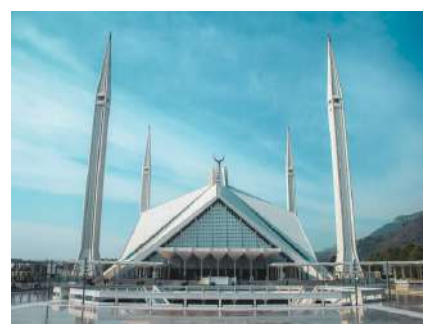


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Pakistan rejects Taliban regime's allegations over Nuristan 'violence'



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday dismissed the Afghan Taliban regime's baseless allegations linking Pakistani security forces and intelligence agencies to alleged violence in Afghanistan's Nuristan province, saying the claims had no basis in fact.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a fact-check statement rejecting the Taliban's accusations, including allegations that Pakistani agencies had recruited or trained former Afghan security personnel or facilitated Daesh or any other terrorist group operating in Afghanistan.

"Not a shred of evidence has

been produced to substantiate Pakistan's involvement — no identities, documents, communications, forensic evidence or independent verification," the statement said.

The fact-check came in response to a statement issued by the Afghan Taliban's Ministry of Defence, which claimed that several groups affiliated with Daesh, along with what it called elements of subversion, had crossed the Durand Line into the Kamdesh district of Nuristan with the support of Pakistani militias.

The Taliban claimed their security forces had killed 28 of the alleged infiltrators and captured 32 others alive, while the rest fled back across the Durand Line.

Meanwhile, the ministry also dismissed a video circulating on social media to support the claims, saying it merely showed a few unarmed individuals who were not even properly dressed or equipped, in what appeared to be a pre-planned video shoot by an Afghan Taliban regime "well known for lies and fabricated claims." The statement pointed to successive reports by the United Nations and other neutral international organisations documenting the presence and activities of various terrorist groups inside Afghanistan, saying attempts to manufacture a Pakistani connection could not obscure the reality that these groups continued to find

sanctuary and a permissive environment for growth on Afghan territory.

"It is particularly ironic for the Afghan Taliban regime to accuse Pakistan of supporting terrorism while terrorist organisations operating from Afghanistan continue to pose a direct threat to Pakistan and regional security," the statement said. Pakistan urged the Taliban regime to take credible and verifiable action against terrorist organisations operating from Afghan soil and fulfil its commitments that Afghan territory would not be used for terrorism against Pakistan or any other country, rather than deflecting responsibility through fabricated accusations.

SCO meeting to begin in Islamabad under Pakistan's chairmanship on Monday: FO

ANI

Pakistan is set to hold the first meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of National Coordinators (CNC) under its chairmanship in Islamabad from Monday, with the three-day session set to contribute to preparations for the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting that Pakistan will host in August 2027, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Sunday. According to a statement on X, the meeting will be held from September 28

to 30 and will be chaired by Pakistan's National Coordinator for the SCO, with national coordinators from SCO member states and representatives of the SCO Secretariat in attendance.

The national coordinators will discuss a "wide range of issues relating to SCO cooperation and coordination", including the "programme of activities under Pakistan's Chairmanship", preparations for upcoming SCO meetings and events, and other matters on the organisation's agenda, the FO said.

The meeting would mark an "important initial engagement" under Pakistan's chairmanship and would contribute to preparations for "various high-level engagements and activities" to be undertaken during the chairmanship, including the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting to be hosted by Pakistan in August 2027.

Pakistan, which holds the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026-27, would seek to advance the organisation's objectives under the theme "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity", according to the FO.

"In this regard, Pakistan's Chairmanship would focus on promoting greater connectivity, fostering innovation, enhancing economic cooperation, and strengthening people-to-people contacts," it said.

The FO said the aim would be to "trans-



late the shared vision of Member States into practical and mutually beneficial initiatives". "Pakistan would work closely with all Member States and the SCO Secretariat to advance these priorities and further strengthen cooperation within the SCO," it said.

The CNC meeting will therefore provide an early forum for coordination among member states as Pakistan begins its programme of activities as chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State, the FO said. According to the statement, the meeting would contribute to preparations for various high-level engagements and activities during Pakistan's chairmanship, including the August 2027 meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif travelled to Bishkek for a three-day official visit to attend the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting and the SCO Plus Summit, where Pakistan assumed the organisation's chairmanship for 2026-27.

Under the chairmanship, Pakistan will lead the SCO's top-level deliberations and host the organisation's summit in Pakistan in 2027.

During the visit, Shehbaz proposed an "excellent plan" focused on key sectors including information technology and artificial intelligence, energy development, poverty reduction, disaster management, health, culture and sports.

No govt financing, sovereign-guaranteed loans for new PIA



ANI

Adviser to the Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad clarified on Sunday that the government was not buying any aircraft for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which was privatised through an auction in December last year. "The government is neither buying aircraft for a privatised PIA, nor has it announced any sovereign guarantee of taxpayer-funded loan for doing so," Schehzad posted on X following claims on social media that a minister was arranging and negotiating sovereign-linked financing for the jets. The claims came after a recent meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Chair of the US Export-Import (Exim) Bank John Jovanovich on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The finance ministry said about the meeting that the two discussed the Reko Diq mining project and funding opportunities for procuring an aircraft for PIA. The finance minister shared PIA's interest in Boeing's 787 Dreamliners and "sought support for a financing package covering aircraft and engines". But, Schehzad pointed out in his

post, the US Exim's "mandate, like export credit agencies elsewhere, is to support its country's exports and jobs".

"Boeing aircraft are US exports. US Exim provides financing support to foreign purchasers of US-manufactured aircraft, including airlines, through established financing structures. "US Exim's own framework provides for asset-backed aircraft financing, where financing can be secured against the aircraft itself and credit assessed on the airline/lessee and/or guarantor, if any. A sovereign guarantee is therefore not an automatic requirement," he added.

Explaining the government's role regarding the potential acquisition of the aircraft, he said it was doing "exactly what governments around the world are expected to do for their businesses: opening doors, facilitating access to international financing, technology and suppliers and promoting investment and commercial opportunities".

He added that Aurangzeb's discussions with US Exim were not even confined to PIA. It covered potential financing across aviation, refinery upgrades and Reko Diq as part of a much broader Pakistan-US economic engagement. "And this is entirely consistent with Pakistan's economic direction," Schehzad remarked.

He added that the government was "deliberately reducing the state's role in commercial activity, pursuing privatisation and creating greater space for private capital. Private-sector-led growth does not mean government abandons the private sector; it means government enables it rather than running businesses itself".

Over 70 terrorists killed in Balochistan in last 96 hours: ISPR

ANI

Security forces have killed more than 71 terrorists in Operation Shaban and other areas of Balochistan over the last 96 hours, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday.

According to the military's media wing, "as the Army's operation progresses, more than 71 terrorists have been killed so far in Operation Shaban and other areas of Balochistan in the last 96 hours, delivering a serious blow to Indian-backed Afghan proxies." The statement further added that the operation was launched following credible intelligence about multiple hideouts of Indian-sponsored Fitna Al-Khawarij and Fitna Al-Hindustan terrorists in the general area of Shaban in Quetta district, which posed a threat to the local population. The state uses the term Fitna Al-Khawarij for terrorists affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, while Fitna Al-Hindustan refers to banned outfits sponsored by India in Balochistan.



"Security forces launched a swift operation in Ziarat and surrounding areas on September 21. During the operation, troops engaged the terrorists and cleared multiple hideouts. Following intense exchanges of fire, 33 Indian-sponsored terrorists were killed, while a sig-

nificant quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered," the ISPR said.

According to the ISPR, over the past 72 hours, the operation was further intensified, resulting in the killing of 23 terrorists. Security forces cleared a vast area and relieved local communities of the threat posed by Fitna Al-Khawarij and Fitna Al-Hindustan.

"The clearance operation is continuing until complete neutralisation of the threat," it said. In a separate intelligence-based operation in Nushki district on September 25, security forces engaged a terrorist hideout and killed 11 Indian-sponsored terrorists. In another operation in Mand, six Fitna Al-Hindustan terrorists were killed, while a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered, the ISPR said. The ISPR also said that the involvement of the Afghan Taliban regime in terrorist activities in Pakistan, backed and sponsored by India, continued to cause loss of precious lives and threaten peace and stability.

Khawaja Saad Rafique calls for dialogue between govt, protesters

ANI

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former federal minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has called on the government and protesters to engage in dialogue and continue negotiations, saying that a solution can be found if there is a genuine intention to resolve issues. In a post on social media platform X, Saad Rafique urged the government and protesters to rise above egos, stubbornness and factional divisions. He said neither side would emerge as a winner as everyone was suffering losses. He said the state should always take the initiative and urged the relevant sides to take steps to prevent loss of life and property. He described damaging each other's dignity as an undignified act, saying Pakistan was suffering from inflation, unemployment, injustice and terrorism and that its concerns should be heard. According to the PML-N leader, the common man had been pushed to the limit and was not interested in debates, confrontations, allegations or claims of achievements. He said making a living had become extremely difficult.

Newly inducted HANGOR conducts maiden live weapon firing in Arabian Sea: ISPR

ANI

Pakistan Navy's newly inducted submarine PNS/M HANGOR conducted its maiden live weapon firing in the North Arabian Sea, accurately engaging a designated long-range target with an anti-ship cruise missile, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday. According to the military's media wing, "Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf witnessed the firing and praised the submarine's combat power," while emphasising the strategic importance of enhancing subsurface capabilities for credible maritime deterrence. "The milestone underscores the Pakistan Navy's commitment to maintaining a modern, combat-ready force to safe-



guard national maritime frontiers and regional peace", the statement added. On Saturday, Pakistan Navy ships HUNAIN and YARMOOK seized more than 2,800 kilograms of narcotics, valued at approximately \$750 million, during a joint counter-narcotics operation in the Arabian Sea, the ISPR said. According to

the ISPR, the ships were conducting a routine patrol when they intercepted a suspicious boat. A boarding operation was subsequently carried out, during which narcotics were recovered from "concealed compartments," it said. Admiral Ashraf commended the officers and crew for their "professionalism and vigilance", ISPR added. The naval chief also reaffirmed Pakistan Navy's commitment to maritime security and combating illicit trafficking at sea, according to the statement. Earlier on Wednesday, the Pakistan Navy and Coast Guard, in coordination with the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC), confiscated "a sizeable quantity" of liquor and illegal medicines in the Pishukan area of Balochistan.

Iran says it seized US sea drone in Strait of Hormuz



ANI

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Navy said on Sunday it had seized a United States Remus 600 autonomous underwater vehicle operating in the Strait of Hormuz and which it said was conducting espionage, according to state media. The Guards said the vehicle had been captured using intelligence and electronic warfare capabilities and was being examined by Iranian specialists to recover its data. Earlier in the day, Iran's army spokesperson Mohammad Akraminia said Tehran's armed forces are prepared for any renewed US attacks, according to state media. Akraminia said Iran's armed forces were fully prepared for confrontation and warned that the US would suffer greater damage if it launched another attack on his country. Separately, Iranian Army

Commander-in-Chief Amir Hatami said the war with the US was at a "critical and decisive" stage, Al Jazeera reported.

According to Al Jazeera, Hatami added, "The war is not over; we have won, but we must consolidate this victory, and the aggressor enemy, which has suffered severe blows, must still be ready to receive severe blows from the dear Iranian soldiers." "We are proud to be the soldiers of a country that today stands against the embodied evil of the United States and the Zionist regime and has humiliated them," he stated, adding, "This is Iran, and it is not a place for their excesses and arrogance." Responding to the notion that the Iranian government would fall after the series of assassinations that the US and Israel carried out at the beginning of their war, Hatami said that this was a "miscalculation by the enemy," Al Jazeera reported. The commander highlighted the assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on February 28, the first day of the war. Further, he noted that Tehran would not accept a situation in which it was unable to trade while foreign powers used the region's strategic waterways.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani attends a luncheon hosted in his honour by Mr. Hamza Tabani. Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi and other parliamentarians were also present on the occasion.

AAS-in-Asia 2026 Concludes at LUMS with 1,000+ Scholars

ANI

ISLAMABAD: AAS-in-Asia 2026 concluded on Sunday at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), marking the successful conclusion of a three-day international academic gathering that brought more than 1,000 scholars and participants from over 37 countries to Pakistan.

Held under the theme “Centring Asia: Refiguring Connections, Recharting Futures,” the conference brought together scholars, students, university leaders and academics from 517 institutions, including some of the world’s leading universities, such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, University of Tokyo, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Harvard University, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and Yale University.

AAS-in-Asia has previously been hosted in countries including South Korea, Indonesia, Nepal, Japan, India and Thailand. Its first edition in Pakistan brought an international academic community to Lahore.

The conference featured hundreds of panel sessions, pre-conference work-



shops, roundtables, open houses, exhibitions and cultural events held across different venues at LUMS. Discussions explored a wide range of themes, including Asia’s transformation and global perspectives, conflict and cooperation, democratic change, technology and society, artificial intelligence, Asian ecologies, cities and infrastructure, gender and mar-

ginality, cultural and artistic expression, and old and new approaches to knowledge and epistemology.

The sessions examined how Asia’s economic, political and cultural transformations are reshaping global debates, while also addressing issues including border disputes, contested sovereignties, civic spaces, climate disruption, displacement,

inequality and social justice. Discussions also explored the role of literature, art, performance, heritage and everyday cultural practices in shaping Asian identities and creating spaces for connection and dialogue.

The opening ceremony featured welcome addresses by LUMS Vice Chancellor Dr. Ali Cheema and President of the Association for Asian Studies Prof. Elora Shehabuddin.

Welcoming delegates to LUMS, Dr Cheema highlighted the importance of bringing diverse perspectives together and ensuring Pakistan’s participation in wider conversations on Asia and the world. “Pakistan must be an active part of the conversation about Asia and the world. Hosting AAS-in-Asia was particularly significant for LUMS and Pakistan as it enabled international scholars to engage with the country’s academic and cultural landscape, while also providing an opportunity to explore Lahore’s history as a centre of literature, art and intellectual exchange,” said Dr. Cheema.

President of the Association for Asian Studies Prof. Shehabuddin said AAS-in-Asia conferences had previously travelled across Asia, with each host location

New PTEA chief demands reduction in production costs to revive investment, exports

ANI

FAISALABAD: Newly elected chairman Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) Rehan Naseem Bharara has demanded reduction in the rising production costs to revive investment and exports.

Addressing the Annual General Meeting, he said that the relentless rise in production costs was choking fresh investment in the textile sector, eroding Pakistan’s competitiveness in international markets and constraining export growth. Therefore, an effective government strategy was urgent need of the hour to bring down costs, restore industrial momentum and accelerate economic activity as the sustainability of textile sector was directly linked with the livelihoods of millions of workers, he added. He identified the rising cost of production as the foremost challenge confronting textile exporters under the prevailing economic conditions. He said that Pakistan’s export sector was under mounting pressure because of the economic and industrial challenges facing the country, coupled with persistently high production costs, a heavy tax burden and elevated energy prices. These factors were adversely affecting industrial and trade activities, productivity and export competitiveness, he added. Expressing concern over the continued slowdown in industrial output, the newly elected chairman said the export sector had been experiencing a troubling trend of negative growth since the beginning of the ongoing fiscal year.

Secretary SIFC highlights investment facilitation at NIPA

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Jameel Qureshi, held an engaging session with officers of the Senior Management Course at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Islamabad, focusing on Pakistan’s evolving investment landscape and the role of effective public-sector coordination in advancing investment-led economic growth. According to a SIFC press release, the session provided an overview of Pakistan’s expanding investment opportunities and the institutional mechanisms being strengthened under SIFC to facilitate investors and translate identified opportunities into tangible economic outcomes. Secretary SIFC highlighted the Council’s investor-centric approach, smarter regulatory coordination and whole-of-government framework, which brings relevant public-sector stakeholders together to improve facilitation, address institutional interfaces and support a more responsive investment environment. The interaction also focused on the importance of effective coordination among government institutions in streamlining processes, improving service delivery and creating greater clarity for domestic and international investors.

PM reaffirms Pakistan’s complete support for China’s GDI

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saturday, reaffirmed Pakistan’s steadfast commitment to the Global Development Initiative (GDI), hailing it as a vital platform for fostering solidarity, enhancing South-South cooperation and delivering tangible results for the developing nations.

Addressing a high-level GDI meeting hosted by Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on the sidelines of the 81st UNGA session in New York, the prime minister praised the initiative’s foresight.

He noted that three years ago, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the landmark proposal when it was uniquely

needed.

In a statement broadcast on national Tv channels, the prime minister highlighted that the goals of GDI also complemented their own national economic transformation plan. “Our cooperation with China also continues through the Belt and Road Initiative and its flagship project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is now entering into its second phase. As we approach 2030, Pakistan stands ready to deepen cooperation with all partners under the GDI by replicating successful projects at scale and identifying new and innovative areas of cooperation,” he added.

The prime minister said three years ago, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, President Xi Jinping had put forward the



landmark Global Development Initiative (GDI), a proposal that was far ahead of its time.

Today, he opined the wisdom and vision of President Xi Jinping behind that decision is recognized by the world, adding with only six years left to the 2030 dead-

line, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals remained inadequate and slow. The prime minister underlined that the growing SDGs financing gap, frequent and severe climate disasters, rising food and fuel prices, intensified by the resurgence of geopolitical tensions, continued to reverse decades of gains in the developing countries.

Responding to these challenges, he called for strengthened multilateral cooperation, as advocated by the People’s Republic of China; terming its GDI as very timely.

The prime minister said that they could bear witness that the framework of the GDI has already translated into substantial and practical benefits across the developing world, delivered in the true spirit of ‘win-win cooperation’.

Tahira Rubab launches eight book Qaleed-e-Hijab in Hamburg

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A grand Mushaira and literary gathering held on Sunday in Hamburg, featuring the launch of Qaleed-e-Hijab, the eighth book by renowned German-Pakistani poetess Tahira Rabab.

The event was presided over by Hamburg Parliament member Gulfam Malik, while prominent Chicago-based writer and author Abid Rashid was the chief guest, said a press release issued here. His work on the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) received a top award in Pakistan, which was presented by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. First Secretary at the Embassy of Pakistan Ali Shahid, Press Counsellor Dr Sohail Aftab, Pakistan Peoples Party Germany Information Secretary Farid Shah, Central Multicultural Mosque founder and president Ghazanfar-ud-Din

Ahmad, and renowned blogger and podcaster Shah Rukh Mahmood were among the prominent guests attending the gathering. A number of poets participated in the Mushaira and presented their poetry, receiving appreciation from the audience.

Tahira Rabab and Abid Rashid also addressed the gathering and shared their views on Urdu literature, poetry and the importance of preserving Pakistani literary and cultural traditions abroad.

The organisers described the gathering as an important literary event in Hamburg, aimed at promoting Urdu language and literature and strengthening the cultural and cultural ties of the Pakistani community in Germany.

The event concluded with appreciation for the organisers, participating poets, writers and guests for their contribution to the promotion of Urdu literature and Pakistani cultural heritage in Germany.

AI, technology offer new avenues to promote Pakistan tourism: PTDC MD

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director (MD) Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana has said that technology and artificial intelligence (AI) offer new and promising avenues for promoting Pakistan’s tourism potential, particularly by engaging the country’s youth in innovative ways. Talking to APP on the occasion of World Tourism Day, he said Pakistan is blessed with some of the world’s most beautiful natural landscapes as well as a rich historical and cultural heritage, offering enormous opportunities for the devel-

opment and promotion of tourism.

He said this year’s World Tourism Day theme, focusing on tourism and technology through artificial intelligence, highlighted the importance of embracing new technologies to transform the tourism sector. Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana said PTDC is working with all stakeholders of the tourism industry and organizing various activities in connection with World Tourism Day.

Special attention was being given to Pakistan’s youth and programmes are being introduced to encourage them to use AI and modern technology for promoting tourism.

Cotton Ginners demand nationwide campaign to save cotton economy

ANI

MULTAN: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has demanded the government should launch a nationwide “Grow Cotton, Save the Economy” campaign, while considering its recommendations be made part of national policy.

At its general body meeting, the PCGA called for immediate closure of all sugar mills operating in cotton zones, withdrawal of all taxes on cotton and its by-products, complete abolition of sales tax on cottonseed cake and cottonseed, removal of fixed tax on electricity bills, and industry status for the ginning sector so it can access electricity and gas at industrial rates. It also demanded full implementation of the Cotton Control Act. The meeting was attended by former senior provincial minister and United Business Group (UBG) leader S.M. Tanveer, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Ikram Sheikh, former FPCCI president Mian Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh, Zaki Ejaz, Ginners Group Chairman Haji Muhammad Akram.

Balochistan’s Growing Unrest Could Lead to a Humanitarian Crisis: Dr Abdul Malik Baloch

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- National Party President and former Balochistan chief minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch has warned that the worsening situation in Balochistan could lead to a serious humanitarian crisis, stressing the need for dialogue, political consensus and the protection of citizens’ fundamental rights.

Addressing the second day of the National Party’s Central Committee meeting at Muhammad Shahi House in Quetta, Dr Abdul Malik Baloch said his party’s politics was guided by democratic principles, with a focus on politically educating and mobilising the people and struggling for their fundamental rights.

He said the National Party regarded the people as the ultimate source of power and considered the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law essential guarantees of citizens’ lives, liberty and fundamental rights.

Expressing concern over the security situation, Dr Abdul Malik said national highways in Balochistan had become unsafe for travel, restricting public mobility and creating serious difficulties for people associated with the transport and agriculture sectors.

He alleged that vehicles were being set on fire, while extortion at checkpoints was placing an additional financial burden on transporters. He also criticised the reported cutting of orchards and displacement of residents in Khadkocha, Kalat and Noshki, describing such measures as detrimental to the interests of the people.

The Natona Party president said Balochistan required serious attention, as the public was facing mounting difficulties. He cautioned that the prevailing situation could fuel wide-



spread disorder and potentially lead to a grave humanitarian crisis.

“Dialogue must be given priority,” he emphasised, calling for political engagement and a serious approach to resolving the province’s challenges. Highlighting Balochistan’s geopolitical significance, Dr Abdul Malik said the province occupied an important position in the region and that regional developments and external influences could not be ignored.

He said the National Party was making efforts to bring political parties in Balochistan together on common points of agreement to establish a united and effective political front.

On organisational matters, he urged party leaders and workers to maintain discipline, continue the process of organisational development and formulate an effective public outreach strategy to bring more people onto the party’s platform.

The meeting was also addressed by National Party Central Secretary

General Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, Member of the National Assembly Phulein Baloch, Balochistan Assembly member Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Balochistan unit president Aslam Baloch, Punjab unit president Ayub Malik, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa unit president Dr Sarfaraz, Senator Akram Dashti, central vice president Dr Ishaq Baloch, central spokesperson Ali Ahmed Lango, central women’s secretary Yasmin Lehri, Advocate Changez Hai Baloch, Haji Fida Dashti, Wahid Rahim Baloch, Dad Muhammad Baloch, Miran Baloch, Khair Bakhsh Baloch, Mehrab Baloch, Niaz Baloch, Haji Ata Muhammad Bangulzai, Dr Ramzan Hazara, Abdul Rasool Baloch, Mukhtar Baloch and other party leaders. The chairman of Baloch Students Organization (BSO) Pajjar, Buair Saleh Baloch, and other central and provincial leaders also attended the meeting.

Six dead after explosion destroys building in Athens

ANI

Six people have died after a two-storey residential building in a tourist area of central Athens collapsed, the Greek fire brigade said on Saturday, following an explosion that the mayor said was likely linked to gas infrastructure. The explosion killed four Americans, United States officials said. Emergency crews in heavy gear and red helmets assisted by rescue dogs, cameras and sensors found the bodies of six people, fire brigade spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said in a televised briefing. They were looking for an elderly couple who lived in one apartment and four tourists who were staying in another as they removed debris



from the building. The fire brigade’s crime investigation unit was also on site to identify the cause of the blast after reports of a gas smell in the area that is home to hotels and short-term

rentals. The tourists, two American couples, had been expected to catch a flight from Athens airport at 3pm on Friday but did not show up, a police source said.

Attack on Aslam Bizenjo’s Residence Condemned; Phulein Baloch Calls for Immediate Action

National Party leader terms incident a violation of Balochistan’s traditions and democratic values

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--National Party leader and Member of the National Assembly Phulein Baloch has strongly condemned the reported attack on the residence of party central leader and former provincial minister Sardar Muhammad Aslam Bizenjo, calling for the immediate arrest of those responsible and legal action against them.

In a statement, Phulein Baloch said that an attack on the residence of a political leader was contrary to the traditions of Balochistan and the sanctity of the home, while also undermining political and democratic values.

He said the National Party was a



peaceful and democratic political organisation committed to the philosophy of non-violence advocated by Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo. Political differences were a funda-

mental part of democratic politics, he added, but harassment of political leaders and violation of the sanctity of their homes could not be accepted. Phulein Baloch said political disagreements should be addressed through democratic means, dialogue and the rule of law rather than through intimidation or violence. He urged the government to conduct an immediate investigation into the incident, identify and arrest those involved, and take legal action against them in accordance with the law. The National Party leader further called for effective measures to ensure political tolerance, respect for differing views and the protection of democratic values in Balochistan.

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Opinion

3

Remarkably nearly 70 Nations Walked Out: A Rare Humanitarian Stand the World Should Not Ignore



By: **Qurat ul ain Ali Khawaja**
Published By: **ANI News Agency**

“Indeed, silence speaks louder than a speech.”

The recent scene at the United Nations General Assembly was one of those rare diplomatic moments when the absence of people became more powerful than their presence. As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approached the podium on September 24, delegations from nearly 70 countries reportedly walked out or left their seats vacant, leaving large sections of the General Assembly hall empty.

For me, the most powerful message at the UN was not delivered from the podium, it came from the delegations that chose to leave it behind. This was not merely a political spectacle. It was a striking humanitarian statement. At a time when international diplomacy is often reduced to carefully worded statements, these countries chose a much more visible form of protest. Their message was simple: their presence in that moment should not be interpreted as acceptance of what they regard as unacceptable suffering and policies affecting Palestinians.

Among the countries reported to have participated were Türkiye, Palestine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen, South Africa, Brazil and several others. The geographical diversity of the walkout is important. It was not confined to the Arab world or even to Muslim-majority countries; delegations from Africa, Asia and Latin America also participated.

Pakistan was among the countries reported to have walked out, and this deserves appreciation. Pakistan has consistently supported Palestinian self-determination and statehood, and its participation was also consistent with its broader diplomatic position on Gaza. This was not the first time Pakistan's delegation had taken such a position: Pakistani and other Arab and Islamic delegations also walked out during Netanyahu's 2024 UNGA address.

What makes the latest episode even more striking is what happened only two days earlier.

When Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan addressed the General Assembly on September 22, he placed Gaza, Palestinian statehood and the credibility of the international system at the heart of his intervention. He called for wider recognition of Palestine and questioned whether the existing UN Security Council structure can adequately represent the interests of the wider international community. During Erdoğan's address, the Israeli delegation walked out. Then, when Netanyahu took the podium, the scene was almost reversed:

Erdoğan spoke about Gaza Israel walked out.

Netanyahu spoke and nearly 70 delegations walked out.

That contrast deserves more than a passing headline. I believe Erdoğan deserves recognition for keeping the humanitarian dimension of Palestine firmly on the international agenda. Whatever one's broader political assessment of Türkiye or its leadership, bringing civilian suffering, Palestinian statehood and the credibility of multi-lateral institutions into the centre of the UN debate is significant. The Israeli delegation's departure during Erdoğan's speech also demonstrated something important: diplomatic walkouts are themselves a language of protest. Israel used that language when it rejected Erdoğan's message. Other governments subsequently used the same language to register their opposition to Netanyahu's position.

This is why the countries that walked out deserve appreciation not because walking out automatically solves anything, but because they made their disagreement visible.

A diplomatic statement can be forgotten. An empty UN chamber becomes an image that travels around the world.

And yet, the real humanitarian test begins after the cameras disappear. A walkout cannot stop a war. It cannot feed a displaced child. It cannot rebuild a hospital. It cannot establish a ceasefire or create a Palestinian state. The value of the gesture ultimately depends on what follows it.

Will these countries continue diplomatic pressure? Will more governments recognise Palestine? Will humanitarian assistance become stronger and more effective? Will states support accountability mechanisms and civilian protection? Will they use their diplomatic and economic relationships to push for concrete changes? These are the questions that will determine whether this extraordinary moment becomes a turning point or simply another powerful photograph.

There is another side of the picture that also deserves attention.

Several countries remained in the chamber, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, India, Canada, Australia, Italy, the UAE, Bahrain and others.

Their presence should not automatically be described as support for Netanyahu. Diplomacy is more complicated than that. A government can remain in the room to listen, engage or preserve diplomatic channels while disagreeing with policies of the speaker. But their presence does raise a legitimate humanitarian question: when governments publicly express concern about civilian suffering, how should that concern ultimately be measured by statements, by diplomatic presence, or by concrete policy?

That is the uncomfortable question facing every government, not only those that remained seated.

Humanitarian principles cannot depend solely on which side of the chamber a country occupies. They must be reflected in votes, humanitarian assistance, diplomatic pressure, recognition policies, legal commitments and the willingness to protect civilians regardless of political alliances. The recent walkout is also significant because it is part of a growing pattern. Netanyahu faced another major walk-

out during his 2025 UN General Assembly appearance, and delegates also walked out during his 2024 address. Walkouts have occurred during other controversial UN speeches as well, including speeches involving Iran and Russia.

So this is not unprecedented in UN history. But the repetition of large-scale departures during Netanyahu's recent appearances is nevertheless significant. It suggests that the diplomatic disagreement surrounding Israel's conduct in Gaza is not disappearing from the international agenda.

The bigger question now is whether a symbolic diplomatic isolation will eventually become policy-level pressure.

That transition is crucial.

International politics rarely changes because of one speech. It changes through accumulation: one statement, one vote, one recognition, one legal proceeding, one diplomatic decision, followed by another.

Over time, those decisions can alter the strategic environment.

This is where the future of the current moment lies. If countries that walked out maintain their positions beyond the UN chamber, coordinate humanitarian initiatives, support Palestinian statehood and continue demanding compliance with international law, the September 2026 walkout could become part of a much broader diplomatic shift. If they return home and nothing changes, the gesture will remain largely symbolic.

The empty seats, therefore, are not the conclusion. They are a question. A question to governments that walked out: What will you do next?

A question to governments that remained: What does your humanitarian position mean in practice? And a question to the international system itself: Can the United Nations continue to speak about human rights, civilian protection and international law while struggling to translate those principles into effective action? Perhaps that is the deeper significance of Erdoğan's intervention. His message was not only about Palestine. It was also about the credibility of a multi-lateral system that claims to represent the international community. The fact that his speech prompted an Israeli walkout, followed two days later by a much larger multinational walkout during Netanyahu's address, created an extraordinary diplomatic symmetry.

For the countries that left, I would offer appreciation but also a challenge. Do not let the walkout be the end of your humanitarian statement. Let it be the beginning of action.

Because children in Gaza will not experience diplomacy through photographs. They will experience it through whether food reaches them, whether hospitals function, whether civilians are protected, whether displacement ends and whether their future is determined through a credible political process. The world has seen the empty seats. Now it must watch the decisions that follow. Because a walkout can send a message. A united diplomatic position can create pressure. But only sustained action can turn humanitarian concern into change.

From SDGs to IDGs: Transforming the Financial System to Bridge the Decarbonization Credibility Gap



By: **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed**
Published by: **ANI News Agency**

The central question is no longer how many sustainability targets we announce. It is whether our institutions, financial systems and people have the capabilities to turn those targets into measurable outcomes.

The world does not suffer from a shortage of sustainability commitments. It suffers from a growing credibility gap between what institutions promise and what they actually deliver. Governments announce net zero ambitions, companies publish decarbonization targets, and financial institutions expand ESG products. Yet measurable transformation often lags behind.

The next phase of sustainable finance must therefore move beyond disclosure and commitments towards credible performance. This requires a recalibration of the financial system. Green financial securities, sustainability

linked loans and transition finance can mobilize capital, but financial products alone cannot guarantee sustainable outcomes. Investors and lenders need credible evidence that companies have the governance, investment strategies, capabilities and resources required to deliver their transition plans.

This is where the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Inner Development Goals (IDGs) becomes important. The SDGs define the outcomes the world seeks to achieve, while IDGs focus on the human capabilities needed to navigate complexity, make better decisions and translate ambition into action. The distinction can be expressed simply: SDGs define the destination; IDGs help build the capabilities to reach it.

For financial markets, this means moving from ESG as reporting to ESG as decision-making. Banks need stronger transition-risk assessments. Investors need better evidence of corporate decarbonization. Boards need greater accountability. Regulators need credible disclosure and verification. Financial institutions also need professionals capable of integrating finance, climate science, technology, governance

and public policy.

This challenge is particularly significant for emerging economies such as Pakistan, where climate vulnerability, energy constraints and fiscal pressures make the efficient mobilization of sustainable capital essential. The objective should not simply be more green finance, but capital that produces measurable decarbonization, resilience, productive investment and long-term competitiveness.

Universities have an equally important role to play. Business education must move beyond credentials and conventional financial theory towards capability development. Future finance professionals must be able not only to understand sustainability, but also to finance, govern and implement it.

The sustainability agenda is consequently entering a new phase: from awareness to commitment, from commitment to disclosure, and now from disclosure to credible performance. The next sustainability revolution must move from targets to capabilities, from capabilities to performance, and from performance to credibility ultimately transforming the financial system that determines where capital flows.

Pakistan's Political Future: The Need for Dialogue, Stability and Democratic Responsibility



By: **Ms Sumblina Hassan**
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Published By: **ANI News Agency**

Pakistan's political future depends not only on who holds political office, but also on whether the country is able to establish a democratic culture in which the rule of law, institutional responsibility and the mandate of the people are respected.

In my view, the starting point of any democratic system must be the respect for the vote. When citizens elect their representatives, they give them a mandate to govern within the Constitution and the law. That mandate should be respected by every institution of the state and by every section of society.

This does not mean that an elected government should be above accountability. Quite the opposite: an elected government must remain answerable to Parliament and to the people. But accountability should take place through constitutional, legal and democratic mechanisms rather than through attempts to influence or control the political process from outside the elected parliamentary framework.

Respecting the Mandate of the People

The rule of law is meaningful only when it applies consistently to everyone. In a democratic state, every institution has a role, and every role carries both authority and responsibility. The judiciary, armed forces, bureaucracy, technocrats, police, business interests, landowners and other influential groups may all have important roles in national life. But none should use its influence, authority or institutional power to determine the political direction of the country in place of those who have received a public mandate through elections. The elected government should be allowed to govern, while Parliament should remain the principal forum for political debate, legislation and accountability. This is not an argument against institutional oversight. Institutions must continue to perform their constitutional responsibilities and ensure that the state functions according to law. It is an argument for institutional balance: each institution should perform its own responsibilities without unnecessarily interfering in the responsibilities of another.

A democracy becomes stronger when the boundaries between institutions are clear.

Parliament and Healthy Debate

Parliament is where elected representatives come together to debate the future of the country. Political disagreement inside Parliament is not a problem in itself. It is part of democracy.

A healthy parliamentary debate allows different political positions to be heard, examined and challenged. Government members can defend their policies, while opposition members can question decisions and present alternatives.

The purpose of debate should ultimately be to improve governance and serve the public interest.

Members of Parliament also have a responsibility to understand the office to which they have been elected or appointed. Public office is not simply an opportunity to exercise influence; it is a responsibility towards the people. Every minister should therefore be accountable primarily for the ministry entrusted to him or her. If the Minister of Finance or Treasury has a matter of national concern, that matter should be presented before the House, explained transparently and defended through parliamentary debate.

The same principle should apply to every ministry.

When ministers clearly explain the work, performance, difficulties and decisions of their respective departments, Parliament can hold them accountable in an organised and meaningful manner.

This creates a transparent chain of responsibility: the public knows who is responsible, Parliament knows whom to

question, and the government has an opportunity to explain its decisions.

Institutions Must Respect Their Constitutional Space

The strength of a state does not come from one institution controlling the others. It comes from institutions performing their responsibilities effectively within the constitutional framework.

The judiciary has its role. The armed forces have their responsibilities relating to national defence and security. The bureaucracy administers the state. The police maintain law and order. Parliament legislates and exercises oversight, while the elected government is responsible for governing and implementing policy.

These roles are interconnected, but they are not interchangeable.

When an institution uses its authority to influence political competition or the political landscape beyond its defined responsibility, the distinction between governance and institutional intervention can become blurred. In my view, Pakistan needs greater respect for these institutional boundaries. The objective should not be to weaken any institution. Rather, it should be to ensure that every institution becomes stronger by performing its own responsibilities within the law. A strong judiciary should be able to perform its judicial role. A strong military should be able to focus on national defence. A strong bureaucracy should administer government policy professionally. And a strong Parliament should be able to debate, legislate and hold the executive accountable.

Institutional strength and democratic strength should complement one another, not compete with one another.

Government and People: A Democratic Partnership

The relationship between government and citizens should not be understood simply as one of authority and obedience. It is a democratic partnership. The people provide the mandate through their vote, while the government has a responsibility to use that mandate for public welfare. Citizens, however, are not required to remain silent after an election. They retain the right to question government decisions, criticise policies and express dissatisfaction through lawful democratic channels. If people are unhappy with the performance of their government, there must be constitutional mechanisms through which they can express that dissatisfaction and ultimately determine the political future of their representatives.

Elections are the principal democratic mechanism for this purpose. Where the Constitution provides for a referendum on a matter of national importance, that mechanism can also be used according to the constitutional procedure. Under Pakistan's constitutional framework, a referendum on a matter of national importance can be initiated through the procedure provided in Article 48.

The essential principle is that the people should remain the ultimate source of democratic political authority.

Accountability Must Remain Within the System

Accountability is essential to democracy, but accountability should not become a substitute for democratic government.

An elected government should be questioned in Parliament. Ministers should explain their policies. Government spending should be scrutinised. Opposition parties should challenge decisions. Parliamentary committees should examine government performance.

These processes are not obstacles to governance; they are part of governance.

The National Assembly itself describes Parliament as a body that represents the will of the people and exercises oversight over the executive through debates, questions and committees. The more effectively these constitutional mechanisms function, the less space there is for political disputes to be settled through confrontation outside institutional processes.

Political Differences Should Not Become Institutional Conflict

Pakistan will continue to have political differences. Different parties will have different ideas about economic policy, social development, foreign relations and governance.

That is normal.

The real challenge is to prevent political competition from becoming a conflict

between institutions.

Political parties should compete for public support. Governments should defend their policies. Opposition parties should scrutinise them. Citizens should make their own judgments through democratic participation.

Institutions, meanwhile, should continue performing the responsibilities assigned to them by law.

This division of responsibility can help reduce uncertainty and create a more predictable political environment.

Stability Requires Respect for Democratic Process

Political stability does not mean the absence of criticism or disagreement. It means that disagreements can be managed without undermining the functioning of the state.

Pakistan's economic and social challenges require continuity of attention. Inflation, employment, education, health-care, energy and investment cannot be treated as secondary issues whenever political tensions increase.

The public ultimately wants government to work. Businesses need predictability. Workers need economic opportunities. Families need access to essential services. Young people need education and employment prospects. Political leadership must therefore recognise that prolonged confrontation can divert attention from the issues that directly affect citizens.

Dialogue provides an alternative.

Dialogue does not mean that political parties must surrender their principles. It means that differences can be discussed through recognised democratic channels rather than being allowed to develop into permanent confrontation.

The Responsibility of Political Leadership

Political leadership is ultimately a responsibility to the people.

The government must govern. The opposition must scrutinise. Parliament must debate. Institutions must perform their constitutional functions. And citizens must retain the right to question and change their representatives through lawful democratic processes. No political party can claim ownership of democracy. Democracy belongs to the people.

Political parties may disagree strongly, but they share an interest in ensuring that the democratic system remains functional and credible. Similarly, institutions may have different responsibilities, but they share an interest in ensuring that the Constitution and rule of law remain the foundation of the state.

Pakistan's Democratic Future

Pakistan does not need a political system without disagreement. It needs a political system capable of managing disagreement responsibly. In my view, the way forward is clear: respect the vote, respect the Constitution, respect Parliament and respect the defined responsibilities of every institution. An elected government should be allowed to govern within the law. Parliament should provide the forum for healthy debate and accountability. Ministers should answer for their respective portfolios. Institutions should perform their own constitutional responsibilities without attempting to control the political process. And when citizens are dissatisfied, they should have the lawful democratic means to express that dissatisfaction and determine the future of their government. Government and people ultimately work within the same democratic framework. The government derives its mandate from the people, while the people retain the power to question, scrutinise and, through constitutional processes, change their representatives. This partnership can create the foundation for greater political stability and national prosperity. The future of Pakistan should therefore not be defined by institutional confrontation or political rivalry alone. It should be defined by the ability of its democratic institutions, elected representatives and citizens to work within the rule of law. A democracy is strongest when no institution seeks to become greater than the constitutional system itself, when Parliament can debate freely, when governments remain accountable and when the people remain at the centre of political authority. That is the democratic balance Pakistan needs for a stable, responsible and prosperous future.

When a Narrative Becomes a Cage



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

Some wounds leave no mark. They arrive as a story, repeated until it feels like truth. A young mind fed grievance inherits a lens through which achievement and failure are pre-judged.

The most corrosive version tells a child that his language, ethnicity, or city makes him inherently superior, and that another's success must be privilege or conspiracy. It flatters but it is a slow poison, dissolving self-reflection and inflating a superiority the world will eventually puncture.

The recently announced MDCAT results in Sindh hand us an uncomfortable mirror. Once again the temptation is to politicize what should be celebrated: intellect bows to no city, language, or bloodline. A student from Karachi can excel; so can one from Tharparkar, Larkana, Shikarpur, or Badin. That is what a fair contest is designed to expose, not one community defeating another, but merit trampling the borders society insists on drawing.

Confidence and superiority are opposites wearing similar clothes. Confidence says: I can compete with anyone. Superiority says: I should not have to. One breeds preparation; the other, entitlement, which does not survive contact with reality. Intellectual humility seizes up when a group is told it is simply smarter, why study someone already judged inferior? Worst hit is character: respect, empathy, and the grace to accept defeat.

Nowhere is this clearer than in medicine. A scalpel does not ask what language its wielder dreams in; disease never asks whether its host speaks Sindh, Urdu, or Punjabi. The hospital is a meritocracy, and education must prepare young people for that reality, not mythology.

This is why an examination's integ-

riety matters more than the seats it allocates. A credible test teaches what no lecture can: your effort is measured by the same yardstick as everyone else's. Sindh's published answer keys and grievance channels deserve credit, though credit is not immunity; a fair system stays open to challenge. Institutional doors, not political shortcuts, cultivate something rare: belief.

India's NEET-UG exam was consumed by leak allegations; the Supreme Court found leaks in two districts but no systemic failure. The lesson is once students suspect an exam is rigged, merit's psychological floor gives way and Sindh's teacher-recruitment testing, alongside Punjab's parallel shift, suggests a broader reckoning with merit nationwide.

The deeper danger has nothing to do with ordinary political disagreement, healthy in any democracy. It is what happens inside a mind taught to explain every failure through the same borrowed script. A student who fails and asks, what must I improve, is already growing. One taught to see failure as conspiracy may never ask whether someone else simply prepared better. That question takes humility and humility is where real learning begins.

It would be a mistake to lay this failing solely at Karachi's door, as if its youth were uniquely vulnerable to grievance politics. Karachi's students contend with overcrowded classrooms and civic neglect no less real than rural districts' burdens. The narrative of inherited superiority is not a Karachi disease; it is a temptation available wherever failures are blamed on someone else. Every district needs functioning schools and trustworthy exams, not mythology. Political parties are entitled to criticize governments; journalists to interrogate examination boards. No one is entitled to convert a generation into hostages of a grievance narrative for a news cycle. A politician may gain short-term advantage by blaming a student's struggles on others, but the bill comes due decades later, paid in stripped mythology.

The MDCAT results invite us to

rethink the culture around education. A rural candidate's triumph should sharpen an urban one, not humiliate him; an exceptional Karachi performance should inspire, not indict. Merit does not ask where you are from only what you can do.

Sindh now holds the chance to make that principle load-bearing, in admissions and public hiring alike. Transparent exams and unbending standards can rebuild a generation's faith that the system is not rigged and once young people believe the system is fair, they begin to believe their effort counts.

Political leaders carry a responsibility easy to forget in a news cycle. They may contest elections and challenge institutions without limit, but must not manufacture despair in young minds as a tactic. A student is not ammunition; his future is not a battlefield for someone else's war. This is where a credible examination system stops being house-keeping and becomes nation-building. When the same rules bind everyone, the state tells its young citizens something unmistakable: your effort matters, and you will be judged like everyone else. Sindh should treat transparent examinations as the opening clause of a new contract with its youth. A narrative built on ethnic or linguistic superiority survives only on distrust. It needs young people to believe the game is permanently rigged, and that identity alone guarantees reward. A genuinely fair system starves that narrative quietly, replacing suspicion with evidence and entitlement with earned achievement. This, in the end, is the real contest: not Sindh against Urdu-speaking, not Karachi against the districts beyond it, but fairness against manipulation, merit against entitlement, and hope against every narrative built to imprison young minds. A false narrative can offer a generation the illusion of superiority and hand its architects a temporary dividend, but illusions do not survive a level playing field. Merit will outlast mythology, and where the field is level, no manufactured grievance can hold a generation's future hostage.

Naveed Yousaf Elected President, Rafu Gul Barich Senior Vice President and Abdul Shakoor Baloch Vice President of Quetta Chamber

Report: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- The elections of the Quetta Chamber of Small Trade and Small Industry for the year 2026-28 have been completed. According to the election results, Naveed Yousaf was elected President, Rafu Gul Barich Senior Vice President, while Abdul Shakoor Baloch was elected Vice President.

The newly elected office-bearers and members expressed their resolve to effectively represent the business community, promote commercial activities and work for the resolution of issues faced by traders and the industrial sector.

Dr. Waheed Mahmood Khan, Group Editor Financial Times and ANI Media Group, congratulated



newly elected President Naveed Yousaf, Senior Vice President Rafu Gul Barich, Vice President Abdul Shakoor Baloch, all newly elected office-bearers, executive members and other members on their success.

Dr. Waheed Mahmood Khan expressed the hope that the newly elected leadership would play an

effective role in resolving the issues of the business community, promoting trade and industry, and strengthening economic activities in Balochistan. Financial Times and ANI Media Group extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the newly elected office-bearers and members.

Jamal Shah Kakar Says PML-N Gaining Momentum in Balochistan



BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan General Secretary and Member National Assembly Jamal Shah Kakar has said that the induction of thousands of people into the party marks an important and memorable turning point in the political history of PML-N in Balochistan.

Addressing a grand induction ceremony in Quetta, he said the participation of people in large numbers reflected their trust in the leadership

of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif and their preference for stable and performance-oriented politics.

Jamal Shah Kakar said PML-N had demonstrated through its past governments that it believes in practical development, economic stability and provision of basic amenities rather than mere slogans. He said the party's policies could help address challenges relating to employment, education, health and infrastructure in Balochistan.

Welcoming the newly inducted workers and leaders, he said they

were now part of the party's political struggle to address the province's deprivation and strengthen its role in the national mainstream.

He urged workers to take the party's manifesto and Nawaz Sharif's vision to every household, expressing confidence that the induction process would gain further momentum across Balochistan.

"We are not just increasing our membership; we are strengthening an ideological movement that has the potential to change the destiny of Balochistan," he said.

Agha Mustafa Raises Concern Over Delayed Payments in Showbiz Industry

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- Pakistani actor Agha Mustafa has highlighted delayed payments as one of the major challenges faced by artists working in the country's entertainment industry. Speaking during a recent interview, the actor said that performers frequently face delays in receiving their payments even after completing their work. He shared his own experience, saying that one of the dramas he worked on had wrapped up in June, but he was still awaiting his payment months later.

Agha Mustafa said the situation can become difficult for artists because they may not receive a clear



timeline regarding when their outstanding dues will be cleared.

The actor further claimed that payment delays are not limited to a particular performer and that many artists in the industry face similar difficulties, particularly those who

do not have the bargaining position of established stars.

His remarks have attracted attention on social media and prompted discussion about payment practices and financial security for actors and other professionals working in Pakistan's entertainment industry. Pakistani celebrities, including Ayesha Omar and Ahmed Ali Butt, were also reported to have expressed agreement with concerns raised during the discussion.

The comments have once again brought attention to the importance of timely payments and transparent contractual arrangements for artists working in television and other entertainment productions.

Extend Income Tax Return Filing Deadline to November 30 ,Khalid Chaudhry

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD -- Former Senior Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Secretary of the Traders Action Committee Islamabad, Khalid Chaudhry, has urged Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial to extend the deadline for filing income tax returns until November 30.

Khalid Chaudhry said the income tax portal became operational at the end of July, while practical filing started in August, leaving taxpayers



insufficient time to prepare and submit their returns. He said law-

and-order issues and other difficulties in different parts of the country had also affected the filing process.

He said extending the deadline would help increase the number of tax returns, improve revenue collection and broaden the tax base.

Khalid Chaudhry also called for extending the deadline under the Tajir Asan Scheme to November 30, saying additional time would help bring more small traders into the tax net. He urged the FBR to announce the extension immediately, keeping in view the practical difficulties faced by traders and other taxpayers.

Shazia Rizwan Attends Prayer Ceremony for Comedy Artist Asif Iqbal



Report: ANI Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI -- Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan attended a special prayer ceremony held at the Rawalpindi Arts Council for the Isal-e-Sawab and forgiveness of renowned comedy artist

Asif Iqbal.

The ceremony was organized by Dolphin Community Chief Executive Officer Asifa Butt along with artists from Rawalpindi. Members of the artist community and other participants paid tribute to the late Asif Iqbal for his contributions to the field of art and prayed for the elevation of

his ranks.

Shazia Rizwan expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the artist community, saying that Asif Iqbal's services to the field of art would always be remembered.

The ceremony concluded with a special prayer for the forgiveness and elevation of the deceased's ranks.

PM Shehbaz Highlights Diplomatic, Economic Gains from UNGA Engagements

BY: ANI Correspondent:

NEW YORK -- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has described Pakistan's diplomatic engagements on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly session as significant, with discussions focusing on regional peace and security, defence cooperation, economic stability, investment and stronger relations with international partners.

In an interaction with the media, the Prime Minister highlighted his meetings with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his discussions with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye regarding regional security and implementation of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan remained committed to promoting peace and stability in the region and would continue playing its role in facilitating dialogue. During his meeting with President Pezeshkian, regional developments and efforts to advance peace were discussed. President Pezeshkian, according to the Prime Minister, expressed appreciation for Pakistan's peace efforts and conveyed that the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding remained acceptable to Iran.

The Prime Minister also held a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, during which the two sides discussed major regional and international developments, including the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

According to the Press Information Department, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and the principles of the UN Charter. He



stressed that dialogue and diplomacy were essential for resolving regional tensions and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability.

The Prime Minister also raised the issue of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood and briefed the UN Secretary-General on concerns regarding the rise of Islamophobia and terrorism emanating from Afghan soil. Guterres appreciated Pakistan's role in international peace and security as well as its mediation efforts for peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. On the economic front, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to implementing the IMF-supported reform programme.

The Prime Minister highlighted progress in fiscal discipline, external buffers and investor confidence, while pointing to measures including the National Tariff Regime, enhanced domestic revenue mobilisation and progress on privatisation. The IMF chief appreciated Pakistan's performance under the programme and the government's efforts toward economic stabilisation. The two

sides also discussed the forthcoming IMF programme review and continued cooperation on economic reforms.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also met European Council President António Luís Santos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The discussions covered Pakistan-EU relations, regional and global developments and the importance of the GSP+ framework for Pakistan's trade, employment and economic development.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the European Union and implementing the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan. In another engagement, the Prime Minister invited American businesses to explore Pakistan's investment potential in emerging sectors. Addressing a joint delegation of the Business Council for International Understanding and the US-Pakistan Business Council, he highlighted Pakistan's investment policies and economic reforms and stressed that long-term regional peace was important for promoting business and investment.

The Prime Minister's UNGA engagements also included meetings with other world leaders and international figures, with discussions covering bilateral relations, trade, investment, regional security and cooperation. The diplomatic engagements came as Pakistan sought to strengthen its international partnerships while advancing its economic and regional peace priorities at the United Nations.

SIFC, World Bank Discuss Steps to Simplify Business Regulations

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the World Bank have discussed measures to simplify business regulations and improve Pakistan's investment environment.

According to an official statement issued on Sunday, the SIFC Secretary held a meeting with a World Bank delegation to discuss regulatory reforms under the Ease of Doing Business framework and the Pakistan Business Portal.

The World Bank appreciated the SIFC's approach and assured continued cooperation in efforts aimed at improving the business environ-



ment.

The proposed reforms seek to streamline regulatory procedures, reduce compliance burdens and

facilitate business activities, with the broader objective of attracting investment and supporting private-sector growth.

Over 71 Terrorists Killed in Balochistan Operations Over 96 Hours: ISPR

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA --- Security forces have killed more than 71 terrorists in different areas of Balochistan during the last 96 hours, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The military's media wing said the operations included action in the Shaban area of Quetta district, where intelligence-based operations were conducted against militant hideouts. Security forces killed 33 terrorists during Operation



Shaban, while weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered.

According to ISPR, the operation was intensified over the past 72

hours, resulting in the killing of 23 more terrorists. Security forces also cleared a substantial area and continued clearance operations to eliminate the remaining threat.

ISPR said the operations were launched after intelligence agencies identified militant hideouts posing a threat to local communities. Further operations were also conducted in other areas of Balochistan, including Nushki and Mand.

The security forces' operations are continuing as part of the ongoing counter-terrorism campaign.

BZU Professor Appointment Disputed Over Counting of MPhil Research Experience

Report : ANI :

MULTAN -- The eligibility of Dr. Tahir Ashraf for appointment as professor at Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) has been questioned by Prof. Dr. Omer Farooq Zain, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, who sought intervention by the Punjab Governor in a representation dated June 10, 2025.

According to the representation, the advertised post required 15 years of teaching or research experience. Prof. Zain disputed the inclusion of two years of MPhil research experience in the calculation of Dr. Ashraf's qualifying experience.

The representation states that Dr. Ashraf's total assessed experience was calculated at 16 years, four months and 27 days after the disputed period was included. According to the Dean's calculation, excluding those two years would bring the total down to 14 years, four months and 27 days.

The record, however, also contains a scrutiny committee decision declaring Dr. Ashraf eligible for appointment on the relevant Basic Pay Scale. The same scrutiny record carries Prof. Zain's handwritten dissent, recording his position that Dr. Ashraf was not eligible for appointment as professor.

The documents further include minutes of a BZU Syndicate meeting



held on March 25, 2023, during which the issue of counting MPhil/MS research experience was discussed in the context of changes to the minimum qualification requirements for lecturers.

According to the minutes, the Syndicate agreed to seek clarification from Quaid-i-Azam University, the University of the Punjab and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur regarding the practice followed by those institutions in relation to such research experience.

Prof. Zain subsequently questioned whether clarification should instead be obtained from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and maintained that further consideration of the matter should await clarification of the disputed issue.

The representation also refers to a

Lahore High Court direction requiring the Vice Chancellor to decide Dr. Ashraf's grievance on merit and in accordance with law. The court order itself was not included in the documents available for review, and therefore its precise terms could not be independently assessed.

The available documents do not establish a subsequent final determination resolving the dispute. They instead record competing positions: the scrutiny committee's decision finding the candidate eligible and the Dean's recorded objection concerning the counting of MPhil research experience.

The matter therefore remains subject to the applicable HEC rules, BZU's governing decisions and any subsequent determination by the competent authority.