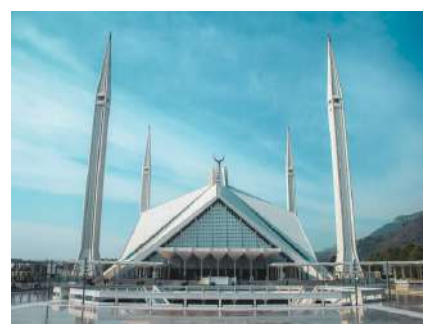




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Two officers among 6 martyred, 8 terrorists killed in Hangu fire exchange: ISPR



ANI

Two officers and four security personnel were martyred while eight terrorists were killed in a fire exchange in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu district on Sunday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

During an intense fire exchange between a "security forces convoy and Khwarij", 23-year-old Captain

Abuzar Farooq from Gujranwala and 22-year-old Lieutenant Sheraz Babar of Chakwal, "who were leading their troops from the front, fought gallantly and paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom along with their four men".

On the other hand, "eight Khwarij belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna al Khwarij were sent to hell due to effective engagement by own troops", the ISPR

statement added.

The state uses the term Fitna al Khawarij for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

A sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, ISPR said.

It affirmed that the "relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision 'Azm-i-Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex

Committee on National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country". "These sacrifices of our brave soldiers further reinforce our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation at all costs," the military's media wing stated.

Govt launches competitive power market for large consumers

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Energy Minister Awaiz Leghari on Sunday announced the launch of a competitive electricity market in Pakistan, saying the new system would initially allow industrial and other large consumers using more than one megawatt to purchase electricity directly from producers before being extended to ordinary consumers in the coming years.

"The government is practically withdrawing from electricity procurement," he said in a video message, explaining that electricity producers and consumers would instead be able to buy and sell power directly through a transparent mechanism.

The announcement came as the Independent System and Market Operator of Pakistan (ISMO) issued a request for proposals (RFP) for Pakistan's first 400-megawatt wheeling auction under the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) framework. Leghari also shared the ISMO public notice on X, saying he was "proud to announce" that the RFP had been issued and that a "decades-old commitment" of successive governments had now been practically implemented.

"Suppliers and consumers of power can now transact with each other," he said in his post.

Under the existing electricity market structure, the government purchases the power generated by producers and supplies it to consumers. The terms and rates under which electricity is procured have long been a subject of scrutiny, particularly in relation to independent power producers (IPPs).

He said the new system would fundamentally alter that arrangement, with producers and consumers able to enter into transactions directly rather than relying on the government as the central buyer and seller. "Electricity producers and users will buy and sell directly through a transparent mechanism," he added.

The first phase of the competitive market will cover industrial and other large consumers using more than one megawatt of electricity. Ordinary consumers



will be brought into the system at a later stage, with Leghari saying the expansion was expected to take place over the next few years.

The minister said the eventual expansion would give consumers greater choice over their electricity suppliers and allow them to seek cheaper power. "For an ordinary consumer, this will mean that they will have the choice of buying cheaper electricity," he said.

Leghari further stated that lower electricity costs would also help Pakistani industry compete in international markets and support exports. "If electricity becomes cheaper, our industry will be able to compete internationally, and our exports will increase," he added.

The wheeling mechanism allows eligible electricity producers and consumers to enter into direct power transactions while using the existing transmission network to deliver the contracted electricity.

It is intended to provide the infrastructure needed for consumers and suppliers to trade power outside the government's traditional procurement arrangement.

Under the first auction, interested participants have been asked to submit their proposals by November 20, 2026. Potential participants must also register on ISMO's electronic auction platform to take part in the process.

Leghari described the launch as the practical implementation of a reform that successive governments had sought to introduce for decades.

"Every government for the last 25 to 30 years wanted a competitive electricity market," he said, adding that the present government had moved towards putting the system into practice.

Minister warns fuel price could hit Rs1,000 per litre if shortage emerges

ANI

Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Sunday warned that fuel prices could reach Rs1,000 per litre if a fuel shortage emerged in the country amid renewed hostilities in the Middle East and Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to journalists in Lahore, Malik said petroleum prices had already risen by 50% in Pakistan, with prices in Europe and the United States also climbing sharply. He said Houthi attacks were unacceptable and that the government was providing relief to vulnerable segments of society to cushion the impact of rising fuel costs. On the energy front, the minister said work had begun on oil wells and the government expected to discover domestic crude oil by October, which could help reduce reliance on expensive imports. The warning came as fuel prices recorded a sharp increase amid heightened volatility in global oil markets triggered by renewed hostilities in the Middle East and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The further escalation followed the collapse of a fragile ceasefire reached in June between Tehran and Washington, along with Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia's civilian and economic infrastructure, raising concerns over disruptions to energy shipments.

Following the latest price revision, petrol is now being sold at Rs389.14 per litre while high-speed diesel stands at Rs424.04 per litre.

In response to the rising prices, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last Sunday launched a special relief scheme providing Rs100 per litre discount on petrol for motorcyclists, rickshaw and Chingchi owners and drivers of vehicles up to 800cc. Federal Minister for IT and



Telecommunication Shaza Fatima subsequently announced three major revisions to the scheme. She said eligibility had been extended to motorcycles registered from January 1, 2006, instead of the previous 2011 cut-off, in response to feedback from citizens and journalists.

The previous five-litre limit per token has been abolished, with eligible two and three-wheeler users now able to purchase fuel according to their own requirements. Each eligible user can obtain four tokens per month with each token carrying a relief amount of Rs500.

"For example, if two litres of petrol cost Rs780, the beneficiary would pay Rs280 after applying the Rs500 relief token," Fatima explained.

The third change was the abolition of SMS charges across the board under the scheme, making messaging free for all scheme beneficiaries regardless of vehicle type. Fatima said more than 1.75 million registrations had been completed under the scheme by 3pm, around 1.5 million tokens had been generated, and over 680,000 tokens had already been redeemed at petrol stations.

Ji launches protest march towards Islamabad against petroleum levy

ANI

Jamaat-i-Islami launched its protest march towards Islamabad on Sunday, with party chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman warning that if the government failed to abolish the petroleum levy, the protest could turn into one to oust the government. In the morning, Naeem addressed JI supporters at Karachi's Cantonment Station before departing for Islamabad by train. As per an update at 7pm, the Naeem-led caravan had reached Tando Adam after making a stop in Hyderabad. In his Karachi speech, the party chief said that a road caravan had also departed for the federal capital in addition to the "train march".



He added that the rally would pass through Hyderabad, Landhi, Nawabshah, Rohri and Sukkur, adding that "we will

invite our sisters to join us once we reach [Islamabad]".

Rehman said the purpose of the march was to help relieve the burden on the least privileged.

"Instead of providing relief to the people, the government has decided that it would make the nation pay for its bad governance," he added. "We demand that the levy extortion should end. Petrol prices would then reduce quickly and reach around Rs200 per litre. That's when the economy could move forward."

He said that the government had increased petrol prices more than any other state in the region. "The government wants to rob the common people in times of crisis," Naeem claimed.

Aleema detained under MPO in Lahore ahead of PTI's Sept 27 protest

ANI

PTI said on Sunday that ex-prime minister and party founder Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, had been detained by authorities, after the office of Lahore's deputy commissioner (DC) ordered her detention or arrest for 30 days.

The development takes place amid reports of a crackdown on the PTI ahead of its September 27 countrywide protest and march to Islamabad, which the party has called to demand Imran's release from jail and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution.

The September 20 order, a copy of which is available with Dawn, said DC Muhammad Ali Ijaz had ordered the detention or arrest of Aleema and a man named Muhammad Ameer under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 (MPO).

The MPO ordinance allows the authorities to order detention and restrict judicial review of such orders. "Their custody shall be placed under the superintendent, Central Jail, Kot Lakhpat, Lahore.

Navy chief visits units at sea, Creeks Area to review SEASPARK 2026

ANI

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf visited units at sea and in the Creeks Area on Sunday to review Exercise SEASPARK 2026, the military's media wing said. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), The biennial exercise, which has been underway since September 1, rehearses the full spectrum of maritime operations and tests the operational preparedness and ability to transition rapidly from peacetime to wartime operations. "Reflecting the changing character of warfare, this year's exercise integrates Operations in



the Information Environment, Multi-Domain Operations and extensive use of unmanned systems," the statement added. During his visit, Admiral Ashraf interacted

with personnel participating and commended their "professionalism, high morale, operational readiness and resolve to remain invincible at sea", ISPR said.

Long marches, strikes, sit-ins may cost Pakistan's economy Rs120b a day: Aurangzeb

ANI

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday warned that long marches, sit-ins and strikes could cost Pakistan's economy around Rs120 billion a day, describing disruptions to economic activity as "self-inflicted pain" at a time when the country was trying to shift from economic stabilisation to sustained growth.

The statement came after three groups, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Kissan Ittehad and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), announced plans for long marches in Islamabad in the coming week. The groups were protesting separate issues, with JI demanding the removal of the petroleum development levy, Kissan Ittehad seeking relief for farmers, and PTI calling for the release of party founder Imran Khan from jail.

In a televised recorded message, Aurangzeb said the government had worked with the Planning Commission's



economic wing to assess the potential impact of protests, road blockages and business closures, drawing on both previous experience and the country's current economic conditions. "If this economic stabilisation that we have achieved with great effort, difficult decisions and continuous efforts is disrupted by protests,



Chairman Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and others lead a 'Qaumi

Aleema Khan Arrested Ahead of Planned PTI Protest March

BY: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE -- Police arrested Aleema Khan, sister of jailed former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, at her residence in Lahore on Sunday, ahead of the party's planned protest march to Islamabad on September 27.

According to a notification issued by the Lahore district administration, Aleema Khan has been detained for 30 days. The notification cited intelligence reports and stated that her presence at public places could pose a threat to public safety.

The PTI has announced a protest march towards Islamabad next week, with the party demanding the release of Imran Khan.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Saturday that the government would take measures



to prevent the planned protest march.

PTI leaders have criticised Aleema Khan's arrest. Zulfi Bukhari, a close aide to Imran Khan, described the detention as unjustified and linked it to the upcoming September 27 mobilisation.

The arrest comes amid heightened political activity ahead of the PTI's planned march, with authorities and the opposition party taking opposing positions over the proposed demonstration.

ITP facilitation vans to serve citizens at 28 locations from Sept 21-27

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) facilitation vans will visit 28 locations across the federal capital from September 21 to 27, providing driving licence and other police services to citizens closer to their homes and workplaces. An ITP official told APP on Sunday that the Police Station on Wheel, Van-I, Van-II and Van-III would operate daily from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm according to the following schedule: Monday, September 21: Police Station on Wheel will be available at Iqra University, Van-I at Benazir Chowk, Tarnol, Van-II at F-10 Bolan Gate, and Van-III at Traffic Office Faizabad.

Tuesday, September 22: Police Station on Wheel will visit G-11 Markaz, Van-I Islamic University, Van-II DHAA-II, Gate 4, and Van-III Foreign Office Checkpost.

Wednesday, September 23: Police Station on Wheel will be stationed at Centaurus Mall, Van-I at Wednesday Bazaar, Bhara Kahu, Van-II at E-11/3 Toba Masjid, and Van-III at Traffic Office Faizabad.

Thursday, September 24: Police Station on Wheel will visit E-11 Markaz, Van-I Zero Point Checkpost, Srinagar Highway, Van-II Chattha Bakhtawar Milad Chowk, and Van-III Adventure Inn Checkpost.

Friday, September 25: Police Station on Wheel will be available at I-10 Markaz, Van-I at Khanna Bridge, Van-II at Bari Imam House, and Van-III at Traffic Office Faizabad.

Saturday, September 26: Police Station on Wheel will visit Rawal Town, Van-I F-8 Markaz, Van-II Gandum Godam Checkpost, IJP Road, and Van-III Foreign Office Checkpost.

Sunday, September 27: Police Station on Wheel will be stationed at Sunday Bazaar H-9, Van-I at Traffic Office Faizabad, Van-II at Police Lines H-11, and Van-III at Islamabad Club. The Police Station on Wheel will provide services including missing reports, character certificates, learner permits, driving licence renewals and duplicate licences. The three facilitation vans will offer learner permits, licence renewals, duplicate licences and driving test sheets.

NCCIA DG Rizvi orders stronger public awareness drive against cyber fraud, harassment

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi directed the agency's media team to strengthen public awareness efforts against cyber fraud and online harassment to help citizens protect themselves from cybercrime. An official told APP on Sunday that the DG issued the directions during a meeting with the NCCIA media team, where a strategy was discussed to make the cybercrime awareness campaign more effective and highlight the agency's work through social media.

Rizvi directed the team to provide citizens with timely and authentic information about ways to protect themselves from cyber fraud and harassment. He stressed that public awareness should be strengthened through effective use of social media so that citizens could recognise cyber threats and take precautionary measures.

Power Consumers May Face Rs1.73 Per Unit Tariff Increase

By: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --- Electricity consumers across Pakistan may face an additional burden as the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has sought a Rs1.73 per unit increase under the monthly fuel cost adjustment mechanism for August.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is scheduled to hear the CPPA's request on September 29.

According to the application, 14.464 billion units of electricity were supplied to distribution companies during August at an average cost of Rs8.82 per unit. The proposed adjustment would also apply to K-Electric consumers.

Hydropower accounted for 37.84 per cent of electricity generation during the month, while local coal contributed 10.88 per cent and imported coal 15.59 per cent. Furnace oil accounted for 2.15 per



cent, local gas 7.04 per cent and imported LNG 8.48 per cent of generation.

The proposed increase is part of the monthly fuel cost adjustment process and will only become applicable if approved by NEPRA following the scheduled hearing.

Consumers would therefore have to wait for the regulator's decision before any additional amount is reflected in electricity bills.

The government also plans to reduce federal decision-making from five tiers to three and introduce performance-linked financial rewards. Officials would be evaluated twice a year under the proposed system.

The reforms are estimated to cost around Rs11 billion to implement. The government has said an implementation committee would oversee the process following approval, with full implementation targeted within 120 days.

AIOU conference to focus on research, practices in education

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The 9th International Conference on "Research and Practices in Education," organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), will commence tomorrow (September 21) and continue for two days. The conference will bring together national and international educationists, researchers and experts associated with the field of education. The conference will be held in hybrid mode, enabling national and international experts to participate in various sessions both online and in person.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood will host the opening and concluding ceremonies. During the conference, educationists and researchers will present their research papers and share their experiences on the latest research in education, teaching methodologies, contemporary educational challenges and possible solutions. The conference aims to strengthen the link between educational research and practical teaching and to promote meaningful academic and research-oriented dialogue among educationists and researchers.

CDA Relocates 470 Trees from Kashmir Chowk Underpass Site

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a major tree rescue and transplantation operation to save 470 trees coming in the alignment of Kashmir Chowk underpass project on Srinagar Highway, shifting them to Parade Ground Shakarparian and other suitable locations under strict supervision of Environment Wing.

According to CDA Environment Wing, the initiative is being carried out under the banner of "Save The Trees - Pakistan's First Tree Rescue Service", ensuring that development and environmental protection go hand in hand.

The trees, which were falling in the right of way of the Kashmir Chowk underpass - a key connectivity project aimed at improving traffic flow between Srinagar Highway, Murree Road and adjoining areas - are being scientifically uprooted with root balls, transported on trailers and replanted at Parade Ground to enhance its green cover and beauty for the upcoming 23rd March celebrations. Officials said the shifting is being carried out with specialized equipment, with proper wrapping and watering arrangements to ensure maximum survival rate.

The Environment Wing teams are supervising the entire operation, from extraction to replantation and after-care. Instead of cutting down the trees, CDA has adopted the transplantation method as an environmentally sustainable solution. The operation demonstrates CDA's commitment to protect Islamabad's green character while executing major infrastructure projects. The replanted trees at Parade Ground will not only be preserved but will also contribute to beautification and environmental improvement of the main venue of national day celebrations. The Authority said the trees are being planted with proper pits, soil treatment and maintenance plan.

Citizens and environmentalists have appreciated the move, terming it a model for other development projects. CDA said similar tree rescue operations will be adopted in future projects to ensure that Islamabad remains clean, green and environmentally sustainable while development works continue at fast pace.



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PM&DC President visits MDCAT exam centres

ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj on Sunday visited MDCAT 2026 examination centres at Air University and Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), Islamabad, to review the arrangements and observe the conduct of the examination.

MDCAT 2026 was successfully conducted across the country for 138,158 registered candidates at examination centres established in 34 cities and towns, along with an international centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During the visit, the President reviewed the facilities and arrangements provided to candidates and expressed satisfaction with the measures in place for the smooth and orderly conduct of the examination.

President PM&DC Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj said that all possible facilities were provided to candidates.



PM Iftikhar Gillani: Resolving Public Grievances Top Priority of AJK Government

Report: ANI Correspondent:

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gillani has said that resolving the problems of ordinary citizens is the top priority of his government.

He expressed these views while talking to various public delegations that called on him in Muzaffarabad. The prime minister said the government would formulate a comprehensive plan to address public grievances and practical steps would be taken to resolve the issues brought to his notice.



PM Iftikhar Gillani said development priorities would focus on projects that directly benefit the people and improve access to basic facilities. He added that the government would remain accessible to the public and ensure that genuine grievances are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

Delegations from all union councils of Muzaffarabad, along with representatives of youth and women from different areas, congratulated PM Iftikhar Gillani on assuming office and apprised him of the problems faced by their respective areas.

Ballistic missile intercepted over Riyadh as fire breaks out near King Khalid airport

ANI

RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said Saturday that the Iran-backed group fired a ballistic missile at Riyadh at dawn, after a fire broke out near the Saudi capital's international airport.

Firefighters extinguished a blaze on a fuel tank bearing the logo of Saudi oil giant Aramco at a fuel depot near Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, an AFP journalist saw. Footage shared online and verified by AFP showed a column of black smoke above airport buildings.

In recent weeks, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement has staged a lightning offensive, seizing swathes of territory in one of the world's poorest countries and leaving the internationally recognised government, which is backed by Saudi Arabia, scrambling to respond.

Saudi Arabia's air force 'successfully intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the Houthi terrorist militia towards the city of Riyadh at dawn on Saturday',



coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki posted on X.

He said the Houthis also tried to target 'civilians and civilian infrastructure in Bisha, Taif, Farasan, and Yanbu', adding that the attacks 'were thwarted by the Gulf monarchy's air defences'.

Saudi Arabia has responded with scores of airstrikes on Houthi-held areas but failed to stop the advance.

The Houthis said they had responded to recent Saudi attacks by carrying out 'two successful military

operations using a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones', Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said in a statement on Telegram.

'The first targeted sensitive sites in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and the second targeted Aramco facilities in Yanbu.' Hours after the early morning alert, residents told AFP on condition of anonymity that they heard what sounded like a series of explosions echoing through parts of the Saudi capital.

World leaders return to UN amid wars in Middle East and Ukraine



ANI

World leaders gather in New York this week for the United Nations General Assembly, bracing for President Donald Trump's return to the rostrum for a second year running, with talks centering on the widening conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine and the risks of artificial intelligence. Nearly 130 heads of state meet with the post-World War Two order under strain and with the UN itself struggling to remain relevant and weathering attacks from Trump, who has slashed America's contributions and withdrawn from dozens of UN bodies.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who last addressed the diplomatic jamboree via video in 2021, will skip New York in favour of one-on-one talks with Trump in Washington on Thursday, fueling debate about the UN's relevance in addressing global crises. Compounding the crisis of morale and finance are questions about the next leader of the 80-year-old organisation: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres completes his term at the end of 2026, with no clear frontrunner in the race to replace him. The 15-member UN Security Council may hold high-level meetings on Ukraine, AI and the Middle East, including talks with Arab leaders, diplomats said.

More than a year into Trump's second term, "we would no longer say that the UN is in freefall, but we would say that it's stuck in an open-ended crisis," said Richard Gowan of the International Crisis Group. "The UN may not be in emergency care like it was last year, but it seems to be trapped in a trauma centre for the foreseeable future," Gowan said. The US avoided losing its vote at the assembly by paying \$725 million in contributions to the regular budget this week, but it still owes the organisation more than a billion dollars and makes ongoing demands for cuts and reforms. The assembly meets shortly after several artificial intelligence industry leaders called for a coordinated slowdown of the development of the technology, warning that it could soon improve on its own and escape human control.

DPM/FM Dar departs to New York to attend UNGA 81st Session

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Sunday, departed Islamabad for New York, where he will accompany Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif from 21-25 September for the high-level week of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The DPM/FM will have an extensive and wide-ranging programme during the high level week. He will attend the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir during which he will highlight Pakistan's unwavering support for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Dar will also attend several Organisations of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA, including OIC Foreign Ministers' Annual Coordination Meeting, as well as other OIC Contact Group meetings.

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Opinion

3

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi’s Quetta Visit: A New Chapter for Balochistan’s Heritage



By: Ch Shabbir Balochistani
Published By: ANI News Agency

Balochistan is often discussed in terms of its geography, natural resources and mineral wealth, but its greatest treasures also lie in its ancient history, cultural traditions and archaeological heritage. From Mehrgarh to historic forts, shrines, folk traditions, traditional crafts and indigenous languages, Balochistan represents an important and valuable chapter in the cultural history of Pakistan.

In this context, the recent visit to Quetta by Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi deserves particular attention. His visit has brought renewed focus to Balochistan’s archaeological and cultural heritage and created an opportunity for federal and provincial institutions to work together for its preservation and promotion.

The significance of the visit should not, however, remain limited to official meetings and announcements. It should become the starting point of a practical and long-term strategy for protecting Balochistan’s historical heritage and presenting it to Pakistan and the world.



vey and documentation of historical sites, followed by individual conservation and restoration plans based on their historical importance and present condition.

Restoration should go beyond repairing buildings. Historical sites need proper access roads, cleanliness, lighting, security, information panels and visitor facilities. Local communities should be involved in their protection, while young people can be trained as professional heritage and tourism guides. This would help preserve history while creating employment opportunities for the younger generation.

Modern technology can also transform the way heritage is documented and experienced. Important sites could have QR codes providing historical information in English, Urdu, Balochi and Brahui. Old photographs, maps, documents, oral histories and folk traditions could be preserved through a Digital Balochistan Heritage Archive, creating a permanent record for researchers, students and future generations.



Universities and research institutions should also be brought into this process. Historians, archaeologists, writers, cultural experts and young researchers can contribute significantly to documenting the province’s history. Most importantly, local communities should have a meaningful role in deciding how their heritage is preserved and presented.

Mehrgarh deserves special attention. It is one of the most important archaeological references to the ancient civilization of the region and has enormous potential for cultural tourism and international recognition. A modern museum, research centre and visitor facilities could help turn Mehrgarh into an important destination for students,

researchers and tourists.

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi’s visit also provides an opportunity to strengthen Pakistan’s cultural unity. The country’s diversity is one of its greatest strengths. Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, Brahui, Pashtun, Saraiki, Kashmiri and Gilgit-Baltistani traditions all contribute to the richness of Pakistan’s national identity.

The federal Ministry of National Heritage and Culture could therefore introduce a permanent National Cultural Festival, held each year in a different provincial capital. A festival in Quetta, for example, could bring together Balochi and Brahui traditions with Sindhi Ajrak, Punjabi cultural traditions, Pashtun heritage and the cultural expressions of other regions.

Such festivals should not be limited to music, food and traditional dress. They should also include books, literature, folk stories, handicrafts, historical exhibitions, documentaries, films and programmes in regional languages. Cultural exchange of this kind can create greater understanding and closeness among the people of different provinces.

Another useful initiative could be a Heritage Youth Fellowship, providing young people with training in archaeology, museum management, digital archiving, cultural research and heritage tourism. Regional cultural and historical centres could also be established across Balochistan to preserve local traditions, photographs, crafts, folk stories and historical records.

The recent visit of Aurangzeb Khan Khichi to Quetta should therefore be viewed as an opportunity to move from discussion to implementation. The federal ministry, the provincial government, archaeology and culture departments, universities and local communities can develop a coordinated framework for heritage preservation.

Balochistan’s heritage is not simply a reminder of the past. Properly preserved and promoted, it can become a source of education, tourism, employment and international cultural recognition.

The real success of Aurangzeb Khan Khichi’s visit will be measured not only by what was discussed in Quetta, but by what is implemented afterwards. If the momentum generated by the visit is transformed into a comprehensive Balochistan Heritage Policy, it can open a new chapter in the preservation of the province’s history and culture. Balochistan’s heritage is a vital part of its identity, but its preservation is a shared national responsibility.

Political Stability Through Parliamentary Consensus: The Way Forward for Pakistan



By: Sumblina Hassan
Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto
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Published By:ANI News Agency

Pakistan’s political environment once again highlights the importance of parliamentary dialogue, political consultation and democratic consensus. At a time when the country is facing economic pressures, governance challenges and growing public expectations, political stability remains an important requirement for sustainable national progress.

The recent political engagement between the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz demonstrates both the challenges and the importance of coalition politics. Political parties may have differences on policy matters and priorities, but democratic institutions provide the appropriate framework through which such differences can be discussed and addressed.

Differences between coalition partners are not unusual in a parliamentary democracy. Political parties represent different constituencies and may have different political priorities. The important question is how these differences are managed. Dialogue, consultation and parliamentary mechanisms provide a democratic means of resolving disagreements while allowing governance to continue.

The role of the electorate is equally important. Democracy cannot function effectively without an informed and responsible electorate. It is the responsibility of citizens to cast their votes wisely, after considering the programmes, manifestos and commitments presented by political parties. In return, political parties must honour their manifestos and electoral promises with honesty, sincerity and good faith.

When these principles are respected, voters can exercise their constitutional right to vote freely and fairly, without hindrance, discrimination or violence. The electoral process should provide every eligible citizen with an equal opportunity to participate in determining the direction of the country.

The people are the true stakeholders in a democratic system, while elected leaders are entrusted with the responsibility of serving the people and working in the service of Pakistan. The power of democracy therefore lies fundamentally in the vote.

Every vote represents public

trust and carries with it expectations for better governance, economic opportunity, security, justice and public services. Political parties therefore have a responsibility not only to seek electoral mandates but also to remain accountable for the commitments they make to the people.

At the same time, the electorate and elected representatives share a responsibility to promote harmony, stability and political unity when democracy becomes the primary objective for the prosperity of Pakistan. Political competition is an essential part of democracy, but competition should not prevent political institutions from functioning or national interests from being addressed.

A hung Parliament or coalition government can emerge from the distribution of an electoral mandate. Such an arrangement requires political parties to engage in consultation and negotiation. Coalition politics does not necessarily mean that every participating party must agree on every issue. Rather, it requires parties to find constitutional and parliamentary ways of working together while maintaining their respective identities and positions.

Our leaders and politicians who are elected must therefore work towards providing a stable and credible system that can support, sustain and protect the legitimate views, values and interests represented by different political parties.

A functioning democracy does not require complete political agreement. It requires institutions capable of accommodating differences through dialogue, parliamentary debate and constitutional processes. Political disagreements can coexist with democratic cooperation when all sides respect the rules and institutions of the system.

Parliament should remain the principal forum for discussing major national questions. Issues involving governance, constitutional reform, administrative arrangements and the future direction of the country require broad consultation and consideration by elected representatives.

This is particularly important when decisions have implications for different provinces, communities and sections of society. Democratic consultation allows different perspectives to be heard and provides greater opportunity for national consensus.

Pakistan’s democratic experience also shows the importance of institutional continuity. Economic development, investment, public-sector reforms and social programmes require consistent governance and an environment in which institutions can perform their constitutional responsibilities.

Political stability, however,

should not be understood as the absence of disagreement. Healthy democracy depends upon debate, criticism and accountability. What matters is that political differences remain within constitutional and democratic boundaries and that political dialogue continues even when parties disagree.

The responsibility is therefore shared between the electorate and the electors. Citizens must exercise their right to vote responsibly and remain informed about the commitments of political parties. Elected representatives, on the other hand, must respect the mandate entrusted to them and remain accountable to the people.

Our political leaders have a duty to serve the public rather than treat political authority as an end in itself. Political office carries responsibility towards citizens and towards Pakistan as a whole. The ultimate purpose of democratic governance should be to improve the lives of the people and strengthen the institutions of the state.

For Pakistan, the way forward lies in strengthening the culture of parliamentary consultation and democratic responsibility. Political parties can maintain their individual positions while working together on matters of national importance. The electorate can make informed choices while continuing to demand accountability from those who receive their mandate.

When citizens are able to vote freely and fairly, when political parties honour their commitments, and when elected representatives work through constitutional and parliamentary mechanisms, democratic institutions can develop greater public confidence.

The power of the vote should therefore be accompanied by the responsibility of leadership. The electorate gives the mandate, while elected representatives are entrusted with the responsibility to serve.

Pakistan’s democratic future depends upon this shared responsibility. A stronger culture of informed voting, accountable leadership, constitutional respect and parliamentary dialogue can provide a foundation for greater harmony, political stability and national unity.

Ultimately, democracy must remain a means through which the people of Pakistan can participate in their own governance, express their aspirations peacefully and hold their representatives accountable. When democracy becomes the primary objective, political differences can be managed through institutions, dialogue can replace confrontation, and the country can move towards a more stable and prosperous future.

The Muslim World Must Invest in Minds, Not Just Material Power



By: Dr. Nasser Hussyn Bukhari
Published By: ANI News Agency

If Islamic countries had established a powerful international platform to recognize and support their scientists, intellectuals, researchers and writers, they might have created a culture of knowledge and innovation capable of transforming the Muslim world.

Nations rise not merely through wealth, natural resources or military strength, but through the knowledge they create, the ideas they nurture and the minds they inspire. A civilization’s strength is reflected in its universities, laboratories, research centres and intellectual life.

The Muslim world has never been short of brilliant minds. From the great scholars of the Islamic Golden Age to contemporary scientists, engineers, physicians, economists, educators, writers and social scientists, Muslim societies have produced individuals who have made valuable contributions to humanity. The problem is not a lack of talent; it is the absence of a connected system through which talent can flourish and collaborate.

In the modern world, science and technology have become among the most important engines of national development. Artificial intelligence, biotechnology, medicine, space science, renewable energy, robotics and advanced engineering are rapidly transforming economies and societies. Countries that invest systematically in research and innovation are helping to define the future, while those that mainly consume knowledge produced elsewhere risk becoming increasingly dependent on others.

This should prompt serious reflection. Imagine a coordinated effort linking universities and researchers across Islamic countries. A scientist in Pakistan, an engineer in Türkiye, a medical researcher in Saudi Arabia, an educationist in Indonesia, a physicist in Egypt and a technology expert in Malaysia may be working on related problems, yet have limited opportunities to collaborate. Their collective knowledge represents an enormous but insufficiently connected resource. It could also strengthen cooperation among universities across generations.

A common framework could facili-

tate joint research, international fellowships, visiting professorships, doctoral scholarships, shared laboratories and cross-border academic projects. Financial support should target promising research, particularly among young scholars who lack access to laboratories, equipment, mentors and international networks.

The cooperation should focus on challenges affecting both Muslim societies and humanity: water scarcity, food security, public health, climate change, renewable energy, agricultural productivity, artificial intelligence, education and economic development. At the same time, social sciences and humanities must receive equal attention. No country can build a successful future through technology alone. Economists, political scientists, sociologists, psychologists, educationists, historians, philosophers and writers help societies understand inequality, governance, social cohesion, education, youth development and cultural transformation.

The initiative should begin with a practical roadmap. First, Islamic countries could convene a ministerial and academic summit to agree on a founding charter, governance structure and financing mechanism. Participation should remain open, with decisions based on academic merit rather than political influence.

Second, an independent council of eminent scientists, researchers, educationists and intellectuals from participating countries could be established. Members should be selected through transparent procedures and fixed terms. The council could identify priority research areas and develop common standards for evaluating proposals and achievement.

Third, a jointly financed research and innovation fund should be created. Contributions could be proportionate to the economic capacity of member states, while competitive grants could be available to researchers across participating countries. It should prioritise multinational projects and publish its criteria and outcomes.

Fourth, a network of centres of excellence could be developed. Existing universities and laboratories should be strengthened rather than creating expensive parallel structures. Selected institutions could specialise in areas such as artificial intelligence, medicine, agriculture, water management, renewable energy, education, economics and social policy. Researchers could move between these centres through fellowships and visiting appoint-

ments.

Fifth, the programme should focus strongly on young people. Doctoral scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships, student research competitions and innovation grants could connect talented young Muslims with leading research institutions. An annual gathering could provide a platform for discoveries, partnerships and new projects.

Recognition should form part of the system, but it should reward genuine contribution rather than become an exercise in ceremony. Prestigious international prizes could recognise outstanding achievements in science, technology, social sciences, literature and the humanities. Such recognition would send an important message to younger generations about the value of knowledge.

The history of Muslim civilisation demonstrates what becomes possible when knowledge is treated as a collective enterprise. During the Islamic Golden Age, scholars travelled, exchanged ideas, translated works and built upon the knowledge of earlier civilisations. The lesson is not to romanticise the past but to recover its intellectual spirit: curiosity, openness and scholarship.

The Muslim world possesses universities, financial resources, a large young population and immense intellectual talent. What is needed is coordination, sustained investment and long-term vision. The proposed organisation should therefore not become another bureaucratic structure. It should be lean, transparent, merit-based and focused on measurable outcomes.

Its purpose should be to increase Muslim contributions to global knowledge and help solve problems affecting humanity.

Islamic countries should therefore seriously consider establishing a World Organisation for Islamic Science, Technology and Intellectual Excellence, with science, technology, social sciences, education, humanities and literature within its mandate. With transparent governance and sustained financial commitment, it could connect minds across borders.

The Muslim world does not lack resources, young people or talent. What it needs is the vision to connect these resources and invest in the minds capable of transforming them into knowledge, innovation and human progress. Nations rise when they invest in their minds. The Muslim world must now invest in its greatest resource – its people, their knowledge and their ideas.

Pakistan Army’s Unwavering Commitment to Saudi Arabia’s Security: A Clear Message of Collective Defence, Strategic Deterrence and Lasting Regional Peace



By: Dr. Abdul Ghani
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When missiles and drones threaten the skies of Saudi Arabia, they do not merely endanger military installations or economic infrastructure. They cast a shadow over a land that occupies a sacred place in the heart of every Muslim. Saudi Arabia is home to Makkah and Madinah, the two holiest cities of Islam. For Pakistan, therefore, the security of the Kingdom is not simply a matter of foreign policy. It is connected with faith, history, brotherhood and shared strategic interests.

The recent Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia have once again demonstrated how rapidly instability in Yemen can endanger the wider region. Pakistan has officially condemned the attacks and reaffirmed its solidarity with the Kingdom. Such solidarity is neither symbolic nor temporary. It reflects a relationship built over decades and strengthened through mutual trust, defence cooperation and unwavering support during difficult times.

The Pakistan Army has always been recognised for its professionalism, discipline, courage and operational experience. Its sacrifices in the fight against terrorism are written in the blood of thousands of soldiers and officers who defended their homeland against one of the most dangerous waves of militancy in modern history. This experience has made Pakistan’s armed forces highly capable in counterterrorism, intelligence coordination, missile and drone threat assessment, border security and the protection of sensitive installations.

If Saudi Arabia faces aggression, Pakistan cannot remain emotion-

ally or strategically indifferent. Any serious threat to the Kingdom, particularly to its sacred places, naturally causes concern throughout Pakistan. The bond between the two countries cannot be measured only through official agreements. It lives in the hearts of ordinary Pakistanis who consider the safety of the Haramain al-Sharifain a sacred responsibility.

The message to the Houthi rebels must therefore be clear: political grievances cannot justify attacks on civilian areas, airports, energy facilities or commercial routes. Missiles and drones cannot bring justice to Yemen, nor can they secure a durable political settlement. They only deepen civilian suffering, expand regional instability and create the possibility of a confrontation whose consequences may extend far beyond the Arabian Peninsula.

Pakistan’s support for Saudi Arabia should not, however, be misunderstood as a call for an unlimited war. True military strength is not demonstrated by seeking conflict; it is demonstrated by preventing aggression. The Pakistan Army’s professional support can strengthen Saudi defensive capabilities, improve preparedness and create effective deterrence. A credible defence often prevents the very war that weakness invites.

Critics may argue that Pakistan should remain completely detached from Middle Eastern disputes. Neutrality, however, does not mean silence in the face of aggression, particularly when a close ally is threatened. Pakistan can support Saudi Arabia’s legitimate defence while simultaneously encouraging dialogue, restraint and a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Yemen. Defending an ally and advocating peace are not contradictory objectives. On the contrary, responsible deterrence can provide the stability required for meaningful diplomacy.

Pakistan must also ensure that

every aspect of its cooperation remains consistent with the Constitution, parliamentary oversight, international law and the national interest. Its role should remain defensive, carefully defined and free from sectarian considerations. Pakistan enjoys important relations with several countries in the region and should continue using its diplomatic influence to reduce tensions rather than enlarge divisions.

Saudi Arabia’s security also has direct economic significance for Pakistan. Millions of Pakistanis have worked in the Kingdom and contributed to both economies. Saudi stability affects energy markets, maritime commerce, remittances and the livelihoods of countless Pakistani families. An attack on Saudi infrastructure can therefore produce consequences extending from Riyadh and Jeddah to homes and markets across Pakistan.

At this critical moment, the courage of the Pakistan Army must be matched by the wisdom of Pakistan’s political leadership. The objective must not be revenge, expansion or confrontation. It must be the defence of Saudi sovereignty, the protection of sacred places and civilians, and the preservation of regional peace.

The Houthi leadership must understand that Saudi Arabia does not stand alone. Pakistan’s friendship is not confined to ceremonial statements or diplomatic courtesies. It is a historic commitment shaped by faith, tested by time and supported by genuine public sentiment. The Pakistan Army remains a force for defence, deterrence and stability. Its resolve sends an unmistakable message: Pakistan desires peace, but it will not remain indifferent when a brotherly nation and the sacred heartland of Islam are threatened. The path of wisdom remains open, but aggression must never be mistaken for strength, nor should Pakistan’s commitment to peace be misunderstood as weakness.

PTI Kisan Wing Warns of Agricultural Crisis, Backs Sept 25 Farmers’ Protest

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- The PTI Kisan Wing has announced its support for the Pakistan Kisan Ittehad (PKI) and confirmed participation in the farmers’ protest and “Million March” scheduled for September 25 in Islamabad.

The announcement was made by PTI Kisan Wing Organizer Sheikh Waqas Akram and Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich while speaking to media along with local farmer leaders. Sadhraich said all provincial bodies of the Kisan Wing had been directed to actively participate in the PKI-led movement. He said farmers’ prosperity was essential for Pakistan’s economic stability.

The PTI leaders alleged that rising diesel, fertilizer, seed and other input costs had severely increased



the burden on farmers. They also criticised wheat pricing and imports, warning that continued pressure on growers could reduce domestic production and increase dependence on imported wheat.

The leaders demanded a minimum sugarcane support price of

Rs650 per 40kg, targeted relief on electricity and diesel, and immediate action against the alleged smuggling of vegetables from Afghanistan.

The PTI Kisan Wing said it would continue efforts to unite farming organisations and raise farmers’ issues on political and public forums.

Security Forces Lauded for Successful Operation Against Fitna al-Khawarij in Hangu

Report: ANI Correspondent;

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has lauded the security forces for their successful operation against militants in Hangu, in which eight terrorists were killed.

The Speaker paid tribute to Captain Abu Zar Farooq, Lieutenant Sheraz Babar and four other soldiers who embraced martyrdom during the operation, commending the security forces for demonstrating exceptional courage and bravery in the fight against terrorism.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the sacrifices of the martyrs strengthen the nation’s resolve and determination.



He said the sacrifices rendered by

the security forces in defending the country are unforgettable and that the nation holds its brave martyrs in the highest esteem.

He reiterated that the fight against terrorism would continue until the last terrorist is eliminated, saying the sacrifices of the martyrs in operations against Fitna al-Hindustan reflect the nation’s unwavering resolve.

The Speaker expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the martyrs, saying he shares their grief. He prayed that Allah Almighty elevates the ranks of the martyrs and grants patience and strength to their bereaved families.

Jamaat-e-Islami Reviews Preparations for Super Long March

Report: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE -- A meeting chaired by Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Naib Ameer Liaqat Baloch was held at Mansooria to review preparations for the proposed ‘Super Long March’.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Liaqat Baloch said five rounds of negotiations had been held between government and Jamaat-e-Islami committees, but the government side had failed to present any concrete proposals.

He said Jamaat-e-Islami had presented comprehensive proposals for abolishing the petroleum levy but the government continued to delay the matter.

Baloch said further negotiations without a comprehensive relief pack-



age would be meaningless. If the government is serious, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should directly join the negotiations and announce a major relief package for the people.

He said Jamaat-e-Islami would not be satisfied with mere assurances or temporary relief and would continue to press for practical measures to address public grievances.

Five Terrorists Killed, 23 Abducted Persons Rescued in Kalat Operation

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- Security forces killed five terrorists and safely recovered 23 abducted persons during an operation along the N-25 Karachi-Chaman Highway near Kalat, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday.

According to the military’s media wing, the terrorists had established an illegal checkpoint on the highway with the reported objective of abducting people for ransom, extortion and snatching vehicles.

Security forces responded after receiving information about the terrorist activity and engaged the mili-



tants in an intense exchange of fire. Five terrorists were killed during the operation.

ISPR said 23 abducted individuals were recovered from the terror-

ists’ hideout. Security forces also recovered six trucks, three buses and two cars from the site, along with weapons, ammunition and explosives.

A sanitisation operation was continuing in the surrounding areas to ensure the safety of the local population and secure the national highway.

The operation comes amid intensified counter-terrorism activities in Balochistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari commended the security forces for the operation and reiterated the government’s resolve to continue action against terrorism.

Two Army Officers Among Six Martyred in Hangu Clash, Eight Khwarij Killed: ISPR

BY: ANI Correspondent:

HANGU --Eight militants were killed while six security personnel, including two Pakistan Army officers, were martyred during an intense exchange of fire between security forces and Khwarij in Hangu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday.

According to the military’s media wing, an exchange of fire took place between a security forces convoy and Khwarij in Hangu district. The troops effectively engaged the militants, resulting in the killing of eight Khwarij.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, two officers who were leading their troops from the front also embraced martyrdom along with four other security personnel, ISPR said.

The martyred officers were identified as Captain Abuzar Farooq, 23, a resident of Gujranwala district, and Lieutenant Sheraz Babar, 22, a



resident of Chakwal district.

ISPR said the two officers fought gallantly while leading their troops and paid the ultimate sacrifice along with four other personnel.

Following the engagement, a sanitisation operation was launched in the area to eliminate any remaining militants and ensure the security of the surrounding area.

The military’s media wing said

the counter-terrorism campaign under the Azm-e-Istehkam framework, approved by the Federal Apex Committee under the National Action Plan, would continue with full resolve. ISPR said the sacrifices of the security personnel further reinforced the commitment of the armed forces and law-enforcement agencies to safeguarding the country and combating terrorism.

PVARA Chairman Bilal Bin Saqib Meets U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker

BY:Ahmed Shamsur Rehman / ANI

ISLAMABAD --Minister of State and Chairman of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA), Bilal Bin Saqib, met U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker to discuss Pakistan’s evolving regulatory framework for digital assets.

Bilal Bin Saqib briefed the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires on developments in Pakistan’s digital assets sector and efforts to establish a modern and robust regulatory framework.

The meeting also covered innovation, financial transparency and the future of Pakistan’s digital economy. Bilal Bin Saqib said Pakistan was developing a modern regulatory framework for the digital assets sector and laying the foundations



for a digital economy while keeping the future of the financial system in view. He added that through inno-

vation and financial transparency, Pakistan was charting a new direction for its digital economy.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh to Attend World Economic Forum Meetings to Promote Pakistan Investment

Report: ANI

NEW YORK/Islamabad--Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has departed for New York to attend the World Economic Forum’s Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2026, scheduled for September 21–24.

The minister will highlight Pakistan’s economic potential,



investment opportunities and business-friendly reforms before global investors, business leaders and representatives of international financial institutions. During the meetings,

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh is expected to promote investment opportunities in key sectors including energy, technology, agriculture and manufacturing.

He will also hold bilateral and multilateral meetings with international investors, corporate executives and global economic leaders to encourage foreign direct investment and expand commercial partnerships with Pakistan.

Pakistan-Saudi Security Cooperation Gains Importance Amid Regional Tensions

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has gained renewed significance amid escalating attacks on Saudi territory and growing regional tensions, following the signing of a trilateral defence agreement involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Under the recently signed Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, an armed attack against any one of the three countries is to be regarded as an attack against all three. The agreement has brought Pakistan’s longstanding defence partnership with Saudi Arabia into a broader trilateral framework with Türkiye.

The latest developments came after Yemen’s Houthi movement intensified missile and drone attacks against Saudi Arabia, including attacks targeting areas around



Riyadh. The escalation has raised concerns over the security of Saudi territory, energy infrastructure and regional shipping routes.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Türkiye was prepared to meet Saudi Arabia’s military needs under the trilateral agreement, particularly in technical areas. He said Ankara regarded the attacks on Saudi Arabia as a serious threat to the country’s territorial integrity

and sovereignty.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has maintained that no discussion has taken place regarding an immediate military response to the Houthi attacks under the defence agreement. Islamabad has, however, reiterated its commitment to its security partnership with Saudi Arabia and indicated that it would respond if circumstances required it.

The trilateral defence arrangement is expected to deepen military coordination, joint exercises and defence-industry cooperation among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. The developments also underline Pakistan’s longstanding strategic and defence relationship with Saudi Arabia, while placing Islamabad in a sensitive regional position as it seeks to maintain relations with both Gulf partners and neighbouring countries.

SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA MEETS ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN H.E. UGO CIARLATANI

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chief Whip Senate, held a meeting with H.E. Ugo Ciarlatani, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, at his office today.

During the meeting, both sides discussed Pakistan-Italy bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries. The discussion focused on enhancing parliamentary exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

H.E. Ambassador highlighted that over 340,000 Pakistanis are living in Italy and contributing positively to the Italian society and economy. Senator Mandviwalla noted that there is great potential for skilled Pakistani professionals



to explore further opportunities in Italy. Both sides agreed that Pakistan and Italy enjoy longstanding and cordial relations, and reaf-

firmed their commitment to build on these ties in the years ahead to further deepen cooperation in areas of mutual interest.