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Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

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Pakistan to provide first secretary general of Makkah Defence Alliance: Turkish FM



ANI

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Monday said the General Secretariat of the Makkah Defence Alliance would be based in Saudi Arabia, with Pakistan providing its first secretary general. He made the remarks during a press conference following the first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in Istanbul. The Makkah Defence Agreement has launched a process to establish a "new security and cooperation architecture" in the region, Fidan said. "With this alliance, we will see greater stability gradually emerge in the region and uncertainty diminish," he added.

Fidan also said the Makkah Defence Alliance was "established with the aim of expanding." He said preliminary decisions had been taken on the institutional arrangements needed to develop the alliance, adding that Türkiye would continue supporting efforts to establish its institutional framework. The Turkish FM described the alliance as a defence pact that would respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of member states and refrain from interfering in their internal affairs.

He said the alliance would also remain open to other countries in the region. He added that the "peaceful vision" underpinning the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement could be pursued jointly with countries across the region. Fidan clarified that the

agreement would not replace the countries' obligations under international organisations such as NATO, but would complement those responsibilities. "We have reaffirmed once again that we are ready to assume responsibility for regional peace and stability," he said, adding that Türkiye would continue to work closely with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region. Asked about recent remarks by the Netanyahu government portraying Türkiye as a strategic threat, he said: "Netanyahu, who has become a common enemy of humanity, the international community and security, is not a person to be taken seriously." "The international system must fight against the Netanyahu threat," he added. Türkiye is hosting the inaugu-

ral meeting of the committee, which was established to provide strategic direction for activities under the agreement and brings together the foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of general staff of Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Following a photo, the meeting began with the participation of Turkish FM, National Defence Minister Yasar Guler and Chief of General Staff Gen Selcuk Bayraktaroglu; Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir; and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman and Chief of General Staff Gen Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili.

PM, Uzbekistan President discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in industry, agriculture



ANI

BISHKEK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting and discussed further strengthening cooperation in industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, mining, digital technologies, education, culture, defence and security. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Commerce, Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Communications and Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting were also present.

The Prime Minister conveyed warm felicitations to President Mirziyoyev and the brotherly people of Uzbekistan on the 35th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence. Recalling President Mirziyoyev's State Visit to Pakistan in February 2026, the Prime Minister noted that the visit and the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council had imparted fresh momentum to the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of timely implementation of decisions taken at the leadership level, particularly in trade, investment, connectivity and economic cooperation. He reiterated the shared objective of increasing bilateral trade to US\$2 billion by 2029 and called for effective

implementation of the expanded Preferential Trade Agreement, greater business-to-business engagement and promotion of mutually beneficial joint ventures. Highlighting regional connectivity as a shared strategic priority, the Prime Minister underscored the transformative potential of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway for linking Central and South Asia and facilitating Uzbekistan's access to Pakistan's seaports. He emphasized early progress on the Joint Feasibility Study and greater utilization of existing multimodal transport corridors. The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to facilitate Uzbek trade through its ports and transport infrastructure. The Prime Minister also supported enhanced air connectivity, including progress towards direct Tashkent-Karachi flights. The Prime Minister appreciated Uzbekistan's support for Pakistan's forthcoming Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State and expressed the desire to work closely with Uzbekistan on regional security, connectivity, trade and sustainable development. He also emphasized continued cooperation within ECO and other multilateral forums.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its Strategic Partnership with Uzbekistan and translating the excellent political relationship into tangible economic benefits for the peoples of both countries.

Bilawal Denies Marriage Rumours, Disowns 'Princess Gloria'



ANI

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday categorically rejected rumours of his engagement or marriage, saying no such development had taken place and that he did not know any "Princess Gloria". "First of all, social media has got me engaged, married. Let me make it clear that no such thing has happened, nor do I know any Princess Gloria," Bilawal said in a video statement posted on X. The statement came after social media reports claimed that Bilawal was set to marry into a prominent Austrian royal family in Vienna. Rumours circulating on social media claimed that President Asif Ali Zardari had travelled to the country with other family members to discuss and set a date for his son's wedding. The rumours further claimed that Bilawal's wedding could take place towards the end of this year, while his purported fiancée was said to be from Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein. Bilawal said the social media

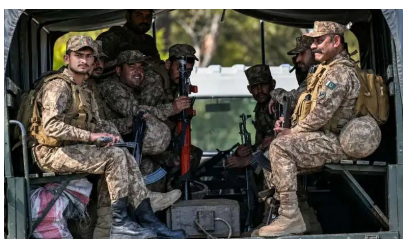
drama was intended to divert public attention from real issues. "If there is any such decision in my life, it will be announced by my family only. Until then, pay attention to the real issues and ignore the social media drama," he said.

The PPP chairman further said that 14 children had died at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in the capital, while a minister who "wants to be the Gorbachev of Pakistan" was talking about dividing the country into 30 parts.

"He cannot handle a single hospital," Bilawal said. Bilawal also criticised a minister from Lahore over his statement regarding the creation of new provinces.

"When a minister of Lahore is telling a businessman of Lahore to build and run provinces, the Sindh Assembly takes a brave stance, asserts itself that these things can neither happen on the road, nor in the business forum of Lahore," he said. He said the matter would be discussed in the same assembly that was the first to participate in the creation of Pakistan, and a decision would be made there. "Until then, pay attention to the real issues and ignore the social media drama," he added. A day earlier, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab also rejected reports about Bilawal's engagement or wedding, calling them "incorrect and unfounded". In a post on X, Wahab said, "The news story regarding Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's engagement or wedding is incorrect and unfounded."

Two terrorists killed in Balochistan's Washuk IBO: state media



ANI

Two terrorists belonging to the Fitna al-Hindustan were killed in an intelligence based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Palantak in Washuk district, state broadcaster PTV reported on Monday.

According to PTV, security forces conducted a successful IBO in the area, killing the two terrorists under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna. The slain terrorists, according to the security sources, were involved in the attack on Mashkkel police station and the Customs House.

During the operation, the terrorists' vehicle was destroyed while heavy weapons and ammunition were recovered. "The recovered weapons and ammunition were

to be used in target killings of unarmed Baloch people and terrorist activities," PTV said. According to the state broadcaster, "Security forces' operations will continue until the complete elimination of Fitna al-Hindustan's terrorists from Balochistan."

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as Fitna al-Hindustan, accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through these outfits. On August 21, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported that, in coordination with police, 49 terrorists were killed in a series of "high-tempo" IBOs across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan over the preceding few days. Balochistan accounted for 37 of the slain terrorists, who were backed by the Fitna Al Hindustan. They were killed in IBOs conducted in Mastung, Mach, Khuzdar and the Panjgur districts. The operations also resulted in the seizure and destruction of "significant quantity" of weapons, explosive drums and remote-detonation equipment. In a targeted operation conducted a week ago in Killi Soran, Panjgur, security forces killed five Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists while several others were injured.

Driver martyred, six injured in IED attack on police van in K-P's Karak

ANI

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: An improvised explosive device (IED) attack on a police mobile van in the hilly Ghol Banda area of Banda Daud Shah in Karak district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), on Monday resulted in the martyrdom of the driver and injured six other personnel. District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Imran said the police mobile was travelling towards Sar Dargah when an IED planted along the route exploded. The DPO identified the martyred driver as Wajid, who belonged to the Gadi Khel area of Karak. The injured personnel were identified as Syed Shah, Noor Shali, Imran, Shamim, Gohar and Yasin.

The injured were receiving medical treatment, DPO Imran said. Following the attack, police and security agencies cordoned off the area and began collecting evidence, he added.



He further stated efforts were underway to trace and apprehend those responsible for the attack. K-P Information and Public Relations Minister Shafi Jan, in a post on X, termed the attack an "extremely regrettable, cowardly, and condemnable act." Jan added that terrorists would "never succeed in their nefarious objectives through

such cowardly acts."

The minister stated that the "sacrifices of the martyred personnel of K-P police in the war against terrorism will never go in vain," stressing that the provincial government "shares equally in the grief of the martyr's family in this hour or sorrow." Jan extended prayers for the martyred driver and for the recovery of the injured personnel. The attack came amid a broader spike in terrorism in Pakistan, particularly in K-P and Balochistan, in recent days. The rise in terrorist activity has led to growing concerns over the security situation in these regions. K-P has borne the brunt, with 12 terrorists killed across multiple operations in Bannu, North Waziristan, Orakzai and Khyber districts over the span of a few days this month. A substantial cache of explosives, IED detonators, weapons, ammunition and motorcycles was recovered and destroyed during the operations.

Govt. moves to de-risk exports, widen SME access to global markets: Aurangzeb

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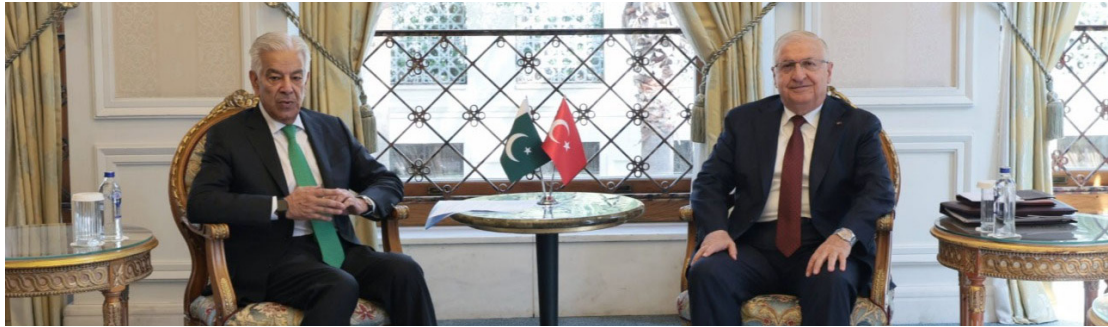
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said the government was focused on building a comprehensive ecosystem to support sustainable, private-sector-led and export-driven growth. He described the launch of the Export Development Fund's SME Risk Pool and a reinsurance partnership with the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) as an important milestone in translating the government's export strategy into practical action. Addressing the signing



ceremony of the ICIEC Reinsurance Agreement and launch of the EDF's SME Risk Pool, organized under the aegis of the Export-Import Bank of Pakistan (EXIM

Bank), the minister said Pakistan had moved from stabilization towards growth, but the key challenge now was to ensure its sustainability. He said the economy had recorded around 3.7 per cent Gross Domestic Product growth in the last fiscal year and the government hoped to take it beyond four per cent this year, adding that the country could no longer afford the boom-and-bust cycles associated with import dependency and balance of payments pressures. Aurangzeb said the government's objective was to break with that past pattern by ensuring that future growth was driven primarily by exports and the private sector.

Pakistan, Türkiye vow to strengthen defence cooperation



ANI

ISTANBUL: Pakistan and Türkiye have agreed to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, particularly in the region.

Minister for Defence Khawaja

Muhammad Asif held a meeting with Türkiye's Minister of National Defence Yasar Güler here on Monday.

The meeting took place ahead of the inaugural session of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee,

established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, also attended the meeting.

2

National

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan Inaugurates Dialysis Centre at THQ Hospital Hassan Abdal



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ATTOCK: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan inaugurated the Dr. Sikandar Hayat Dialysis Centre at THQ Hospital Hassan Abdal, describing it as an important facility for kidney patients in the area.

Addressing the ceremony, the governor said the centre would provide

dialysis facilities locally, saving patients the time and expense of travelling to Islamabad or Rawalpindi for treatment. He said providing quality healthcare at people's doorstep remained among his top priorities.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said dialysis centres were already operational in Pindi Gheb and Fateh Jang, while another would be established

in Jand. He also announced plans to establish a passport office in Hassan Abdal. The governor highlighted various welfare and development initiatives in Attock, including healthcare facilities, educational support, women's empowerment and road improvement projects. He thanked Haji Sheikh Amin and other philanthropists for their support in establishing the dialysis centre.

Italian Ambassador Ugo Ciarlatani Calls for Stronger Pakistan-Italy Economic Ties

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Italian Ambassador Ugo Ciarlatani has reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Italy, particularly by increasing Italian investment and expanding economic cooperation.

Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, in a meeting with Ambassador Ciarlatani at Aiwan-e-Sadr, called for further cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility and people-to-people exchanges.

The Acting President welcomed Italy's plan to recruit 10,500 skilled Pakistani workers over the next



three years, saying labour mobility would further strengthen ties between the two countries. Ambassador Ciarlatani said around

300,000 people of Pakistani origin are living, working and studying in Italy and contributing to stronger bilateral relations.

Raja Sikander Khan Congratulates Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani on Becoming AJK Prime Minister

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Chairman Raja Sikander Khan has extended heartfelt congratulations to Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In his message, Raja Sikander Khan prayed that Almighty Allah bless the new Prime Minister with wisdom, strength and foresight to lead AJK towards peace, development, prosperity and good governance.

He stressed the need for inclusive leadership that rises above political differences and brings all stakeholders together. He also called for meaningful dialogue with the Awami Action Committee to address genuine public concerns and build mutual



trust. Raja Sikander Khan said restoration of law and order, protection of citizens' rights and dignity, and

preservation of peace should remain key priorities of the new government.

Major Action on Corruption: DIG Investigation Syed Zeeshan Raza Suspends 37 Officials

Report: ANI Crime

LAHORE -- In line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision and zero-tolerance policy against corruption, DIG Investigation Lahore Syed Zeeshan Raza has suspended 37 police officers and personnel over alleged involvement in corruption.

The suspended officials include 11 Sub-Inspectors, 14 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), six Head Constables and six Constables, who



have been directed to report to

Investigation Headquarters.

DIG Investigation Syed Zeeshan Raza said strict departmental and legal action has been initiated against all suspended officials. He said the police department has an effective and non-discriminatory self-accountability mechanism and the crackdown against corruption would continue.

He added that hardworking, competent and honest police officers and personnel are the real asset and pride of the department.

Justice (Retd.) Kazim Ali Malik A Legacy of Justice, Integrity and Public Service

BY: ANI Correspondent:

SARGODHA --Justice (Retd.) Kazim Ali Malik is widely regarded as a distinguished figure in Pakistan's legal and judicial circles, known for his professional competence, principled approach and commitment to public service.

Hailing from Noorpur Thal Tehsil of District Khushab, Justice Malik began his professional career as a lawyer at the District Bar Association Khushab. Through hard work, legal expertise and dedication, he established himself as a respected member of the legal community.

He subsequently joined the judiciary and served as Additional District and Sessions Judge and District and Sessions Judge at various locations in Punjab. His judicial career was marked by an emphasis on the rule of law, merit and justice. He was later elevated as a Judge of the Lahore High Court in recognition of his legal



expertise and judicial experience.

Following his retirement from the Lahore High Court, Justice Malik continued to serve the public in important capacities. He served as Director General, Anti-Corruption Punjab, where he undertook responsibilities aimed at combating corruption and strengthening institutional accountability. He also served as Senior Member of the Inspection Team at the Lahore High Court and subsequently performed responsibilities at the Election Tribunal Lahore, where he delivered a number of significant judgments.

Despite serving at several prestigious positions, Justice Malik has

maintained close relations with people from different walks of life. He is described by those who know him as courteous, accessible and deeply connected with the people of District Khushab.

Even after retirement, he remains professionally active as a Senior Advocate at the Lahore High Court, where his extensive legal experience and knowledge continue to provide guidance to members of the younger legal fraternity.

His son, former Adviser to the Chief Minister of Punjab and lawyer Malik Amjad Raza Gujar, has also remained involved in public and legal affairs. From the bar to the bench, and from judicial service to key institutional responsibilities, Justice (Retd.) Kazim Ali Malik's career reflects a long association with law, justice and public service. For the people of District Khushab, his professional journey remains a source of pride and inspiration.

Jammu and Kashmir Community International Pays Tribute to Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Fifth Death Anniversary



BY : FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD, August 31, 2026: Jammu and Kashmir Community International paid tribute to Syed Ali Shah Geelani on the occasion of his

fifth death anniversary, remembering his lifelong struggle for the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

The organisation said Geelani's unwavering commitment, principled

stance and sacrifices gave a new direction to the Kashmiri movement.

It reaffirmed its resolve to keep his ideals alive and continue advocating for the rights and aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

President's Representatives Visit Nepal Embassy to Convey Solidarity Over Flood Devastation

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- On the instructions of the President of Pakistan, former Senate Chairman Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari and President's Spokesperson Murtaza Solangi visited the Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad to convey condolences and solidarity over the loss and devastation caused by last week's massive flooding.

The flooding followed landslides and the bursting of a glacier along the China-Nepal border, causing significant loss and destruction.

Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Rita Dhital received the Pakistani representatives and appreciated the solidarity and support extended by the Government and people of Pakistan to Nepal during the difficult time.

Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari and Murtaza Solangi also recorded mes-



sages of condolence and solidarity in the Visitors' Book.

YSOP Launch Marks Important Step Towards Empowering Pakistan's Future Leadership: Afnan Mashal



BY : Hurish Shah/ FT

ISLAMABAD -- Coordinator Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Afnan Mashal has emphasized the importance of empowering Pakistan's youth with education, skills, entrepreneurship and leadership capabilities to enable their meaningful participation in national development.

Speaking at the inaugural and oath-taking ceremony of the Youth Senate Organization of Pakistan (YSOP), Afnan Mashal said structured platforms for youth engage-

ment could help develop leadership qualities, political awareness and a sense of responsibility among young people.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood stressed that Pakistan's future depended on effectively harnessing the potential of its young population. Former Senator Mian Mohammad Atiq highlighted political awareness, democratic values, tolerance and informed debate among youth.

Ambassador Dr. Shahid Amin Khan emphasized human rights, inclusiveness, tolerance and respon-

sible citizenship, while YSOP Founder Dr. Sheraz Khan said the organization aimed to develop skilled, ethical and productive young people for a progressive and empowered Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by youth leaders, newly inducted office-bearers and prominent figures, including ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, former President Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Council Member Chaudhry Masood, Executive Member Zulqurnain Abbasi and former SVP Khalid Chaudhry.

Germany Become Four-Time Hockey World Champions, Equal Pakistan's Historic Record



Report: Sport ANI

VIVRE, BELGIUM: Germany defeated Spain 1-0 in a closely contested final at the historic Belfius Hockey Stadium to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026, becoming world champions for the fourth time and equalling Pakistan's record for the most Men's Hockey World Cup titles.

The final between the two traditional European rivals was highly competitive and defensively dominated. Neither side was able to break the deadlock during the first and second quarters.

Germany finally opened the scoring in the third quarter when striker Michael Struthoff produced a brilliant field goal to give his side a 1-0 lead. Spain mounted a series of attacks in the final quarter in an attempt to equalise, but Germany's goalkeeper

and disciplined defence successfully kept the Spanish attack at bay.

With the victory, Germany joined Pakistan as the joint-most successful team in Men's Hockey World Cup history. Germany previously won the title in 2002, 2006 and 2023, while Pakistan lifted the World Cup trophy in 1971, 1978, 1982 and 1994.

FIH President Tayyab Ikram congratulated Germany on their historic achievement and praised the players and teams that contributed to an exciting World Cup.

Pakistan finished 11th in the tournament. After defeats against England and India in Pool D and a draw against Wales, Pakistan made a strong comeback in the classification rounds. In the position match against South Africa, Pakistan recovered from a 1-3 deficit to level the match 4-4 before securing a 4-3 victory in the penalty shootout.

The 11th-place finish represents Pakistan's best performance at a Men's Hockey World Cup in the last 20 years.

Spain reached the World Cup final for the third time in its history but had to settle for the silver medal. Spain had previously finished runners-up against Pakistan in 1971 and in 1998.

In the men's competition, Argentina claimed the bronze medal, while Belgium secured third place in the women's tournament after defeating Australia 1-0.

Australia defeated England 2-0 to finish fifth, while Belgium defeated India 4-3 in a penalty shootout to secure seventh position in the men's competition.

In the women's World Cup final, Argentina defeated defending champions the Netherlands 3-1 in a penalty shootout to win the world title for the third time.

Daily

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Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq

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Opinion

3

PPP’s Parliamentary Role Important for Political Stability, Says Sumblina Hassan



House RCC
Former Consultant Foreign Office, Islamabad

Report: ANI : Islamabad / UK : Ms Sumblina Hassan Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto In charge office 10 UK, Bilawal

has emphasised the importance of the Pakistan Peoples Party’s political and parliamentary role in the current political environment, saying that political stability, democratic continuity and stronger institutions are essential for the country’s progress.

Commenting on the current political situation surrounding the Pakistan Peoples Party, Sumblina Hassan said that the PPP has historically played an important role in strengthening democratic and parliamentary politics in Pakistan. She said the party’s leadership and elected representatives should continue to play an effective role in national affairs.

She stressed that political differences are a natural part of a democratic system, but political forces should keep the channels of dialogue and reconciliation open on matters of national importance. According to her, sustainable economic and social development is difficult without political stability.

She also highlighted the importance of engaging Pakistan’s youth in the democratic and political process. It is estimated that around 60 percent of Pakistan’s population is under the age of 30, making young people one of the country’s most important assets for its future.

“Pakistan’s youth would benefit

greatly from a democratic system that enhances their potential and strengthens their vision for a progressive economy,” she said. She added that political institutions and parties must continue building meaningful bonds with young people through political engagement, while also helping them understand the country’s political history and the contributions of its major democratic leaders.

Sumblina Hassan said that the legacy of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto remains significant in this context. She said their political contributions and reforms represented important efforts toward women’s empowerment, addressing the concerns of disadvantaged and poorer sections of society, and developing a system of governance focused on public welfare.

She said that despite Pakistan being a developing country facing significant economic and social challenges, its political leadership at various stages had undertaken reforms that helped strengthen the country’s standing internationally and contributed to its political, economic and social development.

According to her, the political legacy of Pakistan’s major democratic leaders should not merely be remembered as history but should also be understood by younger generations in terms of the principles, reforms and aspirations associated with their political struggles.

Referring to the political role of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, she said that the younger generation of political leadership has an important responsibility to remain active in parliamentary politics and raise national and public issues effectively.

Sumblina Hassan said that maintaining a strong connection with the people and strengthening democratic

institutions have remained important elements of the PPP’s political tradition. In the present circumstances, she said, the party needs to continue presenting its political position clearly and effectively both inside Parliament and among the public.

She also highlighted the importance of strengthening democratic institutions in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the AJK Legislative Assembly should play an effective role in representing the people and addressing the political and administrative challenges facing the region.

Referring to the political legacy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Sumblina Hassan said that democracy, parliamentary politics and public representation were central to her political struggle. She stressed that strengthening these principles remains important for Pakistan’s democratic future.

She further said that all political parties, including the PPP, have a responsibility to keep political differences within the democratic framework and give priority to national interests, constitutional supremacy and the resolution of public concerns.

“Encouraging the meaningful inclusion of young people in political and democratic processes can become one of the greatest achievements for any political party,” she said, adding that giving the youth a greater voice would help create a more inclusive political system and prepare the next generation to contribute to Pakistan’s future.

According to Sumblina Hassan, a strong Parliament, active political parties, meaningful youth participation and sustained engagement with the public are essential for strengthening Pakistan’s democratic system and ensuring long-term political stability.

Why Are Pakistani Women Vulnerable?



Written By: Nasser Hussyn Bukhari Published By: ANI News Agency

“History repeats itself”

is an old saying. In Pakistan, however, history seems to repeat itself without teaching us its lessons. The brutal murder of an educated professional, Hina Javed, the killing of Noor Mukadam, the acid attack on Dr Mah Noor while performing her professional duties in Quetta, and the tragic death of Eshal Fatima, an 11th-grade student in Jhang, are reminders of a disturbing reality. The rape and murder of Ayat Noor in Haripur and the reported rape of a one-and-a-half-year-old child in Karachi are beyond comprehension.

These are not isolated incidents. They expose a deeper crisis of social attitudes, institutional weakness and the failure to protect women and children. The question is simple but disturbing: why do Pakistani women remain vulnerable despite constitutional guarantees, religious teachings and repeated assurances of protection?

The answer lies in a complex combination of historical, cultural, social and institutional factors.

Pakistan’s social history can broadly be viewed through the period before and after Gen Zia-ul-Haq. Although pre-Zia Pakistan was far from free of discrimination, it was generally more socially open and pluralistic. Women participated increasingly in education, professions, politics and public life. The Islamisation process during the Zia era, combined with regional conflicts and the subsequent rise of militant ideologies, contributed to a more conservative social environment. It would be simplistic to blame all contemporary problems on one period, but its impact on social attitudes and gender relations cannot be ignored.

The most persistent problem is patriarchy. In many communities, women continue to be treated as subordinate to men and are denied equal opportunities in education, employment, inheritance and decision-making. Cultural traditions are often presented as religious principles, although many discriminatory practices have little connection with the actual teachings of Islam, which emphasise dignity, justice and rights.

Feudal and tribal structures further deepen women’s vulnerability, par-

ticularly in rural areas. Forced marriages, restrictions on mobility, denial of inheritance and so-called honour crimes are often linked to family power, property and social control. Women become victims of systems designed to protect so-called honour rather than human dignity.

Extremism and intolerance have also contributed to rigid perceptions of women’s roles. When women are discouraged from participating in public life, violence and harassment become easier to normalise. From homes and workplaces to roads, universities and social media, women frequently face intimidation, harassment and character assassination.

The problem begins, however, much earlier – inside the family. Boys and girls are often raised according to unequal standards. Boys are given greater freedom, while girls are expected to accept restrictions in the name of family honour. Respect for women must therefore begin at home. Children must be taught that women are equal human beings, entitled to dignity, safety, education and economic independence.

Education has a crucial role in changing this mindset. Unfortunately, Pakistan’s educational system has increasingly neglected subjects such as sociology and psychology, which are essential for understanding human behaviour, social structures and collective attitudes. How can we reform a society’s psychology if we do not adequately study it?

Sociologists and psychologists should be involved in developing national strategies against gender-based violence. Schools and universities should teach equality, empathy, critical thinking and responsible citizenship. Religious scholars can also play an important role by distinguishing genuine Islamic principles from cultural practices falsely justified in the name of religion.

Social media has created another battlefield. Women and girls face online stalking, blackmail, harassment, character assassination and the non-consensual sharing of private material. Digital abuse can escalate into physical violence. Stronger enforcement of cybercrime laws, digital literacy and responsible use of technology are therefore essential.

The acid attack on Dr Mah Noor is particularly alarming because it targeted a professional woman while she was serving society. Such attacks are not merely crimes against individuals; they intimidate thousands of women who seek professional careers. Female

doctors, teachers, journalists and public servants should be able to perform their duties without fear.

Pakistan has enacted laws against honour crimes, domestic violence, acid attacks and sexual violence, but legislation alone cannot solve the problem. The real test is implementation. Police investigations must be professional, cases must be prosecuted efficiently, and victims must receive legal, financial and psychological support. Perpetrators must know that violence against women will carry certain and swift consequences.

Economic empowerment is equally important. Women constitute roughly half of Pakistan’s population. Yet their participation in the formal economy and decision-making structures remains far below their potential. If Pakistan wants genuine gender equality, women must have substantially greater representation in public institutions and economic life. A serious national debate is needed on ensuring 50 per cent representation of women in government institutions, where practicable, alongside merit-based recruitment and equal opportunities.

An educated and economically empowered woman strengthens not only herself but her entire family. In simple terms: an educated working woman contributes to an educated, secure and economically stronger family – and stronger families build stronger nations.

The media, civil society, political parties, religious scholars, educational institutions and state institutions must collectively confront this crisis. Every tragic case should lead to institutional learning rather than disappear after a few days of headlines.

A society that cannot protect its women and children cannot claim to be just, democratic or civilised. Pakistan must move beyond expressions of outrage and address the social psychology, institutional failures and cultural practices that allow violence to persist.

The solution lies not in one law or one institution, but in transforming the mindset of society through education, economic empowerment, effective justice and social awareness. Women are not less intelligent or less capable than men. Giving them equal opportunities is not a concession to women; it is an investment in Pakistan’s future.

The real measure of a nation’s civilisation is not how loudly it condemns violence after it occurs, but how effectively it prevents that violence from occurring in the first place.

Can Administrative Reorganisation Help Solve Pakistan’s Crisis?



BY: Mahmood Khan senior Journalist Manchester -UK : Published by ANI News Agency

Pakistan is

facing a combination of political

instability, economic difficulties, unemployment, rapid population growth, regional inequality and weak governance. These challenges have renewed an important national debate: Should Pakistan reorganise its administrative structure and create smaller provinces or administrative units based on population, geography, economic potential and administrative needs?

This question deserves serious consideration. Pakistan’s population and economic structure have changed dramatically since independence, while its basic provincial framework has remained relatively stable. The challenge is to determine whether the existing system is capable of effectively governing a modern, densely populated and geographically diverse country.

The argument for smaller administrative units is primarily based on decentralisation. Large provinces covering vast territories and enormous populations can struggle to provide equal attention to every region. Remote districts may feel politically neglected, while development and resources become concentrated around provincial capitals and major cities.

Smaller provinces could bring government closer to citizens. Regional administrations would potentially understand local problems better and could develop policies suited to local circumstances. The challenges of southern Punjab, for example, are not necessarily the same as those of Lahore and central Punjab. Karachi’s enormous urban problems differ considerably from those of rural Sindh. Similarly, the mountainous areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have different infrastructure and development requirements from its settled districts, while Balochistan’s vast geography creates unique administrative challenges.

However, smaller provinces do not automatically mean better governance. A small province can suffer from exactly the same corruption, political interference, weak institutions and poor planning as a large province. Administrative restructuring must therefore be accompanied by fundamental institutional reforms.

One of the most important considerations is that administrative reorganisation should not become ethnic or linguistic fragmentation. Pakistan is a diverse country comprising Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, Baloch, Saraikis, Kashmiris, Hindko-speaking communities, Urdu-speaking Pakistanis and many other communities. This diversity is an important part of Pakistan’s national identity.

If new provinces are created primarily on ethnic or linguistic grounds, the process could create new disputes over boundaries, resources, employment, water and political representation. New administrative units should instead be established according to objective criteria, including population, geography, economic viability, infrastructure, accessibility and administrative efficiency.

Pakistan’s demographic transformation makes this debate increasingly relevant. The country’s rapidly growing

population has created enormous demands for education, healthcare, housing, employment, transport, water and energy. At the same time, urbanisation has produced complex problems in major cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Multan, Peshawar and Quetta.

The administrative system must therefore be capable of responding to the Pakistan of today rather than the Pakistan of several decades ago.

Yet it would be misleading to suggest that creating new provinces would, by itself, solve Pakistan’s problems. The country’s deeper crisis is a crisis of governance.

Pakistan needs stronger institutions, professional civil services, effective taxation, transparent financial management, modern public services, better education and healthcare, improved policing, judicial efficiency and genuine accountability. The country also needs long-term economic planning that continues beyond individual governments and electoral cycles.

Perhaps the most important reform is the strengthening of local government.

Pakistan’s political system has traditionally concentrated significant attention on federal and provincial politics, while local institutions have often remained weak or inconsistent. Yet many of the problems that directly affect citizens are local: roads, sanitation, water supply, waste management, local transport, primary healthcare, schools and urban planning.

These problems cannot always be solved effectively from Islamabad or distant provincial capitals.

A genuinely decentralised system could therefore involve several levels of government: the federal government dealing with national responsibilities, provinces managing regional affairs, and empowered local governments handling matters closest to citizens.

In this sense, devolution of power may be more important than simply creating new provinces.

Economic viability must also be a central consideration. Creating a province is not merely a matter of drawing a line on a map. Every proposed province must have sufficient population, infrastructure, economic resources, revenue potential and administrative capacity to function effectively.

Before establishing a new province, policymakers should assess its agricultural and industrial potential, natural resources, employment opportunities, taxation capacity and long-term financial sustainability.

There is also a strong argument that new provinces could help reduce regional grievances. When people believe that political power and economic resources are concentrated elsewhere, feelings of deprivation can develop. Giving a region its own elected government and administrative institutions could provide greater political representation and allow local development priorities to receive greater attention.

However, every new province would also raise difficult questions: Where should its boundaries be drawn? Where should its capital be located? How should water, revenues and natural resources be divided? What happens to government employees and existing institutions? How will political representation be determined?

These issues must be resolved before, not after, the creation of new units.

For this reason, Pakistan could consider establishing a National Commission on Administrative Reform and Territorial Reorganisation. Such a

commission could include constitutional experts, economists, demographers, administrators, academics, political scientists and local government specialists.

Its responsibility would be to examine Pakistan’s administrative structure objectively and make recommendations based on population, geography, economic capacity, infrastructure, regional inequalities and public-service requirements.

Most importantly, the process must be constitutional, democratic and transparent.

No political party should attempt to redraw provincial boundaries merely to gain electoral advantage. Administrative reorganisation would affect political power, financial resources and representation, making national consensus essential.

The federal government, provincial governments, political parties, Parliament, civil society, universities, media and community representatives should all participate in a serious national dialogue.

The objective should not be to weaken existing provinces or create divisions among communities. Instead, it should be to strengthen the federation by ensuring that every region receives fair representation and effective governance.

A stronger federal government does not necessarily require excessive centralisation. In fact, well-designed decentralisation can strengthen national unity. When citizens have access to effective government, receive public services and feel that their region has a meaningful voice, confidence in the state can increase.

Pakistan should therefore aim for devolution without fragmentation.

Ultimately, redrawing the administrative map is only one part of the solution. If new provinces are created but corruption, weak institutions, poor taxation, inadequate education, ineffective healthcare and weak local governments remain unchanged, Pakistan’s fundamental problems will continue.

Administrative restructuring must therefore form part of a broader programme of national reform. The guiding principle should be simple: Do not redraw Pakistan’s map to divide its people; reorganise its administrative system to serve its people better.

The real question is not simply how many provinces Pakistan should have. The real question is what system of government can provide every citizen with better services, greater representation, equal opportunities and accountable administration.

Pakistan may ultimately benefit from a combination of stronger provinces, new administrative regions and genuinely empowered local governments. But the success of such a system will depend not on the number of provinces, but on the quality of governance. Pakistan does not need division for the sake of division. It needs better administration, stronger institutions, meaningful devolution, economic opportunity and national unity. If administrative reform is carried out through constitutional procedures, national consensus and objective demographic and economic criteria, it could become an important instrument for addressing Pakistan’s long-standing challenges.

But changing the map alone cannot transform the country. Only good governance, accountable institutions, economic reform, political maturity and national unity can turn administrative reform into meaningful national progress.

Before You Form an Opinion About the Pak Army, Look at the Soldiers Who Defend Pakistan: From Frozen Mountains to the Burning Deserts, a Story of Courage, Sacrifice and Unbreakable Resolve



By: Dr. Abdul Ghani : Published by ANI E. Mail: ghanillm@yahoo.com

There are some duties that are performed in the light of cameras, and there are others that are carried out silently in the darkness of night. A soldier standing at a distant border post belongs to the second category. While millions of Pakistanis sleep peacefully in their homes, spend time with their families, celebrate festivals and plan their futures, somewhere in the mountains, deserts, forests and border areas, a Pakistani soldier remains awake. He stands between his homeland and danger.

This is why, when an enemy looks towards Pakistan, the first thing it must consider is not only our geography, our cities or our resources. It must consider the courage and determination of the men and women who have taken an oath to defend this country. The Pakistan Army is made up of sons of this soil. Its soldiers come from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and every other corner of the country. They speak different languages and belong to different communities, but when they put on the uniform, one identity rises above all others: Pakistan.

For a soldier, the uniform is not simply a profession. It is a promise.

It is a promise that the security of the homeland will come before personal comfort. It is a promise that duty may sometimes come before family. And, in the most difficult circumstances, it is a promise that life itself may have to be offered for the protection of the nation.

We often see soldiers during national ceremonies, parades and official events, but the real story of military service is written far away from ceremonial grounds. It is written at lonely posts where winters are severe, at checkpoints where danger can arrive without warning, and in areas where soldiers perform their duties under conditions that ordinary citizens may never experience.

Behind every soldier is also a family that serves silently.

There is a mother who waits for a phone call from her son. There is a father who hides his worry behind pride. There is a wife who raises children while her husband remains deployed far from home. There are children who sometimes celebrate

birthdays and Eid without their father beside them.

When a soldier is martyred, the entire country sees a coffin wrapped in the national flag. But behind that flag is a family whose world has changed forever.

A mother loses the child she once carried in her arms. A wife loses her companion. Children lose the hand they expected to hold as they grew older. Yet many such families respond with extraordinary courage, saying that their loved one gave his life for Pakistan.

No speech can fully measure such sacrifice.

Pakistan has faced wars, terrorism, internal security challenges and difficult regional circumstances throughout its history. In these testing moments, members of the armed forces have repeatedly been called upon to stand in places where the consequences of failure could be enormous.

Many have returned home with medals.

Many have returned with injuries.

And many have returned wrapped in the green and white flag.

Their sacrifice should never become merely a number in a report or a name briefly mentioned in the news. Every martyr had a family, dreams, memories and a future that was surrendered for the country.

The strength of an army, however, does not come from weapons alone. Modern aircraft, technology, intelligence systems and military equipment are important, but the greatest strength of any defence force remains the character of its people.

Discipline, training, courage, patience and the willingness to stand firm under pressure are qualities that cannot simply be purchased.

An enemy may calculate the number of weapons a country possesses, but it is much harder to calculate the determination of a soldier who believes that the land behind him contains his family, his history and his future.

That determination is one of Pakistan’s greatest defensive strengths. At the same time, respect for the armed forces should be based on understanding rather than slogans alone. Our younger generation should learn about the responsibilities soldiers carry, the hardships of military service and the sacrifices made by families of martyrs.

They should also understand that national strength comes when institutions perform their constitutional duties professionally and when citizens contribute responsibly in their own fields. A strong Pakistan requires

strong institutions, an educated population, a productive economy, justice, unity and disciplined national defence. These elements support one another.

Our soldiers defend the physical borders of Pakistan, but every citizen also has a responsibility to defend the country through honesty, education, hard work and national unity.

There is also another lesson in the life of a soldier: Pakistan must come before personal differences.

A soldier at a border post does not ask whether the citizen sleeping peacefully behind him belongs to a particular province, political opinion, language or social class. His duty is to defend all Pakistanis.

That spirit of national unity is worth learning from.

In an age of social media, rumours and instant judgments, Pakistanis should also be careful about misinformation. Healthy discussion and lawful criticism are part of a society, but deliberate falsehoods, hatred and fabricated propaganda can weaken trust and create divisions. Differences should never cause us to forget the sacrifices of those who gave their lives in service to the country.

Respect does not require blindness. It requires fairness, responsibility and gratitude.

Whenever we see the national flag flying freely, we should remember that its freedom has carried a price. Somewhere in Pakistan there is an empty chair at a family table because a soldier did not return. Somewhere a mother still keeps the photograph of her martyred son. Somewhere a child knows his father mainly through stories, medals and memories.

These are not ordinary sacrifices.

So when enemies look towards Pakistan, they do not see an undefended nation. They see soldiers standing at borders, officers carrying responsibility, families accepting separation and generations prepared to serve.

And behind those soldiers stands a nation that remembers.

The Pakistan Army is not respected merely because it carries weapons. It is respected because, in moments of danger, its soldiers are expected to move towards the threat while others move towards safety.

That is the meaning of duty.

That is the meaning of sacrifice.

And that is why, as long as Pakistan remembers the blood of its martyrs and honours those who stand guard over its soil, the courage of its soldiers will remain one of the strongest walls protecting the homeland.

Long live Pakistan.

Senate Interior Committee Reviews PIMS Safety, Sewage Contamination, Afghanistan Visa Policy and Blue Passports



Report: Ahmed / ANI

ISLAMABAD --- A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior was held at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, where several important security, administrative and public-interest matters were reviewed.

PIMS safety concerns: The committee questioned the fire and electrical safety arrangements at PIMS and sought details of the hospital's latest inspection and audit. The CDA Chairman informed the committee that the last PIMS audit was conducted in September 2025.

Sewage entering Rawal Dam: In a significant disclosure, the CDA Chairman confirmed that sewage water is entering Rawal Dam from three to four locations, including Bani Gala, Bari Imam and Bara Kahu. He said Islamabad requires around 250 million gallons of water daily against a shortfall of approximately 150 million gallons.

The committee also questioned

the use of non-custom-paid vehicles by government departments. FIA officials said seized vehicles are considered government property under the rules, while Senator Abid Sher Ali called for such vehicles to be auctioned instead of being used.

Afghanistan visa policy: The committee discussed the visa policy for Afghanistan, particularly facilities for women, students and businessmen. The Ministry of Interior said the issue was sensitive and required consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders.

Passenger mobile phone checks: FIA officials clarified that passengers' mobile phones and social media accounts are not routinely checked at airports. They said checks are carried out only where there is specific information relating to human trafficking. The committee also discussed cases of passengers being offloaded.

Mansehra murder case: The committee reviewed the murder case of Amir Shahzad in Mansehra. The

complainant alleged that the accused were present at the scene and later issued threats over the phone. The DPO Mansehra said the accused's brother, a police constable, had been transferred outside the division. The chairman directed that the matter be brought to the attention of the IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Blue passport issue: Senator Abid Sher Ali questioned why parliamentarians were being asked to obtain an NOC from the Ministry of Interior for blue passports. The committee sought clarification regarding the relevant law and rules.

Gilgit-Baltistan: IG Gilgit-Baltistan Dr Akbar Nasir told the committee that the law and order situation in the region was under control, although around 6,000 additional police personnel were required. The committee also reviewed illegal hostels in Islamabad's residential areas, tinted vehicle windows and the city's smart parking policy, seeking detailed responses from the concerned authorities.

Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Asif and Field Marshal Asim Munir Attend Makkah Defence Agreement Committee Meeting



Report: ANI

ISTANBUL --Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Defence Forces/Chief of Army

Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attended the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee in Istanbul.

The committee has been established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, with the

meeting attended by the Turkish and Saudi counterparts of the Pakistani leadership. The meeting focused on strengthening strategic, political and defence cooperation among the participating countries under the framework of the joint defence agreement.

Mandi Bahauddin's Mian Asif Shabbir Receives Warm Welcome at Lions Club International Meeting

Report: ANI :

LAHORE -- Second Vice District Governor of Lions Club International Pakistan, Mian Asif Shabbir, received a warm welcome during an important District Cabinet meeting held at the Faletti's Hotel Lahore.

Participants and office-bearers welcomed Mian Asif Shabbir with a standing ovation, applause and a bouquet of fresh roses. His participation was described as significant for organizational affairs and community service.

The meeting discussed various organizational matters, future activities and initiatives aimed at community welfare. Participants appreciated Mian Asif Shabbir's active role and commitment to social and organizational activities.

Mian Asif Shabbir expressed his determination to continue playing an



effective role in community welfare and promoting positive social activities. Participants expressed their best

wishes for his future responsibilities and hoped for continued success through unity and collective efforts.

PM Shehbaz Sharif Attends Opening Ceremony of 6th World Nomad Games



Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attended the opening ceremony of the 6th World Nomad Games in Kyrgyzstan, where Kyrgyz President Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Japarov welcomed him upon arrival.

The ceremony was also attended

by other heads of state participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The Pakistani contingent also took part in the ceremony, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif standing to pay tribute to the national team. Spectators at the stadium also applauded the Pakistani contingent.

Pakistani athletes will participate in

various traditional sports during the games, which are being held from August 31 to September 6, 2026, in Kyrgyzstan. The World Nomad Games feature traditional Central Asian sports, including wrestling, horse racing, archery and traditional intellectual games, and aim to promote cultural ties, mutual understanding and cooperation among nations.

Minor Technical Faults Found in 6 Electric Buses for Murree Green Bus Project, Deputy Commissioner Takes Immediate Notice

Report: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE: Minor technical faults have been detected in six of the 11 electric buses being provided to Murree under the Punjab government's Green Bus Electric Bus Project, launched on the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Deputy Commissioner Murree Agha Zaher Abbas Sherazi took immediate notice and personally inspected the buses along with a technical team. He directed the Transport Department to ensure prompt rectification of the identified faults and complete fitness of all buses.

According to sources, Chinese engineers will visit Murree to inspect the buses and address the technical issues. The Deputy Commissioner made it clear that none of the buses would be allowed to operate until they receive complete technical clearance and fit-



ness certification. The district administration said all necessary measures were being taken

to ensure safe, modern and efficient transport facilities for residents and tourists.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi Meets Abbottabad Delegation, Discusses Load Shedding and Hazara Province

Report: Naseem Hassan /ANI

PESHAWAR -- Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi met a representative delegation from Abbottabad and discussed prolonged and unannounced electricity and gas load shedding in Hazara Division, the demand for Hazara Province, creation of new provinces in the country and the prevailing political situation.

The delegation apprised the Governor of the difficulties faced by people in Abbottabad and other parts of Hazara due to prolonged power and gas outages and urged him to direct the relevant authorities to take effective measures and resolve the issue on a priority basis.

The meeting was attended by Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan Vice Chairman Asad Javed Khan, Abbottabad Press Club President Sardar Naveed Alam, former president Sardar Shafiq Ahmed, Abbottabad Union of Journalists President Atif Qayyum and PPP



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Additional General Secretary Abrar Saeed Swati. The delegation also urged the Governor to support the longstanding demand for the creation of Hazara Province and play his role in addressing the issues and

rights of the people of the region.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured the delegation that the concerns faced by the people would be raised at the relevant forums and efforts would be made for their resolution.

Senate Committee Seeks Accountability Over Deaths of 14 Infants in PIMS Nursery Fire



BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, chaired by Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, visited PIMS and reviewed the tragic deaths of 14 infants in the recent nursery fire.

The committee expressed serious concern over the reported absence of fire alarms, closure of emergency exits, lack of regular fire drills and possible administrative and safety lapses. Members also questioned the availability of doctors and duty staff

during the incident.

The Federal Minister for Health informed the committee that, according to the preliminary inquiry, the fire spread within approximately 120 seconds. He also disclosed that an earlier fire incident at the PIMS Nursing Hostel in July 2026 had not been brought to his notice.

The committee unanimously called for a comprehensive, impartial and technically sound investigation and directed that those found responsible for negligence or violations must be held accountable.

The committee also raised con-

cerns over the performance of CDA, Rescue authorities, Civil Defence, PIMS administration and the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA), while seeking reforms to strengthen fire safety, emergency preparedness, patient protection and institutional accountability.

Chairman Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti stressed the need for comprehensive healthcare reforms and directed the Health Ministry to formulate a nationwide healthcare policy focused on patient safety and prevention of such tragedies.

Punjab Police Constable Abrar Hussain Martyred in Firing by Suspects in Faisalabad

By: ANI Crime Reporter:

LAHORE -- A brave Punjab Police constable, Abrar Hussain of Faisalabad Police, was martyred in the line of duty after dangerous suspects opened fire on a police team during a raid in the 73 JB Jhalal area.

According to Punjab Police spokesperson, the Takriwala police team was conducting a raid to arrest wanted suspects in an attempted murder case when the accused opened indiscriminate fire, seriously injuring Constable Abrar Hussain. He was shifted to Allied Hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

Police continued the operation and arrested four suspects -- Bilal, Hanan, Hamad and Zubair -- along with weapons.

The funeral prayer of the martyred



constable was offered at Police Lines Faisalabad, where senior police officers, personnel, relatives and civil society representatives attended. A police contingent presented a guard of honour, after which the body was taken to his native village for burial with official honours.

IG Punjab Abdul Karim paid tribute to Constable Abrar Hussain, saying the martyr sacrificed his life while fulfilling his duty and protecting citizens. He assured that the martyr's family would not be left alone and that all possible welfare and support would be provided.