democratic process, saying candidates from constituencies where elections remained pending could join the assembly through by-elections.

At the same time, Sanaullah



Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

NUTECH Holds First Excellence Awards 2026, Honors 84 Employees



BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The National University of Technology (NUTECH) held its first Excellence Awards 2026 ceremony, honoring 84 employees for outstanding performance in teaching, research, administration and service.

The ceremony was attended by

university leadership, distinguished guests, faculty members and administrative staff. The awards recognized employees for their dedication, professionalism and contributions to the university's institutional development. Addressing the ceremony, Rector NUTECH Lt Gen Moazzam Ejaz (R), HI (M), congratulated the award recipients and

appreciated their commitment to maintaining high standards of professional excellence. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of awards and certificates. The inaugural event marked an important milestone in NUTECH's efforts to promote merit, recognize outstanding performance and foster a culture of excellence across the university.

Jhelum Holds Special Ceremony to Highlight Makkah Mutual Defence Agreement



BY: FT Correspondent:

JHELUM -- A special ceremony was organized by the District Administration Jhelum at the District Council Hall to highlight the Makkah Mutual Defence Agreement and the strong brotherly relations, mutual security and defence cooperation between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

The ceremony was supervised by District Education Officer (Literacy)

Maimuna Anjum, Assistant Commissioner Jhelum Abdullah Ghazi Khan, Additional Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Abdullah Raja and Assistant Commissioner Coordination Malik Amir Shahzad attended as special guests.

The national flags of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye were displayed at the event. Students presented national songs, while children performed various tableaux and plays highlighting national

spirit and solidarity among the three brotherly countries.

The participants termed the Makkah Mutual Defence Agreement an important step towards strengthening defence cooperation, mutual trust and collective security among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Officers and officials from the district administration, education department and other relevant departments also attended the ceremony.

FGEHA Reclaims 132 Kanals of Land in G-15/3, Takes Possession of All BUP Cases



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has successfully continued its anti-encroachment operation in Sector G-15/3, reclaiming 132 kanals of government land and securing possession of land pertaining to all BUP cases.

The four-day operation was con-

ducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner/Land Acquisition Collector Almas Sabeeh Saqib and Director Land & Enforcement Lt. (Retd.) Saad Bin Asad, on the directives of FGEHA Director General Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal.

During a ceremony, allotment letters and relevant documents for the reclaimed land were distributed among 38 affectees in the presence of

MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan.

FGEHA officials said the operation would help protect the rights of allottees, remove illegal encroachments and accelerate development activities in the sector. The Authority reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, rule of law and provision of quality residential facilities to federal government employees and other allottees.

Experts warn Pakistan's population policies lag behind demographic realities, call for data-driven, multi-sectoral reforms

ANI

ISLAMABAD: With Pakistan's population having crossed 240 million and a median age of just 19, policymakers, health experts and researchers warned that the country's demographic trajectory demanded an urgent shift from short-term fixes to robust, evidence-based strategies.

The stakeholders gathered here at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Monday at a seminar titled "Population Growth and Policy Coherence in Pakistan: Challenges and Pathways", said a press release.

The seminar was steered by a wide-ranging discussion on institutional silos, regional implementation bottlenecks and community-level narratives shaping Pakistan's population policy landscape.

Prof. Dr. Shezad Ali Khan, Executive Director, Health Services Academy, presented some of the seminar's starkest findings, arguing that population dynamics could not be understood through a narrow medical lens alone. He said many pregnancies carried out through unsafe procedures in unregulated clinics that result in severe complications and sepsis.

Dr. Khan said that infants who are not breastfed were 11 times more likely to die of diarrhoea and five times more likely to die of pneumonia, reinforcing the need for a multi-sectoral approach



that brings education and economic planning alongside healthcare.

Ms. Rabia Zafar, from National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), drew attention to these macroeconomic projections, pointing to structural deficits in long-term financing, regional coordination and ground-level commitment. She urged policymakers to move from reactive planning to systematic, projection-based frameworks, stressing that only targeted investments in human capital, health and skill development would allow Pakistan to capitalise on its approaching demographic window.

Ms. Farah Ashraf, from United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA), highlighted the pressing need to dismantle fragmented departmental silos that continue to hamper coherent policymaking. Speaking on UNFPA-backed initiatives, she said unified data governance, harmonised coordination between federal and provincial stakeholders, and aligning national budgets with long-term demographic trends were fundamental prereq-

uisites for effective policy implementation.

Dr. Shafqat Munir Deputy Executive Director (Policy) SDPI, noted that Pakistan's 57 million women currently in their reproductive age were projected to surpass 100 million by 2050, while the country's working-age population currently bolstered by a youth cohort making up 67 percent of the population was expected to grow from 164 million to 292 million over the same period. He added that Pakistan's core challenge was not a shortage of policy statements, but inadequate long-term financing, uneven regional access and weak inter-departmental coordination.

Closing the discussion, Dr. Shafqat Munir reiterated SDPI's commitment to evidence-based, multi-sectoral dialogue that bridged research and actionable governance, apprising participants that Pakistan must now move "from dialogue to implementation."

He said the seminar forms part of its continuing research agenda on demographic and development policy in Pakistan.

Lt. SSP (R) Ahmed Mohiyuddin Appointed Chief Public Trust Officer at Humanetek

Appointment of former police and naval officer to strengthen public trust, protection standards and service delivery across Mohafiz and Mohsyn

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Humanetek Pvt Ltd., the parent company of Pakistan's leading crisis management and family care platforms Mohafiz and Mohsyn, has announced the appointment of Lt. SSP (R) Ahmed Mohiyuddin as Chief Public Trust Officer.

Ahmed Mohiyuddin is a former BS-19 officer of the Police Service of Pakistan and a former Lieutenant in the Pakistan Navy. He brings more than two decades of experience in security, crisis response, public service and leadership.

Throughout his career, he served in high-risk environments and remained focused on protecting citizens. He also earned recognition for conducting open courts (Khuli Kacheris) and addressing public complaints through prompt action, building considerable public trust.

In his new role, Ahmed Mohiyuddin will oversee public trust, credibility, protection standards and stakeholder confidence at Humanetek. He will work to further strengthen service quality and public confidence across the company's two key platforms, Mohafiz and Mohsyn.

Mohafiz is a private emergency



response and crisis management service. According to the company, Mohafiz has handled more than 55,000 critical emergencies and contributed to saving over 15,000 lives across Pakistan, Egypt, Argentina and Kenya. The platform also provides services to corporate organizations to help address counterfeit and illicit goods.

Mohsyn is a comprehensive family support service for overseas Pakistanis, providing assistance through trained, security-vetted and professional service providers to help protect, support and care for their families and properties in

Pakistan.

Speaking on his appointment, Ahmed Mohiyuddin said, "Service does not end with a uniform." He said whether protecting citizens in the line of duty or helping families remain secure across distances, the core responsibility remained to be someone people could truly trust.

Humanetek Founder and CEO Fahd Khan welcomed the appointment, saying Ahmed Mohiyuddin represented the values on which the organization was built. He said the appointment would further strengthen Humanetek's commitment to providing reliable and high-quality emergency response and family support services.

Ahmed Mohiyuddin is a graduate of the Pakistan Naval Academy, National Police Academy and FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He also holds a degree in Terrorism, Security and Policing from the University of Leicester, UK.

His appointment comes as Mohafiz and Mohsyn continue to expand their services. Mohafiz is focusing on nationwide emergency coordination, corporate brand protection and efforts against illicit trade, while Mohsyn is expanding its support for overseas Pakistanis and their families in Pakistan.

Parliamentary Committee Raises Serious Questions Over Millions in Private Medical College Fees

Questions Over Rawal Institute's Infrastructure, Aliya Kamran Objects to Fee Increase

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --- A heated discussion was held at the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services over high fees charged by private medical and dental colleges, with lawmakers questioning how ordinary families can afford annual fees running into millions of rupees.

Committee member Aliya Kamran objected to allowing fee increases for institutions whose facilities and records allegedly do not meet required standards. Referring to Rawal Institute of Health Sciences, she cited photographs showing alleged poor infrastructure and standing water in classrooms, questioning how such an institution could qualify for a fee increase.

The committee was informed that 61 private medical colleges had sought permission to charge above the Rs1.8 million baseline fee. After reviewing balance sheets, third-party audit reports and inspection reports, 35 colleges were declared eligible for fee enhancement. However, not all were permitted to charge Rs2.5 million, with fees for some institutions set at Rs1.9 million, Rs1.95 million and Rs2 million.

A disagreement also emerged over the link between high fees and vacant seats. PMDC officials said high fees were not the only reason for vacant seats, pointing out that some colleges charging Rs3.5 million had filled their seats. However, the Vice Chancellor of Jinnah Sindh Medical University said around 8,000 students who



passed the MDCAT could not take admission because they could not afford the fees.

Committee member Gul Asghar Khan said private-sector medical education involved investment with expectations of returns and could therefore be considered a business. Other members disagreed, arguing that fees running into millions of rupees were beyond the reach of ordinary families.

Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal defended differences in fees, saying institutions had varying facilities and educational standards. He added that some colleges hired foreign professors and provided additional practical training, resulting in higher operating costs.

The committee was also informed that the BDS programme

is being extended from four to five years to meet international recognition requirements, which would place an additional financial burden on students. Members expressed concern that the additional year of fees could further increase vacant seats in dental colleges.

Aliya Kamran also questioned incomplete documentation and audit reports submitted by some colleges seeking fee increases. Committee Chairman Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani directed the relevant authorities to provide complete details regarding fees, college standards, audit reports and vacant seats.

The committee stressed that reducing private medical college fees could enable more students to pursue medical education and help address the growing issue of vacant seats.

Foolproof Security Arrangements Finalized Across Balochistan for Independence Day Celebrations

BY : FT Correspondent:

QUETTA - It has been decided to celebrate Independence Day with full zeal and fervor across Balochistan, with foolproof security arrangements finalized throughout the province.

In his message, Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said that freedom is a great blessing and free nations celebrate their independence with enthusiasm and passion, which is the hallmark of a living nation. He said there is no place for a handful of miscreants and anti-state elements.

Pakistan is an independent and sovereign state, and we along with our security institutions protect it with our lives. We are proud of our martyrs. The defence agreement signed in Makkah Al-Mukarramah is great news for the entire Muslim Ummah," he said.

He further said that RAW is promoting terrorism everywhere and its proxies are also present in Balochistan, but, InshaAllah, they will never succeed.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Muhammad Tahir, along with Deputy Inspector



General of Police Quetta, Imran Shaukat, and SSP Operations Zia-ul-Haq Mandokhail, visited Sariaab Police Station, New Sariaab Police Station, PTC Centre, Qasim Line, ATF Complex Eastern Bypass and adjoining areas.

On the occasion, IGP

Balochistan Muhammad Tahir said that Balochistan Police will utilize all its resources to eradicate crime and no one will be allowed to spread mischief and unrest on this land.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Opinion

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Makkah Pact: An Eternal Alliance of Peace, Security, Defense and Brotherhood

Column: Inside Story: Asghar Ali Mubarak:
Published by ANI

The Makkah Pact is not just a temporary defense or diplomatic agreement, but an eternal and iron alliance of peace, security, defense, and brotherhood among the three great powers of the Muslim Ummah—Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey. In the geopolitical landscape, this pact has fundamentally altered the region's defense balance.

The Makkah Pact is an eternal message of peace, security, defense, and brotherhood. "The word 'pact' does not mean just an agreement but a firm declaration and strategic plan, and when it becomes the 'Makkah Pact', it becomes an irrevocable message of peace, brotherhood and invincible defense from the holy land of Makkah to the world."

The Makkah Pact or "Makkah Pact." The Arabic word 'pact' means a covenant, agreement, firm declaration, or plan. It is Makkah, the holiest city for Muslims. The "Pact of Mecca" or "Meetashaq Makkah" is a pact of peace and brotherhood concluded in Mecca. In my opinion, to truly understand the depth of this alliance, one must understand the profound weight of the term Meeqat or Meeqat (pact).

In Arabic philosophy, 'pact' does not simply refer to an extraordinary agreement; it denotes a firm commitment, an unbreakable covenant, and a complex, unwavering strategic plan.

When this ultimate pact is bound by Mecca, the holiest site of Islam and the global cradle of peace, it transcends ordinary diplomacy.

Thus, the 'Pact of Mecca' (Meetashaq Makkah) emerges as a sacred blueprint for complete security, peace, and brotherhood, which has transformed the financial weight of Saudi Arabia, the nuclear defense depth of Pakistan, and the tactical technological perfection of Turkey into an eternal, defensive alliance. In my opinion, to truly understand the depth of this alliance, one must understand the Meeqat, or the profound weight of the term pact (Meeshaq). In Arabic philosophy, 'pact' does not simply refer to an extraordinary agreement; it denotes a firm commitment, an unbreakable covenant, and a complex, unwavering strategic plan. When this ultimate pact is bound by Mecca, the holiest site of Islam and the global cradle of peace, it transcends ordinary diplomacy. Thus, the 'Pact of Mecca' (Meeshaq-e-Makkah) emerges as a sacred blueprint for complete security, peace, and brotherhood, which has transformed the financial weight of Saudi Arabia, the nuclear defense depth of Pakistan, and the tactical-technical perfection of Turkey into an eternal, defensive alliance. In the geopolitical scenario, the Pact of Mecca has radically changed the defense balance of the region. The basic strategic pillars of this alliance are as follows:

The sanctity of the Holy Land: Being concluded on the blessed land of Mecca, this pact has a high moral and spiritual value. The alliance is sacred, aiming to protect the Muslim world from war and chaos and make it a cradle of peace

Protection of global trade routes: Securing the most sensitive international sea routes such as the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Bab al-Mandab Strait is the top priority of this alliance so that the global economy and energy

supply lines can continue uninterrupted

Trilateral military siege: This alliance provides a common defense structure along the lines of NATO, where aggression against one country is considered an attack on all three countries

Balance of power: Saudi Arabia's financial capital, Turkey's advanced drone and naval technology, and Pakistan's strategic position, manpower and nuclear command together form the world's strongest military bloc

Countering proxies and external threats: This pact provides a practical military core for the mutual brotherhood of the Muslim Ummah against external threats, drone attacks and regional tensions looming over the Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia

Common economic survival: Along with defense, it The Saudi Vision 2030 agreement serves as a strong economic bridge between Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and CPEC so that the three countries can jointly achieve new heights of development. I believe that a "covenant" is essential for any great goal. In the Arabic dictionary, the word "covenant" is not just the name of a temporary agreement, but rather it denotes a firm and irrevocable commitment, a strong commitment and a long-term strategic plan. Naming the emerging new security bloc between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey as the "Makkah Pact" reflects this firm determination. This agreement, attributed to the holy land of Mecca, is not just a military alliance, but an eternal alliance of peace, security, defense and brotherhood between the three major powers of the Muslim Ummah. The Makkah Pact is a comprehensive and historic defense alliance between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey that adds a new chapter in the military and strategic history of the Muslim Ummah. The most important point of the key defense provisions of this agreement is the principle of collective security, under which a military attack on any of the three countries will be considered an attack on all, and against this aggression, the three countries will give a joint military response and also regularly exchange intelligence. To implement this strategic objective, the land, naval and air forces of the three countries will conduct joint combat exercises on an annual basis to further enhance mutual operational capabilities in the field of conventional threats and counter-terrorism. Most importantly, this alliance establishes an ideal partnership in the defense industry where Saudi Arabia's financial resources, Turkey's advanced drone and aerospace technology, and Pakistan's long-term military expertise and missile programs are coming together, with the aim of completely eliminating military dependence on the outside world and ensuring sustainable peace and self-reliance in the region through technology transfer, joint weapons production, and the establishment of defense equipment repair centers.The Makkah Pact is a purely defensive and peace-loving alliance, which was not established for aggression or declaration of war against any third country. Its main objective is to ensure security and bring stability to the region. Its aim is not to wage war, but to strengthen the defense capacity to counter any external aggression. This

alliance recognizes only the right to self-defense in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Its goal is not to attack any sovereign state, but to cleanse the region of terrorism and extremism. The main axis of the alliance is defense self-reliance, economic cooperation, and promotion of peace and brotherhood among Muslim countries. It should be noted that Pakistan's foreign and military policy is based on the principle that Pakistan will intervene militarily in case of a threat to the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia and the holy sites (Haram Al-Sharifain). According to Asghar Ali Mubarak, a senior Pakistani political and diplomatic analyst, Pakistan has deployed thousands of military personnel, a squadron of JF-17 fighter jets and a modern air defense system (HQ-9 Air Defense) to Saudi Arabia under its mutual defense agreements to counter security threats looming over the Gulf. Kuwait has recently ratified a major defense manifesto agreement with Pakistan, under which Pakistan is providing assistance to the Kuwaiti army in the areas of drone technology, intelligence sharing and air defense. Following the increasing number of attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Pakistan is included in a 14-nation maritime defense alliance led by Saudi Arabia to secure the Gulf's oil supply lines. The Saudi-led multinational maritime defense alliance was established in Riyadh in late July 2026 with the primary objective of providing security to global trade and energy supply lines in the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The permanent headquarters of the 14-nation alliance has been established in Saudi Arabia, and Saudi Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Salem al-Shehri was appointed as the first commander of the force in early August 2026. The founding members of the alliance include Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkey, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Sudan, Djibouti and Somalia, while Oman and the United Arab Emirates are not part of it. The force works through intelligence sharing, joint maritime patrols and operational planning, the structure of which is scheduled for another important meeting in mid-August 2026 to finalize. In this alliance, Pakistan's experienced navy and Turkey's modern naval technology together provide the strongest defense core for Gulf security. In the event of tension in the Gulf, Pakistan, as a responsible nuclear power, has always played the role of a diplomatic mediator between Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other Gulf countries to prevent war in the Gulf. Preparations for the first formal joint maritime patrol under the Multinational Maritime Defense Alliance are being completed rapidly, as Saudi Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Salem Al-Shehri has appointed as the first commander of this force in early August after the formation of the alliance in late July 2026. This first patrol will focus on the highly sensitive sea lanes of the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Gulf of Aden, with the main objective of preventing attacks on trade routes and providing foolproof security to international energy supply lines. All operations of this patrol will be monitored from the permanent headquarters and the Combined Marine Operations Center

in Saudi Arabia, where real-time intelligence and satellite information will be shared among all 14 member countries. In this first patrol, the Pakistan Navy's modern patrol ships (Tughral-class frigates) and the Turkish-made MILGEM-class corvettes will provide the main defensive cover, which are equipped with the latest anti-ship and air defense systems. This naval mission will also be supported by Turkey's Bayraktar Akinci drones and Saudi Arabia's aerial surveillance system, which will monitor the sea lanes from the air around the clock. The AGL meeting to be held in mid-August will review the initial results of the first joint patrol and finalize a permanent weekly schedule for monitoring the sea lanes. The Pakistan Navy's most advanced ships, especially the Tughral-class frigates and the Babur-class multi-purpose corvettes, are equipped with the world's most advanced weapons and defense systems. For air defense, the Tughral-class frigates are equipped with a 32-cell vertical launch system that fires HQ-16 missiles that can destroy enemy aircraft and missiles up to 70 kilometers, protecting the UAE from missile and drone attacks by Iran or Yemen's Houthi rebels. Iran considers these bases in Kuwait and the UAE to be a constant threat to its defense and keeps a close eye on them. UAE's diplomatic shift: The UAE has improved its trade and diplomatic relations with Iran in recent years. Both the Emirates and Kuwait have made it clear to the United States that they will not allow these bases on their territory to be used for any aggressive or unilateral attack on Iran, so that they can be protected from becoming a direct part of this war.It should be remembered that the defense agreement, the Mecca Pact, is a historic step towards the collective defense of the Islamic world, mutual security and brotherhood. The main objectives of the agreement include collective defense, unifying the security and defense capabilities of the three brotherly Islamic countries, peace and stability, preventing possible aggression in the region and establishing lasting peace, promoting joint projects in the defense industry, unity of the Ummah, further developing the relationship of brotherhood and solidarity between Muslim countries, promoting peace and stability in the region, adopting a common strategy against terrorism and strengthening defense cooperation. The defense agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey is important in that the three countries have recognized that aggression against a member will not be considered a problem of that country alone but will be seen in the context of common security.

This agreement should not be seen as a declaration of war against any country but should be seen as an attempt to reduce the chances of war. History has taught us that weak defense often invites aggression, while strong and reliable defense makes the attacker think twice. Peace is not only established by desire, but also requires strength, determination, and collective responsibility to maintain it.

Saudi Arabia is a major power in terms of economy and energy. Turkey is prominent in the defense industry, technology, and military experience, while Pakistan has a large trained army, extensive defense experience, and

nuclear capability. If the capabilities of these three countries are systematically used for joint defense planning, military training, information exchange, counterterrorism cooperation and maritime security, the impact of this partnership will not be limited to the three countries alone. The importance of this agreement for Pakistan is multifaceted. For Saudi Arabia, this agreement has come at a time when the Middle East is under constant tension. The threats of missile and drone attacks, the protection of energy centers, and the protection of important sea routes have become important priorities for Riyadh. Defense cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey can provide Saudi Arabia with more confidence and defense depth. For Turkey, this partnership with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also strengthens its regional role. If the three countries combine their defense cooperation with broader economic and diplomatic cooperation, the result could be a model of cooperation within the Muslim world that is based on shared interests and practical capabilities.

War in the Middle East does not mean the loss of just a few countries. Its effects reach the lives of ordinary people. In such a situation, if a strong defense partnership succeeds in preventing a potential war, it will benefit not only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, or Turkey but also the global economy. Pakistan has proven that it can find a way to peace in the midst of war. Pakistan has sent a message that joint strength is also necessary to maintain peace. The success of strength is not in winning war but in preventing war. Pakistan not only provides manpower to the Gulf countries, but it has also become the strongest security pillar of the Gulf portfolio under its nuclear capability, strategic depth and the Mecca Defense Treaty. In view of this threat, there has been a major strategic shift in the foreign policy of Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar in recent years. These countries have clearly adopted the diplomatic line that they will keep themselves aloof in any possible war between the US and Iran and will not allow their territory to be used for any kind of aggression or attack against Iran. One of the major objectives of the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran brokered by China was that the two countries should ensure each other's security. In the current era, the entire focus of the Gulf countries is on their economic development (such as Saudi Vision 2030). They know very well that any kind of war or missile attack in the region can seriously damage their economic projects and foreign investments. That is why Arab countries constantly keep diplomatic channels active with Iran in order to prevent any misunderstanding or the risk of an accidental attack in time. The US military bases in Qatar and Bahrain are the two largest and most important centers of US military power and air and naval control in the Middle East. In the context of increasing tensions with Iran and the security of the Gulf, these two bases have strategic importance: Qatar: Al-Udeid Air Base is the largest military base in the region, where more than 10,000 US and coalition troops are usually permanently stationed. The forward headquarters of the US Air Forces Central Command is located at this

base, which oversees air operations throughout the region (including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria). Long-range B-52 bombers, JF-22s, and other modern warplanes are stationed here. Being located right in front of Iran, it is considered the center of air strikes for any possible military action. Bahrain is home to the permanent headquarters of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet. The fleet oversees the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean. The force's primary mission is to protect critical global trade and oil supply routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Aden, and Red Sea, and to monitor Iranian naval activity. More than 8,000 US military personnel and dozens of warships and submarines are stationed here on a 24-hour alert. Iran considers these bases to be the biggest threat to its national security and has repeatedly warned that they would be the first targets of its missiles in the event of a war. Neither Qatar nor Bahrain want to completely sever diplomatic ties with Iran. Qatar has played a key role in prisoner exchanges and negotiations between the United States and Iran in recent years. The current policy of the Gulf countries is to prevent the United States from directly attacking Iran from these bases, so as to avoid being drawn into the war themselves. US military installations in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are a crucial part of the US military's logistics, ground defense, and air surveillance network in the Middle East. Like Qatar and Bahrain, these two countries rely on these bases to maintain a strategic balance with Iran. Kuwait has had a large and permanent US military presence since the 1991 Gulf War, and the country is considered the backbone of US ground operations in the region. Camp Arifjan is the largest US military base in Kuwait, home to thousands of US troops. It is the largest logistics, forward supply, and command and control headquarters for the US military in the entire Middle East. Camp Behring is located near the Iraqi border and monitors the training and operations of US armored forces, helicopters, and drones. Ali Salem Air Base is a major logistics and cargo air-base for the US Air Force, used to deliver military equipment and supplies to US forces throughout the region. US installations in the UAE are primarily focused on monitoring Iran from the air and sea and strengthening the Emirati defense system. The base, located near Al Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, is of extremely strategic importance. The US Air Force's latest stealth fighter jets (such as the F-35 and F-22) and the latest global surveillance drones and U-2 spy planes are stationed here. Jebel Ali Port: Located in Dubai, this port is the only deep-water port in the world outside the US where the US Navy's largest nuclear aircraft carriers can dock. Patriot Missile Systems: The US has installed its latest Patriot and THAAD air defense systems at the Al Dhafra base, which protect the UAE from missile and drone attacks by Iran or Yemen's Houthi rebels. Iran considers these bases in Kuwait and the UAE to be a constant threat to its defense and keeps a close eye on them. UAE Diplomatic Shift: The UAE has improved its trade and diplomatic relations with Iran in recent years. Iran considers these bases in Kuwait and the UAE to be a constant threat to its defense and keeps a close eye on them.

Are We Really Free? Pakistan Is an Independent Country But Are Its People Truly Free?



Written By: Hurish Shah
Published By: ANI News Agency

Every year on August 14, Pakistan celebrates its Independence

Day with green flags, national songs, speeches and patriotic messages. We proudly declare that Pakistan is an independent and sovereign country.

But there is a question we must have the courage to ask:

Are We Really Free?

Freedom is not merely about having a flag, borders or sovereignty. True freedom means living with dignity, justice, security, opportunity and hope. When we look around Pakistan today, a number of painful questions emerge.

Child Labour

When Childhood Is Lost to Work
Pakistan continues to face the painful reality of child labour. Children who should be in classrooms, carrying schoolbags and building dreams are often seen working in workshops, hotels, markets, factories and homes.

A child should not have to choose between education and survival.

If poverty forces children to work instead of study, we must ask ourselves: What kind of freedom are we celebrating?

A truly free society must protect the childhood, education and future of every child.

Kashmir

A Question Still Waiting for Justice
Kashmir remains one of the region's longest-standing and most painful disputes. The political rights, dignity and future of the Kashmiri people continue to demand meaningful attention.

Pakistan has consistently expressed its support for the Kashmiri cause.

However, the issue requires sustained diplomacy, international engagement and peaceful efforts focused on human dignity and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

When we speak about freedom, we cannot ignore those who have lived for decades with an unresolved question about their political future.

Petrol and Gas

The Rising Cost of Survival

For ordinary Pakistanis, inflation is not merely an economic statistic. It is a daily struggle.

Rising petrol and gas prices affect almost every aspect of life. When fuel becomes more expensive, transportation costs increase, businesses face higher expenses and the prices of food and other essential goods often rise as well. Gas and electricity bills place further pressure on already struggling households. For many families, the question is no longer about a better lifestyle. It is about simply managing the next month. If people cannot afford their basic necessities, how free do they truly feel?

Unemployment

Degrees in Hand, But No Jobs

Pakistan's young population is one of its greatest assets, yet unemployment remains a major concern.

Young people complete degrees, develop skills and enter the job market with dreams of building successful careers. But many struggle to find decent employment.

A young graduate should be thinking about innovation, entrepreneurship and building a future not wondering how to survive without a job.

Pakistan does not need more promises to its youth. It needs merit, skills development, investment and real employment opportunities.

Seats Being Sold

Where Is Merit?

Whenever people begin to believe that political, educational or professional opportunities can be obtained

through money, influence or connections rather than merit, public confidence in institutions suffers.

A talented young person from a poor family should never feel that success belongs only to those who can afford it or have powerful connections.

Pakistan needs merit not influence.

If seats, opportunities or positions are treated as commodities, we are not only damaging institutions; we are damaging the dreams of an entire generation.

Missing Persons

Who Will Give Their Families Answers?

The issue of missing persons is not simply a political or legal debate. Behind every case is a family living with uncertainty. A mother waits for her son. A wife waits for her husband. Children wait for their father.

Every citizen, regardless of political affiliation, ethnicity or region, deserves due process, lawful treatment and answers through transparent legal mechanisms.

Silence cannot heal a family's pain.

Justice requires truth, due process and accountability.

Another Innocent Life Lost When Will Justice Come?

Pakistan has witnessed too many cases in which innocent people have been brutally killed and their families left demanding justice.

Public outrage may dominate headlines for a few days. Social media reacts, statements are issued, and then another story takes over.

But for the victim's family, the story never ends.

There is an empty chair at home. There are unanswered questions. There is grief that does not disappear.

The demand is simple:

We want justice.

Justice should never depend on wealth, political influence or media attention. The law must protect the powerful and powerless alike.

Child Marriage

A Stolen Future

Child marriage deprives children particularly girls of education, health, independence and the opportunity to make decisions about their own futures.

A child should be in school, learning and developing skills not being forced into adult responsibilities before she is ready.

Protecting children means protecting their right to education, safety and a dignified future.

Acid Attacks

An Attack on a Woman's Life and Dignity

An acid attack does not simply injure a woman's face. It can permanently change her health, confidence, career and entire life.

Such violence raises serious questions about women's protection and the effectiveness of law enforcement.

A society cannot call itself civilized while women continue to live under the threat of violence.

Justice must be swift, protection must be real, and perpetrators must be held accountable.

Child Abuse

Who Will Protect the Most Vulnerable?

When an innocent child becomes a victim of sexual abuse, an entire family suffers. Children deserve protection, education and safe environments. They must be taught that they have the right to speak up and seek help.

The identity or influence of a perpetrator must never determine whether justice is served.

No child should be left unprotected.

Women's Safety

Can Women Truly Feel Safe?

A woman should feel safe at home, at work, on public transport, in markets and on the streets.

Yet harassment, violence and sexual crimes continue to raise serious questions about women's safety in Pakistan.

Development is not measured only by highways, buildings and economic figures. A country's real progress is also measured by whether its women can live without fear.

Balochistan A Province Cannot Be Reduced to a Label
Balochistan is home to millions of Pakistani citizens. It is unfair and dangerous to reduce an entire province or its people to the label of terrorism. There is an important distinction between individuals who commit acts of violence and ordinary citizens who peacefully demand education, employment, development, dignity and justice.

The grievances of citizens must be heard.

National unity is not built through labels. It is built through trust, inclusion and justice.

Government and the People Why Is the Distance Growing?

Ordinary Pakistanis are struggling with inflation, unemployment, expensive utilities and the rising cost of basic necessities.

At the same time, there is growing public frustration over the perception that political and economic elites remain disconnected from the daily struggles of ordinary citizens. If people believe that those in power are more concerned with personal interests and wealth than public welfare, trust in government inevitably declines. Public office is a responsibility, not a pathway to personal enrichment.

Hunger

Can a Hungry Person Be Truly Free?

The most basic meaning of freedom is the ability to live with dignity.

If a daily wage worker cannot afford enough food for his family, if parents have to choose between medicine and groceries, and if children go to bed hungry, then economic freedom remains incomplete.

Freedom from hunger must be part of national freedom.

So, Are We Really Free?

Pakistan is an independent, sovereign and nuclear-armed country. But the true strength of a nation is not measured only by its borders, military power, buildings or celebrations.

It is measured by the lives of its weakest citizens.

If children are working instead of studying, young people are unemployed, petrol and gas prices are crushing household budgets, women are unsafe, children are abused, innocent people are killed, families wait for missing loved ones, merit is questioned and citizens in Balochistan feel unheard, then we must look beyond the celebrations and examine ourselves.

Freedom is not simply the right to wave a flag.

Freedom means justice.

Freedom means education.

Freedom means employment.

Freedom means security.

Freedom means food.

Freedom means merit.

Freedom means the right to speak and be heard.

And above all, freedom means that an ordinary Pakistani should feel that this country belongs to them and that the state exists to serve them.

This August 14, we should certainly celebrate Pakistan. But we should also make a promise: to build a country where no child is forced to surrender childhood to labour, no woman lives in fear, no innocent victim is forgotten, no family is left without answers and no citizen is denied justice because of poverty, identity or lack of influence.

Pakistan won its independence in 1947.

But the struggle to make freedom meaningful in the daily lives of every Pakistani continues.

Are we really free?

Perhaps this is not a question we should ask only our government. It is a question we must ask ourselves.

Pakistan Zindabad.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, MEP Ondřej Dostál Discuss Strengthening Pakistan-EU Parliamentary Ties

BY: Hurish Shah / FT

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met with Member of the European Parliament Ondřej Dostál at Parliament House on Monday and discussed Pakistan-EU relations along with important regional and global issues.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need to further strengthen parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and the European Union, particularly in education, skills development, training and employment.

He highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change and said the National Assembly's Green Parliament initiative reflected Parliament's commitment to environmental protection and renewable energy.

Ayaz Sadiq also briefed the visit-



ing MEP on parliamentary reforms, including the Women Parliamentary Caucus, Child Parliamentary Caucus and SDGs Secretariat, and highlighted Pakistan's role in promoting regional and global peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

Ondřej Dostál appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional peace, parliamentary diplomacy and international cooperation, stressing the importance of friendly and mutually respectful relations between Pakistan and the European Union.



Minister of State for Education Wajiha Qamar attends the National Songs Competition organized at ICCI in connection with Independence Day celebrations.

LPG Prices Double, Senate Committee Takes Serious Notice of Billions Worth of Missing Goods from Customs Warehouses and Rising Electricity Bills



BY: ANI Correspondent :

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat has expressed serious concern over the doubling of LPG prices, alleged disappearance of billions of rupees worth of goods from Customs warehouses, and rising electricity bills, directing the relevant authorities to submit detailed reports.

The meeting, chaired by Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, reviewed LPG supplies and security, Customs warehouses and rewards, petroleum products, electricity transmission and tariffs, and the longstanding FESCO-related case.

The committee was informed that Pakistan's monthly LPG require-

ment stands at around 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes, while security concerns in Balochistan have led to LPG tankers being transported in convoys with security escorts. Customs officials said the LPG was entering the country through legal channels and that no smuggling was taking place.

Customs officials said an LPG tanker is worth approximately Rs50 million and losses from affected tankers had reached around Rs2 billion. The committee also expressed concern over reports of billions of rupees worth of goods missing from Customs warehouses and sought an investigation report.

The committee directed Customs authorities to submit details of rewards paid to the top 10 Customs officials during the last three years.

OGRA officials informed the committee that petroleum products were being monitored through a digital system and the country currently had stocks sufficient for more than 20 days. Officials also briefed the committee on improvements in electricity transmission capacity and additional power supply from the south to the north.

The committee also reviewed the longstanding FESCO case and questioned the involvement of FIA and NAB in the matter. It decided to summon the NAB Chairman and FIA Director General to the next meeting.

All concerned departments were directed to submit the required records and reports at the next meeting.

Centrum Air Launches Exclusive Non-Stop Karachi-Tashkent Flights from September 3



BY: ANI Correspondent :

KARACHI -- Centrum Air Head of Sales Adil Mirza Khalmirzaev has said the Uzbek airline is committed to providing safe, reliable and customer-focused air travel through its modern fleet and expanding international network.

He was speaking at a launching ceremony hosted by Gerry's Group, attended by PCAA Deputy Director

General Luqman Rasheed, senior executives of Gerry's Group and Centrum Air, and representatives of the travel industry. Beginning September 3, 2026, Centrum Air will operate exclusive non-stop flights between Karachi and Tashkent, offering convenient and affordable travel while strengthening business, tourism and cultural ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Gerry's Group Director Arshad

Wali Muhammad said the partnership would further promote connectivity and travel between the two countries. General Manager Marketing Shahbaz M. Khan highlighted Gerry's Group's nationwide aviation network and commitment to providing world-class representation for Centrum Air in Pakistan.

The event concluded with networking, cake cutting, a lucky draw and souvenir distribution.

Mecca Joint Defence Agreement a Major Milestone for Muslim Unity and Collective Security: Sumblina Hassan

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD/UK: Sumblina Hassan, Former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto has described the joint defence agreement signed between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in Makkah as a major milestone for Muslim unity, collective security and lasting peace.

Sumblina Hassan appreciated the strong and welcoming response from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and brotherly Muslim countries to the agreement.

She said that in the battle between good and evil, it is essential for all Muslim countries to unite and work together to defend, cherish and protect the sanctity and dignity of all humanity. She said it is fundamentally ordained by Almighty Allah Ta'ala that humanity must act as custodians of His domain and protect the resources of the world so that all living creatures, crops and human beings can coexist, survive and live with one another in peace and harmony.

"We must extend our hands to the rest of the Muslim world to make this dream a reality -- not only for those who are fighting for peace today, but to ensure that our children and future generations will thank us for having fought earnestly for peace at a time when the world stands at the brink of a third world war," she said.

Sumblina Hassan said Pakistan had taken significant diplomatic steps with the West and Iran to help bring about a ceasefire and prevent the escalation of war to a level of violence that could result in millions more lives being lost.

She said Pakistan remained deter-



mined to pursue its mission of peace and save lives, whether in the East or the West. "Working towards this goal is not easy, but strengthening the ties of brotherhood, INSHALLAH, will help us seek the grace, guidance and mercy of ALLAH Ta'ala," she said.

She said the strategic defence agreement between three important Muslim countries, concluded in the holy city of Makkah, was a timely and significant step towards addressing the complex security challenges confronting the Muslim world.

Sumblina Hassan said the agreement would not only help safeguard the security and sanctity of the Holy Land but would also promote regional cooperation, strengthen strategic partnerships among Muslim countries, and enhance collective defence capabilities and self-reliance.

She further said that the demonstration of unity and cooperation among

Muslim countries reflected a growing commitment to collective responsibility and mutual solidarity.

Referring to the legacy of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, she said he had also initiated a trend of peace by convening the Islamic Peace Conference and bringing Muslim neighbours together to counter divisions and promote fundamental rights and freedom for everyone, irrespective of colour, creed or religion.

Sumblina Hassan expressed hope that the agreement would pave the way for broader cooperation and stronger institutional mechanisms for peace, security and stability across the Muslim world.

She reiterated that Pakistan would continue to play a constructive role in promoting peace, stability, dialogue and cooperation among Muslim countries and in safeguarding the collective interests of the Muslim Ummah.

Senate Sub-Committee Orders FBR, FIA Probe into Alleged Media Campaign, Raises Questions Over Customs Jurisdiction and Seizure



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Sub-Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control rejected a TV report linking Senators Faisal Saleem Rehman and Dilawar Khan with the seizure of 11 cigarette-laden trucks on the motorway.

The meeting, chaired by Senator Saifullah Abro, took serious notice of

the alleged negative media campaign and directed the FBR to identify officials responsible, while the FIA was asked to conduct an impartial investigation.

The committee also questioned Customs' jurisdiction over the motorway seizure, contradictory valuation figures and the legal basis of the FIR registered against the truck drivers. The Inspector General of Motorway

Police clarified that the MOU between Motorway Police and Customs is limited to providing operational assistance in stopping suspicious vehicles. The committee further expressed concern over the issuance of Consumption Certificates and incomplete details regarding Rs1.12 trillion in imports in tax-exempt areas, directing the relevant authorities to submit comprehensive reports.

Journalist Foundation, Umar Diagnostic & Specialist Clinics Sign MoU to Provide Up to 50% Medical Discounts

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Journalist Foundation Pakistan and Umar Diagnostic & Specialist Clinics (ODC) have signed an MoU to provide medical facilities and special discounts to members of the

Journalist Foundation. Under the agreement, members will receive up to 50 percent discount on diagnostic tests and 20 percent on MRI services upon presenting their valid membership cards. A delegation led by Journalist Foundation President Z.A. Malik visited ODC. Central General

Secretary Riffaqaat Hussain and ODC CEO Syed Qaiser Shah signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

The initiative aims to facilitate journalists and their families by providing affordable access to quality diagnostic and medical services.

Public-Friendly Policies Essential to Control Inflation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja

Report: Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD-- Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party Chairman Khaqan Waheed Khawaja has said that inflation continues to rise, making it essential to introduce effective, public-friendly policies to provide relief to the people. Speaking to various delegations, he said persistent inflation had increased the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens, while repeated increases in petrol and diesel prices had further contributed to rising prices. He called for the forma-



tion of a team comprising economic and technical experts to formulate effective policies based on the needs

of the people and ensure their proper implementation to help reduce poverty and provide sustainable relief.

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Health Services Academy (HSA) has successfully completed digital recruitment screening and skill tests for 85 technical and support positions in 21 categories under the Health Information & Service Delivery Unit (HISDU), Health Department, Government of Balochistan.

Out of 2,914 applicants, 681 were shortlisted and 360 candidates appeared in the final knowledge and practical skill assessments conducted from August 3 to 6.

For the first time in HSA's history, the tests were conducted through a fully paperless system featuring QR-code verification and automated result processing. Results for each paper were compiled within 30 min-



utes and handed over to the Balochistan government.

The initiative, carried out under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, aimed to ensure transparency, merit and

digitalization in public-sector recruitment. HSA provided the testing infrastructure and services to the Balochistan government free of cost, with no complaints reported during or after the exercise.