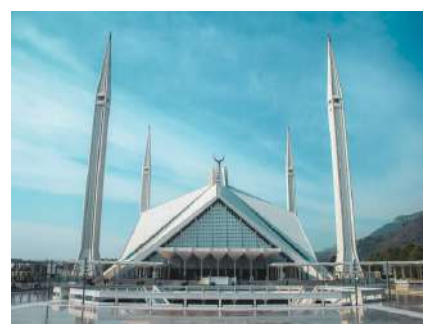


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‘Our fight is against terrorism’: Kundi chairs first meeting of KP Advisory Council



ANI

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday chaired the first meeting of the KP Advisory Council, which was formed by the federal government following the imposition of an emergency and governor's rule in the province.

At the outset of the meeting, all members of the council introduced themselves and their portfolios.

Addressing the meeting, Kundi congratulated the members of the council, while noting that they would have to face many challenges. He said that they would get a briefing on the portfolios they had been assigned and would get a few

days to familiarise themselves.

“We have to fast-track things. There will be zero tolerance on corruption. Things should be done in a timely manner,” he said, adding that they would have to demonstrate a clear difference from the work done by their predecessors.

He said that the first order of business was the law and order situation, adding that there should be no hesitation in taking inspiration from the other provinces.

He said that the current situation was an “opportunity” as he called for building the province's soft image.

“If we have peace, we will get tourists and investors. My support is with you. I am available for you

24/7,” he said.

Kundi then went on to read out a message for the people of the province, in which he said that due to “extraordinary circumstances”, “necessary measures” were taken under the Constitution.

He said that he would refrain from levelling allegations and political rhetoric. “I have one message: peace, protection and stability have to be brought back to KP,” he said. He added that the people of KP had paid a huge price for the terrorism that plagued the province.

“The time has now come to give the people of the province, who have rendered these sacrifices, the right to peace. Our fight is against terrorism. Our fight is against the

ideology and network which facilitates terrorism and weakens the implementation of the law,” he said.

He also said that Pakhtuns were not a cause of terrorism, but were the “biggest victims”. Therefore, the state had resolved that terrorism would be eliminated from KP and the people would be allowed to live their lives without fear.

“My first priority will be protecting the peace and the people. Right now, our biggest priority is taking effective steps against terrorism. For this, the capacity of the police and the Counter Terrorism Department will be increased,” he said. He went on to say that another objective would be to cater to the people.

Govt defends K-P emergency, alleges PTI-KP govt's 'nexus' with terrorists



ANI

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Sunday levelled a series of allegations against the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, accusing it of failing to cooperate in the fight against terrorism and alleging a “nexus” with terrorist groups, as it defended its decision to impose an emergency in the province.

President Asif Ali Zardari signed off on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recommendation to impose emergency rule in K-P amid a deteriorating security situation and the provincial government's deliberate disengagement from the fight against terrorism.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Interior Minister Naqvi, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and other officials, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said President Zardari had declared an emergency under Articles 232(1) and 234(1) of the Constitution.

Explaining the background to the decision, he said it had not been an easy step and that he had personally remained involved in back-channel contacts to secure cooperation from the provincial government.

“I would certainly like to explain the background. Today has not been an easy day,” Naqvi said, adding that efforts had continued for a month to bring the K-P government on board.

He said he had personally remained in contact with the provincial government during the process, while discussions were also taking place over the planned long march and other matters. He said all of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's demands, including meetings and medi-

cal treatment, were being addressed even before the party's planned long march.

Talks with opposition leaders had also been scheduled before PM Shehbaz visited New York, but no final response had been received from them, he added.

He said the government had decided to form a committee and arrange a meeting on September 15 or 16, but received no response. Despite that, he said, contacts continued. Naqvi said a meeting had also taken place between the president and the prime minister, during which he suggested bringing the K-P government on board.

He added that a draft was revised four times the following day, but when the matter appeared to have been finalised, the government learned that a new draft had arrived.

Naqvi said the government had made repeated attempts to reach an understanding with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, with the final contact taking place at 11.45pm the previous night. “I told them that even at that point, something could still be done, but there was no response,” he said.

He said the government had proposed a paragraph during negotiations but received no reply. He added that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had also met the prime minister. Naqvi said the government had never demanded that PTI call off its planned sit-in, adding that its primary concern had been terrorism. “Our issue was only terrorism,” he said, adding that the government had remained in contact with PTI leaders and had itself initiated contact with the party on previous occasions.

Fazl rejects governor's rule, emergency in KP, vows political response



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has strongly opposed the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying his party will formulate a comprehensive political strategy to resist the decision.

“If an emergency is to be imposed, then impose it in the federal government,” Fazl said, criticising the proposal and questioning the government's justification for taking such a step in the province. Speaking about his contact with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the JUI-F chief said Dar had telephoned him at around 10:30pm to discuss the proposed imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in KP.

According to Fazl, Dar argued that the

provincial government was not cooperating in the fight against terrorism. Fazl, however, maintained that the situations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were not identical. He questioned why an emergency was not being imposed in Balochistan if the government considered such a measure necessary in KP.

Questions raised over counterterrorism strategy

The JUI-F chief also criticised the government's counterterrorism policy, arguing that repeated military operations had failed to deliver the desired results. He said he had been asked to support the operations but wanted the government to explain what they had achieved so far. Fazl stressed that his party had also suffered losses in the fight against terrorism, including the killing of religious scholars, and said its sacrifices should not be overlooked. He further accused the government of failing to honour its commitments, claiming that assurances had been given but not implemented.

Criticising the Pakistan Peoples Party, Fazl alleged that its actions had undermined constitutional principles and human rights. He also described the repeated imposition of governor's rule as contrary to democratic values.

President warns Taliban regime: Pakistan capable of destroying terrorists, their patrons; restraint not weakness

ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday warned the “illegal and unrepresentative” Afghan Taliban regime that mistaking Pakistan's patience, caution, and responsible behavior for weakness would be a “grave folly,” stressing that Pakistan possessed the full capacity to eliminate infiltrating terrorists and destroy their patrons. The president, in a statement, paid rich tribute to the security forces for successfully foiling an infiltration attempt by terrorists along the Pak-Afghan border in Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and commended the operational readiness and professional expertise of the security personnel, who eliminated 12 Khwarij terrorists, and Afghan Taliban militants during the operation. He expressed deep



grief over the martyrdom of Naib Subedar Hidayat Aman, who laid down his life in the line of duty while thwarting the cross-border infiltration attempt.

He paid glowing tribute to the martyred soldier for setting an inspiring example of valor and bravery in protecting the nation's frontiers. Extending his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family, President Zardari prayed for the elevation of the martyr's ranks in paradise and for fortitude for his family to bear the loss.

He said that the Afghan regime's continued patronage and facilitation of terrorist elements posed a serious threat to regional peace and stability. He reiterated that Pakistan could not only eliminate these infiltrating terrorists but also completely neutralize their sponsors.

PM lauds security forces for foiling Kurram border infiltration attempt

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, commended the security forces for successfully thwarting a terrorist infiltration attempt along the Pak-Afghan border in the Kurram district, eliminating 12 Khwarij and Afghan Taliban. Expressing deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Naib Subedar Hidayat Aman during the clash, the prime minister paid rich tributes to him for offering the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the homeland. He observed that Naib Subedar Hidayat Aman set a shining example of supreme bravery and professional devotion in safeguarding the country's borders. Extending his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family, the prime minister prayed for eternal peace for the martyr and for his elevated ranks in Jannah, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Reiterating the state's firm resolve, the prime minister further said that Pakistan possessed the complete capability to defend its frontiers and root out the menace of terrorism entirely.

TTAP condemns imposition of governor's rule, emergency in KP, calls move ‘unconstitutional’

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Tehreek-i-Tahafuz Ayin-i-Pakistan (TTAP) on Sunday condemned the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming the move unconstitutional and contrary to democratic principles. It announced that it would challenge governor's rule through the courts, assemblies and public forums. It also said the long march would go ahead as planned. Addressing a press conference, PTI Chairman Barrister



Gohar Ali Khan said governor's rule and an emergency would not resolve the province's problems, stressing

that counterterrorism efforts required a unified strategy developed through political consensus.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack on King Khaled Riyadh Int'l Airport



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemned the latest terrorist attack by the Houthi militia targeting King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, reiterating its firm and unshakeable commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a statement on Sunday.

“The targeting of a civilian airport constitutes a heinous act of terrorism, a flagrant violation of international law and a grave threat to regional peace and security. Pakistan expresses its profound concern over reports of casualties and injuries resulting from the attack. Our prayers are with the victims and their families.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish a swift and complete recovery to those injured,” it was added. The spokesperson further said the continued targeting of civilian population and critical infrastructure by the Houthi militia is utterly unacceptable and must be condemned unequivocally by the international community.

“Such brazen and indiscriminate acts of aggression cannot be justified under any circumstances and must cease immediately. Pakistan stands in unwavering solidarity with the leadership and people of the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the face of these repeated terrorist attacks,” it was reaffirmed. In accordance with the Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence and the recent decisions taken by its Strategic, Political and Defence Committee, the spokesperson said Pakistan reiterates its firm and unshakeable commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. “Pakistan fully supports the Kingdom's legitimate right to defend its territory, protect its people and safeguard its cities and vital infrastructure against all threats and acts of aggression. Pakistan calls upon the Houthi militia to immediately cease its terrorist attacks and urges the international community to take a firm and unequivocal stand against such acts that endanger innocent lives and undermine regional stability.



resident Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Federal Minister for Interior Senator Mohsin Naqvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Efforts to avert KP crisis failed despite repeated contacts: Naqvi

From blackboard to AI: How students learn in new era

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday has said the government made repeated efforts to avert the developing crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but negotiations and last-minute contacts failed to produce a breakthrough.

He said he had contacted the other side at 12:30am and urged them to avoid the situation from escalating but he received no response.

He was addressing a press conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar regarding the decision of imposing an emergency and governor rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met the Prime Minister a day earlier and subsequently held a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders. Contact was also made by the Prime Minister again, but the efforts yielded no result.

Naqvi said the government had repeatedly made it clear that it had no objection

to a sit-in or protest in Islamabad. The central concern, he stressed, was the worsening security situation and the need for cooperation on counter terrorism.

He questioned how the country could continue gathering to attend the funerals of security personnel and civilians killed in attacks while political leaders remained unwilling to cooperate on security despite being present in the same city.

The minister said the President and Prime Minister had personally remained in contact throughout the negotiation process rather than waiting for the other side to approach them.

Highlighting the security challenges, he said 12 districts of the province were facing particularly difficult security conditions, with residents in some areas unable to go outside after sunset.

He referred to the recent killing of a senior officer, as well as targeted attacks



against police personnel, customs officials and other individuals, describing the situation as deeply concerning.

The minister said he had held several meetings with KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, during which the discussions focused exclusively on terrorism rather than political matters.

Naqvi said a plan had also been dis-

cussed to strengthen the KP police in five districts initially, with the army and Frontier Corps to withdraw from those areas within six months and responsibility handed over to the police. The same process was then to be extended to five more districts over the following six months.

He said the provincial government had raised concerns about funding for the plan, but the federal government had offered to meet any shortfall, arguing that the fight against terrorism was a collective responsibility.

However, work on the proposed arrangement had yet to begin, he added.

He further stressed that the foreign policy of the federation and a province could not be pursued separately. Referring to alleged connections between some provincial actors and the Afghan Taliban, he said the matter was not hidden and called for a unified approach to security and counter terrorism.

Concluding his remarks, the interior minister prayed for the country's safety and for success for Pakistan's armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel in the fight against terrorism.

ISLAMABAD: From dusty chalkboards to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the journey of learning in Pakistan has taken a historic turn, transforming traditional classrooms into smart learning spaces.

Once students struggled to memorize lessons written on a blackboard; today they are solving complex equations, writing essays and making presentations with the help of Artificial Intelligence.

Students who earlier waited for library books are now getting answers in seconds through AI tools.

Ayesha Khan, a 9th-class student, said, "Earlier we used to copy everything from the blackboard. Now we ask AI and it explains us like a teacher and if I don't understand a math problem at home, I ask AI and it gives me a step-by-step solution. Learning has become easy."

She said we make presentations, search pictures and videos for their projects. Blackboard was only writing, now they learn by seeing and doing.

"Blackboard taught us how to write and AI is teaching us how to think and create", she commented.

Another student Talha Khan said, "Earlier we only had a blackboard and our teacher's notes were our only source. If we missed a class, we missed the lesson."

He said that now with AI and smart boards, everything is available with one click, as she can re-watch lectures, ask questions to AI anytime, and even learn new skills like coding and graphic design.

"It feels like we are not just studying for exams, but learning for the future," he stated.

Pakistan Ulema Council Condemns Houthi Attacks on Saudi Arabia

HEC steps up efforts to ensure drug-free, healthy environment in universities

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Ulema Council, the International Tazeem-e- Haramain Sharifain Council, and their allied religious organisations have strongly condemned the attacks attributed to Houthi militants on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh and other civilian facilities and critical infrastructure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, describing them as acts of terrorism, grave violations of international law, and a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Secretary-General of the International Tazeem-e- Haramain Sharifain Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, stated that targeting innocent civilians, passengers, airports, hospitals, educational insti-

tutions and civilian infrastructure was wholly unacceptable and could not be justified under any circumstances. He expressed complete solidarity with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, and the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan's religious scholars, leaders and people stand firmly alongside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, stability and territorial integrity, as well as the sanctity and protection of the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah.

He assured the Saudi leadership and people of their unwavering support and full cooperation in the face of threats to the Kingdom's security.

Ashrafi called upon the Organisation of



Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the League of Arab States and the wider international community to take immediate, effective and concrete measures to halt Houthi attacks, protect innocent civilians and ensure accountability for

those responsible. He also welcomed the Government of Pakistan's condemnation of the attacks and endorsed its commitment to Saudi Arabia's security and defence under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. He emphasised that Saudi Arabia has the legitimate right to defend its territory, protect its citizens and safeguard its vital national infrastructure against threats and acts of aggression. Expressing solidarity with the suffering people of Yemen, he stressed the urgent need for lasting peace, regional stability and the protection of innocent human lives. The Pakistan Ulema Council, the International Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council and their allied religious organisations reiterated their firm commitment to the security of Saudi Arabia and the protection of the Two Holy Mosques, emphasising that peace, stability and the safety of civilians must remain paramount.

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has stepped up efforts to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment in higher education institutions by strengthening drug prevention, awareness and control measures.

A meeting on Drug Prevention, Awareness and Control Measures in Educational Institutions was organized by HEC at its Secretariat in Islamabad to review reported cases of drug use and supply and to strengthen preventive measures, institutional monitoring and inter-agency coordination. Chairman HEC Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar emphasized the importance of a safe and healthy learning environment, reinforcing the need for institutional responsibility, preventive awareness and coordinated efforts to address drug and tobacco abuse in higher education institutions. Engr. Saleem Ullah Sohoo, Director General, Research & Analysis Activities (R&AA), HEC, briefed the participants on reported cases during 2025 and January-September 2026, along with the initiatives undertaken by HEC and higher education institutions to address the issue.

SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza Chairs Key Meeting on Law and Order

PTI Kisan Wing Says Governor's Rule in KP Buries Democracy, Accuses PPP of Undermining Bhutto's Constitutional Legacy

ISLAMABAD -- SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza chaired a key meeting to review the law and order situation and security arrangements in the federal capital.

The meeting was attended by SSP Investigation Suleman Zafar, SSP Security Operations, zonal SPs, SDPOs and all SHOs.

During the meeting, officers reviewed the overall security situation and measures to maintain law and order in Islamabad. The officers were directed to ensure effective monitoring of security arrangements and make full use of all available resources to protect the lives and property of citizens.



The meeting underscored the importance of coordinated efforts and vigilance to maintain peace and security across the federal capital.

Report: Crime Reporter FT

ISLAMABAD-- The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Kisan Wing has termed the imposition of Governor's Rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa unconstitutional, warning that undermining the public mandate would further intensify political tensions in the province.

In a press statement issued on Sunday, PTI Kisan Wing spokesperson Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich said that the province's elected mandate was being undermined, describing the move as a serious blow to democracy. He said provincial autonomy had become a fundamental pillar of the Constitution following the 18th Amendment, adding that suspending an elected provincial assembly without valid constitutional grounds would violate citizens' political rights.

Sadhraich said the imposition of Governor's Rule or an emergency could be challenged before the Supreme Court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, while the court



could also consider taking suo motu notice, where legally applicable.

He maintained that Articles 232 and 234 provided for extraordinary constitutional measures under specific circumstances and argued that the conditions required to justify such action did not exist in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He added that people in the province were seeking the restoration of their fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 8 to 28 of the Constitution, but had instead been confronted with the prospect of Governor's Rule.

Criticising the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sadhraich said its support for what he described as undemocratic and unconstitutional measures contradicted the constitutional legacy of its founding chairman, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

He recalled that the 1973 Constitution was framed after the events of 1971, amid political turmoil and public grievances, with the aim of establishing a democratic system and safeguarding fundamental rights. He said the Constitution's protections reflected principles also recognised in international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948.

The PTI Kisan Wing spokesperson warned that the imposition of an emergency could intensify public protests and political tensions. He argued that those leading the PPP in the name of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto were pursuing a course contrary to the democratic vision associated with the Constitution he helped introduce. The remarks represent the position of the PTI Kisan Wing.

AJK Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq Visits Panjri, Offers Condolences to Bereaved Family



BHIMBER -- Speaker of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Tariq Farooq visited Panjri, Dhoke Chhanni Kanjal, to offer condolences to a bereaved family following the death of a woman and to pray for the departed soul.

Chaudhry Tariq Farooq visited the residence of the deceased, who

was the wife of Raja Arif Mahmood, sister-in-law of Raja Tariq Mahmood, mother of Councillor Raja Shahbaz Mahmood and Raja Zulqarnain Mahmood Arif, and sister of retired Tehsildar Raja Ishtiaq Ahmed and Tehsildar Bandobast Bhimber Raja Jjaz Ahmed Khan.

The AJK Assembly Speaker expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family. He

offered Fateha and prayed that Almighty Allah grant the deceased complete forgiveness, elevate her ranks, and bless her with a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

He also prayed for patience, strength, and courage for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

District Council Member Chaudhry Abrar-ul-Haq and other associates accompanied the Speaker during the visit.

R4 Group Strongly Condemns Houthi Attacks on Saudi Arabia, Reaffirms Support for Kingdom's Sovereignty

ISLAMABAD-- The R4 Group, comprising the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Republic of Türkiye, has strongly condemned the ongoing hostile attacks by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia, reaffirming its full support for the Kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security.

In a joint statement, the Group condemned attacks targeting King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh and other civilian targets,

which reportedly resulted in civilian deaths and injuries, as well as damage to civilian infrastructure and facilities. The statement described the attacks as a blatant violation of international law.

The Group reaffirmed that the attacks constituted a flagrant violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, posing a direct threat to the Kingdom's security, stability, and civilian safety. It termed the escalation dangerous and unacceptable under any pretext.

The statement reiterated the Group's solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all legitimate

measures taken by the Kingdom to counter the attacks, deter threats, and prevent their recurrence. It emphasized that such measures should remain consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law to protect the Kingdom's security and the safety of its citizens and residents.

The R4 Group held the Houthi militia fully responsible for the attacks and any resulting consequences that could threaten regional and international peace and security. It called for an immediate and unconditional cessation of the attacks.

Terrorism incidents in KP surge 195pc in two years, security reports reveal

ISLAMABAD: Terrorism incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa increased by 195 percent over the past two years, according to two special security reports presented by KP Police and intelligence agencies at a meeting chaired by the prime minister. The reports highlighted a sharp rise in terrorist attacks, describing the persistent increase as a serious and alarming challenge to the province's security situation.

According to the intelligence reports,

threats have intensified due to the presence of terrorist elements in Afghanistan, local facilitators, and what the report described as flawed provincial government policies and a soft approach towards terrorists. The reports further stated that inadequate preparedness, insufficient attention and gaps in effective counterterrorism measures at the provincial level had allowed terrorist elements to establish a foothold. Between March 1, 2024, and September 23, 2026, terrorism incidents in KP

increased by 195 percent. The reports also identified links between terrorist networks, local facilitation and illegal activities as a serious security challenge. According to the reports, police and security agencies were targeted in 73 percent of terrorist attacks recorded in 2026. The use of drones by terrorists in the province also increased significantly. No drone attacks on police and security agencies were reported in 2024, while the number of terrorist drone attacks reached 170 in 2026.

Twin cities witness silent shift towards electric vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Amid soaring fuel prices driven by Middle East tensions and growing environmental concerns, the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi are witnessing a silent but swift shift towards electric mobility, as more and more citizens are opting for electric vehicles as a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to conventional fuel-run transport.

From electric bikes and scooters to cars and rickshaws, the roads of Islamabad and Rawalpindi are witnessing a visible surge in EVs, particularly among students, office-

goers and delivery riders. The trend is being driven by low running cost, low maintenance and government support for EV charging infrastructure. Several charging stations have been set up at fuel stations and in commercial areas of the twin cities.

A resident of Islamabad Sohail Tanveer who recently bought an electric bike, said, "My monthly petrol expense was around Rs. 12,000. Now my electricity charging cost is less than Rs. 1,500. It is very economical." He said that it is easy to handle, no noise and no need to stand in queues at petrol pumps.

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Opinion

3

One Uniform, Many Languages, One Nation: The Pakistan Army as a Symbol of National Unity and Cultural Harmony Through Shared Duty



By: Dr. Abdul Ghani
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Published By: ANI News Agency

Pakistan speaks in many voices. Its identity lives in the warmth of Punjabi, the poetry of Sindhi, the dignity of Pashto, the richness of Balochi and the expressive traditions of Saraiki, Urdu and other languages. Each carries memories, customs and a distinct understanding of home. Yet a nation's strength depends on whether these different voices can recognize a shared responsibility. The Pakistan Army offers a powerful image of that possibility: citizens from different backgrounds wearing one uniform and accepting a common duty.

The significance of that uniform extends beyond its appearance. Behind it stands a person with a mother tongue, a family history and an attachment to a particular village, town or city. Military service need not erase those connections. Its deeper promise lies in bringing them into a wider commitment, where love for one's birthplace becomes part of service to the whole country.

This is an understanding of unity that Pakistan must cherish. National belonging becomes stronger when people feel that their language and culture are respected. A citizen should never have to diminish a regional identity to prove loyalty to Pakistan. Our diversity is part of the country we ask our soldiers to defend.

Within military life, shared responsibility gives this principle a practical meaning. Training demands cooperation. Discipline

requires individuals to place collective obligations above personal convenience. Difficult assignments test whether people can rely on one another. In such circumstances, trust grows through conduct: keeping a promise, completing a duty and standing beside a colleague when the situation becomes dangerous.

A soldier's reliability cannot be measured by an accent. Courage has no provincial boundary. Competence belongs to no single community. These simple truths carry a message far beyond the armed forces. They challenge the prejudices that sometimes enter our workplaces, public discussions and everyday relationships.

Consider the moral meaning of protecting a fellow soldier. At a moment of danger, the urgent question is whether one can help, hold a position or bring someone to safety. Differences that occupy so much space in public arguments become secondary to a shared human obligation. That spirit of mutual responsibility deserves recognition as an example of national fellowship.

The families behind the uniform also belong in this story. They speak different languages and follow different local traditions, yet the anxiety of waiting for news needs no translation. A parent's concern, a spouse's patience and a child's longing are understood across Pakistan. Respect for military service should therefore include sustained compassion for the families who carry its emotional burdens.

However, a column celebrating unity must also ask what citizens can contribute to it. Admiration becomes meaningful when it influences behaviour. We cannot praise solidarity among soldiers while spreading contempt for another province. We cannot celebrate a common flag while treating a fellow citizen's language as inferior. The unity

we honour in uniform should encourage fairness in ordinary life.

That responsibility extends to institutions. National cohesion grows where citizens experience dignity, opportunity and equal treatment. Schools, universities, public offices and political leadership all have a part to play. Military solidarity can offer an inspiring example, while lasting unity requires a wider public commitment to justice and inclusion.

Respect for the Pakistan Army can also be expressed through thoughtful, responsible discussion. Professional service deserves recognition, and public questions deserve care, evidence and civility. A confident national community can value its soldiers while engaging seriously with the responsibilities of every institution. Such maturity strengthens the trust on which collective purpose depends.

For young Pakistanis, the most motivational lesson is straightforward: excellence becomes more valuable when placed in the service of others. Whether one becomes a soldier, teacher, doctor, engineer or entrepreneur, the country benefits from discipline, integrity and cooperation. Patriotism acquires substance through work that improves another person's life.

"One uniform, many languages" is therefore more than an attractive phrase. It expresses the possibility of a Pakistan in which difference enriches belonging and duty brings people together. The finest tribute to that ideal is to practise it: respect another language, reject regional prejudice, honour service and fulfil one's own responsibilities.

Let the uniform remind us that Pakistan is a shared trust. Our voices may sound different, but each can speak with equal conviction for its peace, dignity and future.

Demolishing UNRWA headquarters an act of folly and weakness

YOSSI MEKELBERG

In every sphere of activity in which Israel's government operates, it does so in a thuggish and mindless manner. Nuance, subtlety, restraint, consideration, and weighing options are just not in its vocabulary. The immorality of this approach is obvious and in the long term self-defeating, leaving the country living by the sword, with fewer friends, and constantly losing public sympathy. The latest episode in this long-running series of acts of sheer folly took place last week when the government sent its enforcers, accompanied by security forces, to demolish the headquarters of UNRWA, the UN agency that since 1949 has been in charge of providing services for the well-being and protection of Palestinian refugees until a just resolution of the question of Palestine is found. This is an Israeli government that tries to conceal its true intentions and incompetence with performative politics. Does it really believe that if UNRWA ceases to exist, the Palestinian refugees will disappear with it, and that their political, human, and civil rights will no longer exist? Israel blames UNRWA for perpetuating the Palestinian right of return by granting refugee status to successive generations. However, it is not UNRWA that perpetuates the right of return; it is their legal right in line with international law and UN General Assembly Resolution 194, for instance, which states that "refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return." Mistakenly, negotiations over the issue of refugees were framed as addressing the right of return rather than how to translate this right into practical terms that would avoid a mass return leading to new difficulties. The right of return is recognized under international law, and hence not negotiable as such. UNRWA is not the custodian of this right – international law is. Years of negotiations to translate this right into practice have yielded a number of plans for workable solutions, including trade-offs for

those who will not return, such as becoming citizens of a Palestinian state, becoming citizens of their current host countries, and compensation for their loss and suffering.

Destroying the UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem will not make the Palestinian refugees and their rights go away. It is a mere act of vandalism, which activated a piece of legislation passed in the Knesset in October 2024, barring the agency from operating in Israeli territory and curtailing its activities in Gaza and the West Bank by banning state authorities from having any contact with it. In addition, late last year, in another act of harassment, a law prohibiting the provision of electricity or water to facilities owned by or operated on behalf of UNRWA passed its third and final reading in the Knesset. This was another Pyrrhic victory, which appeals to the current government's electoral base that has been fed endless lies about the objectives and operations of this UN agency, leading the base to believe that it is hostile to Israel. Awareness among Israelis of the humanitarian nature of the organization and its contribution to the well-being of millions of Palestinians, to whose plight Israel has been a major contributor for so many decades, is almost nonexistent. By declaring all-out war on UNRWA, Israel gets closer to a moment of reckoning when it must demonstrate that it has found an alternative humanitarian instrument to the UN agency. Unquestionably, UNRWA is at a crossroads. However, the answer to whether it stays or goes should be given by the international community, not by Israel. In December last year, 151 countries supported renewing the agency's mandate for three years. On the face of it, this was an overwhelming vote of confidence in the work of the organization – support that was earned not only by sweat but also by blood since the war in Gaza has cost the agency the lives of 382 of its personnel and others supporting its activities. Nevertheless, as important as extending the mandate is, it has not been matched by allocating adequate long-term funding to meet the growing needs of the 5.9 million Palestinian refugees eligible for

UNRWA's services, which include health, education, protection, relief, and social services, as well as microfinance. Last year, the agency secured £1.4 billion. However, in light of the surge in humanitarian needs, it needs almost double this amount – a shortfall with grave consequences for refugees. Moreover, international political support is needed while Israel is harassing and bullying the agency and its staff, but this backing is half-hearted. Israel replaced the UN flag with the Israeli flag over the demolished headquarters in Jerusalem, but it has not come up with an alternative in terms of budget and a qualified workforce to supply the services that UNRWA has been providing, despite the fact that the UN did not create the refugee problem in the first place, and it is not the UN that has occupied Palestinian territories since 1967.

It is not beyond the current Israeli government to take actions that would deliberately cause the situation in the West Bank to explode, and then use that as an excuse for further oppression on its march to annexation. In this case Israel's distorted logic would mean eliminating UNRWA and exacerbating the humanitarian situation. Consequently, armed resistance becomes more likely, resulting in a harsh response in terms of using military force, building more settlements, and taking further steps toward making the life of Palestinians even more unbearable.

Eliminating UNRWA's capacity as a service provider is an act of brutality directed at Palestinians, but also an act of self-harm by Israel, especially given the lack of a viable alternative. It is morally bankrupt to deprive millions of people under your control access to the most basic needs; it is also a recipe for unrest that risks pushing the population, especially the young, into the hands of the radicals while alienating those who want to live in peace with Israel. Demolition of the agency's headquarters is both a physical and symbolic manifestation that Benjamin Netanyahu and his government are simply not interested in peace, if anyone needed further evidence.

—Arab News

The Arctic remains a zone of sustained competition

LUKE COFFEY

US President Donald Trump's recent statements about the need to acquire Greenland caused considerable division within the transatlantic community. Fortunately, these tensions appear to have been resolved for now. One positive consequence of the Greenland debate, however, has been to elevate the strategic importance of the Arctic region on the international agenda.

The Arctic region is home to some of the harshest terrain and environmental conditions on Earth. There are eight countries that can call themselves Arctic states: the US, Canada, Denmark via Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Many more countries are now seeking to expand their influence in the region. The region is important for scientific, environmental, trade, transit, and energy reasons. Tourism has also been growing, boosting local economic activity. The region is widely believed to contain vast amounts of untapped oil and gas reserves, along with significant quantities of rare earth minerals. The challenge lies in finding ways to access and extract these resources that are both economically viable and environmentally responsible. This is made even more difficult by the lack of infrastructure and limited logistical connectivity.

The Arctic Council, an intergovernmental body led by the eight Arctic states, was established to promote cooperation on issues such as search and rescue coordination, environmental protection, and scientific research. However, the council has all but stopped functioning since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, severely limiting one of the few institutional mechanisms for Arctic-wide cooperation.

For the US, it is clear that the

Trump administration views the Arctic primarily through the lens of great power competition. The US became an Arctic state in the 1860s with the purchase of Alaska from Russia. What was widely seen at the time as a mistake has since proven to be one of the most strategic decisions made in the post-Civil War era. Despite the rhetoric from multiple Washington administrations, however, relatively little emphasis has been placed on improving American capabilities or presence in the Arctic. For example, the US Coast Guard currently operates only one heavy icebreaker there.

So far in his first year in office, Trump has placed renewed focus on the region, including moving forward with a significant purchase of new icebreakers in cooperation with Finland. Even during the first Trump administration, the US role in the Arctic was framed largely in the context of great-power competition, particularly in relation to China. There is little reason to assume the second Trump administration will approach the region any differently.

Russia is the world's largest Arctic state, with roughly half the world's Arctic coastline located within the Russian Federation. For Moscow, the Arctic has long been a source of national pride and identity, dating back to the era of Peter the Great. After many Arctic bases and military facilities were shuttered at the end of the Cold War, President Vladimir Putin has invested heavily in reopening, modernizing, and expanding these installations. In recent years, Russia has also fielded specialized military units designed to operate in extreme Arctic conditions.

Moscow also views the Northern Sea Route, the shipping corridor between Europe and Asia that runs along its Arctic coastline, as both geopolitically and economically sig-

nificant. Russia has invested substantially in infrastructure along this route in an effort to attract more commercial shipping between European and Asian markets. However, many of Russia's ambitious cargo-volume targets have not been met, and it remains unclear whether the route will become as commercially viable as Russian officials hope. For China, the Arctic represents yet another region where Beijing seeks to expand its global influence. Although China is not an Arctic country, it has declared itself a "near-Arctic state," despite being roughly 1,200 km from the Arctic Circle at its closest point. Beijing has leveraged international institutions such as the Arctic Council to expand its presence in the region and has taken advantage of Russia's growing isolation from the West to deepen Arctic cooperation with Moscow, often in ways that disproportionately benefit China.

China has tried to pursue investments in key Arctic infrastructure projects, including some located in NATO members, and maintains a small, but strategically significant, scientific outpost in Norway's Svalbard archipelago. While China has not conducted overt military activity above the Arctic Circle, it has sent numerous scientific missions, research vessels, and icebreakers to the region – assets that could serve dual civilian and military purposes. In the years ahead, China can be expected to seek an even greater role in the Arctic. Meanwhile, it has not always been clear to Europeans, beyond those countries that are Arctic states, what role the rest of the Continent should play in the region. While the EU as an institution holds policy competencies over many issues that directly affect the Arctic, member states that are Arctic countries have largely kept decision-making at the national level.

—Arab News

Iran's Oil Squeeze, Iraq's Opportunity: China's Shifting Energy Trade and America's Strategic Advantage



By: Rana Farooq Ashraf
Published By: ANI News Agency

In global politics, pressure on one country can create unexpected opportunities for another. The growing restrictions on Iranian oil exports and the shift among Chinese independent refineries towards Iraqi crude illustrate this reality. As Tehran struggles to maintain access to its biggest market, Baghdad stands to gain additional revenue, while Washington may see its pressure campaign producing the results it has long sought. Yet the question remains whether weakening Iran's oil trade will deliver a lasting strategic advantage or create new economic risks.

According to reports attributed to Reuters, China's independent refineries, commonly known as "teapots," have been exploring alternatives to Iranian crude, including supplies from Iraq and Qatar. Reported purchases for October and November deliveries could total as much as 20 million barrels. These refineries have traditionally benefited from discounted Iranian oil, which helped them maintain narrow profit margins. As sanctions risks and supply uncertainties increase, however, alternative sources are becoming more attractive.

This shift should not be mistaken for a political break between Beijing and Tehran. Chinese private refiners generally base their decisions on price, availability, crude quality, transportation costs and sanctions exposure. When Iranian supplies become difficult to obtain, Iraqi oil becomes a practical alternative. If Iranian crude becomes accessible again at competitive prices, these buyers could return. Commercial interests, rather than diplomatic declarations, will largely determine the direction of this trade.

Iraq is well positioned to benefit. China has long been a major buyer of Iraqi crude, and the two countries have established substantial commercial ties in the petroleum sector. Additional Chinese demand could increase Baghdad's export revenues and help it capture part of the market previously served by Iran. However, Iraq cannot automatically replace every lost Iranian barrel. Production capacity, export infrastructure, shipping arrangements and competing suppliers will determine how much of this opportunity it can secure.

For Iran, the consequences extend beyond declining oil sales. Reduced exports threaten government revenue and foreign-exchange earnings, adding pressure to an economy already burdened by sanctions. Difficulties involving shipping, insurance and international payments can further erode the value of oil sold at discounted



prices. American pressure may therefore weaken Tehran's ability to convert its petroleum resources into usable income, even if international demand for Iranian crude persists.

Washington may view this as a strategic success. If alternative producers supply Chinese refiners while Iranian revenues decline, the United States can exert economic pressure on Tehran without necessarily removing equivalent volumes of crude from the market. Iraq, in particular, could benefit from demand redirected away from Iran.

However, this advantage has limits. Any escalation affecting the Strait of Hormuz could disrupt shipping, increase transportation costs and drive up international oil prices. Such consequences would extend well beyond Iran, affecting Asian importers, European economies and American consumers. A policy that places additional pressure on Tehran could become economically costly if it undermines the stability of a critical maritime corridor.

China faces a related challenge. Beijing must secure sufficient crude for its refineries while protecting domestic fuel supplies. Reports of restrictions on refined petroleum product exports, with exceptions for Hong Kong and Macau, suggest that domestic availability is a growing concern. If China retains more fuel for its own needs, international buyers could face tighter supplies of diesel, petrol and aviation fuel, even if alternative crude continues to reach Chinese refineries.

Pakistan Must Prepare for the Economic Fallout

For Pakistan, these developments represent a direct economic risk. Higher oil prices, rising freight charges or shortages of refined petroleum products could increase the import bill, fuel inflation and put further pressure on the rupee. Islamabad must therefore move beyond short-term adjustments to domestic fuel prices and develop a credible strategy for protecting the economy from external energy shocks.

Three priorities deserve immediate attention. First, Pakistan should diversify its petroleum suppliers and reduce exposure to vulnerable shipping routes. Second, Pakistan State Oil and other relevant institutions should strengthen contingency planning, maintain adequate reserves and establish transparent procedures for managing sudden price increases. Third, the government must accelerate energy efficiency, public transport, renewable power and other measures that reduce dependence on imported petroleum.

Pakistan should also exercise caution over any proposed purchases of discounted Iranian oil. Although such supplies might appear economically attractive, transactions must be assessed against applicable sanctions, banking restrictions, shipping insurance requirements and the risk of secondary sanctions. Potential savings should not come at the expense of Pakistan's financial system or access to international markets. Any decision should follow a clear legal and economic assessment rather than short-term price considerations.

Ultimately, Pakistan needs to treat energy security as a component of national economic security. Diversified imports, prudent reserves, fiscal discipline and lower petroleum dependence would provide greater protection than reactive measures introduced after prices rise.

The wider lesson is that sanctions can redirect trade without permanently changing the underlying commercial relationships. Iraq may gain revenue, China may find alternative supplies, and Washington may increase its leverage over Tehran. But the durability of these gains will depend on prices, supply reliability and regional security. The real test of American strategy will be whether it can sustain pressure on Iran without imposing disproportionate costs on the wider global economy. For Pakistan, the priority is equally clear: prepare for the consequences now rather than pay for them later.



President Asif Ali Zardari’s Decision to Impose Emergency in KP Under Article 232 of the Constitution

Report: FT Reporter:

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has issued a presidential proclamation imposing emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Articles 232(1) and 234(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan in view of the province's grave emergency situation. The proclamation will take effect immediately.

According to the proclamation, terrorist activities of exceptional intensity have become a serious threat to the lives and property of the people, while terrorist attacks on government installations, critical infrastructure and law-enforcement agencies have increased.

The proclamation states that the provincial government has failed to demonstrate the required resolve and take effective measures to control terrorism and lawlessness. A report by the governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has pointed to a breakdown of the constitutional machinery in the province and the provincial government's failure to conduct affairs in accordance with the Constitution.

According to the presidential proclamation, immediate constitutional action has been deemed neces-



sary in view of the grave emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It has been declared that, under the prevailing circumstances, it is not possible to run the provincial government in accordance with the Constitution.

Under the proclamation, the federal government may direct the governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to assume all or some of the functions of the provincial government. In addition to performing provincial government functions assigned by the federal government, the governor may also exercise, in accordance with its directions, all or some of the

powers of provincial institutions and authorities other than the provincial assembly.

The proclamation further states that the powers of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly will be exercised by Parliament or under its authority.

According to the presidential proclamation, the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provincial ministers, advisers, special assistants and the advocate general will immediately vacate their offices.

The presidential proclamation will take effect immediately.

KP Governor Forms 11-Member Advisory Council, Sanaullah Advocate Appointed Advocate General

Report : ANI

PESHAWAR -- Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has constituted an 11-member special advisory council comprising experienced administrators, economists, legal experts, politicians and professionals to provide guidance on key provincial matters.

According to the order, the council includes Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Dr Syed Aamir Abdullah, Lieutenant General (ret'd) Nigar Johar, Samar Haroon Bilour, Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Aamir Javed, Dr Muhammad Irshad, Kifayatullah, Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Qureshi, Usman Saifullah Khan and Asif Rafiq Afridi.

The order also appoints Sanaullah Advocate as the Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The advisory council brings together professionals with experience in federal and provincial administration, taxation, law, health-care, security and economic affairs. Its members will advise on finance, revenue, energy, law, industry, security, education, health, mines and minerals, planning and development, and other key sectors.

Former FBR chairman Tariq Mahmood Pasha will advise on finance, revenue, excise and taxation, while former caretaker provincial minister Dr Syed Aamir Abdullah will oversee education. Former senator Usman Saifullah Khan has been assigned energy, power, planning and development, while former provincial advocate general Aamir Javed will handle law and parliamentary affairs.

Samar Haroon Bilour will advise on information and broadcasting, and former FBR chairman Dr Muhammad Irshad will oversee industries and commerce. Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Qureshi, chief khateeb of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,



will look after auqaf and religious affairs.

Retired Lieutenant General Nigar Johar Khan, former surgeon general of the Pakistan Army, will advise on health matters. Former inspector general of prisons Kifayatullah Khan will oversee home and tribal affairs, while Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah will advise on mines and minerals.

Former caretaker provincial minister Asif Rafiq Afridi will handle communications and works, local government, housing and transport.

The council is expected to recommend administrative reforms, support economic and development planning, and help improve public service delivery. The governor will seek its assistance in carrying out provincial administrative responsibilities. The new arrangements will take effect immediately.

Transfers and Repatriation of Officers

Separately, important personnel changes have been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following the proclamation of emergency.

The services of Grade 18 Police Service officers Saad Afridi, Aitzaz Arif and Pre-Gul have been handed over to the KP government from

Punjab, Balochistan and Islamabad, respectively. The services of Lieutenant Commander R. Kashif Aftab have also been handed over to the KP government from the Sindh government.

Meanwhile, the Establishment Division has issued a notification directing Pakistan Administrative Service officers posted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to report to the Establishment Division immediately following the withdrawal of their services by the federal government.

The officers named in the instructions include Ikramullah and Anbar Ali Khan, both Grade 21; Shahidullah and Sohail Khan, Grade 20; and Shah Fahad, Grade 19.

Other officers directed to report include Captain (ret'd) Mian Adil Iqbal, Muhammad Usman and Captain (ret'd) Sarmad Saleem Akram, all Grade 19; Shafiqullah, Grade 19; Captain (ret'd) Zubair Niazi and Captain (ret'd) Sanaullah Khan, both Grade 18; and Ehtesham-ul-Haq and Muhammad Fahim, both Grade 18.

The developments mark significant administrative changes in the province amid the prevailing security and governance situation.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Condemns Attack on Riyadh Airport, Expresses Solidarity with Saudi Arabia

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the attack by the Houthi militia on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, expressing grief over the loss of lives and injuries to civilians.

He extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. He termed attacks targeting civilians and critical infrastructure unacceptable and a serious violation of international law.

Reaffirming Pakistan's longstanding brotherly ties with Saudi Arabia, the Speaker expressed Pakistan's

Civil Society Rally Expresses Solidarity with Pakistan Army on Youm-e-Nijat

By: Nareender Kumar / ANI

MITHI/THARPARKAR --Civil society members in Tharparkar organised a rally in Mithi on Youm-e-Nijat to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army and the state of Pakistan, reaffirming their commitment to national unity, peace and security.

The rally started at Kashmir Chowk and concluded at Sadiq Faqeer Chowk. Participants carried national flags, raised slogans including "Long Live Pakistan" and "Long Live Pakistan Army," and distributed sweets.

Speakers paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces and appreciated their role in maintaining peace and combating terrorism. They also acknowledged the efforts of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in strengthening national defence, security and



stability.

Participants also raised slogans against TSM, highlighting the importance of peace, national cohesion and stability. The rally

concluded with expressions of goodwill for Pakistan's continued progress, prosperity and security.

Long Live Pakistan! Long Live Pakistan Army!

Shahid Imran and Saif-ur-Rehman Congratulate Shafiq Pattafi on Historic Election as Multan Chamber President

Report: ANI Correspondent:

MULTAN -- Shahid Imran, Managing Director of Zia Family Food Industries Private Limited, and Saif-ur-Rehman, Director of the company, have congratulated Shafiq Pattafi on his election as President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce, describing his victory as a historic milestone in the chamber's history.

In their congratulatory message, Shahid Imran and Saif-ur-Rehman said that Shafiq Pattafi's election as the first elected president of the Multan Chamber of Commerce marked an important development for the local business community. They extended their best wishes to him and expressed confidence that his leadership would strengthen the chamber's role in representing the interests of traders, industrialists and entrepreneurs.

They expressed hope that the newly elected president would prioritize the concerns of the business community, promote constructive dialogue and work towards creating a more favorable environment for investment and commercial growth.

The management of Zia Family Food Industries Private Limited



emphasized that close cooperation between the chamber and local businesses was essential to addressing industrial challenges, encouraging entrepreneurship and expanding economic opportunities. They said coordinated efforts could help generate employment, support business development and contribute to the region's economic progress.

They further expressed optimism that Shafiq Pattafi's presidency would encourage inclusive partici-

pation, strengthen unity among chamber members and ensure that the concerns and proposals of the business community received due attention.

Shahid Imran and Saif-ur-Rehman concluded by wishing Shafiq Pattafi a successful and productive tenure, expressing hope that his leadership and collective efforts would advance the interests of the Multan business community and contribute to sustainable economic prosperity.

Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Vows Priority Resolution of Workers’ Issues

Report: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA -- Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has assured workers across the province that their problems and grievances will be addressed on a priority basis in consultation with labour union leaders. Addressing an event organized by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Labour Wing and other labour unions, the Governor said provincial ministers were being directed to play a more active role in resolving public grievances and ensuring relief for workers and other citizens.

He said PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had always attached special importance to workers' welfare. The working class, he added, plays a fundamental role in the country's economy and development, making the protection of workers' rights and resolution of their problems key priorities.

Congratulating Naseem ur Rehman Malakhail on his election as convener, Governor Mandokhail said he possessed extensive political experience, having worked from the grassroots level to the highest levels of politics.

The Governor praised MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail for his active role in Quetta and said elected representatives had kept their offices open to the public to listen to complaints and take effective measures to address them.



He reaffirmed his commitment to identifying workers' issues through consultations with labour leaders and relevant unions and taking practical steps to resolve them. He emphasized that effective coordination among the government, elected representatives and labour organizations was essential for workers' welfare and the resolution of their legitimate grievances.

Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo congratulated the PML-N Labour Wing on organizing the event and said workers played a vital role in the country's progress and development.

MNA Akhtar Bibi said Pakistan's prosperity was directly linked to the well-being of its workers, stressing the need for everyone to raise their voice for factory workers and their rights.

Naseem ur Rehman Malakhail praised Governor Mandokhail for keeping the Muslim League united since his student days and thanked him for attending the Labour Wing

Stronger Cybersecurity Measures Needed to Safeguard Business Activities: ICCI President

Report: Hurish shah FT:

ISLAMABAD --The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) have agreed to strengthen cooperation to protect the business community from cybercrime and ensure timely resolution of complaints.

The understanding was reached during a meeting at the Chamber House between NCCIA Additional Director Muhammad Shoaib Khan and ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatha, and Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan.

ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia stressed that stronger cybersecurity measures are essential as businesses increasingly rely on digital platforms. He announced that ICCI would establish a dedicated Cyber Crimes Committee to identify business-related concerns



and coordinate with the NCCIA for practical solutions. Both sides also agreed to establish a joint core committee and organize awareness sessions to educate traders about cyber threats and preventive measures. The NCCIA official assured full cooperation in addressing the concerns of the business community.

ICCI Executive Member Abrar ul

Haq highlighted issues faced by the Islamabad Computer Association, Islamabad Mobile Association, and Islamabad Realtors Association, emphasizing the need for effective coordination to ensure safer business activities.

Other ICCI executive members and representatives also attended the meeting.

Mayor of Slough Raja M Rafaqat Zaraat Receives Warm Welcome in Chakswari

Report: ANI Correspondent:

CHAKSWARI, Azad Jammu and Kashmir: Raja Muhammad Rafaqat Zaraat, Mayor of Slough in the United Kingdom, received a warm welcome from local political and social figures and community members during his visit to his ancestral hometown of Chakswari.

The visit marked his first trip to his native area since assuming the office of Mayor of Slough. Local representatives and community members congratulated him on his achievement and extended their best wishes for his tenure.

Raja Muhammad Rafaqat Zaraat belongs to Chakswari, while his father, Raja Muhammad Zaraat,



also previously served as Mayor of Slough. His achievement has been welcomed by the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in the UK and residents of his native region.

Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, former Senator and former General Secretary of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Midlands, UK, along with other community figures, congratulated the Mayor and wished

him success in his new responsibilities.

Speakers said the achievements of individuals of Pakistani and Kashmiri origin in important civic positions in the UK reflected the diaspora's growing contribution to public and community life. They expressed hope that Mayor Raja Muhammad Rafaqat Zaraat would continue to promote community welfare, strengthen relations among different communities and work for the betterment of residents.

Raja Muhammad Rafaqat Zaraat thanked the people of Chakswari, community representatives and everyone who welcomed him and conveyed their congratulations and best wishes.