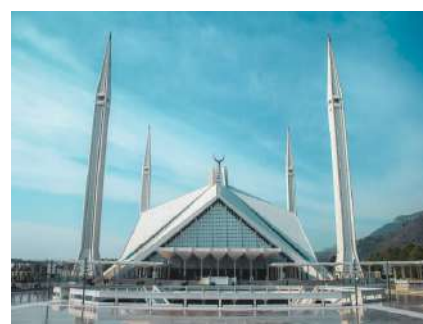


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Pakistan will be there to defend Saudi Arabia in any conflict: Asif



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that Pakistan was "there to help" Saudi Arabia in any conflict.

"We are there to help Saudi Arabia in any conflict, whether it is coming from the Houthis or a country or any other outfit that threatens Saudi Arabia's security. We will be there to defend them," he said in a video clip, which appeared to be excerpted from a longer interview, published by Al Jazeera.

His remarks come amid fresh fighting between the Houthis and the Yemeni government that has dragged in Riyadh, with the Houthis declaring a maritime

blockade on the kingdom and targeting its ships in the Red Sea. Both sides have claimed strikes on each other as tensions remain high. Against this backdrop, Pakistan, which has signed two defence agreements with Riyadh, has expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia. On Sept 18, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said Pakistan would go to "any extent" to defend Saudi Arabia, adding that Islamabad's commitment to the kingdom's security was "unconditional". Earlier, Asif has also reaffirmed that Pakistan would "practically and diplomatically" stand by Saudi Arabia against Yemen's

Houthi rebels if the situation escalated. In his latest remarks, Asif said "there is no absolutely no doubt in our mind that Houthis are committing aggression against Saudi Arabia".

He added that Pakistan was bound an arrangement to defend Saudi Arabia. And "when I say that we are bound by this arrangement to defend Saudi Arabia, that means that whatever means are available at our disposal, they will be available to Saudi Arabia also".

Here, the use of "arrangement" was apparently a reference to one of the defence pacts Pakistan has signed with Riyadh. The first one, the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA), was signed in

Sept 2025, under which the two countries pledged that any attack on either nation would be treated as an act of aggression against both.

The two countries are also a party to the Makkah Defence Alliance, which also includes Türkiye. The pact was signed on August 7 and provides that an attack on one member state would be treated as an attack on all.

The military leadership of the three countries also held a meeting last week in Riyadh. During the meeting, the military leaders expressed a shared determination to "immediately translate" their commitments under the Makkah Defence Alliance into effective military cooperation.

PM Shehbaz reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to deepen ties with China

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China, describing the enduring bilateral friendship as a bond built on mutual trust, unwavering support and deep affinity between their peoples. Addressing a reception hosted to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the prime minister stated that this year Pakistan and China were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. The prime minister extended felicitations to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people on the occasion and said that the celebration of China's Founding Day was always close to the hearts of Pakistani people. He said China's historic transformation and its growing contribution to global peace, stability and development continued to inspire countries around the world, particularly Pakistan. He also expressed Pakistan's full endorsement of President Xi Jinping's Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative and Global Governance Initiative, describing them as foundational pillars of a shared future for mankind.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the Pakistan-China relationship had grown over seven and a half decades into a special bond based on mutual trust, mutual support and close ties between the two peoples.

"Pakistan takes immense pride in our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China," he said, adding that the countries' "iron-clad friendship" had stood the test of time.

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a powerful expression of the enduring friendship and shared commitment to a more prosperous future for the two countries.

The prime minister said Pakistan and China were now transitioning towards the next phase, CPEC 2.0, with enhanced focus on industrialization, special economic zones, information technology and



artificial intelligence, agriculture, and mines and minerals.

He particularly highlighted progress in agricultural cooperation, saying the first group of 1,000 Pakistani agriculture graduates had completed their training in China, while another 1,000 were ready to follow. He described the initiative as a valuable investment in the skills and future of Pakistani youth.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said Pakistan-China relations were the "anchor" of Pakistan's foreign policy and had been nurtured by successive generations of leaders. Recalling his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Beijing in May, he said their warm and productive discussions had reaffirmed the enduring friendship between the two countries.

He said Pakistan remained fully committed to implementing the important consensus reached between the leadership of the two countries for the mutual benefit of their peoples. He reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue moving forward hand in hand with China towards building an ever-closer Pakistan-China Community with a Shared Future in the New Era. Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong described China and Pakistan as "all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad brothers" and welcomed the growing resilience and vitality of Pakistan's economy under Prime Minister Shehbaz's leadership.

He said this year marked the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations, adding that the journey of the past 75 years had demonstrated that the two countries were friends who had been supporting each other through thick and thin.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and other dignitaries standing in respect while national anthems of China and Pakistan are played at a ceremony to celebrate the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Islamabad.

Tarar says Pakistan will not allow India to weaponise water

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said Pakistan would not allow India to weaponise water, describing the Indus waters as a fundamental and basic right of the country's 240 million people. Addressing the launching ceremony of a special report titled "Weaponizing Waters: Historical, Legal, & Strategic Dimensions of IWT Suspension" at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), the minister said Pakistan was a peaceful nation that believed in peace but would continue to defend its vital national interests in accordance with international law. Highlighting Pakistan's historical connection with the Indus River, Tarar said the country's identity was deeply rooted in the Indus Valley Civilization. He



said Pakistanis took pride in identifying themselves as people of the Indus Valley Civilization, whose lives and identity were connected with the banks and tributaries of

the mighty River Indus. He said the framers and signatories of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) had not envisaged that, decades after its signing, India would take steps that legally ignorant, morally bankrupt and devoid of ethics. Tarar said the treaty was a legal instrument that defined the terms and conditions agreed upon by both parties and was legally enforceable and binding once signed. He said the treaty did not permit either party to unilaterally alter, rescind or revoke it, or hold it in abeyance. He emphasised that both parties were required to adhere to the treaty's terms and conditions even in the event of a dispute. Referring to the Court of Arbitration's decision in August 2025, he said it had upheld Pakistan's position, lending legitimacy and strength to its argument against unilateral attempts to change the treaty's status.

Pakistan Joins Special Forces Exercise in Uzbekistan



ANI

Troops from Pakistan and four other countries participated in the multinational special forces exercise Eternal Brotherhood-5 held in Uzbekistan from September 13 to 25, 2026, PTV reported on Wednesday. According to the state media, Kazakhstan participated in

the exercise as an observer country, and the Eternal Brotherhood-5 exercise aimed to enhance cooperation, coordination and professional capabilities among special forces. The participating forces exchanged experiences in modern operations, combat tactics and dealing with security challenges during the joint exercise, it stated. The exercise reflected growing defence and security cooperation, mutual trust and the strengthening of military ties among the participating countries, the statement added. Earlier last week, The Pakistan Army commenced joint military exercises with Russian and Omani forces at Cherat and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) Pabbi, respectively, the military's media wing said. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR),

3 Pakistanis Among 5 Crew Lost in Somali Pirate Recovery Operation

ANI

The Foreign Office (FO) on Wednesday expressed condolences over the death of three Pakistani nationals during an operation to recover the MT Honour 25 oil tanker, which had been hijacked by Somali pirates in April. The maritime police force of semi-autonomous Puntland said on Tuesday that it had recovered the MT Honour 25 in an operation. The Palau-flagged oil tanker had 19 crew members on board, including 10 Pakistanis. In a statement on Wednesday, FO said: "Pakistan is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of five crew members during the operation to recover the hijacked vessel, MT Honour 25, off the coast of Somalia."

"Among those who lost their lives are three Pakistani nationals: Rafiullah Khan, Syed Kashif Umer and Mahmood Ahmed Ansari." The FO added that four crew members were also injured, including three Pakistani nationals. "The injured have been taken to a nearby hospital and are receiving medical care," it added.

PTI leader calls for further delay in October 4 long march

ANI

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Secretary Shaukat Yousafzai on Tuesday called on the party leadership to defer its October 4 long march further, cautioning that proceeding with the protest could increase the risk of emergency rule. In the letter addressed to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and other party leaders on Tuesday, Yousafzai said the march should be postponed in the wider national interest, particularly given the security situation and increased terrorist activity. He warned that the federal government could use certain issues as a pretext to impose



emergency rule, and that a possible attack from Afghanistan could serve as justification for such a move. He said the federal government was building a narrative that the KP government was not

cooperating, and that this could lead to attempts to dissolve the provincial government or accuse the party of supporting terrorism, potentially leading to a ban on PTI.

Security forces kill four India-backed terrorists in KP, Balochistan: sources



ANI

ISLAMABAD: At least four India-backed terrorists were neutralised during operations conducted by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, security sources said on Wednesday. Security forces said that three Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation in Mir Ali, North Waziristan. A

large cache of weapons and ammunition was also recovered after the terrorists were killed, while security forces also destroyed militant hideouts, they added. In Balochistan, security forces conducted an operation under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3 against Fitna al-Hindustan near Mal Madarsa in Surab district, killing one terrorist, security sources said. The operation was launched after information about the presence of terrorists between Mal Madarsa and Bategu, according to the sources. The sources said that one terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces, while another managed to escape. Weapons and a motorcycle were recovered from the killed terrorist, they added. Security forces remain committed to maintaining peace and order in Balochistan and eliminating terrorism from the province, the sources said.



Islamabad :Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Punjab Shazia Rizwan is meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan. On this occasion, PP-16 Deputy

Sadequain’s artistic legacy celebrated at exhibition in Tehran

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The artistic legacy of renowned Pakistani artist, calligrapher and poet Sadequain was celebrated at a special tribute and exhibition held at the ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran, highlighting his enduring contribution to contemporary Pakistani art and the shared cultural heritage of the region. The event brought together ECO Cultural Institute President Ambassador Dr Mohammad Hassan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Sadequain Foundation Founder and Chairman Dr Salman Ahmed, Associate Professor and faculty member at Iran’s University of Art Dr Mohammad Reza Moredy, diplomats, university faculty members, researchers and art enthusiasts. The programme featured an exhibition of Sadequain’s artworks, along with video messages and special presentations highlighting his artistic legacy, said a news release.

In his address, Ambassador Dr Mohammad Hassan welcomed the participants and highlighted Sadequain’s prominent place in contemporary Pakistani art. Referring to Sadequain’s extensive work in painting, calligraphy and poetry, he described him as a versa-



tile artist whose work transcended Pakistan’s geographical boundaries and became part of the broader artistic heritage of the region. He said the event in Tehran aimed not only to introduce the distinguished artist to a wider audience but also to highlight the shared cultural space connecting Iran, Pakistan, Türkiye and Central Asian countries through poetry, calligraphy, literature and artistic traditions. Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui thanked the ECO Cultural Institute for organising the programme and highlighted Sadequain’s significant

place in Pakistan’s cultural and artistic history. He described Sadequain as not only a distinguished artist but also an important figure in Pakistan’s cultural identity, emphasising the influence of his work beyond national borders. The ambassador also underscored the importance of cultural programmes in promoting mutual understanding between Pakistan and Iran, saying the exhibition in Tehran provided the Iranian public an opportunity to further discover and appreciate Sadequain’s rich artistic legacy.

Pakistan, South Korea Discuss Expanding Academic and Research Cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Korea HAN Sungho visited Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) along with Defence Attaché Colonel KIM Jinwoo and KOICA Pakistan Country Director OH Donggil and held a meeting with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal and other university officials.

The meeting focused on exploring new avenues to expand academic and research cooperation between Pakistan and South Korea, particularly in emerging technologies, research and innovation. Both sides exchanged views on potential collaboration in areas including artificial intelligence (AI) and computing, with emphasis on strengthening institutional linkages



and knowledge-sharing. Ambassador HAN appreciated QAU’s diverse academic environment and research capabilities and expressed hope that exchanges and cooperation between educational institutions of Pakistan

and South Korea would be further expanded. The visit underscored the importance of academic partnerships in promoting research, innovation and technological cooperation between the two countries.

53rd Annual Urs of Sufi Saint Nainuram Held in Islamkot

Report: ANI Correspondent

ISLAMKOT –The 53rd annual Urs of Sufi Saint Nainuram was observed in Islamkot, with the three-day celebrations continuing on the third and final day. The ceremonies formally began with the traditional offering of a chadar at the sacred khat.

MPA Ashok Kumar Ratnani, Anil Kumar Ratnani, MNA Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani and MNA Ramesh Vankwani participated in the ceremony and laid the chadar.

The annual Mahotsav is held for three days every year, featuring bhandara (community meals) and satsang sessions throughout the day and night. Devotees from distant areas attend the celebrations to participate in satsang and pay their respects.

Singer Aslam Faqir has also arranged a cold drinking-water stall in the city for the convenience of pilgrims and visitors.

The festival features devotional bhajans dedicated to Sufi Saint Nainuram, quiz competitions for children on Hindu religious teachings,



and a two-day free medical camp where hundreds of patients receive medical check-ups, treatment and medicines.

Members of the Lohana community from Islamkot and other cities traditionally close their businesses during the three-day Urs and volunteer in preparing and distributing

food at the bhandara. For children’s entertainment, swings and a temporary bazaar have also been set up in the city. Traditional Sindhi cultural stalls and Malakhro wrestling activities are among other attractions, drawing pilgrims and devotees from different areas to the annual celebrations.

Raja Munir Khan Joins Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD –Chairman of the Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party and Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has said that students are being provided opportunities to earn livelihoods through e-commerce.

He made these remarks on the occasion of the joining of Raja Munir Khan, Chief Coordinator of Defence of Human Rights Azad Kashmir and President of Hari Ghel Azad Kashmir Press Club, to the Pakistan Awami Quwwat Party. Various delegations also met the party chairman on the occasion. Raja Munir Khan said that he was joining a political party for the first time in his life. He said he had supported political parties in the past, but this was his first formal political affiliation, adding that he found the Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party to be



the most suitable platform for Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

Welcoming Raja Munir Khan to the party, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja said that important personalities from different sections of society were joining the party after reviewing its policies,

manifesto and narrative.

He said that hardly a day passes without someone joining the party. Khaqan Waheed Khawaja further said that the party believes in practical action rather than making promises.

Ethiopia, Pakistan Explore New Avenues for Trade, Investment and Tourism

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Oumer H. Oba held a virtual meeting with Bukhari Group of Companies CEO Sajjad Hussain to explore new opportunities for expanding business and tourism

cooperation between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

The two sides discussed bilateral trade, investment and tourism promotion, with particular emphasis on improving connectivity through Ethiopian Airlines to facilitate

greater movement of businesspeople and tourists between the two countries. Ambassador Dr. Oumer highlighted the investment opportunities available in Ethiopia, describing the country as an emerging destination for investors in Africa.

Pakistan, Canada Discuss Expanding Cooperation in Higher Education

ANI

OTTAWA: Pakistan’s High Commissioner to Canada Muhammad Saleem held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Marie-Eve Sylvestre, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ottawa, and exchanged views on further strengthening Pakistan-Canada cooperation in the field of higher education. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities to enhance academic linkages and promote greater collaboration



between higher education institutions of the two countries. High Commissioner Saleem emphasized the importance of expanding educational cooperation and strengthening institutional partnerships to create new opportunities for students, academics and researchers in Pakistan and Canada. Both sides expressed interest in further developing collaboration in higher education and promoting stronger academic and institutional ties between the two countries.

Myanmar, Pakistan Discuss Strengthening Cultural and Heritage Cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Myanmar to Pakistan U Wunna Han held a meeting with Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi at his office in Islamabad, focusing on strengthening bilateral cultural cooperation and promoting shared heritage.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance cultural exchanges, promote Gandhara Buddhist heritage and expand people-to-people contacts between Myanmar and Pakistan. Ambassador U Wunna Han highlighted the religious and cultural significance of ancient Gandhara sites, including Taxila, Peshawar, Swat and Takht-i-Bahi, for Buddhist communities in Myanmar and around the world. He also underscored the importance of Gandhara’s Greco-Buddhist art in the historical development of Buddha imagery. To facilitate Buddhist pilgrims and cultural tourists, the Ambassador proposed exploring charter flights between Myanmar and Pakistan to improve



connectivity with sacred and historical sites.

The discussions also covered shared historical links, including the exile of the last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar in Yangon and the Burma Campaign during World War II. Both sides expressed support

for greater cultural exchanges, participation in heritage events and progress on formal bilateral agreements.

Secretary National Heritage and Culture Division Asad Rahman Gillani and Prime Minister’s Coordinator on Gandhara Imran Shokat also attended the meeting.

Dutch Business Delegation Eyes New Opportunities in Pakistan

ANI

THE HAGUE: Pakistan’s Ambassador to the Netherlands, Syed Haider Shah, hosted a dinner at Pakistan House for a 20-member delegation of the Founders Carbon Network (FCN) ahead of its visit to Pakistan.

The delegation comprises Dutch entrepreneurs, investors and senior business representatives representing a range of sectors. During its visit, the delegation will hold meetings with relevant government institutions, Pakistani businesses and other stakeholders to explore areas of mutual interest, investment opportunities and potential commercial partnerships. Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Haider Shah highlighted the importance of strengthening direct contacts between the business communities of Pakistan and the Netherlands. He expressed the hope that the visit would help identify new avenues for trade and investment and



lead to lasting business partnerships.

The Ambassador also emphasized the potential for greater economic engagement between the two countries through increased private-sector interaction and exchange of expertise.

The visit by the FCN delegation is expected to provide Dutch entrepreneurs and investors with an oppor-

tunity to better understand Pakistan’s business environment while enabling Pakistani companies to explore partnerships with Dutch counterparts.

The engagement reflects continued efforts to translate bilateral relations into practical economic and commercial cooperation.

Shaza Khawaja recognizes Islamabad schoolgirls for completing Huawei ICT certifications

ANI

ISLAMABAD: An award distribution ceremony for students of Islamabad’s public sector schools who had completed the Huawei Summer ICT Training Program, was held at Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Wednesday. The certification program was organized in collaboration with Huawei Technologies Pakistan under Prime Minister’s ICT training initiative. During the ceremony, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja interacted with the students, listened to their experiences and took a keen interest in the skills they had acquired while completing the certification. She congratulated them on their achievement and encouraged them to continue building on the knowledge gained through the training. Shaza Fatima highlighted that under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government was focused on equipping young Pakistanis especially girls with the



skills and opportunities needed to contribute to the country’s digital transformation and compete in the global digital economy. She emphasized that the relevance of technology extends well beyond the IT sector, as digital tools and emerging technologies are increasingly transforming fields ranging from education and healthcare to business, finance, agriculture and public services. “Whatever field our young people choose, technology will

increasingly be part of their professional journey. Our responsibility is to ensure that they have the skills to use it, create with it and eventually lead in it,” the Minister said. She encouraged the students to continue exploring emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, software development and data science, while applying their knowledge to practical challenges. “Pakistan has immense talent.

Ahsan seeks fast-track for ML-1; ADB assures full support

ANI

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday urged the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to fast-track procedural formalities for the ML-1 railway modernization project, with ADB President Masato Kanda assuring full support to move the flagship project forward.

He also called for establishing a dedicated ADB financing window for climate adaptation and resilience in highly vulnerable countries beyond existing country allocations. The minister made the proposal

during a meeting with ADB President Masato Kanda on the sidelines of the 25th CAREC Ministerial Conference here, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal said global financial institutions must evolve beyond the traditional post-war reconstruction framework to address emerging challenges, particularly climate vulnerability. Referring to Pakistan’s experience of devastating floods, he said climate-vulnerable countries with minimal contribution to global carbon emissions often faced severe financing gaps when disasters struck.

He proposed that the new ADB financing window should leverage

artificial intelligence and modern data systems to identify vulnerabilities and channel financing more effectively.

The minister also proposed a competitive regional financing window for CAREC countries, enabling member states to jointly develop projects with regional impact and seek financing on a competitive basis.

He highlighted Pakistan’s critical minerals potential, saying the country was moving from “pit to product” by promoting value addition and welcoming joint ventures in copper, antimony, chromite and rare earths.

Daily

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Opinion

3

A year of Palestinian defiance

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

The year 2025 started and finished with declared ceasefires in Gaza, both almost instantly and brutally shattered by Israel, which has operated with absolute, unquestioned impunity.

The operational definition of a ceasefire, from an Israeli perspective, is a de facto one-sided campaign in which the opposing party — be it the Palestinians or the Lebanese — is forcibly stripped of the right to fight back or defend itself. For Israel, the operation of its relentless war machine is always framed as an act of self-defense, even when the primary victims of these campaigns, as clearly evidenced by the two-year Gaza genocide, are women and children. More than 70,000 Palestinians have now been killed in Gaza, as well as 170,000 wounded and thousands more missing beneath the rubble.

The year, however, did not begin with such a gloomy outlook. Many had desperately hoped that the Jan. 19 ceasefire would bring the Palestinian agony to a decisive end. The agreement briefly halted the geno-

cide to allow prisoner exchanges and limited aid entry amid a rapidly spreading famine.

The respite for Palestinians proved tragically temporary, as Israel began violating the ceasefire almost immediately. By early March, Israel had suspended humanitarian aid, triggering acute food shortages and a crippling medical crisis. Even during the purported halt, Palestinians perished in massive numbers from engineered starvation and disease.

On March 17, Israel officially reengaged the conflict, commencing with intense military strikes and expanded ground operations. Palestinians mounted fierce resistance across the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of thousands who had returned to northern Gaza during the ceasefire were displaced once again and thousands were killed.

Israel's deadly wrath did not spare the West Bank in 2025, yet the territory's tragedy went largely unreported due to the catastrophic scale of the killing in Gaza. The occupied region nonetheless endured a tremendously high casualty toll, along with the expulsion of entire communities in the

northern West Bank and the razing of whole refugee camps.

The West Bank simultaneously endured a parallel campaign of calculated collective punishment and aggressive territorial seizure. Starting in January, the refugee camps of Jenin, Balata and Nur Shams, among other areas, were subjected to repeated, large-scale military incursions, leaving critical infrastructure pulverized and hundreds dead. In other areas, like Ein Shibli and the southern Hebron Hills, entire Bedouin communities were violently expelled, their homes deliberately demolished, effectively formalizing the annexation process under the guise of "security" operations.

The year saw extreme Israeli violence and a record number of newly approved settlement units. Despite international condemnation and the firm rejection of Israel's obvious attempts at colonizing and annexing large parts of the West Bank, the Israeli onslaught remained utterly undeterred.

The war's scope in Gaza also grew rapidly, reaching every last part of the Strip, where forced displacements returned with the

same, and at times even greater, ferocity than in the first year of the genocide.

In May and July, the Israeli Cabinet approved phases one and two of Operation Gideon's Chariots, respectively, both aimed at fully occupying northern Gaza, a mission Israel had repeatedly failed to achieve since the war began.

The protracted, calculated Israeli siege eventually culminated in August in the formal declaration of famine, extending its grip not only over Gaza City but across the entire north of the Strip. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, among others, confirmed that famine conditions had been met. Despite international alarm, no forceful, substantive pressure was placed on Israel to break its deadly siege.

The relentless slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank rendered hollow the wave of Palestinian state recognition by Western capitals. France, the UK, Canada and Australia, among others, officially recognized the state of Palestine in September. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

scathingly dismissed this move as a "grave mistake." "You are giving a huge reward to terrorism," he said. Following the announcements, he and his extremist ministers, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, vowed to accelerate the annexation of Area C in the West Bank and pass legislation establishing sovereignty over the Jordan Valley.

The Palestinian Authority of Mahmoud Abbas clutched at the rush to recognize Palestine, attempting to utilize it as a means of reviving its increasingly marginal role in Palestinian politics. Other Palestinian political factions saw the recognition as a necessary, albeit late, acknowledgement of the agency and fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. International solidarity, meanwhile, escalated dramatically. In Italy, which is governed by a pro-Israeli right-wing government, several general strikes were declared. The first major strike, on Sept. 22, was called by grassroots trade unions. The strike directly targeted the government's complicity with Israel through its continued authorization of arms flows to the Israeli army.

— Arab News

‘El Sett’ can become an important soft power tool for Arabs

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

Recently a film chronicling the life of the Egyptian singer and actress Umm Kulthum, famously known as Kawkab Al-Sharq (Star of the East), hit the cinemas. The movie is very much needed today. As Arab people see what is happening in Palestine and feel helpless, the movie will ignite in them the pride of being Arab.

I rarely go to the cinema. I have a short attention span, and struggle to focus on a feature movie. "El Sett" is totally different. It is an impressive production, a world-class work of art. For two and a half hours, I could not blink.

As I left the cinema, my heart was full of pride, joy, and hope. The movie made me feel proud to be an Arab, proud to see the Arab resilience and talent represented by Umm Kulthum. I also felt proud to see such an impressive production coming not from Hollywood, but from Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The acting, directing, sets, music — everything about this film is world class.

The movie filled my heart with joy. Somehow the character of Umm Kulthum is what we aspire to be. It is not only about her talent; it is about her determination. It is about the power of her character. During the 1967 war, after Israeli warplanes flew overhead, she decided to do her part and engage. She went to every district in Egypt to mobilize support for the Egyptian army. She recalled how once when she was a child, she had to sing during a storm to earn her fee. She had to sing because her family was poor and needed the money. She told her audience that sometimes you must stand and resist or you die.

My heart was filled with hope as I saw the Palestinian people in Umm Kulthum. In the same way Umm Kulthum resisted the storm and became a star, the Palestinian people will overcome hardship. They will prevail and Palestine will rise and become a star. This is a much-needed movie that will give every Arab hope as they see themselves helpless while their Palestinian brothers and sisters are suffering from Israel's injustice, cruelty, and sadism.

On the political front, if the movie is marketed properly, it can become an

important soft power tool for Egypt and for the Arabs. If we look at American influence across the world, it is not only military bases and arms transfers, but also cultural. Hollywood has played a big role in pushing the US agenda around the world and has promoted an Israeli narrative that is anti-Arab. "El Sett" offers a counter-narrative. While Hollywood has typically presented Arabs in a negative light, this production offers a positive image.

Arab countries, namely Egypt and Saudia Arabia, which produced the film, should use their diplomatic connections to make sure "El Sett" gets the distribution it deserves. They should bear in mind that while promoting the story of Umm Kulthum, the movie promotes the story beneath the story: It is the story of Arab resilience.

Embassies across the world should be mobilized. Every commercial attache should engage with every possible theater chain and promote the movie. Everywhere, China, Japan, Russia, Central Asia, Europe, Africa, US, Canada, South America, the movie should be watched by the public.

One might ask, why this movie? To start with, Umm Kulthum's voice transcends geography, time, and, most importantly, politics. The Arab story can be conveyed through the power of her character without needing to go through politics. The story can impress anyone. Through her character you can tell the Arab story without really telling it. You can convey a subliminal message to your audience: Arab people are strong and talented. They are principled and courageous. They are loyal to their family and their country.

These are exactly the opposite of the traits of how Hollywood has portrayed Arabs. Hollywood has shown Arabs as cowards, cruel, greedy, and unscrupulous. The story of Umm Kulthum destroys those stereotypes. While Hollywood tries to show Arab society as patriarchal, with women having no voice, the film reveals how the voice of an Arab woman mobilized not only her country but also the world.

Arab diplomats and policymakers should take a close look at "El Sett." The film ought to become an important soft power tool, an important advocacy tool that should not be overlooked.

— Arab News



Islamic Movements Must Move From Survival to Contribution



By: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai
Report: ANI News Agency:

KUALA KUMPUR, MALAYSIA -- An international conference on "Islamic Movements in the New World Order: Building a Resilient Pluralistic Society Based on Malaysia Madani" was jointly organized by WADAH, ABIM and PKPIM in Kuala Lumpur on September 26, 2026.

The conference brought together representatives and participants from the three organizations in a coordinated effort that highlighted organizational discipline, institutional cooperation and a shared commitment to social and intellectual engagement.

A notable feature of the conference was the strong participation of young men and women. Their enthusiasm and commitment, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai said, offered encouragement for the continuation of values centered on service, solidarity and responsibility.

The conference was addressed by Dr. Zulkifli Hassan, Minister of Religious Affairs; Ambassador Navzat Uyank, Turkish Ambassador to Malaysia; Osman Nuri Kabaktepe; Dr. Ahmed Muhammady; Dr. Nor Salimah Abu Mansor; Dr. Muslim Imran; Dato Ahmad Azam Ab Rahman; and Ahmed Fahmi Muhammad Samsuddin, President of PKPIM. The sessions were moderated by Adli Zakuan Zairakithnaini and Amirul Firdous Mosni.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Fai said the world was entering a new and uncertain era characterized by a more multipolar international system, increasingly diverse societies, rapid technological change and growing challenges to established assumptions about global governance.

He said these developments should be viewed by Islamic movements not only as challenges but also as an opportunity to ask what they could contribute to humanity in the emerging world.

Dr. Fai highlighted Malaysia Madani, championed by Malaysian Prime Minister YAB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, as a framework worthy of serious consideration. He said its emphasis on humanity, good governance, inclusivity, consultation, transparency, institutional reform and social harmony offered lessons for societies seeking to reconcile diversity with national unity.

He said values associated with Malaysia Madani—including sustainability, prosperity, innovation, respect, trust and compassion—could provide a basis for cooperation among diverse communities.

"The commitment to Islam need not be placed in opposition to pluralism," Fai said, stressing that religious identity and responsible citizenship could coexist. He said Islamic movements should be able to work constructively with people of every faith and back-

ground.

Learning From History

Dr. Fai placed contemporary challenges facing Islamic movements within a broader historical context, observing that European colonialism had profoundly affected Muslim societies across North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

He referred to the intellectual contributions of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Professor Khurshid Ahmad, YAB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Dr. Hassan Turabi, emphasizing the importance of intellectual renewal, adaptability, reform and engagement with contemporary challenges.

Referring to Iqbal's intellectual legacy, Fai said the task was "neither to imitate the West nor to reject it blindly," but rather to understand, engage and contribute.

From Objects of Discourse to Producers of Discourse

A central theme of the conference was the need for Muslims to become producers rather than merely subjects of global intellectual discourse.

Dr. Fai called for Islamic movements to develop institutions capable of addressing contemporary issues including artificial intelligence, environmental protection, poverty, inequality, family structures, international conflict, humanitarian law and human rights.

"These are not merely religious questions," he said. "They are questions of public policy, human welfare and the future of civilization."

He called for greater investment in scholars, academics, jurists, scientists, educators, researchers, entrepreneurs and public intellectuals, alongside universities, think tanks, research institutions, media organizations and philanthropic institutions.

He said the objective should be to move "from reaction to anticipation, from slogans to scholarship, from political defensiveness to intellectual confidence, from isolation to engagement—and ultimately, from survival to contribution."

The Global Muslim Diaspora

Dr. Fai also highlighted the global Muslim diaspora as an important source of intellectual, professional and institutional capacity.

He said Muslims living around the world had made significant contributions in medicine, law, engineering, academia, entrepreneurship, public service and international organizations.

Islamic movements, he said, should engage the diaspora not merely as a source of financial support but as a reservoir of knowledge, experience and professional expertise.

"The goal should not merely be Muslim survival in the West," he said. "It should be Muslim contribution to the West—and to the wider world."

Faith, Citizenship and Pluralism

Fai stressed that maintaining religious iden-

tity and participating fully in pluralistic societies were not mutually exclusive.

He said Muslims should aspire to become outstanding scientists, educators, physicians, entrepreneurs, lawyers, public servants, philanthropists and active participants in civic and democratic life.

He described this approach as participation without surrendering identity and emphasized the Islamic intellectual tradition of ijtihad as a resource for renewal, unity and constructive engagement.

Building Bridges Across Communities

Dr. Fai called for greater participation in international initiatives promoting dialogue among civilizations and communities.

Referring to the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), he stressed the importance of building bridges, overcoming prejudice and resisting polarization, particularly at a time when social media can spread both knowledge and hatred across borders within seconds.

He said Islamophobia should be confronted wherever it occurs, but argued that the response should extend beyond protest to scholarship, dialogue, public engagement and institution-building.

Human Dignity as a Universal Principle

Dr. Fai emphasized that the future of Islamic movements should be grounded in a consistent moral commitment to human dignity.

He said opposition to fraud, falsehood, corruption and injustice should apply universally—to governments, institutions and individuals alike.

According to Fai, demonstrating that religious conviction can reinforce respect for the dignity of every human being could be an important contribution of Islamic movements to the contemporary world.

A Historic Opportunity

Concluding his address, Dr. Fai urged Islamic movements to view the changing global environment as an opportunity for constructive engagement.

He called for investment in knowledge, intellectual excellence, engagement with the global Muslim diaspora, constructive participation in democratic and international institutions, bridges across religions and cultures, and universal defense of human dignity.

He said Islamic movements should ask themselves a question larger than politics: What does Islam have to offer humanity?

The answer, he said, could not be found in slogans alone, but had to be demonstrated through scholarship, science, education, justice, compassion, good governance and service to humanity. Dr. Fai concluded that the future should see Muslims not merely as a community seeking recognition, but as a community contributing to humanity—"not merely surviving history, but helping to shape it."

Lifting the Caesar sanctions

HANI HAZAIMEH

The decision last week by the US to lift the Caesar Act sanctions imposed on Syria is, without exaggeration, one of the most consequential and constructive shifts in international policy toward the country since the civil war began in 2011.

For years, the sanctions were framed as a tool of pressure meant to induce political change. In reality, they were a blunt instrument that deepened human suffering, froze economic life and locked Syria into a cycle of paralysis.

Their removal signals a long-overdue recognition that rebuilding societies requires engagement, not permanent isolation. The move should be welcomed, not only as a humanitarian necessity but as a strategic recalibration rooted in realism.

Syria endured more than a decade of conflict, displacement and economic collapse. The Caesar sanctions did not exist in a vacuum; they compounded the war's damage by suffocating the very mechanisms needed for recovery. By lifting them, Washington has opened a door that had been shut: the door to normalization of economic life, gradual reconstruction and political responsibility.

For ordinary Syrians, this decision is profoundly meaningful. Sanctions did not punish abstract power structures, they punished normal daily life. They restricted imports of essential goods, discouraged investment in hospitals and infrastructure, and crippled the currency.

Lifting them creates immediate space for economic relief, for humanitarian organizations to operate at scale, and for the stabilization of basic services to begin. It offers Syrians the possibility that tomorrow might be marginally better than today. For the new leadership in Syria, the lifting of the Caesar sanctions is both empowering and clarifying. It is empowering because it removes the single most significant external obstacle to economic recovery. It is clarifying because it strips away the excuses.

For years, sanctions provided a convenient explanation for everything that failed

Sheikh Aftab Ahmed Discusses Tobacco Control Measures to Protect Youth

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD-- MNA and member of the Supreme Judicial Council Sheikh Aftab Ahmed met with the Project Manager of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids to discuss key tobacco-control concerns in Pakistan. The meeting highlighted the increasing use of tobacco and nicotine products, particularly among women and young people. Participants discussed the need to improve Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) in line with WHO guidelines, strengthen measures against Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS), and enhance public awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine products on youth.



It was highlighted that around 1,200 young people reportedly start smoking every day, underscoring the need for stronger preventive measures. Sheikh Aftab Ahmed emphasized the importance of making existing tobacco-control laws more effective

and strengthening their implementation to better protect Pakistan's younger generation. The meeting also underscored the need for stronger parliamentary attention and support for effective tobacco-control measures.

Workers Are the Party's Real Strength, Organization Will Now Be Seen on the Ground, Not in Words: Jamal Shah Kakar

Report: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA-- PML-N Balochistan General Secretary Jamal Shah Kakar held a meeting with Provincial Secretary Information Chaudhry Shabbir to discuss strengthening the party's organization and the political situation in the province. Chaudhry Shabbir congratulated Kakar on the launch of the "Great Democratic Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif International Award" and proposed accelerating organiza-



tional activities at the district and tehsil levels, strengthening contact with workers and modernizing the party's information system.

Welcoming the proposals, Jamal Shah Kakar said the party's real strength was its sincere and ideological workers. He said efforts would be made to strengthen the party at the village, tehsil and district levels. Kakar announced that a provincial consultative meeting would soon be convened, where workers' views would be given priority in preparing an action plan. "Organization-building will now be visible on the ground, not in words," he said.

Pakistan Hotels Association Announces National Tourism Promotion Initiative

Report: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- Following the election of Mohammad Anwar Qureshi as Chairman, the Pakistan Hotels Association (PHA) has announced a national initiative to promote Pakistan as a leading tourism destination. The association will work with federal and provincial tourism authorities, tourism boards and private-sector stakeholders to promote the country's mountains, cultural heritage, historical sites, coastal areas, religious tourism, eco-tourism and adventure tourism. PHA will also support integrated tourism circuits, strengthen digital promotion and encourage investment in tourism infrastructure and quality



accommodation in emerging destinations. Chairman Mohammad Anwar Qureshi said Pakistan has immense tourism potential and that coordinated public-private efforts are essential to

present the country effectively to the world. The association aims to make tourism a stronger contributor to employment, investment, local economies and foreign exchange earnings.

ISSI Launches Report on Legal and Strategic Dimensions of Indus Waters Treaty Suspension

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a special report titled "Weaponising Waters: Historical, Legal & Strategic Dimensions of IWT Suspension" at a seminar discussing the legal, strategic and regional implications of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said the IWT is a legally binding interna-

tional agreement and argued that its provisions do not allow either party to unilaterally alter, revoke or suspend it. He said Pakistan would continue pursuing the matter through diplomatic and legal channels. Former Federal Minister Khurram Dastgir-Khan described developments surrounding the treaty as a serious challenge to Pakistan's water security, while Prof. Dr. Arshi Saleem Hashmi highlighted the treaty's history of surviving wars and political tensions between Pakistan and India.

Speakers also discussed the potential implications of the treaty dispute for Pakistan's agriculture, food security, regional stability and the wider system of transboundary water governance. The participants appreciated ISSI's India Study Centre for producing the report covering the historical, legal, technical and strategic dimensions of the Indus Waters Treaty. ISSI has separately published recent analysis on India's 2025 decision to place the treaty in abeyance and its implications for Pakistan.

Speaker National Assembly Visits Residence of Late Former Minister and MNA Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk

Report: Hurish shah:

ISLAMABAD - National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited the residence of late former Federal Minister and MNA Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk and expressed condolences to the bereaved family. The Speaker said the demise of Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk was an irreparable loss, paying tribute to his parliamentary, political and social services. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the late parliamentarian had performed his responsibilities with dedication and sincerity and rendered valuable services for legislation, democratic values and public welfare. He said the National Assembly had



lost an experienced and active parliamentarian whose public and parliamentary services would always be remembered.

The Speaker prayed for the departed soul to be granted the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and for patience and fortitude for the bereaved family.

Senate Sub-Committee Reviews Proposed Health Insurance Coverage for Employees

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -A meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee of the Senate Secretariat Employees Welfare Fund was held under the venvorship of Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti to discuss measures for improving healthcare facilities for Senate employees. Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla and Senator Anusha Rahman attended the meeting, while Senator Nasir Mahmood participated via Zoom.



The committee deliberated on the proposed health insurance coverage and

other measures aimed at providing better healthcare facilities to Senate employees.

Governor Sindh Meets Austrian Honorary Consul General, Discusses Trade, Investment And Cultural Cooperation

Report ANI

Karachi: Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi met Austrian Honorary Consul General Dr. Hussain Islam at Governor House. The meeting covered Pakistan-Austria relations, trade, investment, economic cooperation and other matters of mutual interest. Austrian artists Robert Pawlik and Ms. Michaela Rabitsch, Alhamd International Container Terminal CEO Tushna Patel, Principal Secretary to Governor Sindh Dr. Syed Saif-ur-Rehman and other distinguished guests also attended the meeting. The participants discussed opportunities for promoting foreign investment and business activities in Karachi. Governor Sindh stated that Pakistan is committed to providing all possible facilities and cooperation to foreign investors and business representatives. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi emphasized that music knows no borders and serves



as a bridge connecting hearts and cultures. He noted that Pakistan is a beautiful blend of diverse religions, languages and cultures, where people from different countries and cultural backgrounds live in peace and harmony. He further highlighted that music is a beautiful means of promoting friendship, harmony and goodwill among different nations and cultures. Austrian Honorary Consul General Dr. Hussain Islam expressed the desire to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation between

Pakistan and Austria. He also emphasized the need for additional initiatives to promote bilateral trade and investment. Austrian artist Robert Pawlik appreciated the warm hospitality of the Pakistani people and said that their hospitality and delicious cuisine had greatly impressed them. Ms. Michaela Rabitsch remarked that Pakistan's culture, the warmth of its people and its hospitality had made the visit a memorable experience, adding that they would like to visit Pakistan again.

Senate Finance Committee Reviews AGPR Matters, Retail Tax Scheme and FBR Issues.



Report Ahmed Shamsur Rehman/ ANI

Islamabad: The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue was held at Parliament House, under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. Those who participated in the proceedings were Senators Farooq Hamid Naek, Sherry Rehman, Shahzaib Durrani and Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan attended the meeting. The state minister for Finance and Revenue along with Chairman FBR also participated. The Committee was briefed by the Accountant General of Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) regarding the implementation of a Supreme Court judgment and matters relating to the Director Staff of the Senate Secretariat. Senator Farooq H. Naek observed that the court order was not applicable to the Senate Secretariat. Chairman Committee stated that the Senate has its own constitutional structure, rules and regulations and does not fall under the administrative control of the Establishment Division. The Committee discussed the need for the Senate to independently handle its financial and administrative matters instead of relying on AGPR. The Committee directed that the pending pay-related matters of the Director Staff of the Senate Secretariat be resolved within 14 days. The Committee was also briefed by the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on the outcome of the 1% fixed tax scheme, including the reasons for the low participation of traders. The Minister of State for Finance and Revenue stated that the government

had consulted the traders and introduced the scheme accordingly. He informed the Committee that an application had been developed and made operational last month through which traders could provide their details; however, certain technical issues had arisen in the application, which had now been addressed. He stated that within two months 2,195 retailers had registered through the application, covering traders with annual sales of up to Rs. 20 crore. It was clarified that registration under the scheme was mandatory and that all retailers were required to declare their income and file tax returns. The Committee was informed that penalties would initially be imposed in stages, with fines of Rs. 10,000 at the first stage, Rs. 25,000 at the second stage and Rs. 50,000 at the third stage. Enforcement measures would subsequently be intensified against businesses that continued to refuse compliance with tax requirements. The Committee recommended that an extensive awareness campaign be launched to inform the business community about the new FBR initiative. It further recommended that advertisements be published and flyers containing complete information about the scheme be distributed in markets to facilitate traders. The Chairman FBR informed the Committee that extensive awareness campaigns had already been conducted regarding the scheme. He noted that there was still a perception among some traders that those who did not register through the application would not face penalties. The Committee was informed that 5.5 million tax returns had been received

by the FBR to date, compared with 4.0 million returns received during the corresponding period last year. The Committee noted the significant increase in the number of tax returns filed. The Committee was further informed that there were approximately 4.3 million commercial WAPDA electricity meters across the country, while only around six lac commercial meter holders had filed tax returns to date. While discussing the grant of honorarium equivalent to five months' basic pay for the year 2025-26 to medical staff working at Parliament House, the Committee was informed that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination had written to the PIMS/Polyclinic regarding payment of the honorarium 2025-26 to the medical staff posted at the Senate Secretariat. The Committee was also briefed by the Chairman FBR regarding the withholding of legitimate income tax refunds of M/s Gumcrop (Pvt) Ltd. and M/s Oleocrop (Pvt) Ltd. The Chairman FBR assured the Committee that the outstanding refunds would be released to the companies within 15 days. The Committee also discussed alleged irregularities concerning the issuance of consumption certificates involving raw materials worth Rs. 1.12 trillion supplied to factories operating in the tax-exempt areas of FATA and PATA. The Committee was informed that five individuals had been arrested in connection with the matter and that investigations are underway. The Committee also decided to take up the matter regarding the tax-exempt areas of FATA and PATA as a single agenda in its next meeting.

AJK President Meets Khurram Dastgir, Hamid Mir to Discuss Kashmir Issue

Report: Naseem Hassan/ANI

ISLAMABAD --President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Najeib Khan met former Federal Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan and renowned anchorperson and analyst Hamid Mir. The meeting discussed matters of mutual interest, the political situation in Pakistan, the Kashmir issue and the overall regional situation. President Dr. Muhammad Najeib Khan said there was a need to raise an effective voice at the international level for a just and lasting resolution of the Kashmir issue. He said the human rights situation in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir required the immediate attention of the international community.



He emphasized that international media and public opinion could play an important role in highlighting the Kashmir issue. He also said the historical, religious and emotional bonds between the people of Pakistan and

Azad Kashmir remained strong. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Hamid Mir congratulated Dr. Muhammad Najeib Khan on assuming the office of President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and expressed their best wishes.

Mithi: MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho Congratulates MDCAT Top-Position Holders

Report Nareender Kumar/ANI

MITHI: (D.R.) MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho hosted three students who achieved outstanding results in the MDCAT examination at Rana House, Mithi, and congratulated them on their academic success. The students Rakesh Meghwar, Jaipal Singh Rajput and Khainraj Singh Thakur -- secured the second position across Sindh and top positions in District Tharparkar. They were accompanied by their parents and were presented with gifts and shields in recognition of their achievement.



Speaking to the media on the occasion, MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho said that Tharparkar and Umerkot had historically faced significant challenges, particularly in access to education, healthcare, clean water, electricity

and other basic facilities. He said the achievements of students from Tharparkar and Umerkot reflected the growing opportunities available to young people in the region. According to him, students from these districts are now securing prominent positions in academic examinations and bringing recognition to Pakistan, Sindh and Tharparkar. Rana Hameer Singh Sodho congratulated the students, their parents and teachers, and encouraged young people from Tharparkar to continue pursuing excellence in education and professional fields.