



Daily FINANCIAL TIMES

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

Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 15 Issue: 25 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Wednesday October 07 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

PM urges PTI to call off long march, resolve issues through dialogue



ANI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday renewed an offer of talks to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying the government was prepared to engage with the opposition if the party ended its long march and sit-ins.

"End your long march. If you end it, then we will certainly sit with you and talk. So that Pakistan moves forward with mutual courage, hard work, trust and meditation," PM Shehbaz said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Kashmir Chowk Underpass in Islamabad.

The statement came amid heightened political tensions in

the country as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) long march reached Kohat. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi is leading the convoy, which began its march towards Islamabad on Sunday to demand the release of party founder Imran Khan and press the government over what PTI describes as broader political and constitutional grievances. The convoy is currently in Kohat after travelling through Lakki Marwat and Karak, and is expected to depart for Peshawar later today as the party continues its phased mobilisation towards the federal capital.

In his speech today, the prime

minister said the government had decided to engage in dialogue after consultation and had held two days of talks between its representatives and the opposition in the chamber of National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. "There was a lot of discussion, and there was every hope that, God willing, these talks would reach their desired conclusion," he said. "But unfortunately, that did not happen." The prime minister said that at the last moment, "they not only demanded changes to something that had already been prepared, but their only objective was that these talks should somehow not succeed."

"There is no doubt that the first target of this sit-in and long-march politics will be your economy. If your worker or engineer does not reach the factory, manufacturing site or office on time, whose loss is it? It is the loss of the nation and the country," he said. PM Shehbaz said the government had spent around a year and a half working to stabilise the economy.

"Pakistan's economy has been brought back on its feet through collective efforts and teamwork over the last one and a half years. We have achieved macroeconomic stability, and now the time has come for growth and development," he said.

President confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz upon UN Secretary-General Guterres



ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of Pakistan's highest civil awards, on United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in recognition of his distinguished international service, leadership of the United Nations and contribution to global peace and development. The award, first to any UN Secretary General by Pakistan, was conferred in a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Speaker of the National Assembly, members of the Federal Cabinet, members of Parliament and members of the diplomatic corps. Earlier, during a meeting with the UN Secretary-General, the president appreciated his principled leadership of the United Nations, his efforts for international peace, dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as his constructive engagement with Pakistan and attention to the concerns of developing countries.

The president said Pakistan remains steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. He appreciated the UN Secretary-General's consistent advocacy for Palestinian statehood and a two-state solution and said Pakistan would continue supporting efforts towards imple-

mentation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in South Asia, stressing that durable peace requires sustained dialogue between Pakistan and India as equal neighbours and resolution of all outstanding disputes, particularly Jammu and Kashmir, as agreed under the UN resolutions respecting the sentiments of the Kashmiri people, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

The president also conveyed Pakistan's position that the Indus Waters Treaty is a binding international agreement and cannot be unilaterally suspended or placed in abeyance.

He stressed that water should not be used as a weapon and an instrument of political pressure and that Pakistan's water rights under water treaty, recognized by international courts, under the treaty must be respected.

Discussing regional peace and diplomacy, President Zardari said Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, including the Islamabad Talks, had been guided by the imperative of de-escalation, dialogue and protection of human life.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to facilitate diplomacy wherever it could be helpful, stressing that there is no alternative to dialogue for addressing regional disputes. On counter-terrorism and Afghanistan, the president said Pakistan remains a committed partner in the global fight against terrorism and has made enormous sacrifices in this cause.



Islamabad: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at a special investiture ceremony to confer the Nishan-e-Imtiaz on United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Outgoing UN chief lauds Pakistan's mediation role in US-Iran conflict

ANI

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday commended Pakistan's leadership "in helping to create the conditions for dialogue between the United States and Iran and mediating the conflict."

"Your efforts helped deliver the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, the subsequent ceasefire, and the framework for future negotiations," he said during a joint press conference in Islamabad with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Guterres stated that "every Pakistani should be proud of that pivotal role."

The UN chief added that "from Islamabad, I went to send a loud and clear message to all parties: end the conflict, return to diplomacy." "Fully



restore navigational rights and freedoms in accordance with international law. And let's not forget, there will never be peace in the region until the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people is fully realised, as Pakistan has long championed," he added. Addressing

members of the media, Guterres stated that "Pakistan's contribution has been on full display as a member of the UN Security Council these past two years."

"At a time of growing division and mistrust around the world, Pakistan put a spotlight on the value of multi-lateralism, dialogue, mediation, and diplomacy. Those same values are vital within societies as well," he said. Saying that Pakistan was "one of the world's longstanding and largest contributors to the UN's peacekeeping," Guterres noted the importance of "inclusive institutions, respect for human rights, and a vibrant civic space", which he said were "necessary to help strengthen social cohesion, build trust, and enable people to contribute fully to their country's future."

Military conducts successful test of indigenous Fatah-4 cruise missile

ANI

Pakistan conducted a successful test launch of an indigenously developed extended version of the Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the weapon system was "equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids" and could engage targets at extended ranges with "high precision and lethality". According to the media wing, the test also validated additional "technical parameters" of various sub-systems



incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability. "Today's launch was witnessed by senior officers from Pakistan Army along with scientists and engineers of the developing agency," the ISPR further added. It said the president, prime minister and

services chiefs commended the successful test launch and appreciated the "technical prowess, dedication and commitment" of all those who contributed towards achieving the milestone.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi congratulated the nation on the successful test.

SC rejects plea to repatriate traffic wardens to district police cadre

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) has held that personnel permanently absorbed into the Punjab Police Traffic Wardens Service Cadre cannot be sent back to the General District Police Cadre, stressing that police authorities must ensure compliance with rules and regulations in administrative matters. A two-member bench comprising Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui dismissed a civil petition challenging the retention of Punjab traffic wardens in their service cadre and upheld the Punjab Service Tribunal's judgment. In its detailed judgment, the court observed that a separate cadre had been created for the Traffic Police under a 1995 standing order, under which the concerned personnel were permanently absorbed into the Traffic Wardens Service Cadre. Their service was subsequently regulated under the Punjab Police Traffic Wardens Service Rules, 2017. The court noted that the personnel had served in the Traffic Wardens Service Cadre for a considerable period and had undergone various traffic-related training courses.

PM ordered maximum political space for PTI in return for full counterterror cooperation: Talal

ANI

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed federal ministers to "give as much political space as can be given" to the opposition, ensuring at the same time that the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) agreed to fully cooperate on anti-terrorism. Speaking during a press conference in Islamabad, Chaudhry said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi went to Lahore late at night to meet the PM Shehbaz and told him that the K-P government and the PTI had



come to an agreement on terrorism.

"The prime minister said that the political space, as much as can be given, should be given," Chaudhry said, quoting PM Shehbaz as telling Naqvi, "We

value Pakistan's security, the elimination of terrorism; even if the opposition is given political mileage, the political capital for parties comes and goes."

Chaudhry said PM Shehbaz gave the interior minister an example, recalling that when the country was defaulting, "we were presented with extremely difficult measures, due to which our party's political capital [and] popularity was impacted, but Pakistan was saved from defaulting." According to Chaudhry, PM Shehbaz also said, "If terrorism is finished from Pakistan and some other party is given the political space, I am not hesitant."

Five terrorists killed, two wounded in North Waziristan operation: security sources

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed five terrorists and wounded two others in a successful intelligence-based operation (IBO) against Fitna al-Khawarij in North Waziristan, Radio Pakistan reported on Tuesday, citing security sources.

According to the sources, the security forces successfully targeted Fitna al-Khawarij hideouts in North Waziristan and surrounding areas, and they had been continuously monitoring the movement of Fitna al-Khawarij before carrying out a decisive operation against the group, the sources added. Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The security forces remained commit-



ted to completely eliminating terrorism and establishing lasting peace under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision, the sources said.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended security forces for conducting a successful operation in North Waziristan, Radio Pakistan reported.



Islamabad : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif takes oath from the new members of Azad Jammy and Kashmir Council (ANI)

PM directs third-party audit of all NHA projects, seeks PPP strategy for motorways, expressways

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed that all ongoing projects of the National Highway Authority (NHA) be subjected to a third-party audit and asked for a strategy to build national highways, motorways and expressways under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The prime minister issued the directives while chairing a review meeting on NHA affairs at the Prime Minister House. The meeting reviewed the progress of ongoing development work on national highways, motorways and expressways, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said improved transport connectivity was indispensable for the development and prosperity of any country. He said the government was working on a priority basis to connect remote areas with the rest of the country so that people there could have the best travel facilities and more opportunities for business and employment could be created. The meeting was briefed on ongoing and proposed NHA projects. It was informed that the NHA's revenue had increased from Rs 109 billion to Rs 130 billion in the last fiscal year and was expected to



reach Rs 160 billion during the current financial year.

The forum was told that the NHA was funding several projects from its own revenue. Prominent among them were the Sialkot-Kharian Motorway (M-12), the Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway (M-13), Peshawar Northern Bypass, reconstruction of the Jaglot-Skardu Road (S-1), upgradation of the Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway (M-4), upgradation of the N-5 Multan-Lodhran section, and construction of approach roads for the Layyah-Taunsa Bridge. The meeting was informed that work on the Pakistan Expressway (N-25) was progressing rapidly.

The participants were further told that 16 projects were in their final stages of completion and would soon be ready for

inauguration. These include upgradation of the GT Road (N-5) from T-Chowk Islamabad to Bhanthi; remodelling of the Islamabad Chungi No. 26 interchange on GT Road (N-5); Margalla Avenue extension (GT Road N-5 to Motorway M-1); upgradation of the Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway (M-4); Quetta Western Bypass; Pindi Gheb-Jand Road; Bhong Interchange on the Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5); construction of the Nokundi-Mashkhel Road; dualisation of Old Bannu Road; dualisation of the Sann-Sehwan section and the Ratodero-Shikarpur section of the Indus Highway (N-55); and an additional carriageway on the Petaro-Sehwan section of the Indus Highway (N-55).

The meeting was also informed that foundation stones of several projects would be

laid soon. These include the Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway (M-13), Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6), rehabilitation of GT Road (N-5) Nowshera-Peshawar, reconstruction of GT Road (N-5) Rawalpindi-Hasan Abdal, rehabilitation of the National Highway (N-5) Moro-Hala section, and reconstruction of the N-5 Rani Pur-Rohri section. The forum was told that the Sialkot-Kharian Motorway (M-12) and the Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway (M-13) were being constructed under the PPP mode.

The meeting was further briefed that the Guru Nanak Expressway, which would link Kartarpur and Nankana Sahib and connect the holy sites of the Sikh faith, was under consideration. An expressway from Mansehra to Chilas via Naran has also been proposed, which would reduce the distance between the two points by 146 kilometres.

Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation, Muhammad Ali, Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani and senior officials concerned attended the meeting.

Shaza, Kamal, review progress on ‘One Patient, One ID’ project

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reviewed progress on the “One Patient, One ID” project and agreed on a joint roadmap to make it operational soon. The meeting was held on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. According to the Ministry of IT, under the proposed system, a citizen's Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) number will serve as their unique medical record number, allowing all medical records to be linked to a single identification number. The ministry said the system would enable doctors and hospitals to access a patient's complete medical history and previous records when the patient is shifted from one hospital to another. “Technology and healthcare are being combined in the best possible way to make the medical treatment system more transparent and modern through digital medical records,” Shaza Fatima Khawaja said. The meeting stressed taking practical measures and preparing clear terms of reference (TORs) to ensure the early implementation of the project. It was also decided in the meeting to conduct a third-party review of the “One Patient, One ID” project to ensure quality and transparency. The participants agreed that all relevant institutions would work under a unified mechanism to finalise the project at the earliest in the public interest. The meeting also agreed to activate an IT wing in the Ministry of Health to help understand and properly operate the new system. Under the initiative, patients' medical records will no longer remain scattered across different hospitals. Instead, they will be linked to their single CNIC number, enabling easier access to their medical history.

WHO, Gavi support integrated outreach in Sindh

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with Gavi and the Sindh government, is conducting a 12-day integrated outreach campaign across 130 union councils to reach children in low-coverage and zero-dose areas of the province.

The initiative focuses on reaching children who have missed routine immunization and those living in underserved communities, helping improve vaccination coverage and access to essential health services.

WHO Pakistan said the outreach was aimed at ensuring that children in hard-to-reach and low-coverage pockets are not left behind. It said reaching every child would contribute to stronger immunization coverage, greater protection for families and a healthier future for communities across Sindh. The campaign reflects continued efforts by health partners and the provincial government to close immunization gaps and protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Tajik Cultural Show at Centaurus Highlights Pakistan-Tajik Friendship

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A vibrant cultural evening jointly organized by The Centaurus Mall and the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan attracted a large audience in the federal capital, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Tajikistan and the long-standing friendship between Pakistan and Tajikistan. The event featured a visiting cultural troupe from Tajikistan, which presented a colorful blend of traditional music, dance and artistic performances. The artists, dressed in traditional attire, received enthusiastic applause from the audience for their energetic and graceful performances.

One of the highlights of the evening was a performance by a Tajik singer of the popular Pakistani national song “Sohni Dharti Allah Rakhay.” The rendition received a



standing ovation and loud applause from the audience. The performance reflected the goodwill and cultural affinity between the peoples of Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Centaurus CEO and Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan praised the Tajik artists for their impressive performances and appreciated the Embassy of Tajikistan for its cooperation in organizing

the event. Sardar Yasir said cultural exchanges played an important role in bringing nations closer and promoting mutual understanding. He said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Central Asian countries and was committed to strengthening these ties through tourism, trade and cultural cooperation. Addressing the gathering, Tajik Ambassador Yusuf Sharifzoda thanked the

management of The Centaurus for hosting the cultural event and providing a platform for Tajik artists to showcase their traditions and talent. The ambassador said Tajikistan highly valued its friendly relations with Pakistan and considered Islamabad an important regional partner. He stressed that cultural diplomacy was an effective means of promoting friendship and strengthening bonds between communities.



Muzaffarabad: Information Secretary Muhammad Rashid Hanif is presiding over a meeting of the Welfare Committee of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation.

Women’s Empowerment Vital for Sustainable Economic Growth: Farah Naz Akbar

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD ~ Member National Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Division and President PML-N Women Wing Islamabad Farah Naz Akbar has assured her full support to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for promoting women's economic empowerment and facilitating women entrepreneurs.

During her visit to ICCI on Tuesday, she said meaningful participation of women in economic activities was essential for sustainable national development. She also appreciated ICCI's role in promoting ease of doing business and supporting the business community.

Farah Naz Akbar said the government, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was taking measures to promote business activity, strengthen the economy and enhance Pakistan's exports.

She said ICCI, as the federal cham-



ber, had an important role in strengthening coordination between the government and private sector.

ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia briefed her on the Chamber's plans to promote ease of doing business and strengthen its advocacy role. Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatah

and Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan also shared their views on future initiatives.

Syed Zeeshan Naqvi and members of the ICCI Executive Committee were also present. Farah Naz Akbar offered Fateha for the departed soul of the mother of ICCI Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan.

APMC Chairperson Qurat ul Ain Ali Organises Two-Day Transgender Rights and Awareness Session in Muzaffarabad

Report: ANI

MUZAFFARABAD, AJK: Chairperson of the All Pakistan Media Council (APMC-ISB) Qurat ul Ain Ali Khawaja organised a two-day Transgender (Khawaja Sira) Rights and Awareness Session in Muzaffarabad, bringing community members together to discuss education, employment, healthcare, social inclusion, legal rights and access to public institutions.

The session, held at Jalalabad Garden, followed recent national-level discussions on transgender rights, including the Sindh Transgender Summit, and focused on bridging the gap between legal recognition and the realities faced by the Khawaja Sira community.

The first day focused on interaction with community members from Muzaffarabad, while the second day brought together participants from Muzaffarabad and surrounding areas. Participants from neighbouring areas, including Mansehra and Garhi Habibullah, also highlighted the regional nature of community networks and mobility.

According to official AJK statistics, the 2017 Census recorded only 152 transgender persons across the territory's 10 districts. Muzaffarabad recorded the highest figure at 41, followed by Kotli 25, Neelum 18, Mirpur and Bhimber 16 each, Bagh 12, Poonch 10, Haveli and Sudhnoti six each, and Jhelum Valley two.

The session noted that these figures should not necessarily be treated as the actual size of the transgender population, as stigma, reluctance to disclose identity and limitations in data collection can affect official counts.

Speakers stressed the need for AJK-specific research and reliable district-wise data covering education, employment, healthcare, identity documents, housing, social protection and access



to vocational and professional training.

Education and economic independence emerged as key areas of concern. Participants emphasised that transgender individuals should have the freedom to pursue education and choose professions according to their abilities and interests, without discrimination or unnecessary restrictions.

The discussion also highlighted the complex role of community structures. Participants acknowledged that traditional support systems have historically provided protection, belonging and social support to Khawaja Sira individuals, while stressing that every person should retain freedom of choice regarding education, employment and participation in public programmes.

The session further underlined that responsibility for inclusion rests not only with the transgender community

but also with wider society and public institutions. Discrimination in education, employment, healthcare and social life can deepen economic dependency and social exclusion.

Qurat ul Ain Ali Khawaja stressed the importance of moving beyond policy discussions towards practical measures that enable transgender persons to exercise their rights and access meaningful opportunities.

The engagement concluded with a call for better documentation, community participation, educational opportunities, vocational training, healthcare access and employment pathways for the Khawaja Sira community in AJK.

The central message of the session was that legal recognition must be accompanied by practical opportunities so that transgender individuals can pursue education, choose their professions and participate in society with dignity and without fear.

Pakistan showcases AI innovations at AI Everything Global 2026 in UAE

ANI

ABU DHABI: Pakistan is showcasing its growing capabilities in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies at AI Everything Global 2026, one of the region's leading public-private gatherings on artificial intelligence, bringing together more than 500 exhibitors and 150 investors from 70 countries.

Pakistan has established a strong presence at the event, featuring 5 leading Pakistani technology companies presenting innovative AI-driven solutions and services including AI Data Intelligence, AI Surveillance, AI Sales Solutions, Sovereign AI. The Pavilion is established under the auspices of the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), a press release issued on Tuesday said. The Pakistan Pavilion was inaugurated by Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE. The Ambassador interacted with participating Pakistani companies and highlighted the importance of enabling Pakistan's technology sector to play a proactive role in the rapidly



evolving global AI landscape. Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan underscored the need to invest in AI talent development, particularly by equipping the younger generation with advanced AI, coding and digital skills. He emphasized that building a future-ready workforce would be critical to enhancing Pakistan's competitiveness and enabling its technology companies to capitalize on emerging opportunities in the global digital economy. Pakistan's participation in AI Everything Global 2026 reflects the country's growing technology footprint internationally and provides Pakistani companies with

an important platform to forge strategic partnerships, engage with global industry leaders and investors, and explore new business and investment opportunities in the AI ecosystem. Pakistan's participation is being facilitated by the Commercial Section of Pakistan Diplomatic Mission in the UAE, led by Trade & Investment Counsellor Ali Zeb Khan, in close coordination with PSEB, MoIT. Pakistani delegates are also engaging with international stakeholders and industry leaders on AI-driven innovation, digital transformation and emerging opportunities for collaboration.

NCCIA Islamabad holds awareness seminar on cyber fraud, online harassment

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad held an awareness seminar to educate citizens about growing cyber threats, including online fraud, harassment, cyber scams and illegal activities through suspicious call centres. An NCCIA official told on Tuesday that participants attended the seminar physically, while a large number of people from different communities, universities, educational institutions and the general public joined online. The seminar focused on major cyber challenges, including: Suspicious Call Centres: Awareness about illegal activities being carried out through suspi-



cious call centres. Online Harassment: Guidance on risks related to harassment through online platforms. Financial Fraud and Cyber Scams: Awareness about different methods used by fraud-

sters to deceive people and cause financial losses. Illegal Online Activities: Information about unlawful activities in the digital space and the need for responsible use of online platforms.

Daily

FINANCIALTIMES

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

Executive Editor: Naseem Hassan Awan, Joint Editor: Hurish Shah

Disclaimer: All articles, columns, and opinions published in Financial Times are solely the views of their respective authors. The publication does not necessarily endorse or agree with the opinions, views, or positions expressed therein.

Opinion

3

US shift in Syria signals new era in ties with Turkiye

DR. SINEM CENGIZ

Since 2015, US support for the Syrian Democratic Forces in Syria has bedeviled relations between Washington and Ankara. Regardless of which administration occupies the White House, this issue has continued to plague Turkish-American relations. Ankara has long maintained that successive US administrations have disregarded the security concerns of a NATO ally, opting instead to partner with forces affiliated with an organization Turkiye designates as terrorist in the fight against Daesh. This perception has led Ankara to launch three military operations in northern Syria to eliminate the elements it considers threats to Turkish security and stability.

Washington's policy of supporting the SDF – formed from the Syrian affiliates of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK – even led Ankara to enhance its cooperation with Russia. For many years, Moscow has weaponized the PKK, which was ideologically attractive to Russia due to its Marxist-Leninist

roots, for its own geopolitical interests. Moscow also provided the PKK affiliates with a large amount of military support to help fight Daesh in Syria. Yet, when the PKK affiliates reached out to Russia to back the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish region in northeastern Syria, the Kremlin declined to offer support. The positive track in Turkish-Russian ties influenced Moscow's strategic calculus toward the SDF, but concerns over US and Western dominance in Syria also played a role.

Then, the SDF turned to Israel for support. This was not surprising, since Israel was the only country in the region to openly support the independence referendum held by the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq in 2017. Israel wanted to use the SDF to undermine Turkiye, the new leadership in Damascus, and regional states that support Palestinian rights. However, the Israeli backing of the SDF for its own geopolitical interests has also failed. As a result, the status quo won in Syria, and the US, which was once the main backer of the SDF, played a critical role in this.

After the Syrian army pushed back SDF forces during a recent military operation, Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa announced that a truce had been reached with the SDF in northeastern Syria. According to the ceasefire agreement, the SDF will hand over control of all the areas it had held for a decade, including oil and natural gas fields, and its forces will be integrated into the Syrian national security structure.

US Ambassador to Ankara and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said that his country no longer needed the SDF as the “primary ground force” in the fight against Daesh in Syria, and that its original purpose had “come to an end.” Barrack's shuttle diplomacy played a great role in reaching this agreement which was delayed since March 10 last year. Turkiye and Syria have accused Israel of backing the SDF, and during talks in Paris between Israeli and Syrian officials, Israel was urged to stop encouraging the SDF to delay integrating.

Three key factors related to Turkish, Syrian, and US roles have played a part in reaching the current situation. First, since late 2024,

Ankara has been pursuing a “terror-free Turkiye” strategy to end the long-standing conflict with the PKK. This process is not only confined to Turkish territory but aims to extend beyond its borders, including Syria. As the SDF delayed steps toward implementing its agreement with Damascus, Turkiye moved closer to considering a new military operation against the SDF. The prospect of such an operation, in turn, pressured Washington to reconsider its SDF policy. Without an operation, Turkiye instead used the threat of military action as a diplomatic tool to pressure the US.

Second, the determination of the Al-Sharaa government also played a significant role. Since the ousting of Bashar Assad, Al-Sharaa has pledged to bring all Syrian territory under the authority of the new government, including areas administered by the SDF. By pursuing the unification of Syria under a single leadership, he emerged as a more favorable partner for the US under President Donald Trump. This development also benefits Syria as it restores territorial unity because single army and administration was the essential

element of post-war state recovery. It addresses not only Syria's stability, but also the security of neighboring countries, particularly Turkiye and Iran, which are concerned over Kurdish separatism.

In the face of firm and converging Turkish and Syrian positions against the SDF, the Trump administration signaled a willingness to move forward in Syria in coordination with Damascus and Ankara. With the shifting US position and Trump's support, Ankara and Damascus emerged as the winning sides of the recent agreement. Trump, having Al-Sharaa and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as partners in Syria, made it clear that he had no further interest in maintaining a separate role for the SDF in Syria.

In Syria, the US directly instrumentalized and supported the SDF under the pretext of partnership in the fight against Daesh. It provided arms, training, financial support, and even protection. However, the SDF used this backing to establish an autonomous enclave, with separate civilian and military institutions.

—Arab News

Gaza: A step forward or a recycling of the crisis?

DR. ABDELLATIF EL-MENAWY

Once again, Gaza has returned to the center of international debate, not through an announcement of peace but through a proposal for management. Under US President Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza, accompanied by strong American messaging and dense organizational language, an old dilemma has resurfaced in a new form: Is the world finally searching for an exit from the Gaza war or merely redesigning the mechanisms used to contain it?

At first glance, the plan, which is now entering its second phase, appears ambitious. It speaks the language of coordination, stability, reconstruction and post-war governance. It suggests international oversight, regional participation and an administrative framework that would, in theory, prevent Gaza from sliding back into chaos once the fighting subsides. Yet beneath this polished surface lies a deeper, unresolved tension – one that has haunted every previous attempt to “solve” Gaza without confronting its political core.

The idea of international or quasi-international management of Gaza is not new. Variations of it have surfaced repeatedly over the past two decades, particularly after each major escalation. What changes are the labels, the actors involved and the institutional architecture. What remains constant is the underlying assumption: that Gaza can be stabilized administratively while its political status remains suspended.

This is precisely where skepticism begins.

The proposed framework appears less like a peace initiative and more like an advanced crisis-management model, designed to control fallout, distribute responsibility and prevent total collapse. It focuses on how Gaza might be governed, rather than why it has repeatedly reached this state. In doing so, it risks treating the symptoms of the conflict while carefully avoiding its causes.

At the heart of Gaza's tragedy is not merely destruction, humanitarian collapse or security breakdown. It is a persistent political vacuum – the absence of a credible, agreed-upon political horizon for Palestinians in Gaza that is connected to the broader Palestinian question.

Any proposal that isolates Gaza from the West Bank or treats it as a standalone administrative problem implicitly reinforces fragmentation. Even if unintentionally,

such approaches risk normalizing the idea that Gaza can be governed indefinitely without resolving issues of sovereignty, representation, borders or occupation.

This is why many observers view the latest concept with caution. It may offer order without justice, calm without resolution and stability without legitimacy.

The strong American endorsement of the proposal reflects a growing impatience in Washington. After months of war, humanitarian catastrophe and international pressure, there is a clear desire to move from active conflict to controlled aftermath. From this perspective, the priority is preventing Gaza from becoming an ungovernable space that destabilizes the region.

However, urgency is not the same as strategy.

By emphasizing managerial solutions, the US appears focused on preventing immediate deterioration rather than investing in the difficult, politically costly work of redefining the conflict's parameters. This may be understandable in the short term – but history suggests it is insufficient in the long run.

For regional players, the proposal presents a dilemma. Participation offers influence and a chance to shape outcomes, but it also carries significant risks. Any regional or international body involved in governing Gaza without a clear political mandate could quickly find itself blamed for failures it did not cause and unable to make decisions it does not control.

There is also a deeper concern: Does international management become a substitute for political accountability? If so, Gaza risks becoming a permanent international trusteeship in everything but name – managed, monitored and funded but never truly resolved.

The most troubling aspect of the proposal is the possibility that it represents not a breakthrough but a repackaging of stalemate. By focusing on mechanisms rather than meaning, structures rather than solutions, the international community may once again be choosing the path of least resistance.

This would not be the first time Gaza has been “saved” from collapse only to be returned, months or years later, to the same cycle of destruction. Each iteration becomes more complex, more institutionalized and paradoxically harder to dismantle.

—Arab News

EU’s future may well depend on Marine Le Pen appeal verdict

MOHAMED CHEBARO

With Europe under fire for its lack of support for Ukraine and grappling with the prospect of losing Greenland to President Donald Trump – a shift that could spell the end of NATO – an appeal court in Paris could give the coup de grace to the future of the EU as a bloc, if Marine Le Pen's appeal against a conviction relating to the embezzlement of European Parliament funds by her party succeeds.

It is not only the French far-right fire-brand's political future that hangs in the balance, but also the fate of France's Fifth Republic and that of Europe, too. Either Le Pen or her protégée Jordan Bardella, head of the patriotic French movement National Rally, will run for president of France regardless of the court decision. Right-wing skeptics have been on the rise across the Continent but have so far been kept at bay in major European countries such as France and Germany. But with their numbers growing, Le Pen's legal troubles might not be sufficient to shift the vote away from a populist movement bent on winning the keys to the Elysee Palace.

Meanwhile, France's mainstream political parties appear fragmented and in disarray, with none seeming to offer an appealing alternative to National Rally's plan to radically change the country's direction with anti-immigration and US-style “France first” policies and a euroskeptic agenda. Le Pen is seeking to overturn a March ruling that found her guilty of misusing EU funds in the hiring of staff from 2004 to 2016. However, with no new political coalition or movement emerging to challenge the populist shift, the success or failure of the appeal is unlikely to dent her chances or those of her party in winning the presidency 500 days from now.

Recent opinion polls suggest that Le Pen's legal troubles have had little impact on National Rally's fortunes. Instead, the party's appeal has been growing across

the board, especially among young and older voters. A poll by Le Monde showed that 40 percent of respondents believed that National Rally would improve the situation in France when it came to security, reindustrialization, quality of public services, and the cost of living.

Like many populist parties in Europe, Le Pen's National Rally has been benefiting from toxic social media and a narrative of despair directed from the US toward Europe's mainstream parties. A third of voters also said that National Rally is the only party that could do things differently, while not specifying how. Meanwhile, a growing number of voters favor tougher rules for overseas-born residents in relation to housing, welfare, and employment.

For the past 15 years, Le Pen has been trying to bring the far right into the political mainstream in France. Recent geopolitical changes mean there has never been a more favorable time for such a drive, with Europe as a bloc, as well as its democratic liberal values, besieged and under attack. While the past stigma of racism and antisemitism persists, National Rally's disdain of EU as a bloc – a posture that echoes the Make America Great Again stance in the US – resonates with a larger section of voters in France, and indeed the rest of Europe.

The case against Le Pen for misusing EU funds is now a matter for the Paris appeal court, which might clear her after 13 weeks of deliberation or uphold the previous verdict. But whatever the court's finding, Le Pen and Bardella are likely to emerge stronger, appearing to be the victims of a witch hunt, and capable of rallying even more support.

The question facing France and the EU is what Le Pen or Bardella will do with a win – whether they will be able to deliver better living standards and boost economic growth and not just deliver more “patriotic posturing” while worsening the



By: Dr. Abdul Ghani
E-mail: ghanillm@yahoo.com
Published By:ANI News Agency

When a family closes its doors at night, there is comfort in believing that morning will bring children preparing for school, parents leaving for work, and markets opening for business. Yet beyond these ordinary scenes stands another world of duty, where sleep is interrupted, separation is accepted, and danger must be faced. For the soldiers guarding Pakistan, the quiet hours of civilian life can be hours of watchfulness. Their vigil deserves our attention, gratitude and respect.

The uniform can sometimes make us overlook the person wearing it. A soldier is also somebody's son or daughter, a parent, a sibling and a friend. Behind military discipline is a human being who misses home, worries about loved ones and carries personal hopes. Choosing a life of service means accepting that these personal concerns may sometimes have to wait. A family celebration can pass without them. A child's birthday may be marked through a brief telephone call. Such sacrifices rarely make headlines, but they give military service its deepest human meaning.

To honour the Pakistan Army is to recognise the seriousness of this commitment. National defence requires preparation long before a threat becomes visible to the public. Training, physical endurance, careful planning, maintenance and discipline form the less visible foundations of readiness. Courage matters, but courage must be supported by competence. We should value the soldier who performs an uneventful watch with the same seriousness as the soldier whose bravery becomes publicly known. A duty fulfilled quietly remains a duty worthy of respect.

Pakistan's mountains, plains and deserts remind us that guarding a country involves demanding environments as well as difficult decisions. Distance from home, harsh weather, fatigue and uncertainty can test both body and



Written By: Muhammad
Published By: ANI News Agency

America's November midterms are becoming entangled with a dangerous calculation over Iran: whether political pressure will encourage compromise or renewed military escalation. Donald Trump wants to preserve Republican control of Congress. Tehran may believe that prolonging his difficulties will weaken him. Each side risks mistaking the other's vulnerability for an opportunity.

At the Republican midterm convention in Dallas on September 9, Trump promised every American adult a \$5,000 “Trump dividend” if Republicans retained Congress. Reuters estimated the proposal's cost at approximately \$1.35 trillion, with its financing and implementation unclear. The pledge offered voters an immediate financial reward while leaving the harder question of affordability unanswered.

Trump also acknowledged that presidents' parties usually struggle in midterm elections. His response has been to make the contest intensely personal. Yet a cash promise cannot, by itself, resolve the political consequences of an unresolved conflict. Voters judging household costs may find assurances of future prosperity less persuasive than the bills already arriving.

The military timetable adds another dimension. Axios puts the USS Theodore Roosevelt's expected Middle East arrival around mid-

November. The Financial Times reported that the carrier and three destroyers had departed San Diego, California, giving a broader arrival deadline of the end of November. These are reported expectations, not guaranteed dates. The Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group has also departed, with the wider reinforcement expected by late November, according to reporting citing US officials.

Such movements expand Washington's options. They do not establish that a decision to attack has been made. The Financial Times reported that Trump described increased strikes after the midterms as “possible” if negotiations failed. The distinction matters: military readiness can support deterrence, bargaining or combat. Treating deployment as proof of inevitable war erases the choices still available.

Tehran's apparent political calculation carries its own dangers. The Guardian describes Iranian hopes of inflicting Carter-like political damage on Trump through prolonged negotiations. The historical analogy is powerful: the hostage crisis became inseparable from Jimmy Carter's troubled presidency. But an analogy is an uncertain guide to an adversary's next move. Assuming that political weakness guarantees restraint could become a serious miscalculation.

For Trump, losing Congress would have consequences beyond embarrassment. Chatham House identifies renewed investigations and a possible third impeachment as risks accompanying Democratic gains. An opposition-controlled House could constrain his agenda and intensify scrutiny. However, impeachment is not automatic, and military action would provide no con-

stitutional protection against it.

This creates a plausible concern that a weakened president might seek a dramatic foreign-policy success to recover authority and resist the “lame duck” label. It remains an interpretation of political incentives, not an established explanation for military planning. Claims that an attack is confirmed, or necessary to save Trump personally, go further than the evidence permits.

The economic contradiction deserves greater attention. Washington is offering financial relief while retaining the option of escalation that could deepen insecurity around energy supplies and shipping. For households and businesses, the important measure of strength is whether policy produces greater stability. A military operation without a credible political settlement could undermine the prosperity its architects promise.

For Pakistan, the practical question is how to prepare for disruption while encouraging diplomacy. Contingency planning for energy supplies, trade and citizens in the Gulf should accompany efforts to keep communication open. Islamabad should resist allowing its regional relationships to become extensions of another country's election campaign.

November may change the balance of power in Washington. It will not make coercion a substitute for a workable settlement. Tehran should not assume it can safely exhaust Trump's presidency; Washington should not assume that additional firepower can resolve political failure. The most dangerous outcome would be two governments pursuing leverage while losing control of the consequences.

Trump’s November Gamble: Dividends at Home, Warships Abroad



Written By: Muhammad
Published By: ANI News Agency

America's November midterms are becoming entangled with a dangerous calculation over Iran: whether political pressure will encourage compromise or renewed military escalation. Donald Trump wants to preserve Republican control of Congress. Tehran may believe that prolonging his difficulties will weaken him. Each side risks mistaking the other's vulnerability for an opportunity.

At the Republican midterm convention in Dallas on September 9, Trump promised every American adult a \$5,000 “Trump dividend” if Republicans retained Congress. Reuters estimated the proposal's cost at approximately \$1.35 trillion, with its financing and implementation unclear. The pledge offered voters an immediate financial reward while leaving the harder question of affordability unanswered.

Trump also acknowledged that presidents' parties usually struggle in midterm elections. His response has been to make the contest intensely personal. Yet a cash promise cannot, by itself, resolve the political consequences of an unresolved conflict. Voters judging household costs may find assurances of future prosperity less persuasive than the bills already arriving.

The military timetable adds another dimension. Axios puts the USS Theodore Roosevelt's expected Middle East arrival around mid-

November. The Financial Times reported that the carrier and three destroyers had departed San Diego, California, giving a broader arrival deadline of the end of November. These are reported expectations, not guaranteed dates. The Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group has also departed, with the wider reinforcement expected by late November, according to reporting citing US officials.

Such movements expand Washington's options. They do not establish that a decision to attack has been made. The Financial Times reported that Trump described increased strikes after the midterms as “possible” if negotiations failed. The distinction matters: military readiness can support deterrence, bargaining or combat. Treating deployment as proof of inevitable war erases the choices still available.

Tehran's apparent political calculation carries its own dangers. The Guardian describes Iranian hopes of inflicting Carter-like political damage on Trump through prolonged negotiations. The historical analogy is powerful: the hostage crisis became inseparable from Jimmy Carter's troubled presidency. But an analogy is an uncertain guide to an adversary's next move. Assuming that political weakness guarantees restraint could become a serious miscalculation.

For Trump, losing Congress would have consequences beyond embarrassment. Chatham House identifies renewed investigations and a possible third impeachment as risks accompanying Democratic gains. An opposition-controlled House could constrain his agenda and intensify scrutiny. However, impeachment is not automatic, and military action would provide no con-

stitutional protection against it.

This creates a plausible concern that a weakened president might seek a dramatic foreign-policy success to recover authority and resist the “lame duck” label. It remains an interpretation of political incentives, not an established explanation for military planning. Claims that an attack is confirmed, or necessary to save Trump personally, go further than the evidence permits.

The economic contradiction deserves greater attention. Washington is offering financial relief while retaining the option of escalation that could deepen insecurity around energy supplies and shipping. For households and businesses, the important measure of strength is whether policy produces greater stability. A military operation without a credible political settlement could undermine the prosperity its architects promise.

For Pakistan, the practical question is how to prepare for disruption while encouraging diplomacy. Contingency planning for energy supplies, trade and citizens in the Gulf should accompany efforts to keep communication open. Islamabad should resist allowing its regional relationships to become extensions of another country's election campaign.

November may change the balance of power in Washington. It will not make coercion a substitute for a workable settlement. Tehran should not assume it can safely exhaust Trump's presidency; Washington should not assume that additional firepower can resolve political failure. The most dangerous outcome would be two governments pursuing leverage while losing control of the consequences.

Letters to the Editor

Int’l education day

The International Day of Education is observed each year on January 24, and this year's theme was “The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education.” This important day highlights the vital role education plays in promoting global peace and sustainable development. On this day, we not only celebrate the importance of learning but also encourage young people to take an active role in shaping education systems. It is also a time to recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of teachers and educators who guide and inspire

future generations. We must use this day as a reminder to support education for every child and to empower youth to become leaders of tomorrow.

Kulsoom Balach
Gidroshia, Balochistan

Unemployed engineers

Pakistan is passing through one of the most punishing economic phases in its history. Inflation has drained household savings, the rupee has steadily weakened, industries are struggling to stay afloat, and public debt has tightened its grip

on national decision-making. For millions, daily survival has become a balancing act. This practice not only humiliates the profession but also compromises public safety and project quality. Meanwhile, many of the country's best engineers leave for opportunities abroad. The loss is national. No country has ever achieved sustainable growth by ignoring its technical backbone. Yet, there is still room for hope. Pakistan does not lack talent, intelligence or youth. What it lacks is the courage to realign authority with expertise.

Shazia Iqbal
Turbat

Senate Railways Committee Raises Serious Concerns Over Railway System, Seeks Report on Journalists’ Travel Concession



By: Ahmed Shamsur Rehman/ANI

ISLAMABAD --A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Railways was held at Parliament House under the convenership of Senator Shahadat Awan, where the committee raised serious concerns over various issues affecting the Pakistan Railways system and directed the Ministry to submit comprehensive reports on several matters. Senators Kamil Ali Agha, Bushra Anjum Butt and Dost Ali Jeesar attended the meeting along with the Secretary Railway Board, CEO/Federal Government Inspector of Railways, Inspector General Railways, Deputy Superintendents from Lahore, Karachi and Sukkur, Legal Advisor and other concerned officials.

The committee acknowledged the successful resumption of the Mohenjo Daro Express and discussed a proposal for restoration of the Khushal Khan Khattak Express, which operates between Peshawar and Karachi.

Members also recommended the development and upgrading of key heritage railway stations, including Ranipur Court Railway Station, to improve accessibility and promote tourism. The committee further stressed that non-functional railway stations across the country should be evaluated for possible restoration.

The committee expressed concern over the repeated absence of the Minister for Railways and Minister of State from Senate Standing Committee meetings. Senator Shahadat Awan directed that a formal letter be written to the Prime Minister regarding the absence of the ministers and stressed the importance of the Senate commit-

tee’s proceedings.

The committee also reprimanded railway officials for submitting incomplete reports concerning pending litigation, theft, alleged misappropriation, track damage and freight losses. It noted that several lower-court cases, including criminal cases and matters involving theft and missing track infrastructure, had not been included in the reports.

Senator Shahadat Awan gave the Ministry of Railways 10 days to submit a comprehensive and updated report covering all pending cases before judicial forums.

The committee was also informed that some cases filed by the ministry had remained pending for extended periods, including cases dating back to 2018. Members further observed discrepancies in the ministry’s data, noting that some cases listed as pending had already been disposed of by the courts.

The committee chairman also questioned the working mechanism and strength of the Railway Law Department. The Secretary Railways informed the committee that around 300 officers and officials were working in the department, adding that the existing strength was insufficient and the system required improvement.

The committee expressed serious concern over unauthorized occupation of Pakistan Railways’ residential accommodations. Senator Shahadat Awan stated that out of 34,763 residential accommodations, 2,323 quarters were illegally occupied, while 1,732 were reportedly occupied by individuals having no connection with Pakistan Railways. He further stated that 321 quarters were occupied by unauthorized persons with no clear association and

209 were occupied by retired railway employees.

Inspector General Railways briefed the committee that a survey conducted two months earlier had identified 1,087 quarters sub-let by authorized or former occupants, 804 illegally allocated quarters, 236 quarters allegedly being used for illegal activities and 27 quarters being used for commercial purposes, including water filtration plants.

The committee raised concerns over the use of electricity, water and sewage facilities by unauthorized occupants, with Senator Shahadat Awan observing that railway resources continued to bear the associated costs.

Members also pointed out that legitimate railway employees waiting for official accommodation were being deprived of housing despite the availability of infrastructure and residential facilities.

The committee directed the Inspector General Railways to register FIRs against illegal occupants, initiate eviction proceedings and ensure that the quarters were handed back to the railway administration.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha also raised the issue of travel concessions for journalists. The CEO informed the committee that the matter would be dealt with by the relevant public relations wing responsible for journalists’ affairs and that an update would subsequently be provided to the committee. Agenda items III and IV were deferred due to the absence of the Minister for Railways and Minister of State. The committee directed the Ministry of Railways to submit its comprehensive brief and recommendations within the stipulated timeframe.

Ishaq Dar Calls for Upholding Int’l Law, Rejects Weaponization of Water



Report: ANI Correspondent:

VIENNA -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar delivered the keynote address through a video message at the International Water Symposium convened by the Embassy of Pakistan in Austria in collaboration with the Vienna Diplomatic Academy.

The symposium brought together diplomats, academics and international experts to discuss water secu-

urity and international cooperation, with a separate session focusing on transboundary river governance, water rights and obligations under international law and treaties.

Ishaq Dar condemned what he described as India’s weaponization of water and reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). He also highlighted the Court of Arbitration’s August 31, 2026 award, which found that the IWT remains in force and that its treaty obligations must be observed.

The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that shared rivers should serve peace and cooperation rather than coercion. He reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to the Treaty, dialogue and cooperation, while asserting that Pakistan would continue to defend its rights under the IWT.

He underscored the crucial role of the international community in upholding international law and treaty obligations and in rejecting the weaponization of water.

NICC Coordinator’s Role Lauded as State Steps Up Crackdown on Fitna al-Khawarij

Report: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE -- As security forces intensify decisive, intelligence-led operations against Fitna al-Khawarij in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, defence and security analysts have highlighted the role of Major General Faisal Nasir as Coordinator of the National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC).

In recent weeks, counter-terrorism operations across the affected regions have targeted key terrorist networks, hideouts and logistical supply lines. Defence experts said proactive measures, improved intelligence coordination and timely information sharing have disrupted the operational capabilities of elements seeking to destabilise the country.

At the centre of the enhanced



operational coordination is the NICC, where, according to security analysts, Major General Faisal Nasir has played a significant role in strengthening cooperation among intelligence agencies and law-enforcement bodies.

Analysts said greater emphasis on real-time intelligence sharing, insti-

tutional coordination and strategic alignment has helped security agencies identify emerging threats at an early stage and conduct targeted operations with greater precision.

The coordinated approach has also contributed to efforts aimed at disrupting terrorist networks, their support infrastructure and logistical channels in areas affected by militant activity, the analysts said.

Political, social and military circles have welcomed the ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and paid tribute to the sacrifices of security personnel engaged in operations against terrorist elements. Observers said the state’s resolve to counter terrorism and restore lasting peace across the country remains firm, while coordinated institutional mechanisms and intelligence-led operations continue to form an important part of the national security framework.

DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim Visits Various Duty Points, Reviews Security Arrangements

Report: ANI Reporter:

ISLAMABAD -- DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim visited various duty points, where he met with officers and personnel deployed on duty and reviewed security arrangements as well as the overall law and order situation. DIG Islamabad directed the officers and personnel to remain alert and perform their duties professionally. He instructed them to utilise all available resources to ensure the protection of citizens’ lives and property.

He stressed the importance of vigilance, responsibility and professional conduct while performing duties and directed the personnel to remain fully prepared to deal with any situation.



Tharparkar Faces Rainfall Shortage, Surendar Vilasai Urges Immediate Drought Declaration

Report: ANI Correspondent:

THARPARKAR -- Sindh Assembly Member Surendar Vilasai has expressed concern over inadequate and irregular monsoon rainfall in Tharparkar and urged the Sindh government to immediately assess the situation and declare affected areas drought- or disaster-hit where they meet the prescribed criteria.

In a letter to the Chief Secretary Sindh, Vilasai said a large portion of the district’s population depended on rain-fed agriculture, livestock and seasonal grazing for their livelihoods. He said the shortage of rainfall was affecting crops, livestock, drinking water supplies and employ-



ment opportunities.

He called for a taluka-wise assessment of rainfall, crop and livestock losses, drinking water availability and grazing conditions, followed by timely relief measures. Vilasai demanded free wheat and essential food items for vulnerable families, emergency drinking-water arrangements, including water tankers, and the establishment of fodder banks and emergency fodder distri-

bution centres. He also called for mobile veterinary teams in remote desert areas to provide livestock vaccination, medicines and treatment, besides urging the relevant departments to take emergency steps to ensure water supplies. The MPA proposed a district-level drought monitoring and relief mechanism under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner to ensure timely assistance to affected communities. Vilasai said the people of Tharparkar should not have to wait for the situation to develop into a humanitarian crisis, stressing that early assessment would enable preventive and relief measures before conditions worsen.

JUI-Tharparkar Delegation Meets DC, Raises Public Grievances

By: Narender Kumar :

MITHI -- A delegation of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Tharparkar, led by District Amir Maulana Azizullah Sand, met Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagirani at the DC Office in Mithi and raised a number of public grievances.

The delegation included Tehsil Mithi Amir Maulana Muhammad Aslam Sand, Maulana Subdar Ali, Qari Ata-ur Rehman Bajir, Jamiat Talaba-e-Islam Sindh General Secretary Muhammad Ali Dars, Imran Hashmi, Hafiz Barkat Ali Bajir, Digital Media Representative Liaquat Registani and Muhammad Asif. The delegation complained that some government officials were adopting a harsh attitude towards citizens, causing difficulties for poor and deserving people seeking government services.

The JUI leaders also expressed concern over the worsening drought situation in Tharparkar and urged the



administration to initiate relief measures at the earliest.

They also raised concerns over allegedly inflated transport fares, disputes between transporters and passengers, and speeding by heavy vehicles and air-conditioned coaches, which they said had resulted in several accidents and fatalities.

The delegation called for enforcement of official flour prices in Tharparkar and improvement of healthcare facilities at hospitals in

Dahli Taluka, where adequate treatment facilities were reportedly unavailable. JUI Sindh General Secretary Muhammad Ali Dars and Maulana Muhammad Aslam Sand also discussed various public-interest issues with the deputy commissioner.

DC Abdul Haleem Jagirani assured the delegation that the issues would be addressed on a priority basis and said officials would be directed to adopt a courteous and public-friendly attitude towards citizens.

Successful Test Launch of Extended Version of Fatah-4 Marks Significant Advancement in Defence Capabilities, NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

Report: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has felicitated the nation, Armed Forces, scientists and engineers on the successful test launch of the extended version of the indigenously developed Fatah-4 Ground-Launched Cruise Missile.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the successful test launch marks a significant advancement in Pakistan’s defence capabilities and indigenous defence technology.

He said the extended version of Fatah-4, equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational systems, reflects the technical



expertise and self-reliance of Pakistan’s defence industry.

The NA Speaker said Pakistan’s scientists, engineers and defence experts had achieved another significant milestone through their hard work, professional expertise and commitment. He added that self-reliance in defence technology plays an important role in further strengthening national security and defence.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid tribute to officers and personnel of the Pakistan Army, scientists, engineers and experts for the successful test launch and appreciated their technical expertise, dedication and commitment to national service.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to bless Pakistan with continued success, progress and prosperity.

Bringing Hope Across Borders: SKT Welfare Completes Humanitarian Mission in Jordan for Displaced Palestinians

Report: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- SKT Welfare has completed a humanitarian mission in Jordan to support Palestinians displaced from Gaza, including injured individuals undergoing medical treatment away from their homes, according to a press statement issued by the organisation.

The humanitarian delegation included aid workers along with a group of prominent Pakistani actors. The delegation comprised Javed Sheikh, Khaled Anam, Saba Hamid, Shagufta Ejaz, Kubra Khan, Gohar Rasheed, Ahmed Ali Akbar, Ally Khan and Nabeel Zafar.

Working alongside local teams, the delegation packed food cartons at SKT Welfare’s warehouse and distributed 500 essential food parcels directly to displaced Palestinian families.

During the mission, members of the delegation also visited injured Palestinians receiving treatment in hospitals and at their homes, offering support and listening to their concerns. The team also arranged a special afternoon of recreational activities and a hot meal for children from Gaza, aiming to provide them with moments of relief and happiness amid difficult circumstances.

For patients evacuated from Gaza for medical treatment, life away from home brings additional challenges, including accommodation, nutritious food and transportation to medical appointments. SKT Welfare said it has been providing accommodation, meals and transport throughout the year as part of its ongoing support.

The organisation said the Jordan mission follows its humanitarian



efforts in the country during 2025, when volunteers distributed food parcels and hygiene kits across refugee camps, reaching approximately 76,000 people.

SKT Welfare CEO Asif Hussain said humanitarian response means remaining connected with people as their circumstances change. He said some families require support inside Gaza, while others need assistance in Jordan after travelling there for medical treatment. According to SKT Welfare, the Jordan mission formed part of its international humanitarian deployment programme, providing food assistance, care and support to hospitals, families and communities affected by conflict, displacement and poverty.

The organisation said it remains committed to supporting both fami-

lies inside Gaza and Palestinians displaced to Jordan. Within Gaza, its local teams continue to provide food, hot meals, clean water, medical assistance, hygiene supplies and emergency shelter. SKT Welfare said that in 2025 alone, its programmes reached more than 350,000 people inside Gaza, including 225,450 individuals supported through clean-water deliveries.

Founded in 2010, SKT Welfare is a UK-registered humanitarian and development charity working with communities affected by conflict, disasters and poverty. Its programmes cover food security, water and sanitation, healthcare, shelter and livelihoods. According to the organisation, its programmes reached more than 1.2 million people across over 15 countries in 2025, including Gaza, Syria, Sudan, Pakistan and Jordan.