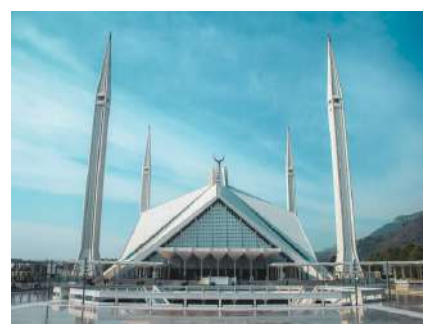


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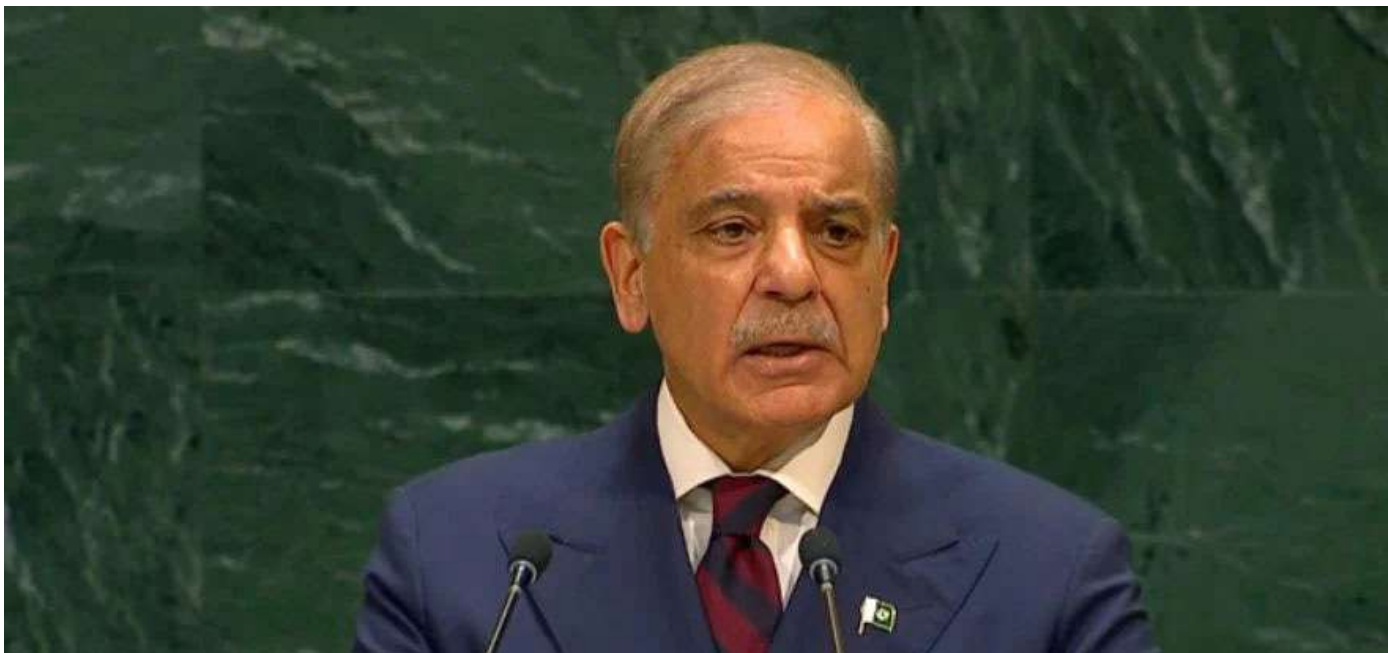
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PM calls for Hormuz, Bab al-Mandab to remain open



Dr Waheed M Khan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called for the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab to remain open, terming the vital waterways as “arteries of the global economy”.

Addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the prime minister said Pakistan had played an important role in bringing the United States and Iran to the negotiating table.

He said Pakistan had brought the two countries together under one roof as part of its mediation efforts and had taken several steps to help end the conflict.

The prime minister said the pursuit of peace was among the

noblest human endeavours. He quoted a verse from the Holy Quran and referred to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's support for the United Nations Charter.

He said Pakistan stood with the UN Charter and remained committed to global peace and prosperity. He also praised UN Secretary-General António Guterres for his leadership and efforts to tackle poverty. PM Shehbaz said the Gulf and wider Middle East had been caught up in a dangerous war in February, causing loss of life, economic damage and pressure on key maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the situation had put the global economy under pres-

sure and stressed that Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab must remain open.

The prime minister paid tribute to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for his services on the diplomatic and defence fronts, saying his efforts had created room for diplomacy. Shehbaz also said Pakistan stood with its Saudi brothers and condemned attacks on the Kingdom. He said attacks on the Haramain Sharifain should be a red line and water should not be used as a weapon.

On Palestine, the prime minister opposed the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and said Israel's attacks on Gaza were continuing. He called for an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its

capital.

On Kashmir, PM Shehbaz said Kashmir was Pakistan's jugular vein and called for the fulfilment of promises made to the Kashmiri people regarding their right to self-determination. He warned India against making any further mistake.

Shehbaz said it was an honour to address the General Assembly for the fourth time while representing Pakistan's 240 million peace-loving people. He congratulated UN General Assembly President Khalil Rahman on his election and assured him of Pakistan's full cooperation. A day earlier, the prime minister met with the Iranian president on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York.

UN Security Council condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

ANI

The United Nations Security Council on Friday condemned escalating attacks on Saudi Arabia by Houthis in a rare show of unity from the UN's top body. “The members of the Security Council condemned, in the strongest terms, continued Houthi attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including attacks impacting civilian and energy infrastructure, which have resulted in the injury of civilians, including women and children,” said the rotating president of the Council, French UN envoy Jerome Bonnafont, delivering a joint statement.

Meanwhile, Yemeni government forces said that they seized control of the strategic Numan mountain range in the southern province of Lahj following clashes with the Houthis.

The Yemeni army's media centre said government forces, backed by the Popular Resistance, had taken control of the mountain range overlooking the Al-Wazi'iyah and Al-Mudarahab districts.

Houthi fighters withdrew from the area and suffered heavy losses in personnel and military equipment, it added. The Nation's Shield Forces said its units, backed by the Giants Brigades and local tribesmen, seized the summit of Jabal Numan and the nearby Dar al-Kafir position in a rapid military operation.

According to the force, the operation began with an overnight infiltration followed by the encirclement of the position and an assault at dawn, forcing Houthi fighters to flee and leave behind weapons and ammunition. It described Jabal Numan as a commanding strategic position overlooking supply routes between Al-Wazi'iyah and Al-Mudarahab, saying the Houthis had used it to monitor the area and shell nearby villages and military positions. The force said control of the summit would help secure villages in Wadi Al-Mudarahab and the outskirts of Al-Wazi'iyah, reduce the threat of Houthi shelling and cut off a key infiltration route.

The Houthis made no immediate comment on the statements.



US President Donald Trump told visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping this week that Beijing providing any assistance to Iran would be “totally unacceptable,” according to the US ambassador to China. Speaking to CNBC on Friday, David Perdue said Chinese support for Iran had been a recurring subject in US-China discussions and was raised again during Trump and Xi's White House talks on Thursday. “We made it very clear to them weeks ago that any help that they would give Iran, whether it be direct or indirect, whether it be intelligence, or parts, or military equipment, was totally unacceptable,” Perdue said. “President Trump made that very clear again yesterday.” Perdue said Washington remains concerned about what he described as possible indirect Chinese support for Iran, while acknowledging that the US has no direct evidence of China helping Tehran keep the contested Strait of Hormuz closed. “There's been indirect support, we think, but there's no direct evidence,” he said, adding that Washington has made its concerns clear to Beijing.

Perdue said Trump and Xi had agreed that Iran must never obtain a nuclear weapon and that the Strait of Hormuz should remain open, describing the understandings as significant progress.

He also said Washington had seen indications that Beijing is paying attention to US warnings over Iran. “We've seen evidence that they have listened to us, they've pulled some things down,” Perdue added.

On Thursday, Trump and Xi held talks and attended a state dinner. Trump said the two countries have “never gotten along better,” while acknowledging that they “represent different systems.”

PTI's long march to Islamabad to kick off from Peshawar on Oct 4: K-P CM



ANI

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Friday night confirmed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) long march to Islamabad would kick off from Peshawar on October 4 instead of the previous September 27 date.

It said it was the unanimous decision of the party's political committee.

The PTI leadership earlier decided to postpone its planned long march on Islamabad until October 4 or 5, according to party sources. The PTI had announced last month that it would march to Islamabad on September 27 to press for the release of party founder Imran Khan. The party had been preparing a central convoy from K-P, with caravans from other parts of the country expected to join before proceeding towards the federal capital. The federal government warned the party against going ahead with the march. The decision was taken by the party's political committee after consultations on whether to proceed with the march on the previously announced date of September 27.

A majority of the leadership had favoured holding the march as scheduled, but the committee ultimately agreed to defer it until

October 4, party sources added.

The source also revealed that Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Ayeen Pakistan (TTAP), led by National Assembly Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai, has refused to back the proposal to delay the march.

Achakzai has made it clear that the march should begin on September 27; otherwise, the TTAP will not support the march. The source said attempts are being made to convince the TTAP chief.

Earlier, K-P CM Afridi, speaking at a press conference at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar, said that the planned long march on Islamabad would go ahead despite road blockades and other measures. “Our long march will definitely take place. This time, we will definitely come out,” he said.

The chief minister criticised the placement of nails on roads at the K-P boundary, saying the move raised questions about whether the province was being cut off from the rest of the country. “No matter how many nails they put in the roads, this long march will not be stopped,” he said.

Afridi also questioned what he called a growing narrative that one province faced threats from other provinces rather than India. He also said that officials from one province had entered another and clashed with government employees. “A narrative has been created for the past month that one province faces a threat from the other three provinces,” he said, asking whether the people of K-P were being portrayed negatively.

He added that PTI parliamentary leader Shahid Khattak and the provincial information minister had been barred from appearing in the media.

Tarar Urges KP Govt to Maintain Law and Order



ANI

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that there was a “political, terror crime nexus” operating in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in which illegal gold mining, timber and tobacco trade were used to finance and facilitate terrorism, further stating that it was the responsibility of the provincial government to maintain the law and order situation.

In a televised message, Tarar said that the provincial government of K-P was not only oblivious to the situation in the province but was also reluctant to take measures to maintain law and order. “The law and order situation in K-P is evident to everyone”. “There is a political, terror crime nexus in K-P in which illegal gold mining, timber and tobacco trade are used to finance and facilitate terrorism. This is a collaborative effort where their political people are at the front, and through this illegal mining and awarding of contracts, they fund and facilitate terrorists, which explains why they are reluctant to stop terrorism”. He stated that the provincial government had adopted an “evasive policy” towards the law and order situation in the province and was also “facilitating” terrorists. “Terrorists have attacked all political parties, yet the PTI remains a favourite of the terrorists, and the party has avoided condemning terrorists or taking action against them”.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye to Hold Military Chiefs' Meeting Under Makkah Defense Pact

ANI

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia discussed plans on Friday to convene a meeting of the three countries' chiefs of staff to explore ways to assist Riyadh under the Makkah Defence Alliance, according to the Foreign Office (FO). The FO statement noted that the tripartite agreement, signed on Aug 7, stipulated that an attack against any one of its parties should be considered an attack against all parties. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar from Pakistan, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan held a discussion on the defence pact on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Earlier, Saudi Foreign Ministry also posted on X that the three member states condemned the recent



Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia and discussed arrangements to convene an “urgent meeting of the chiefs of staff of the three countries” to support the Gulf state within the pact.

Later, Turkiye's Defence Ministry said its Chief of General Staff General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu will travel to Saudi Arabia to meet his Saudi and

Pakistani counterparts as part of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. In their New York meeting, the foreign ministers condemned in the “strongest terms the heinous attacks targeting the holy city of Makkah and civilian and economic facilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”, the FO statement said. At the same time, it added, the ministers “commended the vigilance of the Saudi armed forces and their ability to defend the kingdom's security”. “They reaffirmed the kingdom's right to take such measures as it deems appropriate to defend its security, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.” They further discussed the current situation in the region, underscoring the importance of upholding the principles of international law, good neighbourliness, mutual respect for the sovereignty of states, and non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as ensuring the security and freedom of navigation, the statement said.

Judicial commission alleges evidence was destroyed in Raza murder case

ANI

KARACHI: A judicial commission investigating the Mir Raza murder case has alleged that the initial investigation team failed to preserve crucial evidence and attempted to shift responsibility onto subordinate officers. The commission, headed by Justice Umar Sial, held a hearing on Thursday during which the judge expressed strong displeasure with the secretary and director general of health over their alleged intervention in the formation and subsequent changes to the medical board constituted for the case.

According to the commission, the initial investigation team, headed by SSP Samiullah Soomro, had severely compromised the case within six days. The commission observed that footage from only one of 52 available cameras had been obtained during the initial investigation.

It further alleged that bushes at the crime scene had been burned, resulting in the destruction of evidence.

JI Karachi Chief Announces 25 Camps to Protest Power Woes, Petroleum Levy

ANI

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Munim Zafar on Friday announced the establishment of 25 demonstration camps across Karachi from tomorrow onwards to protest against the city's power woes and the petroleum levy.

A day earlier, K-Electric top brass shied away from a call for a meeting at the Sindh Assembly. The company's absence did little to cool lawmakers' anger over Karachi's persistent power cuts, and instead the no-show pushed a special house committee closer to punitive action, with possible priviledge proceedings and even arrest on the cards. Speaking at a press confer-



ence at Idara Noor-e-Haq in Karachi, Zafar criticised the government's failure to address the power disruption issues in the provincial capital as well as its insistence on collecting the petroleum levy from the already burdened citizens. The JI Karachi emir described the levy as an “extortion

tax” and a “burden” on ordinary citizens.

He blamed it for worsening inflation and the rising cost of living in the country and called on the government to do away with it. Addressing the gathering, Zafar claimed that the petroleum levy had made it increasingly difficult for people to afford basic necessities, including food, rent, electricity bills and education for their children. He alleged that Rs1,566 billion had been collected from the public through the levy during the last financial year, describing the amount as an excessive burden on citizens. According to Zafar, workers, farmers and motorcyclists were among those bearing the impact of the levy.



Muzaffarabad: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani presenting a shield to Member of the European Parliament Mary Khan.

2

National

Gilani calls for expansion of Pakistan-Belarus cooperation, signs parliamentary MoU

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Friday said that Pakistan and Belarus have a strong foundation of friendly relations and should translate their longstanding ties into mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, industry, pharmaceuticals, technology and people-to-people contacts. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani’s official visit to Belarus, undertaken at the invitation of Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of Belarus Natalya Kochanova, is marked by a series of high-level and substantive engagements aimed at translating longstanding Pakistan-Belarus friendship into practical parliamentary, economic, industrial and technological cooperation.

Exchanging views with leadership of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, he expressed gratitude for the warm reception and reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations. The Chairman Senate held detailed talks with Chairperson of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova, beginning with a one-on-one meeting followed by expanded discussions with members of both del-



egations. The two sides reviewed bilateral and inter-parliamentary relations, implementation of the Roadmap for Cooperation 2025–2027, parliamentary friendship groups, regional linkages, interbank cooperation and humanitarian exchanges. Both sides also emphasized the potential for joint ventures, technology transfer, assembly production and enhanced cooperation in agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

A key outcome of the visit was the

signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of the Republic of Belarus and the Senate of Pakistan by Natalya Kochanova and Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani. The MoU provides a framework for regular parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages, interregional cooperation and coordinated engagement on international parliamentary platforms. Chairman Senate termed the agreement a practical step towards taking Pakistan-Belarus

inter-parliamentary relations to a new level. As part of the official programme, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani also visited Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ), where he reviewed the company’s production capabilities and modern agricultural machinery.

The Pakistani delegation was informed that more than 70,000 Belarus tractors have been supplied to Pakistan over the years. Discussions focused on expanding cooperation, including the resumption of tractor assembly in Pakistan, increased exports, modern agricultural equipment and technology cooperation.

Chairman Senate also visited the MTZ Museum-Industrial Center of Labor Glory and was briefed on the plant’s 80-year history and industrial achievements. The visit concluded with an exchange of souvenirs and the Chairman signing the Book of Honourable Guests.

The ongoing visit reflects a focused and forward-looking approach to Pakistan-Belarus relations, combining parliamentary diplomacy with engagement on trade, investment, industry, agriculture, technology and institutional cooperation, with a view to opening further avenues of mutually beneficial partnership.

IGP Sohail reviews law & order, orders faster public facilitation measures

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry reviewed the law and order situation in the federal capital and directed senior officers to speed up practical measures aimed at improving public facilitation and police service delivery.

An official told on Friday that the IGP held an important meeting with DIG Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq and other senior police officers.

IGP Sohail reviews law & order, orders faster public facilitation measures The meeting discussed the overall law and order situation, ongoing measures for public facilitation and new initiatives to make police services more effective and easily accessible to citizens.

Sohail directed officers to keep citizens’ convenience as a top priority and accelerate practical steps to improve service delivery.

He stressed that public facilitation initiatives should produce visible results and help citizens access police services in a timely and effective manner. The IGP Sohail also directed senior officers to closely monitor the implementation of the initiatives and ensure continued improvement in public service delivery across the federal capital.

Dasu-Mansehra transmission line completion expected by June 2028

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The 157-kilometre Dasu-Mansehra 765kV transmission line has achieved 46% overall physical progress, with its completion now expected by June 30, 2028.

According to the latest project status for Lot-I, a copy of which is available with Wealth Pakistan, overall financial progress has reached 29.4%, with \$97.2 million paid so far. The package involves the design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of an approximately 157-kilometre, 765kV hexa-bundle double-circuit transmission line using ACSR Rail conductor.

The transmission line, running from the Dasu Hydropower Project to the 765kV Mansehra substation, will require around 419 towers along its full length.

Construction has progressed on several fronts. Access-road works have been completed along 118 kilometres, covering locations for 179 towers. Concreting of foundations has been completed for 105 towers, while 60 towers have so far been erected.

Progress has also been recorded in design and procurement. Type tests for D7N, D7M and D7T towers have been completed, while grounding material is reported at 100%.

Jazz joins forces with DIGIT and UNISOC to bring affordable 5G devices to Pakistan

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan’s leading connectivity provider, has announced a strategic collaboration with DIGIT and UNISOC to introduce affordable 5G devices in Pakistan. The partnership brings together Jazz’s connectivity ecosystem and market reach, DIGIT’s device expertise and understanding of local consumers, and UNISOC’s semiconductor and 5G platform capabilities. The collaboration will initially introduce two products: a 5G MiFi and a 5G smartphone powered by UNISOC platforms. Designed to make next-generation connectivity more accessible, the devices will let consumers experience faster, more reliable mobile connectivity across communication, entertainment, education, work, and digital services. Asad Maqbool, Head of Jazz



Consumer Growth, said, “The benefits of 5G can only be fully realised when more people have access to affordable, capable devices. By combining Jazz’s connectivity ecosystem with DIGIT’s device expertise and UNISOC’s technology, we aim to make 5G more accessible and enable con-

sumers to benefit from faster connectivity across their everyday digital lives. This is central to our purpose of enabling a Better Life For All through technology.”

Abdul Rehman Mahmood, CEO of DIGIT, said, “Our focus is on bringing reliable, affordable, and high-quality devices

to market that address real consumer needs. This collaboration combines DIGIT’s device expertise with Jazz’s connectivity ecosystem and UNISOC’s technology, enabling us to expand our portfolio and support the adoption of next-generation connectivity across Pakistan.”

Xian Miao, General Manager of IoT Product Line, UNISOC, said, “Pakistan is an important and rapidly evolving digital market. Through our V510 and UM59621 platforms, we are enabling 5G across mobile broadband and smartphones. Our collaboration with Jazz and DIGIT will help bring high-performance 5G experiences to more consumers across the country.” The 5G MiFi will provide portable high-speed mobile broadband across multiple devices, while the smartphone will offer consumers an accessible entry point to 5G.

Amir Muqam calls for focus on development, rejects protest politics

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and President of PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, on Friday said all constitutional stages in Azad Kashmir including the election of the president have been completed smoothly while urging political groups to resolve differences through dialogue instead of protests and sit-ins. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Amir Muqam welcomed the election of Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan as President of Azad Kashmir and said the election process had sent a positive message in the region.

He said the people of Azad Kashmir had expressed confidence in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and thanked the people and all those who contributed to the electoral process. He also said the election of Prime Minister Barrister Iftikhar Gilani had been completed smoothly. The minister said the federal government would continue supporting

development and welfare projects in Azad Kashmir. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had provided clear planning for development initiatives and that Danish Schools were being established in Azad Kashmir at an estimated cost of Rs20 billion. Amir Muqam said the government would continue to fulfil its commitments to the people of Azad Kashmir and stressed that differences should not prevent political forces from working together for public welfare. “Protests and sit-ins cannot resolve problems; issues can be resolved through negotiations,” he said, urging those staging protests to become part of the political and democratic process. He said the people of Azad Kashmir were directly affected by political tensions and called for avoiding further unrest and damage. He added that Pakistan-Azad Kashmir relations had remained strong and would continue to remain so. The minister also spoke about the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, calling on the political leadership to focus on terrorism, governance and development rather than protest politics.

Media facing state repression for publishing ground situation in IIOJK: APHC

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that independent journalism is facing severe state repression in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for exposing ground realities. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in Srinagar said the BJP regime is using various intimidating tactics to harass journalists in the territory and is turning the dis-

puted region into an “information black hole”. Since August 2019, when the BJP government illegally and forcibly revoked the special status of the occupied territory, the local press has operated under strict control, fear and threats, while APHC statements have also not been allowed to be published in daily newspapers. The authorities summon reporters to police stations, interrogate them and force them to sign pledges promising not to report on human rights issues or publish news critical of the authorities.

Bailable arrest warrants issued for CDA Chairman, Islamabad Commissioner

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A civil court in Islamabad has issued bailable arrest warrants for the Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Commissioner Islamabad over non-implementation of a court decree issued in 2000. The warrants were issued by Civil Judge Nasiruddin while hearing an application filed by Muhammad Rashid seeking implementation of the decree in his favour. The decree in the case was passed in favour of the petitioner in 2000. The matter subsequently reached the Supreme Court, which upheld the decision in his favour. According to the petitioner, despite acquisition of his land, compensation had not yet been paid under the rehabilitation and resettlement policy. He approached the court seeking complete implementation of the decree. Barrister Hasnain Haider Thaheem appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioner and requested effective and complete implementation of the decree.

Quran Khawani Held at National Press Club for Usman Khan’s Father



Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD --A Quran Khawani and prayer ceremony was held at the National Press Club Islamabad for the eternal reward of the late father of Usman Khan, Vice President of the National Press Club, former President of the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) and Special Correspondent of Samaa News.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Khel Das Kohistani, Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, National Press Club President Abdul Razzaq Sial, Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao, senior journalists, political and religious figures, relatives and members of the journalist community from the twin cities. Prayers were offered for the for-

giveness and elevation of the deceased’s ranks, while participants expressed their condolences and sympathy to Usman Khan and his family.

The participants said the journalist community stood with Usman Khan and his family during this difficult time. Special prayers were also offered for the deceased’s forgiveness and for patience and strength for the bereaved family.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Highlights Importance of Newspapers on World Newspaper Reading Day

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in his message on World Newspaper Reading Day, said newspapers remain an important source of authentic news, comprehensive analysis and serious information despite the rise of digital media.

He said newspapers have played a significant role in promoting polit-

ical, social and constitutional awareness among the public, while responsible journalism remains essential for strengthening democratic values.

The Speaker said combating fake news and rumours is a major challenge in the social media era, and newspapers can help provide verified information through responsible editorial practices.

He stressed the need to promote

the habit of newspaper reading and serious study among young people to develop critical thinking and intellectual maturity.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Parliament was committed to protecting freedom of expression and the rights of journalists and workers associated with the newspaper industry. He also paid tribute to journalists, columnists and newspaper workers for their services.

French Rap Meets Pakistani Rap: Lobo EL and Cotchei Bring Rap-Impro to Karachi

Report ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- Alliance Française de Karachi (AFK) hosted French freestyle duo Lobo EL and Cotchei bringing rap-impro to Pakistan for the first time. Held with the support of the Embassy of France in Pakistan, the concert drew a packed crowd to AFK’s Clifton campus for a night of unscripted rap, breakdance and cultural exchange.

Rap-impro is competitive freestyle rap, composed and delivered live with no written material. Lobo EL, the 2019 World Champion of rap-impro, and his performing partner Cotchei are known across France’s freestyle scene for building full songs on the spot, with no prepared lines.

Emmanuel Breurec, Director of Alliance Française de Karachi, opened the evening, introducing MC Taishi, founder of Our Culture and Pakistan’s National Breaking Champion, alongside Lobo EL and



Cotchei.

“This was an exchange of cultures,” said Breurec. “We wanted to show Karachi a side of French culture beyond the classroom, something raw, live, and unscripted. Rap-impro proves that young generations everywhere have something to say, and something to share.”

Lobo EL and Cotchei greeted the crowd with basic Urdu phrases, opened with a freestyle thanking

AFK for the opportunity, and pulled the audience into a call and response, shouting “limoon” (lemon) in Urdu and getting back “adrak” (ginger). They performed original songs, invited local rap artists up for an open mic, and Taishi closed the night with a breakdance performance that had the crowd cheering. Lobo EL gave one of his own albums to an audience member as a keepsake.

Pakistan among first five countries selected for COP31 climate finance implementation initiative

ANI

NEW YORK: Pakistan has been selected among the first five pilot countries for a new COP31 initiative aimed at helping developing countries translate their climate commitments into finance-ready projects, a move that could support Islamabad’s efforts to mobilize international financing for its climate and development priorities.

The COP31 Presidency announced Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as the initial pilot countries for its Climate Implementation Bridge (BRIDGE) initiative at New York Climate Week, as part of an implementation-focused agenda ahead of the UN climate summit to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, in November.

The initiative, being delivered in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), seeks to bridge the gap between coun-



tries’ climate ambitions and the financing required to implement them by developing bankable project pipelines and strengthening national capacity. For Pakistan, which faces significant climate-related risks including floods, droughts, heatwaves and water stress, the initiative provides a platform to better connect its climate and development priorities with international financing opportunities.

The COP31 Presidency said the pilot countries would develop country-led pathways linking climate finance with

investment-ready projects and national development targets. Experience from the initial group would subsequently inform the expansion of the initiative to other participating countries, particularly developing countries, Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. The BRIDGE initiative will also seek to identify implementation bottlenecks, strengthen countries’ investment readiness and improve access to the existing international climate support system. In a related development, the COP31 Presidency launched the Sustainable Urban Resilience Financing Facility (SURFF) in partnership with ILBANK, UN-Habitat and the World Bank. The facility is designed to address gaps in urban climate finance in low- and middle-income countries as they implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

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Opinion

3

I Am Muslim, I Am British, I Am Pakistani. Who Am I?



Written By:
Mahmood Khan
Published By:ANI News Agency

Identity is one of the most important questions facing the modern British Muslim, particularly those of Pakistani heritage. It is a question that becomes more complicated with every generation: Who am I? Where do I belong? What should I call myself?

My answer is simple: I am Muslim, I am British, and I am Pakistani by heritage. I do not have to sacrifice one identity to embrace another.

For too long, the debate around identity has been presented as a choice. Some ask Muslims to prove that they are British by distancing themselves from their religion or cultural heritage. Others sometimes suggest that embracing Britishness means abandoning one's roots. Both approaches misunderstand the reality of modern Britain.

Britain is a diverse country. Its strength has never depended upon everyone having the same religion, ethnicity, language or cultural background. British society has evolved through centuries of migration, interaction and cultural exchange. Today, millions of people contribute to Britain while maintaining different religious and cultural traditions.

Being Muslim is, first and foremost, a matter of faith and values. Islam teaches the importance of justice, honesty, compassion, family, charity, dignity and responsibility towards one's fellow human beings.

A Muslim living in Britain does not become less Muslim by being a good British citizen. On the contrary, contributing positively to society, respecting the law, helping neighbours and standing against injustice are entirely compatible with Islamic principles.

British Muslims should therefore have the confidence to practise their faith openly and responsibly without feeling that their religion makes them somehow less British.

Faith should not be viewed as a barrier to integration. The real test is not whether we are different, but whether we can live with our differences while sharing common civic values.

British by Belonging
Britishness is not simply about ancestry. It is also about citizenship, participation, responsibility and belonging.

If we live here, raise our families here, educate our children here, work here, pay taxes here and contribute to our communities, then Britain is not merely a place where we happen to reside. It is our home.

British Muslims have made enormous contributions to the country, in the NHS, education, business, science, politics, journalism, sport, public service and countless community organisations.

Yet sometimes British Muslims are still asked: "Where are you really

from?"
For someone born in Britain, this question can be uncomfortable. It suggests that their Britishness remains conditional.

The answer should be understood in a broader way: I may have Pakistani roots, but Britain is also my country. My heritage explains where my family came from; it does not determine where I belong.

Pakistani by Heritage
There should be no shame in acknowledging one's Pakistani heritage.

Our heritage includes language, food, family traditions, literature, history, music and memories passed from one generation to another. These are valuable parts of our identity.

But heritage should be a bridge, not a wall.

The responsibility of the Pakistani British community is to preserve the best aspects of its culture while embracing the opportunities and responsibilities of British society. Our children should be able to speak proudly about their grandparents' homeland while equally confidently saying, "I am British."

We should not force them to choose.

The Identity Crisis of the Second and Third Generations

The real challenge lies with younger generations.

Many British Pakistani children grow up between cultures. At home they may hear Urdu, Punjabi, Mirpuri or another heritage language. At school they speak English. They may celebrate Eid with their families while participating fully in British social life.

Sometimes they feel they are "not Pakistani enough" for their parents' generation and "not British enough" for sections of wider society.

This identity conflict can create frustration and alienation.

Parents therefore have an important responsibility. We must teach our children that identity is not a competition. They can love their grandparents' culture without living in the past. They can embrace Britain without abandoning their faith.

Likewise, wider British society must recognise that integration does not mean cultural erasure.

Integration, Not Assimilation

There is an important distinction between integration and assimilation.

Integration means participating fully in society while retaining legitimate aspects of one's cultural and religious identity. Assimilation implies that minorities must gradually abandon their distinctiveness in order to belong.

A confident multicultural democracy should aim for integration.

British Muslims should learn about Britain's history, institutions, laws and democratic traditions. They should participate in civic life, vote, volunteer, work and contribute to their communities.

At the same time, Britain should allow Muslims to practise their religion, maintain their traditions and pass their heritage to their children.

This is not separation. It belongs with dignity.

Islamophobia and the Question of Belonging

Unfortunately, Islamophobia has complicated this journey.

When Muslims are collectively blamed for the actions of individuals, it creates suspicion and resentment. When someone is judged primarily by their name, appearance, clothing or religion, their sense of belonging can be weakened.

British Muslims should challenge prejudice firmly but constructively.

At the same time, the community must be willing to confront its own problems. We should oppose extremism, discrimination, intolerance and antisocial behaviour regardless of who commits them.

The strongest answer to prejudice is not withdrawal. It is greater participation, greater confidence and greater contribution.

A Shared British Future

Britain's future will increasingly be shaped by people with multiple identities.

A British Muslim may be British, Pakistani, Kashmiri, Indian, Bangladeshi, African, Arab or Turkish by heritage. They may speak English alongside another language.

They may belong to a mosque, a football club, a professional association and a local community organisation.

There is nothing contradictory about this.

The modern British identity can accommodate complexity.

Indeed, perhaps our greatest strength is precisely that we do not have to be only one thing.

I am Muslim because my faith shapes my relationship with God and my moral values.

I am British because Britain is where I live, contribute, participate and belong.

I am Pakistani by heritage because my family history, culture and traditions are part of my story.

These identities do not cancel each other out. They enrich each other.

Who Am I?

So, who am I?

I am not required to choose between the mosque and Britain, between my heritage and my citizenship, or between my family's past and my children's future.

I can honour my ancestors while building Britain's future.

I can speak my heritage language and speak English with confidence. I can celebrate Eid and respect Britain's diverse traditions. I can be proud of Pakistan's history while being committed to Britain's future.

My identity is not a problem to be solved. It is a story to be understood, respected and lived with confidence.

The message to our children should therefore be clear:

"You do not have to choose between being Muslim and being British. You can be both. And if your family has Pakistani heritage, you can be proud of that too. Your identity is not divided, it is enriched by every part of who you are."

That is not confusion.
That is modern Britain.

Mir Shoaib Noshervani: Legacy, Vision, and Balochistan's Economic Direction



By: Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani
Published By: ANI News Agency

Balochistan's politics occasionally produces figures whose relevance extends well beyond electoral contests, whose responsibilities gradually place them at the heart of the province's most consequential governmental decisions. Mir Shoaib Noshervani is one such figure – entrusted by the provincial government with two of its most critical portfolios: Finance, and Mines and Mineral Development. Both departments bear directly on Balochistan's economic future, its revenue generation, investment climate, employment prospects, and developmental priorities.

Mir Shoaib Noshervani's political journey cannot be separated from the legacy of his father, Mir Abdul Karim Noshervani, and the public and political standing the family has long held in Kharan. Mir Abdul Karim Noshervani remained politically active in Balochistan for decades and established an enduring political tradition. For Mir Shoaib, this inheritance is not merely a family reference point – it is a responsibility he must carry forward in step with the demands of the present era.

The central challenge before Mir Shoaib Noshervani today is how he modernises these two departments and aligns them with the province's evolving public needs. His stewardship of the Finance Department carries particular weight, given that Balochistan – a vast province with limited fiscal resources – must constantly balance competing demands: education, health, infrastructure, employment, and a host of other public priorities.

Under his oversight, budget-making and fiscal matters have visibly given greater space to public priorities. The provincial budget has placed emphasis on citizens' needs, accountability, and transparency. Finance, after all, is not merely a department of figures and ledgers – it is the primary instrument through which a government's broader priorities are translated into action.

It is in this context that his emphasis on raising provincial revenue through public-private partnerships, making more effective use of state assets, and creating fresh investment opportunities deserves attention.

Strengthening the province's fiscal architecture, expanding revenue, and channelling available resources more efficiently into public development are basic necessities for a province where development needs vastly outstrip available resources.

His attention to the Balochistan Revenue Authority and other fiscal institutions forms part of this same broader financial discipline. A robust revenue system can move the province away from near-total dependence on federal transfers and toward greater internal fiscal self-reliance – and it is precisely here that a finance minister's prudence and administrative acumen face their real test.

The Mines and Minerals portfolio, meanwhile, is tied directly to Balochistan's future. The province is rich in mineral wealth, yet converting that wealth into genuine economic strength requires simultaneous progress on several fronts: investment, modern technology, transparent systems, fair revenue mechanisms, and the protection of mineworkers.

Mir Shoaib Noshervani has pushed for investment in the mineral sector, a review of the royalty and fee structure, the adoption of modern machinery, and comprehensive measures for the safety of mineworkers. This approach reflects an understanding that the minerals sector should not be treated merely as a source of raw-material sales, but managed as an organised economic sector – one that generates revenue for the province, employment for local communities, and a transparent, credible environment for investors.

A notable trait of his political character is composure paired with strategic prudence. Holding two large and sensitive portfolios simultaneously is no easy undertaking for any political figure. Finance demands fiscal discipline, revenue management, and budgetary rigour; Mines and Minerals demands investment facilitation, resource management, leasing arrangements, and the welfare of mineworkers – distinct disciplines requiring different skill sets. Managing both concurrently calls for experience, patience, consultation, and sound decision-making.

An equally significant aspect of his political trajectory is that, despite his family's political inheritance, he is working to build a distinct identity shaped by the administrative and economic demands of the present. His real test lies in how effectively he weaves his father's political legacy into the language of modern governance, economic reform, and public service.

Within the broader context of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's

political and organisational future in Balochistan, figures who combine electoral standing with practical governing experience carry particular significance. Mir Shoaib Noshervani currently holds hands-on responsibility for both finance and minerals, while his family's political roots keep him firmly connected to Balochistan's grassroots politics. Should the PML-N leadership, in future, look to elevate experienced figures to greater organisational or governmental responsibility, his current record, administrative experience, and political background are factors that would reasonably feature in such considerations.

Balochistan today needs more than political rhetoric – it needs economic vision, fiscal discipline, investment, employment, and the better utilisation of its resources. This is the arena in which Mir Shoaib Noshervani now operates. If he continues to advance transparency, reform, investment, revenue growth, and public-interest goals across both Finance and Mines and Minerals, his political and administrative standing will only sharpen through that record of performance.

Mir Abdul Karim Noshervani's political tradition is, without question, the historical backdrop to his son's journey. But Mir Shoaib Noshervani's own identity today is being shaped by his prudence, political judgment, resolve, administrative experience, and practical performance. Taking on responsibility for two of the province's most important departments – at a moment when Balochistan urgently needs fiscal stability, investment, employment, and better utilisation of its natural resources – is at once a formidable test and a significant opportunity.

Should Mir Shoaib Noshervani sustain this course with the same composure, foresight, and sense of responsibility, his political relevance will not remain confined to Kharan or provincial politics alone. He stands to emerge as a seasoned political and administrative asset for the PML-N – one who could be entrusted with a more effective role in wider organisational and governmental responsibilities in the future. Political inheritance can certainly point the way forward, but reaching one's destination ultimately requires proving one's own capability, judgment, and performance. That is the opportunity before Mir Shoaib Noshervani today: to carry his father's political tradition forward with his own vision and record of performance, and in doing so, secure a stronger, more credible role for himself in the politics, economy, and future of the PML-N in Balochistan.

UK should be bolder in its ‘reset’ of EU ties

YOSSI MEKELBERG

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Brexit referendum and none of the promises made by those who supported leaving this unique arrangement have ever materialized. The UK is not more independent; because it was independent then; the economy is not doing better, but the opposite; public services have not enjoyed a bonanza as a result of not paying into the EU's coffers; and immigration, which motivated many of the Brexiters, some more openly, others more tacitly, has only increased in recent years.

The case of resetting the relationship between the UK and the EU in the post-Brexit era reminded me of an Armenian proverb: "One fool threw a stone in the well, 40 wise people couldn't get it out." Hence, it is the task of the current wise people in government to rectify one of the most colossal acts of self-harm in British politics.

There is not a single member of the current Cabinet who did not support staying in the EU, including Prime Minister Keir Starmer. However, considering the paralysis the Brexit debacle caused, there is no appetite to reopen the question of returning as a full EU member. There is hardly any sign from the EU headquarters in Brussels, either, that European leaders have the energy to start such negotiations anytime soon.

Yet there is also recognition that burying the Brexit hatchet is in the interest of both Brussels and London – a view reinforced by the war in Ukraine, the Russian threat to Europe and the return of the unpredictable Donald Trump to the White House. Labour and its leader, Starmer, campaigned in the 2024 election on a platform of resetting relations with the EU, which was a euphemism for healing the rift with Europe and showing pragmatism, something that was missing throughout the Brexit affair. Negotiations over areas of common interest began almost immediately but are moving slowly, reflecting the cautious nature of the British leadership. Winning the last general election with a vast majority, even if not all Labour MPs are Europhiles, and the fact that most Britons constantly express in surveys that it was wrong for Britain to leave the EU and think that Brexit has been

more of a failure than a success, should have encouraged the UK government to move faster. The price for not doing so is dear and the progress in negotiations should have been more rapid.

The Office for Budget Responsibility, the UK's official independent economic and fiscal forecaster, concluded that the Brexit deal would reduce long-run productivity by 4 percent relative to remaining in the EU, while both exports and imports will be about 15 percent lower in the long term. Some estimate the cost to public finances of leaving the EU at £40 billion (\$53 billion) and it is already causing damage to the labor market, badly affecting tourism and leading to fewer students from the EU, which has an impact on universities' finances.

The tone under this government regarding Europe has changed, becoming friendlier and more positive, and has been followed by baby steps to repair the damage, with an emphasis on youth and some areas of trade. Some of these – such as the UK agreeing to rejoin the Erasmus student exchange program and further negotiate a youth jobs scheme, plus agreeing to adhere to the EU's rules on food safety and animal health, clearing the way for trade in farm goods and reducing barriers between Northern Ireland and Great Britain – are most welcome. Moreover, on security issues, which have become crucial to defending Ukraine and containing Russia's adventurism in other parts of Europe, the UK and the EU have drawn closer together and shown resolve.

Nevertheless, as long as the domestic agenda in the UK is dominated by immigration, it is almost impossible to rethink Brexit in full. With Labour lagging in third place in opinion polls behind the anti-migration Reform UK and Conservative parties, the government is more inclined to incremental steps than big leaps forward. Starmer is refusing to consider rejoining the EU customs union, which reduces trade barriers by removing tariffs between its members and allows member states to charge the same taxes on goods imported from outside the bloc, let alone the single market that allows freedom of movement.

Given the overwhelming support among Labour voters in 2024 for

rejoining the customs union, and the support among many in Parliament, such a move might prop up a government with very low approval ratings. The signing of trade deals with the US and India puts the UK in a more favorable position in the forthcoming negotiations with Brussels, but it would be a mistake for London to see that as a substitute for closer relations with its near neighbors, not only because of geographical proximity but also because of shared values.

To sustain these shared values, advancing the case for a youth mobility scheme, for instance, is essential, as it would enable young people to study and work, at least for limited periods of time, on either side of the Brexit border. They would therefore build mutual rapport, appreciation and ties for a lifetime. Likewise the decision for the UK to rejoin Erasmus, the EU's education and training scheme.

It is hardly a secret that the EU will not let the UK cherry-pick only what is convenient for itself, while opting out of one of the most daring experiments in history to bring nations together and overcome rivalries through open borders for people, goods and finance, which is precisely what the UK is trying to achieve.

To maximize the benefits for both sides, "resetting" the EU-UK relationship should be much bolder, mainly through seeking a formula for London to become as close to being a member as possible without becoming one officially, at least not for the time being. One measure could be to leave the door ajar to allow greater freedom of movement for those who can improve the economy or foster scientific and cultural collaboration. By reframing the conversation over migration more positively, this could allow for the richer experiences that are currently being denied to so many people.

The right-wing opposition would continue to shout from the sidelines and rooftops, as it does, that this government is betraying its promises on Brexit. However, since it is more than three years until the next general election and the majority of voters would like closer relations with the EU after the demonstrable failure of the Brexit experiment, this may just prove to be the joker up Starmer's sleeve.

— Arab News

As climate diplomacy stalls, the economics race ahead

JULIE MCCARTHY

The latest UN Climate Change Conference ended in a political deadlock. November's COP30 in Belem, Brazil, produced no agreement to phase out fossil fuels, no binding plan to halt deforestation and no meaningful increase in support for the countries already drowning – sometimes literally – in climate and ecological losses. For a summit held in the world's largest rainforest, the symbolism was brutal. But the real story was not the political paralysis on the negotiating floor, it was the unmistakable signal that the economics of climate change has already moved on. To see the developments that really matter, we can look to corporate balance sheets, sovereign credit ratings, supply chains and risk pricing. These show that the transition to carbon neutrality is happening despite the dysfunctional politics surrounding the issue.

When it comes to addressing major global risks, politics often fails until the economic math works out. In the case of climate change and nature loss, markets, insurers, lenders and ratings agencies are now forcing the transitions that governments have been deferring. Sovereign credit ratings are being revised to reflect exposure to climate and nature risk. Insurance markets are collapsing in high-risk regions, leaving households, businesses and entire municipalities without coverage. Borrowing costs are rising for countries facing drought, flooding and deforestation, thus narrowing their fiscal space and accelerating capital flight. These mechanisms are doing what politicians will not do: making inaction more expensive than action.

Across major economies, the energy transition is no longer theoretical. Germany generated about 60 percent of its electricity from renewables in 2024. India reached roughly 46 percent. In the US, more than 90 percent of the new power capacity added in 2024 came from renewables – mostly solar. In Brazil, last year's COP host, 88 percent of electricity is renew-

able. Globally, onshore wind and solar are now 40 percent to 50 percent cheaper than the cheapest fossil fuel options. Meanwhile, the global auto market is evolving fast. More than half of new vehicles sold in China are plug-ins. In Norway, almost 90 percent of new cars sold in 2024 were fully electric. Fossil fuels still dominate the existing system, but they are decidedly absent from the future that is being built. The economics of clean energy have already won and these industries' advantages are widening. The cumulative effect is unmistakable. The cost advantage of low-carbon systems is now structural, not cyclical.

Even the reemergence of trade issues at COP30 – with emerging economies, including China, objecting to unilateral climate-related trade measures – ultimately points to the same conclusion. Rules that are being rewritten through markets, supply chains and standards are inevitably ending up on the agenda for consensus-based diplomacy.

Moreover, the economic transition is not only about energy. The global bioeconomy – economic sectors that use renewable biological resources for materials, energy, chemicals and agriculture – is valued at about \$4 trillion today and is projected to grow to some \$30 trillion by 2050, roughly 30 percent of current global gross domestic product. Nature is becoming a form of strategic infrastructure that offers countries a route to decarbonization, competitiveness and resilience. The future lies in renewable biological resources, not unsustainable depletion.

In this respect, COP30's emphasis on the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities mattered not for its symbolism but because markets now recognize that traditional stewardship underpins the increasingly fragile ecosystems – forests, watersheds, soils – upon which our economies depend. Just as energy markets are reshaping cost curves, nature-dependent sectors are taking steps to address their economic exposure to risks such as rainfall disrupt-

tion, soil loss, fisheries collapse and coastal erosion. These responses are reshaping markets as powerfully as energy price shocks can. Disaster losses are compounding so fast that insurers are withdrawing from entire regions and product lines. Heat stress is shrinking productivity from South Asia to the Gulf of Mexico. From Brazil to Indonesia, deforestation is destabilizing rainfall patterns. Agriculture, fisheries, tourism and shipping are all absorbing mounting climate- and nature-driven losses, triggering spikes in food prices and economic volatility.

Regardless of political gridlock, climate change and ecological degradation are creating undeniable economic momentum. As renewables scale up, fossil fuels will become even less competitive. As ecosystems degrade, fiscal burdens will rise.

Central banks, sovereign lenders, ratings agencies and private investors have already begun pricing drought-driven crop failures, flooded infrastructure, eroding coastlines, collapsing fisheries and other risks. In many countries, climate change is raising borrowing costs, boosting debt and shaving points off expected growth.

At some point, the financial pressure will become so acute that what was once a political choice will become an economic inevitability. Brazil's launch of the Bioeconomy Challenge – a three-year multi-partner effort to "translate the G20 Bioeconomy High-Level principles into real outcomes" – reinforces this shift. It signals that the transition is increasingly being shaped through economic strategy rather than multilateral consensus. This pattern is not new. The Cold War superpowers did not pull back from their nuclear arms race because it was morally right; they did it because the costs were unsustainable and the risks too high. Apartheid did not end because of political debate alone; it was brought down by business interests deciding that the system was no longer tenable. When the economics change, politics eventually follows.

— Arab News



A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM PAKISTAN, LED BY CHAIRMAN SENATE OF PAKISTAN SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILANI IN A GROUP PHOTO WITH NATALYA KOCHANOVA, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.

25 Young People Complete Tourist Guide Training in Nagarparkar

BY:Nareender Hemnani/ANI

THARPARKAR -- A three-month tourist guide training programme for 25 young people from Nagarparkar concluded with the distribution of certificates and tourist guide kits.

Organised by the Thar Education Alliance (TEA) in collaboration with Bank Alfalah, the programme aimed to equip local youth with skills to support the growing tourism sector and create self-employment opportunities.

Speaking at the ceremony, TEA Chief Executive Officer Partab Shivani said Tharparkar's rich historical, cultural and natural heritage attracted visitors from across the country. He said trained local guides could provide reliable information to tourists while creating livelihood opportunities for young people.



Shivani said the participants received training from local experts and visited important historical and tourist sites. They would also be taken on study visits to major sites in Sindh, including Mohenjo-daro, Umerkot Fort and Kot Diji.

Mukhtiar Kar Nagarparkar and SHO Saifullah Sadar and SHO

Nagarparkar Abdul Subhan Memon highlighted the importance of knowledgeable local guides in promoting tourism and providing sustainable employment opportunities for youth.

Professor Parkho Mal, Ramesh Karoonjhar, Raja Sharma and others also spoke at the ceremony.

SBP Urged to Introduce Concessional Financing for Electric Vehicles

Report: ANI Correspondent:

THARPARKAR --Sukaar Foundation Sindh and Gro Green Network have urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to introduce a special concessional financing scheme for electric vehicles and reduce reliance on imported fuel by promoting clean, locally produced energy.

The demand was made at a public forum titled "Freedom from Imported Fuel: Energy Security and Clean Mobility", organised by Sukaar Foundation Sindh in collaboration with the Indus Consortium in Mithi.

Speakers highlighted the challenges posed by dependence on imported gas and fuel, including rising energy costs and supply shortages. They called for easier financing for electric vehicles and support for converting existing motorcycles and rickshaws to electric systems.



Participants also urged the expansion of renewable-energy-powered charging infrastructure, greater investment in solar and wind power, battery storage and modernisation of the electricity grid.

The forum further called for

reducing reliance on imported RLNG and addressing circular debt in the power sector, saying greater use of domestic renewable energy could help lower energy costs and improve electricity access for households and businesses.

SP Dr Ayaz Hussain Recognized for Outstanding Investigation Performance

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD-- SP Islamabad Police Dr Ayaz Hussain has been awarded a certificate of appreciation

by the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights in recognition of his outstanding investigative performance.



Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Calls for Empowered Governance Model for Islamabad

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD -- Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has called for a stronger, representative and financially viable governance model for Islamabad, saying the capital needs greater public representation and institutional accountability.

Addressing the Islamabad Governance and Provincial Status Convention organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said any new governance structure should be established through constitutional means and meaningful public consultation.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said Islamabad's residents should have a meaningful role in determining the capital's



governance system, while national security and law and order should remain the federal government's responsibility.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood called for financial autonomy, timely elections, protection of citizens' and investors' rights, and greater representation for rural Islamabad.

Other speakers, including Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Senator Talha Mahmood, MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan and Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, also called for broader consultation and institutional reforms.

The Overseas Facilitation Centre at ICCI and a Passport Counter at the NADRA office in the Chamber's premises were also inaugurated.



Muzaffarabad: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeib Naqi Khan offering a bouquet of flowers at the shrine of Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Yousaf while reciting Fateha.

PTI Issues Guidelines for September 27 Azadi March; Sheikh Waqas, Khalid Nawaz Urge Peaceful Protest

Report: ANI Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI --Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson Sheikh Waqas Akram and PTI Kisan Wing Central Secretary Information Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich have issued written instructions to party organizations and Kisan Wing chapters regarding the September 27 Azadi March.

They informed government officials, relevant institutions, law enforcement agencies and national and international media that PTI workers participating in the march would not carry sticks, slingshots or any type of weapon. They said anyone found carrying such items would have no association with PTI.

The leaders said the September 27 march could only be postponed on the direct instructions of Imran Khan and following arrangements for his meeting with his family and fulfilment of other stated demands.

They said convoys travelling towards Islamabad would hold sit-



ins if forcibly stopped, while alleging that more than 35,000 police personnel from Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab had been deployed in Islamabad with riot-control equipment.

The PTI leaders also alleged that attempts could be made to create disorder during the protest. These allegations were presented by the party and were not independently verified.

The PTI Kisan Wing said its workers would participate with tractors, trolleys and party flags and would lead the march as the vanguard.

Sheikh Waqas Akram and Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich called on party workers to strictly follow the leadership's instructions and maintain a peaceful protest, while stressing what they described as their constitutional right to demonstrate.

PM Fuel Relief Scheme: Over 59 Lakh Citizens Registered, 47 Lakh+ Tokens Redeemed

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani briefed the media on progress under the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme.

Shaza Fatima said the scheme was providing targeted fuel relief to eligible motorcycles, Qingqi rickshaws, other three-wheelers and cars up to 800cc amid volatility in global oil markets.

According to the live dashboard, 5,916,185 citizens have registered, while 6,189,568 fuel relief tokens have been generated and 4,797,734 redeemed so far.

The minister said a 24/7 control



room at the Ministry of IT and Telecom was monitoring the scheme's implementation across the

country. Citizens requiring assistance can call 9771 or visit pmfuel-relief.pk.

Youth Can Play Vital Role in Preventing NCD Pandemic: Gen Kiani

Report ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --The Pakistan National Heart Association (PNAH) organized an awareness session at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, on Thursday, highlighting the growing threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the need for mandatory Front-of-Pack Warning Labels (FOPWLs) on food products.

Speaking at the session, PNAH President Maj. Gen. (R) Masud-ur-Rehman Kiani said the rapidly increasing burden of NCDs had become a serious public-health challenge in Pakistan. He noted that diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, kidney diseases and certain cancers were affecting millions of people, while approximately 60 per cent of deaths in the country were linked to NCDs.

He identified the widespread consumption of ultra-processed and unhealthy food products, particularly those high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, as a major contributor to the growing health crisis.

Maj. Gen. (R) Kiani emphasized that consumers had the right to know what they were eating and called for the immediate implementation of mandatory Front-of-Pack Warning Labels. He said clear, prominent and easy-to-understand warnings could help consumers identify products containing excessive amounts of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, enabling them to make more informed and healthier dietary choices.

PNAH General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghumman highlighted the vital role of young people in pre-



venting the growing NCD burden. He urged students to support PNAH's campaign for mandatory FOPWLs and actively participate in raising awareness about healthy eating habits and the harmful effects of excessive consumption of unhealthy and ultra-processed foods.

Mr. Ghumman encouraged students to use social media, digital platforms, university societies and community engagement initiatives to educate the public and promote healthier lifestyles.

He said that young people were not only the future of Pakistan but could also make a meaningful contribution today by raising awareness, influencing healthier choices and advocating for stronger public-health policies.

PNAH called upon students, universities, healthcare professionals, civil society organizations and policymakers to work together to prevent NCDs and promote healthier food choices across the country.

The association stressed the importance of effectively implementing mandatory Front-of-Pack Warning Labels to ensure that consumers had access to clear nutritional information and could make informed decisions about the food they purchased.

PNAH reiterated that empowering young people and improving food labelling were important steps towards protecting public health and safeguarding future generations from the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.