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Pakistan warns Houthi attacks on KSA could activate Makkah defence pact



ANI

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said Houthi attacks on Saudi territory could prompt the activation of the Makkah Defence Alliance, signed between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. "Under the tri-lateral agreement, any aggression against any of the three [countries] is regarded as an aggression against all. There is no ambiguity about that," he said while speaking on Geo News' programme "Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Saath" on Tuesday.

At least 71 people were injured on Tuesday after Houthis launched an attack on several cities in Saudi Arabia, further undermining stabil-

ity in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attacks, terming them a "cowardly" act that endangered innocent lives and threatened regional peace and security.

The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for the kingdom's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity. Speaking during the show, the defence czar said that unprovoked aggression or the spillover from Yemen into Saudi Arabia "will definitely" operationalise the Makkah Defence Alliance.

"There should be no doubt about it. We are bound by the terms and conditions of this pact, and we will honour them in case there is a

need," he added.

However, Asif said that Islamabad hoped the situation would be brought under control and eventually subside.

The trilateral agreement — signed between Islamabad, Riyadh and Ankara on August 7 — provides for collective security and defence cooperation among the three states.

The pact was signed amid heightened tensions in the Middle East following the conflict that began on February 28, when the United States and Israel launched joint strikes against Iran and targeted its senior leadership.

On Pakistan's mediation efforts between the US and Iran, the

defence minister said that Islamabad's efforts to broker peace were still ongoing.

The defence minister said that Pakistan wanted an environment that could help reduce tensions in the region. "There are contacts, even if they are indirect."

Pakistan, which emerged as a key mediator between the US and Iran, achieved a historic diplomatic victory on June 15 when Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for peace in the region.

Islamabad has since continued to facilitate communication between the two sides and promote dialogue, de-escalation and a peaceful resolution.

PM Shehbaz meets AJK premier, assures support for region's welfare



Report: Naseem Hassan/ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday assured Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani of the federal government's full cooperation for the welfare and well-being of the people of the region.

The assurance was given during the two leaders' first meeting in Islamabad since Gilani was elected AJK prime minister.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Gilani called on the premier at the PM House. "Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani on assuming the office of the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and expressed his best wishes for his tenure," the statement said. The two sides discussed matters relating to peace and development in AJK, as well as ongoing welfare projects in the region, it added.

"The federal government will continue to take all possible measures for the development and prosperity of the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir," the prime minister reaffirmed.

Gilani thanked PM Shehbaz for his support and expressed his resolve to

utilise all his capabilities for the development of the region and the welfare of its people.

The AJK elections were held in three phases under a revised schedule announced by AJK Chief Election Commissioner Ghulam Mustafa Mughal on July 21. The first phase covered all 13 constituencies in Mirpur Division, while polling in Muzaffarabad Division and the 12 refugee constituencies was held on Aug 2. The third phase, covering Poonch (Rawalakot) Division, was held on Aug 10.

The PML-N emerged as the largest parliamentary force in the AJK Legislative Assembly with 25 seats, followed by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with 12.

PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif nominated Gilani for the AJK prime minister's office. A qualified lawyer who holds a barrister's degree from Britain, Gilani was subsequently sworn in as prime minister in the 53-member AJK Legislative Assembly.

Following the inclusion of reserved seats, the PML-N emerged as the dominant parliamentary force, with 31 of its members taking the oath. One member of the Awami Dast-o-Bazu also took the oath, along with 14 PPP members.

Security Forces neutralise 11 terrorists in IBOs in Balochistan: ISPR

ANI

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces killed neutralised 11 terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan during intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Kharan and Washuk districts of Balochistan.

"On 6 September 2026, terrorists attempt to establish roadblock in Kharan and disrupt local traffic. The security forces promptly intercepted and engaged the terrorists, whereby, killing eight Indian sponsored terrorists," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

In another engagement on 7 September 2026, a deliberately planned intelligence based operation was conducted in Washuk district on reports of presence of terrorists. During the con-



duct of operation, own troops effectively busted terrorists hide-out and after an intense fire exchange, three terrorists were sent to hell, the news release further said. Moreover, security forces also recovered 2.9 tons of explosive which was being used for preparation of improvised explosive devices.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorist found in the area. Relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azma e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the news release said.

Bilawal challenges Mohsin to take 'failed system' debate to parliament

ANI

LONDON: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has challenged Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to take his criticism of Pakistan's political and governance system as a "collapsed" system to parliament, saying the country's fate cannot be decided by "a handful of businessmen" at business forums and the right forum for such debates is Pakistan's parliament. Speaking to the media in London, Bilawal said Naqvi had every right to express his views but if he believed that the system had failed, then the issue must be debated in the National Assembly to establish why it had failed and what could be done to fix it. "It cannot be the case that the fate of the country is decided by a



handful of businessmen," the PPP chairman said, insisting that questions about the weaknesses and failures of Pakistan's system belonged before elected representatives. Bilawal also took a pointed swipe at Naqvi over his absence from the lower

house, saying.

"Mr Mohsin Naqvi does not come to the National Assembly very often, so instead of business forums, he should come to Parliament." The PPP chairman said he was personally prepared to debate the issue with any federal minister or government representative on the floor of parliament. Bilawal said problems, faults and weaknesses within Pakistan's political system were neither new nor something that could be addressed through slogans. There should be an open debate on the causes behind the system's failures and the solutions required to address them, he added.

Asked by this reporter whether Naqvi was speaking for someone else through his recent statements, Bilawal said: "Mr Mohsin Naqvi is speaking for himself, and I speak for myself."

Interior Ministry Official Summoned Over Unpaid Blast Compensation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday summoned the Joint Secretary (Administration), Islamabad Capital Territory, along with the relevant record on September 15 in a case concerning non-payment of compensation to victims of the suicide attack on the Islamabad Judicial Complex. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard a petition filed by Advocate Muhammad Asif Gujjar seeking compensation for the victims and their families. The Deputy Commissioner's Office informed the court that no separate funds had been allocated for payment of compensation to the families of those killed in the attack. The court was told that compensation cheques had been distributed among families of people killed and injured in the Tarlai Imambargah blast. The Chief Commissioner's Office had also been approached through a letter for allocation of funds for the judicial complex blast victims.

Pakistan welcomes steps against illegal settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday welcomed the decision announced by the United Kingdom to impose a ban on items originating from the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied West Bank. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the continued expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory constituted a blatant violation of international law as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. "Such illegal actions are undermining international efforts aimed at achieving a two-state solution as well as peace and stabil-



ity in the region," it said. The Foreign Office said Pakistan also welcomed the announcement by several other countries, including Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland,

Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, to consider similar measures and support such efforts against the illegal Israeli settlements. Pakistan, it said hopes that these measures will send a clear and unequivocal message of rejection of illegal actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Foreign Office added that Pakistan has been and will continue to stand by the people of Palestine in their just struggle for self-determination and continue to support all efforts aimed at the establishment of a sovereign, independent, and contiguous Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Trump says Iran war will end right after US midterm elections



ANI

President Donald Trump on Wednesday predicted that the war with Iran will end "immediately after" the US midterm elections in November because Tehran was trying to influence the vote but would not be able to hold out any longer in the face of US economic pressure. "I think war is going to end immediately after the election because they can't hold out any longer. They're desperate to try and affect the election," he told reporters before departing for the Republican National Convention in Dallas. Trump's war with Iran has recently entered its seventh month with no immediate end in sight.

On Wednesday, Iran said it attacked 10 ships near the Strait of Hormuz after the US sank five Iranian oil tankers. The renewed fighting sent oil prices surging, with benchmark Brent crude futures breaching \$100 a barrel for the first time since July.

Trump's approval ratings recently sank to a record low due to frustration from voters

over the Iran war and deepening cost-of-living crisis.

Midterm elections, due to be held on Nov 3 this year, are typically a referendum on the occupant of the White House. Oil prices would also come down right after the election, Trump said on Wednesday, once the war is over, while acknowledging diplomatic talks are still a possibility but not preferred. "Yes, a negotiation could possibly happen, but it's not something we're looking at," Trump said.

Earlier, Iran said that enemy and commercial vessels entering a newly designated maritime zone without Tehran's authorisation would face sanctions, according to Iranian media reports. IIRGC spokesman Hossein Mohibi said any enemy vessel or commercial ship entering the area without coordination with Iranian authorities would be placed on a sanctions list, the semi-official Fars News Agency reported. He said the measure would mean Iran would halt the provision of maritime, insurance and support services to those vessels, and that they would remain barred from receiving the services even if they later transit the Strait of Hormuz.

In separate remarks by Iran's Student News Network, Mohibi said that although the fighting with the world's "greatest apparent powers" had ended at certain stages, "the nature of the war continues".

He claimed that the war had, for the first time, inflicted "strategic damage" directly on the US and affected its security and economic calculations.

SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza Holds Open Court, Directs Timely Resolution of Citizens’ Complaints

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD -- SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza held an open court at his office, where he met with citizens and listened to their complaints and concerns.

He directed the relevant officers to ensure the timely resolution of citizens’ grievances and take action strictly in accordance with the law.



KP Governor honors nurse Razia for saving baby in PIMS nursery fire

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday honored Nurse Razia Noreen for saving a baby during the recent fire incident at the nursery of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), presenting her a cash award of Rs100,000 and a special shield. The award was presented at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Islamabad. Minority leader Samuel Pyara and PIMS Deputy Chief Nursing Shazia were also present on the occasion.



Speaking at the ceremony, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said compassion for humanity was the hallmark of the nursing profession. He paid tribute to Nurse Razia Noreen for demonstrating

courage and dedication during the tragic incident, saying her brave act deserved appreciation and recognition. “The entire Pakistani nation pays tribute to Nurse Razia for her exem-

plary role,” he said. The governor said the courage and sense of responsibility demonstrated by the nurse reflected the spirit of humanity and professional commitment.

Another Honor for PARC’s Senior-most Chief Scientist Dr. Khalid Mahmood

By: Ikram Ullah Joyia/ ANI

ISLAMABAD -- Pakistan Agriculture Research Council’s (PARC) senior-most Chief Scientist, Dr. Khalid Mahmood, has received another prestigious appointment, with the Governor of Punjab nominating him as a member of the Senate of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF).

According to a notification issued by the Governor’s Secretariat, Punjab, Dr. Khalid Mahmood has been nominated in the category of “Eight Experts in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Allied Disciplines” for a period of three years.

The notification, issued under the relevant provisions of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad Act, 1973,



states that the Governor/Chancellor nominated Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Ph.D. in Rural Sociology from UAF, as one of the agriculture experts to the university’s apex body.

In his new role, Dr. Khalid

Mahmood will contribute to policy-making related to agricultural education and research at UAF. He is currently serving as the senior-most Chief Scientist at PARC.

Officials said the appointment would help strengthen collaboration between research institutions and academia and contribute to the advancement of Pakistan’s agriculture sector.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood began his professional career as a lecturer at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, before rising to a senior scientific position at PARC.

The farming and scientific communities have welcomed his nomination, describing it as a positive step toward promoting research-driven agricultural development in Pakistan.

Polio workers’ stipend raised by 28pc

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) has increased the daily stipend of more than 400,000 campaign-based frontline workers by 28 per cent ahead of the September 21-27 vaccination drive. During the drive, over 31 million children will be vaccinated in 115 districts across six regions.

Prime Minister’s Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq said frontline workers were at the heart of Pakistan’s efforts to achieve a polio-free future. “Our frontline workers go above and beyond to reach every child and support communities, often working in challenging environments,” she said, adding that the stipend increase was an important step

towards recognising their dedication and contribution.

She said the PEI was also taking measures to improve the safety, dignity and wellbeing of frontline workers, including upgrading support centres with basic amenities in selected areas, issuing identification cards and developing operational safety guidelines.

According to the PEI, Pakistan has reduced polio cases by 99.8 per cent, from an estimated 20,000 in the early 1990s to 31 in 2025 and three so far in 2026.

Ahead of the September campaign, the initiative urged parents and caregivers to allow vaccination teams to administer two drops of oral polio vaccine to every child under five.

IHC directs district admin to frame rules for shisha cafes within one month

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday directed the district administration to formulate rules and regulations for shisha cafes within one month, while seeking details of the number of such establishments operating in the federal capital and action taken against those violating no-objection certificates (NOCs). Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar heard petitions concerning shisha cafes. Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Advocate General Naved Hayat Malik and Acting Prosecutor General Manzoor Ahmed Jajja appeared before the court. During the hearing, the Chief Justice observed that the court respected businesses but warned against activities that could harm society.

“Do not destroy the entire city,” the



Chief Justice remarked, adding that if cannabis was mixed with tobacco, it would still constitute smoking.

He observed that such activities

were taking place in open spaces and could adversely affect the younger generation. The Islamabad IG informed the court that strict action had been taken against shisha cafes following court orders. FIRs had also been registered against some persons, while authorities faced resistance from cafe owners during raids. He said children as young as 14 and 15 years had been found at some shisha cafes. The police had also launched an awareness campaign regarding the issue. Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar observed that shisha cafes could not continue operating in the absence of proper rules and regulations. He remarked that the existing arrangements were adversely affecting the lives of residents of Islamabad.

Acting Prosecutor General Manzoor Ahmed Jajja told the court that some of the persons involved in selling shisha were also children aged 18 or below.

Railways, provincial govts join hands to develop green corridors along railway tracks

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways, in collaboration with provincial governments, has undertaken large-scale plantation drives along railway tracks across the country to promote environmental sustainability, improve the landscape and combat environmental degradation.

“Under the plantation initiatives, a total of 611,930 plants have been planted alongside railway tracks in different regions of the country,” an official in the Ministry told APP. He said the plantation drives have not only enhanced the aesthetic appeal of railway routes but also contributed to mitigating environmental challenges, including air pollution and soil erosion. In another major step towards promoting

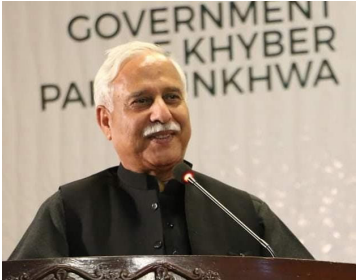
greener railway infrastructure, Pakistan Railways had already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Lahore for the development of a green corridor along the railway track from Shahdara to Raiwind, he added. The official said the project aims to develop green belts, increase green cover, provide safe and accessible recreational facilities and utilize railway land in a manner that supports public welfare. In the first phase, the official the PHA Lahore will spend Rs300 million on the development of the green corridor along the railway track. As part of the initiative, he said the landscaping work has already been carried out at Kot Lakhpat Railway Station, reflecting the authorities’ commitment to creating greener and more environmentally friendly surroundings.

Industrialists Oppose Haripur Committee, Warn of Pressure on Industry

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ABBOTTABAD: Founder of the Industrialists Association District Abbottabad and Abbottabad Chamber of Commerce, Haji Iftikhar Ahmed, has strongly opposed a committee formed by the Deputy Commissioner Haripur, warning that it could create unnecessary pressure on industrialists. In a statement, Ahmed said the committee includes industrialists from Abbottabad and Hattar Industrial Zone, while expressing concern over possible interference in legitimate business affairs and political influence.

He said industrialists were already being monitored by more than 32 federal and provincial institutions and



questioned the need for another special committee. He warned that excessive administrative intervention could lead to harassment and further difficulties for businesses.

Ahmed said rising electricity and fuel costs, heavy taxation and prolonged load-shedding had already

severely affected industrial production. Many factories, he added, were operating only a single shift instead of full capacity.

He warned that declining production was putting exports and employment under pressure and could force some factories to close, worsening unemployment and poverty.

Ahmed said industrialists contribute billions of rupees in taxes and also make substantial contributions to workers’ social security and welfare funds. He urged the Haripur district administration to immediately dissolve the committee and create a stable environment for industry and trade, saying stronger industrial activity was essential for employment, exports and economic growth.

Ahsan calls for taking devolution to grassroots as benefits remain elusive after 15 years

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the benefits of devolution had not reached the grassroots over the past 15 years, stressing the transfer of powers and resources to local governments for effective service delivery and development.

Addressing the national inception workshop and launch of the Technical Working Group on “Integrated Land & Water Use Planning,” he said devolution itself was not the problem, but its implementation had stopped at the provincial level. “It is not that devolution was wrong; it should have been devolution. The whole world is being devolved,” the minister said, stressing



that powers should also flow from provinces to district and municipal governments.

He said the 18th Amendment had devolved substantial responsibilities to the provinces in 2010, but local governments were not given corresponding powers and resources. “If you give a local government a responsibility,

but there is no power or resources behind that responsibility, then that responsibility becomes a burden,” he remarked. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan needed a development ecosystem based on effective coordination between the federation and provinces, coupled with empowered local institutions capable of translating national priorities into improved services and outcomes. He said this was particularly important for agriculture, which remained a key driver of the national economy and a major source of livelihoods, food security and export potential. Despite its agricultural resources, Pakistan had become a net agricultural importing country, importing around \$4-5 billion worth of agricultural products annually, he noted.

JazzWorld inductes 100 young professionals into its AI Associate Program 2026



ANI

ISLAMABAD: JazzWorld has inducted 100 young professionals into its AI Associate Program 2026, building a new generation of AI leaders as the company accelerates its transformation into an AI-native organization. Selected through a rigorous nationwide recruitment process, the associates will apply AI to real business challenges and help strengthen AI capability across JazzWorld. The year-long program will see associates work across functions including fintech, cybersecurity, data science, software development and digital platforms, among other areas, identifying AI use cases, improving productivity, and solving real business challenges through hands-on experience, structured learning, and mentorship.

Kaan Terzioğlu, Group CEO, VEON, said: “The companies that lead in the AI era will combine technology with exceptional human talent. Pakistan’s young population represents an extraordinary opportunity, and these 100 associates are here not simply to learn about AI, but to apply it and build digital solutions that improve millions of

lives. Developing this talent is fundamental to VEON’s ambition to build AI-native digital operators across our markets.”

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO, JazzWorld, said: “Our ambition is to move from AI-enabled to AI-first and ultimately AI-native, where AI becomes part of how we work, compete and build. That transformation is as much about people as technology. By reskilling our workforce and bringing in young talent to apply AI to real problems, we want to develop leaders who can drive change across JazzWorld and help shape

Tazeen Shahid, Chief People Officer, JazzWorld, said: “We selected these associates not only for their credentials, but for their curiosity, adaptability and willingness to keep learning. Our responsibility now is to give them meaningful work, strong mentorship and the freedom to learn by doing, developing the talent JazzWorld and Pakistan’s digital economy will need in the years ahead.” Through the AI Associate Program, JazzWorld is bringing new talent into its broader AI transformation while continuing to build capability across its existing workforce.

HEC chief inaugurates theatre hall at AIOU

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar inaugurated a state-of-the-art theatre hall at Academic Complex of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), marking a significant step towards creating a vibrant academic, literary, cultural and creative environment for students.

The new facility is designed to provide students with a dedicated platform to express their ideas, showcase their creative talents, engage in performing arts and participate in intellectual and cultural activities alongside their academic pursuits. The ceremony was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, faculty members and principal officers. As the first event at the newly inaugurated theatre hall, a ceremony was held to launch “Teacher Education in Pakistan” authored by Punjab University Professor Emeritus and renowned educationist Prof. Dr. Munawar Sultana Mirza with HEC Chairman Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar presiding.

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Opinion

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Starmer has chance to right a historical wrong

CHRIS DOYLE

Feverish debate over recent months has centered on whether the UK and France will recognize the state of Palestine. French President Emmanuel Macron said in February that recognition was “not a taboo.” France and Saudi Arabia were due to hold a conference on the two-state solution in New York in June, but it was delayed by Israel’s aggression against Iran. Instead, it is being held this week. But the UK’s position has been far from clear? Will Prime Minister Keir Starmer agree to join in or will he delay?

No country in the world has more of a history of grappling with the issue of Palestine than Britain. It was, after all, the author of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, in which it pledged support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. It did not mention a second state in that declaration. London had to grapple with this as the mandatory power all the way up to 1947, when it handed the issue over to the newly formed UN to resolve. In November of that year, the UN General Assembly voted for partition. The UK abstained on that resolution.

However, its exit from Palestine was one of the low points of its Middle Eastern colonial era. It made little or no attempt to thwart the war that started even before its troops had left.

Palestinians argue that, given all this, Britain has a particular historic responsibility toward Palestine. It should, many argue, be in the vanguard of pushing for the creation of that second state.

It was not until the Venice Declaration of 1980 that European powers including the UK committed to acknowledging the Palestinian right to self-government. Even after that, it was many years before Britain had any formal relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Successive governments acted merely as backing vocalists to the US position on most aspects of the Palestinian question.

With the Oslo Accords of 1993, the expectation that a peace process would lead to a Palestinian state grew. Britain and other donor states invested heavily in this option and aid to the fledgling Palestinian Authority

grew as a result. It was all under the rubric that this would lead to a two-state solution, a secure Israel side by side with a state of Palestine based on the 1967 borders.

The Palestinian leadership shifted its strategy after the Second Intifada to pushing for recognition. The UNGA approved the de facto recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine in 2012 and the state of Palestine also started applying for membership of international institutions, including the International Criminal Court.

In 2014, the UK government’s position was outlined by then-Foreign Secretary William Hague, who said that London “reserves the right to recognize a Palestinian state bilaterally at the moment of our choosing and when it can best help bring about peace.”

On Oct. 13, 2014, a debate took place in the House of Commons with a votable motion: “That this House believes that the government should recognize the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel.” The result of the vote was 274 to 12, a majority of 262 in favor of recognition. This was not binding on the government of the time but was a clear signal of

parliamentary opinion. The low number of opponents to the motion indicated that few politicians were willing to oppose it in public.

Significantly, this motion was backed by the leader of the Labour Party at the time, Ed Miliband. He said that recognition was “right, just, fair and in line with the values” of his party. This tied Labour to supporting recognition. Contrary to widespread belief, it was not his pro-Palestinian successor, Jeremy Corbyn, who first made this move.

Keir Starmer inherited this stance when he became Labour leader after the election defeat in 2019. But he made a significant change in Labour’s position prior to the 2024 election. The manifesto committed the party to recognizing a Palestinian state, but only as part of a peace process. It stated: “We are committed to recognizing a Palestinian state as a contribution to a renewed peace process which results in a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.” The lack of clarity was deliberate. The decision on timing would be in the hands of the prime minister.

Debate endured as to whether these posi-

tions meant that Israel had veto power. Linking recognition to the state of a peace process, when the official Israel government policy was not to enter into negotiations, meant this was, in effect, exactly the case.

Everything changed after Oct. 7, 2023. As Israel’s genocide has progressed, pressure has grown on European governments, including the UK, to get tough with Tel Aviv. This has included a drive to recognize Palestine. In May 2024, Ireland, Norway and Spain recognized Palestine. Israel withdrew its ambassadors from those states. Larger European states such as the UK rejected the opportunity to join this move. This brings us to the present. Faced with Macron’s announcement that France will recognize a Palestinian state in September, the focus returns to Starmer. He is facing considerable pressure to make the move immediately. Cabinet ministers are reported to have lobbied Starmer on recognition. They include Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Home Secretary Yvette Cooper. Foreign Secretary David Lammy is also likely to have been backing this move.

—Arab News

Expo memoir highlights Dubai’s legacy of innovation

CHARLES PAPPAS

When Dubai hosted Expo 2020, it became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to hold the event, redefining the possibilities of a World Expo. Historically, these global gatherings, stretching back to 1851, have been dynamic showcases of experimental architecture, international collaboration and technological advancement. Yet, for almost two centuries, women were largely absent from their production and focus.

Dubai notably changed this narrative, largely due to the formidable leadership detailed in “When Ground Shifts,” the insightful new book by Reem Al-Hashimy, the UAE minister of state for international cooperation and the visionary behind Expo 2020. As Expo 2025 Osaka passes its halfway point, it continues to build on this rich history, while the anticipation for Expo 2030 Riyadh further underscores the region’s commitment to this global platform for innovation and collaboration.

Al-Hashimy’s book is far from a mere chronicle of milestones; it is a candid, first-hand account of the immense personal and international challenges she navigated — from being appointed a minister at 29 to delivering Dubai’s final presentation in Paris while heavily pregnant and repeating her mantra of “hope is not a method.” The anecdotes reveal the tireless effort required to deliver a World Expo.

Her book illuminates the relentless dedication that transformed a patch of untouched desert into a showplace for more than 190 countries and 24 million visitors. Expo 2020 visitors were captivated by the falcon-like UAE Pavilion; the majestic “energy trees” surrounding Terra — The Sustainability Pavilion; and the immense Al-Wasl Plaza, the planet’s largest 360-degree projection surface. Significantly, they were moved by the Women’s Pavilion, inspired in part by a vintage Cartier bracelet. Her expo understood style as much as it did substance. Having had the privilege of witnessing Expo 2020 as a writer, a speaker for the US pavilion and as a member of the fair’s Visitor Experience department, what I saw, and what Al-Hashimy’s book powerfully conveys, is that a grand undertaking thrives from the top down.

The meticulous attention to detail, the open-minded willingness to seek expertise from every corner of the globe, the pervasive feeling that everyone involved could contribute something, and the daring that was not just tolerated but actively sought all flowed from Al-Hashimy and the cast of

several thousand characters she assembled like a Marvel superhero team. Her profound understanding of what she calls “barakah” — the ability to find those who can ease your burdens and solve your problems — is a core theme in “When Ground Shifts,” and it was palpable on the ground. “Inspiration is a guest that does not willingly visit the lazy,” Tchaikovsky said. The Expo 2020 site went from zero to a fully realized 4 sq. km city with mind-bending speed. Each problem was a domino falling to her steady, relentless effort. Perhaps no obstacle was greater than the COVID-19 pandemic. While the 1873 Vienna World’s Fair saw a cholera epidemic slash its expected turnout, Expo 2020 came within a hair’s breadth of meeting its goal of attracting 25 million visitors, despite a year-long delay due to the lockdowns. Drawing the largest number of countries ever for a World Expo, the event was cosmopolitan yet grounded in the Middle East. Indigenous ghaf and palm trees provided shade, while dozens of calligraphy benches, which resembled abstract art but spelled out words in Arabic like “vision,” “dignity,” “hope” and “dream,” offered respite from the 20,000 or so steps visitors would easily rack up in a day. These details, far from mere decorative elements, were integral to the event’s cultural tapestry.

“When Ground Shifts” could easily have been a dull humblebrag. Instead, it is alive with grace and pride. The self-described “little on the nerdy side” student who found deep meaning in the Lincoln Memorial and the American experiment built an expo where, for the first time, every country had its own pavilion. She also built Expo Live, which channeled \$100 million to pioneering social projects that embodied the expo themes of mobility, opportunity and sustainability. This commitment to equitable participation and impactful legacy is a cornerstone of the book’s message.

Until 1970, most world expos were held in cities such as London, Paris, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York. But with Expo ’70 in Osaka, Japan, world’s fairs began trending toward non-Western locations, realizing their singular soft power. Expo 2020 propelled the UAE onto a world stage and into the top 10 countries in the Brand Finance Global Soft Power Index 2023. It was a nation’s coming of age on the global stage.

All of that is an astonishing heritage. As the spotlight shifts to Expo 2025 Osaka and continues with significant anticipation for Expo 2030 Riyadh, that spirit of global collaboration and innovation remains a powerful guiding force.

—Arab News



By Sheikh J. Hussain
London: Published by ANI
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Every year on the sixth of September, we pause to remember the day in 1965 when India launched a sudden and full-scale attack across our borders, believing it could weaken and divide Pakistan. But the enemy had forgotten one simple truth — that this land is protected by men who do not know the meaning of surrender. Outnumbered and facing greater firepower, the Pakistan Army stood firm. They fought in the fields of Lahore, the plains of Sialkot, and the sands of Chawinda with a courage that stunned the world. They turned back a mighty aggressor and proved to every nation that Pakistan’s defence is not merely strong - it is immaculate and unconquerable. It is a defence built not on weapons alone, but on the blood, sweat, and unshakeable faith of men who love this land more than their own lives.

There is a beautiful and powerful way to understand the role of our armed forces. The Pakistan Army is the white blood cell within the body of Pakistan, constantly working as the antibodies that detect, resist, and destroy every harmful threat - whether it comes from across the border or from within. Just as the body cannot survive without its defenders against illness and infection, our nation cannot remain safe and healthy without an institution that stands watch day and night, shielding the people from every danger that seeks to weaken or destroy us.

This same spirit burns as brightly today as it did in 1965. Under the command of Field Marshal General Asim Munir, the Pakistan Army stands as one of the most professional, disciplined, and dedicated forces in the entire world. He leads with clarity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment, guiding the institu-

tion with a sense of duty that commands respect both at home and abroad. Every soldier serving under his command carries forward the same tradition of valour and selfless service that has defined this army since the very first day. From the highest peaks to the western borders, from the deserts to the cities, they stand guard so that we may sleep in peace. They endure the cold, the heat, and the danger so that our children may grow up in safety. Their hard work, their sincerity, and their endless sacrifices have made Pakistan a fortress that no power on earth can bring down.

We also remember with deepest reverence all the martyrs who have laid down their lives for Pakistan, in every era and every conflict. Whether they fought in 1965, in the mountains, or along the borders in recent times, they are all the heroes of this nation. May Allah Almighty accept their sacrifices, raise their ranks in the highest stations of paradise, and grant their families patience and strength. Their blood was not shed in vain. It became the foundation of our freedom and the shield of our future. We honour them not only with words but with the determination to build the Pakistan they dreamed of - a land of peace, justice, and unity.

But today, we must also understand that the nature of war has changed. We are living in the age of fifth-generation warfare, and the battlefield is no longer limited to borders and trenches. It has entered our homes, our phones, and our social media feeds. There are those who work day and night to spread doubt, confusion, and negativity against our institutions. They use every platform to criticise, to mislead, and to weaken the trust between the people and their defenders. This is not criticism - this is an organised effort to create division from within. It is a dangerous game, because an army can defend borders, but it cannot defend a nation that has lost faith in itself.

We must remember the wise words of the great Salahuddin Ayyubi: When your enemies begin to curse and criticise your army, know well that your army is extremely sincere and is

moving in the right direction. If our soldiers were not a threat to the enemies of Pakistan, they would not be so eager to paint them in a false light. If they were not doing their duty with honesty and strength, no one would bother to weaken them. The very fact that our armed forces are targeted so heavily is the clearest proof that they are doing their job perfectly. They are the last line of defence against every plot, every conspiracy, and every evil design that is planned against this country.

This brings us to our own responsibility as a nation. The army alone cannot defend Pakistan. True defence begins with us. It begins when we stand united, when we refuse to be divided, and when we refuse to let anyone create distance between us and those who protect us. It is our duty to stand beside our army, to trust them, and to support them in every corner of life. We must not let rumours, negativity, or foreign propaganda shake our confidence. We must stand with unity, faith, and perfect trust - the very principles on which Pakistan was founded - and place our full reliance on Allah Almighty, Who is the ultimate Protector of this land.

Let us not be deceived. Criticism that comes from sincerity is one thing, but the kind that seeks to break our national spirit is something else entirely. We must be wise, we must be aware, and we must be united. Our strength lies not in our differences, but in our togetherness. When the people and the army stand as one, no force in the world can defeat us.

On this sixth of September, let us make a promise. We will honour our martyrs not just by remembering them, but by standing firm in the face of every challenge. We will salute our soldiers, our officers, and Field Marshal General Asim Munir for their leadership and their devotion. We will reject every voice that seeks to divide us. And with full trust in Allah and full faith in our defenders, we will declare to the world that Pakistan is here, it is strong, and it will remain forever.

Pakistan Zindabad.

Pakistan’s Socio-Economic Crisis: From Survival to Sustainable Development



Written By: Mahmood Khan
Published By: ANI News Agency

Pakistan’s socio-economic crisis is no longer a problem that can be addressed through temporary measures or short-term relief. The country has resources, talented people, a young population and enormous potential. What it lacks is the ability to consistently turn these strengths into sustainable economic opportunities and a better quality of life for its people.

With a population of more than 250 million, Pakistan has one of the world’s largest young populations. This should be a major economic advantage. Yet poverty, unemployment, inflation, weak public services, political uncertainty, debt and institutional weaknesses continue to prevent millions of Pakistanis from benefiting from the country’s potential.

The real challenge is not simply a lack of resources. It is the lack of opportunities. Poverty and Jobs

For ordinary Pakistanis, the economic crisis is most visible in the rising cost of everyday life. Food, electricity, fuel, education and healthcare have become increasingly difficult for many families to afford. When household incomes fail to keep pace with these costs, even middle-income families can find themselves under financial pressure.

At the same time, employment opportunities remain limited. A large share of Pakistan’s workforce works in the informal economy, where workers often lack job security, social protection and other basic benefits. Women and young people face even greater barriers to entering the formal labour market.

Pakistan therefore needs an economy that creates jobs rather than simply managing unemployment. SMEs, agriculture, manufacturing, construction, IT and export-oriented businesses can provide opportunities for millions if they are supported through better policies, easier access to finance and a more predictable business environment.

Education and the Youth

Pakistan cannot build a strong economy while a large number of its children remain out of school or leave school without acquiring meaningful skills.

The education crisis is not only about the number of schools. It is also about the quality of education. Many children complete years of schooling without developing ade-

quate reading, writing, mathematical or practical skills. Poor nutrition and child stunting make the situation even more serious because a child who grows up unhealthy is less likely to reach his or her full potential.

Education must therefore be seen as an investment in Pakistan’s future. More attention is needed on primary education, teacher training, vocational education, digital skills and access to education for girls.

Pakistan’s young population can become its greatest economic asset, but only if young people have the education, skills and employment opportunities they need.

Healthcare and Human Development

Healthcare is another area where economic hardship directly affects ordinary families. For a low-income household, an unexpected illness can consume a significant portion of its monthly income.

Pakistan needs to give greater attention to prevention and primary healthcare instead of relying heavily on treatment after people become seriously ill. Clean drinking water, sanitation, vaccination, maternal healthcare, child nutrition and community-based healthcare can prevent many problems before they become expensive medical emergencies.

Improving healthcare is not only a social responsibility. It is also an economic investment because a healthier population is more productive.

Moving Beyond Economic Crises

Pakistan has experienced repeated cycles of economic crisis. Balance-of-payments pressures, inflation, currency instability, rising debt and dependence on external financing have repeatedly forced the country to seek short-term solutions.

Loans and stabilization programmes may provide temporary breathing space, but they cannot replace structural reform.

Pakistan needs to produce more, export more and create more value at home. IT services, engineering goods, minerals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, modern agriculture and other value-added industries can help generate foreign exchange and reduce dependence on imports.

A stronger tax system, a better business environment, improved public-sector performance and policies that encourage investment are equally important.

Agriculture and Climate Change

Agriculture remains vital to Pakistan’s economy, but farmers continue to face problems ranging from inefficient irrigation and outdated farming methods to weak storage and marketing systems.

Modern agricultural technology, better

water management, research, storage facilities and improved access to markets can help farmers increase both productivity and income.

Climate change makes this task even more urgent. Floods, droughts, extreme heat and water shortages are already affecting communities and livelihoods. Climate resilience should therefore be treated as part of economic planning rather than as a separate environmental issue.

Governance Is Critical

Behind many of Pakistan’s economic and social problems lies a deeper issue: governance.

Governments change, policies change and priorities change, but long-term development requires continuity. Education, healthcare, taxation, energy, exports and employment cannot be reformed effectively within the life of a single government.

Pakistan needs a national development framework with clear and measurable goals that can continue regardless of political changes.

Local governments also need greater authority and resources. Development is more effective when decisions are made closer to the communities that depend on public services.

Pakistan does not need another slogan or another temporary solution. It needs serious structural reforms.

The country must broaden its tax base, reduce unnecessary government expenditure, invest in education and healthcare, create jobs through the private sector, strengthen exports, modernise agriculture, improve the energy sector, support SMEs and entrepreneurs, strengthen local governments and protect vulnerable families through effective social protection.

None of these reforms will be easy. They will require political courage, institutional stability and patience.

But Pakistan’s situation is not hopeless. The country has a large domestic market, a young population, natural resources, a strategic geographical position, entrepreneurial citizens and a substantial overseas diaspora.

The question is whether Pakistan can turn these advantages into lasting progress.

For too long, the country has focused on managing one crisis after another. The time has come to address the causes of those crises.

Pakistan’s future will not be determined simply by the resources it possesses. It will be determined by how effectively its institutions, leadership and people use those resources to create opportunity, stability and a better future for the next generation.

Europe can build its own social media

SEBASTIAN VOGELSANG

When I built my first website back in 1998, the internet felt expansive. You could publish something in Berlin and someone in Boston or Belgrade might stumble on it within seconds. But today, as a small number of tech monopolies Hoover up attention and strangle innovation, that spirit of connection has been lost. Through their powerful platforms, social media giants control a large share of the digital world’s underlying architecture. Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, X and others operate as walled gardens and their algorithms discourage users from leaving by deprioritizing posts with outgoing links. People end up stuck on one platform, scrolling mindlessly — an outcome diametrically opposed to the early vision of the internet as a web of interlinked sites and communities.

Europe should recognize this for what it is: a systemic dependency that threatens the continent’s digital sovereignty. Just as the EU seeks to reduce its reliance on external providers for semiconductors, cloud computing and artificial intelligence, it must do the same for social media. The dominant platforms extract value from European users by capturing their attention and selling their data, while paying little in taxes and skirting regulations. Their proprietary infrastructure increasingly shapes our lives, from the news we see to the way we speak online.

While European policymakers have long expressed concern about the concentration of corporate power among the big social media companies, and their outside influence on society and politics, last year’s US presidential election should be sounding alarm bells across the continent. Tech billionaire Elon Musk weaponized X, the platform formerly known as Twitter that he acquired in 2022, to help Donald Trump win reelection by promoting content favorable to him. He has since threatened to interfere in European elections.

Heated Senate Meeting Abid Sher Ali and Aimal Wali Khan Clash During Committee Proceedings



By: ANI Parliamentary Reporter:

ISLAMABAD --- A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights was held under the chairmanship of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri to discuss the deaths of 14 newborn babies at PIMS and the murder cases of Hina Javed, Hina Zarif and Mir Raza Ali Khan.

Senators Masroor Ahsan, Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, Abid Sher Ali, Aimal Wali Khan and Atta-ul-Haq participated in the proceedings.

The committee expressed serious concern over the failure to register an FIR in the PIMS tragedy involving the deaths of 14 newborn babies. The Health Secretary informed the committee that a letter had been sent to the Interior Ministry for criminal proceedings.

The chairperson rejected the explanation and directed that an FIR be registered immediately. Senator Aimal Wali Khan questioned the delay and said the police should be held responsible for failing to register the FIR.

Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri questioned whether the state or the parents of the deceased children would be the complainant. The Health Secretary said the PIMS administration would file the complaint, prompting the chairperson to object and insist that the state should register the FIR.

The chairperson directed that a copy of the FIR be presented before her before the next meeting. She also sought details regarding the extension of the PIMS Executive Director and demanded that the names of concerned PIMS administration officials be placed on the Exit Control List (ECL).

Senator Abid Sher Ali criticised the lack of accountability in hospitals and demanded strict action against those responsible, including confiscation of their properties. The committee directed authorities to initiate FIRs and legal proceedings without waiting for the final inquiry report.

Heated Exchange Between Abid Sher Ali and Aimal Wali Khan

During discussion on the suicide of

a sanitary worker in Gujranwala and the “Suthra Punjab” programme, a heated exchange took place between PML-N Senator Abid Sher Ali and ANP Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

The confrontation began when committee members were questioning officials of the Gujranwala Waste Management Company and the Director General of Suthra Punjab. Abid Sher Ali intervened and told Aimal Wali Khan not to “become an SHO” and to listen to the other side as well.

Aimal Wali Khan objected, saying Abid Sher Ali was not his boss and could not stop him from questioning officials. The verbal exchange intensified and eventually turned into a scuffle between the two senators.

The chairperson and other committee members, including Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, intervened and calmed the situation. The ANP later condemned the incident, describing it as contrary to parliamentary values.

Committee Orders Rehabilitation Centre for Beggar Children

The Deputy Commissioner Islamabad briefed the committee on action against beggars in the capital. Officials said there were more than 1,000 beggars in Islamabad, while adult beggars are sent to jail and children are kept separately.

The chairperson questioned what would happen to children after their release and return to slums and asked why there was no rehabilitation facility for them.

Senator Aimal Wali Khan said begging was being used as an organised business model involving the alleged kidnapping and sale of children. He said arresting children alone would not solve the problem and called for action against those operating such networks.

The committee directed the authorities to establish a rehabilitation centre for beggar children.

CPO Briefs Committee on Hina Javed Murder Case

CPO Rawalpindi briefed the committee on the investigation into Hina Javed’s murder, saying forensic teams

were called immediately after the incident and evidence was collected scientifically.

He said 19 pieces of evidence had been collected and sent for forensic examination, while DNA samples had also been obtained. The forensic report is awaited.

The CPO said a supervisory team and prosecution team were working on the case and police had remained in contact with the victim’s family. He added that there were no eyewitnesses and that Hina Javed’s father-in-law was also being investigated.

Hina Zarif Murder Case Also Reviewed

The committee also discussed the murder of Hina Zarif and questioned police officials about the handling of the case.

Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri questioned why police became the complainant in the Hina Zarif case but did not take similar action in the PIMS tragedy involving 14 newborn deaths.

She also revealed that Hina Zarif was pregnant and questioned how such an important detail had allegedly been overlooked.

Police officials said Hina Zarif’s brother and husband were in custody. The committee directed authorities to submit a comprehensive report on the case.

Mir Raza Ali Khan Murder Case

The committee also questioned Sindh Police officials over the investigation into the murder of Mir Raza Ali Khan. Members raised concerns over alleged negligence and conflicting reports. Police officials said they had fully cooperated with the victim’s family and faced no pressure in the investigation.

Senator Abid Sher Ali demanded action against officials found responsible for negligence, while Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri questioned the suspension of the SHO and called for stronger accountability. Police officials said the SHO and DSP had been suspended over negligence. The committee stressed that all officials found responsible for wrongdoing must be held accountable under the law.

Gillani Calls for Equal Women’s Participation to Unlock Pakistan’s Full Economic Potential

Report: ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD-- Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Wednesday said Pakistan’s democratic strength, economic progress and social cohesion could not be fully realized without equal participation of women in shaping the country’s institutions, economy and future.

Addressing the Pakistan Women Leadership and Policy Summit 2026, organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Gillani said women must be empowered not only as beneficiaries of development but also as entrepreneurs, professionals, policymakers, innovators and leaders. He said the true measure of Pakistan’s progress would be whether women, regardless of their background or region, had equal access to education, finance, technology, markets and decision-making.

“The challenge before us is not whether women can lead, but whether we are prepared to create systems that allow them to lead, succeed and shape



Pakistan’s future,” he said. Gillani highlighted the contributions of prominent Pakistani women, including Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, Begum Shaista Ikramullah and former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. The Acting President called for a practical agenda focused on access to finance, digital inclusion, women-led enterprises, safe workplaces, leadership development, mentorship and stronger market linkages. He urged financial institutions,

educational institutions, the private sector and chambers of commerce to play their role in removing barriers and creating equal opportunities for women. “Women’s empowerment is not a narrow social concern. It is central to national development,” Gillani said. He added that when women participate fully in economic life, nations advance, while their meaningful participation in policymaking makes democracy more representative, responsive and just.

World Literacy Day Celebrated at Central Jail Gujranwala

By: ANI Bureau Report:

GUJRANWALA-- ceremony was held at Central Jail Gujranwala to mark World Literacy Day, with Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed as the chief guest. Superintendent Jail Abubakar Abdullah, District Education Officer Literacy Fauzia Zareen and other officials also attended.

Speaking on the occasion, Fauzia Zareen said education is a basic need of every section of society and knowledge is power. She said that under the ALP and Chief Minister Literacy Programme, 196 prisoners were provided education and 25 teachers were trained.

Superintendent Jail Abubakar Abdullah briefed participants about jail administration and facilities



being provided to prisoners. Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed urged prisoners to adopt patience, tolerance and positive thinking, saying education and character building can bring positive

change in human life. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates and prizes among prisoners who successfully completed the educational programme.

Jamia Masjid Bunyān-e-Marsūs Inaugurated in Kuldana, Murree

By: ANI Bureau Report:

MURREE-- Jamia Masjid Bunyān-e-Marsūs in Kuldana, Murree, was inaugurated during a ceremony by Chief Guest Major General Zafar Mahmood.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner Murree Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi, Station Commander Brigadier Ahmed Nawaz, officers of the police and district administration, local dignitaries and media representatives.

Addressing the ceremony, speakers described the construction of the mosque as an important religious and social initiative. They said mosques are not only places of worship but also centers for promoting unity, brotherhood, moral development, peace and social welfare.

They expressed hope that the new mosque would provide residents with a well-equipped center for religious and social activities and contribute to the moral and social development of the area.

The ceremony concluded with special prayers for the security, stability, peace and prosperity of Pakistan, as well as for the success of the Pakistan Armed Forces.



Tharparkar Administration to Establish Complaint Cells for Public Grievances

By: ANI Bureau Report :

MITHI -- Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagirani has said the district administration is developing an effective strategy to resolve public grievances at citizens’ doorsteps. Complaint cells will be established at the DC Office and relevant government departments for prompt redressal of complaints.

He made the remarks while addressing an open court at the Rest House in Chhachhro, where citizens raised issues including water shortages, encroachments on government and gauchar land, poor roads, sanitation, shortage of medicines, drainage problems, narcotics and staff shortages at the NADRA office.

The Deputy Commissioner directed concerned officers to take immediate action, particularly against encroachments on government and gauchar lands, and submit



compliance reports. He warned that negligent officials would face action.

SSP Tharparkar Arif Aziz said the police department’s doors were open to the public and no one would be allowed to face injustice. He directed effective action against narcotics and

other crimes and ordered additional police deployment to manage traffic during school closing hours.

The open court was attended by residents of Chhachhro Taluka and officers from various government departments.

Zero Tolerance for Corruption in Punjab Jails: 16 Officers and Officials Suspended

By: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA, September 9: On the instructions of the Punjab Government and Home Department, the Jails Department has launched strict action against corruption, abuse of authority and negligence of duty across the province.

On the orders of Inspector General Prisons Punjab Mian Salik Jalal, 16 officers and officials posted in various prisons have been suspended, while a departmental inquiry has also been initiated against a senior official. Those suspended include Superintendent Gujranwala Muhammad Azhar Javed and Superintendent Rasul Bakhsh Kalachi of Central Jail Mianwali. Deputy and Assistant Superintendents,



warders, a head warder and a computer operator from various jails are also among those facing action.

A formal departmental inquiry has additionally been launched against District Jail Hafizabad Head Clerk Mohammad Naseer Hussain. The IG Prisons said there would

be no compromise on transparency, accountability and discipline, adding that indiscriminate action against officials involved in corruption, abuse of authority or negligence would continue. Further departmental action is also underway.

Raja Sikander Khan Attends Sarwar Foundation Charity Dinner in West London



By: ANI Bureau Report

LONDON --Chairman of the Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council, Raja Sikander Khan, attended a fundraising charity dinner organised by the Sarwar Foundation at the Royal Nawab Banqueting Hall in West London as a Guest of Honour.

Founded by Pakistani-British politician and businessman and former Punjab Governor Chaudhary

Muhammad Sarwar, the Sarwar Foundation focuses on healthcare, education, clean drinking water and women’s empowerment in Pakistan.

The event attracted more than 350 guests, including community leaders, politicians, business figures and prominent members of the Pakistani and British-Pakistani communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Sikander Khan appreciated the Sarwar Foundation’s humanitarian efforts and praised the generosity

of guests who contributed to the cause. He stressed the importance of supporting initiatives aimed at providing healthcare, education, clean water and opportunities for disadvantaged communities in Pakistan.

The charity dinner raised valuable funds for underprivileged and vulnerable people in Pakistan and highlighted the community’s continued commitment to humanitarian service and philanthropy.

Chaudhry Abdul Majeed Seriously Ill, Special Prayers Offered for Swift Recovery

By: ANI Bureau Report

Islamabad / UK --Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, former General Secretary of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Midlands, UK, is seriously unwell. His condition has caused concern among his family, friends, political associates and well-wishers.

A special prayer was offered at the Daily Financial Times for Chaudhry Abdul Majeed’s early and complete recovery, with



prayers for his health, strength and well-being.

The Daily Financial Times also appealed to readers, political and social figures, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their special prayers.

May Allah Almighty grant Chaudhry Abdul Majeed complete health, ease his suffering and bless him with a speedy recovery. Ameen.

The entire team of Daily Financial Times is praying for his early and complete recovery.