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PM says water ‘lifeblood’ of region, must never be weaponised



ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said water was the “life-blood” of the region and must never be weaponised, as he addressed a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan.

Speaking at the SCO Council of Heads of States (CHS) meeting in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, the premier said the region cannot “realise its full potential without lasting peace”.

Without naming India directly, he highlighted the issue of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and demanded that it be honoured.

“Water is the lifeblood of our

region. It sustains millions of lives, nourishes our land and secures the very future of our coming generations,” he noted.

He stressed that it “must never be weaponised; it cannot be used as an instrument of coercion, nor can it ever be exploited for political leverage”. “The treaties governing our shared waters are solemn, binding international commitments. They are not matters of political convenience to be cast aside at your will. They must be honoured unconditionally, in both letter and spirit.”

In a later statement on X, the premier said he was honoured to address the ceremony as Pakistan

assumed chairmanship of the SCO, reiterating that water “is the lifeblood of our region” and must never be weaponised by any state.

He also noted that Pakistan made “immense sacrifices in the fight against terrorism”, and added that Pakistan will conduct its chairmanship of the body under the theme “Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity”.

“I am confident that the SCO will continue to grow from strength to strength and bring meaningful improvements to the lives of its more than 3 billion people,” he writes.

The prime minister’s speech

comes a day after the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ordered India to uphold the IWT with Pakistan and suspend work on a hydro project in occupied Kashmir.

The Hague-based court backed Pakistan’s stance, declaring that the IWT between the two countries remained fully in force, as India had no justification for ending or suspending the agreement.

Water and the IWT remain a contentious issue between India and Pakistan, following New Delhi’s unilateral abeyance of the accord in April last year — a move that was followed by a brief military conflict between the two sides in May 2025.

FM Dar, Iranian counterpart reaffirm importance of continued engagement

ANI

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi in Bishkek ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting on Tuesday, where the two sides reaffirmed the importance of continued engagement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said. FM Dar arrived alongside Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the Kyrgyz capital for a three-day official visit to attend the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting and the SCO Plus Summit, besides assuming Pakistan’s chairmanship of the council for 2026-27. The two foreign ministers exchanged views on “bilateral relations and regional developments”. Dar underscored that “dialogue and diplomacy remain essential to promoting peace and stability in the region.” He further stressed that “sincere implementation by both parties to the conflict of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of June 2026 remains the only way forward.”

The Foreign Office (FO) said the interaction between Dar and Araghchi was a “warm exchange,” with the two foreign ministers reaffirming the importance of continued engagement and discussing regional developments and bilateral relations. Dar also met Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on Tuesday on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek.

In a post on X, the FO said Dar “met with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek today”.

The FO said the two sides “reaffirmed the strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral partnership”.

The two foreign ministers also “exchanged views on regional and international developments and matters of mutual interest”, the FO said. Earlier in the day, Dar met Türkiye’s National Intelligence Organisation (MIT) Director



Ibrahim Kalin on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek on Tuesday.

In a post on X, the FO said Dar “met with Director of Türkiye’s National Intelligence Organisation (MIT), Ibrahim Kalin, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek”.

The FO said the two sides “exchanged views on regional developments and matters of mutual interest, including the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement and the inaugural meeting of its Strategic Political and Defence Committee, as well as recent developments in the region”.

Dar “underscored the importance of continued coordination and diplomatic engagement for regional peace, security and stability”, the FO added.

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar @MishaqDar50 met with Director of Türkiye’s National Intelligence Organization (MIT), Ibrahim Kalin, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek.

FM Dar also had a warm interaction with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin in Bishkek on Tuesday. In a post on X, the FO said there was “a warm interaction” between Dar, Lavrov and Muhriddin “on the margins of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek”. During the day, Dar also met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek on Tuesday. In a post on X, the FO said Dar “met with Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Wang Yi on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek”.

6 personnel martyred in Balochistan Customs House attack, 21 terrorists killed across province: ISPR



ANI

Six personnel, including two officers, and a customs department official were martyred as security forces thwarted an attempt to breach the Customs House in Balochistan, the military’s media wing said on Tuesday, adding that in total 21 terrorists were killed in two separate operations in the province overnight. According to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the incidents took place in Nokcha in Chagai district and Ziarat Cross in Pishin district during the night of August 31 and early hours of September 1. The ISPR said terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij launched a coordinated attack during Monday night in an attempt to breach the Customs House. “Security Forces responded effectively and, after an intense fire exchange, killed 10 terrorists. Moreover, fleeing terrorists were also engaged by the security forces, inflicting further casualties,” it said.

The ISPR described the attack on the Customs House as a manifestation of a

“terror-crime nexus”, adding that it was “orchestrated to prevent customs officials from performing their lawful duties and thereby facilitate the continuation of criminal activities in the area”. It said six personnel, including two officers and a Customs Department official, were martyred during the exchange of fire.

In a separate incident, the ISPR said 11 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan were killed on August 31 after they attempted to establish an illegal checkpoint along the N-40 Quetta-Taftan Highway to extort money from commuters. “Security Forces responded immediately and, after an intense fire exchange, killed eleven terrorists on the spot. A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered from the terrorists,” it added. The ISPR said sanitisation operations were underway in the surrounding areas to clear any remaining terrorists and ensure the security of local residents and vital national highways, adding that the counterterrorism campaign under the government-approved “Azam-e-Istehkam” framework would continue with full resolve.

Schools shut in Rawalpindi, Islamabad as heavy rains trigger high alert

ANI

Schools and educational institutions were closed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Tuesday as heavy rains battered the twin cities, with water levels rising to dangerous levels in several areas. The rain began at 3:20am late Monday and continued until 8am, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), with several areas recording heavy rainfall. Rawalpindi Deputy Commissioner Captain (retd) Nadeem Nasir placed relevant departments on high alert and ordered residents living around Nullah Lai to move to safer locations. Rescue 1122 personnel were deployed around Nullah Lai, while the district administration directed teams to remain ready for emergencies. The Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) said a rain emergency had been declared in Nullah Lai’s catchment areas due to heavy rainfall. Wasa teams and heavy machinery were deployed in low-lying areas, including Liaquat Bagh, Committee Chowk underpass, Murree Road, Dhok Khaba, Circular Road and Sadiqabad.

Pakistan to Head Makkah Defence Alliance Secretariat

ANI

ISTANBUL: Top political and military leaders from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye convened in Istanbul on Monday to institutionalise their trilateral defence cooperation under the Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence, announcing the establishment of a permanent secretariat and pledging deeper military-industrial integration. The meeting, held in the Strategic Political and Defence Committee format, was attended by the foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of defence forces of the three nations. From Pakistan, Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attended the meeting. In a joint statement issued after the talks, the countries affirmed their shared commitment to regional stability



and collective deterrence. “Acting with a sense of regional ownership, the three countries reiterate their determination to work together within

the framework of the Makkah Agreement to achieve sustainable peace and stability in their region,” the statement read.

Govt floats fresh LNG tender as shortage fuels power outages

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has floated a fresh tender to import a spot LNG cargo for delivery in early September as a shortage of re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG), particularly for the power sector, continues to contribute to hours-long electricity outages across the country.

State-run Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) on Sunday invited international suppliers to bid for 140,000 cubic meters of LNG, with a tolerance of plus or minus 5.0 per cent, for delivery at Port Qasim between September 4 and September 8, 2026. The emergency procurement comes after the

government apologised to the nation last week over prolonged power outages and attributed the load shedding partly to a shortage of LNG needed for power generation. PLL, which procures LNG from international markets and arranges its onward supply to consumers, has sought bids on a Delivered Ex-Ship (DES) basis for delivery at the Pakistan Gas Port Consortium Limited terminal at Port Qasim, Karachi. The tender was issued August 30, with bids due by 2pm on September 1. Technical offers will be opened at 2:30pm, followed by commercial bids at 3:30pm. PLL plans to award the contract the same

day, with bids remaining valid until 10pm. The cargo is required within a five-day delivery window beginning September 4, with the contracted quantity set at 140,000 cubic metres, subject to the specified 5.0 per cent tolerance. PLL will award the contract to the technically compliant bidder offering the lowest evaluated price in US dollars per million British thermal units (MMBtu). Suppliers must quote their commercial price separately and round it to four decimal places.

The procurement is being conducted under a single-stage, two-envelope process, requiring bidders to submit separate technical and commercial proposals.

CJP stresses citizen-centric justice at inauguration of public facilitation centre at BHC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi on Tuesday stressed the need for making the justice system faster, transparent, accessible, effective and citizen-friendly while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Public Facilitation Centre at the Balochistan High Court.

The Centre was inaugurated by Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhail in the presence of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. It has been established to bring essential judicial services closer to litigants, lawyers and the general public and make their interaction with the justice system more accessible, efficient and dignified. Before the cere-



mony, Fateha was offered for Shaheed District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar and other martyred members of the legal fraternity. Chief Justice Yahya Afridi paid tribute to judges and lawyers who lost their lives in the discharge of their duties, observing that the most meaningful tribute to their sacrifices was to uphold the rule of law and continue the mission of providing justice to the people.



Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani former President Sardar Masood Khan, former convener of Hurriyat Conference Farooq Rahmani and others are sitting on the stage at the 110th death anniversary ceremony of Hurriyat Syed Ali Gilani in Islamabad.

Kashmir Crackdown Could Increase Pressure on India for Targeted Human Rights Sanctions: Syed Manzoor Ahmed Shah

Report: ANI :

SRINAGAR -- Chairman Ittehad-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir Syed Manzoor Ahmed Shah has expressed concern over alleged human rights violations in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, warning that continued arrests, restrictions and alleged abuses could increase international pressure on India.

He said reports of civilian casualties, arrests, alleged enforced disappearances and restrictions on press freedom in Srinagar, Doda, Poonch and Rajouri were concerning. He called for independent investiga-



tions and transparent information regarding detainees and missing persons. Referring to UN human rights reports of 2018 and 2019, Shah

said international attention to the situation in Kashmir was increasing. He urged India to ensure due process, investigate allegations of excessive use of force and protect press freedom.

He also referred to the human rights sanctions mechanisms of the UK and European Union, saying credible evidence of serious violations could lead to targeted measures against responsible individuals.

Shah urged the Indian government to prioritise dialogue, rule of law, transparent investigations and protection of civil rights instead of relying on force.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani’s Fifth Death Anniversary Marked with Conference at Kashmir House Islamabad



BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- A commemorative conference was held at Kashmir House Islamabad on the fifth death anniversary of veteran Kashmiri leader and Hurriyat figure Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

The conference was organized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell. Political, religious and social

leaders, Hurriyat representatives, diplomats and members of the Kashmiri community attended the event.

Speakers paid tribute to Syed Ali Shah Geelani for his lifelong struggle, steadfastness and sacrifices for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

They said Geelani remained committed to his principles despite imprisonment and hardships and described his political vision and perseverance as a source of inspira-

tion for the Kashmir cause.

The speakers reiterated their resolve to continue what they described as Geelani's mission and called upon the international community and the United Nations to play an effective role in addressing the Kashmir dispute.

The conference concluded with special prayers for the departed soul of Syed Ali Shah Geelani and other victims of the Kashmir conflict, as well as for peace and the success of the Kashmir cause.

Member of German Parliament Christoph Schmid Calls On Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Member of the German Bundestag, Mr. Christoph Schmid called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah at the Parliament House, Islamabad, on Tuesday. The matters pertaining to bilateral relations between Pakistan and Germany, parliamentary cooperation, economic engagement and important regional issues were discussed in the meeting.

While extending a warm welcome to Mr. Christoph Schmid, Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding friendly relations with Germany. He said that Pakistan and Germany enjoy cordial relations based on mutual respect, trust and cooperation in diverse fields, with considerable potential for further strengthening bilateral ties.

The NA Deputy Speaker said that parliamentary delegations and exchanges between the two countries had remained active in the past; however, such engagement had declined following the COVID-19 pandemic. He underscored the need to revive and further strengthen interaction between the Parliaments of Pakistan and Germany, observing that parliamentary diplomacy could play an important role in further consolidating bilateral relations.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah recalled the visit of the then Speaker of the German Bundestag, Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, to Pakistan in 2014 and described it as an important milestone in parliamentary relations between the two countries. He noted



that interactions and exchanges with representatives from different segments of Pakistani society during the visit had contributed significantly towards strengthening mutual understanding and people-to-people contacts.

The Deputy Speaker appreciated Germany's humanitarian assistance to Pakistan during the devastating floods of 2010 and acknowledged Germany's support during natural disasters and other regional challenges. He said that Pakistan deeply values Germany's assistance as well as its positive and constructive approach towards regional developments.

Highlighting Pakistan's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and geographical and cultural diversity, the Deputy Speaker said that the country offered vast opportunities for investment in tourism and various other economic sectors. He invited German investors and the business community to explore and benefit from the investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Mr. Christoph Schmid thanked the Deputy Speaker for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to

him at Parliament House.

Both leaders agreed that enhanced parliamentary engagement and stronger people-to-people contacts could provide new impetus to bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Germany.

Mr. Christoph Schmid appreciated Pakistan's positive and constructive role in promoting peace, dialogue and de-escalation in the region. In the context of recent tensions in the Middle East, he commended Pakistan's diplomatic and mediation efforts and said that Pakistan's initiatives to promote dialogue and engagement among different countries had received attention and appreciation at the international level.

The German parliamentarian said that Pakistan had an important role to play in the promotion of peace and dialogue. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to exploring new avenues for further strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Germany. Special Secretary, Special Initiatives, Syed Shamoon Hashmi, was also present on the occasion.

Journalists’ Delegation Meets Information Secretary Ashfaq Khalil, Discusses Media Issues

BY: Hurish Shah/ F T

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Dastoor) Muhammad Nawaz Raza, President National Press Club Abdul Razzaq Sial, representatives of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (Burna) and Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (Dastoor), and President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Workers) Dr. Sadia Kamal met Federal Information and Broadcasting Secretary Ashfaq Khalil at his office.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Information Secretary of the issues and difficul-



ties being faced by journalists. Ashfaq Khalil expressed keen interest in resolving the problems con-

fronting the journalist community and assured positive consideration of their concerns.

Pakistan to Assume SCO Chairmanship for 2027



BY: ANI Correspondent:

BISHKEK -- Pakistan will assume the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Chairmanship for 2027. Pakistan highlighted regional connectivity, innovation and shared prosperity as key pri-

orities under the theme: “Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity.”

Addressing the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting, Pakistan stressed the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and called for

shared-water treaties to be honoured in letter and spirit.

Pakistan also congratulated Kyrgyzstan on successfully hosting the Summit and expressed confidence that the SCO will continue contributing to the prosperity of its more than three billion people.

Speaker National Assembly Pays Tribute to Security Personnel Martyred During Anti-Terrorism Operations in Balochistan

BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed grief over the martyrdom of six brave security personnel, including two officers and a Customs official, during successful operations against terrorists in the Chagai and Pishin districts of Balochistan. He paid rich tribute to the martyrs and also commended the professionalism and bravery of the security forces for eliminating 21 terrorists during the operations.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the martyrs had set a remarkable example of courage, devotion to duty and patriotism by sacrificing their lives for peace and security of the country and the protection of the lives of the countrymen. He said that the nation would always remember the matchless sacrifices of its sol-



diers, who laid their lives for the defence of the motherland.

NA Speaker prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs and for patience and strength for the bereaved families. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also

paid tribute to the security forces for foiling the terrorist attack on the Customs House and thwarting the nefarious attempt by terrorists to disrupt the movement of passengers by establishing an illegal checkpoint on the Quetta-Taftan Highway. He lauded the professionalism and exceptional courage displayed by the security forces in successfully foiling the terrorists' nefarious designs.

NA Speaker said that the security forces have demonstrated immense professionalism and extraordinary bravery during the operations against terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij. He said that the nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its brave Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism, and that the national resolve would remain unwavering until the complete eradication of this menace.

Armed Attack on Ziarat Cross Customs House and Police Station, 5 Personnel Martyred, 7 Injured, Dozens of Vehicles Set Ablaze

BY: ANI Correspondent

BALOCHISTAN: Last night, unidentified armed men launched a major attack on the Customs House and Police Station at the sensitive location of Ziarat Cross in Balochistan.

According to sources, the armed men suddenly attacked under the cover of darkness and set fire to the Customs House building, the Levies Station and dozens of small and large vehicles parked inside the compound, engulfing the entire area in flames.

As a result of the attack, five personnel were martyred while seven others were injured.

The martyred personnel were identified as Havaldar Ziaullah, Havaladar Samiullah, Naik Noroze, Naik Shakeel and Sepoy Sajawal.

The injured personnel were identified as Havaldar Jahangir, Naik Sardar, Naik Shabbir, Sepoy Anwar, Sepoy Hikmat, Sepoy Ashiq and Sepoy Ghulam Rasool.



The injured were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where the condition of some is reported to be critical.

Sources said the burning of vehicles seized and held at the Customs House caused financial losses worth billions of rupees.

Immediately after the incident, the fire brigade, district administration

and rescue agencies reached the spot and began extinguishing the fire. Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

Fear and panic prevail in the area following the attack. An official statement regarding the exact cause and complete details of the incident has not yet been issued and is awaited.

PML-N Leadership Deserves Appreciation for Promoting Young Leadership in Azad Kashmir: Engr. Faisal Hayat

Report: ANI ;

ISLAMABAD: Federal Association of Government Engineers (FAGE) General Secretary Engr. Faisal Hayat Khan has urged the senior leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to include Engr. Mohsin Aziz and Engr. Sardar Umair Naeem in the Azad Kashmir Cabinet.

In a statement, Engr. Faisal Hayat Khan said both engineers are educated, talented and represent the younger generation of leadership. Their inclusion in the cabinet, he added, would provide representation to engineers, youth and educated segments of society and enable them to contribute to the development of Azad Kashmir.

He said Engr. Mohsin Aziz, the PML-N candidate from Haveli constituency, was allegedly treated unfairly during the recent elections and deprived of his electoral mandate. He said the matter had generated concern among the engineering



community in the federal and Kashmir regions, with engineers expressing strong support for him.

Engr. Faisal Hayat Khan also appreciated the nomination of Barrister Iftikhar Gilani as Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, describing it as a positive step towards promoting young leadership and encouraging greater political partici-

pation among the youth.

He urged the PML-N leadership to consider the qualifications, professional expertise and public-service commitment of Engr. Mohsin Aziz and Engr. Sardar Umair Naeem and provide them with cabinet responsibilities so they can contribute to the welfare, development and prosperity of the people of Azad Kashmir.

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Opinion

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Rain Washes Away the Mask of Development



Written by
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Pakistan has a peculiar habit: we are often impressed by what is visible on the surface, while rarely asking what lies underneath. A freshly paved street, a newly painted road, an inauguration ceremony and a large development banner are enough for us to declare an area “developed”. But the first heavy rain often washes away that illusion.

The torrential rains of August 31 and September 1, 2026, in Rawalpindi and Islamabad have once again exposed the weakness behind our development claims. Roads turned into streams, streets were flooded, traffic was disrupted and residents in low-lying areas faced serious difficulties.

The question is not why it rained. No government can control the weather. The real question is why cities remain unprepared for a phenomenon that returns every year.

Every monsoon, authorities announce preparations. Drains are reportedly cleaned, machinery is placed on standby and emergency plans are discussed. Yet when heavy rain arrives, the same scenes return: overflowing drains, stagnant water, flooded streets and helpless citizens trying to protect their homes and businesses.

If the same problem occurs every year, it can no longer be described simply as a natural disaster. It is also a failure of urban planning, drainage management and administrative preparedness.

The Punjab government’s Suthra Punjab programme is certainly an ambitious initiative. Considerable public money is being spent on improving sanitation, waste collection and monitoring. The government has also introduced modern methods of supervision, including digital monitoring, cameras and drones.

But there is a simple reality that must not be forgotten: a camera can record a blocked drain, but it cannot clean it.

The real test of Suthra Punjab is not what appears in an official presentation or on a government dashboard. Its real test is what happens in a street when the rain starts.

Cleanliness cannot simply mean

collecting household waste. A truly clean city needs functioning sewage systems, open drainage channels, proper storm-water routes and an emergency response system capable of protecting citizens when extreme weather arrives.

The Punjab government must therefore move beyond seasonal cleanliness campaigns and develop permanent solutions. Major cities need comprehensive maps showing natural waterways, storm-water drains, low-lying areas and locations where flooding repeatedly occurs. These vulnerable points should be permanently redesigned rather than repaired every year after the damage has already been done.

Illegal construction and encroachments on natural waterways must also be dealt with without political discrimination. If natural water routes are blocked by roads, markets, buildings or housing schemes, the water will eventually find another route—and that route may be through someone’s home.

Rainwater storage should also become part of urban planning. Where possible, parks, public spaces and government land can be designed to temporarily retain excess rainwater. This can reduce pressure on drainage systems and help recharge groundwater.

Most importantly, drainage systems must be maintained throughout the year rather than being cleaned only when the monsoon approaches. Every district should have measurable targets: how quickly should flooded roads be cleared, how rapidly should water be removed from vulnerable neighbourhoods, and who will be held responsible when the system fails?

But there is another side to this story, and it is uncomfortable for us as citizens.

We cannot blame politicians for everything while ignoring our own political choices.

Every election, our political priorities are often reduced to one question: Who will pave our street? Who will build our drain? Who will repair the road outside our house?

Sometimes a plate of biryani is enough. Sometimes a small personal favour is enough. Sometimes a promise to pave a street becomes



more important than a candidate’s ability to legislate, govern or understand economic and social issues.

We then elect representatives on the basis of narrow personal interests and, five years later, complain that the system is corrupt and incompetent.

This is where we must look in the mirror.

The job of an elected representative is not simply to become a contractor for a constituency. His responsibility is to legislate, strengthen institutions, improve education and healthcare, create employment, ensure clean water, improve sanitation and build cities capable of facing the challenges of population growth and climate change.

A paved street may make one neighbourhood look better. A functioning system can change the future of an entire generation.

The rains of August 31 and September 1 have therefore exposed more than flooded roads. They have exposed our development model, our administrative weaknesses and, perhaps most importantly, our political priorities.

The government must move from announcements to implementation, from temporary measures to permanent planning, and from publicity to accountability.

Citizens, too, must change the way they measure political performance.

Our vote should not be the price of a street, a drain, a meal or a personal favour. It should be an investment in the future of our children.

Rain will come again next year.

The question is whether we will once again spend the monsoon pumping water out of our streets—or finally build cities where the rain can fall without bringing the entire system to its knees.

Real development is not what looks impressive under the sun. Real development is what continues to work when the rain begins.



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Britain has always taken pride in being a diverse and multicultural society where people of different religions, ethnicities and cultures can live together with equal rights and responsibilities. Muslims are now an established and important part of British society. They contribute to the NHS, education, business, politics, journalism, local government, armed forces, voluntary organisations and almost every other sector of national life.

Yet, despite this contribution, Islamophobia remains a serious challenge to Britain’s social fabric. It is no longer simply a matter of individual prejudice or isolated incidents. Anti-Muslim hatred can influence public attitudes, political debate, social media, employment, education and the everyday experiences of British Muslims.

The consequences are therefore much wider than the Muslim community itself. Islamophobia threatens trust between communities and ultimately weakens the social cohesion upon which a stable democracy depends.

A growing sense of insecurity

For many Muslims, particularly women who wear the hijab or other visible religious clothing, hostility can be experienced in everyday life. Verbal abuse on public transport, discriminatory comments in the workplace, online harassment and attacks against individuals or places of worship can create a permanent sense of insecurity.

Government figures demonstrate the seriousness of the situation. In England and Wales, thousands of religious hate crimes are recorded against Muslims each year, making Muslims one of the most frequently targeted religious communities.

Behind every statistic is a human being, such examples are, a mother afraid for her children, a young person wondering whether they are accepted by their classmates, or an elderly person reluctant to go outside because of previous abuse.

When people begin changing their behaviour because they fear hostility, society as a whole suffers.

The danger to community cohesion

Britain’s multicultural model can only work when communities trust one another. Islamophobia undermines that trust.

If Muslims feel that they are constantly portrayed as outsiders, while sections of the wider population are repeatedly exposed to negative stereotypes about Muslims, two separate realities can develop. Communities begin to live alongside one another rather than with one another.

This is particularly dangerous for the younger generation.

Millions of British Muslims were born in Britain. English is their first language, they attend British schools and universities, work in British institutions and consider Britain their home. Yet repeated messages suggesting that Muslims are some-

Islamophobia and its impact on British Society

how less British can create an uncomfortable identity crisis.

A young British Muslim should never have to choose between being British and being Muslim. The two identities are perfectly compatible. Perhaps the greatest new challenge is the digital environment.

Social media has created an enormous platform for people to spread hatred, misinformation and conspiracy theories. A misleading video or fabricated image can reach millions of people before the truth has had an opportunity to catch up.

Artificial intelligence has made this problem even more complicated. Manipulated photographs, fabricated videos and false stories can be created with increasing sophistication.

This is particularly dangerous during moments of national tension, terrorism, international conflict or civil unrest. A criminal act committed by an individual can quickly be presented online as evidence against an entire religious community. This logic must be rejected. An individual is responsible for his or her actions; an entire religion or community cannot be held responsible for the actions of one person.

Political debate also has an important role to play. Britain must retain its tradition of free speech. People must be able to discuss religion, immigration, integration and government policy, including policies concerning Muslims. Legitimate criticism must not be confused with hatred.

But there is an important distinction between criticising an idea and demonising a community.

When political rhetoric repeatedly portrays Muslims as a threat, refuses to recognise their contribution or treats an entire population as responsible for the actions of extremists, it can legitimise prejudice.

Political leaders therefore have a special responsibility. Their words can either calm society or inflame it. The same principle applies to Muslim leaders. They must condemn extremism, violence and intolerance clearly and consistently while also demanding equal treatment for their communities.

Islamophobia is not only a moral and social problem; it can also have economic consequences.

Britain needs the skills and talents of all its citizens. If qualified people experience discrimination in recruitment, promotion or professional life because of their religion, the country loses valuable human capital.

The same applies to young people. If a Muslim child grows up believing that discrimination will prevent them from achieving their ambitions, their confidence and aspirations may be damaged.

A genuinely successful Britain should judge people by their ability, commitment and character, not by their name, colour or religion.

What can be done tackling this?

Tackling Islamophobia requires a national effort.

First, hate crimes must be taken seriously. Victims need confidence that reporting an incident will result in appropriate action.

Second, education is essential. Schools should teach young people about Britain’s religious and cultural diversity and explain the difference between healthy disagreement and hatred.

Third, social-media platforms must do more to prevent the organised spread of hatred and dangerous misinformation.

Fourth, Muslim communities must continue to engage with wider British society. Participation in local government, politics, journalism, business, education and civic organisations is one of the strongest ways to strengthen integration.

Fifth, political parties and community leaders must condemn hatred consistently. Opposition to Islamophobia should not depend on political convenience.

And finally, Britain needs more opportunities for ordinary people from different communities to meet, work together and understand each other. Personal contact is often the most effective antidote to prejudice.

Perhaps the most important point is that Islamophobia is not merely a Muslim problem. It is a British problem.

When a Muslim is attacked because of their faith, the victim is Muslim, but the attack is against the values of British society.

When a mosque is vandalised, the immediate target is a Muslim place of worship, but the wider victim is community harmony.

When a child is bullied because of his or her religion, the damage extends beyond one family to the future generation.

Britain cannot build a cohesive society by allowing one community to feel permanently under suspicion.

Islamophobia must not mean ignoring other forms of extremism or hatred. Britain must oppose Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism, far-right extremism, Islamist extremism and all forms of violence and hatred with the same determination.

The future of Britain depends upon a simple principle: equal citizenship.

Muslims should not receive special treatment, but neither should they be treated as second-class citizens. They should have exactly what every other British citizen expects, security, dignity, opportunity and equality before the law.

The answer to Islamophobia is not isolation, confrontation or silence. It is education, justice, dialogue, responsible politics and stronger community engagement.

Britain’s Muslim population has already made an enormous contribution to the country’s social, economic and cultural life. The challenge now is to ensure that prejudice does not undermine that contribution or damage the bonds between Britain’s diverse communities.

A confident Britain should not be afraid of diversity. It should embrace it while demanding shared civic values from everyone.

The real test of British democracy is not how we treat the majority. It is how we protect the dignity and rights of minorities while maintaining the unity of the whole nation.

Britain must therefore confront Islamophobia not simply because Muslims deserve protection, but because Britain itself deserves a society based on tolerance, equality, justice and mutual respect.

Only then every citizen regardless of their faith, colour or background can look towards the future and confidently say:

“I belong here, and Britain belongs to all of us.”

US’ Gaza ‘Master Plan’ clashes with reality

CHRIS DOYLE

Anyone who saw Jared Kushner’s PowerPoint presentation in Davos last week without knowing the topic would have struggled to identify the territory to which he was referring. Many might have thought this was for North America, with shiny new office and residential blocks and a certain space-age or Hollywood sci-fi feel to the slides of the “Master Plan.” The vaulting ambition of the speaker may have impressed his father-in-law, US President Donald Trump, who is certainly familiar with the world of real estate. No doubt Trump, the freshly minted chairman of the Board of Peace, was the premier target of the messaging. It reflected much of what was released at the announcement of Trump’s “Gaza riviera” plan last February, which envisaged the Strip being entirely emptied of Palestinians. Even this version treats Gaza as a tabula rasa to impose whatever architectural fantasies its authors can conjure up. It treats the enclave as being devoid of any culture, tradition or history.

Others have been more skeptical — and with good reason. First of all, Israel has not even adhered to the Oct. 10 ceasefire and is bombing and shelling with intensity. Second, the full entry of aid, as referenced in the Trump peace plan, has not yet been achieved. Third, the plan presumes the disarmament of Hamas, something that is far from imminent. Finally, no international stabilization force is on the horizon. Those are the significant near-term impediments. Delivering this plan, at a time when the conflict still rages, will be nigh on impossible. Just clearing the 60 million tonnes of rubble, which is peppered with unexploded ordnance and a host of

toxins, will take an age and cost a fortune.

One major element Kushner did not address was how the land would be acquired and whether owners would be compensated. According to a 2015 study, about half of the land in Gaza is privately owned. Much of the land is unregistered because owners did not wish to pay tax. What is clear is that the companies lining up to fill their coffers have no claim to the land at all. But progress also presumes the Israeli leadership will be comfortable with this. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still smarting from the invitation that was extended to Türkiye and Qatar to join the executive committee of the Board of Peace. Many members of Netanyahu’s Cabinet and right-wing Knesset members have dreams of inhabiting these plush new riviera residences themselves.

Israel will have to consent as the occupying power. For starters, it will have to allow in all the construction materials and abandon its restrictive dual-use list. Throughout Kushner’s presentation to world leaders and the business elite, it was clear that Palestinians have had no input into these plans — and not just because the Arabic on the slides was all wrong. He did not outline how the local Palestinians in Gaza would be won over by the project or where they would go during reconstruction. Kushner said Gaza would be run on free-market principles, as opposed to how Palestinians might wish to shape their economic future.

Do Palestinians want tourism, given the beachfront is all labeled for coastal tourism? Who decided on the importance of data centers at this stage? And how many of the companies making a fortune out of this dreamworld will be Palestinian and

how many will be rich businessmen with no link to Gaza at all? The Palestinians in Gaza I have spoken to largely see this all as a sick joke. “Who is going to live in these villas and flashy apartments? Certainly not us Palestinians,” sighed one woman. Another said: “What will stop Israel from bombing them again? Where will our security come from? We need that before rich houses.” But there is also the issue of who will pay for it. The experts at the UN, those who actually have experience of such situations, calculate that postwar reconstruction will cost about \$70 billion. This is without the high-end infrastructure of Kushner’s presentation. The UAE has reportedly expressed an interest in funding the first planned community on the outskirts of Rafah in the south. Beyond that, it is not clear. More alarming is who might make money out of it. This is a war zone profiting racket. US companies are lining up at the trough. This is all premised on the naive and ill-founded belief that the entirety of Gaza’s problems can be resolved with bulldozers, cranes and cement. The plan has echoes of earlier economic roadmaps for peace, but even those were not so divorced from reality. At no stage did the presentation reference a viable peace process or even mention that Gaza would be the western segment of an independent state of Palestine. It did not address a single one of the underlying causes or drivers of this 100-year-plus conflict. On this occasion, the last word goes to French President Emmanuel Macron, who was reported as saying: “Peace is not a real estate transaction. You cannot build stability on the erasure of a people’s history and the privatization of their tragedy.”

— Arab News

The affable aide to Mr. President

GHASSAN CHARBEL

Don’t say that you have a solution. You are not a decision-maker and have no right to steal the spotlight or praise. Your fate is to remain in the shadows and for others to take credit for your work. The solution comes from the source. Your participation in devising it does not give you any right to it. Solutions are part of the indisputable skills of Mr. President. No one else is party to them.

Don’t say that you have the winning idea. Salvation is not part of your duties or even your rank. Salvation is the responsibility of the man in power — the man whom the nation chose before the ballot boxes did. Men of landmark moments are not born of ballot boxes. Fate chooses them for major duties; then comes the role of the citizens in voting and applauding.

Don’t say that the situation is difficult. Always say that it is under control and that the fate of livelihoods and people are in safe hands. Always say that the man in charge is skilled at knowing the dreams, feelings and needs of the nation. Say that the people will be held responsible should any misunderstanding arise because they failed to grasp Mr. President’s pioneering ideas. You are Mr. President’s aide. You are the echo, not the voice. Don’t even dare to speak about concerns over destiny or correcting course. Destiny is the responsibility of the savior alone. The course itself is glittering, no matter how much the enemies or critics say otherwise. Your primary task is to preserve your position and safety and appease the man in charge of your fate. This means paying compliments and issuing praise whenever necessary.

Don’t say that Mr. President is following in his predecessor’s footsteps. Mr. President has his own unique path. His style is out of the ordinary and his own. He doesn’t imitate anyone and no one can imitate him. I once asked a man who worked with Saddam Hussein if any member of the Baath Party’s central command had ever implied to Mr. President that the decision to invade Kuwait was catastrophic, reckless or costly. The answer was no secret. Tariq Aziz said it pained him to remain seated during the meeting in which it was announced that Kuwait would be annexed and become an Iraqi province. He realized the dangers but, when confronted with the ruthless people surrounding the president, he chose to keep his thoughts to himself. Saddam once met with Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement summit in Havana. The minister flattered the

president. At the end of the meeting, Iraqi Ambassador to the UN Salah Omar Al-Ali described the talks as positive and that more could be built upon them. Mr. President was quick to reprimand him, saying: “Don’t ever say that again. I will break the Iranians and reclaim every inch of territory they seized.” Al-Ali realized the difficulty of offering advice to the “historic leader.” During a trip to Damascus, I met with President Bashar Assad and then-Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. I asked Khaddam about why Bashar was chosen to succeed his father Hafez. Khaddam knew the walls had many ears, so he replied by saying

Libyan diplomat Ali Abdussalam Treki once told me that he hid his face in embarrassment when Muammar Qaddafi tore up a copy of the UN Charter while he was addressing the General Assembly. Treki admitted that he did not dare to call on the leader to cut short his speech, even when he had far exceeded his allotted time. Treki most certainly did not criticize the leader after the scandalous incident.

that he was the natural choice. Bashar was raised around his father and grew up in his environment, so it was normal for the party leadership to name him as successor. Years later, I again met with Khaddam, who by then was living in Paris after defecting from the regime. I asked him the same question and he replied that, at the time, he had been summoned by Hafez and informed that the decision related to Bashar had been taken. So, Khaddam had no

role in Bashar’s rise to power. He said Bashar was not fit to assume such a major post. The party’s policy of having sons inherit their father’s position was wrong because it showed that Hafez had no one but his son to whom he could entrust the running of the country.

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Has the world returned to the time of the strongman who does not recognize any borders or whom no aide or adviser dares to confront with even a fraction of the truth? We don’t have the necessary information as to whether Vladimir Putin consulted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov before ordering the Russian army to enter Ukraine. We don’t know the veteran Lavrov’s opinion, even if he were consulted. It is difficult to imagine that an aide to Donald Trump would have warned him of the dangerous precedent of kidnapping Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro. It is difficult to believe that an aide urged him to tone down his statements about NATO. We don’t know if an aide advised him to back off his demands to claim Canada or Greenland, regardless of the criticism leveled against him by the French president.

We don’t know if anyone in his entourage was blunt enough to inform Mr. President that running the White House and maintaining America’s position in the world were more important than him winning the Nobel Peace Prize. One diplomat told me that Trump’s aides lavish him with praise as if they were members of a “central command” running in Mr. President’s orbit.

Xi Jinping long ago ended the principle of collective leadership that emerged in the Chinese Communist Party after Mao Zedong’s death. He has now assumed a similar position to Mao and may even go down in history as having surpassed him. The current purge led to the dismissal of his deputy in the Central Military Commission, which has the final say in decision-making in the country. In all likelihood, no one lifted a finger to object to the dismissal. A member of the commission is expected to be docile and acquiescent and be the affable aide to Mr. President.

— Arab News



Report: ANI- BISHKEK -- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Attock Administration Intensifies Law Enforcement Measures

Report: ANI :

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Dr. Mudassar Ahmed Shah has directed relevant departments to intensify coordinated efforts to maintain law and order, enforce the law and protect citizens' lives and property.

He issued the directions while chairing a meeting of the District Coordination Committee for Law and Order, attended by DPO Attock Ali Bin Tariq, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and other relevant officers.

The meeting reviewed the district's law and order situation and departmental performance. Officials briefed the meeting that 11,256 traffic violation tickets were issued in August, generating Rs16.650 million in fines.

During action against illegal petrol pumps, 32 facilities were sealed and Rs300,000 in fines imposed. The crackdown on illegal LPG decanting resulted in 78 violations, 66 points sealed and Rs200,000 in fines.

The anti-encroachment operation



removed 72 permanent and 315 temporary encroachments, while the electricity theft campaign detected 18 illegal connections, registered 13 FIRs, arrested six people and recovered Rs853,500.

On major highways, 15,599 suspicious vehicles were checked, leading to nine FIRs and nine arrests. Officials also reported that Attock has 502 madrassas, including 202 registered and 300 unregistered institutions.

The anti-begging campaign resulted in 25 arrests and nine FIRs. The Overseas Pakistanis Desk

received 418 complaints, with 347 resolved and 22 still pending.

The meeting was further informed that data of 30,537 illegal foreigners had been reported, of whom 20,005 voluntarily returned to their countries, while two remain at the holding centre.

Dr. Mudassar Ahmed Shah directed officers to maintain strict vigilance, take indiscriminate action against lawbreakers and ensure timely resolution of public complaints, stressing that law and order remains a top priority of the district administration.

Murree Police Arrest Suspect Nominated in Case of Citizen’s Death in Traffic Accident

BY: Crime Reporter ANI :

MURREE :On the directives of Murree District Police Officer (DPO) Raza Tanveer Supra, a crackdown against criminals and law violators continues across the district.

Under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Murree Muhammad Irfan Butt, SHO Murree Police Station Taya Zahid Baig and his team, along with Baryan Police Post In-charge ASI Muhammad Abid, arrested Muhammad Kashif son of Muhammad Riaz, a resident of Bansera Gali, Murree, who was nominated in FIR No. 525/26 registered under Sections 322 and 279.

According to police, the suspect allegedly caused a traffic accident while driving at excessive speed and in a negligent and reckless manner. Muhammad Almas son of Abdul Latif, a resident of Daryagali, Sindhian, Murree, was seriously injured after being hit by the vehicle and later succumbed to his injuries.

Following the incident, Murree Police registered a case and initiated legal proceedings and investigation. During the investigation, police arrested the nominated suspect



DPO Murree Raza Tanveer Supra said that the protection of citizens’ lives and property remains the top priority of Murree Police. He added that indiscriminate legal action would be taken against those who endanger human lives through traffic violations, speeding, negligence and reckless driving.

Pakistani Basmati Rice Has No Parallel in World, Says Mauritius Ambassador

Report: ANI Correspondent :

SARGODHA -- Mauritius Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Mansurkar Mas, has said that Pakistani Basmati rice has no parallel in the world and that people in Mauritius are extremely fond of Pakistani rice. He said Mauritius could emerge as a major market for Pakistani products besides rice.

Addressing members of the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the ambassador said work was underway at the government level to finalize a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Mauritius. He expressed hope that the agreement would be concluded soon. Mr. Mansurkar Mas said practical progress had been made on the proposed FTA to promote bilateral trade, which was expected to significantly increase commercial activities between the two countries in the future.

He said there were vast opportunities in the Mauritian market for Pakistani fruits, vegetables and other products, adding that the doors of Mauritius were open to Pakistani businessmen.

Speaking on the occasion, President Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khawaja



Yasir Mahmood said Pakistan and Mauritius enjoyed friendly relations, but further measures were required to promote bilateral trade and business cooperation.

He said Mauritius had established a unique identity around the world due to its natural beauty, peaceful environment, strong economic structure and business-friendly economy.

Khawaja Yasir Mahmood said Sargodha was among Pakistan's major agricultural regions and had earned a distinctive identity worldwide for its agricultural production. Besides kinnow, various products including rice, oil, electrical goods, embroidery and handicrafts were produced in Sargodha. Providing

these products access to the Mauritian market could benefit businessmen from both countries.

Earlier, the Mauritius ambassador and his delegation received a warm welcome upon their arrival at the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The ambassador and delegation visited various departments and observed business activities, while President Khawaja Yasir Mahmood briefed them on various matters.

Later, the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a dinner in honour of Ambassador Mansurkar Mas, which was attended by chamber office-bearers and other prominent personalities.

Reforms in Punjab Police Bring People-Friendly Policing to Gujranwala

Report: ANI Correspondent;

GUJRANWALA --- Significant reforms in the Punjab Police are helping improve relations between citizens and law-enforcement agencies in the Gujranwala region, with senior officers focusing on public service, accountability, road safety and the welfare of police personnel.

CPO Gujranwala Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan has taken steps to reduce the traditional distance between police and citizens, while SP Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) Regional Officer Gujranwala Mian Moazzam Ali is focusing on highway security, prompt assistance to motorists and the welfare of the force.



Mian Moazzam said the police's primary responsibility is to protect the lives and property of citizens and ensure that people can approach officers without fear. He stressed that courteous treatment, timely response and professional law enforcement are essential to restoring public confidence.

Regarding the welfare of personnel, he said special attention is being given to the education and training of the families of martyrs, Ghazis and other duty-bound personnel, while commendations and awards continue for outstanding performance. He also reiterated a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, bribery, misuse of authority and inappropriate behaviour, saying strict departmental action would be taken against officials who mistreat or wrong citizens. According to the report, improvements in law and order, highway safety and public confidence demonstrate the positive impact of honest leadership, public service and strict accountability.

Indus Waters Treaty Remains in Force, Hague Arbitration Court Rules Unanimously; Pakistan Welcomes Decision

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD-- The Government of Pakistan has welcomed the Award and Decision on Interim Measures issued by the Court of Arbitration in The Hague concerning the status of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The Court unanimously ruled that India's decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty in "abeyance" is not permissible under the Treaty or applicable international law, and



that the Treaty remains fully in force. The Court also imposed interim measures concerning the Ratle

Hydroelectric Power Project, restricting certain concreting works on the dam wall and power intake structure until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision, expected in July 2027.

Pakistan said it will carefully examine the Award and Decision once the full documents are published and assess how they can help facilitate renewed engagement between the two parties under the Treaty.

Pakistan, Canada Discuss Ways to Strengthen Bilateral Trade Relations

Report: Hurish Shah

VANCOUVER -- Malik Sohail Hussain, President Hafizabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Secretary General Pakistan Canada Trade Association and Chairman FPCCI Pak-USA Business Council, along with Luqman Shaheen, President & Chief Executive Officer and Vice President PCTA, called on Shazad Hussain, Consul General of Pakistan in Vancouver, Canada.

During the meeting, the participants discussed ways to further strengthen trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Canada and explored opportunities for greater business cooperation.

On the occasion, Malik Sohail Hussain presented the FPCCI crest to Shazad Hussain on behalf of Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).



ICCI, PBA Korea Sign MoU to Boost Trade, Investment and Business Linkages

Report: City Reporter :

ISLAMABAD -- The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Pakistan Business Association Korea (PBA Korea) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen institutional cooperation, promote bilateral trade and investment, enhance business-to-business linkages and facilitate greater interaction between the business communities of Pakistan and South Korea.

The MoU was signed during the visit of a high-level PBA Korea delegation to ICCI, led by Chairman Mudassar Ali Cheema (Jamgha-e-Imtiaz).

Mudassar Ali Cheema appreciated ICCI for providing a platform for structured engagement between Pakistani and Korean businesses. He highlighted PBA Korea's efforts to organize the Pakistani business community in Korea, address community and business-related issues and promote stronger commercial relations between Pakistan and South Korea.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood welcomed the delegation and said the MoU marked an important step towards translating the strong Pakistan-Korea relationship into tangible economic opportunities.



He said overseas Pakistanis, particularly the business community in Korea, could serve as effective economic ambassadors by connecting Pakistan with international markets, investment, technology and global business networks.

He said Pakistan's young workforce, large market and investment potential, combined with Korea's advanced technology, capital, industrial expertise and access to international markets, could create substantial opportunities for both countries. He emphasized that the MoU would provide a framework for promoting B2B meetings, joint business delegations, investment opportunities, market information exchange and direct interaction between entrepreneurs.

President Pakistan Business Association Korea Rahim Shah said the association would work closely with ICCI to translate the objectives of the MoU into practical initiatives and mutually beneficial business opportunities. He expressed hope that enhanced cooperation would encourage Pakistani and Korean companies to explore new partnerships, joint ventures, investment projects and opportunities for technology and knowledge transfer. Those present on the occasion included PBA Korea Vice Chairman Sabir Khan Khattak, ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, ICCI Executive Members Zulqurnain Abbasi and Waseem Chaudhry, former Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry and others.