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Opposition talks collapse as Mohsin blames Sohail Afridi



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LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has accused Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi of sabotaging negotiations between the federal government and the opposition, claiming that the two sides had reached agreement on almost all points before the talks collapsed.

He said 99 percent of the proposed agreement had been settled, but changes to the draft and the KP chief minister's subsequent rejection derailed the process. Naqvi also warned that the government would not allow protesters to march on Islamabad in violation of court orders.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, Naqvi thanked members of the opposition negotiating committee, saying they had participated in the discussions in good faith and that a comprehensive agreement had been prepared.

He said he had presented the draft to the President and briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the developments. However, upon returning from his meeting with the President, he was informed that several changes had been proposed.

"Only one or two issues remained unresolved, while agreement had been reached on 99 per cent of the points," Naqvi said, adding that the draft had been prepared and revised four times. The minister alleged that

Afridi ultimately rejected the proposed agreement, despite the negotiations having progressed substantially. He questioned why the KP chief minister had not participated directly in the talks if he intended to make the final decisions.

Naqvi said the discussions involved two proposed agreements, one covering broader political issues and another focused on counterterrorism. He claimed the KP government had initially agreed to sign a written agreement and submit an implementation plan within 72 hours, but later withdrew its commitments.

According to Naqvi, the proposed counterterrorism commitments included preventing militant groups

from operating freely or establishing safe havens in the province, unequivocally condemning the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist organisations, and implementing the National Action Plan. Other points reportedly covered increased funding for police and counterterrorism operations, provincial ownership of security measures, stronger coordination with the armed forces, and policies concerning Afghan refugees and camps in KP. The minister said the federal government had urged the provincial administration to work jointly against terrorism, stressing that security concerns should not become entangled in political disputes.

Araghchi says Tehran serious about diplomatic path, rules out 'military solution' to end war

ANI

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran is "serious about finding diplomatic solutions, just as we are serious about defending ourselves." Al Jazeera reported on Sunday. Araghchi said there was no military solution to his country's conflict with the United States, as talks aimed at ending the war appeared to have reached an impasse, AFP reported. "If our enemies again choose the path of military confrontation, our response will be stronger than before, and we will defend ourselves with even more force," Araghchi said at a gathering of foreign ambassadors.

"There is no military solution, nor any solution based on new sanctions," he added. Iran will upgrade the range of its missiles following the war with the US, as American forces are now positioned as much as 1,000 km (621 miles) away from the Iranian coast, Army spokesperson Mohammad Akraminia told Fars news on Sunday. "During this war, we concluded that we absolutely must increase the range of our missiles, and we have now moved in that direction," he said.

Iran says Strait of Hormuz will not reopen until Islamabad MoU conditions are met: Nournews

The Strait of Hormuz will not reopen until seven Iranian conditions set out in a June interim agreement with the US are met, Nournews reported. Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said on Sunday, a few days after Tehran received Washington's reply to its diplomatic proposal. "The Americans, who say something different in the media, have recently put forward proposals through a mediator. But they must understand that the period of dragging out the process and dictating one-sided demands is over," Ghalibaf was quoted as saying.

"The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is completely clear and firm, and the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened until our seven conditions, based on the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, are met."

Iran ready to "both fight and negotiate," says parliament speaker

Iran's parliament speaker said on Sunday that Tehran is "neither excited nor intimidated" by the US' actions, stressing that Iran is prepared to "both fight and



negotiate."

"We are present in the military battlefield with all our strength and we will face them with new surprises, and we use the tools of diplomacy to establish our superiority in the military field and impose the rights of the Iranian people," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf told parliament, according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Iran army plans volunteer training programme for "national defence"

The Iranian army plans to begin training volunteers under a programme aimed at preparing citizens for "national defence", Al Jazeera reported, citing the West Asia News Agency (WANA).

Iran has also opened a military training centre for everyday citizens in Tehran as part of the programme.

Hegseth says Trump has "options" if Iran "play games" over Hormuz

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Washington's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz remains "ironclad", warning that President Donald Trump has "options" if Iran continues to "play games" with the vital sea passage, Al Jazeera reported.

The US aircraft carrier George HW Bush arrived off Thailand's resort island of Phuket on Sunday with about 4,800 personnel aboard for a rest-and-recreation break after months of supporting US operations in the Middle East.

The Nimitz-class carrier had been operating in the Arabian Sea during the conflict with Iran, according to multiple media reports. The carrier will anchor offshore, while crew members are expected to come ashore through Phuket Deep Sea Port and spend time on the popular southern resort island from October 4 to 9, local media reported.

Security forces kill eight India-backed militants in KP's DI Khan operation



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PESHAWAR: Security forces killed eight India-sponsored terrorists during an intelligence-based operation conducted in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, security sources said on Sunday.

According to the sources, the operation was launched after intelligence reports indicated the presence of militants in the area. Eight members of Fitna al-Khawarij were killed during the operation, including three key commanders.

Security sources said a large quantity of

weapons and ammunition, along with foreign currency, was recovered from the militants.

The operation was carried out under the government's Azm-e-Istehkam vision, which aims to counter terrorism and promote lasting peace and stability in the country, according to the sources.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the security forces for carrying out a timely and effective operation against the militants.

The prime minister said the entire nation stood alongside the security forces in the fight against terrorism. He reiterated the government's resolve to continue operations against Fitna al-Khawarij until the threat of terrorism was eliminated.

Shehbaz said eliminating terrorism was essential for maintaining peace and stability in the country.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also commended the security forces for the successful operation against militants in Dera Ismail Khan.

PM meets Naqvi, discusses KP security situation after talks hit deadlock



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LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held an important meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the latter's residence, where the overall situation in the country, particularly the law and order and security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, came under detailed discussion. According to sources, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi briefed the prime minister on the talks held with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, saying the provincial government had agreed to sign a written agreement and submit an implementation plan within 72 hours.

Naqvi informed the prime minister that the KP government decided to back out of the agreed points during the final stage of negotiations. He said the provincial government had also agreed to reconsider the Police Act 2026. The interior minister said it had been agreed to keep police and secu-

rity matters free from political interference and prevent terrorists from carrying out activities freely or establishing safe havens in the province. The agreed points also included an unequivocal condemnation of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA) and all other terrorist groups. The briefing also covered an agreement to repatriation of Afghan refugees. The KP government had also expressed willingness to dismantle Afghan refugee camps in the province. It was further agreed that there would be no provincial-level contact with the interim Afghan government. The sources said allocating adequate funds for counterterrorism operations and the police was also part of the proposed agreement. The provincial government had agreed to take full responsibility for counterterrorism measures and strengthen cooperation with the armed forces.

K-P governor warns emergency may be imposed if needed to 'save province'

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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Sunday that an emergency could be imposed if necessary to "save the province," as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) began its planned long march after talks with the federal government ended in deadlock. The PTI had earlier postponed its planned long march to Islamabad from September 27 to October 4, with Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi announcing the revised date on September 25. CM Afridi had said the decision to defer the march was part of the party's "political strategy" and that negotiations with the federal government would continue even after the mobilisation. "If imposing emergency becomes necessary to save the province, then we will certainly impose it," Kundi said while speaking to the media today. He said the president, prime minister and other institutions could consider imposing an emergency if they believed the situation in the province had deteriorated. Kundi also issued a warning to those taking part in the march, saying,

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is not ready to abandon the hypocrisy and double standards that are the hallmark of its politics.

"PTI comes to talks with duplicity and double standards, and is not ready to give up its policies," the minister said while talking to the media. Tarar said he has been pointing to their duplicity for the last couple of weeks and, ironically, they are proud of their shifting stances.

Providing safety and security to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the primary responsibility of the provincial government, he said, adding, "If it cannot protect the lives and property of its citizens, it is a complete failure of provincial government." He also highlighted contradictory statements from within PTI regarding the counter terrorism policy,



citing the statement of Shafi Jan, who said the party will change its policy on terrorism completely,

while Salman Akram Raja says otherwise. The minister said PTI's policy amounts to nothing but promoting terrorism and spreading it across the province. "You take benefits from Pakistan but speak for Afghanistan. This double standard will not work," he said, adding the party has neither owned counter-terrorism efforts nor shown seriousness about them. The minister said this double standard is why the innocent citizens and children are losing their lives in Hangu, Dera Ismail Khan and Kohat. While the Law Enforcement Agencies and rescue workers are sacrificing their lives, Chief Minister Sohail Afridi is only focused on the release of a convicted prisoner, he added. He asked who has stopped the provincial government from taking action against terrorism when the federal government has repeatedly asked it to do so. He also asked who has stopped it from holding provincial apex committee meetings when federal apex committee meetings are taking place regularly.

Talal Chaudhry presents details on Oct 4 protests, JAAC links, arrest of 3 more accused

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ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Sunday revealed the arrest of three more individuals linked to JAAC and presented audio recordings, statements and investigation findings related to the case. He said the Interior Minister would soon present facts, background information and details explaining why, according to the government, the KP administration benefits politically from the law and order situation in the province



instead of fulfilling its constitutional and legal responsibilities.

Speaking at a press conference, Talal Chaudhry said that the call for a JAAC protest and the PTI long march had been announced for the same day, October 4. He said JAAC had called for protests and strikes, but the people of Kashmir rejected the call. During all three phases of elections, large numbers of voters participated and rejected efforts aimed at preventing Kashmiris from making their own decisions, he added. Talal Chaudhry said the government had maintained from the beginning that the movement was not purely political.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering fateha at residence of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on demise of his maternal uncle

UK PPP Leaders Congratulate Chaudhry Latif Akbar on Election to AJK Council



Report: Raja Masood Sharif / ANI

BIRMINGHAM -- Leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) based in the United Kingdom have congratulated former Speaker of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, on his election as a member of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council.

In a joint congratulatory statement, Chaudhry Shabbir Hussain Dadyalvi, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and Senior Vice President, PPP Birmingham Branch (UK); Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, Former General Secretary, Pakistan Peoples Party Midlands (UK); Chaudhry Muhammad Manzoor, Former Senior Vice President, Pakistan Peoples Party (UK); Chaudhry Fazal Hussain, Former President, Pakistan Peoples Party Midlands (UK);



Chaudhry Muhammad Amin, Federal Council Member, Pakistan Peoples Party (UK); Mirza Gulzar Hussain, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and Leader, Pakistan Peoples Party (UK); and Abdul Qayum Raja, President, PPP Birmingham Branch (UK) extended their best wishes to Chaudhry Latif Akbar.

The leaders said Chaudhry Latif Akbar's election to the AJK Council

was a recognition of his longstanding political and parliamentary experience. They noted that he had played an important role in the political and parliamentary affairs of Azad Kashmir and expressed confidence that his extensive experience would prove valuable in his new responsibilities.

They expressed hope that Chaudhry Latif Akbar would discharge his responsibilities effectively and continue contributing towards resolving the issues of the people of Azad Kashmir, promoting development in the region and strengthening relations between Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

The UK-based PPP leaders wished Chaudhry Latif Akbar success, good health and continued public service, expressing confidence that he would continue to uphold democratic values and serve the people with dedication.

Raja Sikander Khan Congratulates Ch Muhammad Saeed on Unopposed Election as Member of AJK Council

BY: ANI Correspondent:

London --Chairman of the Global Pak Kashmir Supreme Council, Raja Sikander Khan, has extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to his long-standing friend, Ch Muhammad Saeed, former President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and former Minister of the Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, on his unopposed election as a Member of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Council, as formally notified by the AJK Election Commission.

In a statement issued on the occasion, Raja Sikander Khan said that he has had the privilege of knowing Ch Muhammad Saeed for the past 36 years and has closely observed his personal and professional journey over this long period.

He described Ch Muhammad Saeed as a person of integrity, dedication, responsibility and commit-



ment, who has consistently demonstrated a strong sense of duty in both his public and private life. He further commended him as a highly educated and accomplished individual, an intellectual of considerable knowledge, a successful businessman and a committed political figure.

Raja Sikander Khan particularly highlighted Ch Muhammad Saeed's loyalty to his political party, friends and associates, noting that he has always remained willing to extend assistance to those in need and has demonstrated a genuine commit-

ment to the welfare and betterment of others.

Raja Sikander Khan expressed confidence that Ch Muhammad Saeed's extensive experience, knowledge, administrative capabilities and understanding of public affairs would enable him to make a valuable and meaningful contribution to the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Council.

Extending his sincere wishes on the assumption of his new responsibilities, Raja Sikander Khan prayed that Almighty Allah bless Ch Muhammad Saeed with continued strength, courage, wisdom and steadfastness, enabling him to discharge his responsibilities with distinction and serve the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir with dedication and sincerity. Raja Sikander Khan once again conveyed his warmest congratulations to Ch Muhammad Saeed on this significant achievement and wished him continued success, prosperity and honour in his new constitutional role.

Equal Rights for Women and Full Protection of Their Dignity and Privacy Is Muslim League's Mission , Jamal Shah Kakar

Thousands of Women Join Muslim League Under Leadership of Rahila Hameed Durrani and Akhtar Bibi in Historic Rally



Report: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- A historic rally was organized by the Muslim League Women's Wing, where thousands of women announced their joining of the Muslim League under the leadership of Rahila Hameed Durrani and Akhtar Bibi. The large participation of women reflected their growing role in political and organizational activities.

Addressing the rally, Muslim League General Secretary Jamal Shah Kakar said the gathering was a clear message to those who believed politics could be conducted by ignoring women. He said the participation of thousands of women showed that times were changing and women would no longer merely be part of political gatherings but would also play a role in decision-making.

He said the Muslim League's mission was to ensure full equal rights for women and complete protection of their dignity, privacy and the sanctity of chadar and chaar diwari. He stressed the need for practical measures for women's rights and said the Muslim League attached importance to women's political and social participation.

Jamal Shah Kakar welcomed the mothers, sisters and daughters who had joined the Muslim League and said women's political participation would continue to grow, adding that their role was important for the development and prosperity of the province. Rahila Hameed Durrani, Provincial President of the Muslim League Women's Wing, thanked the women who participated in the rally and said the gathering reflected their determination and commitment to

the party. She said the Women's Wing would continue to perform its responsibilities with dedication.

Akhtar Bibi said women had become aware of their rights and were united under the Muslim League's flag to play their role for their rights and welfare.

The rally was also addressed by Yaqoob Nasir, Abdul Fateh Jamali, Chaudhry Shabbir, Shakir Muhammad Asni, Nisar Achakzai, Chairman Attaullah Muhammad Zai and Ashraf Sagar, who appreciated the efforts of the Women's Wing.

Chaudhry Naveed, Provincial President of the Labour Wing, Information Secretary Aamir Sheikh, Liaquat Rajput and Baqir Khan, along with other party leaders and workers, also attended the event. The rally concluded with prayers for the security, progress and prosperity of the country.

National Party Parliamentary Leaders Meet Chief QESCO, Discuss Power Supply in Balochistan

Report: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- National Party Parliamentary Leader in the National Assembly and Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Phelain Baloch, MPA and Chairman Standing Committee on Science and Technology and Formal and Informal Education Khair Jan Baloch, Deputy Secretary General Wahid Rahim, Javed Baloch and Zameer Azim met Chief QESCO Engineer Mirza Aizaz Baig.

The meeting discussed the overall electricity supply situation in Balochistan, particularly the timely completion of ongoing projects in Makran and Awaran, public difficulties and challenges faced by QESCO.

Various proposals to improve electricity supply, transmission, distribution, repair and maintenance systems were also discussed, with emphasis on developing practical



measures according to local needs and conditions. Chief Engineer (Technical, Operations and

Maintenance) Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Marri and Staff Officer to CCO Ali Ahmed Haleemi were also present.

Seerat-ul-Anbiya and Azmat-e-Sahaba Conference: Invitation Meetings Underway

Report: ANI Reporter:

RAWALPINDI -- A series of invitation meetings is underway ahead of the Seerat-ul-Anbiya and Azmat-e-Sahaba Conference, scheduled to be held in Morgah on October 9.

In this connection, Waqas Qureshi met with Maulana Imranullah Farooqi, Maulana Saeed, Maulana Idrees, Chaudhry Roheel, Chaudhry Raheel and other prominent personalities and extended invitations to them to attend the conference.

As part of the invitation campaign, Waqas Qureshi and Qari Afzal, Khateeb of Askari 14, also met their



respected friend Maulana Idrees and invited him to participate in the conference being held in Morgah on October 9.

Later, a meeting was also held with the Khateeb of Masjid Dhoke Syedan,

Morgah, who was formally invited to attend the conference. During the meeting, the participants discussed the significance of the conference and exchanged views on various matters related to the event.

Islamabad Needs World-Class Expo Centre, Modern Industrial Area to Boost Business , Zikria Zia

Report: Hurish shah FT :

ISLAMABAD --President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Muhammad Zikria Akbar Zia has called for a world-class Expo Centre and a modern industrial area in Islamabad to promote trade, investment and employment.

In an interview, Zikria Zia said the ICCI would work with the government and relevant stakeholders to transform Islamabad into a modern and business-friendly city. He said the proposed Expo Centre would help show-



industrial estate had reached capacity and stressed the need for a new industrial area equipped with modern infra-

structure and facilities to support industrialization and attract investment.

Zikria Zia also called for an improved business environment, saying the business community should be treated as a partner in economic development and should not face unnecessary harassment or intimidation.

Highlighting Pakistan's tourism potential, particularly in the Northern Areas, he urged greater engagement with foreign embassies to promote the country's tourism destinations internationally.

Abu Dhabi Takes Majority Control of T10 League, Eyes Global Expansion

Report: ANI Sports

ABU DHABI -- Abu Dhabi has assumed majority ownership and commercial control of the Abu Dhabi T10 League, marking a new phase in the tournament's development and global expansion.

Abu Dhabi Cricket & Sports Hub (ADCSH), with the support of the Abu Dhabi Sports Council and Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), will oversee the league's long-term development.

Officials said the new ownership structure aims to strengthen govern-



ance, expand the league's international reach and establish Abu Dhabi as the home of T10 cricket.

The 2026 Abu Dhabi T10 will be held from November 7 to 20 at Zayed

Cricket Stadium. ADCSH CEO and newly appointed Abu Dhabi T10 CEO Matt Boucher said the focus would be on enhancing player structures, commercial growth, governance and broadcast innovation.

According to an independent GSIQ report cited by the organisers, the 2025 edition generated US\$512 million in media value and 687 million social media impressions worldwide.

Franchise discussions are expected to begin under the new ownership structure as Abu Dhabi looks to further develop the tournament's international profile.

Five Arrested for Rs180 Million Online Fraud Using Fake German Woman Persona on Instagram

Report: ANI Reporter:

ABBOTTABAD -- The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Hazara Circle has arrested five members of a gang allegedly involved in an online financial fraud of Rs180 million, after posing as a German woman on Instagram and luring a resident of Havelian into a fake business investment scheme.

NCCIA officials said Rs55 million had been recovered from the arrested suspects, while investigations revealed the alleged involvement of 25 people from Abbottabad and Islamabad.

Addressing a press conference, NCCIA Hazara Circle Deputy Director Abdul Wahab, along with Inspector Muhammad Shakir, Investigation Officer Muhammad



Raza and Sub-Inspector Muhammad Nauman, said a case was registered after complainant Malik Haider Manzoor reported the alleged fraud.

According to officials, the suspects contacted the victim through Instagram while posing as a

German woman and later persuaded him to invest money in a business venture.

The NCCIA has obtained relevant bank records and further legal proceedings are underway. Officials said efforts were also continuing to arrest the remaining suspects.

Abdul Wahab said around 5,000 complaints related to various cyber-crimes had been received by the Hazara Circle in 2026, while recoveries worth Rs40 million had been made in different cases.

He said protection of citizens, prompt action on complaints and providing relief to cybercrime victims remained among the agency's top priorities.

Complainant Malik Haider Manzoor said he received justice through the NCCIA's action.

Four Injured Pakistani Crew Members, Bodies of Three Deceased Arrive in Karachi

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --Pakistan's Ambassadors to Djibouti and Ethiopia saw off four injured Pakistani crew members of MT Honour 25 -- Usman Ghani, Aqeel Khan, Ameen bin Shams and Yasir Khan -- along with the



mortal remains of three deceased crew members, Rafi Ullah Khan, Syed Kashif Umer and Mahmood Ahmad Ansari, from Addis Ababa.

The injured crew members and mortal remains are arriving in Karachi today aboard Ethiopian Airlines flight ET 694.

Pakistan Youth Climate Roundtable Highlights Youth Role in Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation

Report: ANI Reporter:

ISLAMABAD -- The Global Front for Biodiversity hosted the Pakistan Youth Climate Roundtable at the National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT), bringing together young leaders and environmental experts to discuss climate change, biodiversity and global environmental policy.

Environmental experts Sher Shah Khan, Maria Abbasi and Amna Jabeen highlighted youth participation in UNFCCC COP31 in Türkiye, UNCBD COP17 in Armenia and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Participants also developed practical policy recommendations for climate action and biodiversity conservation.



CEO Global Front for Biodiversity Qamar Elahi stressed that youth should be treated as active partners in addressing environmental challenges, while Vice President Ahmed Assal called for greater dialogue and policy-driven initia-

tives. The event concluded with joint recommendations aimed at strengthening climate action, biodiversity conservation and youth participation in environmental policymaking.

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Opinion

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What Makes an Economically Progressive Country, Load Shedding?



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What enhances our lives and what brings comfort to our daily struggles? The fundamentals we are already aware of are water, crops, cotton or textiles, social interactions, safety from the adversity of climate, etc. But what is the gravitational pull that is keeping the balance of economies all over the world alive and kicking? This commodity is advancing mankind towards magnificent achievements in respect of technological advancement, the supply surplus of water, defence capacity, and it impacts and improves urban and rural life.

It is that nature has helped man strategise a network of electricity throughout the circumference of the world. We are now far removed from an era of human history where an automatic door can open and close at the flick of a button. Instead, because of this commodity, we are able to reach the stars. We have been given the green light to unimaginable possibilities and opportunities that cannot come without electricity.

It is a given fact that in the West, it is an acceptable norm for every household to live with electricity and not without it, and it would be considered strange if they were deprived of it. In this day and age, the developed and developing world has harnessed this energy by extracting the resources of our geographical regions across all planes. Furthermore, it has given us the ability to grow, produce, supply and sell commercial commodities at a speed unprecedented or previously thought of. It has literally breathed life and light into ourselves and our planet.

Electricity is a natural phenomenon, one that has been harnessed over many centuries. It has been utilised and developed by scientists and inventors who turned it into usable technology.

What is electricity, how did it evolve, and how did its story begin? Apart from other eminent pioneers who contributed to its development, the man who made the world's pulse alive and who, by his genius attributes, is said to have proclaimed that he could supply the world with free energy at no cost was Nikola Tesla.

So why do we Pakistanis struggle with this concept of electricity and load shedding? Why are our politicians constantly accused of malpractice when the question of the supply of this energy is not met? Why is it not a centralised feature of government policy despite protests about double standards that do not address or adhere to the complaints of citizens who face daily load shedding that lasts up to 16-20 hours a day in some areas of the country? Severe routine outages of electricity in local towns and city areas have become the norm.

Pakistan, however, due to persistent structural debt, has experienced major widespread blackouts. It faces seasonal fuel shortages that, in turn, trigger localised load shedding.

My argument is that the lack of this fundamental commodity cripples Pakistan's economic and industrial ambitions. Not only has it caused economic erosion, but it has

impacted major industrial hubs up and down the country. It has also affected micro-level household economies. Due to unprecedented power cuts, export and import projects are triggered and international deadlines are missed. This inevitably means foreign capital is driven out of the country.

Your local grocer, including street-level markets, bears heavy losses in perishable goods due to the lack of budgets for expensive fuel generators. They are then forced to close early due to the lack of refrigeration, which leads to the automatic spoilage of food. This includes agricultural yields and medicines.

This social instability fuels unrest and institutional distrust, thereby creating a highly volatile social atmosphere that exacerbates and boils into public anger.

This creates a class divide, while low-income working-class neighbourhoods endure virtually 12-24 hours of daily blackouts, while the elite, government offices and military cantonments enjoy uninterrupted electricity. This encourages a wide divide and undermines trust in governance and state institutions. There is an underlying issue here: one wonders if this is state-induced or enforced by external agencies to keep the divide and disrupt Pakistan's economy intentionally, so that it controls mass civil unrest and prevents it from sparking a power dynamic in the country.

Other crises evolve too when power goes out at municipal water pumps, which then fail; this leads to acute water shortages. Street crime surges, causing theft and security vulnerabilities. When electrical power is not distributed equally, especially to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan, simply because sending them power guarantees a financial loss, this is due to some of these regions having high levels of electricity theft, and the government is left with low bill recovery.

Pakistan signed take-or-pay contracts with power generation companies, which means Pakistan had to pay enormous "capacity fees" to keep their plants available.

The circular debt relinquishes the government's operational cash; therefore, the government cannot afford to run these plants. Ultimately, the state resorts to paying billions in fixed capacity fees to idle plants while citizens suffer severe blackouts.

As this debt mounts, the government increases electricity tariffs in accordance with IMF guidelines, creating a massive migration towards solar energy. The result of this approach means that the best-paying customers generate their own power, and the state, in turn, recovers its costs from low-income consumers by endorsing massive fixed costs. Consumers are already paying high costs for solar panels, but they are charged heavy costs and penalised for not paying on time. Again, the worst off are those who do not have an income, cannot get employment, and, if they do, cannot afford electricity, let alone solar panels.

So the government is in a catch-22 situation as it faces further financial deficits as recoveries decrease rapidly, leading to deeper load shedding so that it can cut its operational losses.

The government made a plan via a commercial bank settlement. It tried to arrange a massive financial restructuring programme with the Ministry of Finance and with the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA). They signed a term sheet with 18 commercial banks designed to pay down the legacy power-sector debt.

But Pakistan also faces arbitrary, volatile legal and regulatory battlegrounds. Thirty-two Saudi entities and five Kuwaiti firms collectively hold a 30.7% indirect stake in KF and a \$2 billion international arbitration claim against the State of Pakistan. Perhaps Asif Muneer could have it written off as a goodwill gesture for the purposes of initiating and restoring security for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

Bearing in mind the concept that electricity can be free, the world is forced to play into the monopoly of those consortium companies that represent the rich and the oligarchs of our time, who have shaped our economies through greed and injustice towards those who merely want to survive, develop and progress, and bring bread to the table, per se. It is their taxes and their labour that bring revenue to the country, and this can shoulder the government's responsibility by bringing a balanced society, enhancing and encouraging hard work. But this can be achieved if load shedding is eliminated. Economic success can then be a great achievement.

Since the 1880s, Pakistan has been sitting on a project that has been fully funded and fully designed, and it is the greatest-ever dam that could have been built. It is the Kalabagh Dam, which is set on the Indus River. It could generate around 3,600 megawatts of electricity, which could end 18-hour daily blackouts that have strangled Pakistan's industry for forty years, and it would be enough to stop the billions spent every year on imported fuel.

The blueprints were done, and international funding was secured. The engineers, however, signed off on it decades ago. Yet we are still left in darkness daily. Punjab wants the dam, Sindh is convinced it will kill its river delta, and the Pakhtuns say it will swallow their farmland. Every government since Zia-ul-Haq has promised to break the deadlock. But the project never took off.

The dam could be built, though it will take decades, but Pakistan has to fix fundamental structural issues, such as the financial costs pertaining to paying off debts incurred on power plants that lie idle. As Pakistan relied on imported fuel, the cost of electricity spiked out of control. Transmission lines leak, and, as mentioned earlier, electricity theft prevents the state from recovering the cost of electricity, leaving us with a mountain of unpaid debt.

The way forward is addressing the long-term strategy of universal electrification. That is to renegotiate the dollar-indexed Independent Power Producers (IPPs), to privatise highly inefficient distribution companies in order to halt electricity theft, or to use a government institution working to scrutinise effectively the consumption of electricity and the costs incurred, i.e. balancing the books.

Why has a system been allowed to function that fails in its entirety? One that serves the IMF and the corporate companies that inevitably increase the value of the dollar? Shouldn't we be working earnestly to increase the value of our rupee and the value of our own resources, and halt our reliance on outside intervention that favours their interests, when we have the manpower and the expertise to do our own bidding and develop Pakistan as a self-reliant entity capable of providing its own electricity at a lower cost?

The debate is on the table. We can moderate, affirm and negate a good outcome. It only needs ambition, determination and commitment to the people of Pakistan, who have patiently demanded change.



BY : Hurisha Shah
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Every year, Teachers' Day gives us an opportunity to pause and acknowledge the people whose contribution to society often goes beyond recognition. Teachers are not merely educators who deliver lessons from textbooks; they are mentors, role models and guides who play a fundamental role in shaping the character, confidence and future of individuals.

Education is often measured through examinations, grades and degrees, but the true impact of a teacher cannot be measured by marks alone. A teacher can influence the way a student thinks, the choices they make and the values they carry throughout their lives.

A good teacher does more than explain a subject. They encourage students to ask questions, think independently and develop the confidence to express their ideas. They help young people understand that making mistakes is not the end of the journey but an essential part of learning.

Behind almost every successful professional is a teacher who contributed to that journey. Doctors, engineers, scientists, writers, journalists, entrepreneurs, civil servants and leaders all begin their educational journey in classrooms where teachers provide them with knowledge and direction.

The importance of teachers becomes even greater in a rapidly changing world. Technology has transformed the way information is accessed. Today, students can find answers to countless questions within seconds through the internet and digital platforms. Yet information alone cannot replace the wisdom, judgment and human connection that a teacher provides.

Students need someone who can help them distinguish between knowledge and misinformation, between confidence and arrogance, and between ambition and responsibility. This is where the role of a teacher becomes invaluable.

Teachers also have an important responsibility in building character.

Teachers: The Architects of Our Future

ter. Academic success may open doors, but honesty, discipline, compassion, respect and responsibility determine how a person walks through those doors.

A teacher who teaches a child to respect others, to value truth and to remain responsible towards society is contributing to the creation of a better citizen. In this sense, every classroom has the potential to become a foundation for a stronger and more responsible society.

However, the teaching profession also comes with enormous challenges. Teachers are expected to educate large numbers of students, manage different learning abilities, keep pace with technological developments and often work under demanding circumstances. Their responsibilities do not end when the school bell rings. Lesson planning, assessment, preparation and supporting students often require additional time and effort.

For this reason, societies must recognise that respecting teachers is not simply about celebrating Teachers' Day once a year. Teachers deserve professional respect, opportunities for training, appropriate working conditions and the resources necessary to perform their duties effectively.

Pakistan, like many developing countries, needs to place education at the centre of its national priorities. Our future depends on the quality of education we provide to the next generation. Schools require better facilities, teachers require professional development, and students require an environment in which curiosity and creativity can flourish.

At the same time, parents and teachers must work together. A child's development does not depend on the school alone. The values taught at home and the education provided in classrooms should complement each other. When parents respect teachers and teachers understand the concerns of parents, students benefit the most.

We should also remember that every student learns differently. Some children excel academically, while others demonstrate exceptional creativity, leadership, communication or practical abilities. A great teacher recognises these differences and helps students discover their individual

strengths rather than measuring every child by the same standard.

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts a teacher can give a student is belief.

There are children who enter classrooms lacking confidence, struggling with circumstances or uncertain about their abilities. Sometimes, one encouraging sentence from a teacher can change the direction of such a child's life. A teacher who says, "You can do this," may give a student the courage to attempt something they previously believed was impossible.

Years later, students may forget the details of a particular lesson, but they rarely forget the teacher who believed in them.

On Teachers' Day, therefore, our tribute should go beyond flowers, cards and formal ceremonies. We should recognise the lasting influence teachers have on individuals and society.

Every teacher who enters a classroom carries an opportunity to shape a future. Every lesson can inspire a dream. Every word of encouragement can build confidence. Every effort to teach honesty and responsibility can help create a better citizen.

Teachers are, in many ways, the architects of our future. They may not always stand in the spotlight, but the people they educate eventually become the doctors, engineers, leaders, entrepreneurs, journalists, researchers and professionals who shape our communities and our country.

Their greatest achievement is not necessarily an award or recognition. It is seeing their students succeed, contribute to society and become good human beings.

On this Teachers' Day, let us therefore say not merely "Happy Teachers' Day," but thank you.

Thank you to every teacher who has been patient when a student struggled, encouraging when a student doubted themselves, and inspiring when the path ahead seemed uncertain.

The lessons of a true teacher do not end when a student leaves the classroom. They continue through life.

To every teacher who educates a mind, inspires a heart and builds a future your contribution is immeasurable, and your impact will continue through generations.

Happy Teachers' Day.

Israel's latest foolish act of self-harm

YOSSI MEKELBERG

Israel, as a country and as a nation, has always suffered from a good measure of siege mentality. Being distrustful of the outside world is understandable considering the history of the Jewish people, but it has also become a useful political tool for cynics. For those on the right wing, it is ingrained in their ideology and state of mind. But it is equally a ploy to always portray Israel as a victim on whose behalf only they are willing and able to stand up to all those hateful foreigners who they claim wish for the destruction of the country.

The bizarre saga of two British MPs who were this month refused entry after flying to Israel is just another example of a self-inflicted PR wound inflicted by a government that is becoming increasingly paranoid and thrives on friction with the international community. The two rather anonymous first-term British Labour parliamentarians,

Abtisam Mohammed and Yuan Yang, had been traveling to Israel and the West Bank as part of a parliamentary delegation. But immediately after their arrival, they were detained at the airport and forced to fly back to the UK the next day. What makes this story even more peculiar is that the two lawmakers were given clearance to enter the country before they set off, meaning their arrival was hardly a surprise to the Israeli government. Someone must have whispered in the ear of Israeli Interior Minister Moshe Arbel, between their clearance for entry and their detention at the airport, that two "troublemaker" British MPs were about to land in Israel, resulting in this hasty and reckless decision to prevent their entry. According to The Times of Israel, the Interior Ministry explained that it had refused Mohammed and Yang entry because, when questioned about the purpose of their visit, they had stated that it was "to document Israeli security forces and spread hateful rhetoric against Israel." It is hardly believable that they were so naive as to use these exact words to immigration officials. But even if this was what those who questioned them understood, it would have been smarter of the Israeli authorities to weigh carefully the miniscule degree of harm that would result from allowing two relatively unknown lawmakers to conduct their fact-finding mission against the extremely negative publicity that

was bound to be caused by refusing them entry.

The Israeli Embassy in London, which must have approved their visit or at least known about it, all of a sudden suffered a bout of amnesia and entered the fray, declaring that their country "will not allow the entry of individuals or entities that act against the state and its citizens (who are) actively involved in promoting sanctions against Israeli ministers," or boycotting the country.

These positions are certainly uncomfortable to Israel, but would it not have been better for the Israeli Foreign Ministry to invite critics of its policies, such as these two British MPs, to a briefing at the ministry and a meeting with experts and bestow on them the utmost "hasbara" to explain their actions, whether justified or not? Or is it the case that those in charge of defending Israel's policies on the Occupied Territories do not believe that their position is defensible?

Showing lawmakers a more friendly attitude would have at least saved Israel much of the negative publicity it received from most British politicians, with the exception of the Conservative Party and its leader Kemi Badenoch, which is hardly an endorsement that does anyone a favor. Upon their return, Mohammed and Yang, along with Cabinet ministers including Middle East Minister Hamish Falconer and more than 70 other parliamentarians, staged a joint photocall in Westminster Hall in a show of solidarity that was widely reported in the national and international media. To top this, Foreign Secretary David Lammy made a public statement describing Israel's act as "unacceptable, counterproductive and deeply concerning." Game, set and match for Israel's self-inflicted damage to its relations with the UK and beyond.

However, this incident runs deeper than Israel's inability to tolerate any criticism, let alone acknowledge that there are any faults in its policies toward the Palestinians. Self-evidently, not every criticism of Israel is justified or reflects a genuine understanding of the complexities of this conflict and the wars it generates. There is usually too much of a binary approach and a tendency to unquestionably support either one side or the other, rather than offering constructive ideas and measures on how to bring it to an end.

Nevertheless, what does Israel

expect after 58 years of oppressive occupation that has resulted in the illegal building of hundreds of settlements on occupied land in violation of international law, which has allowed settler terrorism and the general oppression of the Palestinians there, and more recently the mass killings and devastation in Gaza? The more Israel bars politicians, researchers, journalists and activists from visiting these places, the more it becomes obvious that the Israeli authorities have much to hide and that even they no longer believe they can justify their positions to anyone beyond their most ardent and least inquisitive supporters.

To make things worse for Israel's relations with its allies, last week it was the turn of a much higher-profile politician, French President Emmanuel Macron, to be on the receiving end of an obscene attack. It came from a certain self-exiled individual in Miami, who lives in luxurious conditions that nobody knows who pays for, while surrounded by Shin Bet bodyguards who we do know are funded by Israel's taxpayers. This individual is Yair Netanyahu — yes, the son of the much-discredited Israeli prime minister.

Macron's apparently unforgivable sin was to say that France could recognize a Palestinian state in a matter of months. The instant reply to the French president on X by the younger Netanyahu, a response which reflects the depth of his intellectual prowess and good manners, was: "Screw You." He also suggested that France has no moral right to criticize Israel because it deprives lands such as New Caledonia, Polynesia and Corsica of independence.

In one tweet, he exposed both his rudeness and his ignorance of the fact that the residents of these territories are French citizens. Corsica enjoys autonomy and the people of New Caledonia voted several years ago against independence — a far cry from anything that the Palestinians are being offered by Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu also took to social media to express his love for his son, mildly criticizing his manners but nevertheless supporting his boy's distorted content.

Macron and the UK and its Parliament are not enemies of Israel, but allies with strong reservations about Israel's approach to the Palestinians. To alienate them with this kind of behavior is yet another act of self-harming folly that is characteristic of the senior Netanyahu and his government.

— Arab News



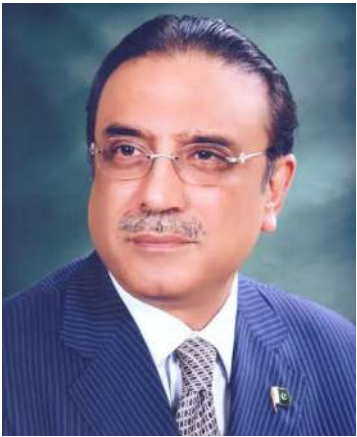
President Asif Ali Zardari Pays Tribute to Teachers on World Teachers’ Day

By: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- President Asif Ali Zardari has paid tribute to teachers across Pakistan and around the world for their contributions to education, human development and nation-building on the occasion of World Teachers’ Day.

The President said teachers play a central role in imparting knowledge, nurturing curiosity, building character and preparing young people to become responsible and productive members of society.

He noted that this year’s observance marks the 60th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, highlighting the importance of protecting and



strengthening the teaching profession. President Zardari stressed the

need to invest in teacher education, professional development and supportive learning environments in Pakistan. He said technology, including artificial intelligence, could support education but could not replace teachers’ empathy, mentorship and ethical guidance.

He particularly appreciated teachers serving in remote and underserved areas and called for providing them with adequate training, resources and working conditions.

The President urged governments, educational institutions, parents, communities, civil society and the private sector to work together to strengthen and respect the teaching profession, describing support for teachers as an investment in Pakistan’s future.

Teachers Play Key Role in Shaping Nation’s Future: Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD - National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has paid tribute to teachers on World Teachers’ Day, saying they play a central role in building an educated and civilized society.

He said teachers not only impart knowledge but also instill a sense of national responsibility among the younger generation. He stressed the need to provide teachers with mod-



ern teaching tools, professional training and a conducive working environment.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Parliament’s commitment to protecting teachers’ rights, promoting education and providing better opportunities for the youth. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah also paid tribute to teachers, saying their dedication and guidance are vital to shaping the country’s future.

Teachers Play a Vital Role in Shaping Character and Future of Students: Dr Waheed Mehmood Khan

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Group Editor ANI Media Group & Financial Times, Dr Waheed Mehmood Khan, has paid tribute to teachers on Teachers’ Day, saying their role goes beyond imparting academic knowledge.

He said teachers help shape the character, confidence and future of their students by encouraging



them to ask questions, think critically, learn from their experiences and strive for a better future.

Dr Waheed Mehmood Khan extended warm wishes to all teachers and students on Teachers’ Day and expressed hope that educational institutions would continue to promote knowledge, character building and positive thinking among the younger generation.

PM Shehbaz Sharif Pays Tribute to Teachers on World Teachers’ Day

By: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in his message on World Teachers’ Day, paid tribute to teachers in Pakistan and around the world for their vital role in educating and nurturing future generations.

The Prime Minister said teachers play a central role in developing students’ knowledge, character, critical thinking, creativity and skills, adding that the progress and prosperity of Pakistan was closely linked to the quality of its education system.

He said the government was committed to making education merit-based, high-quality and aligned with global standards, while



expanding the network of Danish Schools to provide quality education to talented and deserving students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted initiatives including the

National Institute of Excellence in Teacher Education (NIETE), curriculum reforms, NAVTTC and the Prime Minister’s Youth Skills Development Programme to strengthen teacher training and equip young people with skills suited to the evolving job market.

Paying special tribute to teachers serving in remote and underdeveloped areas, he called upon educators to continue their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication as nation-builders. He expressed confidence that a new generation equipped with integrity, compassion, tolerance, discipline, creativity, mutual respect and patriotism would be capable of shouldering the responsibilities of the future.

Chairman Senate Gilani Applauds Teachers’ Role in Shaping Pakistan’s Future

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has paid tribute to teachers across Pakistan, describing them as a vital force behind the country’s intellectual, social and economic progress on World Teachers’ Day.

Gilani said teachers not only impart knowledge but also inspire curiosity, build confidence and help young people understand their responsibilities towards society and the country.

He stressed the need for an educa-



tion system that promotes creativity, critical thinking, innovation and informed citizenship, while equipping teachers with modern tools, professional development and supportive working environments.

The Chairman Senate reaffirmed Parliament’s commitment to quality education and greater opportunities for Pakistan’s youth, appreciating teachers serving in schools, colleges and universities across the country.

He said respecting knowledge and those who impart it is essential for building a stronger and more prosperous future.

A Good Teacher Inspires Hope, Ignites Imagination and Fosters Love for Learning: Senator Bushra Anjum Butt

Report: Hurish shah FT:

ISLAMABAD --Senator Bushra Anjum Butt has paid tribute to teachers on Teachers’ Day, saying that a good teacher can inspire hope, ignite imagination and instill



a lifelong love for learning.

She said teachers play a vital role in the intellectual and personal development of young people, while their guidance and dedication help shape a brighter future for students and society.

Teachers Should Make Students Feel Seen, Heard and Understood: Mariam Abbas

Report: FT

ISLAMABAD --Mariam Abbas, who has 20 years of experience in academia and currently serves as Program Head of the International Foundation Diploma at TMUC, has paid tribute to teachers on Teachers’ Day.

She said teachers should



make their students feel seen, heard and understood while inspiring them to listen, grow and believe in themselves.

Mariam Abbas, also a proud mother of two Gen Z adults, said teachers play an important role in shaping students’ confidence, growth and future.

Teachers Give Generations the Courage to Dream and the Ability to Achieve: Dr. Abdul Ghani

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abdul Ghani, PhD in Criminal Law, Utara University Malaysia, has paid tribute to teachers on Teachers’ Day, saying their patience, wisdom and dedication give generations the courage to dream and the ability to achieve.

He said a teacher’s greatest legacy



lives in the minds they awaken, the values they nurture and the lives they transform.

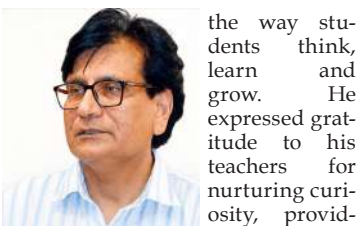
Dr. Abdul Ghani said special appreciation is due to every teacher who believes in a student before the student believes in themselves, adding that their kindness and guidance leave a lasting impact. He extended warm wishes to all teachers on Teachers’ Day.

Teachers Shape Minds, Build Character and Inspire Futures: Dr. Nasser Hussyn

Report: FT

ISLAMABAD: Associate Professor and Vice Principal, OPF Boys College, H-8/4 Islamabad, Dr. Nasser Hussyn Bukhari, has extended warm wishes to teachers on Teachers’ Day.

He said a teacher does more than impart knowledge, as teachers shape



the way students think, learn and grow. He expressed gratitude to his teachers for nurturing curiosity, providing guidance and inspiring him to become a better person.

Dr. Nasser Hussyn Bukhari said the lessons taught by teachers go far beyond the classroom and remain with students throughout their lives. He paid tribute to teachers for shaping minds, building character and inspiring future generations.

Federal Constitutional Court Should Review Minor Girl Maria’s Case: Akram

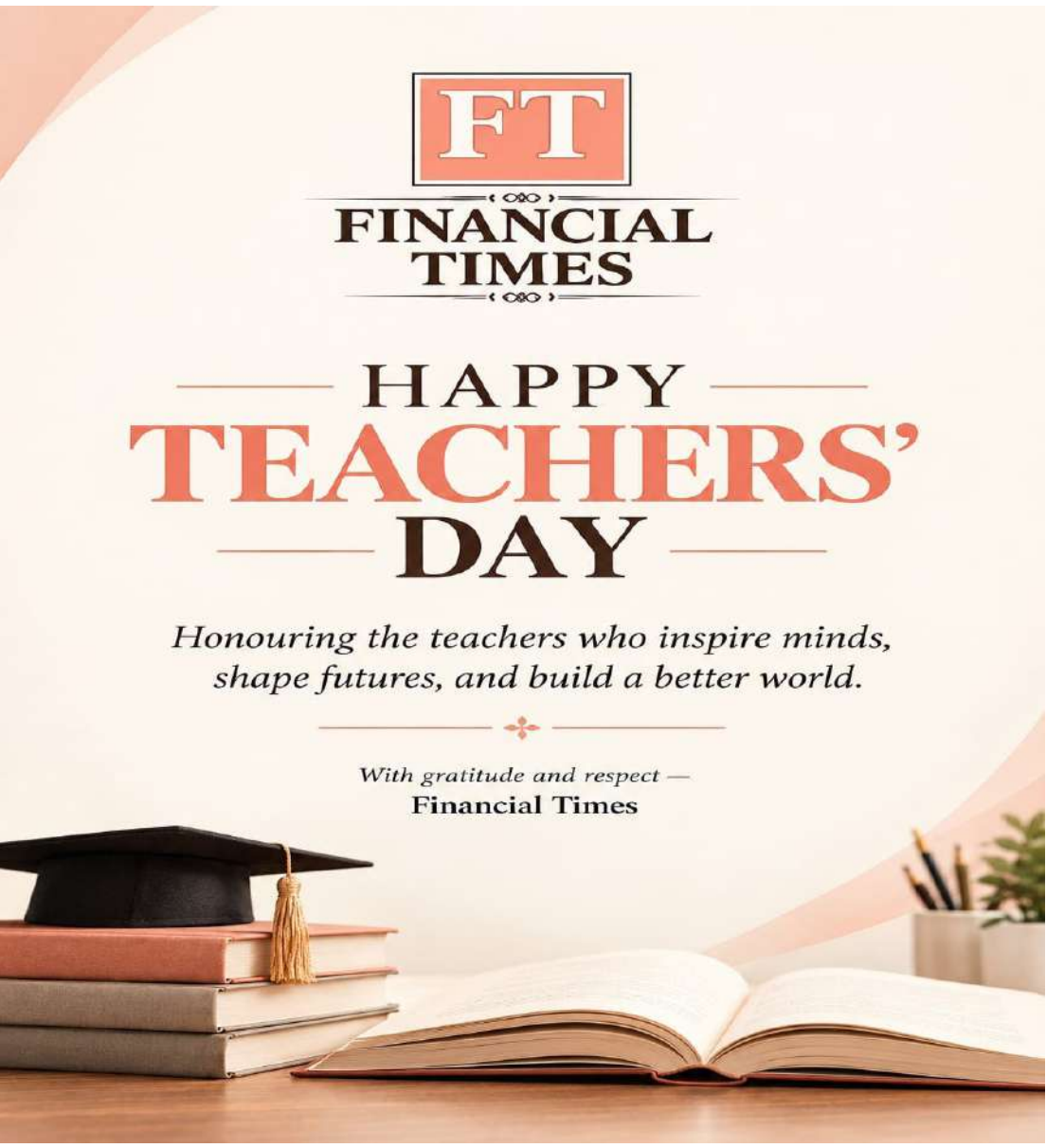
Report: ANI Reporter:

Islamabad/ New York--Former Federal Minister for Minority Affairs Akram Masih Gill has called for a review of the Federal Constitutional Court’s decision in the case of Maria, a minor Christian girl whose marriage to a Muslim man, Shehryar, was declared valid. Speaking at a meeting in New York with Bishop Yousaf Nadeem Binder, former MPA Parvez Rafiq, Pastor Robin Yamin and Azhar Abdullah, Gill expressed concern over the ruling and urged that the case be reopened in the interest of justice. Gill said the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Ordinance 2026, which sets the minimum marriage age at 18, should be taken into consideration. He maintained that a minor girl cannot be



regarded as legally or mentally mature enough to independently decide on conversion and marriage, particularly where allegations of

abduction are involved. He urged the court to review the matter to ensure protection of minors and fulfilment of the requirements of justice.



Education Is Not Just Gathering Facts but Shaping Judgment: Dr. Rashida Qazi

Report: FT

D.G. KHAN -- Dr. Rashida Qazi, Head of the Department of Urdu and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Ghazi University, D.G. Khan, has paid tribute to her teachers on Teachers’ Day.

She said her teachers taught her



that education is not merely the gathering of facts but the shaping of judgment. In their classrooms, she learned to question boldly, reason carefully and think wisely. Dr. Rashida Qazi said the guidance of her teachers continues to reflect in her thoughts and character, for which she remains deeply grateful.

Traders Demand End to Arrests, Humiliation Over Shopping Bag Crackdown

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Leaders of the All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran and Traders Action Committee Islamabad have demanded an immediate halt to the arrests and alleged humiliation of traders during the ongoing crackdown against shopping bags.

Speaking on the issue, traders’ leaders including Ajmal Baloch and Khalid Chaudhry said that if shopping bags were illegal, action should first be taken against their manufacturers and suppliers instead of targeting shopkeepers.

Khalid Chaudhry called for action against traders strictly in accordance with the law and

demanding the immediate release of those arrested. He alleged that confiscated shopping bags were later resold in markets.

The traders urged the EPA and district administration to launch an official campaign promoting cloth bags and provide traders with practical alternatives instead of relying solely on punitive measures.