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US conducts strikes on Iran missile systems around Strait of Hormuz: Axios



ANI

The US carried out several strikes on Iranian missile and air defence systems and targeted small speed boats of the IRGC at several locations around the Strait of Hormuz, Axios reported on Sunday, citing a senior US official.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz is open to commercial traffic as CENTCOM said US forces are 'prepared' to ensure freedom of navigation. Trump's comments were made during an interview on NBC's Meet the Press.

The Strait of Hormuz is open to all vessels and US military forces

are "positioned and prepared" to ensure freedom of navigation, US Central Command said, a day after US and Iranian forces exchanged fire and Iran said it had closed the vital waterway.

The US military launched fresh strikes on Iran after it struck a container ship on Sunday, while Tehran said it had again closed the Strait of Hormuz and escalated attacks on US facilities in states across the Gulf.

A series of attacks between the US and Iran over the past several days led President Donald Trump to declare the end of a ceasefire meant to halt the fighting that the US and Israel began on February 28, though Trump has left the door

open to continued negotiations.

Iran said it closed the strait after firing a warning shot that struck a vessel traveling on an unapproved route. It warned that any retaliation over the incident would be met with a "severe response".

US Central Command, however, said commercial vessels continue to transit through the waterway that carried one-fifth of the world's oil and LNG shipments before the war.

India on Sunday condemned the "attack" carried out against the commercial cargo ship GFS Galaxy off the coast of Oman, which had 11 Indian nationals on board.

A statement by India's

Ministry of External Affairs said the attack took place early Sunday; 10 were rescued, and one Indian national is reportedly missing. "Our Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing search and rescue operation," the ministry said. New Delhi said the "continuing incidents of attacks" on commercial shipping in the region are "deeply worrisome". "We reiterate our call for immediate de-escalation of tensions, and the conclusion of ongoing negotiations for a diplomatic solution so that peace and stability can return to the region," it said.

Dar urges restraint, diplomacy in call with Iranian counterpart

ANI

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday during which the two leaders discussed the evolving regional situation and stressed the need for de-escalation, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). According to MoFA's post on X, both leaders exchanged views on the evolving regional situation.

The ministry said Dar stressed upon the parties "to follow the path of de-escalation and show restraint, as agreed in the Islamabad MOU in June 2026".

An interim ceasefire agreement signed between Washington and Tehran — under the mediation of Pakistan — was intended to provide a 60-day window for negotiations on a permanent agreement, but indirect talks in Qatar ended last week with no sign of headway, and the US military unleashed a new wave of strikes against Iran on Tuesday. Iran subsequently said it had targeted US military sites in Bahrain and Kuwait and that it had shot down a US MQ-9 drone attempting to interfere in the operation. Bahrain's army later said it had thwarted Iranian attacks. He further underscored that "dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path to resolving disputes and achieving lasting peace and stability in the region". According to MoFA, Dar also reiterated "Pakistan's readiness to continue playing a constructive role in promoting and maintaining regional peace and stability". The ministry said the two leaders agreed "to remain in close contact".

The conversation comes amid heightened regional tensions following the outbreak of fresh hostilities between the United States and Iran.

Dar on Saturday held a telephonic conversation with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. The two expressed deep concern over the recent escalation between the United States and Iran despite the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and called on



all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held separate telephonic conversations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

During his conversation with the Iranian president, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting regional peace and assured President Pezeshkian that Pakistan would continue to extend all possible support in playing "a sincere and constructive role" in restoring and maintaining regional peace and stability. The premier urged Iran and all other relevant parties to exercise restraint and refrain from taking any steps that could undermine the peace gains made over the past few months.

President Pezeshkian thanked PM Shehbaz, FM Dar, Chief of Defence Forces, and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Pakistan's other senior leadership for attending the funeral prayers and burial of the late Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei.

In a separate telephone conversation with Qatar's emir, PM Shehbaz expressed deep concern over the recent regional tensions and reaffirmed Pakistan's complete solidarity with the people of Qatar in the wake of the recent attacks.

The two leaders agreed that continued diplomatic engagement and meaningful dialogue were essential for peace, and that all parties should implement the commitments made under the peace memorandum.

Pakistan launches crackdown on illegal Afghan nationals as deadline expires



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to launch a nationwide crackdown on undocumented Afghan nationals after the July 10 deadline for illegal residents to leave the country expired.

The federal government has directed authorities to accelerate the repatriation of Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan without valid visas under the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP) — a phased initiative by the Government of Pakistan aimed at identifying and deporting foreign nationals residing in the country without valid visas or legal documentation. According to official directives, all Afghan nationals found staying in the country without valid visas after the expiry of the deadline will be arrested and deported. Action will also be taken against individuals found providing shelter or rental accommodation to undocumented Afghan nationals. The Ministry

of Interior had issued instructions to provincial governments, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir on June 28, directing them to intensify enforcement measures. Deputy commissioners were instructed to use geotagging and geofencing data to trace and arrest undocumented Afghan nationals.

Authorities in Punjab, including Rawalpindi, have completed the geotagging and geofencing of Afghan nationals to facilitate the operation.

Provincial authorities have also been directed to submit daily reports to the Ministry of Interior detailing the number of undocumented Afghan nationals arrested, the progress of the operation, and the status of those taken into custody.

Pakistan had set July 10 as the final deadline for undocumented Afghan nationals to leave the country voluntarily. Pakistan launched its repatriation campaign against undocumented foreign nationals in 2023 and expanded it in 2025 after revoking hundreds of thousands of residence permits issued to Afghan nationals.

According to official figures presented before a Senate committee, more than one million Afghan nationals have been repatriated from Pakistan since the campaign began.

Jl to form Kashmir peace jirga to facilitate dialogue between govt, JAAC

ANI

Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) on Sunday decided to establish a "grand" Kashmir peace jirga to facilitate dialogue between the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government and the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in an effort to restore stability and normalcy in the region. The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's central Majlis-i-Shura chaired by JI Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman at Mansoorah, Lahore.

According to a press release, the jirga will engage both the government and the JAAC, with the restoration of peace and the resolution of issues in AJK identified as its top priorities. To oversee the initiative, Rehman constituted a committee headed by JI Deputy Emir Liaqat Baloch. The committee included JI AJK Emir Dr Muhammad Mushtaq Khan and the party's former regional chiefs Abdul Rashid Turabi and Dr Khalid Mahmoood. The JI chief also indicated that the committee would be expanded to include former civil bureaucrats, retired judges, ex-military officials and members of civil society from AJK. The Shura expressed "deep concern" over the prevailing situation in AJK, warning that continued unrest could adversely affect the broader Kashmir cause. "No compromise



can be made on the Kashmir issue," the statement asserted, adding that countless Pakistanis and Kashmiris had sacrificed their lives for the cause. Addressing the meeting, the JI chief urged the federal government to initiate negotiations without delay to restore normalcy in the region. "Dialogue is the only viable way to resolve the ongoing crisis and prevent further deterioration of the situation," Rehman was quoted as saying.

He described Kashmir as Pakistan's jugular vein, urging that the state should act like a "caring guardian by embracing aggrieved citizens instead of allowing tensions to escalate". Referring to the security challenges in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he cautioned that Pakistan could not afford another internal conflict in AJK.

Pakistan voices concern over rising regional tensions

ANI

Pakistan has voiced concern over rising regional tensions following the outbreak of fresh hostilities between the United States and Iran.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Pakistan is following with deep concern the recent incidents that have further increased tensions in the region. The Foreign Office said Pakistan supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all brotherly countries in the region and urged all sides to show restraint, take immediate steps towards reducing tensions and honour their commitments under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). "On its part, Pakistan remains committed



to providing all support towards achieving lasting peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy," the Foreign Office said. In a separate development, Deputy

commitment to further strengthening relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Dar urges restraint in call with Iranian foreign minister

PTI slams fuel price hike, wheat crisis

ANI

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday blasted the government over the latest increase in petroleum prices, denouncing it as "economic terrorism".

The party also announced a boycott of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections, demanded a judicial probe into the alleged wheat shortage while calling for the immediate release and medical treatment of jailed party founder Imran Khan and other political prisoners. It alleged that while reductions in international oil prices were never passed on to consumers, even minor increases were reflected domestically within 48 hours along with additional taxes. PTI claimed that during Imran Khan's tenure, petrol was maintained at Rs150 per litre despite the "worst global crude oil supercycle". It also criticised those who had previously demanded petrol at Rs70 per litre, alleging that they now justified prices exceeding Rs300 and even Rs400. The party accused the government of shifting the burden of economic hardship onto the public while protecting itself from the consequences of its policies. Referring to a recent tragedy in Hasilpur, PTI alleged that a family, crushed by poverty and unable to pay rent or a Rs17,500 electricity bill.

Five labourers killed in gun attack in Balochistan's Washuk

ANI

Five labourers from Punjab were shot dead after unidentified gunmen opened fire on shops in the Mashkail area of Balochistan's Washuk district on Sunday, in yet another deadly attack targeting civilians in the province. Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind confirmed the incident, saying the victims were working at local shops when armed assailants stormed the area and opened indiscriminate fire. All five men died on the spot, while the attackers fled before security personnel arrived. Deputy Commissioner Washuk Majid Sarparah said the vic-

tims belonged to different districts of Punjab and had travelled to Mashkail for work. Their bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities before being sent to their native towns. Police and security forces cordoned off the area soon after the attack and launched a search operation to trace those responsible. Investigators are collecting evidence as authorities pursue multiple leads to identify and arrest the perpetrators. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the killings, describing the attack on innocent workers as a cowardly act. He expressed grief over the loss of lives, extended condolences to the bereaved

families, and directed law enforcement agencies to bring the attackers to justice without delay.

Officials said security had been tightened across the area, while the investigation into the incident remains underway.

The latest attack came amid ongoing efforts by security forces to curb militancy in Balochistan, where incidents targeting civilians and security personnel have continued to pose serious security challenges. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the incident, describing the attack as a "barbaric and cowardly act".



Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar meeting with H.E. Dr. Sevlid Huric, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia Herzegovina on the sidelines of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, held under the theme 'Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in the OIC Countries: Challenges and Way Forward,' hosted by the Government of Pakistan under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Rights at the Convention Centre

Mushaal pays tribute to July 13 martyrs, renews Kashmir call

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri freedom fighter Yasin Malik, Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Sunday paid tribute to the martyrs of July 13, 1931, saying their sacrifices continue to inspire the struggle for the people of Jammu and Kashmir's right to self determination.

On the eve of Kashmir Martyrs Day, she urged the United Nations, the international community and global human rights organisations to step up efforts for the protection of Kashmiris' rights and support a peaceful resolution of the long-standing dispute in line with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Speaking in a statement, the former special assistant to the prime minister on human rights and women empowerment said July 13 remains a defining chapter in Kashmir's history, representing courage, faith and sacrifice. She recalled that 22 unarmed Kashmiris were killed outside Srinagar Central Jail on July 13, 1931, after Dogra forces opened fire while they were

completing the call to prayer.

She said their sacrifice ignited a movement that continues to inspire generations of Kashmiris.

MS Malik said the spirit of the martyrs lives on in every Kashmiri striving peacefully for justice, dignity and the internationally recognised right to self determination. She said decades of repression, arbitrary detentions, restrictions on civil liberties and the continued imprisonment of Kashmiri political leaders had failed to weaken the resolve of the Kashmiri people. Mushaal said the sacrifices made from the Dogra era to the present day could never be erased from history. She maintained that lasting peace in South Asia depended on a just and peaceful settlement of the



Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Calling for greater international engagement, she urged the United Nations, the international community and global human rights organisations to ensure accountability for alleged human rights violations and support meaningful efforts aimed at resolving the dispute peacefully.

Reaffirming her commitment, Mushaal said the sacrifices of the July 13 martyrs would never be forgotten and pledged to continue raising the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir through peaceful, democratic, legal and diplomatic means until they are able to exercise their right to self determination.

119 structures rebuilt in Punjab to minimize future flood devastation

ISLAMABAD: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has reconstructed and rehabilitated 119 flood protection structures and reinforced 394 kms of flood embankments in the province, strengthening defences against future floods and safeguarding vulnerable communities. According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the ADB-funded US\$124.5 million Flood Emergency Reconstruction and Resilience Project was launched to support reconstruction after severe flood damage. The project focuses on rehabilitating roads, bridges, flood protection structures, embankments, and disaster management systems. A key feature of the project was the introduction of sheet piling technology in critical flood protection structures, which increased their lifespan from around 25 years to 150 years, making them more durable and reducing long-term maintenance costs. Major upgrades to the province's road infrastructure were carried out, significantly improving connectivity and resilience. Around 2,587 kilometres of provincial highways and district roads were rehabilitated and reconstructed, exceeding the original target of 1,740 km. Moreover, 261.6 kilometres of roads and bridges were rebuilt using multi-hazard resilient standards, with safety measures designed for women, children, elderly citizens, and persons with disabilities. To strengthen disaster response capacity, a Data Management and Control Centre equipped with high-tech servers, GIS systems, hazard mapping tools, and disaster management applications was established at the PDMA.

Gilani expresses profound grief over demise of former Qatari Emir

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday expressed profound grief over the passing of former Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and extended heartfelt condolences to Qatar's leadership and people. In a statement, Gilani described the late Sheikh Hamad as a visionary statesman whose leadership transformed Qatar into a modern, prosperous and globally respected nation. Paying tribute to the former Emir, the Chairman Senate said Sheikh Hamad's remarkable contributions to economic development, regional stability, international dialogue and cooperation would be remembered for generations. He added that the late leader's enduring legacy would continue to inspire people around the world.

On behalf of the Senate of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan, Gilani conveyed his sincere condolences to the Amir of the State of Qatar, the Government of Qatar and its people over the irreparable loss.

He also prayed that Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the bereaved family and the people of Qatar with patience and strength during this difficult time.

Pakistan Hosts 9th OIC Women's Ministerial Conference

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to host the 9th Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), bringing together delegates from all 57 OIC member states for a two-day meeting aimed at advancing women's empowerment across the Muslim world.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said Pakistan was honored to host the ministerial conference, which would culminate in the country assuming the OIC Women's chairmanship from Egypt for the next two years.

The press conference was also attended by Members of Parliament

Wajeeha Qamar and Saba Sadiq.

Tarar said technical-level sessions were being held on the opening day, while the main ministerial session would take place on Monday with the participation of ministers and observers from OIC member states.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would formally inaugurate the conference, when Pakistan would officially take over the chairpersonship of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women. He added that a large number of foreign delegations had already arrived in Islamabad.

The minister said this year's conference would focus on enhancing the role of women in society and identifying practical measures to promote their development across OIC mem-

ber states.

Held under the theme of women's social, economic and political empowerment, the conference will deliberate on key challenges facing women and discuss a future roadmap for strengthening their participation in all spheres of life, he said, adding that member states would present their respective perspectives during the deliberations.

Tarar said the conference would conclude with the adoption of the "Islamabad Declaration," reflecting the collective commitment of OIC member states to advancing women's rights and opportunities.

He said Pakistan would use the forum to showcase its initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality

and building an inclusive society. Several members of the federal cabinet will participate in the conference, while Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja are also scheduled to address the gathering.

The minister thanked senior parliamentarians Wajeeha Qamar and Saba Sadiq for their contributions to the successful organization of the event.

He described the hosting of such an international gathering as a matter of national pride and said comprehensive arrangements had been made to facilitate both national and international media covering the conference.

NHMP assists over 876,625 road users, reunites 115 missing children in 2026

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) provided timely assistance to more than 876,625 road users, reunited 115 missing children with their families and arrested 54 wanted criminals during the first half of 2026. According to the NHMP's performance report for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2026, NHMP continued its commitment to ensuring safe travel, providing timely public assistance, enforcing traffic laws, promoting road safety, and combating smuggling across the country's motorways and national highways.

The force promptly responded to 26 medical emergencies, helping save precious lives. NHMP officers also extinguished 39 vehicle fires, preventing casualties and minimizing property losses, it added. Through its 130 Toll-Free Helpline, the NHMP provided guidance to 179,408 citizens, extended various forms of assistance to 123,256 road users, delivered

emergency support to 9,823 citizens, and resolved 42,111 public complaints in a timely manner. During the reporting period, the NHMP issued 15,679 driving licenses, 43 Category CE driving licenses, and 528 International Driving Permits. To promote road safety nationwide, the NHMP organized 1,327 road safety awareness programmes. More than 16.36 million (16,361,682) road users received road safety awareness at toll plazas, while over 2.27 million (2,275,043) road safety pamphlets and booklets were distributed across the country. Demonstrating honesty, professionalism, and public trust, NHMP officers recovered and returned lost valuables to their rightful owners, including gold jewellery in two separate incidents, hundreds of mobile phones worth over Rs. 13.617 million, 23 bags containing important documents, and 31 wallets. The NHMP also recovered 25 stolen vehicles and 22 non-custom-paid vehicles, handing them over to the relevant authorities and their rightful owners.

FGEHA yet to finalize auction date for G-13, G-14 commercial plots

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has yet to finalize the auction date for commercial plots in Sectors G-13 and G-14, an official spokesperson said on Sunday. Talking to APP, the spokesperson said the Auction Committee, in a recent meeting chaired by Joint Secretary (Estate), Ministry of Housing and Works, Fayyaz-ul-Haq, reviewed arrangements for the upcoming auction of commercial plots. He said the committee discussed the auction of commercial plots located in the Class-III Shopping Centres of Sectors G-13 and G-14/4, as well as commercial plots in Markaz G-14. The meeting also reviewed key arrangements, including the preparation of the auction brochure, advertising and publicity strategy, the auction schedule, and other administrative and operational matters to ensure the process is conducted in a transparent, fair, and competitive manner, providing equal opportunities to all investors.



A man rides a bicycle carrying the national flag through the city, expressing his love and patriotism for

Pakistan implementing priority measures for women's empowerment: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights, Azam Nazeer Tarar Sunday said Pakistan continues to prioritize women's empowerment, with women making significant contributions in politics, parliament, judiciary, education, business and other sectors. He expressed these views during a meeting with Jalila Allahverdiyeva, Head of the Administrative Division of the OIC Labour Centre in Azerbaijan, during which the two sides held detailed discussions on women's rights, social development, and the promotion of bilateral cooperation.

The meeting also focused on advancing women's empowerment, social protection, capacity building and promoting joint initiatives under the platform of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Tarar said Islam had granted women dignity, equality and fun-



damental rights, adding that it was the collective responsibility of the Muslim Ummah to ensure the protection and promotion of these rights. Pakistan and the OIC Labour Center reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation for women's development by enhancing institutional linkages, exchanging experiences and promoting closer collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Punjab Minister Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth Reviews RMK Road Project, Seeks August Completion

By: ANI Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Communication & Works Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth reviewed progress on the RMK Road Project, part of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Murree Development Plan, and directed officials to complete it

by August. Accompanied by Secretary Communication & Works Raja Jahangir Anwar and other senior officials, he inspected over 31 kilometres of the road. Officials said the project is 60 percent complete and work is moving quickly.

Bharth said the project is important for improving Murree's road

network and connectivity, and stressed that it must be completed on time without compromising quality.

He said the road would improve access, support tourism, and boost regional development, adding that the Punjab Government remains committed to delivering modern infrastructure across the province.



Cantonment Board (CB) staff paint footpaths along Walton Road as part of a city beautification drive

Daily

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Opinion

3

Balochistan: The Need for National Unity, Strong Governance, and Responsible Politics



Written By: Ch. Shabbir Balochistani
Published By: ANI News Agency

Balochistan stands today at a critical juncture where every passing day demands wisdom, unity, and a deep sense of national responsibility. The recent terrorist attacks in Mastung, Ziarat, Noshki, Kalat, Zhob, and other parts of the province have once again demonstrated that Pakistan's enemies remain determined to keep Balochistan trapped in instability and violence. At such a moment, the real question is not which political party will gain a political advantage, but how Balochistan can be secured, how peace can be restored, and how hope can be returned to its people, particularly its youth.

Unfortunately, after every tragic incident, some political circles limit themselves to criticizing the government, state institutions, and security forces while showing little willingness to reflect upon their own political legacy. The people of Balochistan have every right to ask what those parties and nationalist leaders, who remained in positions of power for decades, actually delivered for the province on a sustainable basis. Those who served in federal governments, held ministerial portfolios, occupied parliamentary seats, and participated in major national decisions cannot simply absolve themselves of responsibility today.

The challenges confronting Balochistan are not the result of the shortcomings of a single government or a single year. They are the cumulative outcome of decades of policy failures, political compromises, weak governance, inadequate planning, and institutional neglect. Today, the consequences are being borne equally by Baloch, Pashtuns, Hazaras, Punjabis, and every other citizen living in the province.

At the same time, it must also be acknowledged that the present federal government, under Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif, and the provincial government, led by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, are governing under exceptionally difficult circumstances. They inherited a province burdened by terrorism, economic hardship, administrative weaknesses, and declining public confidence. Despite these formidable challenges, efforts are being made to strengthen the state's writ, improve law and order, accelerate development initiatives, and enhance the delivery of public services.

The sacrifices rendered by the Balochistan Police, the Levies Force, the Frontier Corps, the Pakistan Army, and other law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism deserve the nation's highest respect. Their courage and dedication reaffirm that there can be no compromise on the peace, security, and stability of Balochistan. Equally commendable are the doctors, nurses, paramedics, rescue workers, and volunteers who risk their own safety to save lives in the aftermath of terrorist attacks.

Regrettably, some opposition parties and a number of nationalist leaders continue to use every unfortunate incident primarily as an opportunity for political point-scoring. If their concern for the people of Balochistan is genuine, they should work alongside the government in developing a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism, expand employment opportunities, improve education and healthcare, and promote sustainable development. Political rhetoric, press conferences, and street protests alone cannot eliminate terrorism or resolve the province's longstanding challenges.

What Balochistan needs today is not mutual blame but national consensus. If the federal and provincial governments, political parties, tribal elders, religious scholars, youth, civil society, academia, and the media unite behind a shared vision, no hostile force will be able to hold the future of Balochistan hostage.

Security alone, however, cannot guarantee lasting peace. Sustainable progress requires economic growth, job creation, quality education, accessible healthcare, industrial development, equitable utilization of mineral

resources, meaningful local participation in CPEC projects, expanded border trade, and greater opportunities for young people. While development initiatives have been launched, their success will ultimately depend on transparent implementation, continuity of policies, and the active involvement of local communities.

The youth of Balochistan must be placed at the center of the province's future. Investment in education, vocational training, entrepreneurship, digital connectivity, and skill development will empower young people to become partners in progress rather than victims of poverty, unemployment, or extremist propaganda. A prosperous Balochistan can only be built by investing in its human capital.

The media also carries an important responsibility. While reporting security incidents is essential, equal attention should be given to positive developments, successful reforms, educational achievements, and economic opportunities. Responsible journalism can help strengthen national unity, counter misinformation, and promote hope instead of despair.

The path ahead is undoubtedly difficult, but it is not impossible. History has shown that nations overcome adversity when they stand united, place national interest above political rivalry, and confront challenges with courage and determination.

Balochistan is not merely Pakistan's largest province by area; it is a strategic pillar of the country's security, economy, and future prosperity. Protecting its peace, promoting its development, and safeguarding the well-being of its people are collective national responsibilities. By strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring good governance, upholding the rule of law, and fostering inclusive development, Pakistan can transform Balochistan into a symbol of stability, resilience, and national progress.

The future of Balochistan should be shaped not by violence or division, but by unity, justice, opportunity, and hope. That is the path toward a stronger Balochistan and a stronger Pakistan.

OIC 9th conference in Islamabad on Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in OIC Countries: Challenges and the Way Forward



Written By: Rasheed Ahmad Chughtai
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Introduction
The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), representing 57 member states across four continents, stands as the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations. With the female population in OIC member states estimated to exceed one billion by 2025—accounting for 49.4% of the total OIC population and 25.8% of the world's female population—the empowerment of women in these countries is not merely a matter of social justice but a demographic and economic imperative of global significance.

Yet, a persistent narrative—both within and outside these societies—points to significant gaps between the rights Islam confers upon women and the realities they face in many OIC countries. This article examines the socio-economic and political empowerment of women in OIC member states, analyzes the challenges rooted in constitutional, legal, and cultural frameworks, and proposes a way forward grounded in both Islamic principles and international human rights standards.

Preamble
In the year 632 CE, on the plains of Mount Arafat, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) delivered his historic Farewell Sermon—a universal declaration of human rights and divine accountability that would echo through the ages; amidst the verses of finality, he issued a clarion call: "Fear Allah concerning women. Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah and have made their private parts lawful unto you by the words of Allah." This was not a mere plea for kindness but a binding covenant, elevating women from the status of pre-Islamic chattel to that of independent spiritual and legal entities, commanding the nascent Muslim community to honor their dignity as a sacred trust. Yet over fourteen centuries later, as the fifty-seven member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation prepare for the ninth Ministerial Conference on Women in Islamabad in July of 2026, they confront a profound and unsettling paradox: the same religion that abolished female infanticide, granted women the explicit right to inherit, own property, initiate divorce, and pursue education, now presides over a bloc where women account for nearly one billion two hundred million souls—nearly half the entire Ummah—yet remain the most marginalized demographic in global socio-economic and political indices. The statistics are not mere numbers but the quantified voices of silenced generations; according to recent OIC-2025 Programme of Action benchmarks, while female literacy has seen incremental gains, the average female labor force participation rate in OIC countries languishes at approximately twenty-five to thirty percent, drastically below the global

average of forty-seven percent, and in the political arena, several member states—including Oman and Yemen—maintain parliaments with zero female representation, while those with women rarely exceed fifteen to twenty percent of legislative bodies, placing the OIC far below the global average of twenty-six point five percent for women in national parliaments. This is not a Western issue but a developmental, economic, and moral crisis; the World Bank estimates that closing the gender gap in labor participation could boost the GDP of Middle Eastern and North African OIC states by over thirty-five percent, and when the Ummah silences half its intellectual capital, it does not merely violate human rights but starves its economies, weakens its social fabric, and betrays the very Maqasid al-Shariah—the higher objectives of Islamic law which prioritize the preservation of intellect, lineage, and dignity. It is an intellectual disservice to conflate the timeless revelations of the Quran with the temporal, patriarchal cultural practices that have metastasized across many OIC states; the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam enshrines the protection of women's dignity, and the OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission repeatedly affirms that "Islam rejects violence in all its forms," yet as scholars like Fatima Mernissi and Amina Wadud have extensively argued, the historical codification of Islamic jurisprudence often reflected the socio-political constraints of the Abbasid and Umayyad eras rather than the egalitarian spirit of Medina under the Prophet. The gap, therefore, is not between Islam and the United Nations Charter but between divine revelation and human implementation; the UN's Sustainable Development Goal Five aligns seamlessly with the Quranic proclamation in Surah Al-Hujurat: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you"—where righteousness, not gender, determines honor. The constitutional deficit remains glaring, for while many states invoke the supremacy of Sharia in their preambles, they concurrently implement restrictive interpretations that curtail women's marital autonomy, guardianship rights, and freedom of movement, with reservations attached to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women serving as the legal embodiment of this schizophrenia—accepting international standards in principle while fundamentally undermining them in practice through vague clauses such as "in accordance with Islamic law." This selective interpretation is the Achilles' heel of the OIC, as Mahya Saffarinia of Imam Sadiq University emphasizes in her 2025 study, for the organization operates almost exclusively within a soft-law framework—producing declarations without enforcement and planning action without accountability—allowing states to sign global compacts while domestically enforcing guardianship laws that require a male rela-

tive's permission for a woman to travel, work, or marry, effectively treating an adult Muslim woman as a perpetual minor in civil jurisprudence. Yet the ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, scheduled for July twelfth and thirteenth in Islamabad, stands as a pivotal inflection point, aiming to "develop a synthesis to create an enabling environment for women in the OIC-member countries where they can fully realize their potential"—a promise that the world, and the one point two billion women watching, demand not as a concession to Western liberalism but as an authentic, non-negotiable pillar of orthodox Islamic revival. This examination endeavors to dissect the intricate web of socio-economic and political disenfranchisement facing women in OIC states, navigating the contradictory landscape of Islamic legal theory versus practiced cultural patriarchy, dissecting constitutional gaps that perpetuate systemic inequality, and critically analyzing scholarly recommendations to bridge the chasm between universal human rights and Islam's divine justice; for the way forward lies not in importing foreign cultural norms wholesale nor in retreating into a defensive, fossilized interpretation of faith, but in a robust, contemporary Ijtihad—a jurisprudential renaissance that empowers states to craft laws fiercely Islamic in their essence and universally human in their application, remembering always that the Quran does not require reform, but that the hearts of rulers, interpreters, and implementers must certainly do, and this preamble serves as a testament to that urgent, unfulfilled covenant awaiting redemption in the halls of Islamabad and beyond.

Part I: Islamic Foundations of Women's Rights—A Clarification
The Quranic Vision of Equality and Dignity

Contrary to popular misconceptions that associate Islam with the subjugation of women, Islamic teachings from the 7th century introduced progressive rights for women that were revolutionary for their time. At a period when female children were buried alive in Arabia and women were treated as transferable property, Islam elevated women to a status of dignity and conferred upon them unprecedented rights.

The Quran establishes the fundamental equality of men and women in the sight of God. As declared in Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13): "Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you". Similarly, Surah Al-Nahl (16:97) affirms: "To whoever, male or female, does good deeds and has faith, We shall give a good life and reward them according to the best of their actions".

Academic scholarship on this subject reinforces this understanding. A study published in the Quran and Contemporary Studies journal identifies three overarching themes in the Islamic foundations of women's empowerment: ontological, anthropological, and axiological. The research demonstrates that the Quranic perspective challenges demeaning views that regard women as secondary or inferior,

—To be concluded

India's War Hysteria: The \$25 Billion Defense Spending Surge



BY: Abdul Basit Alvi : Published by ANI

India's defense procurement surge, approved by the Defence Acquisition Council at around \$25 billion, represents its largest set of military approvals in years and goes far beyond routine modernization, covering land, air, sea, and joint-service capabilities that could significantly alter South Asia's military balance. The scale—larger than many countries' entire defense budgets and nearly triple Pakistan's annual military spending—has sparked sharp debate, with critics calling it "war hysteria" and India arguing it is necessary to counter threats from China and Pakistan, citing the 2020 Galwan clashes and ongoing Line of Control tensions. The wide array of acquisitions, including S-400 air defense systems, drones, transport aircraft, artillery, advanced tank ammunition, communications and surveillance systems, fighter jet engine overhauls, and coast guard hovercraft, reflects a doctrinal shift toward high-intensity, multi-front warfare without reliance on nuclear escalation. Systems like the S-400 could extend defensive coverage deep into Pakistani airspace, while transport aircraft, advanced radar, and long-endurance drones enhance India's ability to rapidly deploy forces, sustain prolonged operations, and conduct precision or gray-zone strikes below full-scale war, supported by improved mobility, firepower, and integrated, network-centric battlefield awareness.

At the same time, India's buildup has triggered countermeasures from Pakistan, including plans for electronic warfare, stealthier cruise missiles like the Ra'ad-II, possible acquisition of Chinese HQ-9BE air defense systems, upgrades to tank protection and armor, and expansion of its own drone programs alongside potential purchases from Turkey, illustrating a classic security dilemma in which each side's defensive moves appear offensive to the other. The broader package also reflects political and ideological factors under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, where military strength is tied to nationalist narratives, past conflicts such as 1962 and Kargil, and actions like revoking Kashmir's autonomy, raising concerns that enhanced capabilities could embolden risk-taking. Internationally, major powers face a dilemma between supporting India as a counterweight to China and preventing escalation between two nuclear-armed rivals with unresolved disputes over Kashmir, Sir Creek, Siachen Glacier, and water resources. Past crises like the 2019 Balakot episode demonstrate how quickly tensions can escalate, and with more

advanced weapons now in play, the threshold for conflict is both higher due to mutual deterrence and lower due to perceived opportunities for limited war, increasing the risk of miscalculation or even nuclear escalation.

Analysts who warn that the "fundamentalist and conservative Modi government" might pose a danger to the world base their argument on the prime minister's track record of militarized nationalism, including the 2016 surgical strikes across the Line of Control, the 2019 air strikes into Pakistani territory, and the 2020 Galwan Valley clash with China where India suffered 20 fatalities but reportedly inflicted much heavier losses on Chinese forces. They note that Modi's government has systematically weakened India's secular institutions, promoted Hindu majoritarianism through policies like the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens, and used external threats to consolidate domestic power, often conflating criticism of the government with anti-nationalism. In such an environment, advanced weaponry—especially offensive systems like unmanned attack aircraft, long-range cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs)—could be used not just for defense but for preemptive strikes, regime change ambitions in Pakistan, or even to provoke a short, victorious war to boost electoral prospects, much like the 1999 Kargil War was used to boost the BJP's fortunes at the time. The \$25 billion spending surge, while justified by New Delhi as a response to China's own massive military modernization (including the deployment of DF-17 hypersonic glide vehicles, DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missiles, and a fifth-generation stealth fighter, the J-20) and Pakistan's alleged cross-border terrorism (including the 2008 Mumbai attacks and more recent grenade attacks in Jammu), is seen by critics as a self-fulfilling prophecy. By acquiring weapons that negate Pakistan's conventional deterrents—such as the S-400 neutralizing Pakistan's air force, the new tank ammunition neutralizing Pakistan's armor, and the drones neutralizing Pakistan's artillery—India forces Pakistan to rely more heavily on its tactical nuclear weapons (the Nasr and Ababel systems, which are short-range, battlefield nuclear missiles designed to stop an Indian armored thrust). This reliance lowers the nuclear threshold dramatically, because Pakistan has explicitly stated that it would use Nasr against massed Indian conventional forces if they penetrate Pakistani territory, a doctrine known as "full spectrum deterrence." A conventional war could thus turn nuclear within days or even hours, with catastrophic consequences for the entire region and beyond, given that a single 10-kiloton nuclear detonation could kill hundreds of thousands of people directly, and multiple detonations could cause a nuclear autumn or winter effect,

reducing global temperatures, disrupting agriculture, and causing famine worldwide. Moreover, the world should indeed take notice, as the analysts argue, because the India-Pakistan rivalry no longer remains localized.

China has a vested interest in preventing India from dominating the region, and would likely supply Pakistan with intelligence, spare parts, and even direct support if a war broke out. The US wants India as a partner against China but also wants to prevent nuclear war and protect its assets in Afghanistan and the Gulf. Russia wants to maintain its arms sales to both India and Pakistan, and has already conducted joint military exercises with both nations. Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates watch nervously as their economic investments in both countries—worth hundreds of billions of dollars—could be incinerated in a war, and they also rely on Pakistani troops for their own defense while courting Indian investment. Therefore, urging India to halt the weapon race is not merely a moral plea but a strategic necessity for global stability. The only viable pathway to stability is a comprehensive dialogue covering not just arms control but the root causes of Indo-Pak hostility: the Kashmir dispute, water sharing under the Indus Waters Treaty, cross-border terrorism, trade normalization, and cultural exchanges. BJP uses Pakistan bashing to unite its Hindu voter base. In the meantime, the \$25 billion worth of approved projects will move forward through India's defense procurement bureaucracy, which is notoriously slow but has been accelerated by emergency powers granted after the Galwan clashes. Factories will churn out Dhanush guns and armor-piercing shells, Russian technicians will help integrate the S-400 into India's integrated air command and control system, drones will soon patrol the skies from the Arabian Sea to the Himalayas, and Su-30 engines will be overhauled to fly thousands more hours. The subcontinent thus stands at a perilous crossroads: either this massive military buildup leads to a stable deterrence through mutual fear, where both sides recognize that war is unwinnable and therefore avoid escalation, or it becomes the prelude to a conflagration that neither side fully intended but neither could prevent because of miscalculation, miscommunication, or militant provocation.

The world watches, and while the United Nations Security Council has issued vague statements urging restraint, there is no serious effort to mediate the underlying disputes or to cap the arms race through a treaty similar to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the US and Russia. Whether the world will act before the Indian hysteria translates into war remains the most pressing and unanswered question of our time, and the answer may well determine the future of not just South Asia but the entire international order in the 21st century.

We Do Not Hate Children with HIV: Islam Teaches Love, Compassion, and Humanity

Written :By Amir Mohammad Kalwar
Published By : ANI

Sometimes, the misconceptions surrounding a disease can be more harmful than the disease itself. The recent public discussion about HIV has unfortunately resulted in some innocent children and their families experiencing fear, discrimination, and social isolation. We must remember that no child is responsible for their illness, and every child deserves dignity, care, and compassion.

It is important to understand that HIV and AIDS are not the same. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) attacks the body's immune system, while AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is the advanced stage of HIV that may develop if the virus is left untreated. Today, with timely diagnosis and proper treatment, people living with HIV can lead long, healthy, and productive lives.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that HIV spreads through everyday social contact. Many people mistakenly believe that it can be transmitted by playing together, shaking hands, hugging, sharing meals, or living in the same home. This is simply not true. HIV is not spread through casual contact, food, drinking water, coughing, sneezing, or sharing utensils.

HIV is transmitted only through specific routes, including infected blood entering another person's bloodstream, the use of contaminated needles or syringes, unsafe blood transfusions, and, in certain circumstances, from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding if appropriate medical treatment is not available.



It is also important to recognize that HIV is a global public health issue, including in Pakistan. Over the years, cases have been reported in several parts of the country, including Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other regions. Therefore, it is neither fair nor constructive to associate the disease with a single hospital, institution, or locality. Public health challenges require collective responsibility, not blame.

The real solution lies in strengthening healthcare systems by ensuring the safe use of syringes, rigorous screening of donated blood, strict infection prevention and control measures, and increased public awareness. Improving healthcare standards and expanding education are far more effective than stigmatization.

Islam teaches us to show mercy and kindness to those who are suffering. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an: "And whoever saves one life, it is as if he has saved all of humanity." (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:32)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also said: "The Most Merciful shows mercy to those who are merciful to others." (Jami' at-Tirmidhi)

Children living with HIV are innocent. They deserve the same opportunities as every other child—to study, play, learn, dream, and live with dignity. Excluding them from schools, preventing them from playing with others, or treating them with fear and suspicion only deepens their suffering and has no basis in medical science.

Our responsibility is to replace fear with knowledge and prejudice with compassion. We should take appropriate health precautions where necessary, but we must never allow ignorance to rob a child of love, friendship, or hope.

We do not hate children living with HIV. Instead, guided by the teachings of Islam and the principles of humanity, we should embrace them with kindness, support them with dignity, and ensure that they are treated with the respect every human being deserves.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Pays Tribute to Kashmiri Martyrs on Kashmir Martyrs’ Day

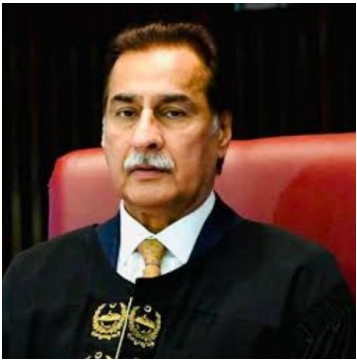
Pakistan will continue to extend its political, diplomatic, and moral support for the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

BY: Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD--- Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on the occasion of Kashmir Martyrs’ Day, paid rich tribute to the Kashmiri martyrs and said that the Kashmiri people have rendered immense sacrifices over decades in their struggle for fundamental rights and the right to self-determination. He said that these sacrifices would always be remembered with respect and reverence in history. He added that the Kashmiri martyrs wrote an unforgettable chapter of courage and resilience by laying down their lives for the principles of justice, dignity, and human rights.

The Speaker said that Kashmir Martyrs’ Day is observed in remembrance of the tragic incident of July 13, 1931, when unarmed Kashmiris protesting against Dogra rule were subjected to firing outside Srinagar Central Jail, resulting in the martyrdom of 22 Kashmiris. He said that the sacrifices of these martyrs strengthened the resolve of the Kashmiri people in their pursuit of their rights. He added that the day provides an opportunity to honour the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs and reaffirm commitment to the values of justice, dignity, and human rights. He said that despite facing numerous challenges, the Kashmiri people have demonstrated remarkable courage, determination, and perseverance.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan has consistently sup-



ported the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people and has presented its principled stance at national and international forums regarding their fundamental rights and right to self-determination. He said that the Parliament of Pakistan has also played its effective role in this regard by drawing the attention of the international community towards the issue of Jammu and Kashmir through various resolutions. He further stated that the Parliament of Pakistan would continue to contribute towards a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the principles of human rights, justice, and peace.

The Speaker said that the Jammu and Kashmir issue remains a long-standing dispute linked with sustainable peace and stability in South Asia. He stressed that a just and lasting resolution in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspira-

tions of the Kashmiri people is essential. He urged the international community to fulfil its responsibilities, take serious note of the human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and play an effective role in ensuring respect for the fundamental rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed hope that a day would soon come when the Kashmiri people would live in an atmosphere of peace, prosperity, and stability, and their aspirations for a better future would be realized. He said that the well-being, development, and peace of the Kashmiri people are essential for a brighter future of the region.

On the occasion, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, in his message, said that Kashmir Martyrs’ Day provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the sacrifices, determination, and steadfastness of the Kashmiri people. He said that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs represent an enduring legacy of courage, resilience, and struggle for justice. He stated that the Kashmiri people have demonstrated unwavering commitment and perseverance in pursuit of their fundamental rights. He further said that the Parliament of Pakistan stands in solidarity with the Kashmiri people and believes that respect for their legitimate aspirations and protection of their fundamental rights are essential for lasting peace and stability in the region.

We Fully Support Operation Shaban Against Fitna al-Khawarij in Balochistan: Syed Sadat Hussain Shah

BY: Hurish Shah

ISLAMABAD: President of Tourism for Interfaith Peace & Development and President of Lakeshore Club, Syed Sadat Hussain Shah, has expressed full support for Operation Shaban being conducted against Fitna al-Khawarij in Balochistan, stating that the operation reflects the state’s firm resolve to eliminate terrorism and restore lasting peace.

In a statement, he said terrorist elements are undermining Pakistan’s peace, economy, and national unity, making decisive action against them essential. He added that operations such as Operation Shaban are not



only military achievements but also

play a vital role in strengthening the writ of the state, restoring public confidence, and ensuring long-term stability.

Syed Sadat Hussain Shah said the people of Balochistan deserve peace, development, and a secure future for their children. He emphasized that indiscriminate action against terrorists and their facilitators is the need of the hour.

Reaffirming his support for Pakistan’s security institutions, he said the entire nation stands united in the fight against terrorism and prayed that Almighty Allah bless Pakistan with lasting peace, progress, and prosperity.

Death Toll of Terrorists in Operation Shaban Rises to 68, Total Reaches 105 Since July 5



BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--- The joint grand operation, Operation Shaban, launched by the Pakistan Army, FC Balochistan and Police against the terrorists of Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij continued on Sunday.

According to security sources, 68 terrorists have been killed so far in this intelligence-based grand operation, while the total number of terrorists killed in various operations since July 5 has reached 105.

Security sources said that Operation Shaban is underway in the rugged mountainous areas adja-

cent to Ziarat, including Kharan, Mastung and other areas.

Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove, while paying tribute to the operations of the security forces, said that the operation will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.

Meanwhile, the bodies of police personnel martyred in Ziarat a few days ago are still lying at the sit-in at Koyla Phatak. The deadlock persisted in the negotiations held last night between the sit-in committee and Interior Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove, Health Minister Bakht

Muhammad Kakar and other government officials.

Due to the sit-in, the traffic system in Quetta has been severely affected and citizens are facing difficulties. In the scorching heat, immediate and meaningful negotiations are needed to end the unrest among the public.

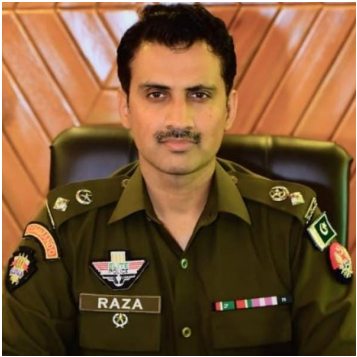
Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also paid tribute to the security forces for the successful operations of Operation Shaban, saying that the joint operations of the security institutions reflect the resolve to protect national security. I salute the bravery and professional capabilities of the officers and jawans.

Murree Expects Over One Million Vehicles in July as Police Activate Smart Traffic Management System

By: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE: With scorching temperatures across the plains and ongoing summer vacations driving tourists to the hills, Murree is expected to receive more than one million vehicles by the end of July, making it the busiest month in the hill station’s history.

According to the Punjab Police’s Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), District Police Officer (DPO) Dr. Raza Tanveer said that from July 1 to 9 alone, 139,782 vehicles entered District Murree, while 165,701 entered Murree City. Based on current trends, total vehicle entries are projected to exceed



one million by July 31.

To cope with the unprecedented influx, Murree Police has activated a Smart Data-Driven

Command System, replacing conventional traffic management with real-time monitoring through ITMS and Safe City cameras. Traffic diversions are being implemented proactively to prevent congestion and ensure smooth traffic flow. The DPO said additional traffic wardens, Safe City monitoring teams, Rescue Services personnel, and Tourist Facilitation Staff have been deployed across key routes to assist visitors. He advised tourists to check live traffic updates through official police digital platforms before travelling to ensure a safe and hassle-free journey.

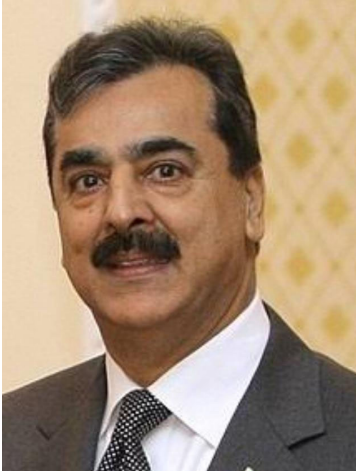
Chairman Senate Pays Tribute to Kashmir Martyrs, Reaffirms Pakistan’s Support for Kashmiris

By: Naseem Hassan/ANI

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani paid tribute to the martyrs of July 13, 1931, saying their sacrifices remain a lasting symbol of the Kashmiri people’s struggle for justice, dignity, and the right to self-determination.

In his message on Kashmir Martyrs’ Day, he said the 22 Kashmiris who embraced martyrdom outside Srinagar Central Jail displayed extraordinary courage and an unwavering commitment to their rights. Their sacrifices, he added, continue to inspire generations and reflect the resilience of the Kashmiri people.

The Chairman Senate reaffirmed Pakistan’s unwavering moral, political, and diplomatic support for the



people of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that a peaceful and lasting

settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, is essential for lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

He also urged the international community to take meaningful steps to protect human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to support efforts aimed at ensuring justice, peace, and the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reiterated Pakistan’s complete solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, affirming that the country stands firmly by them in their legitimate struggle for their internationally recognized rights.

Shahid Afridi, inaugurated NILT – National Institute of Leather Technology at PTA

BY:ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Pakistan legend former cricketer Shahid Afridi, said that It Was a Great Honor and Privilege for me to Attend the Prestigious Inauguration Ceremony of the National Institute of Leather Technology (NILT) at the Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) Upon the kind Invitation of Dr. Danish Aman, Chairman (SZ) and Mr. Zahid Hameed, Senior Vice President KATI. He said, this Remarkable Initiative marks an Important Step toward Empowering the Youth of Pakistan Through Technical Education, Professional Training, and Skill Development. During the Ceremony, a Technical Training Center was Officially Inaugurated with the Valuable Support of the Shahid Afridi Foundation, Reflecting a Shared Commitment to Creating Opportunities for Future Generations. Afridi, said the Event Brought Together some of the Most Respected Figures from Pakistan’s Business Community, Industrial sector, Government

Institutions, Healthcare Organizations, Social Welfare Circles, and media Fraternity. It was Inspiring to Witness the Collective Efforts of Leaders and Philanthropists who Generously Contributed towards Fundraising and Supporting this Noble Cause.

Shahid Afridi, appreciation to Dr. Danish Aman, Chairman of Pakistan Tanners Association, whose Visionary Leadership, Dedication, and Commitment to Social Development Continue to Inspire many. He is not Only a Successful Entrepreneur but also a Compassionate Humanitarian who



Consistently works for the Betterment of Society and the Advancement of Pakistan’s Industrial sector.

He Congratulate the entire Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) team for their Tireless Efforts in Making this Project a Reality. Their Dedication and Teamwork have Laid the Foundation for an Institution that Will help Equip Young People with Modern Skills and Create new Pathways for Employment and Economic Growth.

The Ceremony was Graced by the Presence of many Distinguished Personalities, Chief Guest Mr Shahid Afridi, Former Pakistani Cricket Captain and Legendary AllRounder and Chairman Shahid Afridi Foundation. Mr. Muhammed Ikram Rajput Presented (Korangi Association of Trade & Industry), Mr. Zahid Hameed (Senior Vice President, KATI), Dr.Danish Aman (Chairman, Pakistan Tanners Association - SZ), Mr. Faisal Rasheed (Owner, Rasheed & Sons Industries), Mr. Aamir Chhattani

(Owner, Chottani Group of Industries), Mr. Masood Ahmed Bhutto (Deputy Commissioner Korangi), Dr. Abdul Bari Khan (Chairman, Indus Hospital & Health Network), former SSP Crime Branch Asif Razzak , Prominent Industrialists, Philanthropists, Bureaucrats, and Many other Respected Guests.

In the end said, I feel proud to have been Part of such a Meaningful and Impactful event that Highlights the Importance of Education, Technical Training, and Collaboration Between Industry and Social Organizations.

May Allah Almighty Bless this Initiative with great Success and enable it to Become a Source of Knowledge, Skills, Employment, and Prosperity for our Youth and our Beloved Pakistan. Ameen.

Pakistan’s Progress Depends on Empowering its Youth, and Today’s Investment in Skills will Shape a Stronger Tomorrow.

On the occasion sovinears were presented to the Chief Guest.

Achakzai Demands Accountability Over Ziarat Tragedy, Calls for Government Resignation

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA---- Opposition Leader and Chairman of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, strongly criticized the government while addressing the ongoing protest sit-in against the Ziarat tragedy.

He termed the killing of police personnel “unprecedented” and alleged that they were sent to Mangi Dam without adequate weapons or resources. He demanded the registration of an FIR against officials responsible for the deployment, from the Deputy Commissioner to the Chief Secretary, and called for accountability over the incident.

Achakzai said the opposition unanimously demands the resignation of the Balochistan government, alleging administrative failure. He stressed that Pakistan’s stability depends on the



supremacy of the Constitution and a strong Parliament.

He announced that the protest movement would continue and could be expanded across the country after consultations with opposition parties and local communities. He also urged respect for neighboring countries’ sov-

ereignty while calling for regional cooperation against terrorism under the United Nations.

Concluding his address, Achakzai expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and said the opposition would support nationwide protests if called by the sit-in leadership.

IG Punjab Orders Intensified Crackdown on Drug Traffickers Under CM Maryam Nawaz’s “Drug-Free



By: ANI Correspom

GUJRANWALA--- Punjab Police has further intensified its province-wide campaign against drug traffickers and smugglers under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif’s “Drug-Free Punjab” vision. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Abdul Kareem has directed all police formations to strengthen operations against major drug dealers, smugglers, and all elements involved in the narcotics supply chain.

According to the Punjab Police spokesperson, during the current year, Punjab Police arrested 26,267 drug peddlers and registered 25,243 cases across the province. During these operations, police recovered 13,324 kilograms of charas, 1,251 kilograms of heroin, 870 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (ice), 557 kilograms of opium, and more than 379,000 litres of illicit liquor.

In Lahore alone, 3,746 drug peddlers were arrested and 3,631 cases were registered during the same period. Police also recovered 1,345 kilograms of

charas, 88 kilograms of heroin, 367 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (ice), 37 kilograms of opium, and 17,541 litres of illicit liquor. IGP Punjab Abdul Kareem directed that all individuals involved in the narcotics supply chain be brought to justice and awarded strict punishment under the law. He also ordered police to further accelerate operations against drug traffickers operating around educational institutions and student hostels, while ensuring strict legal action against those involved in the online sale and purchase of narcotics.