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Iran can 'ground' American forces anywhere: Iranian naval commander



ANI

Iran's Navy commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Monday that the US was "deeply concerned about Iran's operational initiatives" and warned that Tehran's military could "ground" Washington's forces wherever necessary, state news agency IRNA reported.

According to IRNA, Irani stressed the need for the country's armed forces to remain ready for the "Khorramshahr ahead", recalling the defence of Khorramshahr during the Iran-Iraq War and referring to possible future battles.

"Our main mission is to prevent

the enemy from achieving its goals and objectives, and with God's help, we will succeed in this path, because the enemy's movements are monitored moment by moment," he added.

Iran's Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, said on Monday that Iran's enemies did not expect it to change the "equations of war and expand the battlefield to a regional level," Press TV reported.

"The Strait of Hormuz, one of the region's key strategic points, has the capacity to significantly influence regional and global equations. By leveraging its strategic capabilities, the Islamic

Republic of Iran was able to have a significant impact on the world's economic equations," Heydari was quoted as saying.

Saudi Aramco's Jazan oil refinery was reportedly attacked on Monday, and the damage was being assessed, Reuters reported, citing The Financial Times, which cited two people with knowledge of the matter. Earlier, the United Arab Emirates is building alternative routes for its energy exports and trade to ensure they are not "held hostage" by the ongoing war, UAE Presidential Adviser Anwar Gargash said.

"Our energy exports will not be held hostage, nor will our trade and economic activity," Gargash

told the Hili Forum in Abu Dhabi.

While acknowledging that relations with Iran could eventually recover, Gargash warned that rebuilding trust after the attacks could take decades. He also criticised Gulf Arab states for failing to mount a coordinated response to Iran, saying they had been unable to translate shared concerns into a unified strategy.

"Freedom of navigation is not a concession to be granted, nor a principle to be renegotiated under pressure," Gargash said, adding that any long-term resolution must include credible guarantees against further Iranian attacks on Gulf Arab states.

PM links PAF's 1965 heroics to Marka-e-Haq, praises its combat excellence

ANI

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday hailed the Pakistan Air Force's (PAF) decades-long record of professionalism and sacrifice, saying the force had repeatedly risen to the challenge of defending Pakistan's aerial frontiers during times of conflict. In a message marking Pakistan Air Force Day, observed on September 7, Shehbaz said the PAF had displayed "professional capability, prowess and dominance in Aerial Conflicts" over the decades.

"This distinguished organisation has a proud history of sacrifice, valour as well as professionalism and always responded to the nation's call with profound courage," he said.

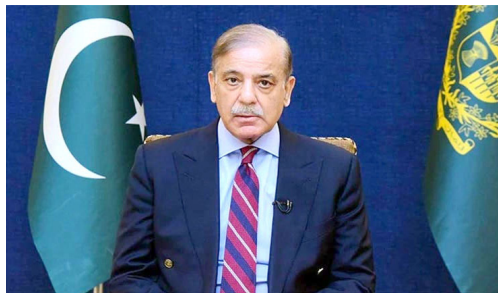
Recalling the September 1965 war, the prime minister said PAF aviators had demonstrated "passion and resolve" in safeguarding Pakistan's airspace and paid the ultimate price in defending the country.

"In September 1965, the passion and resolve of Pakistan Air Force aviators to safeguard the aerial frontiers of Pakistan duly rendered them victorious in the vastness of skies," Shehbaz said.

"They laid down their precious lives for the defence of the motherland. It is certainly a national honour to pay glowing tributes to Shuhada for their supreme sacrifices," he added. Pakistan marks Air Force Day on September 7 each year to commemorate the PAF's role in the 1965 war. The day is observed alongside Defence and Martyrs' Day commemorations recalling the military conflict between Pakistan and India.

The prime minister also highlighted the PAF's role in Marka-e-Haq, referring to the conflict with India that lasted from April 22 to May 10, 2025. The PAF played a central role in Pakistan's military response during the confrontation, including the use of integrated multi-domain capabilities.

Shehbaz said the PAF had worked alongside the other armed services during the conflict and credited its performance to leadership, planning, combat



skills and modern warfare capabilities.

"In the same vein, last year in May 2025, when the aggressor once again challenged a peace-loving country, the Pakistan Air Force, in perfect synergy with Sister Services, defeated the adversary during Marka-e-Haq," he said. He attributed the performance to "bold leadership, tactical brilliance of combat crew, excellent planning" and the coordinated employment of "Multi-Domain Warfare Capabilities" acquired through modernisation and indigenisation.

"The nation is proud that Pakistan Air Force once again upheld the glorious legacy of fighting the outnumbered, which has always been its hallmark!" the prime minister said. Shehbaz also expressed his best wishes for the PAF's continued professional development and said he was confident the force would remain prepared to defend Pakistan's sovereignty and aerial frontiers.

"On this special day, I wish continued professional success and progress to Pakistan Air Force," he said.

"I am sure, as always, Pakistan Air Force will rise to any possible occasion to defend sovereignty and aerial frontiers of Pakistan." He concluded with the slogans: "Pakistan Air Force Zindabad! Pakistan Painsdabad!"

21 India-backed terrorists killed in multiple KP operations: ISPR

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PM, President invoke 1965 war spirit, pay homage to martyrs, and reaffirm defence resolve

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PTI's Barrister Gohar warns against dividing provinces without broad public consensus

ANI

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday warned that any attempt to divide Sindh and other provinces without the consent of the people would weaken the federation, urging political forces to avoid taking decisions on the creation of new provinces in haste.

Speaking to reporters outside the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Islamabad, Gohar warned against bringing in controversial legislation, adding, "If you divide Sindh without the consent of its people and its representatives, you will weaken the federation."

While contending that the issue of creating further administrative units should be deeply deliberated upon and consensus should be built, Gohar underscored that if the government indulged in carving out provinces from Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) without the consent of its residents and representatives, "they will walk from one trouble into another".

"Such experiments should not be carried out in the country," he said, adding



that the issue of new provinces should be debated within a commission and then taken up by the new parliament that comes to power.

The PTI chairman called for a consultative process similar to the one followed during the passage of the 18th Amendment. He warned that rushing into the division sans consensus would undermine the unity of the federation. Barrister Gohar also criticised Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz over her recent remarks concerning terrorism and demanded an apology. "I condemn the statement of Punjab CM on terrorism," he said, adding that authorities traced terrorism back to India.

"India and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) were found guilty of terrorism in Pakistan," the PTI leader asserted. He lamented that Maryam's statement was prejudiced and did not reflect facts, and if anyone besides her had said it, a first information report would have been filed to hold that person accountable.

Speaking to the media, the PTI leader also asked CM Maryam to do away with point-scoring on a serious issue like terrorism.

PAF observes 7th September as Martyrs' Day across all Air Bases



ANI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Air Force observed 7th September as Martyrs' Day at all PAF Bases across the country to honour the supreme sacrifices of its martyrs and pay homage to their courage, valour and devotion to duty.

The day commenced with a special Du'aa and Quran Khawani for the Shuhada of the 1965 and 1971 Wars, the brave martyrs of Marka-e-Haq and all PAF personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty since the inception of Pakistan, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, was

the Chief Guest at the Martyrs' Day ceremony held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

The Air Chief paid rich tribute to PAF martyrs, underscoring that their sacrifices constitute the foundation of PAF's proud legacy of courage, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the defence of the motherland.

He said that the valiant deeds of our forefathers are not merely chapters of history but a living legacy that places a profound responsibility upon the present generation.

Paying homage to the martyrs, Chief of the Air Staff said, "Our Shuhada are enduring symbols of courage, sacrifice and national resolve. Their legacy reminds us that the defence of our motherland is a sacred trust, which we shall continue to uphold with steadfast commitment." Later, the Air Chief laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Monument and offered Fateha in solemn remembrance of the gallant martyrs of PAF.

Zardari cuts short London visit amid new provinces debate

ANI

LONDON: President Asif Ali Zardari is set to return to Pakistan on September 8 after cutting short his stay in the British capital, Geo News has learnt. Credible Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) sources said the president had initially planned to remain in London for another three to four days. However, he decided to return early to deal with the prevailing political situation and the growing debate over the creation of new provinces and administrative units. The debate intensified after Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal proposed dividing the country into 12 to 15 provinces and called for a national political dialogue on restructuring Pakistan's administrative system. The PPP has strongly opposed any move to divide Sindh and maintains that no new province can be created without constitutional procedures,



political consensus and public support. President Zardari arrived in London from Vienna on September 1 after spending five days in Austria on a private visit. He was accompanied by former federal minister Dr Asim Hussain and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari and Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari joined their father in London two days later. Sources said both will remain in the British capital and will not travel back with President Zardari.

They are expected to return after spending approximately another week in London.

Bilawal arrived from Paris after spending several days in Austria, while Bakhtawar travelled to London with her husband, Mahmood Chaudhry, and their children.

The family's stay in Austria generated reports that President Zardari had travelled there to discuss a possible marriage proposal for Bilawal with a prominent European family. Bilawal categorically rejected the reports, saying no engagement or marriage had taken place and that he did not know any "Princess Gloria". He said any decision regarding his personal life would be announced by his family.

Pakistan rejects India's "baseless" assertions on IIOJK status

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected India's assertions regarding the status of Jammu and Kashmir, calling them baseless and contrary to internationally recognised facts. "India's unilateral actions and continued illegal occupation cannot alter the internationally recognised disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir," Foreign Office spokesperson Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan said in a statement. He said that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remained one of the oldest unresolved, internationally recognised disputes on the agenda of the United



Nations Security Council, as the relevant UN resolutions stipulated that its final disposition must be made in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people, expressed through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN

auspices. The spokesperson said that the official United Nations maps depicting Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory remained the only cartographic representation of its current legal status. "India's so-called official maps and unilateral claims of sovereignty have no bearing on the status of the disputed territory," he remarked. Spokesperson Khan also urged the international community to ensure that India immediately stops human rights violations in the IIOJK, and fulfils its commitment towards the realisation of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, in line with the relevant UNSC resolutions.



Federal minister for National health services Mustafa Kamal addressing to public meeting during defense day at Koh-e-Noor Chowk

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Pays Tribute to Navy Martyrs and Veterans on Navy Day

Report: Naseem Hassan/ANI

ISLAMABAD--- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid heartfelt tribute to Pakistan Navy martyrs, veterans and personnel on Navy Day, praising their sacrifices, courage and professionalism in defending the country's maritime frontiers and sovereignty. Recalling the Navy's role in the 1965 war, he said Operation Dwarka remains a significant chapter in naval history, while the operational role of submarine PNS Ghazi reflected the Navy's capability on the maritime front.

The Speaker said the Pakistan Navy also played an effective role in safeguarding maritime security dur-



ing Marka-e-Haq, demonstrating resolve and professionalism under the leadership of Chief of Naval Staff

Admiral Naveed Ashraf. Highlighting the strategic importance of maritime routes to Pakistan's economy, trade and security, Ayaz Sadiq said the nation remains indebted to its naval martyrs and veterans and will always honour their sacrifices.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah also paid tribute to Navy personnel, saying Operation Dwarka demonstrated Pakistan's naval capability and resolve. He said the sacrifices of martyrs and veterans remain a source of pride and inspiration for the nation.

Both leaders prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and for lasting peace, stability and prosperity in Pakistan.

AJK PM Iftikhar Gilani Announces 100-Day Reform Plan for Good Governance

Report: Naseem Hassan/ANI

ISLAMABAD --Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani said the PML-N government's 100-day reform plan provides a clear roadmap for public service and good governance.

Addressing a meeting on the plan, he said the government, guided by PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif and supported by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz, aims to usher in a new era of development and public welfare in AJK.

The meeting reviewed targets, priorities and preparations for the first 100 days. Gilani said the government would accelerate development along the lines of Punjab and focus on projects whose benefits reach the public directly within a short period.

He said the government was com-



mitted to ensuring that development benefits reach every household and would accelerate efforts to make AJK more developed, prosperous and

modern. The PML-N AJK government will soon launch its 100-Day Transformation Programme, he added.

Barrister Danyal Chaudhry Reaffirms Zero Tolerance for Workplace Harassment

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The 14th meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Rights was held at Parliament House under the co-chairmanship of Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry and the Committee Chairperson.

The Committee unanimously resolved to uphold the Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) ruling in the Dr. Ayesha harassment case, reaffirming that workplace harassment in any form is unacceptable and will be dealt with strictly.

The Committee also discussed the Ayat Noor case from Haripur, deciding that if the victim's parents are dissatisfied with the ongoing investigation, they may seek the formation of a



fresh investigation team from a special unit.

Condemning the murder of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi, the Committee stressed that the case must be pursued rigorously without any leniency

towards influential individuals, reiterating that no one is above the law.

The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to protecting citizens' rights and ensuring swift, impartial justice in high-profile cases.

Signature Impact Observes Defence Day to Honour Martyrs

BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- Signature Impact (Pvt) Limited observed Defence Day on September 6 at a simple yet elegant ceremony at its office to honour the supreme sacrifices of Pakistan's martyrs and pay tribute to their courage, valour and devotion to duty.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem.

Engr. Dr. Muhammad Afzal, CEO of Signature Impact, paid rich tribute to the martyrs and said their sacrifices form the foundation of Pakistan. He also recalled the martyrdom of his father during the 1965 war, saying the valiant deeds of the nation's forefathers were a living legacy that placed a profound responsibility on the present generation.



Renowned journalist Fariha Idrees, who attended as the special guest, said the martyrs were enduring symbols of courage, sacrifice and national resolve. She said their legacy reminded the nation that the defence of the motherland was a sacred trust.

In his concluding remarks, CEO Adnan Mukhtan offered Fateha for the martyrs of the 1965 and 1971 wars and Mark-e-Haq, and thanked the participants.

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of a cake specially prepared for the occasion.

Jamiat-ul-Quresh Meat Welfare Association Delegation Meets PM's Adviser Sardar Yasir Ilyas

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- A delegation of the All Pakistan Jamiat-ul-Quresh Meat Welfare Association, led by President Khurshed Ahmed Qureshi, met Prime Minister's Adviser for Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan at his office.

The meeting discussed the establishment of a modern slaughterhouse, wholesale poultry market and cattle market in Islamabad, along with issues faced by traders associated with the meat, poultry and livestock sectors.

The delegation stressed the need for a modern slaughterhouse in Islamabad to ensure the provision of safe, hygienic and quality meat to the city's population. It said the establishment of a slaughterhouse remains one of the association's key demands.

The delegation included Chairman Jamiat-ul-Quresh Pakistan Abdullah



Qureshi, General Secretary Sardar Zaheer, President Islamabad Poultry Retailers Association Mahmood Hussain Shah and other office-bearers.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan assured the delegation of his full cooperation in addressing their concerns and taking up the issues with the relevant authorities.

AC Kahuta Shireen Gul Inspects THQ Hospital, Directs Officials to Ensure Better Facilities for Patients

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KAHUTA -- Assistant Commissioner Kahuta Shireen Gul visited the Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Kahuta and conducted a detailed inspection of the emergency department, male ward, and female ward.

During the visit, the Assistant Commissioner interacted with patients and their attendants and

sought their feedback regarding the cooperation and services provided by the hospital staff. She directed the hospital administration to ensure the provision of all necessary facilities to patients and their attendants.

Shireen Gul also inspected the hospital pharmacy and issued strict instructions to ensure the availability and timely provision of medicines under all circumstances.

She further directed the hospital administration to keep the laboratory operational until 8:00 p.m. and improve the systems for sample collection and laboratory testing to facilitate patients.

The Assistant Commissioner said that the tehsil administration is utilizing all available resources to protect the lives and property of citizens and ensure the provision of essential healthcare facilities.

Islamabad HEC Concludes Artificial Intelligence Training for Around 400 Faculty Members

Report: ANI :

ISLAMABAD -- The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, has concluded a three-day Tier-I training programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for lecturers and assistant professors of public sector higher education institutions.

Titled "AI Literacy for Educators: Building AI-Ready Institutions," the programme aimed to enhance faculty capacity to responsibly use AI in teaching, learning, research and assessment. NAHE has so far trained around 400 faculty members, including 332 in Cohort-I and nearly 64 in Cohort-II.

Managing Director NAHE (HEC) Dr. Noor Amna Malik, who attended the opening and closing ceremonies, stressed the importance of ethical AI use, academic integrity, privacy and protection of



intellectual property.

The training covered AI, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Large Language Models and Generative

AI, along with their applications across fields including healthcare, business, communication, research and education.

Attock Fire Breaks Out at Clothing Shop in Meena Bazaar Brought Under Control

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ATTOCK -- A fire broke out at a clothing shop near the Small Post Office in Meena Bazaar, Attock city, reportedly due to a possible short circuit. The fire quickly spread through the clothes and other items inside the shop.

Upon receiving information, Rescue 1122 firefighting teams immediately reached the spot and launched firefighting and relief operations. After nearly an hour of continuous efforts, the rescue personnel successfully brought the fire completely under control.

No loss of life was reported in the incident. However, clothes and other items inside the shop were damaged in the fire.



Navy Day Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf Pays Tribute to Shuhada and Ghazis

Report : ANI

ISLAMABAD -- Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI(M), T Bt, has paid tribute to the martyrs and Ghazis of the Pakistan Navy on the occasion of Navy Day, observed on September 8.

In his message, Admiral Naveed Ashraf said nations were defined not only by their geographical size and resources but also by the strength of their resolve. He highlighted the Pakistan Navy's determination and sacrifices despite limited resources and operational constraints at the time of the country's inception.

Recalling the historic Operation SOMNATH on September 8, 1965, he said the naval operation against coastal radar installations at Dwarka demonstrated Pakistan Navy's



offensive capability, strategic foresight and unwavering resolve.

The Naval Chief also highlighted the legacy of Pakistan Navy submarine GHAZI and the induction of HANGOR-class submarines, describing them as milestones in strengthening Pakistan's undersea deterrence, technological capability and maritime security.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid the deepest tribute to the Shuhada and Ghazis of Pakistan Navy, saying their sacrifices had ensured the sovereignty and security of Pakistan's maritime frontiers.

He said the legacy of courage, sacrifice and commitment to the defence of Pakistan would continue to inspire future generations.

The Naval Chief concluded his message with prayers for Allah's guidance and protection, and reaffirmed: "Pakistan Navy Zindabad, Pakistan Paindabad."

Islamabad Important Meeting Held Under SP City Dr. Ayaz Hussain



Report: ANI :

ISLAMABAD --- An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of SP City Dr. Ayaz Hussain

to review the prevailing law and order situation, crime prevention measures and crime control in the area. During the meeting, the relevant officers were directed to take

effective measures to curb crime, ensure efficient policing and protect citizens. They were also instructed to take immediate steps to resolve issues faced by the public.

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Opinion

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NATO must be ready for key summit in pivotal year

LUKE COFFEY

The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last week highlighted an ongoing rift between the worldview of the US and that of its transatlantic partners in Europe. This time, the dispute centered on Greenland — specifically, America’s desire for greater access to and control over the territory. While tensions were high at times, it was NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte who ultimately helped calm the situation and get transatlantic relations back on track.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a pivotal year for NATO, with a major summit scheduled to take place less than six months from now in Ankara, Türkiye. To ensure the summit’s success, policymakers must begin shaping the agenda immediately. While the meeting may seem far off, in terms of statecraft and diplomacy, six months is very little time at all. Aligning the US and its European partners more closely will require early preparation, sustained engagement and political will on both sides of the Atlantic. Getting the transatlantic relationship right carries sig-

nificant economic implications — not only for North America and Europe, but for the global economy as well. Together, the two account for nearly half of the world’s gross domestic product. Europe and the US are each other’s largest export markets and each is responsible for trillions of dollars of investment in the other’s economy, supporting millions of jobs. When rifts emerge across the Atlantic, the consequences are felt well beyond security policy, with ripple effects across trade, investment and global growth. As the alliance heads toward the July summit, four major issues are likely to dominate discussions. Policymakers would be wise to begin laying the groundwork now to ensure the meeting delivers tangible results rather than political friction.

The first issue, unsurprisingly given the recent focus on Greenland, is Arctic security. Just as Donald Trump has done more than any other US president to push NATO members to increase their defense spending, he has also done more than any predecessor to force the alliance to take the Arctic seriously. Until recently, NATO avoided even mention-

ing the region in its official documents, largely due to internal disagreements among Arctic allies over what role the alliance should play there.

With growing competition in the High North and with Trump’s renewed emphasis on Greenland’s strategic importance, Arctic security has been pushed near the top of NATO’s agenda for the first time. For this summer’s summit to proceed smoothly, allies should expect concrete deliverables related to NATO’s posture, presence and coordination in the Arctic.

The second issue likely to be raised concerns NATO’s relationship with the broader region — a matter of particular importance to the host country, Türkiye. While Türkiye has been an integral part of transatlantic security since joining NATO in the 1950s, Ankara also places increasing emphasis on security issues in the Black Sea region and the Middle East. Notably, it was a Turkish initiative at the 2004 NATO Summit in Istanbul that led to the creation of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, which formalized NATO’s engagement with several

Gulf states. Since then, the framework has provided a useful platform for high-level dialogue, though it has produced relatively few tangible outcomes in terms of shared security. With the political momentum that comes from hosting the summit, NATO should seize the opportunity to revamp, or at least reenergize, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and strengthen its relationships with key Gulf partners.

The third issue, and one that will no doubt be a top priority for Trump, will be the health of the alliance’s defense spending. Dating back to his first term in the White House, Trump has been among the most vocal US presidents in urging European allies to spend more on defense. At last year’s summit in The Hague, NATO took a historic step by agreeing to aim for defense spending of 5 percent of gross domestic product. This is three percentage points higher than the long-standing 2 percent benchmark. While this goal is not expected to be met until the early 2030s, there is little doubt that Trump will be closely monitoring progress in the meantime.

At present, only a handful of allies, primarily the Baltic states and Poland, come even close to meeting the 5 percent target. If Trump succeeds in working with Congress to pass his proposed \$1.5 trillion defense budget, the US itself would reach that threshold. The faster European allies demonstrate meaningful progress toward this goal, the smoother alliance management is likely to be between the White House and European capitals. The final issue, though unlikely to receive much public attention, will be discussed intensively behind closed doors: the war in Ukraine. Trump has made slow but steady progress in pushing Russia and Ukraine toward negotiations and NATO’s posture at the summit will depend heavily on how far diplomatic efforts have advanced by then. Trump has been clear that Ukrainian membership of NATO is off the table, meaning the alliance will need to find creative ways to remain engaged with Kyiv — strengthening cooperation and support without crossing political red lines set by Washington.

— Arab News

Netanyahu the biggest obstacle to Trump’s Gaza plan

OSAMA AL-SHARIF

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was never on board when US President Donald Trump announced his 20-point Gaza peace plan, which led to the Oct. 10 ceasefire agreement. He has resisted pressure to honor Israel’s commitments under phase one of the plan: allowing the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid and stopping the killing of Palestinians in Gaza. More than 450 Palestinians, including women and children, have been killed since the ceasefire came into effect. And Israel has prevented the entry of the caravans and shelter needed to protect tens of thousands of displaced Gazans from the bitter cold that has swept the region for weeks. Infants have died of cold and exposure as a result.

Netanyahu was equally unhappy with Trump’s idea of establishing a “Board of Peace” to oversee the implementation of his plan, including the naming of a Palestinian national committee to run the enclave and inviting international troops to serve as a stabilization force in Gaza.

When Trump unveiled the four-tier structure of his Board of Peace this month — with an executive committee, a Palestinian national committee, a US general to head the stabilization force and a high commissioner to liaise between the Palestinian technocratic body and the executive committee — Netanyahu found himself cornered. Trump had stripped him of leverage regarding the fate of the Palestinian enclave. The US president also announced it was time to move to the second phase of the plan, which would entail Israel’s gradual withdrawal from Gaza, in addition to disarming Hamas.

But the real challenge for the Board of Peace will be forcing Netanyahu to yield and embrace the plan and its requirements fully and unconditionally. One litmus test is the opening of the Rafah border crossing. Trump sent his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and his special envoy, Steve Witkoff, to Israel earlier this week to push this step forward. Netanyahu resisted, reiterating that for the crossing to open, Hamas must hand over the body of the last Israeli captive.

Within 24 hours, the Israeli military found the hostage’s remains in an area under its control in Gaza. Netanyahu bowed — but not before setting new conditions. He would allow the Rafah crossing to open not for aid trucks, but only for pedestrians to travel between Gaza and

Egypt as part of a “limited reopening.”

Meanwhile, Israel continues to refuse entry to the 15-member Palestinian committee tasked with assuming responsibilities in the beleaguered Strip.

Whatever the outcome of Kushner and Witkoff’s trip to Israel, the general impression is that Netanyahu will continue fighting to have a final say on what happens next in Gaza. While the two US envoys met with Netanyahu, Israeli shelling killed at least three Palestinians in various parts of the Strip. The Israeli army has also continued expanding areas under its control beyond the so-called Yellow Line. It is believed to occupy nearly 60 percent of Gaza. The areas under its control have been flattened, while the army is digging deep trenches to prevent Palestinians from returning to what used to be their homes.

Trump’s Board of Peace has sent tremors across the globe because it has been given a mandate that extends beyond Gaza. Most of America’s Western allies have declined the invitation to join. The Arab and Muslim nations that have joined have done so after a careful assessment of the costs and benefits. Being on board regarding Gaza’s future is better than opting out. Working with Trump and his aides from within far outweighs being locked out of the deliberations and discussions. The Palestinian Authority has not been represented at any level of Trump’s plan and is unlikely to have a role in the near future, pending its much-touted reform, which is a red herring. As much as the PA needs genuine reform and accountability, Israel will never approve of a Palestinian body that seeks to fulfill the ambition of a two-state solution. Even so, Netanyahu’s recent political maneuvers do not bode well for the Board of Peace and Trump’s peace plan. He remains the biggest obstacle to ending the carnage, opening border crossings and allowing much-needed aid and supplies to enter freely. Ironically, Netanyahu and his far-right partners still espouse a plan to forcibly remove Gazans from the enclave, retain open-ended military control of the Strip and prevent reconstruction efforts. The opening of the Rafah crossing will put Trump’s plan and his board to the ultimate test. Already, Netanyahu is seeking to derail that effort. He now plans to establish another crossing point, totally controlled by Israel, next to Rafah inside Gaza. Netanyahu is always planning ahead, working to impose new conditions that will keep him in the game.

— Arab News



The Two-and-a-Half-Year Agreement: The Future of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the Hopes of Its Workers



Written by: Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani : Published by ANI

The politics of Balochistan has now entered a phase in which political reconciliation, mutual trust and practical decisions hold exceptional importance for the province’s future. The two-and-a-half-year political agreement reached between the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party is an important development in this context. It should not be viewed merely as a political formula, but as a significant opportunity for political stability, continuity in governance and development in Balochistan.

The real success of this agreement will be possible only when it is implemented promptly and effectively in accordance with its agreed spirit. Political agreements become meaningful only when their decisions take practical shape and their positive effects reach the government, political parties, workers and, ultimately, the people.

The political vision of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has always been linked to political stability, democratic continuity, economic development and public welfare. For Balochistan, this vision also requires political forces to promote mutual cooperation, resolve differences through dialogue and adopt a joint strategy to lead the province towards development and prosperity.

The two-and-a-half-year agreement is a valuable political opportunity in this regard. If the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party move forward with this agreement in all seriousness, it will not only create political stability within the government but also provide a better environment for development, administrative continuity and the resolution of public issues in Balochistan.

The agreement has also raised many hopes among the workers and voters of the Pakistan Muslim League (N). Party workers who have remained associated with the party for a long time expect the decisions of the central leadership to be translated into practical action, the party to be made active and organized in Balochistan, and elected representatives to be provided opportunities to play an effective role. Similarly, PML-N voters want the representation of their votes to be visible at the governmental level and the problems of their areas to be given priority.

Therefore, the central focus of the leadership should now be the effective and complete implementation of the agreement. The agreed points should be implemented in

phases, the decisions already taken should be completed, and the decisions made at the central level should also be effectively monitored at the provincial level. This will increase trust between political partners and send a clear message to workers that the leadership is serious about translating its decisions and promises into practical action.

The Future of the PML-N and Organizational Development

Another important positive aspect of the two-and-a-half-year agreement is that it may provide the Pakistan Muslim League (N) with an opportunity to reorganize, strengthen and activate its structure in Balochistan. The real strength of any political party lies in its workers and organization. Without a strong organization, it is difficult to transform a political vision into public strength.

Therefore, the central leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) should advance organizational development in Balochistan on a priority basis. Organizations at the district and tehsil levels should be activated, contact with workers should be restored, active and capable political workers should be brought forward, and elected representatives should also be given an effective role in the process of organizational strengthening.

There is a particular need to strengthen the party organization in Quetta city. Quetta is not only the capital of Balochistan but also the province’s most important political center. If an active and energetic PML-N member of the Provincial Assembly is given appropriate governmental representation and responsibility, he can play his role in the government while also contributing effectively to party workers, organizational affairs and urban issues.

This is not merely a matter of giving office to an individual; it is a strategy for transforming political energy into organizational strength. If an active elected representative serves as an effective link between the government and the party, it can increase workers’ confidence, strengthen organizational activity and enhance the party’s presence among the people.

NA-263 Also Deserves Special Importance

Similarly, the central leadership should give NA-263 special political and organizational importance. It is an important constituency of Balochistan where major political figures have traditionally competed against one another.

The elected Member of the National Assembly from the Pakistan Muslim League (N) should also be given appropriate governmental representation and responsibility so that he can serve the people of his

constituency more effectively and, at the same time, play his role in activating and strengthening the PML-N organization in Balochistan.

Giving effective governmental responsibilities to elected representatives from important constituencies should not be viewed merely in personal terms; it should be part of the party’s overall political and organizational strategy. When elected representatives act as a bridge between the government, the people and the party organization, the party’s overall political strength increases, and voters also gain a practical sense of representation.

A Positive Message for the Central Leadership

The central leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) has an excellent opportunity in Balochistan today. Complete implementation of the two-and-a-half-year agreement, effective organizational development, appropriate governmental representation for the active MPA from Quetta city, and an effective governmental responsibility for the elected MNA from NA-263—these steps together can give the Pakistan Muslim League (N) a new political energy in Balochistan.

This is not the time to weaken any individual or group; it is the time to strengthen the party’s collective future. The hopes of workers and voters will become a reality only when they see that the party leadership is fulfilling its promises, giving confidence to workers, activating the organization and providing elected representatives with effective opportunities to serve the people.

To strengthen the political future of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in Balochistan, it is essential that the central leadership not only make decisions but also ensure their implementation. Organizational development should not remain a mere paper exercise; it must be taken into the practical field.

The two-and-a-half-year agreement is an important opportunity for political reconciliation and stability in Balochistan. If it is taken forward with positive thinking, mutual trust and practical measures, its benefits can reach not only both political parties but also the people of Balochistan.

Today, the need is for the agreement to be strengthened, the organization to be strengthened, the workers to be strengthened, and the Pakistan Muslim League (N) to become even stronger in Balochistan as an active, dynamic and people-oriented political force.

This is the path that, in accordance with the political vision of Mian Nawaz Sharif, can lead towards a peaceful, stable and developed Balochistan.

US-Europe rift serves neither, but is it inevitable?

YOSSI MEKELBERG

A rift between the US and Europe is quickly brewing. However, neither side can afford it or will benefit from it. Worse, this long-standing alliance now faces its severest test yet, which is bound to remain for the next three years. It is already leaving deep scars.

The security and prosperity of what is known as the West depend on close transatlantic relationships. When this alliance weakens, it only serves those the US and Europe perceive as their main rivals: China and Russia. One would not be surprised if the leaderships in Beijing and Moscow were rubbing their hands with glee at every spat between the Trump administration and America’s NATO allies. The American administration’s insistence on acquiring Greenland has proven to be, for the EU, the UK and Canada, the final straw. For them, this was a red line they could not afford to let Washington cross without mounting a challenge, as they did.

The strategic importance of Greenland — the world’s largest island — is indisputable and it will only increase because of the unfortunate impact of climate change. Its strategic position between the US and Russia makes it a front-line area of growing importance as the ice sheets melt. Global warming is causing Greenland’s ice sheet and the rest of the Arctic’s sea ice to melt, opening new sea routes that will serve as an alternative to traditional, costly navigation through the Suez and Panama canals. Add to this Greenland’s rich mineral and hydrocarbon deposits and the attraction of this massive island, despite its harsh weather, lack of infrastructure and remoteness, is turning it into the US’ latest frontier.

Alas, the way President Donald Trump is going about it alienates his country’s closest allies and does so needlessly. The idea of the American frontier underpins

the country’s historical westward expansion, with European settlers moving from the original settlements along the Atlantic Coast toward the Pacific Coast. This was a combination of ideology and utilitarianism, eventually resulting, for instance, in the purchase of Alaska in 1867 for the modest sum of \$7.2 million (about \$150 million today).

Acquiring territories reflected the “manifest destiny” notion, coined by John L. O’Sullivan in 1845, that America had a special destiny to stretch across the continent. However, it was another US president, Woodrow Wilson, with his notable 14 points during the First World War, who made his country the champion of the right to self-determination — a position that now seems reversed by the current US administration.

Greenland, in Trump’s thinking, epitomizes this. And it is no longer a fight between the so-called new world and the old world of colonial Europe, but a confrontation that undermines the closest of allies, which share similar security concerns and, at least until recently, similar values and respect for the norms of a rules-based world order.

Before Trump’s arrival at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the fear was that the issue of Greenland was going to cause irreparable damage to the US’ relationship with most of the other members of NATO, which believed that Trump would not climb down from his demand for American sovereignty over the island.

The day before Trump addressed the forum, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney urged his fellow “middle powers” to form new alliances, accusing the great powers of abandoning the post-Second World War system of freer trade and international norms, which required an adequate response. “We understand that this rupture calls for more than adaptation,” he said, as “the old order is not coming back. We should not mourn it.

Houston Business Delegation Pays Tribute to Quaid-e-Azam at Mazar-e-Quaid

Report: ANI :

KARACHI --- A high-level business delegation from Houston, Texas, visited Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi and paid tribute to Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Led by USP Corporate CEO Dr Mubashir Chaudhry, the delegation offered Fateha and laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum. The visitors also prayed for Pakistan's development, prosperity and stability.

The delegation was hosted by Star Marketing Managing Director Mahmood Ahmed Khan and FPCCI Central Standing Committee Convener Syed Turab Shah.

Members of the delegation appreciated Quaid-e-Azam's vision and leadership and acknowledged his historic struggle for the creation of Pakistan.



The delegation also discussed opportunities to strengthen Pakistan-US trade and business ties, emphasizing greater investment, partnerships and cooperation between businesses in both countries. Mahmood Ahmed Khan said overseas Pakistanis and the interna-

tional business community could play an important role in Pakistan's economic development.

The visit concluded with a focus on expanding business cooperation, investment opportunities and stronger economic ties between Pakistan and the United States.

YPF, Justice Project Pakistan Discuss Measures to Combat Drug Abuse Among Youth

BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA and President of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), held an introductory meeting with representatives of Justice Project Pakistan at the Parliament House.

The meeting focused on exploring cooperation to combat drug abuse and narcotics-related offences among youth. Both sides stressed the need for prevention, rehabilitation and human rights-based drug policy reforms that prioritise health, dignity and proportionate sentencing.

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar reaffirmed YPF's commitment to evidence-based policies, emphasizing that addiction should be addressed through healthcare and rehabilitation rather than criminalisation. She also stressed protecting young people from discrimination and stigma.

Justice Project Pakistan representatives briefed the meeting on their efforts to provide legal aid to vulnerable prisoners facing narcotics charges, promote fair trials and humane treatment, and advocate reforms to Pakistan's drug laws.

Both sides agreed to continue dialogue and explore future cooperation in legislation, parliamentary briefings, awareness campaigns and policy advocacy.



FGEHA to Auction Commercial Plots in Islamabad on September 15-16

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) will hold an auction of commercial plots in the rapidly developing sectors of G-13 and G-14, Islamabad, on September 15 and 16, 2026.

The auction will start at 10:00 a.m. on both days at Grand Marki Enclave, Margalla Road, E-11, Islamabad.

Commercial plots in G-14 Markaz and the shopping centres of G-14/2, G-14/3 and G-14/4 will be offered, while G-13 will feature Class-III commercial and Modern Corporate/Office plots.

FGEHA said the auction has generated strong interest among investors and the business community. Buyers will be offered easy installment plans for up to two years, a 10% discount on lump-sum payments



and the facility to pay the remaining amount in installments after an initial payment of 25%.

The Authority said the locations offer connectivity with the Metro and major roads and are approximately 8 kilometres from the M-1 and M-2 motorways and 12 kilometres from Islamabad International Airport. FGEHA has invited investors, businesspersons, developers and individuals interested in commercial property to participate in the auction.

Jhelum DC Chairs Meeting on Union Council Names



BY: ANI Correspondent:

Jhelum: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Mir Raza Ozgun to review matters related to the names of Union Councils. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Director Local Government, political figures and other relevant representatives.



atives. During the meeting, various proposals regarding the names of Union Councils were discussed in detail. Participants shared their views and suggestions at the local level, while relevant records and administrative matters were also taken into consideration.

Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Mir Raza Ozgun directed that all

Jl Announces Rawalpindi Sit-in From September 9 Against Petroleum Levy

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab Ameer Dr. Tariq Saleem has announced that a protest sit-in will be launched in Rawalpindi from September 9 against what the party describes as an illegal petroleum levy and anti-people economic policies.

Addressing a meeting of JI leaders in Rawalpindi, Dr. Tariq Saleem said party workers and citizens from Rawalpindi and surrounding areas would participate in the sit-in daily.

He also formed a steering committee comprising Iqbal Khan, Hafiz Tanveer Ahmed, Raja Mumtaz Hussain, Mian Yasir Ali Gujjar and Inam-ul-Haq Awan to oversee the protest.



Dr. Tariq Saleem alleged that the government had collected around Rs4,000 billion from ordinary citizens through petroleum levies and other charges. He criticized the priv-

DPO Khushab Directs Zero Tolerance for Corruption, Foolproof Security for Undertrial Prisoners

BY: City Reporter ANI

KHUSHAB -- In compliance with the directives of the Inspector General of Police, Punjab, a special meeting of senior police officers, ASP (Under Training), SDPOs, SHOs and personnel assigned to judicial duties was held at Police Lines, Jauharabad, under the chairmanship of DPO Khushab Dr. Ammara Shirazi.

The meeting directed strict implementation of the Punjab Chief Minister's vision of a corruption-free Punjab, along with a zero-tolerance policy against corruption, 100 per cent compliance with SOPs for judicial duties and foolproof security for undertrial prisoners receiving medical treatment.

The DPO also ordered effective



supervision of personnel deployed on duty. The movement of prison vans is being monitored directly through CCTV cameras to ensure transparency and security.

Dr. Ammara Shirazi made it clear that indiscriminate accountability would continue against police personnel found guilty of negligence, dereliction of duty or corruption.

Terrorism Does Not Represent Any Nation, Portraying It as Pashtun-Baloch Conflict Is a Conspiracy: Speakers

BY:Syed Sardar M Khondai/ ANI

PISHIN --The All Parties Anjuman-e-Tajran Pishin organized a protest rally against the activities of armed groups, recent terrorist incidents and unrest in Pishin and Saranan. The rally later turned into a protest gathering attended by a large number of people.

ANP Balochistan President Asghar Khan Achakzai, JUI provincial vice president Maulana Kamal-ud-Din, Pashtunkhwa National Awami Party Central Information Secretary Essa Khan Roshan, and representatives of traders and civil society addressed the gathering.

The speakers said portraying terrorism in the Pashtun belt as a Pashtun-Baloch conflict was an attempt to create hatred and division between the two communities. They stressed that terrorism does not represent any nation, language or region

and called for a united stand against it.

The protesters criticized the government and relevant institutions, demanding immediate action against terrorism and armed groups in Pishin, Saranan and other Pashtun areas, along with effective protection of the lives and property of citizens.



Defence Day Celebrated with National Songs and Cultural Event

Report: ANI Correspondent:

MUZAFFARABAD --A colourful ceremony featuring national and patriotic songs was held at Narul Cricket Stadium under the auspices of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell to mark Pakistan Defence Day.

Organised on the special directions of the AJK government in collaboration with various departments, the event was attended by a large number of children, women, youth and citizens. The ceremony paid tribute to the martyrs of September 6, 1965, while promoting patriotism, national unity and the spirit of defending the country among the younger generation.

Renowned local singers and artists from across AJK performed patriotic songs, receiving enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Children also waved the flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, conveying messages of unity, brotherhood, peace and national solidarity.

Special stalls were also set up by government departments and private companies, attracting significant public interest. Participants paid tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan's martyrs and prayed for the country's peace, stability, security and prosperity.

Rawalpindi Inspector Chaudhry Fazal Takes Charge as SHO Banni Police Station

Report: ANI :

RAWALPINDI -- CPO Rawalpindi Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera has appointed Inspector Chaudhry Fazal Akbar as the Station House Officer (SHO) of Banni Police Station. The newly appointed SHO has formally assumed charge and initiated practical measures to improve law and order and curb crime within the police station's jurisdiction.

Inspector Chaudhry Fazal Akbar said that, in accordance with the directions of CPO Rawalpindi Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera, special attention would be given to providing better police services to citizens

and improving the police station culture.

He further said that he would utilize his professional capabilities to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property, while effective action would be taken against criminal elements.

Meanwhile, residents and social circles of the area expressed hope that the new SHO would perform his responsibilities effectively, provide relief to the public and play a key role in bringing positive changes to the police station's working environment.

