



Daily FINANCIAL TIMES

Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: <https://dailyfinancialtime.com>

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Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 320 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Friday July 31 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

Pakistan needs new administrative units to fix governance: Mohsin



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mian Amir Mahmood Naqvi has endorsed Dunya Group Chairman Mian Amer Mahmood's proposal for creating new administrative units, saying Pakistan's decades-old governance system requires structural reforms to bring decision-making closer to the people.

Speaking at the Economic Summit 2026 in Islamabad, Naqvi said the country's existing administrative model had failed to address public needs effectively despite repeated efforts by successive governments. He argued that meaningful reforms would require broad political consensus rather than iso-

lated policy measures.

Addressing business leaders, policymakers and industry representatives, Naqvi said many of the issues highlighted during the summit pointed to weaknesses in Pakistan's governance structure rather than a lack of economic potential. Naqvi said Pakistan has continued with the same governance model for more than seven decades, warning that if the existing system remained unchanged, the same challenges would still be discussed 10 years from now.

"I support democracy and believe in democratic governance," he said, adding that democracies around the world operate under different models and Pakistan should also be will-

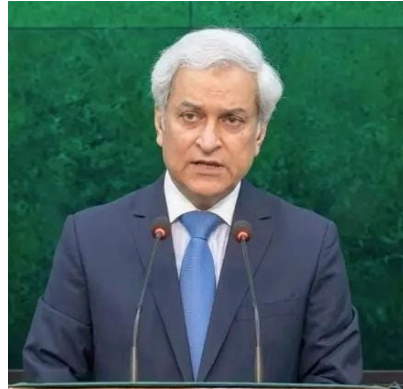
ing to reform its own system. He said Pakistan's problems could not be blamed solely on external factors, adding that everyone, including political leaders, businesses and civil society, shared responsibility for improving the country's governance.

Referring to Mian Amer Mahmood's presentation, Naqvi said powers should be devolved to the grassroots level, whether through new provinces, administrative units or another model. He argued that citizens should have access to government services and justice close to where they live rather than travelling long distances for basic administrative or judicial matters.

Naqvi said creating smaller administrative units would enable stronger local leadership to emerge and improve accountability, service delivery and governance. He also called on political parties to engage in serious dialogue on constitutional and administrative reforms, saying the issue should rise above political differences. The interior minister urged the business community to play a more active role in advocating structural reforms rather than limiting its engagement to election financing. He said business leaders understand the country's economic challenges and should collectively press for reforms that improve governance, administrative efficiency and investment conditions.

Pakistan's Efforts to Bring US and Iran Back to Islamabad Agreement

BY: Asghar Ali Mubarak :
published by ANI



Pakistan is trying to bring US and Iran back to Islamabad Agreement. Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi says that Pakistan is closely monitoring the current security situation in the Gulf, Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz. He made it clear that only diplomacy and negotiations are the only solution for lasting peace in the region.

Reiterating Pakistan's policy on important regional and international issues during a weekly press briefing in Islamabad, Tahir Andrabi said that "Pakistan is making continuous diplomatic efforts to revive technical talks between Iran and the US and implement the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding." Pakistan is trying to ensure that all parties come back to the negotiating table as per the 'Islamabad MoU' and the Pakistan-Qatar Joint Declaration of June 22, 2026, so that maritime trade in the Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz can be ensured in accordance with the law.

Giving details of the high-level diplomatic exchanges, the spokesperson said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar contacted Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in recent days, while diplomatic contacts were also established with the Jordanian Foreign Minister and the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister. He said that "Pakistan strongly condemns all attacks on Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia has the full right to defend itself." He made it clear that the conflict between Iran and the US should not spread to any third country. Explaining the defense agreement with Kuwait, he said that "this agreement was signed in 2023, which is a continuation of the cooperation that has been going on since the 1980s and is different in nature from the strategic cooperation with Saudi Arabia, however, Pakistan will abide by all its defense agreements." Responding to a question about the documentary made by the German

broadcaster DW on the nuclear program, the Foreign Office spokesperson rejected it outright and said, "The film attempts to spread misconceptions through one-sided and unverified information. DW should uphold basic journalistic values." He stressed that "Pakistan has complete confidence in its comprehensive nuclear command and control system, which is safe and effective in accordance with international standards." He also described the Indian government's restrictions on Pakistani social media accounts as a manifestation of intolerance and condemned the Indian Defense Minister's statement on Kargil, saying, "A plebiscite is the only recognized solution to the Kashmir issue under United Nations resolutions."

Talking about Afghanistan, the spokesperson denied the allegations of civilian casualties and said, "The terrorists in Afghanistan do not wear any special uniforms, Pakistan's actions are only against terrorists and their hideouts." He also clarified that no Afghan nationals with legal documents were deported. Invitations will be sent to all member states, including India, as the host, for the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) summit to be held in Pakistan next year. He confirmed that Pakistan has issued visas to Sikh pilgrims in large numbers, while the issuance of diplomatic visas between Pakistan and India is an administrative process.

Belarus defence delegation meets Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber



ANI

RAWALPINDI: A high-level defence delegation of the Republic of Belarus, led by Major General Muraveiko Pavel Nikolayevich, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and First Deputy Defence Minister, on Thursday called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security, defence cooperation and prospects for enhanced military collaboration were discussed. The Chief of the Air Staff reaffirmed Pakistan Air Force's commitment to further strength-

ening bilateral defence ties underscoring the importance of expanding cooperation through joint training, exercises, technological collaboration and defence industrial partnership, said an ISPR press release. The visiting dignitary appreciated the remarkable progress achieved by Pakistan Air Force lauding operational preparedness, technological advancements and self-reliance initiatives. He expressed Belarus' commitment to further expanding bilateral defence cooperation. The meeting reflects the shared commitment of Pakistan and Belarus to further strengthening defence cooperation and advancing collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Nine policemen martyred, 28 injured in terror attack on police checkpoint in K-P's Hangu



ANI

PESHAWAR: Nine policemen, including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Diyar Khan, were martyred and 28 others, including DSP Mujahid Hussain, were injured after terrorists attacked the Khazina Banda police check post in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu district late on Wednesday, while police killed 15 terrorists and wounded several others in a retaliatory operation. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Inspector General (IG) Zulfiqar Hameed said. According to the IG, terrorists attacked the Khazina Banda police check post with heavy weapons. Police personnel stationed at the post "fought bravely and mounted a

strong defence" against the attack.

He said, "Additional police personnel, led by the SDPO City, were immediately dispatched to reinforce the check post". However, the terrorists had already laid an ambush along the route and targeted the reinforcements, causing severe damage to the lead armoured personnel carrier (APC). Despite what the IG described as challenging conditions, police officers and personnel "fought the enemy with exceptional bravery and professional skill". He said, "15 terrorists were killed and several others injured in the retaliatory operation". The IG said DSP Diyar Khan was martyred during the prolonged exchange of fire along with eight other police personnel, while 28 officers and personnel, including DSP Mujahid Hussain, sustained injuries. He added that the exchange of fire between the terrorists and police was continuing. Paying tribute to the police personnel, Zulfiqar Hameed said, "The sons of the K-P police stood like rocks against the enemy under extremely difficult and nerve-racking circumstances and embraced martyrdom."

PM Orders DISCO Billing Audit, Pushes Power Reforms

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed a comprehensive technical audit of the billing systems of power distribution companies (DISCOs) and stressed that power sector reforms remained among the government's foremost priorities.

The prime minister while chairing a review meeting on Power Division issues here, said as performance of the distribution companies had improved, considerably more effort was still required. He termed the countrywide installation of smart meters indispensable for the sector's turnaround, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister directed that strict measures should be enforced at every level of the power sector. He added that electricity



theft should be eliminated completely. He instructed the Power Division to devise clear performance indicators to gauge the working of the distribution companies and to set integrated targets backed by defined timelines.

The prime minister announced that the best-performing DISCO would be formally recognized and awarded for its performance, an incentive, he said, would encourage healthy competition among the companies.

Six abducted labourers found shot dead in Turbat

ANI

QUETTA: Six labourers who were abducted two days ago from Turbat in Balochistan have been found dead after being shot, police said, as authorities launched an investigation into the incident.

According to police, the bodies of the six abducted men were recovered and shifted to a hospital after local administration officials reached the site.

Police said the victims had sustained gunshot wounds, while efforts were underway to complete the investigation and verify their identities. Security sources identified the deceased as Muhammad Arshad, Muhammad Taimoor, Muhammad Parvez, Muhammad Wazir, Muhammad Amjad and Muhammad Yahya. Balochistan Adviser for the Home Department Babar Yousafzai confirmed that the bodies recovered from Turbat were those of the six abducted labourers.

He said four of the victims belonged to Punjab, while two were residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to Yousafzai, seven labourers were abducted by armed attackers from the Kalat area of Turbat two days ago.

Bilawal calls for transparent phase-II elections in AJK during Muzaffarabad rally

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said he wants to transform Kashmir into "a paradise," establish peace and justice in the region, and ensure that the people of Kashmir receive all of their legitimate rights.

Addressing an election rally in Muzaffarabad, Bilawal said that the future of Kashmir should be decided solely by the Kashmiri people.

He stressed that the principle of popular sovereignty requires that the candidate receiving the public's vote should emerge victorious, add-



ing that elections must be decided by the ballot, not the bullet, and that electoral fraud should never be concealed. He announced that a constitutional convention would be convened after the elections and called

for effective representation of Kashmiri refugees in the Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly. Bilawal also pledged to seek observer status for Kashmir in Pakistan's National Finance Commission (NFC) and said his party would take steps to address the issues facing Kashmiri refugees living in Pakistan. The PPP chairman said that, alongside property rights, people must also be guaranteed the right to employment. Referring to the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project, he said it contributes to Pakistan's energy needs but argued that Kashmir's own development has been neglected.



Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong is visiting Confucius Institute University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Quiet engine of CPEC 2.0 reshaping Pakistan’s industry

ANI

BEIJING: For Ameer Hamza, vocational training received in China opened a door he never thought possible. As a student of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Community College, he took part in the Sino-Pak Dual Diploma Program in Modern Agriculture Technology and studied at Beijing Bailie University in 2022.

Upon returning home, Hamza joined a local firm partnering with Chinese suppliers, earning approximately Rs140,000 per month, well above Pakistan’s average salary for vocational graduates.

Hamza’s story is the human face of the expanding China-Pakistan technical and vocational education and training (TVET) cooperation. In December 2024, the Pakistani Embassy in China hosted the 1st China-Pakistan TVET Forum in Beijing. Over the past seven months alone, four TVET events were convened by the Embassy, underscoring Islamabad’s vigorous push to nurture local technical talent with China’s assistance.

Massive Skills Gap

Pakistan faces a far steeper shortage of skilled workers than widely assumed.

Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, recently shared at a TVET Symposium in China that only 6% of Pakistan’s workforce holds formal vocational qualifications, while annual TVET enrollment stands at just 458,000.

Research further quantifies this crisis: Only 2.5% of young Pakistanis receive structured on-the-job training, and formal TVET serves fewer than 15% of the three million youth joining the labor force annually. Take the electric vehicle (EV) sector, for example. Under its National Electric Vehicle Policy 2025-30, Pakistan targets 30% electric vehicle penetration by 2030. Yet, as Iqbal pointed out, the country lacks the capacity to train workers across the EV supply chain, from battery cell manufacturing and management to recycling and after-sales service. “Our labor productivity is one of the lowest among regional peers, and over 80% of our employment remains informal. This is the gap we must close, and close urgently,” Iqbal stressed.

Strategic Fit

The robust China-Pakistan TVET ties stem from the alignment between the upgraded version of CPEC 2.0 and Pakistan’s



National Economic Transformation Plan (2024-2029) (URAAAN Pakistan). This high-level synergy advances systematic TVET cooperation along three core pillars: infrastructure rollout, workforce development, and institutional frameworks.

The \$10 million Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI) in Gwadar, a Chinese donation, became operational in 2023. It continuously supplies qualified technicians for Gwadar Port, free economic zones, special economic zones, New Gwadar International Airport and other key CPEC projects.

A full lineup of China-backed vocational

workshops has also opened nationwide, targeting a wave of emerging and strategic industrial sectors. These include Luban Workshops on electromechanics & electrical automation and modern agriculture, China-Pakistan New Energy Vehicle High-Skilled Talent Training Centre of Excellence, China-Pakistan Postal and Courier Workshop, National Centre of Excellence for New Energy Vehicles (Luban-Mozi College), Silk Road Digital Trade Institute, Panda Workshop for cultural creation and Kaiwu Workshop focused on live commerce.

The launch of the China-Pakistan TVET-Industrial Center of Excellence (CPTICE) in November 2024 marked an institutional shift, replacing scattered training with a permanent, industry-driven platform.

“I think that is the only sustainable way of working,” said Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson of the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) of Pakistan. “Before, the support and the ideas were very sporadic. Now they are well planned and executed, and we are also looking at the regional industrial demands of different parts of the country and then responding accordingly.”

First Lady Aseefa graces Mango diplomacy festival to promote cultural, economic ties

ANI

KARACHI: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on Thursday graced the Mango Diplomacy Festival 2026 as the chief guest at a ceremony held at a local hotel.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah attended the event and welcomed the First Lady on her arrival.

The festival, organised by the Foreign Affairs Liaison Office (FALO), Karachi, brought together members of the diplomatic corps, consuls general, honorary consuls, government officials, business leaders and other distinguished guests to celebrate Pakistan’s renowned mango varieties and promote cultural and economic diplomacy.

Addressing the gathering, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said the Mango Diplomacy Festival had become an important feature of Karachi’s diplomatic calendar, fostering goodwill and strengthening ties among the diplomatic community, government institutions and the business sector. Welcoming First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, he said her presence had added distinction to the event, adding that through her engagements at home and abroad she had represented Pakistan with dignity while advocating greater participation of women and youth in national development. The Chief Minister acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appreciated Additional Foreign Secretary Muhammad Khalid Jamali and DG FALO Muhammad Irfan Soomro for their efforts in promoting economic and cultural diplomacy.

Pakistan, US Business Leaders Boost Investment Ties

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A United States business and congressional delegation visited Rawalpindi to explore investment opportunities and deepen commercial cooperation with Pakistan, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral economic relations and promote private-sector partnerships.

The delegation, facilitated by the “Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), held a meeting with the President of the “Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI)” in the presence of representatives from the “State Bank of Pakistan (Rawalpindi)” and senior SIFC officials.

The discussions focused on Pakistan’s investment potential, improving the ease of doing business, and identifying oppor-



tunities for collaboration in priority sectors. The engagement was followed by business-to-business (B2B) networking sessions, enabling direct interaction

between Pakistani and American business leaders. Participants exchanged views on expanding bilateral trade, attracting foreign direct investment, and

building long-term commercial partnerships. The meeting also highlighted Pakistan’s ongoing economic reforms and the role of the SIFC in facilitating investment and creating a more business-friendly environment for international investors. Business leaders from both sides expressed optimism that stronger private-sector engagement would open new avenues for trade, innovation and joint ventures, contributing to sustainable economic growth in both countries.

The visit underscores the growing momentum in “Pakistan–United States economic cooperation”, with both countries seeking to enhance investment, strengthen business connectivity and unlock new opportunities for shared prosperity through increased commercial engagement.

COMSTECH, Tajikistan discuss launching joint programme to boost scientific cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary during his visit to the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan on Thursday held talks with Yusuf Sharifzoda on expanding bilateral cooperation in science, technology, artificial intelligence, higher education, innovation and research. Prof. Choudhary, accompanied by a COMSTECH delegation, was warmly received by Ambassador Sharifzoda. During the meeting, both sides expressed keen interest in launching a dedicated COMSTECH–Tajikistan Programme aimed at strengthening institutional partnerships and scientific collaboration between Tajikistan and OIC-COMSTECH. The Coordinator General reaffirmed COMSTECH’s commitment to promoting academic and scientific cooperation among Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states through joint research, capacity-building initiatives, academic mobility and science diplomacy. He proposed exchange visits of students, young innovators, researchers and university faculty members, along with partnerships between leading universities and scientific institutions of Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Engineer Malik Gul Asghar Khan’s Efforts to Bring NADRA Registration Center to Choa Sharif

BY:ANI Correspondent

SARGODHA---- A NADRA Registration Center is likely to be established in Choa Sharif under the One Window Operation initiative, following the efforts of Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Communications and Member of the National Assembly, Engineer Malik Gul Asghar Khan Baghour.

Coordinators Engineer Malik Tahir Nadeem Baghour and Malik Hammad Hussain Baghour, accompanied by NADRA Khushab Deputy Superintendent Malik Mazhar Hayat, visited Choa Sharif to conduct a detailed assessment for the proposed registration center.

Speaking to the media, Engineer Malik Tahir Nadeem Baghour said the center would soon be established, God willing, through the special efforts of MNA Engineer Malik Gul



Asghar Khan Baghour. He said the facility would provide residents of Choa Sharif and adjoining areas with easy access to NADRA registration and documentation services, saving

them from traveling long distances. Among those present during the visit were Mian Amjad Munir, Mian Tahir Munir, Sahibzada Huzaifa Shehzad, and Dr. Suleman Losha.



5- August 1991(Multan) Mir Ahmed Kamran Magsi, M Saleem Raja Ilyas Khan, Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Awan and Meraj Bet are present in the hunger strike camp organized by the Pakistan Peoples Party Multan against the government in the ninth city of Multan.

Khakan Waheed Khawaja Announces PAK Force Party’s Full Participation in Local Government Elections

BY:ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party (PAK Force Party), Chairman of Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khakan Waheed Khawaja, has announced that the party is preparing to contest the upcoming local government elections and will field candidates in every constituency once the government announces the election schedule.

Speaking to various delegations at

his office, Khakan Waheed Khawaja said the party is fully aware of the public’s problems and is committed to resolving them at the grassroots level. He said the party’s elected councillors would be empowered to address local issues effectively and ensure better public service delivery.

Delegations from Burma Town and several other areas, comprising political and social representatives, met the party chief. A large number of women also attended the meeting. Syeda Firdous briefed the women on the

party’s vision and organizational structure, while the party’s Central Executive Committee interacted with delegations from different union councils, listened to their concerns, and explained the party’s organizational framework. Khakan Waheed Khawaja urged party workers to take the party’s manifesto to every street and neighborhood, emphasizing that the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party is committed to serving the people and addressing their issues on a priority basis.

Former Senator Dr. Ghaus M Khan Niazi Meets District Election Commissioner to Review Kashmir Election Arrangements

BY:Raja Noor Ilahi Atif/ ANI

SARGODHA---Former Senator Dr. Ghaus Muhammad Khan Niazi met with District Election Commissioner Khushab, Muhammad Ali, to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections.

During the meeting, Dr. Niazi sought detailed information regarding the designated polling stations and the overall election preparations. District Election Commissioner Muhammad Ali informed him that two polling stations have been established in Khushab for Kashmiri voters. One polling station, No. 53-MB, has been set up in Azam Colony, while the second polling station will operate in Joharabad.



He further stated that all necessary arrangements have been completed to ensure peaceful, transparent, and well-organized polling.

Election staff have been fully prepared to facilitate voters and ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

Health Ministry hands over Isolation Hospital and Regional Blood Center to Indus Hospital Network

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination handed over Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Center (IHITC) and the Regional Blood Center to Indus Hospital & Health Network, aiming to ensure the provision of quality, effective and sustainable medical facilities to the public. The handover took place after the signing of two agreements at a ceremony chaired by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister called it a historic step for the health sector and said that under the agreements, administrative and medical services of both hospitals had been handed over to the Indus Hospital Network.

He added that the IHITC was established with the cooperation of China, while the Regional Blood Center was built with modern facilities with the cooperation of Germany. The minister said the government engaged an independent consultant in accordance with all legal and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules, ensuring complete transparency throughout the process. “Indus Hospital Network was selected after a detailed feasibility assessment and competitive process,” he said, adding that a viable model was subsequently presented to the prime minister, after the approval of which this agreement was made possible today. He expressed optimism that these hospitals would not only provide the health services above the current standards but would also continue to serve the public for a long time under a sustainable management system.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi on Thursday said Pakistan would position itself as a leading global destination for Buddhist heritage tourism by preserving and promoting the Gandhara civilisation through a comprehensive national strategy being implemented under the direct oversight of Prime Minister. Chairing the inaugural meeting of the Task Force on the Gandhara – Cradle of Buddhism (GCOB) Strategy, the minister said the Prime Minister had taken a special interest in safeguarding Pakistan’s Gandhara herit-



age and would personally review the progress of the strategy on monthly basis to ensure its effective implementation. The task force, constituted with the approval of the Prime Minister, discussed a comprehensive roadmap

to project Pakistan as the true guardian and custodian of the Gandhara civilisation while promoting the country’s rich Buddhist heritage and expanding cultural and religious tourism.

The meeting was attended by Secretary National Heritage and Culture Division Asad Rehman Gilani, representatives of the Ministries of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Foreign Affairs and Interior, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), provincial culture and heritage departments, the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Gandhara Task Force Coordinator Imran Shaukat and other members.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Opinion

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America facing a growing terror threat from within

DALIA AL-AQIDI

The US is being tested by a threat that is no longer distant, organized in foreign camps or directed solely from abroad. It is increasingly diffuse, harder to detect and more dangerous precisely because it grows from within. The rise in terrorist plots and attacks inspired by radicalism and extremism should alarm every American — not only because of their frequency but because of the conditions that allow them to take hold.

This is not speculation. It is the conclusion of America's own intelligence community.

The 2026 Annual Threat Assessment, released last week by Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, shows that the biggest terrorist risk America is facing today comes from individuals or small groups acting on their own, driven by extreme beliefs. These attackers are often not directly tied to larger organizations or guided by foreign groups. But they are still influenced by dangerous ideas that make violence seem justified and even necessary in response to what they see as injustice.

This shift represents a profound evolution in the threat landscape. Groups such as Daesh and Al-Qaeda may have lost much of their ability to carry out large-scale, coordinated attacks. But their ideological reach remains intact. In some ways, it has expanded. They no longer need to plan every attack. They only need to inspire one. The results are visible across the country. Two weeks ago in New York, two young men attempted to detonate improvised explosive devices outside the mayor's residence. According to federal prosecutors, they were motivated by Daesh-inspired ideology and sought to carry out an attack of devastating scale. The devices failed to detonate but the intent was unmistakable.

In Michigan, a Lebanese American male drove his vehicle into a synagogue while children were inside, turning a place of worship into a scene of fear. Investigators say the attacker held extremist views and deliberately chose his target, using his vehicle as a weapon to spread harm and intimidation. It was not just an attack on a building but on an entire community and its sense of safety.

On the same day in Virginia, a gunman

with a prior terrorism conviction opened fire in a university classroom while shouting religious slogans. Students who had come to learn found themselves in the middle of a violent, ideology-driven attack. The fact that the attacker was already known to authorities raises serious concerns about how such threats are monitored and contained.

In each case, the attackers did not act in isolation from ideas. Their actions were shaped over time by beliefs that frame violence as justified, even necessary. These are not isolated incidents but part of a pattern.

According to FBI Director Kash Patel, US authorities disrupted 640 planned terrorist attacks in the past year alone. At the same time, the FBI is investigating about 1,700 domestic terrorism cases. Many of these involve individuals driven by what officials describe as "nihilistic violent extremism" — a mindset rooted in hatred of society and a desire to create chaos. This is what terrorism in America looks like today: scattered, driven by ideology and much harder to detect and stop. But addressing this threat requires more than law enforcement. It requires honesty

about how people become radicalized — and how public narratives can speed up that process. Because terrorism does not start with violence, it starts with ideas.

It begins with the idea that a person's identity is under attack, their faith is under siege and the society around them is hostile and irredeemable. Once that belief takes hold, the path to radicalization becomes far shorter. This is why rhetoric matters.

When political figures suggest that the US is fundamentally hostile to a particular religion, they are not merely engaging in debate, they are shaping perceptions, especially among the young — impressionable individuals who may already feel alienated. Among the most prominent voices advancing this narrative is Rep. Ilhan Omar, who has repeatedly framed criticism of extremist ideologies as an attack on Muslims more broadly. This framing is deeply irresponsible. It blurs the line between protecting religious freedom and confronting extremist ideas. Washington must defend the first, but it cannot ignore the second. When criticism is dismissed as bigotry, harmful ideas go unchallenged, gain acceptance and

can push some individuals to see violence as justified. Such a pattern has been observed repeatedly, both in the US and abroad.

Policy needs to adapt to this threat.

The US should focus more on stopping radicalization early, especially online, and work with trusted voices in communities to push back against extremist ideas. Law enforcement also needs better tools, coordination and support to track lone attackers, who are harder to detect. At the same time, immigration and citizenship policies should reflect the seriousness of terrorism, with clear consequences for those who turn to violence. And most importantly, key security agencies must be fully supported, without political disruptions, so they can do their job effectively and keep the country safe. Finally, there must be a renewed commitment to clarity in public discourse. America is not at war with a religion. It is confronting an ideology that distorts faith, exploits grievance and justifies violence. Failing to make that distinction clear does not promote tolerance. It creates confusion — and that confusion is precisely what extremist groups rely on.

— Arab News

Africa is forging its own green future

ELIAS KAGUMYA

The Belem Package — the set of climate finance and adaptation measures adopted at last year's COP30 UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil — was limited in scope. Still, by acknowledging that the world can no longer design climate solutions for Africa without meaningful African input, it marked a profound shift in policymaking.

Despite accounting for less than 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. As a result, the continent has in recent years moved from the periphery of the climate finance debate to the forefront. Much of the world now recognizes that Africa's path to net-zero emissions must foster development, not constrain it. Rather than replicating old patterns of dependency, African countries must industrialize, trade and grow while forging a low-carbon future.

The inaugural environmental, social and governance report by the African Export-Import Bank, known as Afreximbank, released during COP30, reflects this shift. It finds that instead of waiting for external solutions, African institutions are already taking the necessary steps to support the continent's economic development and climate ambitions. But to unlock climate finance at scale, African multilateral institutions must act as a coordinated force promoting a shared continental vision. The Afreximbank report highlights a range of practical instruments, such as the Climate Change Adaptation Finance Facility, which could help mobilize sustainable investments. Whether supporting solar projects in Cameroon or providing Nigerian businesses with stable power, these instruments demonstrate how decentralized clean energy can underpin Africa's industrialization and economic competitiveness.

Similarly, facilities such as the Africa Trade Transformation Fund can help address the continent's twin challenges of a heavy debt burden and climate vulnerability. The innovative Africa Trade Trust Fund, in particular, exemplifies the kind of project-driven instruments that will be critical to scaling up climate investment.

Effective climate action in Africa is inseparable from economic sovereignty and trade. Localizing green value chains, building low-carbon manufacturing hubs and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure are not merely climate initia-

tives, they are also nation-building projects crucial to a just transition.

The question now is whether the global financial system can adjust to this new reality. As Africa builds the necessary institutions for a sustainable future, advanced economies must honor their commitments by fully funding the Loss and Damage Fund, easing access to concessional finance and treating Africa not as an aid recipient but as an equal trading partner. Far from an act of charity, supporting Africa's green transition is the only viable path to global climate resilience and equitable growth. As COP30 made clear, the continent's financial institutions are already shifting toward clean energy on their own terms.

Africa's economic transformation will depend on technology transfer and capacity building, both of which are essential to the projects Afreximbank and its partners are financing. Consider solar farms. Beyond installation, this generating capacity becomes part of a future electricity grid, stimulates local component manufacturing and helps train a new generation of engineers.

Nigeria's Aba Integrated Power Project illustrates this holistic approach. By delivering stable, clean gas power to small businesses, it simultaneously tackles emissions, boosts productivity and strengthens local value chains.

The resulting multiplier effect reinforces the case for treating climate finance as development finance. Doing so answers a key question raised by many COP30 attendees: How can economies become both climate-resilient and globally competitive? The answer lies in integrated projects that link environmental progress with economic strength.

Make no mistake: systemic obstacles remain. Africa faces a staggering financing gap of \$1.6 trillion to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, underscoring the persistent misalignment between the global financial system and the continent's needs. The Belem Package, which acknowledges that imbalance, is a step in the right direction. Correcting distorted risk perceptions and the resulting high credit spreads, however, will be key to unlocking private capital at concessional rates.

Encouragingly, African institutions are already responding by developing de-risking tools and blended finance models, including concessional windows and trust funds, to attract private capital.

— Arab News



The Story of Freedom Written in Blood Now Seeks Peace



By **Sardar Zeeshan Tahir**
Published by ANI

October 24, 1947, remains one of the most significant dates in the h cvvg-vgggistory of Jammu and Kashmir. It marks the day when the

armed struggle of the Kashmiri Muslims against the oppressive Dogra rule resulted in the liberation of a large part of the state. On this historic day, the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was formally proclaimed. The foundation of this movement was laid by Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and the courageous Mujahideen of Poonch.

Under the Dogra and earlier Sikh rule, Kashmiri Muslims endured decades of religious persecution, political exclusion, and social injustice. The Poonch Rebellion emerged as a determined response to these hardships. The people of Rawalakot, Bagh, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Bhimber rose against the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh. Thousands of veterans returning from the Second World War dedicated their military experience to the cause of national freedom.

Several remarkable leaders became enduring symbols of this struggle. Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan mobilized the youth of Poonch and established the first government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Capt. Hussain Khan Shaheed, Col. Khan of Mang, and Sardar

Abdul Qayyum Khan spearheaded the armed resistance on the battlefield. Meanwhile, Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas provided political guidance and strengthened the movement through visionary leadership. Today, however, it is deeply painful to witness some protesters and participants in sit-ins in Azad Kashmir referring to the founding heroes of the region and their own elders as traitors. Such accusations against those who sacrificed for the freedom of their homeland are unfortunate and deserve serious reflection.

The struggle for liberation was never confined to one tribe or one region. It was a collective national sacrifice. The Saduzai (Sudhan), Syeds, Gujjars, Rajputs, Jatts, Mughals, and many other communities of Poonch fought side by side to liberate their ancestral lands. Thousands of brave young men from the Sudhan tribe stood against the Dogra forces and played a decisive role in freeing large parts of Poonch, Bagh, and Sudhanoti.

Support also came from the tribal regions of Pakistan. Lashkar-e-Ghazi volunteers from the Wazir, Mehsud, and Afridi tribes of Waziristan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joined their Kashmiri brothers in resisting the Maharaja's forces and the subsequent Indian intervention. Likewise, countless Muslims from Jammu and surrounding areas who aspired to join Pakistan lost their lives during migration, leaving behind a legacy of sacrifice that cannot be forgotten. It was through the unity and courage of these local and tribal forces that the liberated territory came to be known as Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The events of October 24, 1947, remind us that freedom is preserved only through unity, sacrifice,

and mutual respect. This land remains a sacred trust of those martyrs who gave their lives so future generations could live with dignity.

The principal purpose—and the deepest pain—that compels me to write this article today is the disturbing situation unfolding in Azad Kashmir. The cycle of bloodshed among our own people must come to an immediate end. The relationship between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan is not merely geographical; it is rooted in shared faith, common ideals, and the sacrifices written in blood. Internal conflict serves neither the nation nor its people.

The people of Kashmir are not traitors to their beloved homeland. They are devoted patriots whose history is filled with extraordinary sacrifices and martyrdom. Those politicians and members of the public who, without understanding history, label them as traitors or spread hatred should first study the remarkable story of the Kashmiri people's struggle and resilience.

If this mistrust and unrest continue, not only will Kashmir suffer, but the peace and stability of Pakistan as a whole may also be endangered. The need of the hour is for the state to act with compassion rather than confrontation. The protesters are our own elders, brothers, and sons. Their legitimate concerns deserve to be heard with sincerity. Through dialogue, patience, respect, and meaningful negotiations, a peaceful solution can be found so that this beautiful region may once again become a cradle of peace, harmony, and security. Let us pause today and look back at history—not to reopen old wounds, but to rediscover the path that leads to love, reconciliation, and lasting peace.

Letters to the Editor

Women’s safety

The pressing issue for women in society is their safety. Many women do not feel safe when they walk in public, especially when they go to school, the market or their workplaces. This fear limits their freedom and participation in daily activities. Due to this fear, they are forced to stay at home, and they are not allowed to participate in any activities. But women's contributions have an immense role in keeping communities progressive and healthy. To improve safety in our community, I kindly request the installation of CCTV cameras and streetlights across the city. In our society, there are no streetlights which increases the risk of incidents. I also urge the provincial government and the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) to take immediate measures for their safety.

Tamana Hanif Hub

Underdeveloped institute

Turbat, a city that is already considered underdeveloped in many aspects, is facing serious challenges in the field of education — especially technical and vocational training which is essential for the progress of any nation. In our city, there is an institution called the Technical

Training Centre. Although the building exists and the department is officially established, it is not functioning properly. There is no effective system of education, and the centre appears active only in name. Several serious issues have been observed. Students are not receiving proper training and, in some cases, certificates are reportedly issued without merit. There is little to no supervision from the concerned authorities. Staff members are often absent from their duties, and the stipends meant for students are allegedly not reaching them. This institution has the potential to play a vital role in developing skills among the youth of the area. If managed properly, it could help young people become self-reliant and contribute positively to society and the economy. I respectfully request the district administration and the Government of Balochistan to take immediate action to make this department fully functional. Proper monitoring, accountability and sincere management are urgently needed so that this centre can truly serve its purpose and help produce skilled individuals who can stand on their own feet.

Mehrullah Ali Turbat

Educational capabilities

Children have different IQ levels, and they per-

The US and Israel have different goals in the war on Iran

CON COUGHLIN

Donald Trump's claim that he knew nothing about Israel's attack on Iran's main gas field suggests that significant tensions exist between the US president and Israel over how best to prosecute their joint military campaign against Iran. Ever since Trump launched Operation Epic Fury more than three weeks ago, questions have been raised about the precise nature of the cooperation between the US military and its Israeli counterpart.

While Trump has suggested his main priority is to destroy, once and for all, Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapons arsenal, the Israelis, who have dubbed their effort Operation Roaring Lion, appear determined to wage their campaign until regime change has been achieved in Tehran.

To this end, Israel's Mossad intelligence service has ruthlessly targeted key figures in the Iranian regime, with Israel said to have been heavily involved in last week's assassinations of Ali Larijani, Iran's national security chief, and Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib.

There have even been reports of Mossad agents directly calling Iranian police officers and threatening to kill them in an attempt to secure defections. Leaked documents and recordings have revealed a wide-scale Israeli effort to scare lower-ranking officials in the hope of enabling a popular uprising in Iran, while also assassinating senior regime figures. By contrast, the US military has mainly been targeting Iran's nuclear and military sites, especially the country's ballistic missile launch pads that have been used to attack neighboring Gulf countries. While Trump has indicated he would like to see the war ultimately result in regime change in Tehran, he does not appear as committed to such an outcome as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, who has specifically said that he wants Israel's military attacks on Iran to result in regime change.

One crucial difference in the prosecution of the war by the Americans and the Israelis has been an unwillingness on the part of the Americans to target key Iranian infrastructure, especially its energy sector — at least so far.

Trump's approach was clear during the recent US military attack on Kharg Island, the narrow strip of Iranian territory in the Gulf that is responsible for about 90 percent of Iran's oil exports. While the US attacked a number of military bases operated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, it avoided attacks on the island's oil facilities, with Trump declaring that he had deliberately left them untouched. By contrast, Israel appears to have no qualms about attacking key Iranian infrastructure targets, with Israeli warplanes launching an attack on the South Pars gas field on Wednesday.

While Israel insists that key Iranian infrastructure presents a legitimate target in its war against the regime, the attack on South Pars has exposed tensions between Israel and the Trump administration, with the American president insisting that he knew nothing about the Israeli attack, stating that Israel had "violently lashed out" by attacking the gas field. In an attempt to draw a red line over which targets should and should not be attacked in the war, Trump insisted that Israel would not conduct any more attacks against Iran's energy sector unless the Iranians continued their attacks on energy targets in the Gulf.

"Israel, out of anger for what has taken place in the Middle East, has violently lashed out at a major facility ... in Iran," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "No more attacks will be made by Israel pertaining to this extremely important and valuable South Pars field unless Iran unwisely decides to attack a very innocent, in this

Muhammad Iqbal Awan Mianwali

Karachi Marriott Hotel and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Host Mango Diplomacy Fest in Collaboration with PFVA

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- Karachi Marriott Hotel, in partnership with the Foreign Affairs Liaison Office Karachi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and in collaboration with the All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters, Importers & Merchants Association (PFVA), successfully hosted the Mango Diplomacy Fest today at the Grand Ballroom, bringing together members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, business leaders, and industry stakeholders to celebrate Pakistan's internationally acclaimed mangoes.

The event was graced by H.E. Ms. Asifa Bhutto Zardari, Honourable First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Chief Guest. Guests were welcomed by Muhammad Irfan Soomro, Director General, Foreign Affairs Liaison Office Karachi, followed by remarks from H.E. Syed Murad Ali Shah, Honourable Chief Minister of Sindh.

Adding a distinctive culinary touch to the celebration, Karachi Marriott Hotel's culinary team curated an exclusive mango-inspired menu, showcasing the versatility of Pakistan's signature fruit through an



innovative selection of beverages, savoury canapés, gourmet hot bites, and handcrafted desserts. The specially designed menu reflected the hotel's commitment to culinary excellence while celebrating the rich flavours and heritage of Pakistan's finest mango varieties.

The event concluded with the presentation of commemorative shields by the Chief Guest, a vote of thanks by Mr. Raza Abbas, General

Manager, Karachi Marriott Hotel, and a ceremonial cake cutting.

The Mango Diplomacy Fest reaffirmed the shared commitment of Karachi Marriott Hotel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and PFVA to promoting Pakistan's premium mangoes as an ambassador of the country's culture, hospitality, and export excellence, while strengthening diplomatic goodwill and international engagement.



Karachi: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari at the Mango Diplomacy Festival 2026, organised by the Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Rear Admiral Tasawar Iqbal Tungan Promoted to Two-Star Rank in Pakistan Navy

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN--- Rear Admiral Tasawar Iqbal Tungan, Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military), has been promoted to the rank of Two-Star Rear Admiral in the Pakistan Navy, bringing pride and honor to District Mandi Bahauddin.

A native of Village Gohtri, Tehsil Malikwal, Rear Admiral Tungan has earned distinction through his outstanding professionalism, leadership, and dedicated service to the nation. During his illustrious career, he has held several key appointments in the Pakistan Navy, including serving as Deputy Military Secretary to three Prime Ministers of Pakistan. He also represented Pakistan in France, Saudi Arabia,



and other international forums, besides serving as Commandant of the Pakistan Naval Academy.

In recognition of his exceptional services, the Government of Pakistan awarded him the Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).

Rear Admiral Tasawar Iqbal Tungan is the first cousin of Muhammad Aamir Marth, Additional Director, Special Investigation Division (SID), National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Islamabad, and Major Abdul Majid Marth. Family members, friends, and well-wishers have congratulated Rear Admiral Tasawar Iqbal Tungan on his promotion, expressing confidence that he will continue to serve Pakistan with distinction. Prayers were offered for his continued success, good health, and further achievements in the service of the nation.

AJK Election Campaign to End at Midnight Ahead of August 2 Polls

BY: ANI Report:

MUZAFFARABAD--- The Election Commission of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has announced that electioneering for the August 2, 2026 general elections in Muzaffarabad Division and the 12 constituencies reserved for Jammu and Kashmir refugees residing in Pakistan will end at midnight between July 31 and August 1.

The Commission said that after the campaign period ends, all public



meetings, rallies, processions, corner meetings and other election-related gatherings in the concerned constituencies will be prohibited in accord-

ance with the electoral laws.

The Election Commission urged all candidates, political parties, election agents and supporters to strictly comply with the electoral laws, the code of conduct and the Commission's directives to ensure that the elections are conducted in a peaceful, transparent, free and fair manner.

It warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone found violating the electoral laws or the code of conduct.

ICCI, CDA Labour Union Pledge Stronger Institutional Cooperation for Islamabad's Development

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the CDA Labour Union have agreed to strengthen institutional cooperation to address civic and business-related challenges, reaffirming their commitment to making the federal capital cleaner, more efficient, and investment-friendly. The agreement was reached during a meeting between an ICCI delegation led by President Sardar Tahir Mehmood and a CDA Labour Union delegation headed by President Aurangzeb Khan and Secretary General Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Tahir Mehmood said Islamabad's progress depends on efficient civic institutions and a vibrant business community. He emphasized that quality municipal services, modern infrastructure, and a business-friendly environment are essential for sustainable economic growth. He also commended CDA employees for their dedication to maintaining the capi-



tal's infrastructure.

Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin appreciated ICCI's continued support for the business community, stating that the welfare of workers and the growth of trade and industry are closely linked. He stressed that CDA employees deserve dignity, improved working conditions, and better welfare facilities, adding that their issues should be resolved through constructive dialogue.

ICCI Founder Group Chairman Sheikh Tariq Sadiq and former President Khalid Javaid highlighted the importance of regular coordination between civic institutions and the

private sector to ensure uninterrupted municipal services and facilitate business activities.

Pakistan Workers Federation General Secretary Assad Mehmood, Additional Deputy General Secretary Mohammad Rizwan, and ICCI Executive Member Mirza Mohammad Ali also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to improve civic services and enhance the ease of doing business in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by ICCI office-bearers, executive members, representatives of traders' associations, and senior leaders of the CDA Labour Union.

Commissioner Reviews 'Suthra Punjab' Drive, Orders Improved Sanitation Across Rawalpindi Division

BY: Kiran Shehzadi/ ANI

RAWALPINDI--- Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Salman Ghani on Thursday directed all sanitation agencies to strengthen coordination and improve waste management under the "Suthra Punjab" programme, reaffirming the Punjab Government's commitment to providing citizens with a clean, healthy and pollution-free environment.

Chairing a review meeting at the Commissioner Office, Salman Ghani said the sanitation system across the division should be made more effective, well-coordinated and aligned with modern standards. He instructed all relevant agencies to ensure efficient waste collection, keep machinery fully

operational and maintain uniform cleanliness standards in both urban and rural areas.

The Commissioner emphasized that all departments should work under a unified strategy to achieve the objectives of the Suthra Punjab Programme and transform Rawalpindi Division into a clean, green and model division.

Officials briefed the meeting on the performance of the Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) and the Suthra Punjab Agency. They informed participants that sanitation services are currently being provided in all 24 tehsils of Rawalpindi Division. RWMC directly manages operations in three districts, while services in four districts have been outsourced.

The meeting was also informed that

RWMC is responsible for the disposal of municipal waste collected from Rawalpindi city, Capital Development Authority (CDA) areas and 20 housing societies.

Participants reviewed coordination issues between CDA and cantonment areas, discussed the responsibility of WASA for desilting blocked drains, and examined progress on establishing a modern engineered waste dumping site at Mandraha, Chakwal. Officials said around 70 percent of the project has been completed.

The meeting was attended by Director Development Syed Nizarat Ali Shah, RWMC Director Rana Sajid Safdar, Head of Operations Dr. Hameed Iqbal, and other senior officers from the relevant departments.



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum, chaired by Senator Umer Farooq, reviewed the newly introduced daily petroleum pricing mechanism and directed OGRA to consult all stakeholders, including petroleum deal-

ers, before finalizing a practical proposal.

The committee expressed displeasure over the late arrival of the Chairman OGRA and the absence of the Managing Directors of Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), warning that privilege motions

could be initiated against the officials.

The committee also sought details of the boards and senior management of state-owned petroleum companies, ordered an audit report on oil rigs within seven days, and deferred discussion on the Reko Diq project to a later meeting.

Ch Shabbir Balochistani Condemns Bilawal's Remarks Against Maryam Nawaz, Calls for Responsible Politics

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--- Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan Secretary Information, Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani, has strongly condemned the remarks made by Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, describing them as irresponsible, inappropriate, and against democratic political norms.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Shabbir Balochistani said political disagreement is a democratic right, but personal attacks, derogatory language, and character assassination have no place in civilized politics. He urged Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to focus on key public issues, including inflation, unemployment, economic challenges, and public welfare, instead of making statements that further intensify political ten-



He said Maryam Nawaz Sharif has earned her political stature through public service, democratic struggle, and the confidence of the people, adding that any attempt to malign her reputation would be

rejected by the public. He further stated that if the PPP has a credible record of public service, it should present its performance before the people rather than resorting to personal attacks.

Reaffirming PML-N's support for its leadership, Shabbir Balochistani rejected what he termed baseless and defamatory remarks against Maryam Nawaz Sharif and called upon Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to withdraw his statement, apologize, and adopt a more responsible and dignified political approach.

He concluded by emphasizing that Pakistan needs national unity, mutual respect, constructive political dialogue, and collective efforts to address the country's challenges, urging all political parties to rise above personal attacks and prioritize the national interest, constitutional supremacy, and public welfare.