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Islamabad rejects claims CDF Asim Munir visited Tehran as US or Trump's envoy



ANI

The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday rejected claims that Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir visited Iran as an "envoy" of US President Donald Trump, describing the reports as "misleading and factually incorrect".

CDF Munir visited Tehran on August 24 as part of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to help resolve the ongoing US-Iran standoff.

Pakistan and Iran held discussions on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and bringing an "expedited termination" of the US-Iran conflict in the Middle East, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on

Tuesday.

During the visit, Field Marshal Munir called on Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian supreme leader's representative on the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei, Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional peace and the ways to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the disputes, it added.

Pakistan has emerged as a key mediator between Tehran and Washington in efforts to end the conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

Islamabad brokered a two-week

ceasefire between the two sides on April 8, bringing six weeks of fighting to a temporary halt, and has since continued to relay messages between Washington and Tehran.

Addressing a weekly press briefing today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi termed the reports "misleading and factually incorrect", stating that the CDF's Iran visit was undertaken "purely in the context and backdrop of Pakistan's ongoing role as mediator".

The spokesperson said CDF Munir visited Tehran on August 24 as part of Pakistan's continuing diplomatic efforts to facilitate an end to the US-Iran conflict and renewed efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. "The discussion during

the visit focused on regional de-escalation, breaking the military stalemate and exploring a negotiated settlement to restore regional peace and stability," he added. Andrabi said Pakistan remained engaged alongside its brotherly countries in sincere concerted efforts towards resolving the crisis in the Middle East and the Gulf and "with respect to the standoff between the US and Iran". "The visit underscored Islamabad's sincere and constructive role in bridging differences between Washington and Tehran," he said, adding that the Iranian leadership also appreciated Pakistan's efforts towards de-escalation and regional peace.

Iftikhar Gilani nominated as PML-N's AJK premier candidate

ANI

Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani has been nominated as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) candidate for the office of prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Nawaz directed Gilani to submit his nomination papers for the election of the AJK prime minister, PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb confirmed to Geo News. Aurangzeb said Gilani's nomination as the PML-N candidate for the AJK premiership was made with Nawaz's approval. Gilani was elected to the AJK Legislative Assembly on the reserved seat for technocrats as the PML-N secured six of the eight reserved seats, further strengthening its position in the house. The eight reserved seats included five for women and one each for technocrats, Ulama and Mashaikh, and overseas Kashmiris. The PML-N won three of the five women's seats, besides securing the technocrat, Ulama and Mashaikh, and overseas Kashmiri seats. The PPP won the remaining two seats reserved for women. PML-N candidates Seharish Qamar, Maryam Zaman and Maryam Idrees were elected on the three women's reserved seats, while PPP candidates Farzana Yaqub and Zobia Khurshid won the other two. In one of the contests, Zobia Khurshid and Rifat Abid secured five votes each, following which Khurshid was declared successful through a draw.

Besides Gilani's victory on the technocrat seat, PML-N candidate Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah won the reserved seat for Ulama and Mashaikh, while Abdul Rehman Arain was elected on the seat reserved for overseas Kashmiris. The results took the PML-N's strength in the AJK Legislative Assembly to 31 seats, while the PPP's tally reached 14. With the support of one member of the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Dast-o-Bazu (JK ADB), the PML-N now has the backing of 32 mem-

bers.

However, the government formation process is proceeding without seven members, as elections in seven constituencies in Poonch and Sudhnoti districts have yet to be held.

The PML-N had already emerged as the largest party in the recently concluded three-phase general elections, securing 25 seats against the PPP's 11.

In the first phase, held in 13 constituencies of Mirpur Division, the PML-N won nine seats while the PPP secured four.

The PML-N further strengthened its position in the second phase, conducted on August 2 across eight constituencies of Muzaffarabad Division and all 12 refugee constituencies, winning 15 seats compared with the PPP's six.

The third and final phase saw results from two constituencies, with one seat each going to the PML-N and PPP, taking their final general-election tallies to 25 and 11, respectively.

The elections, however, were accompanied by allegations of rigging from the PPP, which questioned the conduct of the polling process.

Following the second phase of voting, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari criticised the federal government and indicated that his party would intensify its political opposition.

The PML-N rejected the allegations, while Nawaz Sharif called on political stakeholders to refrain from turning political rivalries into enmity, expressing concern over the political atmosphere prevailing in the region.



Qatar PM visits Tehran to pursue mediation efforts



ANI

Qatar's prime minister visited Tehran on Thursday in a bid to relaunch diplomacy after the US and Iran traded recriminations over Washington's promise to increase economic pressure, a move one Iranian official described as "all-out economic war".

A Gulf neighbour of Iran and a US ally, Qatar has served as a back-channel negotiator for the warring parties and played a direct role in securing a June ceasefire that briefly led to a cessation of hostilities.

Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who is also his country's foreign minister, met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, according to Iran's foreign ministry channel on Telegram.

The visit comes as the war nears its sixth month with fighting largely paused but no diplomatic breakthrough in sight. Both sides are at odds over control of the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for global oil supplies that Tehran has used as leverage. A memorandum of understanding reached between the US and Iran in June to end the conflict broke down in part because of differences over the narrow

waterway between Iran and Oman where one-fifth of the world's oil supplies passed before the war began on February 28.

Qatar and Iran discussed a proposed phased framework that includes establishing a temporary joint Iranian-Omani shipping corridor through the strait and carrying out a joint project to clear mines from the waterway, Qatar's foreign ministry said. The two officials also reviewed the latest developments in the region and efforts to de-escalate tensions and create conditions for dialogue, the ministry said.

"All-out economic war" Although the strikes have stopped, Washington is now piling on economic pressure by announcing plans to cut Iran off from its trading partners with increased sanctions. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf on Thursday called for national unity in the face of what he described as "all-out economic war", warning that internal division was "exactly what the enemy wants".

Ebrahim Azizi, the head of the Iranian parliament's national security committee, said the sanctions were an "inhumane and hostile act" which nonetheless had lost their effectiveness.

Uzma Khan Urges Immediate Implementation of SC Order



ANI

ISLAMABAD: A fresh plea has been filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan's sister, Uzma Khan, before the Supreme Court, seeking an urgent hearing of a contempt petition concerning his hospital transfer.

The plea came after the top court scheduled the contempt petition for hearing on September 16 before a three-member bench comprising Justice Shahid Waheed,

Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shakil Ahmed.

In her application, Uzma said Imran's health was deteriorating in jail and described the matter concerning his health and life as extremely important. She contended that the Supreme Court's August 18 order was deliberately not implemented in its true spirit and that Imran was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) in violation of the court's directions for his transfer to Shifa International Hospital. The petitioner sought the former premier's transfer to Shifa International Hospital for medical examination and treatment, as directed by the Supreme Court. It urged the court to ensure immediate and complete implementation of its August 18 order, arguing that continued failure to comply with a judicial directive amounts to intentional and blatant violation of the law.

High-level Kuwaiti defence delegation calls on Field Marshal Asim

ANI

RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from Kuwait, led by Minister of Defence Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah, accompanied by Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kuwait Lieutenant General Khalid Darj Saad Al-Shriaan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ here at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Thursday. The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security and bilateral defence cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing institutional ties and expanding mutually beneficial defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The Kuwaiti delegation appreciated



the professionalism, operational excellence and valuable contributions of the Pakistan Armed Forces towards regional peace and stability.

The engagement reaffirmed the resolve of

Pakistan and Kuwait to further consolidate their historic and brotherly relations into a strong, enduring and mutually beneficial defence partnership, contributing to regional security and stability.

Judicial commission begins proceedings into Mir Raza murder

ANI

KARACHI: The judicial commission constituted to investigate the killing of young businessman Mir Raza Ali has commenced its proceedings, with notices issued to key parties as part of the inquiry.

The commission issued notices to Mir Raza's family and their lawyer Jibran Nasir for August 28, while a notice was also sent to the Sindh government's focal person. Nasir, who represents Mir Raza's family, rejected the Sindh government's decision to form a judicial commission. He said the judicial commission had been formed without informing Mir Raza's family and that its terms of reference (ToRs) had not been made public. The judicial commission has been tasked with preparing a report on the gruesome killing in 30 days, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab said on Monday. However, the deceased man's family moved the Sindh High Court (SHC) against the inquiry panel's formation, saying that its constitution at this stage will have a negative impact on the case.

PIMS Fire Claims 14 Babies, Unclaimed Two-Month-Old Among Victims

ANI

ISLAMABAD: One of the 14 babies who died in Wednesday's fire at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), Islamabad, was a two-month-old boy who had remained unclaimed at the hospital since birth.

The infant had been living at Pims alongside other sick children. His body remains in the hospital mortuary following his death. He was born on June 21 to a young girl who appeared to be around 15 years old, said a female doctor at Pims who requested anonymity. The girl reportedly did not have documents to prove her marriage. The doctor told

Dawn that hospital staff had asked "her husband and grandmother" to provide proof of marriage, but when they failed to produce the documents, "they left the baby and never returned".

The doctor said police had been involved in the case since the child's birth and had refused to hand over the baby to the family until they provided proof of marriage.

"The case was reported for medico-legal follow-up," the doctor said.

"It had been two months, and the baby was growing in the [Mother and Child Health (MCH)] nursery among sick babies," she said. Another doctor told Dawn that the infant ad

been kept in an environment with a high risk of infection.

"The child was also deprived of the necessary care essential for normal neurocognitive development.

"Every child has a right to an identity, citizenship and a family in order to become a healthy member of society. That baby was fed and clothed through donations," he added. He said all possible efforts had been made to facilitate the baby's adoption, adding that the police had not followed up on the case in the two months since. The doctor told Dawn that, according to official hospital documents, the infant was listed as "baby of 'T', but we had named him 'Ali'".



Islamabad: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan H.E. Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif .

Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani Announces Completion of Abbottabad Adventure Park, Inauguration on August 29

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ABBOTTABAD -- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, has announced the completion of the Abbottabad Adventure Park, describing it as the first major project among several development schemes secured through extensive efforts five to six years ago.

In a video statement, Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani said that the Abbottabad Adventure Park has been developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 800 to 850 million and spreads across 700 kanals of land.

The park features natural pine trees, beautiful landscaping, huts, a restaurant, cafeteria, zip line, spacious parking and a dedicated children's park, along with several other recreational facilities.

He said that although the park has not yet been formally inaugurated, a large number of Abbottabad residents were already visiting the site



with their families, while children were enjoying the recreational facilities. Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani announced that the official inauguration of Abbottabad Adventure Park will be held on Saturday, August 29, at 9:00 AM. The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will inaugurate the park, address a public gathering and unveil the inauguration plaque. Following the ceremony, the park will be formally opened to the

general public.

He appealed to the people of Abbottabad to attend the inauguration ceremony in large numbers along with their families and help make the event memorable and vibrant.

According to Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, the Chief Minister will proceed to Battagram and Kohistan after the inauguration ceremony, which is why the event has been scheduled for 9:00 AM.

MoU Signed Between National Assembly Secretariat and Save the Children International to Strengthen Collaboration on Child Rights

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Assembly Secretariat and Save the Children International to strengthen collaboration on child-specific issues and initiatives.

Secretary National Assembly Secretariat Saeed Ahmad Maitla and Country Director, Save the Children International, Muhammad Khurram Gondal, signed the MoU at Parliament House, Islamabad, on Thursday.

Federal Coordinator, Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR), and Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Danyal Chaudhry, along with MNAs Asia Naz Tanoli and Danialy Ahmed, attended the signing ceremony.

The MoU aims to support the PCCR on child-specific issues, including the Children's Citizens Internship Programme, digital protection of children, and other initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting child rights.

The partnership will facilitate evidence-based parliamentary engagement, strengthen child-focused initiatives and contribute to creating a safer, more inclusive and supportive environment for children in Pakistan.



The signing marks an important step toward strengthening institutional collaboration between Parliament and Save the Children International and reflects a shared commitment to advancing the rights, protection and well-being of children in Pakistan.

Special Secretary (Special Initiatives) Syed Shamoon Hashmi,

Chief Technical Advisor Ms. Minail Khan, and officials of the National Assembly Secretariat, including Syed Hazik Bukhari, Ms. Iffat Pervaz and Syed M. Arslan Kazmi, were also present.

Save the Children International was represented by Muhammad Khurram Gondal, Mohammad Amer, Noor ul Amin, Rabia Rauf, Fawad Bakhtiar and Munazza Ali.

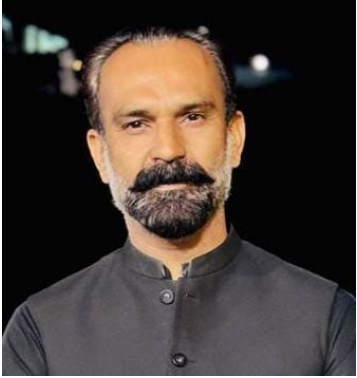
Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich Warns of Post-Flood Livestock Disease Crisis, Calls for Emergency Measures

Report: ANI

RAWALPINDI -- PTI Kissan Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich has warned that the spread of livestock diseases following floods could cause a decline in milk and meat production and threaten the livelihoods of millions of rural families.

He urged the federal and provincial governments to immediately declare a livestock health and vaccination emergency, establish Mobile Veterinary Emergency Units in flood-affected districts, and ensure the availability of vaccines and fodder to small farmers.

Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich also called for district-wise surveys of



livestock deaths, disease prevalence, vaccination coverage, fodder availability and veterinary facilities across the country.

He warned that diseases including Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), PPR, Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and hemorrhagic septicemia could spread rapidly through affected areas if immediate preventive measures are not taken.

He further demanded strategic fodder banks, livestock movement controls and the establishment of a National Livestock Disaster and Disease Response Fund to support emergency vaccination, veterinary services, animal shelters, diagnostics and affected farmers.

He cautioned that failure to address the issue could adversely affect farmers' incomes, milk and meat supplies, rural employment and national food security.

Outstanding Islamabad Police Operation Under SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza, 12-Year-Old Kidnapped Child Rescued

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD:Tarnol Police, during snap checking at Naka 26, carried out a timely operation and safely recovered a 12-year-old kidnapped child, while arresting three alleged kidnappers.

According to police, SI Asghar Naz and his team were conducting checking at Naka 26 when they stopped a suspicious white Honda City coming from the motorway towards GT Road. Two men, identified as Niaz Khan and Ali Ahmed, were found in the vehicle along with 12-year-old Abdullah sitting on the back seat.

During questioning, the child told police that he had been kidnapped from Abbottabad and brought to Islamabad. The suspects were shifted to the police station for interrogation, during which their alleged accomplice, Owais, was also arrested.

Police said the suspects allegedly disclosed during initial interrogation that they had kidnapped the child for a ransom of Rs100 million. They had



also allegedly threatened to kill the child if the police were informed.

SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza, in his presence, handed over the recovered child to his parents. The parents and family members appreciated the prompt and effective action by Islamabad Police.

SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza appreciated the performance of the

police officers and personnel involved in the operation and awarded them certificates of appreciation and rewards in recognition of their performance.

According to police, the child has been handed over to Abbottabad Police for further legal proceedings, while further investigation into the case is underway.

Experts Urge Avoidance of Long-Term LNG Contracts as Solar Power Expands

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --Parliamentarians and energy experts have urged the government to avoid long-term energy contracts that could bind Pakistan to costly take-or-pay obligations and increase circular debt. They called for a more flexible policy for LNG and other fuel imports.

The views were expressed at a dialogue titled "The Sun and the Pipeline," organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The discussion focused on Pakistan's changing RLNG requirements, global market volatility and the future of the country's energy sector.

Parliamentary Forum Convener Dr. Nafisa Shah said Pakistan has installed an estimated 50 GW of solar capacity and its energy policies must be aligned with this changing reality to provide affordable electricity to consumers.

Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting



Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said Pakistan should not view solar and gas as competing alternatives, but should integrate solar power, pipelines, the national grid and modern technologies to develop an affordable, reliable and secure energy system.

Energy experts Muhammad Arif, Asim Riaz, Seb Kennedy, Huma Chughtai, Mobeen Arif Jutt and Syed

Faizan Shah also stressed greater flexibility, structural reforms, battery storage and the expansion of indigenous solar generation.

The experts said solar energy has not eliminated Pakistan's need for LNG but has changed its demand, volume and usage pattern. The dialogue was attended by parliamentarians, experts, civil society representatives and academics.

Passport Office Narowal Inspected on Special Directions of Federal Ombudsman

By: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA -- On the special directions of Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan Mr. Naveed Kamran Baloch, Incharge Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Gujranwala Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Awan, along with his team, inspected the Passport Office Narowal on August 27, 2026.

During the visit, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Awan held a detailed discussion with Ms. Maryam Ashfaq, Assistant Director and Office Incharge, and reviewed the overall functioning of the Passport Office.

He visited various counters and directly sought feedback from citizens regarding the facilities and problems they were facing. Members of the public highlighted a number of deficiencies and lack of adequate facilities at the office.

Following the inspection, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Awan held a detailed meeting with Ms. Maryam Ashfaq and discussed the problems faced by citizens and possible measures for their resolution. He will submit the inspection report to the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan,



which will help improve the functioning of the Passport Office and ensure better public facilitation.

Later, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Awan heard public complaints against federal departments at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Narowal. The complaints related to GEPCO, Postal Life Insurance, Pakistan Post Office, PMDC and other departments.

A total of 24 complaints were heard, out of which 15 were decided on the spot and relief was provided to the complainants, while the remain-

ing nine cases were adjourned for the next date.

Complainants and representatives of the concerned departments were present on the occasion, along with representatives of print and electronic media. The complainants appreciated the performance of the Federal Ombudsman institution and requested that such visits continue, saying they provide citizens an opportunity to appear in their own city and present their grievances directly.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi SAW Celebrated with Religious Zeal in Murree, Grand Central Procession Held

By ANI Correspondent:

Murree Like other parts of the country, Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ was celebrated in Murree with great religious zeal, devotion, and enthusiasm. After Zuhr prayers, a grand central procession comprising Milad committees from 15 Union Councils of Tehsil Murree was taken out from Jamia Masjid Ghausia.

The procession was led by Central Leader Syed Wafa-ul-Haq Bukhari, President Jamat Ahle Sunnat Milad-o-Seerat Committee Munir Ahmed Abbasi, Khatib Jamia Masjid Ghausia

Sahibzada Tasneem Sultan Chishti, General Secretary Jamat Ahle Sunnat District Rawalpindi and Khatib Jamia Ghausia Kashmiri Syed Raza Mustafa Bukhari, Mahmood Abbasi, Dr. Zia Abbasi and other religious leaders.

The central procession passed through its traditional routes, including Chinar Chowk, Tehsil Road, Lower Bazaar and Siddique Chowk. Local residents warmly welcomed the participants and showered flower petals on the procession at various points.

Addressing the participants at GPO Chowk, Khatib-e-Azam Bari Imam, Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah Kazmi,

said that the world exists through the blessings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and that all the worldly respect and blessings bestowed upon us are a blessing of the Prophet's ﷺ sacred personality. Usama Ashfaq Sarwar and Hassan Aurangzeb were also present on the occasion, along with Deputy Commissioner Murree Zaheer Shirazi and Assistant Commissioner Murree Arshad Iqbal. A large number of devotees participated in the procession and expressed their love and devotion for the Holy Prophet ﷺ through Durood-o-Salam and Naat recitation.

A Reverent Milad-e-Mustafa SAW Gathering Held at Sanat Zaar Khushab

BY: ANI Reporter:

SARGODHA-- A dignified and spiritually uplifting Milad-e-Mustafa ﷺ gathering was held at Sanat Zaar Khushab to commemorate the blessed birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Shabana Ajmal, Deputy Director Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Khushab, attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

Manager Sanat Zaar Malik Imtiaz Ahmad Mangat, Medical Assistant Director MSSU Saima Saleem, Assistant Director Design Shazia Tasaduq, along with all staff members and trainees of Sanat Zaar Khushab, participated in the gathering.

During the ceremony, trainee students presented heartfelt Naats in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with great devotion

and love. Quran recitation and other spiritual activities were also arranged. The atmosphere remained filled with love and reverence for the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a special prayer was offered for the security, progress, prosperity, stability, and peace of Pakistan. Participants prayed for the continued unity, peace, and well-being of the country.

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Opinion

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NA-263 Quetta: Not Just a Constituency, but a Historic Political Stronghold of PML-N



By: Ch. Shabbir Balochistani : Published by ANI :

Q U E T T A , National Assembly constituency

NA-263 Quetta-II is more than just an electoral seat. It represents an important chapter in Quetta’s political history, reflecting the electoral strength of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the political journeys of prominent leaders and the continued trust of voters in the party.

Today, Haji Jamal Shah Kakar represents NA-263 in the National Assembly on the PML-N ticket. However, his victory in the 2024 general election cannot be viewed in isolation from the constituency’s broader political history.

A Political Story Across Changing Constituency Boundaries

Over the years, electoral boundaries have changed and constituency numbers have been revised, but the political importance of this area has remained significant.

The broader political region was once represented by NA-197 Quetta-cum-Chagai. According to the official record of the 1997 general election, Sardar Atif Ali Sanjrani won the constituency on the PML-N ticket, securing 25,261 votes against Mahmood Khan Achakzai’s 14,187.

Three years earlier, in the 1993 general election, Mahmood Khan Achakzai had won the same constituency, with PML-N support playing a significant role in that contest.

This political history helps explain why the present-day NA-263 cannot simply be viewed as an ordinary parliamentary constituency.

A Battleground of Prominent Political Figures

Quetta’s political arena has historically attracted some of Balochistan’s most prominent political figures, including Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Nawabzada Mir Lashkari Raisani, Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassani and other nationalist, religious and mainstream political leaders.

The 2024 general election once again demonstrated the importance of the constituency. PML-N candidate Haji Jamal Shah Kakar secured 27,175 votes, while an independent candidate obtained 25,372 votes. Mahmood Khan Achakzai received 15,304 votes and Nawabzada Mir Lashkari Raisani secured 8,562 votes.

The contest reflected the intense political competition and significance of NA-263 within

Quetta.

The Real Strength Is the PML-N Vote Bank

The most important aspect of NA-263 is that the PML-N vote cannot simply be attributed to an individual candidate.

It is rooted in party identity, political affiliation and the confidence of workers and voters who have continued to support the party through changing political circumstances.

Candidates may change, constituency boundaries may be redrawn and political conditions may evolve. However, a strong party organisation and continued engagement with voters can preserve and strengthen the PML-N’s political presence in the constituency.

The 2024 election was another illustration of this political reality.

A Constituency of Greater Political Responsibility

The significance of NA-263 also lies in its role as an important centre of national political representation for Quetta.

The constituency brings together voters from diverse political, social, linguistic and socioeconomic backgrounds, all of whom have a common stake in the development and future of the city.

Therefore, the elected representative carries a responsibility that extends beyond parliamentary representation. The constituency should be regarded as a public trust entrusted to the elected MNA by the people.

PML-N Leadership Must Honour the Voters’ Trust

There is also an important message for the central leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz.

When voters repeatedly place their trust in the party, its electoral symbol and its leadership, they deserve political and governmental attention corresponding to the importance of their mandate.

Providing the elected MNA with an effective governmental role, appropriate political responsibility and the institutional support necessary to serve the people would not simply benefit an individual. It would demonstrate respect for the voters’ mandate. The ultimate beneficiary would be the ordinary voter who expects his or her vote to translate into representation, development and solutions to local problems.

Jamal Shah Kakar: An Opportunity and a Test

For Haji Jamal Shah Kakar, victory from NA-263 is undoubtedly a significant political achievement. At the same time, it carries a major responsibility.

The real test is not simply the

next election, but what he accomplishes during the present parliamentary term.

How will he strengthen the constituency?

How will he maintain the traditional PML-N voter base?

How will he bring young people closer to the party?

How will he give party workers greater recognition and an effective role?

Most importantly, how effectively will he raise the civic, developmental and public-interest issues of Quetta before the National Assembly, federal government and relevant institutions?

If entrusted with an effective governmental responsibility, he would have an opportunity to turn that position into meaningful service for the people who elected him.

Why NA-263 Matters to PML-N NA-263 is important to the PML-N not merely because it has produced an MNA.

Its broader significance is that it can serve as a centre of the party’s political presence in Quetta.

A strengthened party organisation, active workers, continued engagement between the elected representative and voters, effective governmental representation and greater attention to public and developmental issues could allow the party’s influence to extend beyond NA-263.

The message is straightforward:

When the voters of a constituency stand with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, the party must also stand with those voters.

The Lesson of History

From the era of NA-197 to the present-day NA-263, the political strength of the PML-N in this part of Quetta has remained an important factor.

In 1993, PML-N support played a role in Mahmood Khan Achakzai’s victory. In 1997, Sardar Atif Ali Sanjrani won the constituency on the PML-N ticket. In 2024, Haji Jamal Shah Kakar won NA-263 on the PML-N ticket.

The political history of the constituency can therefore be summed up in one sentence:

In this constituency of Quetta, the PML-N vote is not merely an electoral figure; it is a political reality.

The challenge now is to transform that political reality into a sustainable political force through stronger organisation, effective representation and meaningful public service.

NA-263 is therefore not merely a parliamentary seat. It is a test of the PML-N’s political trust, historic vote bank and future direction in Quetta.

Minority Caucus Reviews Scholarship Opportunities for Minority Students

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Minority Caucus was held at the Old PIPS Hall, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Senator Danesh Kumar. Members of Parliament, including Poonjo Bheel, Mahesh Kumar Malani, Dr. Nelson Azeem, Ms. Neelum, Sanjay Perwani and Naveed Aamir, attended the meeting.

The Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Director General Human Rights and officials of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) were also present.

The HEC representative briefed the caucus on scholarship policies and programmes being implemented in universities across the country. He said Quaid-i-Azam University provides scholarships on merit and need basis rather than through a quota system, adding that no separate seats have been allocated for minority students under the scholarship programme.

The meeting was informed that minority students benefited from two



batches of scholarships under the Ehsaas Programme before its discontinuation. In the first batch, 660 male and 253 female minority students received scholarships, while 592 male and 271 female students benefited in the second batch.

The HEC representative said universities allocate funds annually for scholarships and have dedicated committees to assess students’ academic performance and financial needs. Merit-based scholarships are awarded to high-performing students, while need-based scholarships are provided to orphans and financially disadvantaged students.

The meeting was further informed

that 119 universities are registered with HEC and the government has allocated approximately Rs. 65 billion for scholarships.

The Convener directed HEC to provide the committee with records of scholarships awarded during the last three years, particularly details of scholarships provided to minority students. He also appreciated the Government of Balochistan for allocating substantial funds for the welfare and development of minorities.

Senator Danesh Kumar also sought details of expenditure incurred on the renovation of places of worship and the number of minority children receiving scholarships at the school level.

MNA Dr. Nelson Azeem emphasized the need for universities across Pakistan to provide adequate playgrounds and spaces for co-curricular activities to ensure the holistic development of students.

The meeting also noted that following the 18th Constitutional Amendment, several subjects now fall within the legislative and administrative domain of the provinces.

Pakistan Must Stand on Its Own Feet – A Strong Federation, Strong Provinces and a Self-Reliant Economy



By Rana Farooq Ashraf :Published by ANI

P a k i s t a n stands at a decisive economic and administrative crossroads.

The country needs a long-term national vision that goes beyond political slogans and focuses on economic self-reliance, industrial production, exports, administrative devolution and the empowerment of ordinary citizens.

The real question is not simply how many provinces Pakistan should have. The more important question is whether the existing provinces, districts and local governments have sufficient authority and financial resources to serve their people effectively. A strong Pakistan requires a strong federation, strong provinces, empowered districts and effective local governments.

The creation of new provinces is certainly a legitimate political and administrative debate. However, every administrative problem does not necessarily require a new province. A new province would require a new assembly, governor’s office, secretariat, departments, official residences, vehicles, protocol and an expanded administrative structure. These arrangements inevitably create additional non-development expenditure. At a time when Pakistan is facing fiscal pressures and a heavy debt burden, the country must carefully consider whether scarce resources should be spent on expanding administrative structures or on education, healthcare, infrastructure and economic development.

A more practical approach is to transfer financial and administrative powers to the grassroots. Provincial authority should not remain concentrated in provincial capitals. Districts and local governments must receive their constitutional, administrative and financial space to address local problems.

Every province should have a strong and permanent Provincial Finance Commission to ensure fair distribution of resources among districts according to population, area, backwardness, development needs and other relevant indicators. Just as the distribution of resources between the federation and provinces is important, equitable distribution within provinces is equally essential.

Local governments should also be restored and strengthened in their true spirit. Education, healthcare, sanitation, clean water, roads, drainage and basic infrastructure should be managed as close to the people as possible. Citizens should not have to travel to provincial capitals for routine matters that can be resolved efficiently at the district or local level.

But administrative reform alone cannot transform Pakistan. The country must also undertake a serious programme of industrialisation and economic self-reliance.

Pakistan has a domestic market of nearly 250 million people. This enormous population should be viewed not merely as a challenge but as a major economic opportunity. If a greater proportion of the goods required by our people are manufactured domestically, Pakistan can save foreign exchange, create employment, increase industrial activity and broaden the government’s revenue base.

At the same time, our import policy needs a fundamental rethink. Imports should not be discouraged indiscriminately, because modern industry requires machinery, technology and essential raw materials from abroad. However, unnecessary and luxury finished goods should not be allowed to undermine domestic manufacturers. The objective should be to import what strengthens our productive capacity while reducing dependence on imported finished products wherever competitive local production is possible. The example of Türkiye deserves serious consideration. Türkiye has

placed strong emphasis on domestic manufacturing and has built a wide industrial base capable of supplying its own population while competing in international markets. A visit to Turkish shopping centres and commercial markets demonstrates the visibility and availability of domestically manufactured products. The lesson for Pakistan is not to shut itself off from the world, but to develop local industries that can produce competitive alternatives, create employment and retain foreign exchange within the country.

Pakistan must also be realistic about its agricultural and textile requirements. For example, raw cotton should not be treated as an export priority when the country’s own textile industry faces shortages and depends on imported cotton to meet its requirements. Instead, our policy should focus on increasing domestic cotton production, improving yields, supporting farmers and ensuring a reliable supply of quality cotton to our textile industry. The ultimate objective should be to move further up the value chain—from raw material to yarn, fabric, garments and internationally competitive finished products.

The same principle should apply to minerals and agricultural commodities. Instead of exporting resources in raw form, Pakistan should encourage processing and value addition inside the country. More value should be created domestically before products reach international markets.

The experience of neighbouring India also provides an important administrative lesson. India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories, making 36 administrative units in total. Its population is distributed among states of vastly different sizes. Uttar Pradesh alone has an estimated population of around 243 million, while Bihar has around 133 million, Maharashtra around 125 million, West Bengal around 104 million and Madhya Pradesh around 85 million. These figures are estimates and vary by source and reference year, but they illustrate the enormous diversity in the size and population of India’s administrative units.

Uttar Pradesh, in particular, has a population broadly comparable to Pakistan’s total population. Yet India manages such a vast population through a multilayered administrative structure. The lesson for Pakistan is not necessarily that we must copy India’s provincial map or create a large number of new provinces. Rather, we should study how administrative responsibilities can be distributed effectively and how governance can be brought closer to citizens without unnecessarily multiplying the cost of government.

Pakistan also needs a Charter of Business—a long-term national economic agreement between the government and the business community. Chambers of commerce, industrialists, exporters, small and medium-sized enterprises, financial institutions and investors should be brought together to formulate a 10-to-15-year economic framework.

Governments may change, but fundamental industrial, investment and trade policies should not change with every political transition. Investors need policy continuity, legal protection, institutional stability and confidence.

The investment process should also be simplified through an effective one-window system. Investors should not have to move from department to department to obtain licences, approvals and permissions. Unnecessary red tape must be eliminated, while transparency and accountability should remain intact.

Tax reform is another essential pillar of economic independence. Pakistan cannot build a sustainable economy simply by increasing tax rates on those who already pay taxes. The tax base must be broadened. Undocumented sectors of the economy should gradu-



ally be brought into the formal system through digitalisation, simplified procedures and greater institutional transparency.

Loss-making state-owned enterprises must also be restructured. Where appropriate, they should be transparently privatised, professionally managed or operated through carefully designed public-private partnerships. The state should focus on creating an environment in which the private sector can invest, produce and create employment.

Pakistan must also harness the potential of its youth. Our young population should be equipped with modern education, technical skills, entrepreneurship opportunities and access to technology. Education and industry must be connected so that universities and technical institutions produce skilled people according to the needs of the economy.

Healthcare, agriculture, small industries, technology, infrastructure and national defence must all be viewed as interconnected pillars of national strength. A prosperous Pakistan must have healthy citizens, educated youth, productive farmers, competitive industries, modern infrastructure and strong national institutions.

Our defence capabilities must continue to evolve through professional training, modern technology, research, indigenous production and institutional reforms. A strong defence is essential for national security, but long-term national strength also depends upon a strong economy capable of supporting that defence.

Ultimately, Pakistan needs to change its economic priorities. We must build an economy that produces more, exports more, creates employment, attracts investment and generates sufficient domestic revenue to reduce dependence on external borrowing.

A strong federation does not require weak provinces. Strong provinces do not require weak districts. Strong districts require empowered local governments, adequate resources and accountable institutions.

Pakistan does not necessarily need more layers of administration; it needs better administration. It does not simply need more institutions; it needs stronger and more accountable institutions. And it does not need endless borrowing; it needs production, investment, exports and economic discipline.

Our political differences may continue, but there should be a national consensus on one fundamental principle: economic strength is the foundation of national sovereignty.

If Pakistan can strengthen its federation, empower its provinces and districts, reform local government, promote domestic industry, reduce unnecessary dependence on imports, expand exports, broaden the tax base and maintain consistent economic policies, it can gradually break the cycle of financial dependence.

Pakistan does not need additional burdens. Pakistan needs a new direction.

The way forward is clear: strengthen the federation, empower the provinces, devolve authority to the people, support farmers and small industries, invest in education and healthcare, promote industrial production, develop indigenous technology and defence capabilities, expand exports and create an environment in which investment and enterprise can flourish. That is how Pakistan can stand on its own feet—and build a prosperous, self-reliant, secure and economically sovereign future.

A Gulf lesson in crisis management

ARNAB NEIL SENGUPTA

For residents of Dubai, Feb. 28 was a normal day until the unfamiliar sounds of missile interceptions drowned out the background noise of speeding cars and construction activity. Those following the news at that very moment were perhaps the only ones who guessed what those sounds were. For the vast majority, however, it was a rude awakening. The country across the Gulf had suddenly begun hurling massive missiles and combat drones at key urban centers across the Arabian Peninsula in retaliation for a combined military assault by Israel and the US. The initial booms were possibly mistaken by many residents for rockets crashing into nearby buildings; in reality, they were the sounds of ballistic missiles being neutralized by state-of-the-art interceptors. Citizens and expatriates alike remained safe because these systems were so precise as to unfailingly find their targets high in the stratosphere. This has largely been the story for Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar over the past few weeks. If there were ever a defining moment of clarity for the denizens of the Gulf, this is it.

With the US-Israeli campaign to destroy Iran’s missile infrastructure and military sites now in its fourth week, people here have become acutely aware of both the significant geopolitical risks and the structural advantages of the region. There are no scary sirens triggering panicked runs to bomb shelters. Instead, residents receive automated, localized alerts on their smartphones, informing them of threats and again when the “coast is clear.” The precision is such that if a ballistic or cruise missile’s trajectory poses no threat to a specific area or district, no alert is even sent, preventing unnecessary mass anxiety.

Underpinning this calm amid the tension is a master class in crisis management that should be taught in public-policy courses in the years to come. Governments across the region have maintained

high levels of liquidity, ensuring that ATMs remain stocked and the financial system stays buoyant in spite of the market turbulence.

On the ground, the efficiency of civil defense has been nothing if not remarkable. Fires caused by falling shrapnel from successful interceptions are extinguished within minutes and the few injuries resulting from debris are handled with almost clinical speed. Furthermore, by quickly engaging with partners like Ukraine to integrate battle-tested anti-drone technologies, the Gulf states are expected to eventually close the asymmetric threat gap opened up by the Iranian regime and its proxies. Critical to this stability has been the speed and transparency of official communication. By providing real-time updates and debunking misinformation within minutes, governments have effectively neutralized the rumor mills that usually thrive in conflict zones — and increasingly so in the age of politically motivated social influencers and artificial intelligence tools. This transparency has been instrumental in building and maintaining a sense of trust that keeps the social fabric intact in a region where non-citizens outnumber citizens in quite a few countries.

The physical evidence of this stability is everywhere. So far, there has not been a hint of a shortage: fresh food, cooking gas and electricity remain constant. Even flower shops are stocked with fresh imports from across the globe despite airspace being closed over many cities and the threats faced by ships using the Gulf. The sight of supermarkets brimming with dairy and other produce feels almost surreal during a conflict. Admittedly, many foreigners have temporarily relocated in response to embassy warnings, but the streets remain active. Delivery services, in particular, are busier than ever, with motorcycle riders crisscrossing cities day and night. Reports in Western publications suggesting a “flight of capital” or a mass exodus of the wealthy seem either

agenda-driven or detached from reality. However, a nagging worry persists: the fear that Washington might declare a unilateral ceasefire or strike a deal with the regime in Tehran without seeking ironclad security guarantees for its Gulf partners. President Donald Trump’s penchant for cavalier remarks — “a little excursion,” “winding down” and “the war is very complete, pretty much” — does little to inspire confidence in a long-term American commitment, which is vital for the restoration of stability. Despite four weeks of bombardment, Iran’s arsenal — and its network of proxies from Iraq to Yemen — remains a potent “known unknown,” to use the NASA insider jargon made famous by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in 2002 ahead of the invasion of Iraq. Debates occasionally erupt on social media over whether on-air segments from cities like Dubai or Riyadh constitute reporting from a “war zone.” Technically, the region is in a state of war, though not by its own choosing.

That said, had these governments not made timely and wise multibillion-dollar investments in strong air defenses, their energy hubs and skylines would indeed resemble a battlefield. The harrowing images of direct missile strikes on Dimona and Arad in Israel over the weekend are a stark reminder of what could have been.

One of the upsid es of this crisis is that it has demolished the stereotype of the Gulf as a playground for the wealthy or a temporary stopover for expats. The past four weeks have been a testing time that has revealed a region of highly organized states capable of closing ranks in the face of a common enemy and shielding their people from the worst impulses of their neighbors. The hope is that, regardless of what happens to Iran, the Gulf will no longer be viewed as a destination for opportunity, but rather as a bastion of resilience and potential in an increasingly unpredictable world.

— Arab News

Indonesia, KATI Push for Stronger Two-Way Trade and Industrial Links



BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI— Indonesia and Pakistan should move beyond simply trading more and focus on connecting their industries more closely, Consul General of Indonesia H.E. Mudzakir said during a business meeting with the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) in Karachi on Thursday.

The Consul General met KATI President Muhammad Ikram Rajput, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Mohammad Zubair Chhaya, Senior Vice President Zahid Hameed, Vice President Syed Mohammad Talha Ali, and leading members of Karachi’s industrial community.

With KATI representing more than 5,000 industrial, commercial and service enterprises, discussions focused on how Indonesia could become a

stronger sourcing and supply-chain partner for Pakistani manufacturers, while at the same time creating more opportunities for competitive Pakistani products in the Indonesian market.

“Indonesia and Pakistan should not only trade more — our industries should become more connected,” Consul General Mudzakir said.

Bilateral trade reached around USD 4.26 billion in 2025, but both sides agreed that future cooperation should be more diversified and sustainable. The discussion also touched on concerns over Pakistan’s trade deficit with Indonesia. The Indonesian side stressed that a more balanced relationship should be pursued by expanding opportunities rather than reducing existing trade — including through greater Pakistani exports, investment, joint ventures and

stronger industrial linkages.

KATI also expressed interest in sharing business, manufacturing and industrial experience with Indonesian counterparts, opening possibilities for closer interaction between industrial communities of the two countries.

The meeting included a brief presentation on Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) 2026, to be held from 14-18 October in Greater Jakarta. KATI members were invited to use TEI to explore Indonesian suppliers, industrial inputs and potential business partners, with the Consulate ready to facilitate targeted B2B meetings.

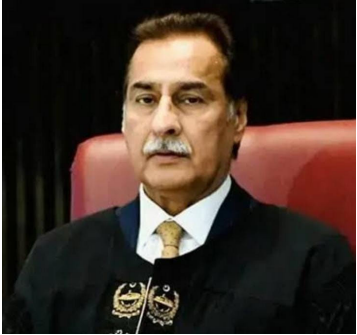
Beyond TEI, the Consulate General and KATI agreed to maintain closer engagement aimed at turning business interest into practical two-way trade and long-term industrial partnerships.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Assumes Office of Acting President of Pakistan

BY : Hurish shah FT :

ISLAMABAD-- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has assumed the office of Acting President of Pakistan.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has assumed the responsibilities of the Acting President as the President of Pakistan is currently on leave to visit the Republic of Austria from 27 to 31 August 2026. Meanwhile, the Chairman Senate has also proceeded abroad on an official visit.



In view of the absence of both the President and the Chairman Senate, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, will perform the functions of the President until the return of the President or the Chairman Senate to Pakistan.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq will continue to discharge his responsibilities as Acting President in accordance with the constitutional provisions governing the performance of the functions of the President during such an absence.

Ishaq Dar Meets UK National Security Adviser in London

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met British National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell during his official visit to the United Kingdom.

The two sides discussed key regional and international security developments, including the situations in South Asia, the Middle East and Afghanistan.

They also reviewed Pakistan-UK cooperation in counterterrorism, intelligence sharing and security. Ishaq Dar highlighted Pakistan’s role in promoting regional peace and stressed dialogue, de-escalation and negotiated solutions.

Both sides agreed to maintain close consultations and further strengthen bilateral security cooperation.



28th Defence Review Meeting Held in Quetta to Review Overall Law and Order and Security Situation in Balochistan

BY : ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- The 28th Defence Review Meeting was held in Quetta to review the overall law and order and security situation in Balochistan.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Corps Commander Quetta. The forum conducted a detailed review of peace and stability in the province, security measures, and the status of ongoing development projects.

In a major and principled decision, the meeting approved the phased activation of the Safe City Project in Quetta and other important districts and cities of the province, which will significantly improve crime prevention and protection of citizens.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that these regularly held meetings are yielding highly positive and far-



reaching results. He said that by holding this meeting every three weeks, implementation of previous decisions is ensured and the law and order situation is reviewed with continuity.

The meeting was attended by senior representatives of civil and military institutions, intelligence agencies and security forces. The participants appreciated the performance of

the security forces for successful Intelligence-Based Operations (IBOs) against terrorism and crime in recent days and paid tribute to them.

In the end, all participants reaffirmed their resolve that all resources will be utilized for a bright future for Balochistan, sustainable peace, timely completion of development projects and the welfare of the people.

Japan Funds Women’s Vocational Training Institute in Chakwal

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has approved a grant of \$53,419 (Rs14.8 million) for the Moawin Foundation to establish a Women’s Vocational Training Institute in Village Dulmial, District Chakwal, aimed at expanding livelihood opportunities for women in rural Punjab. The grant agreement was signed on Thursday by Japanese Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi and a representative of the Moawin Foundation at the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad under Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) programme. The project will provide a dedicated facility offering structured training in dress-making, stitching and fashion design to women from surrounding communities. The institute is expected to train around



240 women annually, equipping them with practical skills to generate income and improve the economic security of their families. The initiative addresses limited employment opportunities and barriers to vocational education faced by women in rural areas, where access to

marketable skills can play an important role in strengthening household livelihoods. Ambassador Akamatsu welcomed the community’s contribution of land for the project and expressed hope that the institute would serve local women and families for years to come.

NBF, Zawiya host reception for Abid Rasheed’s ‘Khair-ul-Bashar’

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Book Foundation (NBF), under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in collaboration with literary and cultural organisation Zawiya, organised a literary and spiritual gathering to launch the Hamd-o-Naat collection Khair-ul-Bashar by renowned Pakistani poet Abid Rasheed, followed by a Naat Mushaira at the Ahmad Faraz Auditorium. Renowned poet and intellectual Iftikhar Arif presided over the ceremony, while Dr Ehsan Akbar attended as the chief guest. Dr Arshad Mehmood Nashad and Dr Mehnaz Anjum highlighted various literary and artistic dimensions of Khair-ul-Bashar and discussed the distinctive features of Abid Rasheed’s Naat poetry. The ceremony opened with recitation from the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (PBUH), presented by Qari Sibghatullah. Speaking on the occasion, Iftikhar Arif appreciated the NBF for arranging the literary and spiritual event and acknowledged the services of its Managing Director, Dr Kamran Jahangir, for the promotion of books, literature and the Urdu language. He praised Abid Rasheed’s Hamd and Naat, describing his poetry as an authentic expression of deep and sincere emotions, free from artificiality.

NBF, Zawiya host reception for Abid Rasheed’s ‘Khair-ul-Bashar’

He observed that maintaining a connection with one’s language, faith and cultural and literary heritage while living abroad was a challenging task, adding that Abid Rasheed had continued

to serve Urdu literature with dedication and sincerity despite residing in Chicago. He said writing Naat was both an honour and a blessing and noted that Urdu poets had contributed significantly to giving the genre an international stature.

NBF, Zawiya host reception for Abid Rasheed’s ‘Khair-ul-Bashar’

Dr Mehnaz Anjum said the distinctive quality of Naat poetry lay in its profound spiritual metaphors and emotional depth. She observed that when the heart attained closeness to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), Naat transcended the boundaries of ordinary poetry and became an expression of devotion and love. She said Abid Rasheed had successfully used the genre to convey these sentiments.

NBF, Zawiya host reception for Abid Rasheed’s ‘Khair-ul-Bashar’

Dr Arshad Mehmood Nashad, a prominent poet, researcher and critic, highlighted the rich literary tradition of Urdu Naat and its prominent place in Urdu literature. He said generations of poets and scholars had elevated the genre to a remarkable literary level, while its presence in different countries demonstrated the ability of Urdu Naat to transcend geographical and linguistic boundaries.

The second session featured a Naat Mushaira organised in connection with Rabi-ul-Awwal, in which prominent poets presented their verses as expressions of love and devotion to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Iftikhar Arif, Dr Ehsan Akbar, Dr Riaz Majeed, Qayyum Tahir, Wafa Chishti, Anjum Saleemi, Salman Basit, Khurram Khaliq, Farkhanda Shamim,

Sabeen Younis, Arshad Mehmood Nashad, Rehman Hafeez, Shakeel Jazib, Farah Rizvi, Professor Irfan Jameel, Professor Rashida Maheen Malik, Professor Rafiuddin Siddiqui, Dr Mehnaz Anjum, Farzand Ali Hashmi, Ehsan Abbas and Muhammad Shahid Dhareja recited their Naats.

Nausar Malik also presented devotional verses in a melodious style, further enhancing the spiritual atmosphere of the gathering. Renowned poet Mehboob Zafar conducted the Mushaira.

A large number of writers, poets, intellectuals and literature enthusiasts attended the event, including Qaisara Alvi, Hina Durrani, Saadi Faraz, Farrukh Jamal Malihabadi, Arshad Minhas, Shiraz Fazal Dad, Nasir Ayat, Sadaqat Ali, Dr Hamza Hassan Sheikh, Razaqat Razi, Saadia Khanum and Muhammad Farhan Attai.

At the outset, NBF Director Headquarters Murad Ali Mehmood welcomed the presiding guest, chief guest, poets, writers and other participants. He briefed the gathering on the foundation’s objectives, literary and academic activities and ongoing efforts to promote Urdu language and literature.

He said NBF Managing Director Dr Kamran Jahangir, who was the special host of the event, could not attend due to official engagements, but all arrangements had been finalised in accordance with his directions. He reaffirmed the NBF’s commitment to strengthening its relationship with writers and the literary community and continuing to organise literary, academic and cultural programmes.

Grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi SAW Ceremony Held at Gujranwala Central Jail, Two Umrah Tickets Distributed Among Employees

By: ANI Correspondent:

GUJRANWALA --A grand and spiritual ceremony was held at Central Jail Gujranwala on the blessed occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi □. The Inspector General of Prisons Punjab paid a special visit to the jail, which was beautifully decorated to mark the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad □.

The entire jail premises presented a dignified, attractive and spiritually uplifting atmosphere. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by special Naat competitions among prisoners and jail employees.

The prisoners expressed their devotion and love for the Holy Prophet □ by presenting Naat recitations with great religious fervor and enthusiasm.

A cake was also cut to celebrate the blessed birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet □. On the occasion, two Umrah tickets were distributed among lucky jail employees through a draw, adding fur-



ther joy to the celebrations.

The Inspector General of Prisons Punjab appreciated the excellent arrangements, beautiful decoration and successful organization of the ceremony. He also praised the efforts of the Superintendent Jail, officers, employees and prisoners.

He said that Eid Milad-un-Nabi □ teaches us the values of love, brotherhood, tolerance, service to humanity and following the Seerah of the Holy Prophet □.

Special prayers were also offered for the security and prosperity of the country, development and stability of Pakistan, the well-being of the Muslim Ummah and peace for all humanity.

The Eid Milad-un-Nabi □ ceremony at Central Jail Gujranwala presented a beautiful blend of religious devotion, spirituality and happiness, making the occasion memorable for prisoners and jail employees alike.

Mr. Pullain Baloch Expresses Grief Over PIMS Fire, Mourns Loss of 14 Newborns

BY : ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Mr. Pullain Baloch has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic fire incident at the Mother and Child Health (MCH) Centre of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

He expressed profound grief over the loss of 14 newborn babies in the tragic incident, describing the loss of innocent lives as deeply heartbreak-



ing and irreparable.

Mr. Pullain Baloch extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies

to the bereaved parents and families, saying that he shares their grief and sorrow in this difficult hour.

He said the loss of innocent lives in the tragic fire has left his heart deeply saddened and expressed solidarity with the affected families.

The Chairman Standing Committee prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the bereaved parents and families patience and strength to bear this irreparable loss and to bless the departed souls with a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen.